

AVERAGE U.S. CREDIT SCORE RISES; 'SILENT GENERATION' WINS BRAGGING RIGHTS

Average U.S. Credit Score Rises; 'Silent Generation' Wins Bragging Rights
The nation's average credit score rose a bit in the past year, from 669 to 673, according to Experian's annual "State of Credit" study. Diving deeper into the credit reporting agency's data reveals that age and life stage can make a big difference in the credit score you're likely to have.

The average credit score, broken down by generation:

- The "Silent Generation," people around age 70 and older, had the highest average score: 730.
- Baby boomers, those about ages 50 to 69, had the second highest average, at 700.
- Gen X (ages about 35 to 49) scored an average of 655.
- Gen Y (21 to 34) and Gen Z (20 and younger) clocked in at averages of 634 and 631, respectively.

Experian's report, based on a statistical sample of its consumer credit database, reflects VantageScores, the main rival to FICO. Both credit scoring systems use information in consumers' credit reports to estimate creditworthiness, usually expressing it on a scale from 300 to 850.

Every lender sets its own standards, but most consider scores above 720 excellent, which is good news for the Silent Generation. Baby boomers are solidly in the "good credit" range of 690-719. The younger generations fall in the "average" or "fair" band, which runs from 630-689 — but Gen Y and Z are uncomfortably close to the "poor" range, which includes scores below 630.

Curious about your score and how it compares to the averages? You can check your VantageScore and see free credit report information with NerdWallet.

Why are scores lower for younger age groups?

Experian also considered the amount of available credit used by each age group — called the credit utilization ratio — and the number of missed

payments — or delinquencies — each had racked up. Those two factors have the biggest influence on credit scores.

Younger consumers had the highest utilization rates: Members of Generation X used an average of 37% of their available credit, and Generations Y and Z used an average of 36%. Boomers used about 29%. The Silent Generation's much lower 16% utilization brought the national average rate down to about 30%.

Younger consumers, who are in the early part of their careers, are more likely to have lower salaries and thus lower credit limits. They might also have less discretionary income because of student loan debt. And those new to credit might not yet be aware that using more than 30% of their approved limits can hurt their scores.

As far as delinquent payments go, Generations X and Y were twice as likely as the Silent Generation to have an account 90 or more days overdue (40% vs. 16%). Delinquent payments stay on a credit report for seven years, so that could account for a good chunk of the difference in younger generations' scores and those of the Silent Generation.

How can you build your credit?

The good news is that once you identify the factors holding your credit score down, you know where to focus your efforts. Making on-time payments and reducing your credit utilization could add some points if you're hoping to build credit.

Experian said it will offer 45,000 free credit education sessions to nonprofits in some of the cities where it saw the lowest scores. If that's not available in your area, you can find help managing credit or debt through a nonprofit credit counseling center.

The article Average U.S. Credit Score Rises; 'Silent Generation' Wins Bragging Rights originally appeared on [NerdWallet](#).

Wisconsin Rapids Office

1610 Lincoln Street • Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494 • phone 715.421.1610

Plover Office

1760 Plover Road • Plover WI 54467 • phone 715.344.7440

Attention!

Are you College Bound?

Members' Advantage Credit Union will be offering two \$500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors or any adults continuing their education. The scholarships are open to any graduating high school senior or adult who is a member of Members' Advantage Credit Union or becomes a member. The scholarship can be used toward tuition for the college or technical college of their choice.

The scholarship applications are available now at each of our two locations or online at www.membersadvantagecu.com! Please see the application for the essay topic and deadline is April 21.

Join Us for YOUR Annual Meeting

The entire Credit Union benefits when its' members participate. That's why we invite every member to attend our—YOUR—annual meeting. ALL members are equal owners of their Credit Union.

The annual meeting is an occasion for management and elected officials to report to you, the owners. It's also an opportunity for you to learn about the Credit Union's financial position, products and services, current business issues, and goals. You'll meet face-to-face with the people who operate your Credit Union.

Without your input, leaders can only guess what you and other owners want from your Credit Union.

Date: **Saturday, April 22, 2017**
Location: **Ridges Supper Club**
2311 Griffith Avenue
Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Bingo to follow business meeting
Tickets will be available
from March 1 – April 7, 2017.



DEBIT CARD SAFETY

- We have stickers on our ATMs. If you notice stickers have been damaged please report to the credit union and do not use ATM
- Be aware of potential skimmers by wiggling your card at the insertion point to loosen the skimmer
- Make sure you cover the keypad when entering your PIN so as to block nearby cameras or people from viewing it

New Camper?
New Boat?
New Motorcycle?



Great rates!

10 year loan term available.

See us for details!

Apply today online at

www.membersadvantagecu.com,

call at 715-421-7739

or visit either locations.

Focus on... Tyler Rusin

Tyler Rusin has been working at the Plover office of Member' Advantage Credit Union for almost 2 years, having been hired through the Youth Apprenticeship program at Stevens Point Area Senior High. Tyler primarily works as a Member Services Representative, but is also in charge of the weekly trivia at our Plover office.

Tyler currently lives in Plover with his mom, dad, younger sister, and two dogs. In his spare time he enjoys camping and fishing with his family. He also enjoys four-wheeling and hanging out with friends.

Tyler graduated from SPASH in June of 2016, and is currently a freshman at the University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point. Currently pursuing a double major in Economics and Business Administration, he hopes to work in the investment banking or microfinance industry after college.

When asked about his favorite part of working for MACU, the first thing he mentioned was the great people he's met. Whether it's the various members or his coworkers, the people at Members' Advantage have made the experience very fun and enjoyable.



