



Consumer News & Views

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CONSUMER COUNCIL



In This Issue

CONSUMER CONF. DOWN P2
.....

TAX CHANGES 2025 P3
.....

CASH OR CREDIT CARD? P5
.....

SPRING \$ CLEANING P6
.....

APPT. ONLY SOCIAL SECURITY P8
.....

SAVE \$ ON EYEGLASSES P9
.....

MEDICINES AND DEMENTIA P11
.....

ENT CREDIT UNION P13
.....

LOGIX FED CREDIT UNION P14
.....

ACC WRAP-UP P15

Consumer Confidence Dropped Sharply in February



The Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index® declined by 7.0 points in February to 98.3 (1985=100).

U.S. consumers' confidence pessimism about the future returned. In February, consumer confidence registered the largest monthly decline since August 2021.

- Views of current labor market conditions weakened.
- Consumers became pessimistic about future business conditions and less optimistic about future income.
- February's fall in confidence was shared across all age groups but was deepest for consumers between 35 and 55 years old.
- Average 12-month inflation expectations surged from 5.2% to 6% in February.
- There was a sharp increase in the mentions of trade and tariffs, back to a level unseen since 2019.

The Present Situation Index—based on consumers' assessment of current business and labor market conditions—fell 3.4 points to 136.5.

The Expectations Index—based on consumers' short-term outlook for income, business, and labor market conditions—dropped 9.3 points to 72.9.

Consumer Confidence Drops 7 points in February--Largest drop since 2021



The Consumer Confidence Index fell by seven points in February to 98.3, the Conference Board reported Tuesday. The seven-point drop marks the largest decline since August 2021, indicating consumers are concerned about more inflation to come and a cooling economy.

"This is the third consecutive month on month decline, bringing the Index to the bottom of the range that has prevailed since 2022. Of the five components of the Index, only consumers' assessment of present business conditions improved, albeit slightly," Stephanie Guichard, a senior economist for global indicators at The Conference Board, said in a statement.

Views of current labor market conditions weakened. Consumers became pessimistic about future business conditions and less optimistic about future income. Pessimism about future employment prospects worsened and reached a ten-month high," Guichard said.

The decline in consumer confidence coincides with President Donald Trump's return to office, marked with threats of tariffs that include placing some on U.S. allies.

Trump has gone back and forth over instituting 25% tariffs on goods from Canada and Mexico. Most recently he said those tariffs will go into effect in March.

The Expectations Index, which is a measure of how consumers feel about income, business and labor markets in the short term, fell by 9.3 points to 72.9. A measure of 80 points is recognized as a sign of a coming recession. The last time the Expectations Index fell below 80 points was in June.

The fall in consumer confidence was marked across all age groups but was especially present among consumers between 35 and 55 years old.

Consumers have also become concerned about their family's' current and future financial situation, a stark change from responses recorded in January.

"Average 12-month inflation expectations surged from 5.2% to 6% in February. This increase likely reflected a mix of factors, including sticky inflation but also the recent jump in prices of key household staples like eggs and the expected impact of tariffs," Guichard said.

"There was a sharp increase in the mentions of trade and tariffs, back to a level unseen since 2019. Most notably, comments on the current administration and its policies dominated the responses."

Tax Changes You Need to Know for 2025

Filing



The IRS has dropped a raft of changes, big and small, to the U.S. tax code that could shift how much you owe – or save – in 2025. From bigger deductions to higher limits on health-related savings accounts, the changes reflect the government's continued fight to curb inflation and resulting financial strain.

The adjustments, announced by the IRS in late October, are designed to bring some relief to taxpayers through increases in standard deductions, tax bracket thresholds and other key areas. Some of the changes are related to adoption, commuting and earning income from outside the country.

In high-cost cities, the transportation benefit hike may bring some relief, while changes to medical savings options give families more flexibility to manage health-care costs. If you're in a higher tax bracket or plan to leave an inheritance, it's worth paying attention to the alternate minimum tax (AMT) and estate tax changes. The standard deduction increase and the earned income tax credit boost will directly benefit middle-income families, while commuters and people living or working abroad will also find things to like.

