Credit Bureau Monitor

First Quarter | March 2012

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Credit standing of consumers: March 2012





For further information on credit provision, please access the Consumer Credit Market Report on **www.ncr.org.za**

he information reflected in this edition of the Credit Bureau Monitor is for twenty* quarters, from quarter ended June 2007 to quarter ended March 2012 and is based on data held by registered credit bureaus in terms of the National Credit Act.

Summary

Credit bureaus create consumer credit profiles based on credit information received from credit providers, courts and utility service providers. The National Credit Regulator regulates and monitors registered credit bureaus and the quality of their data.

As at the end of March 2012:

- Credit bureaus had records for 19.49 million credit-active consumers, an increase of 0.8% over the 19.34 million of the previous quarter. Consumers classified in good standing increased by 33,000, to 10.44 million consumers. This reflects a percentage decrease of 0.2% quarter-on-quarter and no percentage change year-on-year in proportion to the total number of credit-active consumers in good standing.
- The number of consumers with impaired records increased by 119,000 to 9.05 million, from 8.93 million in the previous quarter.
- The number of accounts decreased from 67.53 million in the previous quarter to 67.51 million. The number of impaired accounts increased by 27,000 to 16.94 million, from 16.91 million in the previous quarter.
- A total of 310.42 million enquiries were made on consumer credit records, an increase
 of 8.6% quarter-on-quarter and 55.8% year-on-year. Enquiries initiated by consumers
 accounted for 13.39 million of all enquiries, a decrease of 10.0% quarter-on-quarter
 and an increase of 21.0% year-on-year.
- Of the total enquiries made on consumer records, enquiries from banks and other financial institutions accounted for 76.1%, enquiries from retailers accounted for 3.8% and enquiries from telecommunication providers accounted for 10.6%. Banks and other financial institutions' enquiries increased by 7.1% from the previous quarter, retailers decreased by 18.3% and telecommunication providers increased by 44.7%.
- The number of credit reports issued to consumers increased to 120,094. Of the total credit reports issued, 83.6% (100,446) were issued without charge, and the remaining 16.4% (19,648) were issued with charge.
- There were 10,357 disputes lodged on information held on consumer credit records for the quarter ended March 2012, which was an increase of 17.3% quarter-on-quarter and 63.6% year-on-year.

National Credit Regulator

Introduction

The information reflected in this Credit Bureau Monitor is for twenty quarters, from quarter ended June 2007 to quarter ended March 2012. (*See note on the last page)

Comparisons in this report: "quarter-on-quarter" refers to a comparison between the March 2012 and December 2011 quarters, and "year-on-year" refers to a comparison between the March 2012 and March 2011 quarters.

Credit-active consumers

There were 19.49 million credit-active consumers as at the end of March 2012

Credit bureaus held records for more than 42.05 million individuals on their databases, of which 19.49 million (46.3%) were credit-active, as at the end of March 2012. This was an increase of 152,000 consumers quarter-on-quarter and 895,000 consumers year-on-year. The remaining records contained only identification information and no credit activity.

The number of consumers in good standing increased for the quarter

Consumers classified in good standing increased by 33,000 to 10.44 million consumers. This reflects a 0.2% decrease quarter-on-quarter and no percentage change year-on-year in proportion to the total number of credit-active consumers. Of the total 19.49 million credit-active consumers, 53.6% were in good standing.

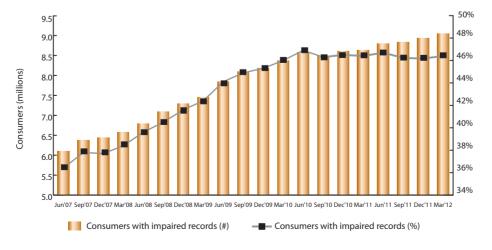
The number of consumers with impaired records (the inverse of those in good standing) increased by 119,000 to 9.05 million. The percentage of credit-active consumers with impaired records increased to 46.4%, comprising of 19.9% of consumers in three months or more in arrears, 12.3% of consumers with adverse listings, and 14.2% of consumers with judgments and administration orders.

A detailed breakdown of the nature of impairments is provided in Table 1 and Figure 1.

