Show Me the Money
Cash Services Departments process millions daily

More money — millions more — than most will ever have in a lifetime flows in and out of the Federal Reserve Bank every day in stacks of ones, twos, fives, 10s, 20s, 50s, 100s and bags of coins. In an average day, a combined total of about $87 million is paid out and about $72 million is deposited at the Tenth District’s three Cash Services Departments in Kansas City, Denver and Omaha. Additionally, shipments of newly printed currency typically arrive each month.

And the Cash Services Department staff handles it all. It’s their responsibility to distribute and receive money to and from Federal Reserve Bank customers (banks and credit unions), circulate new coins from the U.S. Mint and new currency from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, plus detect suspected counterfeit notes.

Above all, the staff follows a process so the money is always accounted for and secure.

DID YOU KNOW...
- Generally you only need to have 51 percent of your note for it to be accepted.
- The average lifespan of a $1 note is 22 months, five years for a $100 note and 25 years for a coin.
- Unfit currency is shredded into pieces smaller than a 3/8-inch square.
- If the machine can’t destroy a note because it is too dirty or mangled, it must be shredded manually. An “independent witness” from within the Federal Reserve Bank is called to verify the destruction.
- Cash Services employees are required to be certified to detect counterfeit money. The Federal Reserve Bank gives all suspected counterfeit notes to the Secret Service.

Source: Federal Reserve Bank Tenth District Cash Services Department and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

To read recent testimony from the Federal Reserve on its coin- and currency-related activities, go to www.KansasCityFed.org/TEN.

TEXT BY BRYE STEEVES, SENIOR WRITER
ILLUSTRATIONS BY CASEY MCKINLEY, SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER
RECEIVING UNIT:
Currency shipments arrive via armored carriers at the dock. The money, sealed in bags, is then delivered to designated rooms where staff accepts the deposits.

HIGH SPEED UNIT:
Notes are run through a high-speed currency processor to count deposits and shred unfit currency. Sensors determine which notes to prepare for payout and which to reject. In the Tenth District, an average of 80,000 notes are counted and sorted per hour.

THE VAULT:
Money then goes to the vault where it is stored until it’s needed for payout.

UNFIT MONEY:
Dirty, defaced, worn or torn notes are shredded. Last year, about $2.5 billion was destroyed in the Tenth District.

PAYING UNIT:
Every day customers place currency and coin orders here to replenish their supply. The Tenth District receives about 500 orders a day. Armored carriers hired by the Federal Reserve Bank’s customers pick up orders and make the deliveries.