

The Main Street Economist

Regional and rural analysis



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FEDERAL RESERVE BANK of KANSAS CITY

DIVISION of REGIONAL, PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AN EXPANDED COMMITMENT TO REGIONAL & RURAL RESEARCH

The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City has a long-standing commitment to regional, rural, and agricultural economics research. In recent years, the work of Bank economists has increasingly recognized that the most relevant research in each of these areas requires a broader focus.

The Regional, Public, and Community Affairs Division was created in 2005 to strengthen the Bank's regional research efforts, improve its understanding of the Tenth Federal Reserve District's unique economic geography, and enhance the analysis of local economic developments for the Bank's monetary policy deliberations. The new RPCA Division has placed staff in all four of the Bank's offices, building the Bank's contacts with business and community leaders who are most familiar with current developments in the local economy.

Further expanding the RPCA Division's research capabilities, the Bank recently integrated its Center for the Study of Rural America into the Division. The RPCA Division replaces the Rural Center in the Bank's organizational structure, highlighting the Division's larger research staff focused on a common research agenda. Broadly defined, division economists study the factors underlying growth and development in the regional economy, spanning rural, suburban, and urban places. Their work explores a wide variety of topics ranging from innovation, entrepreneurship, labor markets, and community development to prospects for the agricultural, manufacturing, energy, service, and construction sectors.



ALAN D. BARKEMA
senior vice president and economist

The division is led by Alan D. Barkema, senior vice president and economist. Alan joined the Bank in 1986, helped launch the Rural Center in 1999, and later served as the Bank's Community Affairs Officer. Alan was appointed to his current position in 2005. During Alan's career, his research has largely focused on rural, agricultural, and community development topics.

The RPCA Division will continue to highlight the Bank's regional and rural research in the online newsletter *The Main Street Economist*. Additionally, RPCA economists will publish research and more technical analyses in the Bank's quarterly *Economic Review* and their research will be featured in *TEN*, the Bank's quarterly general interest magazine.

The RPCA Division's research and field staff include:

DENVER OFFICE



- Michael Orlando, *vice president, branch executive and economist*
- Michael Verba, *assistant economist*
- Ariel Cisneros, *senior community affairs advisor*

KANSAS CITY OFFICE



- Paul Coquillette, *assistant vice president and community affairs officer*
- Kelly Edmiston, *senior economist*
- Nancy Novack, *associate economist*
- Roger Zalneraitus, *research associate*
- Sean Moore, *research associate*
- Andres Dominguez, *senior community affairs advisor*

OMAHA OFFICE



- Jason Henderson, *assistant vice president, branch executive and economist*
- Maria Akers, *assistant economist*
- Glennis McClure, *senior community affairs advisor*



OKLAHOMA CITY OFFICE



- Chad Wilkerson, *assistant vice president, branch executive and economist*
- Megan Williams, *associate economist*
- Steve Shepelwich, *senior community affairs advisor*

The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and its branches in Denver, Oklahoma City and Omaha serve the Tenth Federal Reserve District: Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Wyoming, northern New Mexico and the western third of Missouri. Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City research is available at www.KansasCityFed.org.