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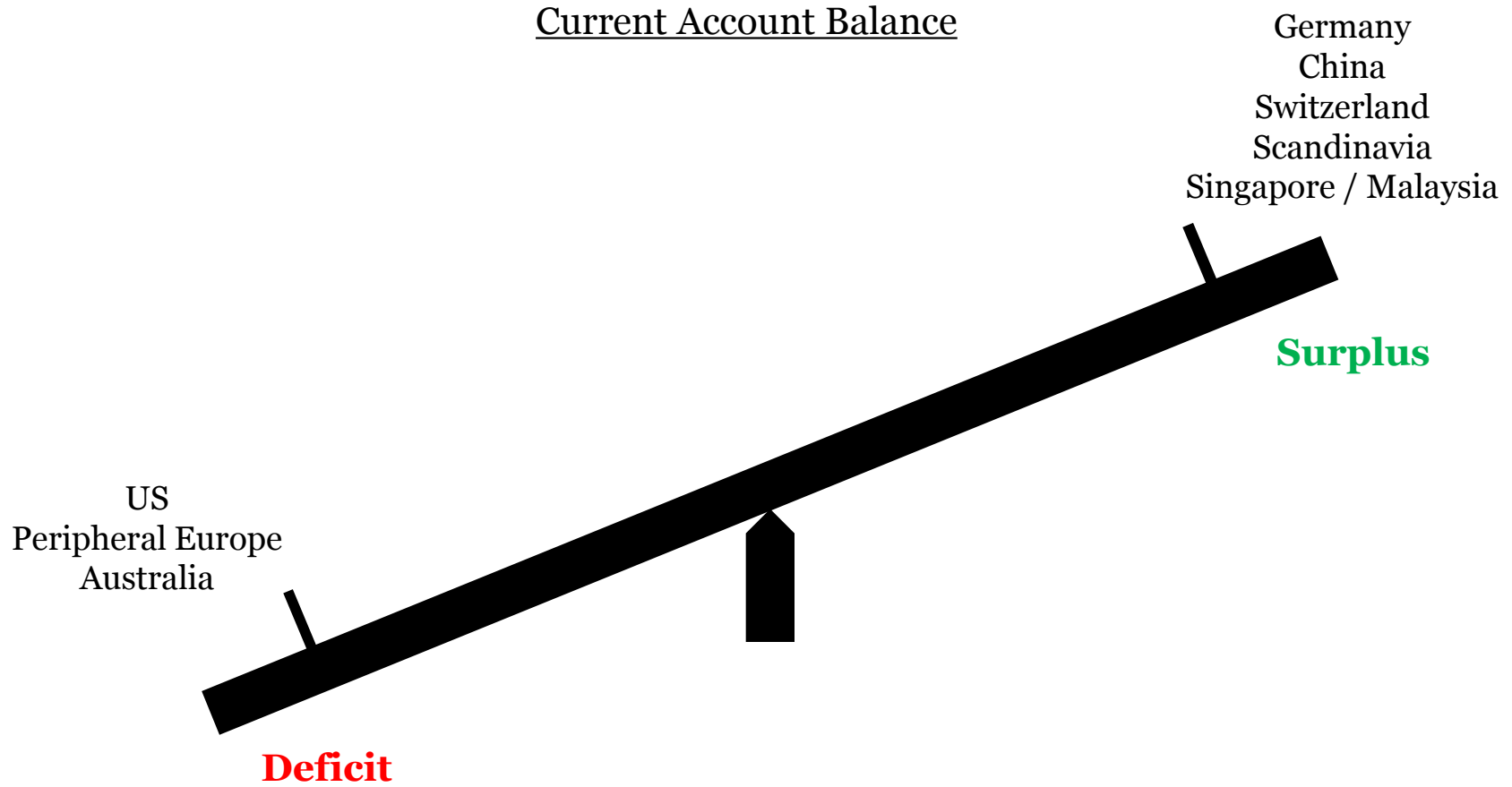
Threats and Potential Miscalculations

Financial markets have had a wonderful run. So what should we worry about?

- ▶ **Seesaw Economics**
- ▶ **Policy Risk – Right Objective, Wrong Framework**
- ▶ **Market Implications**

