SECOND QUARTER SURVEY SHOWS CONTINUED WEAKNESS IN LOW- TO MODERATE-INCOME COMMUNITIES

Economic and financial conditions in the Tenth Federal Reserve District’s low- to moderate-income (LMI) community continued to weaken in the second quarter, according to the latest results of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City’s quarterly LMI Survey. However, the results indicate some positive developments within the District’s LMI population.

The quarterly survey measures the economic conditions of LMI populations and the organizations that serve them in the Kansas City Fed’s seven-state District. Results from the survey are used to construct five indicators of economic conditions in LMI communities and two indicators of the conditions of LMI-focused organizations. LMI populations are those with incomes of less than 80 percent of an area’s median income.

The survey’s broadest measures of the financial health of the LMI community remained well below neutral, despite a moderating job outlook and some improvement in the survey’s affordable housing index. Lingering pessimism among some survey respondents may be reflected in their general assessments of the financial status of the LMI community even as they recognize that specific aspects of the economy are stabilizing for their clients. Expectations were near neutral for jobs and affordable housing, but they remained subdued for the broader measures of the financial condition of the LMI population.

As the regional headquarters of the nation’s central bank, the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and its branches in Denver, Oklahoma City and Omaha serve the seven states of the Tenth Federal Reserve District: Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Wyoming, northern New Mexico and western Missouri.

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