In all, the IRS announced more than 60 changes for the upcoming tax year. Below, we identify some of the biggest. How much they'll impact you depends on your income, financial health and tax strategy.

As with any tax updates, it's smart to consult a tax professional on how to make these changes work for you. And it's important to remember these changes take effect in the 2025 tax year – they won't do you much good when it's time to file your returns this spring.

You deserve a break

Here's one change nearly all American tax filers will get to enjoy: the standard deduction is going up. For the 90% or so who don't choose to itemize their deductions each year, that means a little extra cash to help offset the persistent effects of inflation.

Single taxpayers can now deduct \$15,000, a \$400 increase from 2024. Married couples filing jointly get a bump to \$30,000, while heads of households can claim \$22,500. This increase could mean paying less in taxes, especially for those who don't itemize.

Middle-income earners will be happy to hear that the Alternative Minimum Tax exemption, designed to ensure that high earners pay a minimum tax, has increased to \$88,100 for individuals and \$137,000 for joint filers.

It's a modest increase from the previous tax year's minimum of \$85,700, but this adjustment could result in some middle-income earners no longer being subject to the AMT, which could result in tax savings for them.

That might not be the case if you got a raise, but the good news is that the IRS has prepared for that as well. For 2025, the IRS has adjusted income tax brackets to accommodate rising wages. The 37% top tax rate applies to singles earning over \$626,350 and married couples earning over \$751,600 (an increase from \$609,350 the tax year before.)

And other bracket adjustments this year could result in some households falling into lower tax brackets, potentially lowering their tax bills.

Work hard, keep more

Are you one of the millions of American workers who are back to commuting to the office a few days a week? For those who receive employer-sponsored benefits, the IRS raised the monthly allowance for transportation and parking to \$325. This may be especially helpful in urban areas where transportation costs are steep.

CONTINUED

Employees can also now contribute up to \$3,300 to health flexible savings accounts, with a carryover maximum of \$660. This increase allows workers to set aside pre-tax money for medical expenses, helping ease the burden of health care costs.

And as for those who've sought a new life outside of the U.S., Americans working in other countries can exclude up to \$130,000 of foreign-earned income in 2025, up from \$126,500. This adjustment helps U.S. citizens abroad by minimizing their taxable income and alleviating double taxation.

Family-friendly policies

In 2025, the maximum earned income tax credit for low- to moderate-income families with three or more children rises to \$8,046, a slight increase from this year. This credit helps support working families, especially as living costs rise, and provides a valuable income boost for qualifying households.

Higher earners, on the other hand, will now be able to pass on more of their money to family, friends and the causes they believe in as the estate tax exclusion jumps to \$13.99 million for estates in 2025.

This change could significantly impact high net worth individuals and estate planning, potentially protecting more assets from estate taxes.

As for those looking to start their families, the IRS has introduced a new rule for parents. The maximum adoption credit increased to \$17,280, up from \$16,810. For adoptive parents, this credit covers qualified expenses, reducing the financial burden associated with adoption.



Top Reasons Your Credit Card Is Costing You More Than You Think



Many people think credit cards are the better option over cash. Others believe cash is king. So what is the truth?

Think you have your credit card under control? These pieces of plastic offer lots of flexibility and rewards that can make buying things more convenient. But these eight hidden issues with [credit card](#) usage could be costing you a lot more than you realize.

High Interest Rates

One of the many costs of having a credit card is the interest rate on balances. Many credit cards carry high annual percentage rates (APRs) that can add up fast if you keep a balance from month to month. Try to pay off your credit card every month or at least pay more than the minimum so you aren't victim to inflated APRs.

Late Payment Fees

Failing to pay on time can trigger hefty late fees, which could be anywhere from \$25 to \$40 or more, depending on your card issuer. Late payments can also hurt your credit score and potentially raise your interest rate, impacting your budget even more.

Annual Fees

Most credit cards come with an annual fee, which can be anything from a small amount to several hundred dollars, depending on the card's benefits. Some premium cards do provide valuable rewards, but depending on how much you use the card, the annual fee can offset the benefits.

