

KCB INFORMATION SERVICES

The ONE SOURCE for all your credit reporting needs

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FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT AND CREDIT REPORTING SEMINAR

If you were not able to attend our seminar, we will place some of the presentations on our web page.

We also announced the addition of CreditXpert, Income Tax Report Verifications and Fannie Mae and GMAC Mortgage access, to our MortgageCreditLink merged bureau program.

CreditXpert allows the creditor to examine the consumer's credit report for ways to increase the credit score. An explanation of this service is posted on our web page.

Income tax verification (TRV) enables the creditor, with the consumers permission, to verify a variety of income tax forms and when they were filed.

Prequalifying analysis, the pre-populated 1003, the notice of credit score (required by the new FCRA) and the consumer copy of the mortgage report are already part of the our merged program.

If you are interested in any of these, please call us.

AMERICANS CARRYING AN AVERAGE OF \$2,900 IN CREDIT CARD DEBT

Americans are carrying an average of \$2,900 in credit card debt and over half have at least one credit card which they do not pay off in full every month, according to a recently released Gallup Poll.

The poll found that Americans are essentially using their credit cards as short-term loans, with the average outstanding balance of those who do not pay off their balance every month standing at \$3,815 -- translating into \$2,947 among all Americans.

Americans carry an average of 3.6 cards, the same amount measured in April 2001 and April 2002. The poll shows that the amount of credit cards an individual carries is dependent on income. Half of the people in households with annual incomes of less than \$20,000 have no cards, with that percentage declining as income increases.

The poll also found, not surprisingly, that the higher the household income, the higher their credit card debt, with two exceptions -- people in the \$40,000-\$50,000 range and those in the \$100,000 or more range.

Although the absolute amount of debt increases with income, the poll discovered that debt as percentage of household income actually declines from double digits to single digits among people earning more than \$40,000 a year. The overall percentage among credit card holders is 8%, but it is over 10% among people earning less than \$40,000 a year, and is much smaller among people with higher incomes.

The poll also tracked consumers feelings about their debt. Overall, about 17% of Americans are either very or moderately worried about not being able to make the minimum payments on their credit cards. Another 22% say they are not too worried, and 46% say they are not worried at all.

The amount of concern an individual has is related to how much credit card debt a person has, the study says. The average debt of those with the most worry is more than \$8,000, compared with about \$4,700 among people who are not too worried, and just \$2,400 among people who are not worried at all. More revealing, the study says, is that the people who are very or moderately worried have debt that represents more than one-fifth of their yearly incomes. (4-19-04 collectionsworld.com)

NEW HOME SALES RISE 8.9 % IN MARCH

Sales of new homes surged by 8.9 percent in March, the largest monthly increase in nine months, as mortgage rates bottomed out before starting to ascend.

The increase pushed sales of new, single family houses to a record seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.228 million last month. That was up from 1.128 in February, the Commerce Department reported Monday.

The monthly increase of 8.9 percent was the highest since June 2003.

By region, new home sales soared by 19.3 percent in the South, hitting a record rate of 613,000. But in the Northeast, sales plummeted by 24.3 percent to a rate of 78,000. The West posted an increase of 5.1 percent to a pace of 349,000, and in the Midwest, sales rose by 5 percent to a pace of 188,000. (4-27-04, collectionindustry.com)

12 INDICTED IN \$1.7 MILLION CREDIT CARD PLOT

Dearborn, MI - Twelve Dearborn residents were indicted Monday in a credit card "bust out" scheme that allegedly defrauded banks and credit card companies of \$1.7 million on

236 credit cards since 1999.

The U.S. Attorney's Office said the defendants opened the accounts in their own names using bogus employment and salary information to create the aura of legitimacy.

They made payments for a time, lulling the credit card companies into increasing their credit limits, the indictment said. Then, they charged the cards to the limit, paid the balance with phony checks and again charged their cards to the limit before the credit card companies realized what was going on, the indictment said.

Several of the defendants declared bankruptcy so they wouldn't have to pay the debts, the indictment charged. It said the suspects bought gift cards, got cash advances at casinos and banks and obtained cash from "collusive merchants" -- who agreed to process fictitious purchases.

After the credit card companies reimbursed the merchants, the merchants kept a percentage and gave the rest of the money to the defendants, the indictment said.

Such schemes, called bust-outs, aim to max out credit cards without paying the debts. (April 28, 2004 Source: Detroit Free Press Collectionsworld.com)

SPEAKERS

If you need a speaker for your civic organization or school, give us a call.

2 & 3 BUREAU MERGED FEATURES

Instant View	Unmerge
Prequalifying Analysis	Pre-populated 1003
Tax Report Verification	Consumer Copy
Credit Score Notice	Adverse Action Notice
CreditXpert	Flood Life of Loan

KCB INFORMATION SERVICES HOURS

Monday - Friday 9:00am to 4:30pm

Consumer credit reports are from Experian. Business reports are provided from Experian. Residential Mortgage Credit Reports and Merged Credit Reports may contain information from: the Kewanee Credit Bureau, Experian, TransUnion and/or Equifax. Criminal Background checks are from the Illinois State Police, Credit Commander or CreditRetriever. Tenant Screening reports are from Credit Retriever.

The KCB Information Services has served businesses since 1928 and serves the following counties for Experian: Henry, Stark, Bureau, Putnam, LaSalle, Marshall, Woodford, Peoria, Knox, Fulton, Mason, McDonough, Warren, Logan, Henderson, Hancock, Adams, Schuyler and Tazewell.