

SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score FAQs

On September, 22nd, SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score will be available to users through online banking. Availability in Mobile banking will happen closer to middle of October. SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score is a free service offered to help you understand your current credit score, give access to your full credit report, provide credit monitoring alerts, show you how you can improve it and see ways you can save money on new and existing loans with us.

Q. What is SavvyMoney® Credit Score?

A. SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score is a comprehensive Credit Score program offered by your financial institution, that helps you stay on top of your credit. You get your latest credit score and report, an understanding of key factors that impact the score, and can see the most up to date offers that can help reduce your interest costs. With this program, you always know where you stand with your credit and how your financial institution can help save you money.

Credit Score also monitors your credit report daily and informs you by email if there are any big changes detected such as: a new account being opened, change in address or employment, a delinquency has been reported or an inquiry has been made. Monitoring helps users keep an eye out for identity theft.

Q. What is SavvyMoney® Credit Report?

A. SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score provides you all the information you would find on your credit file including a list of open loans, accounts and credit inquiries. You will also be able to see details on your payment history, credit utilization and public records that show up on your account. Like Credit Score, when you check your credit report, there will be no impact to your score.

Q. Is there a fee?

A. No. SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score is entirely free and no credit card information is required to register.

Q. How often is my credit score updated?

A. As long as you are a regular online banking user, your credit score will be updated every month and displayed in your online banking screen. You can click “refresh score” as frequently as every day by navigating to the detailed SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score site from within online banking.

Q. How does the SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score differ from other credit scoring offerings?

A: SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score pulls your credit profile from TransUnion, one of the three major credit reporting bureaus, and uses VantageScore 3.0, a credit scoring model developed collaboratively by the three major credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. This model seeks to make score information more uniform between the three bureaus to provide consumers a better picture of their credit health.

Q: Why do credit scores differ?

A: There are three major credit reporting bureaus—Equifax, Experian and Transunion—and two scoring models—FICO or VantageScore—that determine credit scores. Financial institutions use different bureaus, as well as their own scoring models. Over 200 factors of a credit report may be taken into account when calculating a score and each model may weigh credit factors differently, so no scoring model is completely identical. No matter what credit bureau or credit scoring model is used, consumers do fall into specific credit ranges: Excellent 781–850, Good 661-780, Fair 601-660, Unfavorable 501-600, Bad Below 500.

Q: Will Kinecta Federal Credit Union use SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score to make loan decisions?

A: No, Kinecta Federal Credit Union uses its own lending criteria for making loan.

Q: Will SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score share my credit score with Kinecta Federal Credit Union?

A: No, your SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score is a free service to help you understand your credit health, how you make improvements in your score and ways you can save money on your loans with Kinecta Federal Credit Union.

Q: How does SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score keep my financial information secure?

A: SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score uses bank level encryption and security measures to keep your data safe and secure. Your personal information is never shared with or sold to a third party.

Q: If the financial institution doesn't use SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score to make loan decisions, why do we offer it?

A: SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score can help you manage your credit so when it comes time to borrow for a big-ticket purchase—like buying a home, car or paying for college—you have a clear picture of your credit health and can qualify for the lowest possible interest rate. You'll also see offers on how you can save money on your new and existing loans with Kinecta Federal Credit Union.

Q: What if the information provided by SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score appears to be wrong or inaccurate?

A: The SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score makes its best effort to show you the most relevant information from your credit report. If you think that some of the information is wrong or inaccurate, we encourage you to take advantage of obtaining free credit reports from www.annualcreditreport.com, and then pursuing with each bureau individually. Each bureau has its own process for correcting inaccurate information but every user can "File a Dispute" by clicking on the "Dispute" link within their SavvyMoney® Credit Report. However, The Federal Trade Commission website offers step-by-step instructions on how to contact the bureaus and correct errors.

Q: There is a section on the site that features both Kinecta Federal Credit Union product offers and financial education articles. Why am I seeing this?

A: Based on your SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score information, you may receive Kinecta Federal Credit Union offers on products that may be of interest to you. In most cases, these offers may have lower interest rates than the products you already have. The educational articles, written by Jean Chatzky and the SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score team, are designed to provide helpful tips on how you can manage credit and debt wisely.

Q: Will accessing SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score 'ping' my credit and potentially lower my credit score?

A: No. Checking SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score is a "soft inquiry", which does not affect your credit score. Lenders use 'hard inquiries' to make decisions about your credit worthiness when you apply for loans.

Q: Does SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score offer credit report monitoring as well?

A. Yes. SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score will monitor and send email alerts when there's been a change to your credit profile.

Q. How do I change their email address or other personal information?

A: If you access SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score program through your online banking, you have to do nothing! Your email address will get updated automatically in SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score when you update it in online banking. However we always encourage you to inform your financial institution of any contact information updates.

If you signed up with SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score from our website, please log into the website and click on your name displayed on top right of the screen. Select the Profile link from the drop down, and follow instructions to update your information.

Q: Can people use SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score on mobile devices?

A: Yes, SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score is available for both mobile and tablet devices within online banking and mobile banking app.

Q: Can people use SavvyMoney® Credit Report and Score if they live overseas?

A: Only if the individual also has a U.S. mailing address.