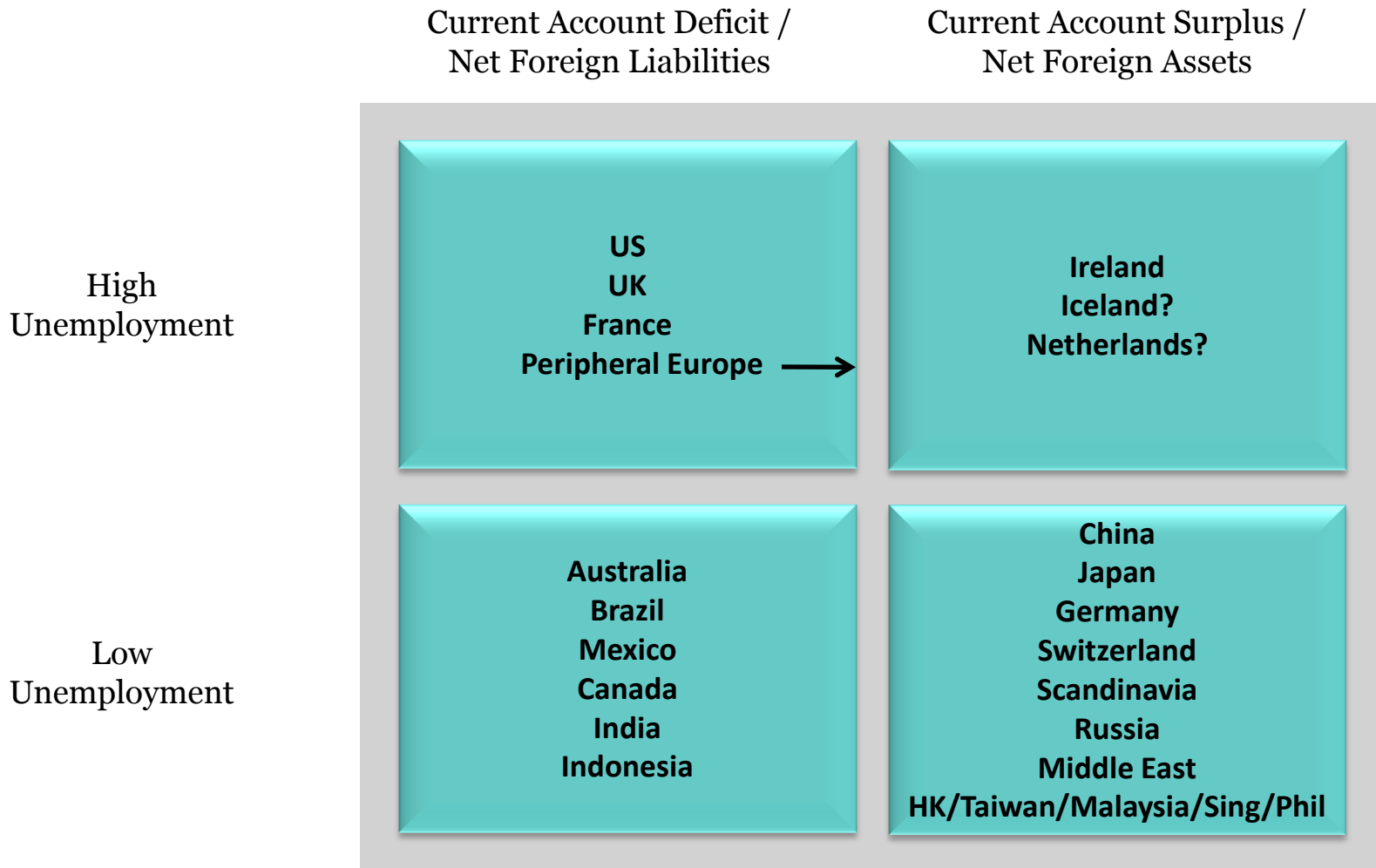
Seesaw Economics: Part 1

A current account surplus somewhere means a current account deficit elsewhere



Seesaw Economics: Part 1

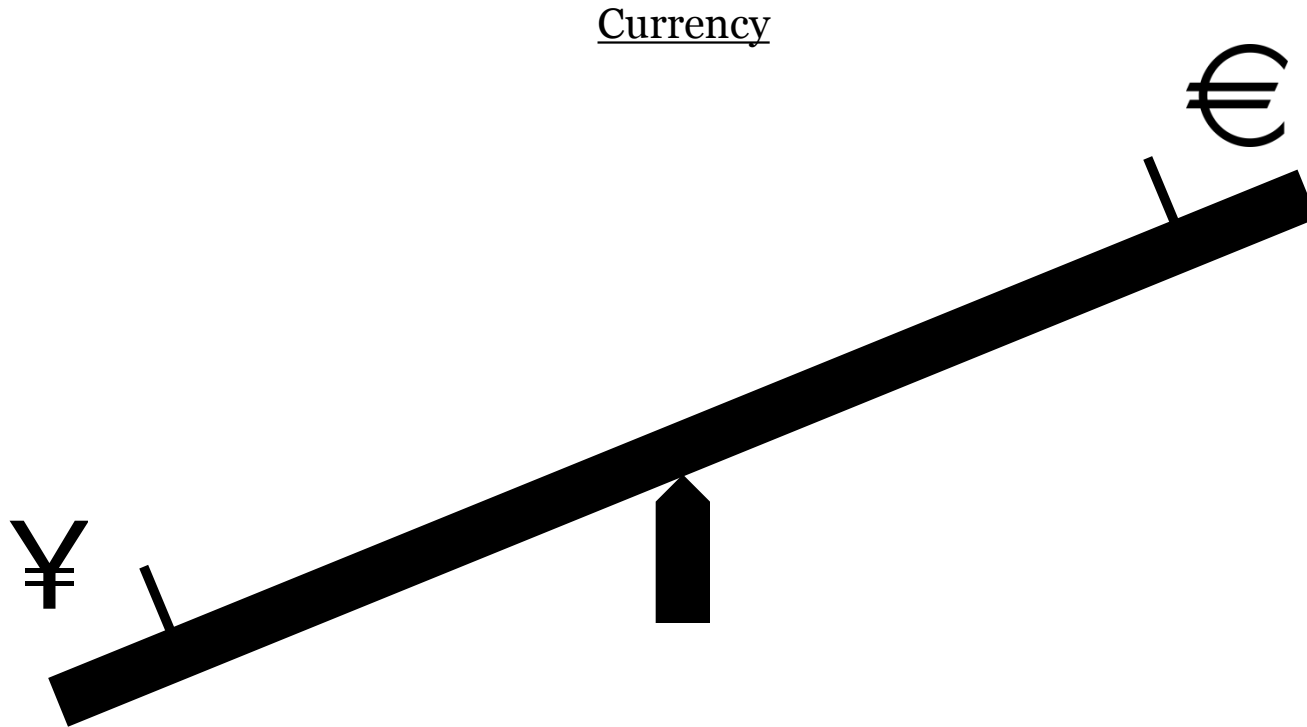
To help global rebalancing, who should run deficits and who should run surpluses?



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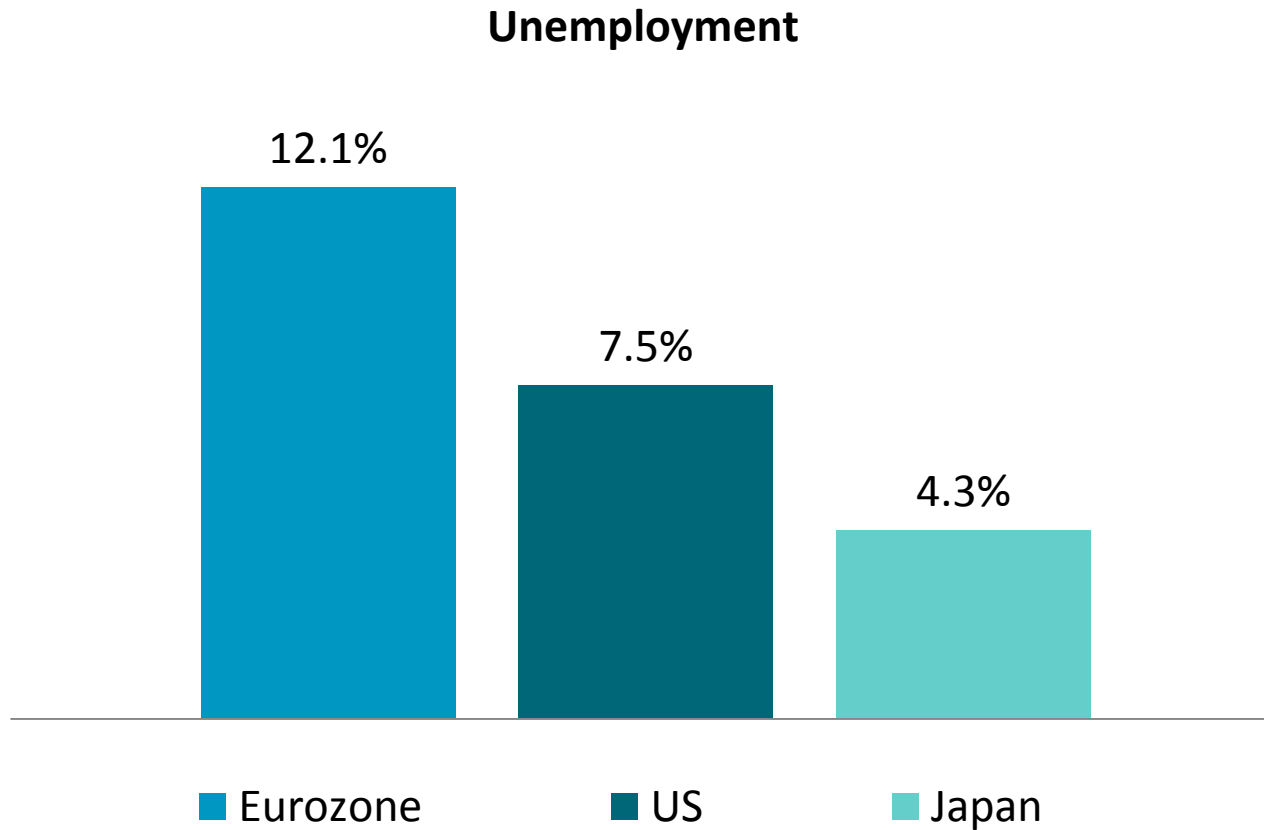
Seesaw Economics: Part 2

