



# Richmond Fed eBrief

December 2014

## Research

### [The Aging of America and Monetary Policy](#)

A large cohort of Americans is approaching retirement, which could have implications for monetary policy. Seniors tend to borrow less than the young, which works to reduce their sensitivity to interest rates, and they have other financial preferences that could change how the Fed's tools influence the economy, according to an article in Econ Focus.

### [Understanding Market Failure in the 2007–08 Crisis](#)

Did market failures cause the 2007–08 financial crisis? The Richmond Fed's latest *Economic Brief* examines a common market failure called a "pecuniary externality" and demonstrates the pitfalls of applying regulations in situations where the precise sources of market failures are not well-understood.

### [Is Overpopulation a Problem?](#)

In the 20th century, the world's population grew by leaps and bounds. Some scientists and world leaders warned that this growth would exhaust available resources, resulting in mass starvation. But those predictions failed to come true. In fact, demographic changes during the last century had many positive effects on economic growth for a number of countries, which is explored in this Econ Focus article.

### [Pulse Survey on Mobile Payments Innovations](#)

The Richmond Fed's Payments Studies Group (PSG) surveyed 50 merchants in its Business and Consumer Payments Advisory Council to gauge reaction to and interest in the new payment system, Apple Pay, launched on October 20. The PSG will continue to occasionally field quick pulse surveys on innovations in the mobile payments arena to garner insights from its merchant partners.

## Fifth Federal Reserve District

### [Regional Economic Snapshot](#)

Recent economic reports on the Fifth District were generally positive, with overall employment growth and some improvements to business conditions but somewhat mixed housing market indicators.

### [Mortgage Performance Quarterly Update](#)

In the third quarter of 2014, total foreclosure and delinquency rates in the Fifth District declined on a year-over-year basis.

#### [Richmond Fed Looks at Payments Usage in the Fifth Federal Reserve District](#)

The Richmond Fed's Payments Studies Group looked at EBT usage in the Fifth Federal Reserve District and presented their findings at an event this month on payment alternatives for the unbanked and underbanked. The event was co-sponsored by the FDIC and the Richmond Fed.

#### Speeches

#### [US Economic Outlook](#)

Richmond Fed Senior Regional Economist Andy Bauer provided his view of the national economy at a West Virginia University conference in October 2014.

