

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

As part of the nation's Central Bank, the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (Bank) recognizes the public's interest in our work and the importance of transparency. When considering a request for information, we balance transparency with the fact that we are not a governmental agency subject to the Freedom of Information Act. We evaluate each request for information on a case by case basis and consider factors including the following:

- the age of the information requested
- the burden associated with disclosure
- privacy issues associated with disclosure of information related to a person, including whether the information is employment, financial, medical or personally identifiable information¹
- availability of the requested information from other sources
- ownership of the information²
- the number and frequency of prior requests and disposition in each case
- specificity and completeness of the request
- applicable law or contractual limitations
- public benefit resulting from release of the information and consequences of disclosure
- trade secrets and/or privileged or confidential commercial or financial information affected by disclosure
- security concerns associated with disclosure
- potential impairment of the effectiveness of the Bank or the Federal Reserve System in the performance of their respective responsibilities or operations

A request must be submitted in writing to the Bank's General Counsel, and include contact information for the requestor (e.g., name, address, e-mail address, and phone), and sufficiently describe the information/records requested. If the Bank grants a request, it may charge a reasonable fee depending on the volume and accessibility of records at issue and will provide advance notice of the fee to the requester.

¹ The Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. §552A (2011)) generally prohibits a Government agency from disclosing information about individuals contained in systems of records absent permission of those individuals. Although the Bank is not subject to the Privacy Act, it is the Bank's policy to withhold information of the kind a government agency may not disclose under the Privacy Act. Other privacy laws also apply.

² Certain information handled by the Bank may be owned by third parties, including the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and as such will not be disclosed by the Bank.