Summary
Average consumer debt in Missouri increased modestly in the third quarter to $14,370, having remained remarkably stable for the last several quarters, following a significant period of decline in consumer debt from its peak of $16,350 (Chart 1). Average consumer debt in Missouri is well below both District and national levels (Chart 2). The overall consumer delinquency rate of 4.5 percent is well below the national average, (Chart 3) due largely to lower mortgage delinquency rates. Delinquencies on most forms of credit are about on par with national levels, with the exception of student loans, for which the delinquency rate is substantially higher. Higher delinquency rates on student loans are fairly typical for the District and are discussed in more detail in the fourth quarter 2011 report. Mortgage delinquencies were higher than the District average but below the U.S. average (Chart 4). Mortgage delinquencies are relatively high in several counties throughout the state (Map).

In This Issue: A Look at Debt Burden
In the four quarters leading up to the current quarter, debt payments, including mortgage payments, absorbed 13.9 percent of disposable income in Missouri, just above District and national averages (Chart 5). Unlike in many other states, consumer debt burdens have remained relatively stable in Missouri. Despite some paring down of debt and low interest rates, slow growth in disposable income has kept Missouri debt burdens from falling lower.
Chart 3: Average Consumer Delinquency Rates

Four-quarter moving average

Notes: 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: Figures represent the share of outstanding mortgages. “Past due” represents mortgages that are 30 days or more delinquent, including those in foreclosure. “Serious delinquencies” represent mortgages that are 90 days or more 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 Data

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: Debt Burden

Debt payments as a percentage of annual disposable household income

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York Consumer Credit Panel/Equifax; U.S. Census Bureau.

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.