Summary

Average consumer debt in Colorado continued to decline in the first quarter to about $18,700, down $200 from the previous quarter (chart 1). Revolving debt followed the same trend of modest decline. Colorado consumer debt remained higher than U.S. and Tenth District averages, but as noted in previous reports, the higher debt level was likely due to a higher cost of living (chart 2). Consumer delinquency rates were below national averages (chart 3). Consistent with previous reports, Colorado’s mortgage delinquency rates were well below the national average (chart 4). The Pueblo metro area and Cheyenne and Bent counties continued to post higher than average mortgage delinquency rates, however (map).

Theme: Credit Score

Colorado’s average risk score, which is equivalent to a standard credit score, was 713 in the first quarter. This number topped the District and national averages (chart 5). The comparatively high score reflects Colorado’s consistently lower-than-average consumer delinquency rates.

Similar to the national trend, the average risk score has increased over the last decade, with the exception of small dips and fairly stagnant movement during the recent recession (chart 6). Since 2010, the average risk score has begun increasing more significantly, likely due to lower consumer debt levels.
**Chart 3:** Average Consumer Delinquency Rates

*At least 30 days past due*

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York Consumer Credit Panel/Equifax and the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

Note: “Any Account” includes accounts not otherwise reported in the chart, such as first mortgages.

**Chart 4:** Mortgage Delinquencies

Source: Lender Processing Services, Inc.

Notes: The figures represent the share of outstanding mortgages. Past due represents mortgages that are 30 or more days delinquent, including those in foreclosure. Serious delinquencies represent mortgages that are 90 or more days past due or in some stage of the foreclosure process.
Map: Serious Delinquency Rates by County

Legend

- < 1%
- 1% - 2%
- 2% - 4%
- 4% - 6%
- 6% - 8%
- > 8%
- Insufficient Information

Source: Lender Processing Services, Inc.

Note: Serious delinquencies represent mortgages that are 90 or more days past due or in some stage of the foreclosure process.

Chart 5: Average Risk Score

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York Consumer Credit Panel/Equifax

Note: The Risk Score is equivalent to a Standard Credit Score.
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, which encompasses 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.