Cash Advance Fees

Need cash in a pinch? It can be tempting to take out a cash advance on your credit card, but it will hit you with high fees and interest rates. Cash advances typically have their own APR, which is much higher than your regular purchase APR, as well as an upfront fee.

Impulse Spending

The most obvious problem with credit cards is spending money when you might not otherwise, thinking you'll just pay it off later. Swiping a card makes spending money feel less real, making it easier to overspend. Prevent this by sticking to a budget as best you can and adding a "cool off" period if you're considering using your credit card for larger purchases.

Over-Limit Fees

If you exceed your credit limit, some credit card issuers may charge you an over-limit fee. Even if you can afford to pay your balance, exceeding your limit may incur further fees. These fees can accumulate on top of your debt, as well as harm your credit score. Be mindful of your spending and try to keep track of your credit limit so you aren't stretching yourself too thin.

A Poor Credit Score

Credit card use can impact your credit score in different ways. Your score can drop due to high credit utilization ratios, late payments, and missed payments. A poor credit score can lead to higher charges on loans and insurance premiums. It can cost you in the long run by making it harder for you to get a mortgage, car loan, or even an apartment.

A Lack of Financial Awareness

The final entry to our list is a lack of awareness as to where your money actually goes. Many consumers aren't fully aware of the terms and conditions attached to their cards, which results in unintentional overspending and lost opportunities to save. If you're not clear on your credit card's fees, interest rates, and rewards structure, you might be making financial decisions that work against your savings.

Spring Cleaning--But for your finances



While you're decluttering your home for spring, consider also taking a crack at cleaning up your finances and old paperwork. Spring is a time of year when many of us spend days decluttering and cleaning out our homes as the weather gets warmer. As we're cleaning basements and dusting furniture, this is also a great time to spruce up our finances.

This year, when you make a to-do list of cleaning tasks for around the house, add a section for your finances as well. A simple check-in of a few key financial items can help ensure everything is up to date and you are on the right track to reaching your financial goals.

Revisit your investments and risk.

When was the last time you sat down and looked at your investment strategies? With 2024 having been an election year, the market could experience some ups and downs. If you're hoping to retire soon, you don't want a bad investment strategy to set you back. Have a plan to protect your hard-earned savings should volatility hit Wall Street.

One of the biggest problems we see is that many people don't know how much risk they are taking with their investments. Are you being too aggressive? Not aggressive enough? It's a good idea to take a look at your investments regularly to see if you need to scale back.

What do your retirement contributions look like? Even a small raise can lead to a sizable increase in your retirement income.

If you already contribute to a 401(k) through your employer, consider upping those contributions and ensure you are maximizing them. Always make sure you are contributing enough to take advantage of your employer's 401(k) match if you are offered one.

If you want to open another account, consider contributing to a tax-free account like a Roth IRA.

Clean up your spending plan.

Having a realistic and balanced spending plan is the foundation for building long-term financial success. It's important to know exactly how much money is coming in and going out each month. Look at all of your expenses, including groceries, cell phone payments, utility bills and entertainment.

While you are looking at what you spend, you should also remember what your financial goals are. Are you on track to save enough money for a down payment to buy your first home? Are you putting away enough for retirement?



CONTINUED ON P.7

CONTINUED

If not, you may have to change your spending habits to allocate more money to your savings. Just like you go through your closet and decide which clothes to keep and which ones to get rid of, you can do the same with your spending.

If your expenses outweigh your income, you're going to have to decide where you can cut back or get rid of an expense entirely. Write everything down so you don't forget it. Document your budget on a simple worksheet or keep track of it online.

Declutter your documents.

Do you keep all of your important documents in a safe place? Are they organized? If not, spring is a great time to declutter and create a system to make them easily accessible.

You don't need to keep every financial record forever.

The IRS recommends you keep tax returns and important documents for seven years after you file, to be safe. Any pay stubs need to be kept for only one year. Both bank and credit card statements should be kept for at least three years, especially if they include any tax-related expenses.

