## US CREDIT REPAIR INDUSTRY EFFECTIVENESS \& TRUST STUDY

## DATE

Thursday, October 3, 2019

## Demographics

Total responses
500

Age groups
25-34 (41.6\%), 35-44 (37.4\%), 45-54 (15.2\%), > 54 (5.8\%)

Country
United States

Gender
Female (55.0\%), Male (45.0\%)

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SQ
TYPE: SINGLE SELECTION
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## Have you ever PAID for credit repair services? (Free credit score services like Credit Karma do not count!)

\# ANSWERS
A1 Yes - I have paid a company to help repair my credit (Example: to remove late payments or improve my credit score)

A2 No - I have never paid for credit repair
A3 I have checked my credit score or credit report, but HAVE NEVER PAID a company for credit improvement

PERCENT
100.00\%
0.00\% ..... 0

## SQ

TYPE: SINGLE SELECTION

## Which type of credit repair service did you use?

\# ANSWERS
A1 Free Credit Score Services - (i.e. Credit Karma, Credit Sesame, Free Credit Card Scores)

A2 Free Help from Bank or Credit Union - (i.e. Chase, Wells Fargo, BoA)

A3 Paid Credit Repair Service - (i.e. Lexington Law, CreditRepair.com, Ovation, or similar)
PERCENT ..... COUNT0.00\%0
0.00\% ..... 0
100.00\% ..... 500

Q1
TYPE: SINGLE SELECTION

## How did you choose your credit repair service?

| $\#$ | ANSWERS | PERCENT |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| A1 | Referral | $37.20 \%$ |
| A2 | Online search | $45.40 \%$ |
| A3 | Advertisement | $13.60 \%$ |
| A4 | Phone solicitation | 227 |
| A5 | Other | $2.80 \%$ |
| A6 | Friend owned business | $1.00 \%$ |
| A7 | Mortgage broker recommendation |  |
| A8 | Phone book |  |
| A9 | google |  |
| A10 | Debt collectors |  |

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Q2
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TYPE: SINGLE SELECTION
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## How long did you work with the credit repair company?

\# ANSWERS
A1 Less than 1 month
A2 1 to 2 months
A3 3 to 5 months
A4 6 to 9 months
A5 10 months or more

PERCENT
6.00\%
21.60\%
31.20\%

108
23.00\%

115
18.20\%

TYPE: SINGLE SELECTION

## What was the total cost of your credit repair services from start to finish? (Include all monthly fees,

 start-up cost, and additional fees)| \# | ANSWERS | PERCENT |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| A1 | Less than $\$ 250$ (LIFETIME TOTAL of all monthly <br> fees, start-up cost, and additional fees) | $17.20 \%$ |
| A2 | $\$ 250$ to $\$ 500$ (LIFETIME TOTAL of all monthly <br> fees, start-up cost, and additional fees) | 86 |
| A3 | $\$ 501$ to $\$ 750$ (LIFETIME TOTAL of all monthly <br> fees, start-up cost, and additional fees) | $\mathbf{3 1 . 4 0 \%}$ |
| A4 | $\$ 751$ to $\$ 1,000$ (LIFETIME TOTAL of all monthly <br> fees, start-up cost, and additional fees) | 157 |
| A5 | More than $\$ 1,000$ (LIFETIME TOTAL of all monthly <br> fees, start-up cost, and additional fees) | $19.20 \%$ |

Q4
TYPE: SINGLE SELECTION

## What was your credit score prior to receiving credit repair services?

| \# | ANSWERS | PERCENT |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| A1 | 300 to 579 | $44.60 \%$ |  |
| A2 | 580 to 669 | $33.40 \%$ |  |
| A3 | 670 to 739 | $11.00 \%$ | 167 |
| A4 | 740 to 799 | $5.80 \%$ | 55 |
| A5 | 800 to 850 | $3.40 \%$ | 29 |
| A6 | I don't remember | $1.80 \%$ | 17 |

Q5
TYPE: SINGLE SELECTION

## What was the overall impact to your credit score?

| \# | ANSWERS | PERCENT | COUNT |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A1 | It negatively affected my score | 3.60\% | 18 |
| A2 | 0 to 24 point increase | 8.40\% | 42 |
| A3 | 25 to 49 point increase | 13.00\% | 65 |
| A4 | 50 to 74 point increase | 16.40\% | 82 |
| A5 | 75 to 99 point increase | 17.20\% | 86 |
| A6 | 100 to 149 point increase | 26.00\% | 130 |
| A7 | More than 150 point increase | 15.40\% | 77 |
| TOTAL UNIQUE RESPONDENTS 500 |  |  |  |