A weak currency for one means a strong currency for somebody else



Seesaw Economics: Part 2

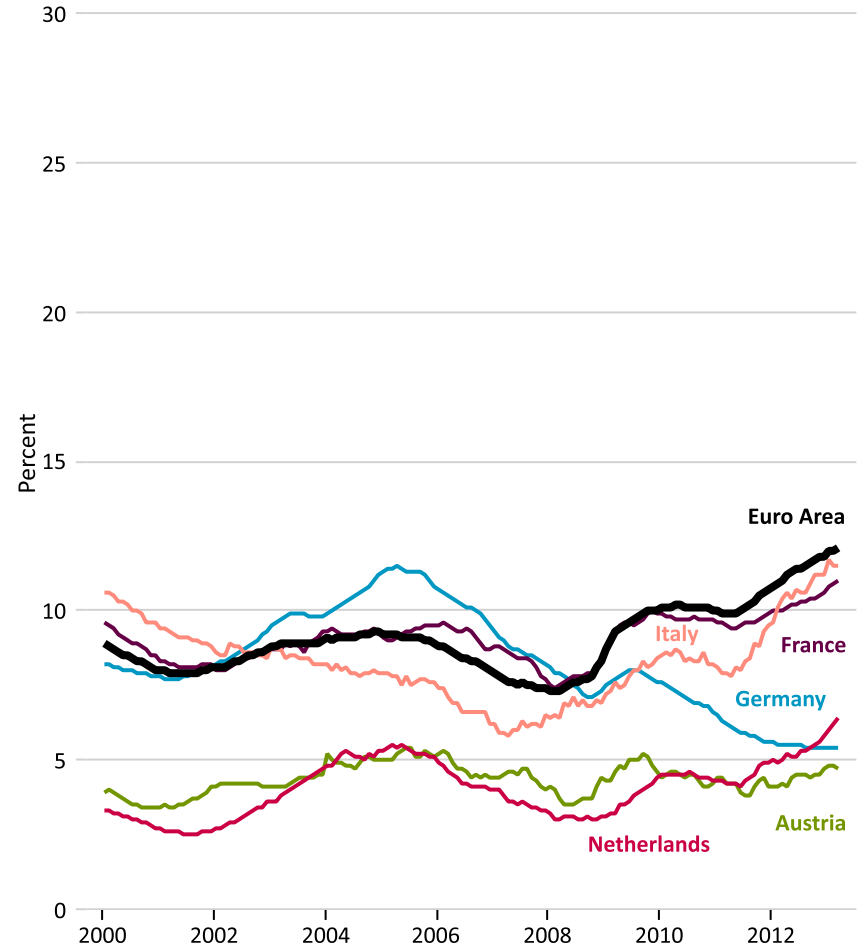
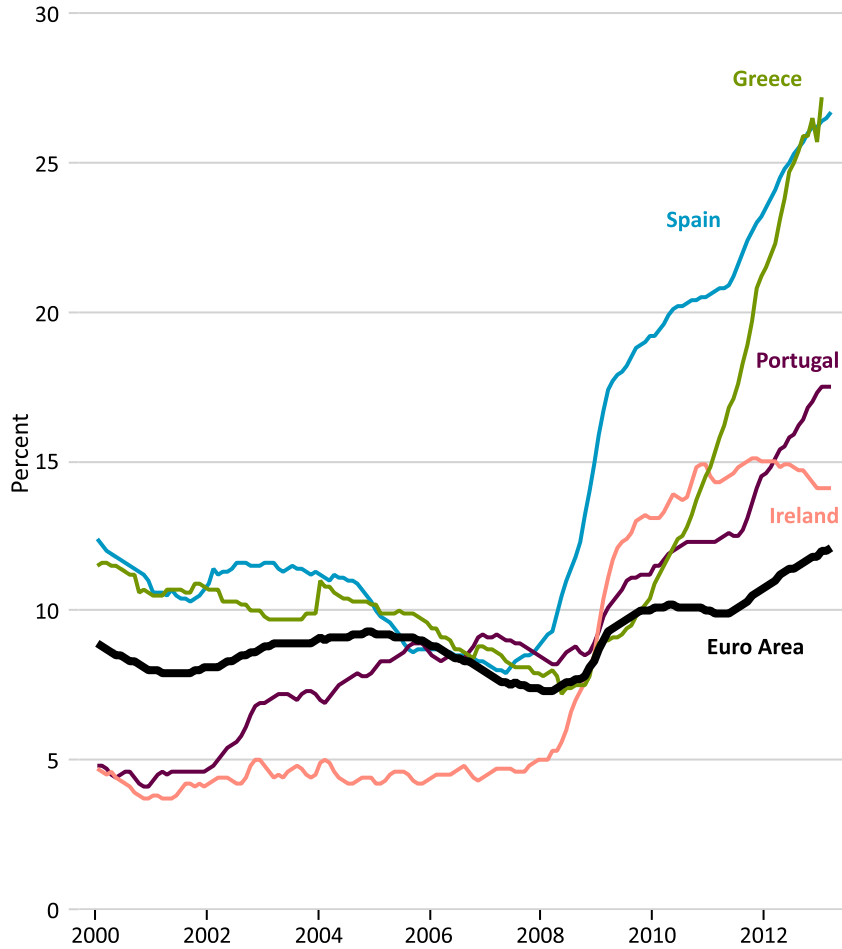
Who should have weak exchange rate rates and who should have strong ones?



Seesaw Economics: Part 2

Who should have weak exchange rate rates and who should have strong ones?