If you are still getting all of these documents as paper statements, consider changing to paperless notifications. This could include credit cards, loans and even bills. Going paperless can help you reduce the clutter in your home. Getting statements digitally also makes it easier to keep track of your finances.

Remember, when you get rid of any of these documents, you should not simply throw them away. All of these documents include important information like account numbers, birth dates or Social Security numbers, so they should be shredded. You don't want to risk anyone else getting their hands on your sensitive information.

If you're getting ready to spring clean your finances and don't know where to start, a financial adviser can help with that. We plan strategy appointments with all of our clients to ensure their financial plans are in a good place for the rest of the year.



Social Security Offices Implement Appointment Only System



The Social Security Administration (SSA) has unveiled a pivotal change set to take effect in January 2025, requiring individuals to schedule appointments for in-person assistance. This move is designed to enhance service efficiency and reduce wait times, a response to persistent user feedback. The SSA's decision reflects a broader trend among government agencies to modernize and optimize service delivery, leveraging technology to meet the evolving needs of the public.

According to a statement released on X, formerly known as Twitter, the SSA emphasized that the appointment system will help minimize wait times and improve service quality.

“By scheduling appointments, we can reduce wait times and provide better service,” the agency stated. This announcement has sparked a range of reactions from the public, with many expressing concerns about the current delays in telephone response times.

The introduction of an appointment-only system is expected to address these concerns by streamlining the process and ensuring that resources are allocated more effectively. While some users have voiced skepticism, the SSA is confident that this change will lead to a more efficient and user-friendly experience. The agency is committed to continuously improving its services based on user feedback and technological advancements.

For those seeking assistance from the SSA, the most straightforward method is to visit their official website at www.ssa.gov. The site offers a wealth of information and services designed to facilitate various transactions and inquiries. This online platform is part of the SSA's ongoing efforts to provide accessible and convenient service options to the public.

In cases where online access is not feasible, individuals can contact the national customer service line at 1-800-772-1213. Additionally, local Social Security offices remain available for those who prefer or require in-person assistance, albeit now through scheduled appointments. This dual approach aims to cater to diverse user needs while maintaining service efficiency.

The SSA's decision to implement an appointment-only system is part of a larger strategy to modernize its operations and improve customer satisfaction. By addressing long-standing issues such as wait times and service delays, the agency hopes to build a more responsive and effective service framework. This change underscores the importance of adapting to user needs and leveraging technology to enhance public service delivery.

Buying Prescription Glasses Online Saves You a Ton of Money

Eyesight differs from person to person due to several factors, including aging, genetics, and lifestyle choices. Human-led technology has aimed to remove the hurdles accompanying varying vision impairment levels for decades. From contact lenses to prescription sunglasses to LASIK (laser-assisted in situ keratomileusis) and IOLs (intraocular lens implants), there are many ways to fix poor vision and find prescription glasses online based on budget and severity.

Despite these innovations allowing people to remedy their poor eyesight, some can be expensive. Furthermore, finding a suitable solution for individuals with unique vision issues may occasionally be cumbersome. This predicament brings forth the sudden surge of online shopping for eyewear. In recent years, many consumers have liked searching for and purchasing prescription glasses online rather than in person.

While brick-and-mortar stores may remain, they are losing favor among crowds, prioritizing affordability, convenience, and style variety. Subsequently, this growing trend of online shopping has completely transformed the eyewear industry.

The Benefits of Buying Prescription Glasses Online

Buying prescription glasses or sunglasses in person is a tedious task, but many can fix it by seeking online options. Moreover, the internet is a vast space with countless shops to pick from, each boasting different offerings and items. These web-bound services provide potential customers with several benefits. Among the most helpful advantages are:

Affordability

Eyewear is often more budget-friendly online because internet-based retailers don't have to take on the responsibility of maintaining a brick-and-mortar store. With substantially lower overhead, online sellers can also omit expenses regarding staff salaries, storage, utilities, and rent.



This convenience allows retailers to sell eyewear at lower prices while extending a wider range of price points and running discounts and promotions. Online retailers also purchase lenses and frames in large quantities. All the more, many internet eyewear brands sell products directly to consumers, mitigating middleman costs.

