



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

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**FEES FOR 2009**

As everyone knows, costs have sky rocketed. In February, Experian notified us of a 16% increase in fees. Then in March CSC/Equifax hit us with an 18% increase and Microbilt notified us of a 6% increase.

I have enclosed the fee structure for 2009. I have highlighted your present Membership Class. Please look closely at the new rate sheet to see if you would rather be a Dues Paying Member or a Non-Dues Paying Member.

Dues Paying Members get a discount on their credit reports, are not charged any fees for our seminars and classes, and they will receive a newsletter each month.

Also, you might look at our price sheet for other products and services we offer. Our goal is to provide you with all your credit products. We don't believe you should be forced to buy your products from out of state companies.

**ILLEGAL LOG INS**

**We can not emphasis this enough: DO NOT EVER USE ANOTHER PERSON'S LOG-IN TO PULL A CREDIT REPORT!!**

**ALSO, NEVER LET SOME ONE ELSE USE YOUR I.D. TO PULL REPORTS!**

The FCRA is very explicit. The identity of the user must be reported to the credit bureau. The Experian, TransUnion & Equifax conducts audits as to the users and correct purpose codes. **If you are not complying with the FCRA, you could be fined, your company could be fined and your company could be prohibited from pulling credit reports!**

**YOU ARE LIABLE FOR ANY REPORTS PULLED UNDER YOUR NAME!**

**FTC WILL GRANT SIX-MONTH DELAY OF ENFORCEMENT OF 'RED FLAGS' RULE REQUIRING CREDITORS TO HAVE IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAMS**

FTC Release: October 22, 2008. Yesterday,

the Federal Trade Commission announced that it is suspending some enforcement of the Red Flag rules, which are otherwise due to be enforced starting November 1.

The FTC will suspend enforcement of the new "Red Flags Rule" until May 1, 2009, to give creditors and financial institutions additional time in which to develop and implement written identity theft prevention programs.

However, the FTC's Enforcement Policy Statement states also that:

"This delay in enforcement is limited to the Identity Theft Red Flags Rule (16 CFR681.2), and does not extend to the rule regarding address discrepancies applicable to users of consumer reports (16 CFR 681.1), or to the rule regarding changes of address applicable to card issuers (16 CFR 681.3)."

<http://www.ftc.gov/os/2008/10/081022idtheftredflagsrule.pdf>

Further, "yesterday's announcement and the release of an Enforcement Policy Statement do not affect other federal agencies' enforcement of the original November 1, 2008 deadline for institutions subject to their oversight to be in compliance."

<http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2008/10/redflags.shtm>

Finally, a quick glance at the other regulatory agencies' web sites does not contain a similar announcement of a delay. (Oct. 24, 2009, Consumer Data Industry Association)

**CRIMINAL BACK GROUND SEARCHES**

Whether you are hiring volunteers for Little League coaches and umpires or a Treasurer for you organization or company or a Minister for your church or a new CEO for your company, we offer a variety of Criminal Back Ground checks and Employment Credit reports.

KCB offers several types of Criminal searches:

- Name searches with the Illinois State Police.
- Name searches by County.
- Name searches by State.
- Name searches nation wide.

In the near future, hopefully by Jan. 1, 2009, we will offer two new services:

- Finger print searches with the Illinois

**State Police.**

- Finger Print searches with the FBI.

**Finger print searches can be done in our office or yours.**

We provide criminal back ground checks for:

**HIRING DECISIONS**

School Employees	State Govrnt
Day/Child care	Volunteer Emp.
Sunday School Teachers	Elderly care
Park District Emp.	Criminal Justice
Non-lic. Health Care	

**LICENSING DECISIONS**

Healthcare Workers	Loan Originators
Massage Therapist	Locksmiths
Nurses	Gaming
Security Guards	Lottery
School Bus Drivers	Etc.

We also offer **Employment Credit Reports. Employment Credit Reports** provide Previous Addresses, Judgments, Tax Liens, Collections, Payments History and Inquires.



**APRIL 19 TO 25, 2009**

**www.moneysmartweek.org**

If you would like to participate by conducting a program or by providing a location for one or more classes, please call: Larry Nelson, 309-353-5527.

**2007 PUBLIC COMPANY BANKRUPTCIES SURPASSED, ACCORDING TO BANKRUPTCYDATA.COM**

BOSTON--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Monday's mammoth Lehman Brothers Holdings' Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing has dominated worldwide news—thrusting US Bankruptcy Court proceedings into the international



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spotlight. While this case certainly is record-shattering, in terms of its colossal size, there was yet another significant marker passed this week. With more than three months still remaining in 2008, this year has exceeded the total number of corporate public Chapter 11 and Chapter 7 bankruptcy filings seen in all of 2007. <http://www.bankruptcydata.com> reveals that the total count for last year reached just 78 public bankruptcies, and this year has already seen 81 such filings.

