Summary

Average consumer debt in Missouri continued to climb at a moderate pace in the first quarter to about $15,250 (Chart 1). Consumer debt has increased 6.5 percent since the second quarter of 2012, after falling in several previous quarters. The rise is largely consistent with District trends, but counter to national trends. Revolving debt continued to fall in Missouri. A rise in total consumer debt and a decline in revolving debt imply a significant increase in installment debt, mostly student and auto loans. Average consumer debt in Missouri remained below District and national averages (Chart 2). The share of Missouri consumers with delinquencies on any account was significantly lower than the national rate, dropping from more than 4.9 percent to just less than 4.7 percent in the first quarter (Chart 3). The student loan delinquency rate increased sharply, however, and outpaced the national rate. The auto delinquency rate was on par with the national rate, while delinquencies on bank cards were lower. Mortgage delinquency rates were significantly higher than District rates, although lower than U.S. rates (Chart 4). Metropolitan mortgage delinquency rates were highest in St. Joseph. Delinquency rates were highest in the Northeast (Map).

In This Issue: Credit Card Debt and Utilization Rates

The average credit card balance in Missouri was $4,513 in the first quarter, moderately below District and national averages (Chart 5). The credit card utilization rate, which is the sum of outstanding balances divided by the sum of credit limits, was 28 percent (Chart 6). The credit utilization rate is one of the primary determinants of credit score.
Chart 3: Average Consumer Delinquency Rates

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York Consumer Credit Panel / Equifax; the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts
Notes: At least 30 days past due. "Any Account" includes accounts not otherwise reported in the chart, such as first mortgages. Beginning this quarter, "severe derogatory" accounts are included in the calculation of delinquency rates, which makes delinquency rates higher than in other quarters, all else equal. Thus these delinquency rates are not comparable to delinquency rates provided in previous reports.

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: Seriously Delinquent Rates By County

Legend
- <1%
- 1%-2%
- 2%-4%
- 4%-6%
- 6%-8%
- >8%
- Insufficient Data

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

Chart 5: Average Credit Card Balance for Those with Credit Cards

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York Consumer Credit Panel / Equifax.
Note: Excludes retail cards.
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.