LOW- TO MODERATE-INCOME CONDITIONS MIXED IN THIRD QUARTER

Indicators of economic and financial conditions in the Tenth Federal Reserve District’s low- to moderate-income (LMI) community were mixed during the third quarter, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City’s quarterly LMI survey. The survey’s two broadest measures of economic conditions in the LMI community declined moderately as respondents cited concerns about stagnant wages, affordable homeownership, and securing and retaining jobs.

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 Job Availability Index was in positive territory compared to a year ago, and the outlook for the fourth quarter was stable. While contacts reported there were too few jobs available for the LMI community in the third quarter, the relative stability in the labor market and the improvement over the past year suggest a jobs recovery could be on the horizon.

Organizations that serve the LMI community continued to report that funding was an issue, however, these organizations have maintained their capacity to serve clients.

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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