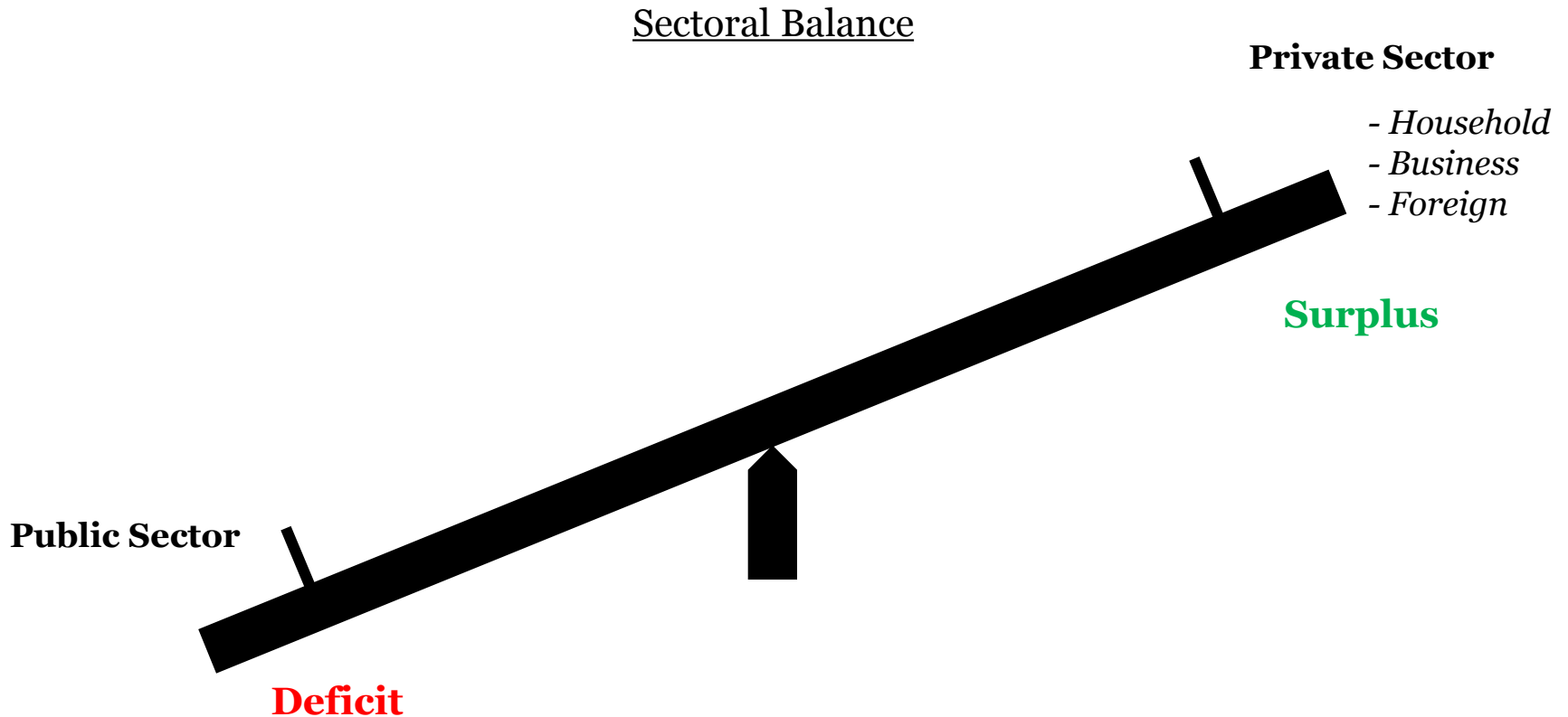
Unemployment



Source: Eurostat

Seesaw Economics: Part 3

A financial surplus (income > spending) in one sector means a financial deficit (spending > income) in another sector



Seesaw Economics: Part 3

From what are Western economies mainly suffering?

Demand Problem?

- ▶ Cyclical
- ▶ Large government deficits/debt are the result
- ▶ Zero-rates are too high/QE helps but insufficient
- ▶ Result: *deflation* and low long rates
- ▶ Solution: Fiscal expansion; higher inflation targets

Probability : **80%**

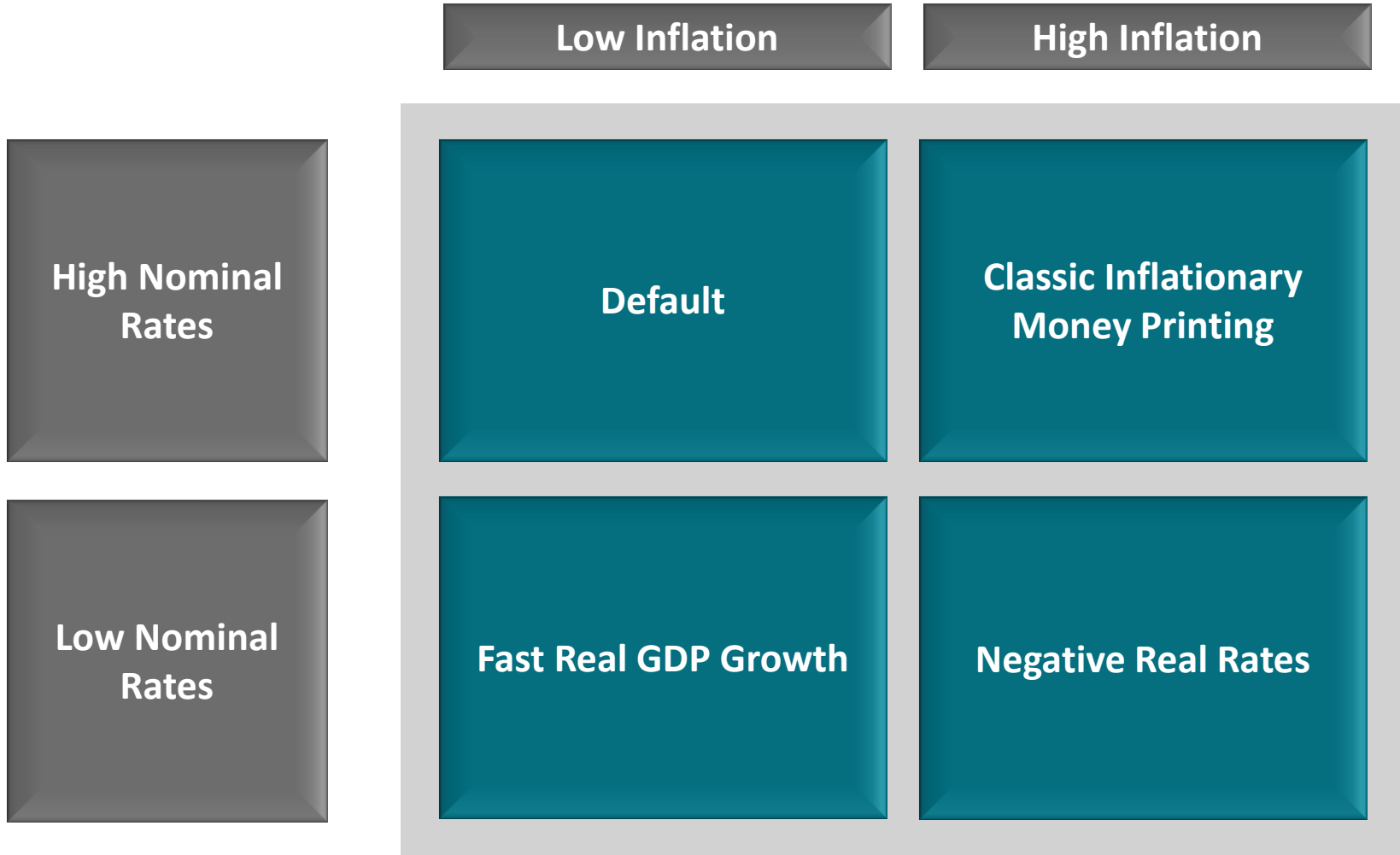
Supply Problem?

