

Credit Worthiness Self-Assessment

It is in your best interest to understand how to manage your credit worthiness so that you can more easily get a credit card, home mortgage or business loan. Credit worthiness includes your job history, character and credit score. Your credit score is based upon payment history, amount owned and length of credit. The following self-assessment is designed to help you understand how you can improve your credit worthiness.

	Yes	No
1. Do you have a personal credit card? (If no, go to question #10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Did you shop for a low interest rate credit card?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Do you have less than 5 personal credit cards including department store, gas, and debit cards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Have you negotiated with the credit card companies for a lower interest rate or waiver of annual fees?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Do you pay your bills and loans (rent or mortgage, car payment, etc.) on time?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Do you pay at least the minimum balance due on all your credit cards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Is your combined balance on all credit cards less than 25% of your total credit card limit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. If you have missed payments, did you contact your credit card company to notify them and then get current on your payment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Do you close unused credit cards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Do you have a business credit card that you only use for business expenses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Do you have a steady job history (staying more than 1 year at each job)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Do you have 5 years of experience in your line of business?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Have you invested your own money in your business?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Have you reviewed your own credit report in the past year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Did you know that you can receive one free credit report per year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. If needed, could you obtain letters of reference from friends, family, or business contacts within the next 2 weeks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Are you known to be a person of good character (honest, reliable and trustworthy)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Use the results of this self-assessment to recognize where you are today and what you need to do to increase your credit worthiness. As you do so, you will enjoy lower interest rates, faster credit approvals, less deposits required by utilities, faster approval for leases and better credit card offers.

Count the number of 'yes' responses and take the following action:

- More than 14 yes responses: Congratulations! You have established good credit. Keep up the excellent work.
- 10-13 yes responses: You are doing a good job. However, you can improve your credit worthiness over time by improving the stability of your credit score, job history or how people in the community perceive you.
- 9 or less yes responses: There is no quick way to improve a bad credit score but you can take steps to establish good credit today. Make a commitment to pay bills on time, keep account balances low, and increase your management of credit. You will gain confidence by enhance the weak spots in your personal and business credit worthiness.