

Connection

NC Press Association
Federal Credit Union
May 2023

Published Quarterly For Members of NC Press Association Federal Credit Union

Credit Basics and Best Practices

What is Credit and Why You Should Care

Your credit score is more than just a random number.

Establishing a good credit history and score can be very helpful for you and your family. Good credit makes it easier to finance major expenses and life events, such as buying a home or car, college tuition, weddings, and so much more. However, building and maintaining good credit requires healthy habits and good financial choices.

Important Facts About Credit

1. You establish **credit** when you obtain a loan from a lender that you promise to pay back in the future. Lenders are more willing to extend credit to people who are more likely to pay back the loan; they use your credit history to determine your overall credit risk.
 2. Your **credit score** is a three-digit number that is a prediction of your credit behavior based on information from your credit reports. A higher score reflects less risk, which makes you more attractive to creditors. The most common scoring model is the FICO® score, which typically ranges from 300 to 850.
- | Room for Improvement | | | | Fair | | Good | | Excellent | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----------|-----|-----|-----|
| 300 | 350 | 400 | 450 | 500 | 550 | 600 | 650 | 700 | 750 | 800 | 850 |
3. In addition to your credit score, you also have a **credit report**, which is a statement that contains information about your current credit activity and situation, such as loan payment history, credit account status, tax liens, bankruptcies, and other related information. Independent credit bureaus such as Experian, TransUnion, and Equifax create and keep credit reports on file.
 4. It's a good idea to check your credit report occasionally and **correct any errors as soon as possible**. You are entitled to receive a free copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit bureaus once every 12 months. Request your free credit report online from annualcreditreport.com or call (877) 322-8228.

To learn more about credit and how NCPAFCU can help you with your financial goals, Member Services Support is available at (888) 732-8562, or please visit us in person at your local branch Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Member Information

Holiday Closings

Credit Union branches will be closed for the following holidays:

Memorial Day

Monday, May 29

Independence Day

Tuesday, July 4

For member convenience, all automated services as well as Member Services Support via (888) 732-8562 will be available.

Increased Deposit Rates!

Earn higher interest rates with our Share Term Certificates (STCs). Visit www.ncpafcu.org for more information!

Federally insured by NCUA

Did You Know?

As a member of NCPAFCU, your immediate family is eligible to join. For more information, visit www.ncpafcu.org.

Important References

NC Press Website: www.ncpafcu.org

Press For Info:

(877) 247-7377 • (919) 278-1001

Member Services Support:

(888) 732-8562 • (919) 857-2150

Free Credit Report:

www.annualcreditreport.com

National Do-Not-Call Registry #:

(888) 382-1222

Opt out of Pre-approved Offers #:

(888) 567-8688



NCPA
Federal Credit Union

Loan Rates

Effective May 12, 2023

Loan Services

APR

NEW VEHICLE

Up to 36 months (up to 110% MSRP)	4.75%
37 - 60 months (up to 110% MSRP)	5.25%
61 - 72 months (up to 110% MSRP)	5.50%

New vehicle is defined as prior, current, or upcoming year model with 10,000 miles or less. May finance loan-to-value of 100% MSRP plus an additional 10% for purchase related expenses such as tax, tags, extended warranties, etc.

Example: For a \$25,000 new vehicle loan, your monthly payment will be \$753 for 36 months at 5.25% APR, \$481 for 60 months at 5.75% APR, and \$418 for 72 months at 6.25% APR.

USED VEHICLE

Up to 72 months	6.00%
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Purchase transactions limited to a maximum loan-to-value of 110% of NADA retail value. Cash out is not permitted on purchase transactions, and cash-out refinance transactions are limited to a maximum loan-to-value of 100% of NADA retail value. Vehicles older than 10 years and/or with mileage in excess of 150,000 at the time of loan origination are not eligible for financing. Vehicles between 6 and 10 years old and/or with mileage in excess of 100,000 are limited to 48-month term financing.

Example: For a \$15,000 used vehicle loan your monthly payment will be \$294 for 60 months at 6.50% APR.

OTHER LOANS

Share Secured Fixed Installment	
Up to 24 months	4.50%

Example: For a \$5,000 share secured loan, your monthly payment will be \$219 for 24 months at 4.50% APR.

From 25 to 48 months	4.75%
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Example: For a \$5,000 share secured loan, your monthly payment will be \$115 for 48 months at 4.75% APR.

Share Secured Fixed Term Note	4.00%
Open-End Variable Rate Signature	10.75%
Closed-End Variable Rate Signature	10.75%
Visa® Credit Card	12.25%*

Call or visit your local State Employees' Credit Union branch for further information on loan qualification requirements. Lending is available only to members who are residents in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, or Virginia.

APR – Annual Percentage Rate

*APR for Purchases and Balance transfers as of 1/21/2023 is 12.25%. The rate is variable and subject to change. The APR for Cash Advances is fixed at 18.00%.



NMLS #1086841

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For the nearest branch or CashPoints® ATM visit www.ncpafcu.org or call our Member Services Support at (888) 732-8562. Federally insured by NCUA

NCPAFCU 5/2023

Dealing with Inflation

Inflation impacts everyone, and it can be challenging if your income is not increasing at the same rate as your expenses. Inflation increases the cost of goods and services, making your money work even harder. The good news is that you can take steps to ease the inflation burden.

Know Where Your Money is Going

One of the most important things you can do to help fight inflation is understand exactly where your money is going. If you don't know how much your bills are or what you're spending money on, it's difficult to see inflation's impact on you. If you don't have a spending plan, now is the time to make one. If you already have one, it's time to update it. Once you have a spending plan, do your best to stick to it to keep your costs under control.

If You Need to Change Your Spending Habits...

You are not alone! When reviewing your spending, look for the categories of expenses that have increased the most. Next determine your spending priorities and where you need to make adjustments. Sometimes there is an easy solution such as lowering your spending in increased categories. For example, some simple strategies for reducing food costs include:

- Make a list for grocery shopping
- Prepack lunches and coffee for work and school
- Become a savvy shopper and look for deals and coupons before shopping for items you use or need

However, depending on your situation, you may need to make bigger changes to your spending plan. You may need to reduce or delay large purchases like furniture and home goods, and expensive vacations, or you may need to downsize wherever possible.

The best way to deal with inflation is to be proactive and have a solid financial foundation and plan. This approach will allow you to weather bumps like inflation along the way.

NCPAFCU is here to help members achieve their financial goals! Please call our Member Services Support at (888) 732-8562 or visit your local branch Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. if you have any questions.