Q6
TYPE: SINGLE SELECTION

## How long ago did you stop using credit repair services?

A1 I am currently using a credit repair service
A2 0 to 6 months ago
A3 7 to 12 months ago
A4 1 to 2 years ago
A5 3 to 5 years ago
A6 5 to 10 years ago
A7 Over 10 years ago

PERCENT
16.00\%

COUNT
21.60\%
18.00\%
$19.20 \% \quad 96$
15.40\% 77
5.20\% 26
4.60\%

Q7
TYPE: SINGLE SELECTION

## What is your current credit score?

| \# | ANSWERS | PERCENT |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: |
| A1 | 300 to 579 | $6.60 \%$ |  |
| A2 | 580 to 669 | $26.40 \%$ | 33 |
| A3 | 670 to 739 | $31.40 \%$ | 132 |
| A4 | 740 to 799 | $24.20 \%$ | 157 |
| A5 | 800 to 850 | $9.00 \%$ | 121 |
| A6 | I don't know | $2.40 \%$ | 45 |

## Q8

TYPE: SINGLE SELECTION

How would you rate your overall experience with the repair company?

| $\#$ | ANSWERS | PERCENT | COUNT |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | ---: |
| A1 | Bad | $6.60 \%$ | 33 |
| A2 | Okay - Neutral | $26.40 \%$ | 132 |
| A3 | Good | $40.60 \%$ | 203 |
| A4 | Excellent | $26.40 \%$ | 132 |

Q9
TYPE: SINGLE SELECTION
What was your overall opinion of the company's business practices (marketing, customer service, billing, etc.)

| \# | ANSWERS | PERCENT | COUNT |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | ---: |
| A1 | Professional | $47.60 \%$ | 238 |
| A2 | Fair | $39.20 \%$ | 196 |
| A3 | Shady | $8.60 \%$ | 43 |
| A4 | Borderline illegal | $3.20 \%$ | 16 |
| A5 | None of the above | $1.40 \%$ | 7 |
|  |  |  | TOTAL UNIQUE RESPONDENTS 500 |

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Q10
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TYPE: MULTIPLE SELECTION

Did they charge you for anything you felt was inaccurate? Check ALL that apply.
\# ANSWERS
PERCENT (RESPONDENTS)
guarantee
A2 They made it difficult to cancel

A3 I feel like they kept me as a client longer than it should have taken They "strung me along"

A4 They billed me a different amount than initially quoted

A5 The billing was as agreed - (None of the above)
7.60\%
18.60\%
25.80\%
$13.20 \%$
55.20\%

PERCENT (ANSWERS)
6.31\%
15.45\%93
21.43\% ..... 129
$10.96 \%$ ..... 66
45.85\% ..... 276

## Q11

TYPE: MULTIPLE SELECTION

## To the best of your memory, please check ALL items they helped you with.

\# ANSWERS
A1 Removed negative items from my credit report (late payments, charge offs, collections)

A2 Debt consolidation
A3 Identity theft recovery
A4 Sent cease and desist letters to my creditors

A5 Set up payment plan with my creditors

A6 Credit consulting
A7 Sent dispute letters to the credit bureaus

A8 Sent goodwill letters to my creditors

PERCENT (RESPONDENTS)
56.20\%
46.60\%
21.00\%
24.80\%
48.00\%
49.00\%
39.80\%
28.60\%

PERCENT (ANSWERS)
COUNT
17.90\%
14.84\%
6.69\%
7.90\%
15.29\%

240
$15.61 \% \quad 245$
$12.68 \% 199$
9.11\%

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Q12
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TYPE: MULTIPLE SELECTION

Did the credit repair company successfully remove any of the following items from your credit report. Check ALL that apply.

| $\#$ | ANSWERS | PERCENT (RESPONDENTS) | PERCENT (ANSWERS) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| A1 | Late payment | $53.60 \%$ | $20.71 \%$ |
| A2 | Charge off | $30.60 \%$ | $11.82 \%$ |
| A3 | Inquiry | $25.80 \%$ | $9.97 \%$ |
| A4 | Bankruptcy | $11.20 \%$ | 153 |
| A5 | Judgments | $20.80 \%$ | $4.33 \%$ |
| A6 | Medical bills | $43.80 \%$ | $8.04 \%$ |
| A7 | Student loans | $17.80 \%$ | $16.92 \%$ |
| A8 | Collections | $55.20 \%$ | $6.88 \%$ |

