3rd Quarter, 2011

Overall consumer debt in Alaska continued to decline in the third quarter of 2011, consistent with national trends (Fig.1). The average debt per consumer (excluding first mortgages) in Alaska was close to $18,000 for Q3, which was higher than the national average of roughly $17,200. Average revolving debt per consumer in Alaska, which includes balances related to bank cards, revolving home equity, and retail, was roughly $7,700 for Q3, on par with the national figure of about $7,800. Total consumer debt and revolving debt have fallen since their peaks in 2009, but debt levels remain above those from the earlier part of the decade.

For the third quarter, the average outstanding balances for student and auto debts for Alaska consumers were roughly $6,800 and $15,100, respectively (Fig. 2). Average bank card debt for Alaska consumers was roughly $2,800, which was higher than the U.S. average of $2,000.

Average delinquency rates (loans that are at least 30 days past due) varied across trade lines, as shown in Fig. 3. Roughly 11.6 percent of outstanding student loans in Alaska were delinquent in Q3, which was slightly higher than the national average of about 11.3 percent for the U.S. as a whole. Approximately 2.4 percent of auto loans and 1.7 percent of bank card loans were past due in Alaska, compared to the national rates of 3.8 percent and 1.9 percent, respectively.
As shown in Fig. 4, 5.2 percent of outstanding mortgages in Alaska were past due (30 days or more delinquent) and 2.2 percent were seriously delinquent (more than 90 days past due). Nationally, these figures were 11.1 percent and 6.9 percent, respectively. For the 12th District as a whole, 9.8 percent of mortgages were past due, and 6.6 percent were seriously delinquent.

Within Alaska, Northwest Arctic County had the highest share of seriously delinquent loans at 4.9 percent. The counties of Bethel, Matanuska Susitna, and North Slope had rates of serious delinquency of 3.2 percent, 3.1 percent, and 3.3 percent, respectively.

Serious delinquencies represent mortgages that are 90 days or more past due or in the foreclosure process.

Source: LPS (Lender Processing Services Inc.) Applied Analytics

Consumer Credit Conditions state reports are published by the Community Development department of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco to provide an overview of current consumer credit data in the 12th District. For more information, contact Laura Choi at laura.choi@sf.frb.org.