Summary

Average consumer debt in Colorado was little changed in the third quarter at $19,080, while revolving debt declined significantly by $230 to $8,100 (Chart 1). Average consumer debt had increased consistently but moderately since the fourth quarter of 2011 before leveling off in the third quarter of 2013. That pattern followed a paring down of debt that began in late 2009. Colorado’s average consumer debt remained highest among District states, but as noted in past reports, Colorado’s higher debt levels largely reflect a higher cost of living (Chart 2). Average consumer delinquency rates in Colorado consistently fell below U.S. rates in every category (Chart 3). The overall delinquency rate has fallen significantly since the recession’s end, but student loan delinquencies bucked national trends by rising unexpectedly and significantly in the third quarter. Colorado’s mortgage delinquency rates were well below national and District rates (Chart 4). Serious mortgage delinquency rates across the state were largely in a range of 2-4 percent, but with some higher rates in the southeast (Map).

In This Issue: A Look at Debt Burden

In 2012, the latest year for which complete data are available, debt payments, including mortgage debt payments, absorbed 14.5 percent of disposable income in Colorado, about at the District rate (Chart 5). In comparison to previous years, Colorado’s debt burden was exceptionally high in 2009 at the height of average consumer debt with debt payments engaging nearly 32 percent of disposable income. Since then, reductions in consumer debt and moderate increases in income have significantly pared debt burdens.
**Chart 3:** Average Consumer Delinquency Rates

Four-quarter moving average

- Auto: 3.1% (U.S.), 2.1% (CO)
- Student Loans: 10.5% (U.S.), 8.3% (CO)
- Bank Card: 1.7% (U.S.), 1.1% (CO)
- Any Account: 4.9% (U.S.), 2.8% (CO)
- Bankruptcy Filings: 93.5 (U.S.), 119.4 (CO)

**Notes:** At least 30 days past due. "Any Account" includes accounts not otherwise reported in the chart, such as first mortgages. Estimates of households are updated in the second quarter.

**Chart 4:** Mortgage Delinquencies

- Past Due
  - U.S.: 9.5%
  - District: 7.2%
  - Colorado: 5.4%
  - Colorado Springs: 5.2%
  - Denver: 5.7%
  - Fort Collins: 4.4%
  - Pueblo: 8.4%

- Seriously Delinquent
  - U.S.: 4.4%
  - District: 3.4%
  - Colorado: 2.5%
  - Colorado Springs: 5.0%
  - Denver: 5.3%
  - Fort Collins: 3.4%
  - Pueblo: 6.6%

**Sources:**
- Lender Processing Services Inc.

**Notes:** The figures represent the share of outstanding mortgages. "Past due" represents mortgages that are 30 days or more delinquent, including those in foreclosure. "Seriously delinquent" represents mortgages that are 90 days or more past due or in some stage of the foreclosure process.
Map: Seriously Delinquent Rates By County

Chart 5: Debt Burden

The Consumer Credit Report series is published quarterly by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City to provide a summary of consumer credit 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.