

MONEY'S WORTH

for TFCU Members | February 2025



Embracing your credit

Maintaining good credit is not just about having access to funds; it is also about building a financial reputation based on trust and past performance. Your credit history affects your ability to make large purchases, like homes and vehicles, secure lower interest rates and may even impact job prospects. Using credit wisely can pave the way to financial stability and opportunity.

Credit scores represent an individual's financial standing based on credit history and range from 0 to 900, with most consumers falling in the 600 to 750 range. A higher score indicates behaviors like timely loan payments and reliable debt management, allowing for lower interest rates. A lower score may be associated with a history of financial challenges, leading to higher interest rates and difficulties obtaining loans. Credit scores influence our lives in various ways, from loans to personal finance to housing and employment opportunities, emphasizing the importance of good credit history.

Credit scores influence our lives in various ways, from loans to personal finance to housing and employment opportunities.

Here are a few tips to help improve your credit:

- Set up payment reminders so bills are paid on time.
- Keep credit card balances low.
- Avoid opening too many new credit lines at once.
- Check your credit report regularly to catch errors.
- If possible, maintain a few different types of credit.

Issues such as missed payments, discrepancies in credit card balances, collections or inaccuracies on your credit report can be addressed once they are identified. Copies of credit reports can be obtained through the credit bureaus Equifax, TransUnion and Experian. Check all three to catch any differences in the reports and, if you find any mistakes, take immediate steps to rectify the situation by setting up payment reminders, reducing credit card usage, disputing suspicious charges, etc. Confronting problems head-on may help prevent them from escalating and leading to negative consequences.

If you have questions or need help managing your credit, the TFCU Member Solutions team is here to lend a hand. These certified financial counselors offer tailored and cost-free guidance and solutions to help you navigate credit issues and regain financial stability. ■

Article by Kara Robinson,
TFCU Financial Educator

TFCU events

Drop-in financial coaching: February 7, 2025

OKC, Capitol Hill branch, 2315 S. Western Ave. |
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Meet TFCU's Member Solutions team for free, one-on-one financial counseling.

Holiday closing: February 17, 2025

TFCU will be closed Monday, February 17, in observance of Presidents' Day.

Drop-in financial coaching: March 7, 2025

OKC, Northwest branch, 4626 N.W. 39th St. | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Meet TFCU's Member Solutions team for free, one-on-one financial counseling.

Dollar-cost averaging: No timing needed

Dollar-cost averaging (DCA) is a strategy for mitigating investment price risk by regularly investing in the market, regardless of price.

In employer-sponsored 401(k) plans, predetermined percentages of each paycheck are invested in defined assets, generally mutual funds, helping prevent stress over when to invest and allowing regular purchasing rather than trying to perfectly time the market.

Underpinning this is the theory that asset prices unpredictably rise and fall, and if shares are regularly bought, the average share price paid (or the DCA) won't be too high. When prices are lower, your money affords more shares than the same amount when they're higher, bringing down the price-per-share cost, helping reduce the impact of market volatility on your portfolio.

For those with large cash balances, it can be a way to invest or reinvest. Over time, cash tends to lose value due to inflation which can affect return potential, especially as interest rates fall. DCA addresses loss aversion, which often has potential of inaction.

An important note is that DCA could leave returns on the table when markets are rallying and may not mitigate other risks. Investing everything at once could be more effective than doing so little by little. This is known as lump-sum investing. On average, some asset costs will go up in a rising market. Investing lump sums at the outset may generate more shares and value compared to fixed amounts over time.

However, if everything is invested at once and prices drop, losses may occur and potentially persist for years. DCA would help avoid mistiming the market and lead to owning more shares in this case.

TFCU financial advisors can ultimately help weigh factors such as the time frame of your financial goal, your cash flow, market conditions and investment opportunities to pinpoint the right choice for you.

TFCU Financial Advisors

6501 Tinker Diagonal
Midwest City, OK 73110
(405) 737-0006
TFCUFinancialAdvisors.org



Securities are offered through RAYMOND JAMES FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., Member FINRA/SIPC, and are not insured by NCUA or insured by any other government agency. Funds are NOT GUARANTEED nor are they deposits or obligations of the credit union or any affiliated entity of the credit union, and are subject to risk, including the possible loss of principal. Raymond James does not provide tax or legal services. Please discuss these matters with the appropriate professional. Tinker Federal Credit Union, Tinker Financial Services, LLC and TFCU Financial Advisors* are not registered broker/dealers and are independent of Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. Investment advisory services are offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc., a non-affiliated third-party provider to Tinker Financial Services, LLC and Tinker Federal Credit Union. All investments and information are intended for U.S. residents only. *TFCU Financial Advisors is a registered trademark and 'dba' of Tinker Financial Services, LLC.

There is no assurance any investment strategy will be successful. Investing involves risk including the possible loss of capital. Dollar cost averaging does not assure a profit and does not protect against loss. It involves continuous investment regardless of fluctuating price levels of such securities. Investors should consider their financial ability to continue purchases through periods of low-price levels.

Sources: forbes.com; cnbc.com; etrade.com; ndvr.com; aarp.org



4.99% APR

TFCU Visa® Platinum

12-month intro rate
on qualifying balance transfers*

13.25% - 18.00% APR after 12 months*



The balance transfer promotional rate of 4.99% Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is applicable for 12 months from the day each qualifying balance transfer from other financial institutions is applied to your account by February 28, 2025. After the 12-month promotional period, the Visa® Platinum APR will adjust to 13.25% - 18.00% based on creditworthiness and variable Prime Rate. Rates are accurate as of January 1, 2025. Subject to credit approval. TFCU membership required. Additional limitations may apply. Go to TinkerFCU.org, visit any TFCU branch, or call (405) 732-0324 or 1-800-456-4828 for details about costs and terms.



For locations, numbers and hours please visit TinkerFCU.org

P.O. Box 45750, Tinker AFB, 73145

(405) 732-0324 OK
(918) 592-0324 Tulsa
(405) 707-7440 Stillwater
(580) 310-0324 Ada
(580) 233-3330 Enid
800-456-4828

Federally insured by NCUA

