Summary

Average consumer debt in the Tenth District, which for this report includes all debt other than first mortgages, continued to climb in the first quarter to $15,890 (four-quarter moving average), up substantially from $15,680 in the fourth quarter and $15,440 one year ago (Chart 1). U.S. average consumer debt also increased moderately, having remained stable for several quarters previously.

District consumer debt had fallen steadily from the first quarter of 2009 through the first quarter of 2011, and had maintained a stable value before its recent climb over the past year. Still, average District consumer debt remained well below its fourth quarter 2008 peak of $17,420 and well below average consumer debt for the nation as a whole, which was $17,300 in the most recent quarter.

Revolving debt in the Tenth District, which includes open lines of credit like credit cards and home equity lines of credit, has fallen every quarter since the second quarter of 2009, and that trend continued in the most recent quarter with a significant $100 decline to $5,510. District revolving debt was down $1,170 from its second quarter 2009 peak. Average revolving debt in the District was substantially below that of the nation as a whole, which was $7,270 in the first quarter.

Average consumer debt increased in all District states except for New Mexico over the past year (Chart 2). New Mexico consumer debt has declined 5.7 percent from the first quarter of 2012, which is likely due in large part to a relatively poor economy compared to other states in the District. Levels of debt were highest in Colorado and Wyoming—above national levels—which is consistent with their higher average incomes. Debt levels tend to correlate with incomes, although numerous other factors also work to determine average consumer debt levels. Oklahoma and Nebraska, respectively, had the lowest average debt levels, but both states have relatively robust economies and weathered the recession well.

Consumer debt has been increasing in both states about at the District pace.

Overall, consumer delinquencies continued to trend downward in the first quarter, falling from 3.9 percent for “any account” in the fourth quarter to 3.8 percent in the first quarter (Chart 3). Consumer delinquencies have fallen sharply from their third quarter 2010 peak of 4.8 percent. Delinquencies on any account also remained well below the national rate of 5.5 percent.

District consumer delinquencies remained below national levels in all categories but student loans, the latter largely driven by Missouri and, in particular, Oklahoma; but the delinquency rate on student loans in the District fell sharply from 10.3 percent to 9.9 percent. The U.S. student loans delinquency rate also
The Consumer Credit Report series is published quarterly by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City to provide a summary of consumer credit in each state of the Tenth District, which comprises Colorado, Kansas, western Missouri, Nebraska, northern New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Wyoming. For questions or comments, contact Kelly Edmiston, senior economist, at kelly.edmiston@kc.frb.org.
Chart 1: Average Debt Per Consumer

Four-quarter moving average

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York Consumer Credit Panel/Equifax.
Notes: Excludes first mortgage. A first mortgage represents the primary note on the home and typically is not used to purchase consumer goods.

Chart 2: Average Debt Per Consumer

Four-quarter moving average

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York Consumer Credit Panel/Equifax.
Notes: Excludes first mortgage. A first mortgage represents the primary note on the home and typically is not used to purchase consumer goods.
Chart 3: Average Consumer Delinquency Rates

Four-quarter moving average

[Bar chart showing average delinquency rates for various types of loans and accounts across the U.S. and District States, with specific rates for each category.]

Sources: Federal Reserve Bank of New York Consumer Credit Panel/Equifax; the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts; and Lender Processing Services, Inc.

Notes: At least 30 days past due. “Any Account” includes accounts not otherwise reported in the chart, such as first mortgages. Estimates of households are updated in the second quarter. “Mortgage delinquency is the current rate and not a moving average.”

Chart 4: Mortgage Delinquencies

Share of mortgages outstanding

[Bar chart showing mortgage delinquency rates for various states and districts, with specific rates for past due and seriously delinquent mortgages.]

Source: Lender Processing Services Inc.

Notes: "Past due" represents mortgages that are 30 days or more delinquent, including those in foreclosure. "Serious delinquencies" represent mortgages that are 90 days or more past due or in some stage of the foreclosure process.
Chart 5: Inflation-Adjusted Average Outstanding Student Loan Debt per Consumer Holding Student Loan Debt

Chart 6: Share of Outstanding Student Loans 30 or More Days Past Due (including those in forbearance and deferralment)