

# KCB INFORMATION SERVICES

## **The ONE SOURCE for all your credit reporting needs**

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### **FANNIE MAE ACCESS**

By the time you receive this we should be set up to process our merged credit reports through Fannie Mae.

### **BUSINESS CREDIT REPORTS**

Business credit reports are available through Experian Business Services. Financial institutions may also report their data to Experian Business Services. When you report your data your name will not be reported. Your institution's trade line will be included in the category of "financial institutions."

Business reports are divided into several sections: Trade Payment Information, Payment Trends, UCC Profile, Public Records, Company Background Information and Standard and Poor's Information (if any).

### **FEDERAL RESERVE IS SEEKING COMMENT ON PRESCREENED SOLICITATIONS**

The Federal Reserve Board said it is seeking comment on procedures allowing consumers to opt out of lists compiled for prescreened solicitations from card issuers and other credit grantors.

Prescreened offers are unsolicited offers of credit sent to consumers who meet certain criteria for creditworthiness. The FACT Act of 2003, which amends the Fair Credit Reporting Act, requires the Fed to submit to Congress by Dec. 4 a report on prescreened solicitations.

Under the FCRA, consumers can avoid prescreened offers by asking credit-reporting agencies to exclude their names and addresses from prescreened lists through a system maintained by the agency. That system must include a toll-free number. Consumers also can opt out by submitting a signed notice issued by the agency. Requests made through the notification system expire in two years, unless the consumer revokes the election. Requests made through a signed notice never expire unless revoked by the

consumer.

Under the FACT Act, creditors must submit with each unsolicited prescreen offer a simple and easy-to-understand explanation of the opt-out system. The FACT Act also extends from two to five years the period before which consumers' opt-out notifications expire. The provisions take effect Dec. 1. The board will accept comments on prescreened procedures until July 23. (Thomson Media's CardLine, [collectionsworld.com](http://collectionsworld.com), 5-20-04)

### **BANKRUPTCIES RISE 2.7% IN YEAR TO MARCH**

U.S. commercial and personal bankruptcy filings rose 2.7 percent in the year to March 31, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts said on Friday.

Filings climbed to 1.65 million cases from 1.61 million in the year ending March 2003, the office said in a statement.

The record high for bankruptcy filings was 1.66 million cases during the 12-month period ending Sept. 30 of last year.

Nonbusiness bankruptcy filings rose to 1.62 million in the year ending March 31 from 1.57 million the year before, while business filings slid to 36,785 from 37,548.

Bankruptcy filings rose to 407,572 from 393,348 in the three months ending 12-31-03. (5-21-04, [Collectionsworld.com](http://Collectionsworld.com))

### **U.S. CONSUMERS WITH AT LEAST ONE OPEN MORTGAGE HAVE HIGHER CREDIT SCORES**

Experian Consumer DirectSM, the leading provider of online direct-to-consumer credit reports and products, recently announced the results of a nationwide study on the effects of mortgages on consumer credit scores. Overall, the study found that:

The average Experian PLUSM Score for consumers with at least one open mortgage is 716 versus 667 for consumers who do not have an open mortgage.

The average mortgage amount is approximately \$136,000 for U.S. consumers, with only 10% of consumer mortgages exceeding \$250,000.

More information about this study, plus credit data at the state and local level, can be found on the Experian National Score Index site at [www.NationalScoreIndex.com](http://www.NationalScoreIndex.com). (5-21-04, [collectionsworld.com](http://collectionsworld.com))

### **CONSUMER CREDIT INCREASES 4.8% IN THE FIRST QUARTER**

Consumer credit increased at an annual rate of 4.8% in the first quarter of 2004, according to the Federal Reserve. In the month of March alone, consumer credit grew at an annual rate of about 3.5%.

Both revolving and nonrevolving credit also posted moderate gains. Revolving credit for the first quarter of 2004 increased at an annual rate of 5.9%, and nonrevolving credit increased 4.2%.

The total amount of consumer credit for the first quarter was \$2,022.5 billion, up from \$1,923.2 in the first quarter of last year. The total amount of revolving credit totaled \$755.8 billion, and nonrevolving credit totaled \$1,266.7 billion.

For the month of March, revolving credit grew at an annual rate of 4.1%, and nonrevolving credit grew at a rate of 3%. (5-10-2004, [creditcollectionsworld.com](http://creditcollectionsworld.com))

### **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.