

Credit Reports and Scores

Credit reporting agencies, sometimes called credit bureaus, create credit reports based on the information they receive from lenders regarding your account history with that lender. Credit reporting agencies do not decide whether or not to grant you credit; the agency only collects the credit history information.

There are three credit reporting agencies in the United States: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. Therefore, you have three credit reports and your credit report may vary across the three credit-reporting agencies. If you have never used credit, or it has never been reported for you, then you **will not** have a credit report.

Credit report information is divided into five categories:



- 1. <u>Consumer (personal) information:</u> this is the information you have provided to lenders when applying for credit. It includes your name, current and previous addresses, telephone number, Social Security number, date of birth, and employment information.
- 2. <u>Credit account information:</u> This is the largest section of the credit report and contains specific information about each of your credit accounts.
- 3. <u>Public record information:</u> This section of the credit report presents information from federal, state, and county public court records. This may include accounts that have been turned over to **collection agencies**, if you've filed for **bankruptcy**, if you have any tax liens, and any history of foreclosures.

- 4. <u>Inquiry information:</u> An inquiry occurs when someone with permissible purpose requests a copy of your credit report. Credit reporting agencies record all inquiries received in the prior two years.
- Collection items: Summarizes delinquent accounts that were sent to a collection agency.
 Collections can negatively impact credit scores and remain on credit reports for as long as seven years from the date on which the account became past due

Who is Reporting to Credit Agencies?

Lenders, such as credit card companies, retail stores that offer credit, and mortgage/finance companies usually report all information, positive and negative, to credit reporting agencies.

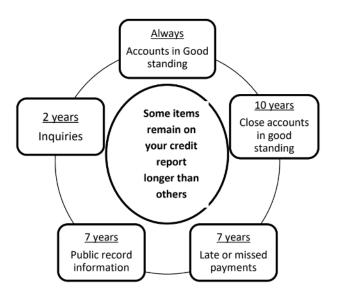
Landlords, cell phone companies, utility companies, and medical providers tend to report when the consumer has not paid the money owed to them or late payments. Increasingly, credit-reporting agencies are encouraging and compiling regular payment information from non-creditors such as apartments and utilities to help consumers build a positive credit history.

What if I Find Errors in My Credit Report?

It is important to examine your credit reports and make sure all information is correct because there's always a possibility of finding errors. If you find errors, you have the right by federal law to dispute the information and request that the error be deleted or corrected.

To submit a dispute, you should contact both the credit reporting agency that provided the report and the company/person that provided the wrong information to the credit-reporting agency. Your dispute must be investigated, usually within 30 days. When the investigation is complete, you will receive the written results of the investigation. If the dispute is found to be an error, either the credit reporting agency or the company/person that provided the incorrect information to the credit reporting agency must notify all three credit reporting agencies of the error so that the information can be corrected.

If an investigation does not resolve your dispute and remove the information from your credit report, you can ask that a statement of the dispute be included in your future credit reports. The statement will be included in a "Consumer Statement" section of all future credit reports. You also can ask the credit bureau to provide your statements to anyone who received a copy of your report in the recent past.



Your Present Self Impacts Your Future Self

Time is the only way to remove potentially negative information from your credit report. Information remains on your credit report for a specific amount of time depending on the type of information.

Credit Report Prepared For

JOE Q. CONSUMER Your Report Number Is 1562071698 Report Date Index:

Potentially negative items Accounts in good standing Requests for your credit history

Personal information

Public records

4/4/15

ROCKWELL MUNICIPAL Docket#: 9B004875

5468 MLK AVE., SUITE 300, ROCKWELL, TX 97845 Type: Civil judgment

Court type: Municipal Date paid: 07/2009

Assets: \$1,089

Date filed: 12/2008

Responsibility: Participant on

account

Plaintiff: BANK OF TEXAS Plaintiff attorney: RICHARD

PERRY

Amount: \$1,089

Estimated date that this item will be removed 06/2016

Adverse accounts, potentially negative items

COLLECTION RECOVERY SVC #321568

123 CHARLES ST. SUITE 202

CORONA, CA 92877-0137

(909) 898-4424

Balance: \$0

Date verified: 06/2008 Original balance: \$243 Original creditor: SEARS

ROEBUCK

Credit limit: \$500

Past due: \$0

Terms: \$72 for 23 months

Pay status: Payment after charge off/collection Account type: Installment

account

Responsibility: Individual

account

Date opened: 03/2005 Date closed: 05/2011 Date paid: 05/2011

Remarks: >Paid collection<

Estimated date that this item will be removed: 08/2015

DONOVAN & WILSON

1045 MAIN ST., SUITE 105 RIVERSIDE, CA 92501

(909) 781-1248

Balance: \$12,745

Date updated: 06/2008

Original balance: \$15,243

Pay status: 120 days

past due

Account type: Revolving

account

Responsibility: Individual

account

account

account

Estimated date that this item will be removed: 06/2015

The following item is suppressed pending credit grantor update:

