

# KCB INFORMATION SERVICES

## The ONE SOURCE for all your credit reporting needs

11 N. Sixth Street / Suite A  
Pekin IL 61554

Web Page: [www.kewaneecreditbureau.com](http://www.kewaneecreditbureau.com)

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309-353-5527 Fax: 309-353-5541

888-852-2574 Fax: 800-767-0995

e-mail: [lnelson@kewaneecreditbureau.com](mailto:lnelson@kewaneecreditbureau.com)

**ON LINE - CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK**

### **EXPERIAN STUDY REVEALS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AUTO LOANS AND CREDIT SCORES**

August 18, 2004 — IRVINE, CA - Experian Consumer Direct(SM), the leading provider of online direct-to-consumer credit reports and products, today announced the results of a nationwide study on how an open auto loan or lease affects consumer credit scores. Overall, the study found that:

\* The average Experian PLUS(SM) Score for consumers with no late auto payments is 689 versus 596 for consumers with at least one late auto payment. When a payment is late by 90 or more days, the average score dropped to 574.

\* 1.5% of consumers who have an auto have a repossession noted on their credit file. The average credit score for those with a repossession dropped even further to 566. The states with the highest repossession rate are Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, South Carolina and Nevada.

\* The average U.S. auto financing amount is \$23,143 and the average U.S. monthly auto payment is \$383.

\* 11 percent of consumers have a monthly auto payment of \$400 or more.

Consumers love automobiles. In fact, according to a 2002 survey by the Bureau of Transportation, the number of cars, trucks, and sport utility vehicles have surpassed the number of licensed drivers (204 million vehicles as opposed to 191 million drivers). Thirty-eight percent of the U.S. population has at least one auto loan or lease on file with 22 percent of these accounts opened within the last 12 months. Credit scoring plays a significant role in the approval, interest rates, and terms of an auto loan or lease.

"When U.S. consumers look to purchase or lease a car, their credit score becomes a big part of their financing plans," said Ed Ojdana, president of Experian Consumer Direct. "That's why it is important to check your credit report to determine how creditworthy you appear to lenders. Additionally, once you purchase or lease the car, making your auto payment on time is the best way to maintain your credit score."

The Experian study was compiled using the Experian National Score Index which is based upon a nationwide sampling of three million consumer profiles. The Index is formulated using Experian's consumer credit score model, called the PLUS Score. Experian's PLUS Score is a numeric representation of financial behavior, based on information found in a credit report. It can range from 330 to 830 with a higher score indicating a lower credit risk. The average national Experian PLUS Score is 678.

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). (8-18-04 [www.collectionindustry.com](http://www.collectionindustry.com))

If you wish to get your criminal background checks on line, call us today. The online fee is \$10.00. The verbal fee is \$15.00. This is for a 34 state search.

### **SPEAKERS**

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

### **A SLOWING US HOUSING MARKET MAY HEAT UP INFLATION**

September 2, 2004 — NEW YORK – As U.S. home purchases slow, an expected rise in demand for rentals will result in a spike in inflation, analysts say, citing studies showing housing costs have been underreported by the government.

The concern about a sudden gain in inflation centers on how much the record low interest rates have fueled the housing market since the economy softened dramatically nearly four years ago and how the rental market has softened as a consequence of so much home buying.

The worry now is that as the economy regains its footing and rates rise to keep inflation in check, would-be home buyers will instead look in the rental market.

All these concerns relate to the government's broadest inflation gauge, the consumer price index, which some analysts say has understated the true cost of housing because it more closely analyzes rents as opposed to home purchase prices.

"It's clear to me that the reported CPI (housing) metric is artificially restrained," said Richard DeKaser, chief economist at National City Corp. in Cleveland, Ohio.

Housing costs — a reflection of what the CPI survey refers to as "owners' equivalent rent," make up 25 percent of the CPI and are the index's biggest component. (9-2-04, [www.collectionindustry.com](http://www.collectionindustry.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, and Tazewell.

*' ' REMEMBER, GROWING OLDER IS MANDATORY.  
GROWING UP IS OPTIONAL.*

*We make a Living by what we get,  
We make a Life by what we give. ' '*