- ▶ Structural
- ▶ Large government deficits/debt are part of the cause
- ▶ Zero-rates are too low/QE distorts (rewards bad behavior)
- ▶ Result: high *inflation* and high long rates
- ▶ Solution: Fiscal austerity; structural reform

20%

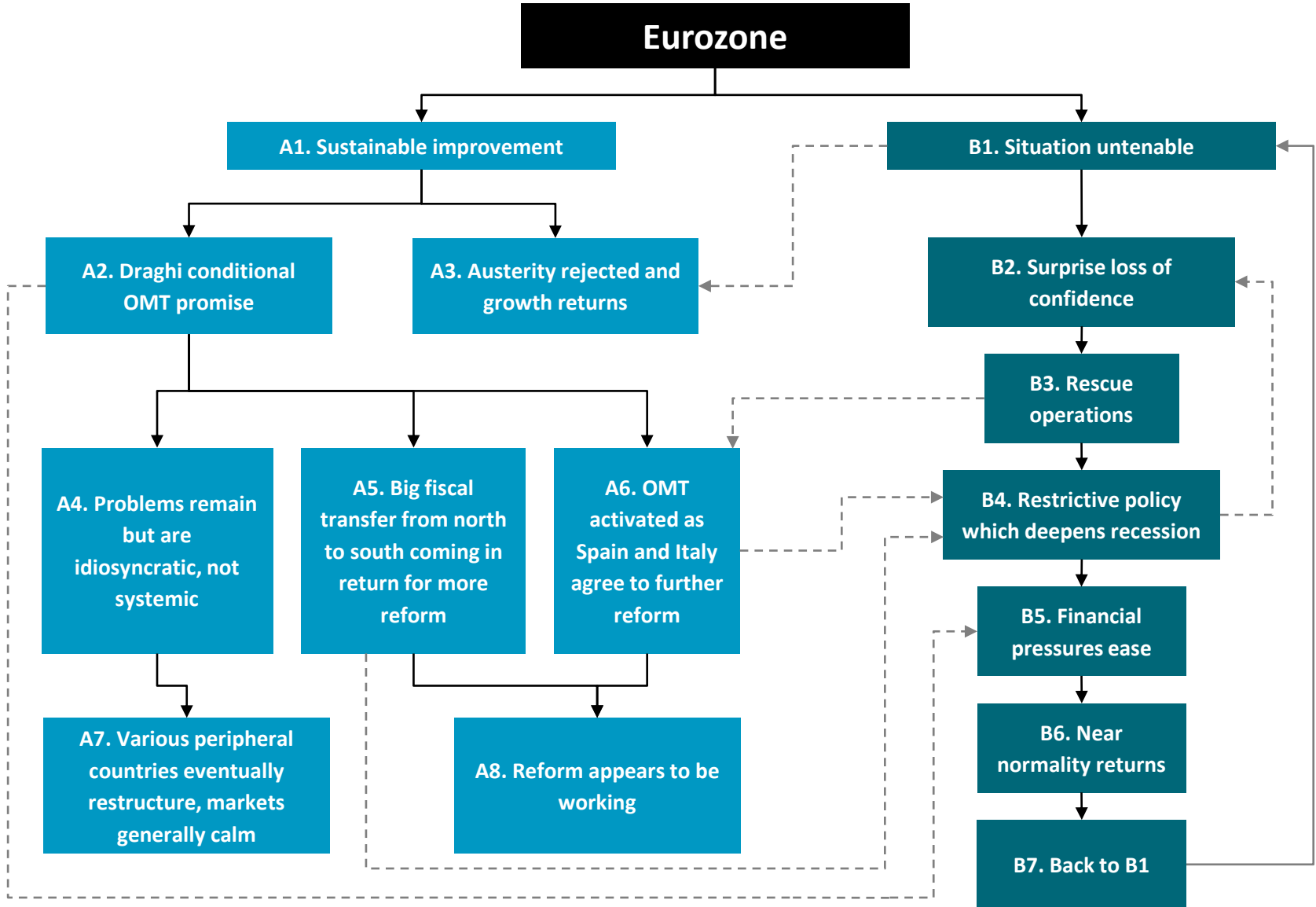
Policy Risk - Choosing the Wrong Box

Pick a Box: To reduce debt/GDP, there are only four options



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Threat 1: A Circular Problem



Threat 1: Eurozone's Four Systemic Fragilities

Risk

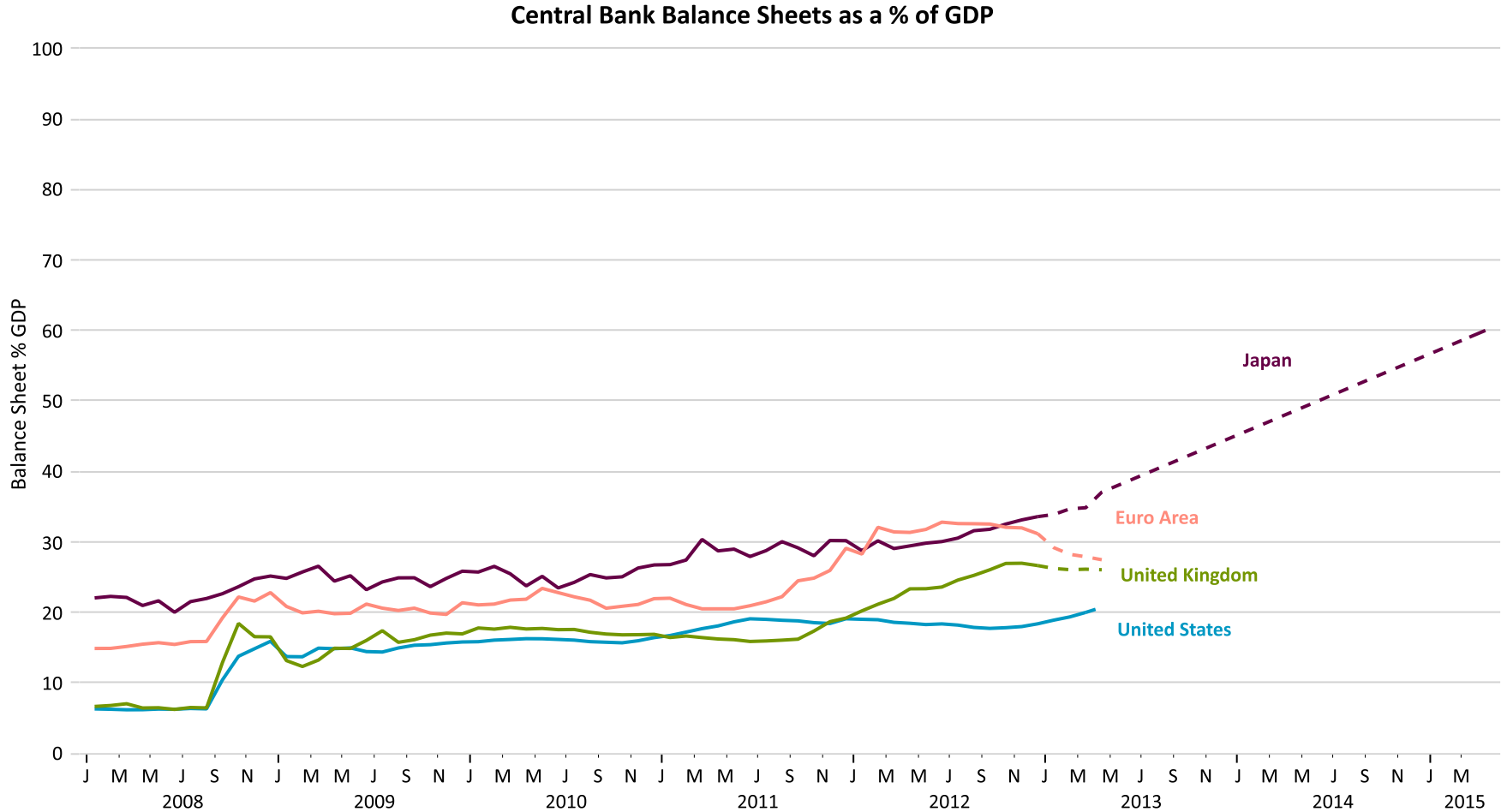
Solution

▶ Deposit Flight	→	Deposit-Insurance Union
▶ Capital Controls	→	Banking Union
▶ Convertibility Risk	→	Fiscal Union
▶ Conditional OMT*	→	Unconditional OMT*/other easing

