Summary

Average consumer debt in Nebraska rose by about $120 in the second quarter to roughly $13,920 per consumer, including joint debt; this was the second-lowest in the seven-state District and was well below national and District averages (Charts 1 and 2). Revolving debt was flat at $5,010 (Chart 1). Consumer delinquency rates in Nebraska have been consistently below the national averages, with a substantially lower rate of student loan delinquency (Chart 3). Mortgage delinquency rates also were substantially lower than the national and District rates (Chart 4), though they varied significantly across the state, with the Omaha metro area and Pawnee County suffering the highest rates (see Map on page 3).

In This Issue: A Look at Bankruptcy

Nebraska’s bankruptcy filing rate has followed the national trend in which a steep rise occurred in the lead-up to bankruptcy reform, in late 2005, followed by a sharp and sudden decline (Chart 5). Since the reform, the bankruptcy rate has tracked average consumer debt. Nebraska’s annual bankruptcy rate of 80 per 10,000 households over the last four quarters was well below the national and District rates (Chart 6). Low consumer debt and delinquency rates likely contributed to the low bankruptcy rate.

Chart 1: Average Debt* Per Consumer

Four-quarter moving average

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York Consumer Credit Panel/Equifax
*Excludes first mortgage. A first mortgage represents the primary note on the home and typically is not used to purchase consumer goods.

Chart 2: Average Debt* Per Consumer

Four-quarter moving average

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York Consumer Credit Panel/Equifax
*Excludes first mortgage. A first mortgage represents the primary note on the home and typically is not used to purchase consumer goods.
Chart 3: Average Consumer Delinquency Rates*

Four-quarter moving average

*At least 30 days past due. "Any Account" includes accounts not otherwise reported in the chart, such as first mortgages. The second quarter bankruptcy filing rate utilizes an updated estimate of households.

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 foreclosure.
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: Nonbusiness Bankruptcy Filings Per 10,000 Households (Quarterly)

Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.
The Consumer Credit Report series is published quarterly by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City to provide a summary of consumer credit standing in each state of the Tenth District, which comprises 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.