

News Release

THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK of KANSAS CITY

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TENTH DISTRICT CONSUMER DEBT DECLINES IN FOURTH QUARTER

Average consumer debt in the Tenth Federal Reserve District fell modestly in the fourth quarter of 2011, continuing a steady pattern of decline since the beginning of 2009, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's quarterly Consumer Credit Reports.

The fourth quarter [Consumer Credit Reports](#) provide a snapshot of data such as consumer debt, consumer loan delinquencies, student loan debt and a county-by-county look at serious mortgage delinquencies for each of the Tenth District's seven states: [Missouri](#), [Kansas](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Nebraska](#), [Colorado](#), [Wyoming](#) and [New Mexico](#). The information is collected from a number of sources, including Federal Reserve System data and credit reporting bureaus.

The latest reports find that average Tenth District consumer debt, excluding first mortgages, fell to \$15,500 in the fourth quarter of 2011, compared to \$17,300 for the United States as a whole. In addition, credit delinquency, at 4.3 percent of all accounts, was substantially lower than the U.S. rate of 6.3 percent, and the District's bankruptcy rate of 103 per 10,000 households was much lower than the national rate of 126 per 10,000 households.

The fourth quarter reports also take a closer look at student loan debt, finding that average student loan debt in the District stood at \$22,300—less than the national average of \$23,600. However, the District's delinquency rate for student loans was 12.1 percent, moderately higher than the national average of 11 percent.

With staff in its Kansas City headquarters and at branches in Denver, Oklahoma City and Omaha, the Bank seeks to promote community development and fair and impartial access to credit through research, relationship building and resource development. As the regional headquarters of the nation's central bank, the Bank participates in setting the nation's monetary policy, supervises and regulates banks and bank holding companies, and provides financial services to depository institutions.

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