* Outright Monetary Transactions

Threat 2: QE is Not Enough

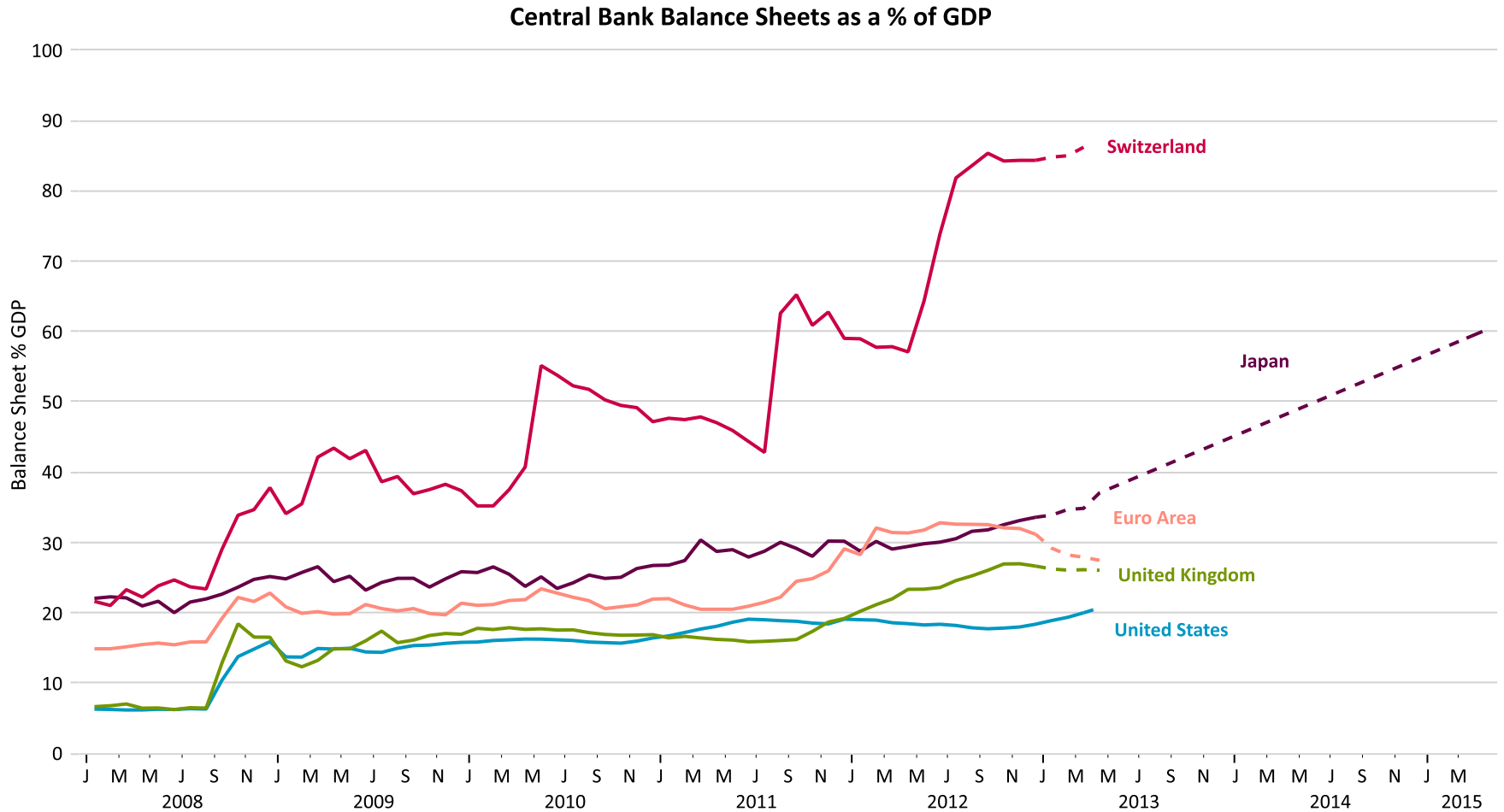
Japan's Experiment: A great start, but more will be needed



Source: Macrobond.

Threat 2: QE is Not Enough

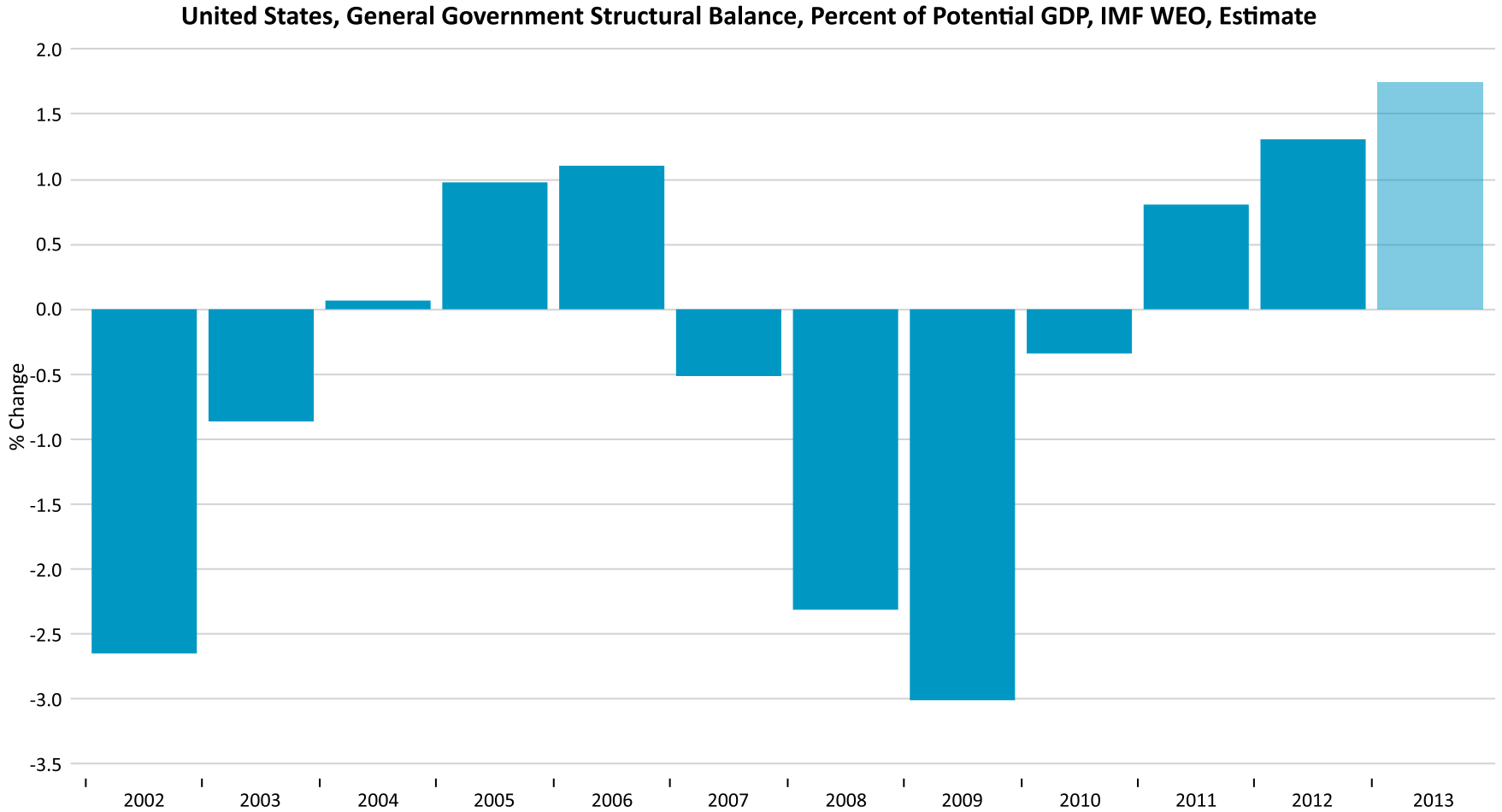
Japan's Experiment: Switzerland did more than Japan, but remains in deflation



Source: Macrobond.

