

Let's Talk Finances

Credit Reports are Now Free, Every Week



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If you're feeling anxious about your financial health during these uncertain times, you're not alone. That's why the three national credit reporting agencies are giving people weekly access to monitor their credit report — for free.

This is some helpful news, because staying on top of your credit report is one important tool to help manage your financial data. Your credit report has information about your credit history and payment history — information that lenders, creditors, and other businesses use when giving you loans or credit.

Normally, everyone is eligible to receive one free credit report from each of the three credit reporting agencies – Equifax, Experian, and Transunion – once each year. Many people set up a schedule to rotate through the reporting agencies and make one request every four months. However, from now through April 2021, everyone is eligible to get free weekly credit reports from the three national credit reporting agencies.

To get your free reports, go to AnnualCreditReport.com. Be certain that you are using that specific website – the only one explicitly directed by Federal law to provide your free reports. Other sites may say their reports are “free,” but many have strings attached that will require you to pay for a membership or charge other fees.

And if you're one of the many Americans struggling to pay your bills right now because of the Coronavirus crisis, here's what you can do:

- **Contact the companies you owe money to.** Ask if they can postpone your payment, put you on a payment plan, or give you a temporary forbearance.
- **Check your credit report regularly** to make sure it's correct — especially any new payment arrangements or temporary forbearance. The recently passed CARES Act generally requires your creditors to report these accounts as current.
- **Fix any errors or mistakes** that you spot on your credit report. Notify the credit reporting agencies directly.