Debt Burden

The capacity to pay back debt is a critical gauge of consumer credit conditions. On a short-term basis, this capacity is best measured by the minimum monthly payments due on debts as a share of monthly household income.

In Missouri, 12.9 percent of monthly household income is required to cover the minimum payments due on debt, such as mortgages, credit cards, and auto loans. The Missouri burden is modestly higher than the average burden in the Tenth District as a whole (12.5 percent), but falls below the comparable U.S. figure of 13.2 percent. Missouri debt service burden has declined over the last several years, as it has elsewhere in the U.S., and was down from 13.6 percent in 2006. The total amount of debt (including mortgages) held by the average Missouri consumer increased over the period (from about $50,900 to about $54,300), but falling interest rates pushed debt burdens lower. Any future rise in interest rates above their current historically low rates could raise debt burdens substantially, putting additional financial pressure on Missouri households. For more information, see the Tenth District Consumer Credit Report.

Sources: Federal Reserve Bank of New York Consumer Credit Panel/Equifax and the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts
Note: Due to changes in the way variables were reported and a larger sample, delinquency figures are not comparable to those from the second quarter. Any Account includes accounts not otherwise reported in the chart.
Chart 3: Mortgage Delinquencies

Map: Serious Delinquency Rates by County

Notes

The Consumer Credit Report series is published quarterly by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City to provide a summary view of consumer credit standing in each Tenth District state. For questions or comments, contact Kelly Edmiston, senior economist, at kelly.edmiston@kc.frb.org.