Threat 3: Fiscal Drags at the Zero-Bound Can be Dangerous for Growth

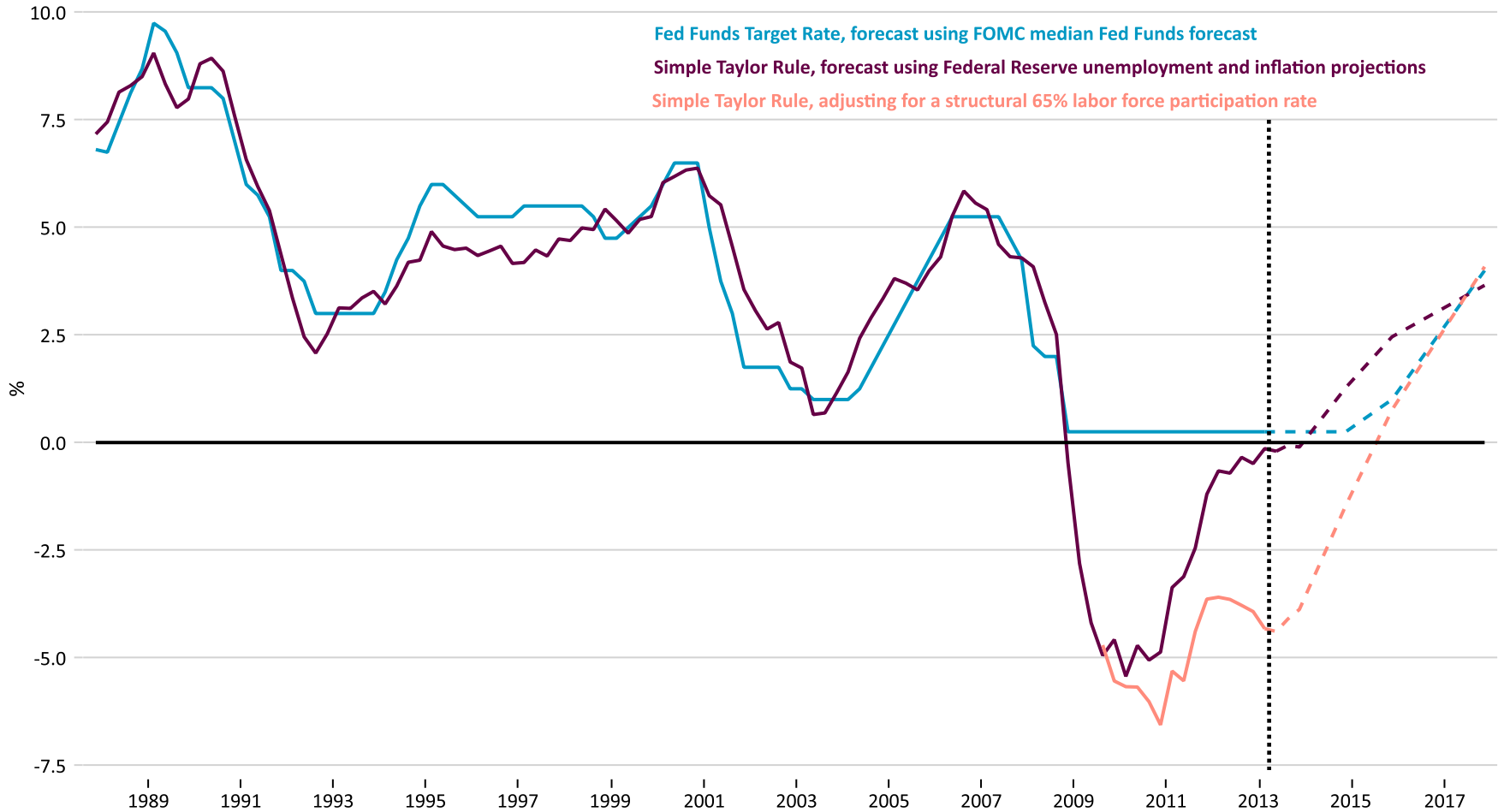
US joins the austerity club in 2013



Source: Macrobond.

Threat 3: What More Can Central Banks Do, If Needed?

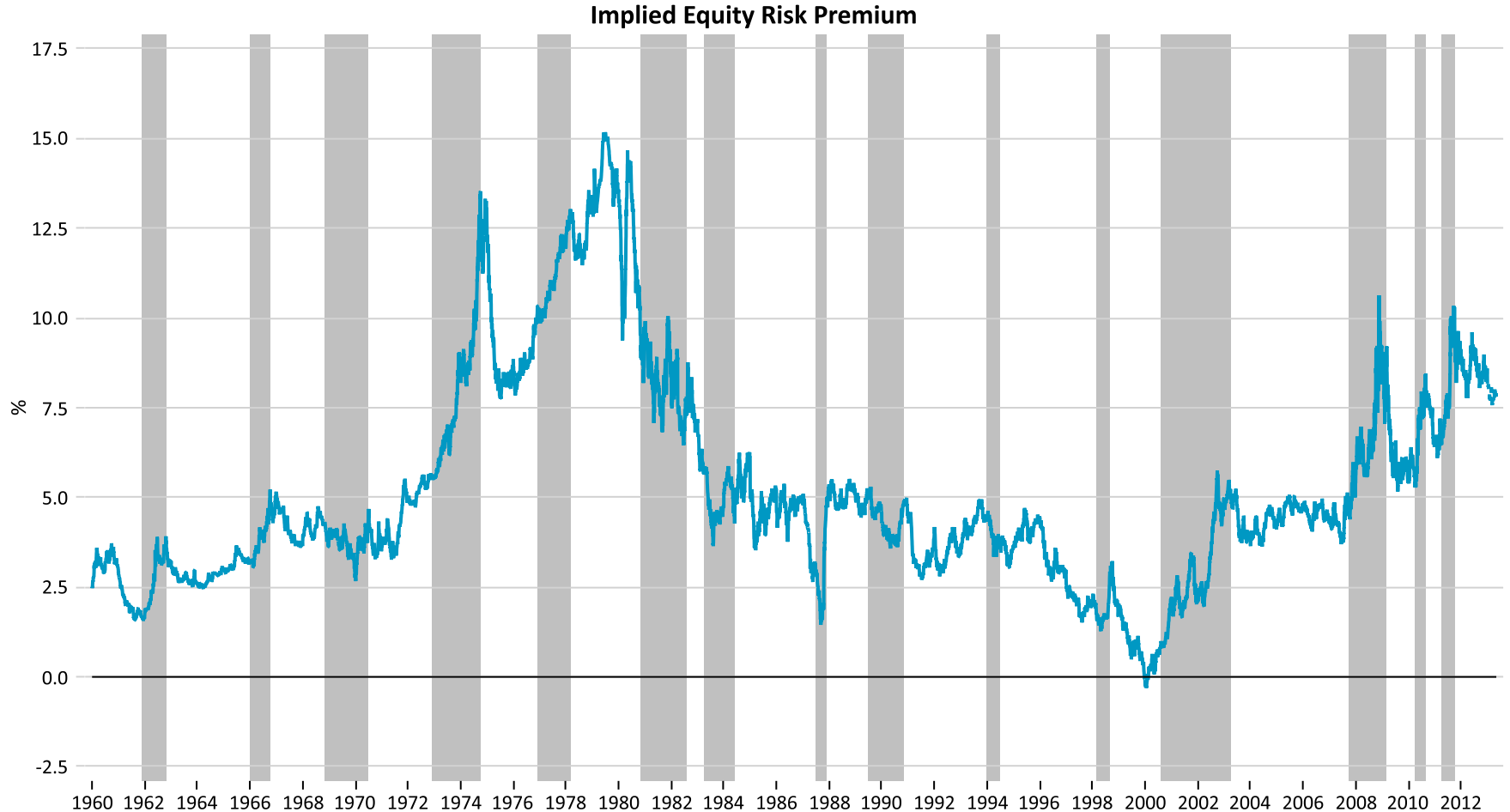
US Taylor Rule for Fed Funds:



