**Summary**

Average consumer debt in Nebraska rose every quarter in 2012, with a $185 increase in the fourth quarter (Chart 1). Still, at $14,320, Nebraska consumer debt, remained the lowest in the District tied with Oklahoma (Chart 2). While solidly below its early 2007 peak of $15,140, consumer debt in Nebraska did not see the sharp drop-off evident in most other states following the recession, but it did not rise as fast during the pre-recession boom either. Revolving debt, which was little changed at $5,000, was moderately below the average for the District. Consumer delinquencies in Nebraska were considerably lower than those in the U.S. across all categories (Chart 3). Mortgage delinquencies also remained well below both District and U.S. rates (Chart 4). Omaha delinquencies were only moderately higher than the state rates, while in most states larger cities tend to have much higher rates than state averages. Serious mortgage delinquencies varied widely statewide however (Map).

**In This Issue: A Look at Mortgage Delinquencies**

The rate of past due mortgages peaked in Nebraska in early 2010 and has dropped substantially since then to 6.6 percent in the most recent quarter (Chart 5). This pattern is consistent with District and national trends. Many states have seen more robust declines in mortgage delinquency rates, but their peak rates typically were much higher and remain higher currently. Serious mortgage delinquency and foreclosure rates share a similar pattern, both with respect to levels and trends. The decline in the foreclosure rate has been relatively slow in Nebraska, however, despite its early peak.
**Chart 3: Average Consumer Delinquency Rates**

Four-quarter moving average


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.

**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

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

Chart 5: Mortgage Delinquency Trends in Nebraska

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.