News Release

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It's time to check your credit reports

If you have not checked your credit reports within the last year, now is the time! Everyone should check their credit reports to understand what information is in the reports, check for errors and detect signs of identity theft.

The information contained in your credit reports is used to predict your future behavior as a borrower, tenant or insured individual. Credit reports may affect your mortgage rates, credit card approvals, apartment requests, or even job applications. You may think you have one credit report and one credit score. But you really have several, and they may differ so you should check all three reports. Each major credit reporting agency (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) creates its own report, and these reports don’t always agree. Regularly checking all three of your credit reports will help you catch any problems or other issues.

Federal law allows you to get a free copy of your credit report every 12 months from each major credit reporting agency. You can obtain free credit reports from all three through the official website www.annualreport.com. When ordering your reports you will be asked some multiple choice questions about your existing credit accounts. Don’t guess at the answers. If you don’t recognize any of the choices “none of the above” is an acceptable answer. Take your time and be sure you answer the questions correctly or you may not be able to access your reports online. If you have trouble accessing your credit reports online you will be able to order your credit reports by mail or phone.

Your credit reports contain information about your borrowing activity, your bill repayment history, and the status of your credit accounts. This includes how often you make payments on time, the amount of credit available to you, how much credit you are using and whether you have a debt with bill collector.

Once you receive your credit reports review each carefully to ensure that the information on all of your credit reports is correct and up to date. Checking your credit reports is an important step in maintaining your financial well-being.

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reports regularly will show recent activity on your active accounts but also show any new accounts that may have been opened without your permission. Suspicious activity or accounts you don't recognize can be signs of identity theft. Reviewing credit reports helps you catch signs of identity theft early.

If you haven't looked at your credit reports in the last year or two you may want to order all three reports at the same time. If you suspect that you have been a victim of identity theft or if your Social Security number has been compromised in a data breach, consider staggering your reports by ordering one every four months.

People with good credit should check their credit reports, too. Regular checks ensure the information stays accurate. Your good credit will be ready when you need it.

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