

News Release

THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK of KANSAS CITY

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LOW- TO MODERATE-INCOME CONDITIONS MIXED IN FIRST QUARTER

Indicators of economic and financial conditions in the Tenth Federal Reserve District's low- to moderate-income (LMI) community were mixed during the first quarter, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's [quarterly LMI survey](#). However, the survey's broadest indicator of LMI financial conditions surged, signaling an overall increase in respondents' perception of the financial well-being of the LMI community. This increase was tempered somewhat by other indicators suggesting an increase in the demand for services from organizations that serve LMI communities.

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.

During the first quarter, the survey's job availability index continued to show stability, while the index measuring credit availability rose to a near-neutral level after very weak performance throughout the history of the survey.

A special question for this quarter asked respondents about self-employment. A significant number of respondents indicated widespread self-employment, including efforts such as housecleaning and yard work. In many cases, these jobs have been a source of supplemental income. For those with more substantial small businesses, a lack of access to credit and insufficient training were cited as roadblocks to success.

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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