



Richmond Fed eBrief

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Speeches

[Lacker on Community Development and Research](#)

In the latest *Econ Focus*, Richmond Fed President Jeffrey Lacker explains how the community development role of the regional Reserve Banks has evolved over the last 35 years, and how economic research on long-run growth and workforce development can complement and inform community development work.

Research

[Whom Do the Federal Reserve Bank Boards Serve?](#)

The long-standing governance model of the Federal Reserve Banks, including their boards and the directors who serve on them, is under growing criticism. As the latest *Economic Brief* explains, this governance model always has been the subject of political scrutiny, as public concepts of diversity — and the Fed's functions — have evolved over time.

[Where Have the New Banks Gone?](#)

The number of newly chartered banks has fallen dramatically since the Great Recession. From 1997 to 2007, there were an average of 159 new banks a year. But since 2010 there have been only seven new banks total. The latest *Econ Focus* explores the potential causes and implications of this new trend.

[Measuring Income Inequality and Economic Mobility](#)

Income inequality has garnered significant attention on the political trail in this election year. The latest *Econ Focus* explains how economists measure inequality and economic mobility and examines what these measures say about the Fifth District.

[What is Behind Slow Wage Growth?](#)

Wage growth was stubbornly sluggish after the Great Recession, even as unemployment fell steadily. This has led to a debate among economists and policymakers: Does low wage growth reflect lingering weaknesses in the labor market or longer-term changes in the labor force? The latest *Econ Focus* investigates.

Fifth Federal Reserve District

[Fifth District Economic Snapshot](#)

The Fifth District economy generally expanded in recent months, with an increase in employment and strengthening conditions for area businesses while housing market indicators improved on a year-over-year basis.

Social Determinants of Health in the Fifth Federal Reserve District

Social determinants of health are social and economic conditions that may directly or indirectly affect health outcomes. Research suggests that economic stability, education, social and community context, health and health care, and neighborhood and built environment may contribute to an individual's physical health and quality of life. This *5th District Spotlight* answers:

- What are the social determinants of health?
- How do social determinants fit in with other factors that contribute to individual physical health and quality of life?
- What state and local initiatives exist around social determinants of health in the Fifth District?

Regional Matters

The most recent post on Regional Research's web series, Regional Matters, takes a look at the top import and export partners of the Fifth Federal Reserve District.

