

Ninth District LMI Economic Index, Q2 2011 to Q2 2013

The **LMI Economic Index** measures overall change in community conditions. The Index ranges from 0 (most deterioration in conditions) to 200 (most improvement in conditions) where a value of 100 equals neutral. A number less than 100 indicates overall deterioration and a number greater than 100 indicates overall improvement. Indicators are ordered from greatest to least Districtwide deterioration based on second quarter 2013 survey responses. Index values for previous quarter surveys are provided where comparisons are available.

	Q2_2013	Q4_2012	Q2_2012	Q4_2011	Q2_2011
LMI households' ability to find affordable rental housing that meets their needs	58	72	73	50	48
The number of "formerly middle-class" households seeking services from community organizations	59	65	55	--	--
Ability of business owners in LMI communities to recruit and retain workers with the "right" skills	73	85	74	68	95
The ability of creditworthy LMI households to obtain a mortgage	75	74	74	54	69
LMI community organizations' ability to meet the needs of clients seeking assistance	83	78	78	80	80
Amount of consumer debt carried by LMI households	91	78	75	56	49
Access to credit for non-agricultural business owners in LMI communities	114	86*	87*	62*	48*
Business openings in LMI communities	134	111	107	101	95
Access to credit for agricultural business owners in LMI communities	134	--	--	--	--
Employment opportunities for disadvantaged and dislocated workers in LMI communities	135	116	111	87	73

How the LMI Economic Index is calculated

Respondents were asked to gauge changes in LMI community conditions by comparing current conditions with those that prevailed 12 months earlier using the response categories "decreased," "stayed the same," or "increased." For indicators where an increase is considered positive, the index numbers are calculated by subtracting the percent of respondents who answered "decreased" from the percent of respondents who answered "increased" and adding 100. For indicators where an increase is considered negative, the index numbers are calculated by subtracting the percent of respondents who answered "increased" from the percent of respondents who answered "decreased" and adding 100.

*Previous quarter surveys asked respondents to assess credit access for all business owners and did not separate out non-agricultural businesses from agricultural businesses. Qualitative information gathered from previous quarter surveys indicates that credit access for agricultural businesses, on average, has been looser than that for non-agricultural businesses, so it is still reasonable to assume that overall credit access has improved for non-agricultural businesses in comparison to six months ago.