### Record-Shattering Assets

Needless to say, Lehman Brothers' jaw-dropping \$691 billion in total pre-petition assets knocked our combined asset figure for 2008 right out of the ballpark, easily leaving last year's total—and any other historic combined annual total—in the dust. Even without Lehman Brothers' unprecedented asset figure included in the mix, this year's combined to-date assets still easily exceed last year's year-end count.

### 2008 Vs. Historic Data

Yes, most pundits agree that the high level of debt raised in the last five years—coupled with our current credit and mortgage crisis plus potential fallout from unparalleled bankruptcies like Lehman Brothers—are likely to bring a deluge of public company filings. However, bankruptcy research and historic perspective indicate that despite this recent up-turn, our filing count still remains historically low. In terms of the number of public companies filing a Chapter 11 or Chapter 7 petition with the US Bankruptcy Court, the accompanying chart reveals a consistent reduction since 2001's high of 263. The 2007 figure rose slightly from 2006's low of 66, and 2008's numbers will certainly climb further. However, we are still far-removed from the filing levels seen earlier this decade. While it is doubtful that year-end bankruptcies will hit the historic highs seen in 2001, Lehman Brothers' Chapter 11 bankruptcy will almost certainly secure 2008's spot in the record books. ([www.creditandcollectionnews.com](http://www.creditandcollectionnews.com), Wed. September 17)

## CONSUMER CREDIT FALLS IN AUGUST FOR FIRST TIME IN 10 YEARS

Credit frugal consumers for clamping down on their spending and paying off debt or blame banks for tightening credit to the point that people can't borrow; either way, total U.S. consumer credit outstanding fell \$7.9 billion in August, the first drop since January

1998.

The drop was also the largest since the Federal Reserve began keeping records in 1943.

The Fed, in its monthly report on consumer credit commonly called G.19, said that total consumer borrowing dropped at a 3.7 percent annual rate in August. Consumer credit increased at a revised 2.4 percent annual rate in July.

The G.19 does not include debt backed by real estate.

Economists had been expecting a modest increase in overall consumer credit of about \$5 billion in the month.

"The numbers released by the Fed Tuesday were certainly surprising," said Kaulkin Ginsberg Consumer Finance Analyst Dimitri Michaud. "But it makes sense given all the negative economic news lately. We still expect consumers to rely heavily on credit lines that have already been extended, even as new credit becomes more difficult to obtain."

Non-revolving debt was the big loser, as outstanding balances on debt like automobile and student loans shrank by \$7.3 billion, or at an annual rate of 5.4 percent. July was also a tough month for non-revolving debt as that category gained only 0.9 percent.

Even revolving debt, most commonly credit card balances, wasn't immune from the declines. Revolving debt balances shrank by about \$600 million in August, or at an annual rate of 0.8 percent. It was the first decline for revolving debt since March 2005.

Although both revolving and non-revolving debt have seen decreases in various months, August was the first month since January 1998 that both declined and overall consumer debt decreased.

At the end of August, total consumer credit outstanding in the U.S. was \$2.577 trillion. (by Patrick Lunsford, [www.insideARM.com](http://www.insideARM.com), October 8, 2008)

## CREDIT CARDS TO BE THE BASIS OF NEXT AMERICAN CRISIS

An American consumer way of life may soon drastically change as an aftershock of the global credit crunch. Expected to be affected by tight lending environment are consumer credit cards. Touted to be the next American

crisis, the cutback would be the result of more credit card holders defaulting on their payments as home mortgage loans takes higher priority or as employees become jobless. For the first six months of 2008, banks had to write off from their books \$21 billion in bad credit card loans resulting from more borrowers defaulting on payments. Market analysts said as more U.S. companies lay off thousands of workers in the coming months, the credit card industry is expected to write off another \$55 billion in bad debts. This would possibly surpass the 2001 experience during the technology bubble burst when total losses of the industry reached 7.9 percent of outstanding credit card debts. The current ratio is 5.5 percent. (10-29-2008, [www.creditandcollectionnews.com](http://www.creditandcollectionnews.com))

## SPEAKERS

We have presentations for service clubs, churches, employers, high schools and colleges. The presentations range from 15 minutes to one hour. The topics we can cover are: ID Theft, Credit Scoring and Credit Reports.

If you would like us to speak to your employees, service club, church or school, please call us.

## FCRA CERTIFICATIONS

Starting in January, any user of **KCB Express Credit Searches** will be required, by Microbilt, to take a FCRA Certification Class at a cost of \$29.00. If you are pulling Experian or Equifax reports using KCB Express, we can set you up to get reports from Experian's or Equifax's web site for no added costs or certifications. If you are pulling back ground checks, you will need to take the course.

## KCB INFO SERVICES HOURS

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

KCB Information Services offers: Consumer credit reports, Business Credit reports, Employment Credit reports, Residential Mortgage Credit Reports, Merged Credit Reports, Criminal background checks, Tenant Screening Reports, Flood Zone Determination, Flood Life of Loan Certification, Identity Authentication and KCB Checking History Reports.

KCB Information Services has served businesses since 1928 and serves Central Illinois for Experian and Equifax.

*Remember, change and change for the better are two different things.*