

Your Credit Report and Score

- 3 primary companies
 - Equifax
 - TransUnion
 - Experian
 - Your score can be reported differently from each of these companies.
 - All use your employment and debt history to create your score.
 - Score 300-850 (higher is better)
 - 720 and up is really good
 - Used to determine whether you are given a loan
 - What rate to get on that load
 - Consider credit cards:
 - 15% vs. 33%
 - Used to determine whether insurance companies will insure you
 - Also, what rate to give you.

- Credit report (not score) can be used by perspective employer to determine whether they hire you or not.
 - If they decide NOT to hire you because of your credit report, they must provide you with a copy of that report.
- What can make your credit score go up or down?
 - Down:
 - Large amount of money owed
 - "large" is determined by a ratio of how much you earn to how much you owe.
 - Multiple lines of credit open (whether used or not)
 - Department store cards
 - Credit cards
 - Car loan
 - Home loan
 - Line of equity
 - Unsecured loans have a larger impact than secured loans
 - Late pays
 - Bankruptcy
 - 7 years
 - Numerous requests for your credit (for loans)
 - The requests for your credit that are made w/out your request do not count against this.
 - Up
 - Early payments
 - Low debt to income ratio
 - Low debt to available credit ratio