

# Editor's Introduction to the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's Technical Working Paper Series

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FEDERAL RESERVE BANK *of* KANSAS CITY



# Editor's Introduction

*By San Cannon\**

For more than 100 years, the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City has conducted business supporting the mission of the Federal Reserve System and has been dedicated to sharing that work with the public. A variety of publications and electronically disseminated information have provided a great deal of insight into the research that informs monetary policy discussions, regulatory or supervisory decisions, and payments systems work. This information has provided a transparent view into what the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City is doing to contribute to monetary policy, provide supervisory and regulatory oversight, and offer safe, reliable, and efficient financial services. What has not been readily visible is the information on how that work is done. The Technical Working Paper Series looks to fill that void.

While the goals of the Federal Reserve System have remained the same over the decades, the nature of the work has changed. As is true for many other institutions, technology and technical expertise are more critical now to nearly every aspect of the Bank's operations. Effectively employing that technology and applying that technical expertise has meant that staff at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City have tackled thorny problems and developed novel solutions. Not only do we do cutting-edge research on mission-critical topics, we do cutting-edge research on ways to enhance and advance the topical research that fulfills the Federal Reserve's mission. But until recently, only our topical research was shared with the public. Now, with the Technical Working Paper Series, we can share the work that goes on behind the scenes to improve research methods, describe data sources, and develop the tools we use to answer economic questions.

We are excited to be able to share some of this more technical work with a broader audience to improve public understanding of not just what we do but how we do it. To understand the labor market, we need to understand how to work with labor market data. To improve payments systems, we need to model economic activity that uses them. To ensure the safety and soundness of financial institutions, we need to calculate the risks to the financial system from catastrophic events. All of

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these activities require an understanding of how to use technology appropriately, explore and explain data sources, and efficiently build and run both explanatory and predictive models. The Technical Working Paper Series provides an outlet for foundational work describing how we manage the technology, data, and information that enables research.

The papers in the series will be different from those in other Bank publications. The audience for the Technical Working Paper Series is technically oriented individuals working in business, economics, information management, information technology, or library science who are interested in research that draws on specific methods or novel approaches to solving common or important problems that arise from Federal Reserve System work. Some papers may cover a certain empirical or theoretical field based on primary or secondary sources. Others may review and discuss the literature in a limited research terrain. And others may describe a case study or provide a descriptive and exploratory analysis of a project process.

The topics will be wide ranging but will generally fall in the areas of technology, data management and curation, data science, and information and library sciences. They may be tied to other publications or publicly available content to provide more technical insight into how the work was done. Some papers might outline projects we have undertaken to solve a particular problem; others may be more foundational and outline research or ideas that need to be clearly defined before further research can be done. The papers are meant to be broadly accessible descriptions of technical topics. We expect these papers to be short to medium length and be readily accessible for practitioners. While we have no set publication schedule, we plan to start by releasing one working paper each month.

We offer these papers to share our experience, stimulate discussion, and provide insight into how we do the important work of fostering the stability, integrity, and efficiency of the nation's monetary, financial, and payments systems to promote a stable, healthy economy. We hope others can learn from our work and build upon what we offer.