Convenience

The internet allows customers to shop from the comfort of their homes, eliminating in-store visits. Additionally, online eyewear retailers may offer virtual try-on options, letting consumers envision how the glasses would look without needing to try them on. In addition to the supplemental convenience of purchasing the glasses online, customers can consider home delivery options to receive the eyewear without leaving the house. This added accessibility layer is especially beneficial to those with disabilities, making it challenging to shop in person.

Effortless Comparison

Looking for prescription glasses online makes comparing components like style and price easier with a few clicks. Conversely, shopping for eyewear in-store may require several visits to various locations to determine costs. When customers search online, they can sit in one place as they determine the best price for their specific eyewear necessities and preferences.

CONTINUED ON P.10

CONTINUED**Reviews**

Shopping online also allows consumers to examine customer reviews regarding a pair of glasses they may have had their eye on. Everyone likes to see those four-and-a-half and five-star reviews! When shopping in a physical store, confirming whether a specific set of eyewear is satisfactory may be challenging without customer feedback on display. Reading reviews online from other buyers can help consumers make informed decisions before they finalize their purchase—and many reviewers even model their purchases.

Wider Selection

Online eyewear retailers can purchase products in bulk, widening the range of offerings for customers. As a result, shopping for prescription glasses online gives searchers access to hundreds or even thousands of brands, colors, frames, and lenses to choose from. Buy online because it provides a broader selection, and you can add some funky-looking specs to your collection. You can find great professional choices, blue-light glasses, sunglasses, and the pair you want just for fun! Brick-and-mortar stores can only carry so many items in such a limited physical space.

While these benefits are promising, some key considerations exist when buying prescription glasses online. Occasionally, getting the perfect fit without professional assistance and a physical try-on could be complicated. Customers with a particularly strong or intricate prescription may need to purchase their glasses in person, as some online eyewear retailers don't offer highly specialized lenses.

Shopping for glasses online could also result in unmet expectations. Some customers may have trouble determining how the glasses look and feel until they arrive, but many online shops have virtual try-ons. Occasionally an online financial transactions may not be as secure, so check out a recommended, secure site. When making an online purchase, the checkout section will access the buyer's sensitive information linked to their selected payment method. Physical stores can take cash or cards, and in-person and some card readers don't retain the customer's personal information attached to the card.

The most reputable online retailers will offer warranties and return policies. Buyers should check the website's displayed return policy to ensure they can get their money back if the glasses don't meet expectations. Online shoppers should consider these pros and cons before making final purchasing decisions.

Smart Shopping Tips for Maximum Savings on Your Eyewear

When picking your perfect prescription glasses, you must look for coupons, discounts, and seasonal sales across online retailers. Each seller offers varying deals, and with extensive research, one bargain may appeal more to one website than another.

It could also be beneficial to check for insurance coverage or find out if it's possible to use a flexible spending account (FSA) to make your eyewear purchase. Some online retailers have FSA eligibility offerings for those with standard prescription requirements. You can also use an FSA for eye examinations, eyedrops, eyeglass cases, eyewear repair kits, prescription contact lenses, over-the-counter or prescription reading glasses, prescription sunglasses, and cleaning supplies for contacts or glasses.

Why Shopping for Prescription Glasses Online is a Smart Decision

Buying prescription glasses online empowers purchasers with accessibility, affordability, convenience, and much more. Online retailers can offer a wider selection of frames and lenses in varying styles and colors based on each customer's prescription needs and aesthetic preferences.

Suppose you're thinking about buying your next pair of prescription glasses online. In that case, there are countless options to explore that maximize your comfort, appeal to your individualistic style, and allow you to increase your savings. Start shopping to find the perfect pair of glasses at an unbeatable price today.



Common Medications Linked to Fast-tracking Dementia



Every medication, regardless of its intended use, comes with some risks. Unfortunately, they aren't always apparent right away. In some cases, doctors only learn about the risks of some medications after patients have already been using them for some time.

Benzodiazepines and anticholinergic drugs are common classes of medications. Doctors already knew that some of their side effects were memory and confusion, but research suggests it can be much worse. Over the last five years, studies have shown that many of these medications are linked to Dementia.

