LMI CONDITIONS REMAIN STEADY, ACCORDING TO LATEST SURVEY

Economic and financial conditions in the Tenth Federal Reserve District’s low- to moderate-income (LMI) community remained steady during the fourth quarter of 2012, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City’s quarterly LMI survey. While most of the survey’s indexes reflecting economic conditions were still below neutral, nearly all respondents reported stability.

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.

In this quarter’s survey, the jobs indexes were all at or above neutral, suggesting housing security, service demand and access to credit could experience improvement over time. Organizations responding to the survey also reported funding surges in the fourth quarter, however, expectations for the first quarter were lower and levels were little changed from a year ago, suggesting the surge was primarily due to year-end donations.

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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