Table 1: Credit standing of consumers

	Jun 09	Sep 09	Dec 09	Mar 10	Jun 10	Sep 10	Dec 10	Mar 11	Jun 11	Sep 11	Dec 11	Mar 12
Good standing (#)	9.94m	9.92m	9.89m	9.84m	9.73m	9.86m	9.90m	9.97m	10.04m	10.27m	10.41m	10.44m
Good standing (%)	55.9%	55.1%	54.7%	54.0%	53.1%	53.7%	53.5%	53.6%	53.3%	53.8%	53.8%	53.6%
Current (%)	41.7%	41.2%	40.5%	39.5%	39.2%	39.9%	39.2%	39.1%	39.1%	39.6%	39.1%	38.6%
1-2 months in arrears (%)	14.2%	13.9%	14.2%	14.5%	13.9%	13.8%	14.3%	14.5%	14.2%	14.2%	14.7%	15.0%
Impaired records (#)	7.85m	8.09m	8.18m	8.37m	8.59m	8.49m	8.61m	8.63m	8.80m	8.83m	8.93m	9.05m
Impaired records (%)	44.1%	44.9%	45.3%	46.0%	46.9%	46.3%	46.5%	46.4%	46.7%	46.2%	46.2%	46.4%
3+ months in arrears (%)	16.8%	17.0%	17.3%	17.2%	17.3%	17.0%	17.8%	17.7%	18.5%	18.7%	19.0%	19.9%
Adverse listings (%)	14.2%	14.7%	14.6%	15.0%	15.6%	15.4%	14.6%	14.4%	13.9%	13.2%	12.9%	12.3%
Judgments and administration orders (%)	13.1%	13.3%	13.3%	13.7%	13.9%	13.9%	14.1%	14.3%	14.3%	14.3%	14.3%	14.2%
Credit-active consumers (#)	17.79m	18.01m	18.07m	18.21m	18.32m	18.35m	18.51m	18.60m	18.84m	19.10m	19.34m	19.49m

Figure 1: Consumers with impaired records



Consumer accounts

There were 67.51 million accounts on record at the bureaus as at the end of March 2012

At the end of the reporting quarter there were 67.51 million accounts recorded at registered credit bureaus. This was a decrease of 21,000 quarter-on-quarter and an increase of 4.46 million year-on-year.

The number of accounts in good standing decreased this guarter

Of the 67.51 million accounts, 50.57 million (74.9%) were classified as in good standing, a negative variance of 0.1% quarter-on-quarter and a positive variance of 0.7% year-on-year.

As at the end of March 2012:

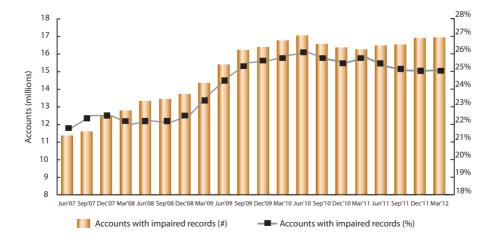
- 65.6% of accounts were classified as current (decreased quarter-on-quarter by 0.4% and increased by 0.5% year-on-year).
- 9.3% had missed one or two instalments (increased guarter-on-quarter by 0.4% and year-on-year by 0.2%).
- 18.1% had missed three or more instalments (increased guarter-on-guarter by 0.6% and year-on-year by 1.2%).
- 3.7% had adverse listings (decreased quarter-on-quarter by 0.4% and year-on-year by 1.2%).
- 3.3% had judgments or administration orders (decreased quarter-on-quarter by 0.2% and year-on-year by 0.7%).

See Table 2 and Figures 2 and 3 for detailed breakdown.

Table 2: Credit standing of accounts

	Jun 09	Sep 09	Dec 09	Mar 10	Jun 10	Sep 10	Dec 10	Mar 11	Jun 11	Sep 11	Dec 11	Mar 12
Good standing (#)	46.87m	47.33m	47.56m	47.99m	48.22m	47.85m	47.91m	46.80m	48.53m	49.48m	50.62m	50.57m
Good standing (%)	75.3%	74.5%	74.4%	74.1%	73.9%	74.3%	74.5%	74.2%	74.7%	74.9%	75.0%	74.9%
Current (%)	66.2%	65.6%	65.6%	65.1%	65.4%	65.9%	65.9%	65.1%	65.4%	66.3%	66.0%	65.6%
1-2 months in arrears (%)	9.1%	8.9%	8.8%	9.0%	8.5%	8.4%	8.6%	9.1%	9.3%	8.7%	8.9%	9.3%
Impaired records (#)	15.41m	16.21m	16.38m	16.76m	17.06m	16.55m	16.36m	16.26m	16.47m	16.54m	16.91m	16.94m
Impaired records (%)	24.7%	25.5%	25.6%	25.9%	26.1%	25.7%	25.5%	25.8%	25.3%	25.1%	25.0%	25.1%
3+ months in arrears (%)	14.6%	15.1%	15.9%	15.7%	16.2%	16.3%	16.5%	16.9%	17.1%	17.3%	17.5%	18.1%
Adverse listings (%)	5.9%	6.1%	5.7%	6.1%	5.9%	5.4%	5.0%	4.9%	4.4%	4.0%	4.1%	3.7%
Judgments and administration orders (%)	4.3%	4.2%	4.0%	4.1%	4.1%	4.0%	3.9%	4.0%	3.8%	3.7%	3.5%	3.3%
Consumer accounts (#)	62.29m	63.54m	63.94m	64.75m	65.28m	64.40m	64.28m	63.05m	65.00m	66.03m	67.53m	67.51m