What Are Anticholinergic Drugs?

Anticholinergic drugs work by blocking the action of a neurotransmitter called acetylcholine. Acetylcholine is responsible for transferring signals between certain cells that affect specific bodily functions.

Blocking acetylcholine prevents involuntary muscle movements in the lungs, gastrointestinal tract, urinary tract, and other areas of the body.

Anticholinergic drugs can be used to treat the following:

- COPD
- overactive bladder and incontinence
- gastrointestinal disorders, such as diarrhea
- poisoning due to some insecticides and poisonous mushrooms
- symptoms of Parkinson's disease, such as abnormal involuntary muscle movement
- asthma
- dizziness
- motion sickness

Occasionally, doctors may prescribe anticholinergics as muscle relaxants, and they can be useful to help patients relax during surgery as well.

Types

There are more than twenty different types of anticholinergic drugs that doctors prescribe for various purposes. They are:

- atropine (Atropen)
- belladonna alkaloids
- benztropine mesylate (Cogentin)
- clidinium
- cyclopentolate (Cyclogyl)
- darifenacin (Enablex)
- dicylomine
- fesoterodine (Toviaz)
- flavoxate (Urispas)
- glycopyrrolate
- homatropine hydrobromide
- hyoscyamine (Levsinex)
- ipratropium (Atrovent)
- orphenadrine
- oxybutynin (Ditropan XL)
- propantheline (Pro-banthine)
- scopolamine
- methscopolamine
- solifenacin (VESIcare)
- tiotropium (Spiriva)
- tolterodine (Detrol)
- trihexyphenidyl
- trospium

Diphenhydramine (more commonly known as the allergy medication Benadryl) also has anticholinergic effects.

What are Benzodiazepines?

Benzodiazepines are also known as tranquilizers. They are used for their sedating effects, to treat conditions like anxiety, insomnia, seizure control, and muscle relaxation. They are some of the most commonly prescribed medications in the United States.

CONTINUED**Types**

There are various types of benzodiazepines. As of 2018, the following are approved in the United States according to RxList.com:

- alprazolam (Xanax)
- clordiazepoxide (Librium)
- clonazepam (Klonopin)
- clorazepate (Tranxene)
- diazepam (Valium)
- estazolam (Prosom)
- flurazepam (Dalmane)
- lorazepam (Ativan)
- midazolam (Versed)
- oxazepam (Serax)
- temazepam (Restoril)
- triazolam (Halcion)
- quazepam (Doral)

Medications Linked to Dementia

As the population ages, understanding how medications might contribute to cognitive decline is essential for both healthcare providers and individuals managing their health. This article will explore the latest research findings on medications linked to dementia, examining how different types of drugs may impact brain health and cognitive function. By shedding light on these connections, we aim to inform and guide better decision-making for patients and clinicians alike.

Anticholinergics

Over the past five years, a number of studies have linked some anticholinergic drugs to an increased risk for dementia. First, a 2015 study from the University of Washington determined that patients who chronically used certain anticholinergic drugs were more likely to develop dementia. The researchers looked at the most commonly used anticholinergic drug classes, including antidepressants, first-generation antihistamines, and bladder antimuscarinics.

The study involved 3 434 patients aged 65 and older, none of whom had dementia before it started. The researchers followed up with the participants after an average of 7.3 years. During that time, 797 (23 percent) of those participants developed dementia, and 637 of them developed Alzheimer's. The following year in 2016, Indiana University School of Medicine Researchers used brain imaging to detect how these drugs impact the brain. This was the first study to investigate the association between anticholinergic drugs and biomarkers of brain metabolism and atrophy.

At the end of the study, the 52 participants who were taking at least one anticholinergic drug showed lower scores on memory and cognition tests than those who were not. The researchers also noted changes in the physical structure of the participants' brains. These changes included reduced total cortical volume and reduced temporal lobe thickness. Changes such as these affect memory and cognitive function.

