

# Credit and Cents

**Making More Cents Quarterly Newsletter, Q3' 2024**



# Protect Yourself from the Growing Threat of Online Fraud

Online fraud is surging, with **2.4 million** cases reported in 2023, leading to **\$8.8 billion** in losses, according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The average victim loses **\$650** — and the tactics fraudsters use are evolving fast. Here are the top current fraud trends and how you can protect yourself:

- **Phishing Scams:** Cybercriminals impersonate trusted companies through fake emails, texts, and even phone calls, tricking victims into revealing sensitive data.
  - **How to Counter:** Always verify the sender's email address, avoid clicking on suspicious links, and never share personal information unless you've confirmed the legitimacy of the request.
- **Imposter Scams:** Scammers pose as government agencies, banks, or even relatives in distress, asking for urgent payments or personal information.
  - **How to Counter:** Hang up or delete the message and contact the agency or person directly through verified channels.
- **Account Takeover Fraud:** Hackers use weak or reused passwords to break into accounts, leading to unauthorized transactions.
  - **How to Counter:** Use strong, unique passwords for each account and enable two-factor authentication (2FA). A password manager can simplify this.

- **Credit Fraud:** Fraudsters open lines of credit using stolen information, leaving victims unaware until it's too late. According to Experian, about 60% of credit card holders in 2023 experienced some attempted fraud.
  - **How to Counter:** Regularly monitor your credit reports through [annualcreditreport.com](https://annualcreditreport.com) to catch any unauthorized activity early.

By staying informed about these trends and following these protective steps, you can greatly reduce your risk of falling victim to online fraud. Stay alert, stay secure!

## Valley Direct's New 5.05% APY Offer is Generating Buzz—Savvy Savers Should Act Fast!

Valley Direct Bank's new [5.05% APY high-yield savings account](#) is causing a stir among smart savers in the country! With most banks offering rates around 4%, this **leading offer** stands out in the market. You can start earning with just a **\$5,000** opening balance. Don't miss out—the **Fed is expected to cut rates again**, meaning this offer won't last. Now is the perfect time to secure this top-tier rate and watch your savings grow. [Take advantage of this limited-time opportunity before it's gone!](#)

## Looking for a smarter way to manage your credit?

The [Upgrade credit card](#) offers a unique solution by combining the flexibility of a credit card with the structure of a personal loan.

Unlike traditional credit cards that let debt pile up with variable interest rates, the [Upgrade card](#) gives you a fixed interest rate and a clear path to pay down your balance with equal, manageable monthly payments over 24, 36, or 60 months.

Plus, you can check your credit limit without a hard inquiry, so your credit score stays safe while you explore your options. [Take control of your finances—apply today!](#)

## **Money Saving Offers recommended by Credit and Cents**

[Cancel or lower over 250 subscriptions and save: From streaming services to utility bills, let Experian handle the hassle of reducing or eliminating unwanted recurring payments.](#)

[Credit and Cents Recommends for Small Business Owners: Pay and Get Paid by ACH for Free. Amplify Cash Flow with Melio Pay!](#)

[Click here to learn about refinancing your auto loan with myautoloan.com. The average customer can save \\$1,900 on refinancing! The process is fast, free and easy.](#)

[First Premier Lending can get customers up to \\$1,000 wired to their bank account in as little as one day. All credit scores considered. Safe & Secure. Click here to learn more.](#)

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