Source: Macrobond.

SP500 Market Implications: Paid For All These Risks?

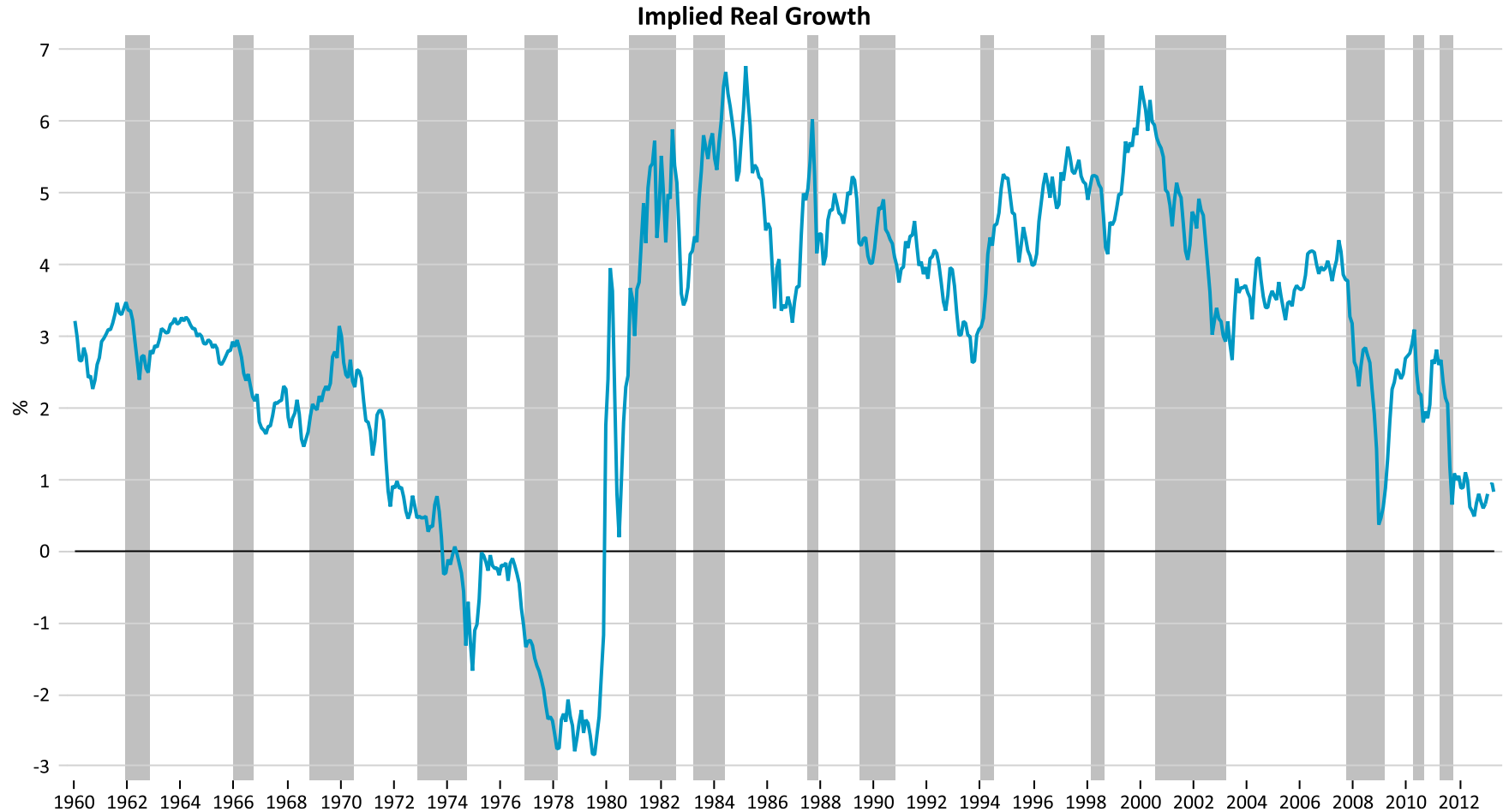
The equity risk premium is high so valuations are probably fair...



Source: Macrobond. Shaded periods indicate equity bear markets, corrections, and crashes.

SP500 Market Implications: Enough Bad News Priced In?

...but the 1970s suggests it is not impossible for implied real growth expectations to fall further – although deflation would be the likely cause now, not inflation



Source: Macrobond. Shaded periods indicate equity bear markets, corrections, and crashes.

Asset Allocation in a Time of High Inflation – Answers Are Far From Obvious

In Case of Emergency: Where to hide in the event of high inflation:

	Weak Economy	Strong Economy
Hawkish Fed Reaction	<p>Cash FRN* Treasuries</p>	<p>Leveraged Loans Cash FRN* Treasuries</p>
Dovish Fed Reaction	<p>TIPS Gold FX: Hard / BOP-Surplus</p>	<p>Commodities Real Estate Equities</p>

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Conclusions

- ▶ **The big lesson over the past four years: the good news is that monetary policy still works for now (the monetary tanks are not quite empty yet)**
- ▶ **But the logic of “seesaw” economics means that the threat of self-defeating or insufficient policy remains, which may trigger further action in the “currency wars” (which may actually be desirable for the world in aggregate)**
- ▶ **Equity and bond markets are not stupid – they have priced in some of these risks. But any further intensification of deflationary pressure could still drive elevated risk premiums higher and low growth expectations lower...**
- ▶ **...especially if central banks were ever to become reluctant to administer further radical innovations in monetary comfort**