DISCOVER FINANCIAL SVC #6053000570658798

Balance: \$2,145 Date updated: 08/2009

UNIT 55G High balance: \$25,463

WILMINGTON, DE 19850-5316 Collateral: 2003 Chevy

Phone number not available Past due: \$136

Terms: \$68 for 260 months

Loan type: Student loan Remarks: Repossession

123 SMITH AVE.

Maximum delinquency of 60 days in 07/2009 for \$400 Estimated date that this item will be removed: 06/2015

Accounts in good standing, satisfactory accounts GMAC FINANCING #640006137129

78901 JENKINS CIR FLOOR 15

MIAMI, FL 33025

Phone number not available

Balance: \$1,145 Date updated: 08/2014

High balance: \$10,000 Collateral: 2009 Dodge Ram Credit limit: \$10,000

Past due: \$0

Terms: \$295 for 36 months

Pay status: Pays as agreed Account type: Installment

Pay status: 60 days past due

Account type: Installment

Responsibility: Individual

Date opened: 11/1999

account

Responsibility: Individual

account

Date opened: 11/2010 Date closed: 11/2013 Date paid: 11/2013

Loan type: Automobile Remarks: Paid by insurance

Estimated date that this item will be removed: 12/2015

Revolving

Revolving accounts

CAPITAL ONE

P.O. Box 30281

Type of account

Salt Lake City, UT 841300281

Account Number: 400XXXXXXXXXXXX

Account owner: Individual account

High credit: Credit limit

Pay

Pays as agreed

\$4,304 \$10,500 Date opened: 08/08/2006 Balance: \$965

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2015												
2014												
2013												
2012												
2011												
2010												
2009												
2008												

	03/2015	02/2015	01/2015	12/2014	11/2014	10/2014
Balance	965	1095	2336	1161	1268	950
Scheduled payment amount	25	25	25	25	25	25
Actual payment amount	1095	2336	1161	1268	950	744
Date of last payment	02/2015	01/2015	12/2014	12/2014	10/2014	09/2014

Credit history requests

CALTECH EMPLOYEE FCU

555 W. ADAMS

SUITE 202

LA CANADA, CA 91012

(818) 555-1212

Requested on: 11/01/2014

Permissible purpose: Credit

Inquiry type: Individual transaction

SUNSHINE APARTMENTS via RENTPORT

678 MARINE STREET Requested on: 05/01/2014

SUITE 999 Inquiry type: Individual Permissible purpose: Tenant

LOS ANGELES, CA 90210 Loan type: Real estate screening

(818) 555-1212 Loan amount: \$90,000

CHASE CARD MEMBER SVCS

666 W. SMITH
PHOENIX, AZ 87853
Requested on: 11/01/2014

Phone number not available Inquiry type: Individual

Personal information

Name: JOE Q. CONSUMER
SSN: XXX-XX-6789
Other names: CONSUMER, JOSEPH Q.
Date of birth: 04/1965

Report number: XXXXXXXX Telephone number(s): 917–555–1212

Report date: April 4, 2015

CURRENT ADDRESS: PREVIOUS ADDRESSES:

123 MAIN ST., NEW YORK, NY 12345 17 BROOKLYN AVE., LONG ISLAND, NY 56789

EMPLOYMENT DATA REPORTED

Employer name: CREDITCARDS.COM

Location: New York, NY Position: PROGRAMMER

Date reported: 06/2012 Hired: 05/2011

Employer name: UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Position:

Location: TX Hired: 03/2004

Date reported: 08/2010

Personal statement

ID SECURITY ALERT: FRAUDULENT APPLICATIONS MAY BE SUBMITTED IN MY NAME OR MY IDENTITY MAY HAVE BEEN USED WITHOUT MY CONSENT TO FRAUDULENTLY OBTAIN GOODS OR SERVICES. DO NOT EXTEND CREDIT WITHOUT FIRST VERIFYING THE IDENTITY OF THE APPLICANT. I CAN BE REACHED AT 917–555–1212. THIS SECURITY ALERT WILL BE MAINTAINED FOR 90 DAYS BEGINNING 03–01–2015.

QUESTIONS FOR TAKING INVENTORY OF A CREDIT REPORT

1.	What is the date of this statement?
2.	What public records are shown? What type are they?
3.	What potentially negative items are listed? When will they be removed from the report?
4.	List all credit items that are open and indicate whether they are revolving or installment
5.	How much money is owed on each account?
6.	List all credit history requests:
7.	Are there any mistakes on this credit report?
8.	What factors are pulling the credit score down the most?
9.	What factors could make a big difference in repairing & improving the credit score?