Benzodiazepines

Anticholinergic medications aren't the only ones linked to Dementia. Researchers have found that another class of drugs, called benzodiazepines, also has links to dementia and Alzheimer's. In one study, a team of researchers identified nearly two thousand men and women over the age of 66 with an Alzheimer's diagnosis. They then selected seven thousand others without Alzheimer's who matched the age and gender of those with the disease.

The researchers looked at the drug prescriptions during the five or six years before the participants were diagnosed with Alzheimer's. They found that people who had taken a benzodiazepine drug for three months or less had the same dementia risk as those who had not taken any at all. However, those who took benzodiazepines for three to six months had a 32 percent greater risk for Alzheimer's. Individuals who had taken a benzodiazepine for six months or more had an 84 percent greater risk.

Consult with your doctor to discuss possible alternatives, both medicinal and non-pharmaceutical.

Welcome one of our credit union partners!

As a nonprofit consumer education organization, ACC has developed partnerships with credit unions across the country. These partnerships allow ACC members eligibility with our credit unions. If approved, our members gain access to a member-owned financial institution, with products and services designed to make banking more affordable, simple and convenient, and to offer additional resources that can help our members identify and achieve their financial dreams.

ENT Credit Union
[2336 N. Wahsatch Ave.,](#)
[Colorado Springs, CO 80907](#)

+++

A passion for people.

It's true: Thanks to our members, we've grown to become Colorado's largest credit union.

Commitment to service

Our mission comes from a foundation based in service. Established in 1957 to serve the former Ent Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Ent has since expanded to 21 counties along the Front Range. We're now more than 500,000 members strong with 50+ service centers and more opening soon.

Giving back

The service we provide to Colorado extends beyond our owner-members to the communities where we live, work and play. Every year, we donate money and time to help improve our communities and the lives of the people who live there.

Our members

With Ent, you're not a customer. You're an owner-member. Our goal is to build long-lasting relationships to improve your financial well-being. We deliver value to our owner-members by offering higher dividends on savings, decreased rates on loans and lower to no fees for services.

Honored to be awarded

Every day we strive to provide our members with extraordinary service while creating a work environment that puts employees first. Those efforts are frequently recognized and honored by organizations and media outlets in Colorado and beyond.



Committed to creating financial health

Since 1957, Ent has improved the financial lives of our owner-members with education, better rates, lower fees and access to the highest quality financial products.

From humble beginnings to 500,000 members strong!

As a not-for-profit, community-chartered credit union, membership is open to businesses and individuals who live, work, worship or attend school in multiple counties across Colorado.

Maintaining our military roots

Membership is also open to civilian and military personnel of the Colorado Air National Guard, Colorado Army National Guard and those associated with Buckley Space Force Base in Aurora, Colorado.

For more information, visit our website at www.arfcu.org or call us toll-free at 800-525-9623.



Welcome one of our credit union partners!

As a nonprofit consumer education organization, ACC has developed partnerships with credit unions across the country. These partnerships allow ACC members eligibility with our credit unions. If approved, our members gain access to a member-owned financial institution, with products and services designed to make banking more affordable, simple and convenient, and to offer additional resources that can help our members identify and achieve their financial dreams.

Logix Federal Credit Union

[100 N 1st St.,](#)

[Burbank, CA 91502](#)

+++

Welcome to smarter banking

About us?

Well, more than 96% of our members say they would recommend us to their friends and 65% of our new business is referred. We offer financial services like a bank, but we're not-for-profit so we don't act like one.

Maybe that's all you need to know about us. Then again, you wouldn't have clicked here if you weren't the curious type. We like that about you.

We have a proud history

Logix was founded as the Lockheed Aircraft Employees Federal Credit Union in 1937. These historic ties will always be part of our legacy, and a great source of pride.

Our owners might surprise you

Logix is banking with a twist: "customers" become members and part-owners when they open an account here. Our profits are returned to them in the form of better rates, lower fees, improved services, and increased reserves to maintain our unmatched financial strength.

People love us

Not sure about us yet? That's understandable - after all, we just met. But instead of telling you why we're great, just let our members do the talking. We have 4 and 5 star ratings wherever you look across nearly 15,000 online reviews.