DOM's Chicken Wings

Ingredients

- 4 pounds of chicken wings
- 1 cup soy sauce
- 2 cups brown sugar

Directions:

Preheat oven to 300°. Mix soy sauce and brown sugar until sugar is dissolved. Lay chicken wings in pan and pour sauce over. Bake uncovered for 3 ½ to 4 hours.



NOTIFICATION OF BLOCKED STATES

Please be aware that the following states have been blocked when using your debit card as a credit transaction (signature). You may still use your debit card in these states when you use your PIN. The states affected are: Pennsylvania, Illinois, New York and California. The reason for the blocked transactions in these states is high fraudulent activity.

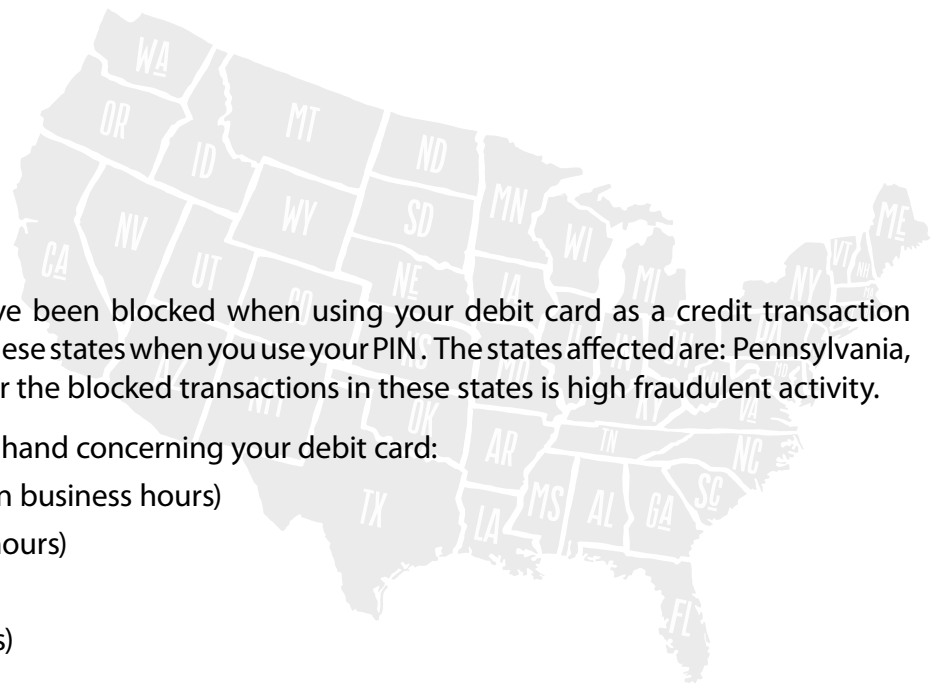
Here are some important numbers to keep on hand concerning your debit card:

715-421-1610 (lost/ stolen – during Credit Union business hours)

800-383-8000 (lost/stolen – outside business hours)

800-717-4923 (activate/change PIN)

866-508-2693 (Falcon – fraudulent transactions)



NCUA

IF YOU DO WHAT YOU HAVE ALWAYS DONE,
THEN YOU WILL GET WHAT YOU HAVE ALWAYS GOTTEN. -ANTHONY ROBBINS



LOVE MY
CREDIT UNION
REWARDS

Get a \$100 Cash Reward for Every New Line You Switch to Sprint

This new exclusive cash rewards offer is our best one EVER! Now, as a credit union member, you can earn \$100 for every line when you switch to Sprint®.

Here's how it works:

- Members get a **\$100** cash reward for **every new line** when you switch to Sprint®.
- Current Sprint customers will receive a **\$50** cash reward for every line transferred into Sprint Credit Union Member Cash Rewards.
- Plus, get a **\$50** loyalty cash reward **every year** for **every line**.

Here's how to sign up for Sprint cash rewards:

1. Become a Sprint customer.
2. Register at LoveMyCreditUnion.org/SprintRewards or in the Love My Credit Union Rewards® app.
3. Allow up to six to eight weeks to see cash rewards directly deposited into your credit union account!

Make the switch today and save with the Sprint Credit Union Member Cash Rewards!

savings corner

Open Deposit
.20% APY*

Share Certificate
(\$1,000 minimum)

6 month term	.40% APY*
12 month term	.55% APY*
18 month term	.60% APY*
24 month term	.75% APY*
30 month term	.85% APY*
36 month term	1.06% APY*
48 month term	1.16% APY*
60 month term	1.31% APY*

IRA Certificate
(\$1,000 minimum)

12 month term	.55% APY*
18 month term	.60% APY*
24 month term	.75% APY*
30 month term	.85% APY*
36 month term	1.06% APY*
48 month term	1.16% APY*
60 month term	1.31% APY*

IRA Passbook
.40% APY*

Money Market Shares
From 0.10% - .40% APY*

Rates are subject to change.

**APY=Annual percentage Yield*



BRAT FRY DATES

May 19
June 16
July 21
August 18
September 15
October 20

office hours

WISCONSIN RAPIDS

7:00-5:00 M-W Drive-up
7:00-6:00 Th-F Drive-up
9:00-5:00 M-F Lobby
9:00-1:00 Sat. Drive-up Only

PLOVER

7:00-5:00 M-W Drive-up
7:00-6:00 Th-F Drive-up
9:00-5:00 M-W Lobby
9:00-6:00 Th-F Lobby
9:00-1:00 Sat. Drive-up Only

24 hr Drive-up ATM

No Surcharge for Members
using a MACU debit card.

CLOSED:
Memorial Day, May 29, 2017
Independence Day, July 4, 2017