

# Fed Letter



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## Beige Book released

The Beige Book was released March 6. The Beige Book is a summary of current economic conditions in each Federal Reserve District. Most Federal Reserve Districts reported some signs of improvement in economic conditions during January and early February. Locally, the Tenth District economy remained sluggish during the same period. For details about national and Tenth District economic activity, visit our Web site ([www.kc.frb.org](http://www.kc.frb.org)). Point to “Publications & Educational Resources,” click “Economic Resources,” and then “Current Economic Conditions.”

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## Welcome new member banks

The Kansas City Fed is pleased to welcome the following state member banks to the Federal Reserve System in the Tenth District:

Butte State Bank	Butte, Neb.	Feb. 21
First Bank of Medicine Lodge	Medicine Lodge, Kan.	Feb. 22

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## Manufacturing survey released

The manufacturing survey for the Tenth Federal Reserve District was released March 11. The survey asks plant managers about a variety of manufacturing indicators. The information is compiled into a snapshot of manufacturing in the District. Manufacturing activity in the District was weak in February but showed some signs of improvement. The biggest change from past surveys was that a larger number of firms expect to add workers within the next six months.

To view the current survey and past survey results, visit our Web site ([www.kc.frb.org](http://www.kc.frb.org)) and point to “Economic Research and Data.” Next, click “Regional Economic Information” and then “Manufacturing Survey.”

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## Savings Bond University available online

A new Web-based training application is available for financial institutions that serve as U.S. savings bond issuing or paying agents. The U.S. Treasury’s Bureau of the Public Debt launched the free, interactive training, called “Savings Bond University,” to help financial institutions train their personnel who handle savings bond transactions.

Students can enroll in a series of self-administered courses on topics covering the features of savings bonds, registering bonds, purchasing and redeeming bonds, and completing a savings bond exchange transaction. Savings Bond University also offers informational online resources, including a page of e-mail contacts, a glossary of savings bond terms, and links to various areas of the savings bond Web site.

Savings Bond University is available at [www.savingsbonds.gov](http://www.savingsbonds.gov). Under the “Featured Links” section on the right side of the page, click “Savings Bond University.”

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## Regulatory developments New rule from FinCEN

The Board has issued Supervision and Regulation Letter SR 02-6 that describes a new, immediately effective regulation concerning the sharing of information about terrorist financing and money laundering among financial institutions. The U.S. Department of the Treasury, through its Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), issued this regulation pursuant to section 314(b) of the USA Patriot Act of 2001. SR 02-6, which was mailed to District bank holding companies and state member banks, urges all banking organizations supervised by the Federal Reserve to obtain a copy of FinCEN’s new regulation and take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that appropriate staff learn about its provisions.

Questions concerning SR 02-6 should be directed to Lanette Rippeto in our Kansas City office at (800) 333-1010, extension 2377 (816-881-2377 locally) or by e-mail at [lanette.s.rippeto@kc.frb.org](mailto:lanette.s.rippeto@kc.frb.org).

**New Reg Z  
slipsheet**

A slipsheet containing various amendments to Regulation Z (Truth in Lending) is now available. This slipsheet, together with the pamphlet dated July 2001, now constitutes a complete version of Regulation Z. If you would like the slipsheet, please contact the Consumer Affairs Department in our Kansas City office at (800) 333-1010, extension 2488 (816-881-2488 locally) or in our Denver office at (800) 333-1020, extension 2605 (303-572-2605 locally). The complete and continually updated versions of Regulation Z and other Board regulations can be found on the Board's Web site at [www.federalreserve.gov/regulations](http://www.federalreserve.gov/regulations).

**Guidance on  
Arthur Andersen**

The Federal Reserve, along with the other federal supervisory agencies, has announced that the financial institutions they supervise should follow the guidance issued by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) with respect to auditing and accounting work performed by Arthur Andersen LLP. The SEC announced on March 14 and 18 that it would continue to accept financial statements audited by Andersen, provided that the companies filing the statements obtain from Andersen certain representations concerning audit quality and controls and generally set forth those representations in their filings. Questions about this guidance should be directed to Jane Padget in our Kansas City office at (800) 333-1010, extension 2147 (816-881-2147 locally) or by e-mail at [jane.m.padget@kc.frb.org](mailto:jane.m.padget@kc.frb.org).

**New consumer  
guide available**

The Federal Reserve has published a guide to help consumers better understand their rights and responsibilities with regard to electronic check conversion transactions. The guide, "When is Your Check Not a Check? Electronic Check Conversion," discusses what electronic check conversion is, how consumers can tell if their check will be electronically converted, some of the differences between a regular check transaction and electronic check conversion, consumers' rights in an electronic check conversion transaction, and what consumers can do if they have problems with such transactions. The brochure can be found on the Board's Web site ([www.federalreserve.gov](http://www.federalreserve.gov)). Click "Publications & Educational Resources" in the left column, then "Brochures," and then "When is Your Check Not a Check? Electronic Check Conversion."

**Internet access**

Regulatory developments like those listed above can be obtained from our Web site at [www.kc.frb.org](http://www.kc.frb.org). Point to "Banking Information" on the home page, then click "Regulations/Other Guidance," and select either of the first two categories, as appropriate.

**E-mail notification**

You can receive e-mail alerts about regulatory developments like those listed above by signing up for the e-alert service available through our Web site ([www.kc.frb.org](http://www.kc.frb.org)). Click "E-MAIL UPDATES" at the bottom of the left column and then select the "Supervision and Regulation" category and any other categories of interest. Fill in your e-mail address and click "Subscribe."

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