We care about our communities

Logix believes in supporting the **communities we serve!** Employees and members alike participate in opportunities to make a difference. **Logix Community Stars Foundation** supports local charities through donations and volunteerism.



Lockheed Legacy

Logix was founded as the Lockheed Aircraft Employees Federal Credit Union in 1937, during the height of the Great Depression. Twelve charter members started the credit union, which was originally located on the grounds of Lockheed's Burbank facilities. The efforts of those founding members allowed Lockheed employees access to credit when bank loans were unavailable and provided a secure place for savers to deposit their money, with the greater benefit of helping fellow Lockheed employees.

This cooperative banking structure remains the core of our organization today.

During the 1940s, shortly after the credit union was founded, the war effort demanded much of the company. Lockheed Aircraft employees rose to the challenge and became renowned for innovation and hard work. These values, too, remain with the Credit Union to this day.

As Lockheed Aircraft grew, it was forced to reevaluate facilities and programs and ultimately merged and changed its name to the Lockheed Martin we know today. While we, too, have changed our name to one that more accurately reflects our ability to serve the general public, we will never change the way we do business, the value we place on service, or the respect we have for the thousands of Lockheed Corporation and Lockheed Martin employees who have helped us thrive since 1937.

For more information, visit our website at www.logixbanking.com or call us toll-free at (800) 328-5328.

ACC Wrap Up

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CONSUMER COUNCIL



Green C Certification

If your company or organization would like to increase its credibility with consumers, you should consider applying for ACC's **"Green C" Certification**.

Applications for the Spring cycle are being accepted through May 1, 2025.

It's a proven fact that consumers prefer to do business with eco-friendly companies, implement green initiatives and that practice Corporate Social Responsibility. The process is straight-forward, and all applicants are recognized by the ACC and the Green USA Institute.

All applicants should review the criteria, then complete and submit their applications to ACC's Green Consumer Council for review, assessment and feedback. Program details and the Green C Certification criteria can be viewed online at www.AmericanConsumerCouncil.org/education.

For more information, call 1-800-544-0414 or visit ACC's website.

Friend of the Consumer

Is your business consumer-friendly?

Does your business deserve greater recognition for its service to consumers?

If so, you should apply for the American Consumer Council's Friend of the Consumer Award.



Each year, ACC awards numerous "Friend of the Consumer" awards to deserving manufacturers, retailers, and other businesses that produce or sell products in the United States, and which meet or exceed federally mandated standards, and have "demonstrated a commitment to American consumers by providing products or services that foster consumer confidence and market acceptance."

To apply, complete the online application at: www.americanconsumercouncil.org/awards.asp and return it to ACC with the application fee.

Applicants will be notified within five days of receipt of their application. Thereafter, a panel of independent judges will review your application and make a formal recommendation within 20 days of your submission.



Financial Education

ACC is pleased to have a partnership with Nicole Middendorf. Nicole is a money maven, a knowledge junkie, and a born coach. She is an entrepreneur who left Morgan Stanley in 2003 to run her own wealth management firm. Nicole is the author of five books, a world traveler, philanthropist, and an accomplished public speaker.

As a Wealth Advisor and Certified Divorce Financial Analyst with Prosperwell Financial, her main focus is to help people create wealth from the inside out. She is able to accomplish this through one-on-one client meetings, writing books, presenting at conferences, and appearing on TV, radio, and other media.

Nicole shares financial advice and a real-life perspective on saving, planning, and investing with audiences across the country. Her primary goal is to take complicated subjects and make them easy to understand. She works hard to empower her audience to make crucial and positive changes in their own lives. Nicole's books have received local and national press coverage, where she has become known for her thoughtful concise quotes, relaxed on-air presence, and articulate delivery.

ACC is committed to promoting and providing financial education to the public. Nicole Middendorf has collaborated with us to create a new 6-part video series that promotes financial literacy for youth. Check it out here: <https://qcashfinancial.com/are-we-failing-our-kids-in-financial-literacy/>

— — — — —
ACC
PO Box 503016
San Diego, CA 92150-3016.
Info@americanconsumercouncil.org