



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK *of* KANSAS CITY

**Statement on the Jackson Hole Economic Policy Symposium**

The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City recovers the costs associated with its Economic Policy Symposium held annually in Jackson Hole, Wyo. All attendees pay a fee to attend, which in 2011 was \$900 per person. Because of the importance of recovering costs, even members of the news media who attend the conference pay this fee – a practice that is distinctly different than most other conferences in the public or private sector where reporters are regularly admitted without charge. In addition to the event fee, attendees are responsible for paying their own airfare, lodging, and all expenses related to recreational activities that they might undertake on their own time.

The economic policy symposium started in 1978 and moved permanently to Jackson Hole, Wyo., in 1982, which is in the Tenth Federal Reserve District. The event takes place not at one of the resorts in Jackson, but in the Jackson Lake Lodge – a National Park Service facility that has no resort-like facilities (no spa, no exercise room, no salon). As such, we receive no special consideration from the Lodge, which remains open to the public throughout the two days of our symposium. We agree the location is spectacular. In fact, we are quite proud to share the astonishing beauty of one of America's national parks with attendees from central banks from more than 40 countries.

We take pride in our symposium's 35-year history. The event is known as the only central banking conference that brings together private economists, financial market participants, academics, key U.S. government representatives and news media to discuss key long-term policy issues of mutual concern. For example, in 1990 the symposium focused on emerging market economies, with central banks from Eastern Europe and the U.S.S.R. taking part in the discussion for the first time as they joined the international community. On our Bank's website, [www.kansascityfed.org](http://www.kansascityfed.org), you will find proceedings publications from each of our past symposia, including research papers, a transcript of discussions, and attendee lists.

**For additional questions, please contact:**

Bill Medley  
Public Information Director  
Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City  
(816)-881-2556 or [Bill.Medley@kc.frb.org](mailto:Bill.Medley@kc.frb.org)