

# News Release

THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK *of* KANSAS CITY

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## **MINORITY WORKERS IN THE TENTH DISTRICT: RISING PRESENCE, RISING CHALLENGES**

Since 1970, minorities' share of population in Tenth Federal Reserve District states (Colorado, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, western Missouri, and northern New Mexico) has nearly doubled. Minority groups now account for 25 percent of the area's population and are expected to continue to increase in relative size in the years ahead. This escalating minority presence raises the question of how District minorities are doing economically.

"Minority Workers in the Tenth District: Rising Presence, Rising Challenges" considers the jobs and earnings of District minority groups, both for today and the next five to 10 years. The article appears in the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's fourth quarter *Economic Review*. It was written by Chad Wilkerson, Oklahoma City branch executive, assistant vice president and economist; and Megan Williams, associate economist.

Wilkerson and Williams examine the contributing factors to the disparity in earnings across racial and ethnic groups. The most significant factor, they find, is differences in human capital traits, which typically is measured by education and skill attainment.

The authors also discuss the job outlook for District minorities. Though job projections are positive, they differ across minority groups. For all groups, jobs that are currently high-paying are expected to grow faster than jobs that are currently low-paying.

The authors conclude with suggestions on how to alleviate the educational- and skill-attainment discrepancy in the short and long term.

The article is available on the Bank's Web site at [www.KansasCityFed.org](http://www.KansasCityFed.org)

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