Figure 2: Accounts with impaired records



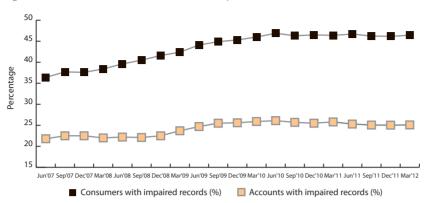


Figure 3: Consumers and accounts with impaired records

Credit market activity

Enquiries made on consumer records increased for the quarter

In the quarter ended March 2012, 310.42 million enquiries were made. This was an increase of 8.6% quarter-on-quarter and 55.8% year-on-year. Enquiries done in bulk by banks and other financial institutions formed the largest portion of all enquiries.

- 13.39 million enquiries were made due to consumers seeking credit (decreased by 10.0% quarter-on-quarter and increased by 21.0% year-on-year).
- 0.81 million enquiries were related to telecommunication services (decreased by 20.7% quarter-on-quarter and 3.9% year-on-year).
- 18.46 million enquiries were made for tracing/debt collection purposes (decreased by 11.4% quarter-on-quarter and 8.2% year-on-year).
- 277.75 million enquiries were made for other purposes excluding those purposes mentioned above, e.g. account management and contact information update (increased by 11.5% quarter-on-quarter and 66.1% year-on-year).

Refer to Table 3 and Figures 4 and 5 for detailed breakdown.

Table 3: Enquiries

		Nu	mber of e	nquiries	(millions)							Percenta	ge change			
Enquiry purpose:	Mar 10	Jun 10	Sep 10	Dec 10	Mar 11	Jun 11	Sep 11	Dec 11	Mar 12	Mar 10 to Jun 10	Jun 10 to Sep 10	Sep 10 to Dec 10	Dec 10 to Mar 11	Mar 11 to Jun 11	Jun 11 to Sep 11	Sep 11 to Dec 11	Dec 11 to Mar 12
Consumers seeking credit	9.85	10.28	10.65	11.68	11.07	12.18	13.36	14.88	13.39	4.4%	3.7%	9.6%	-5.2%	10.0%	9.6%	11.4%	-10.0%
Telecommunication services	0.74	0.70	0.84	1.37	0.84	0.84	0.99	1.02	0.81	-6.2%	19.9%	63.9%	-38.7%	0.3%	17.3%	2.9%	-20.7%
Tracing/debt collection purposes	18.57	21.47	20.72	22.68	20.12	19.62	20.34	20.84	18.46	15.6%	-3.5%	9.5%	-11.3%	-2.5%	3.7%	2.5%	-11.4%
Other	95.68	102.89	157.63	140.92	167.24	217.06	223.64	249.21	277.75	7.5%	53.2%	-10.6%	18.7%	29.8%	3.0%	11.4%	11.5%
Total	124.84	135.34	189.84	176.65	199.26	249.70	258.33	285.95	310.42	8.4%	40.3%	-6.9%	12.8%	25.3%	3.5%	10.7%	8.6%

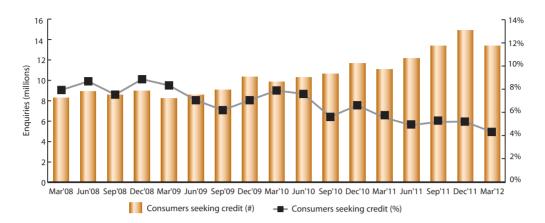
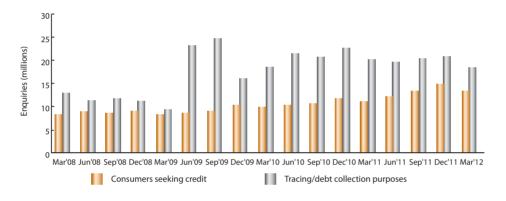


Figure 4: Enquiries due to consumers seeking credit

Figure 5: Enquiries due to consumers seeking credit and enquiries for tracing/debt collection purposes



Enquiry sectoral analysis

In the quarter ended March 2012, 236.31 million enquiries were made by banks and other financial institutions, an increase of 7.1% quarter-on-quarter and 81.5% year-on-year. Retailers made 11.89 million enquiries on consumer records, which was a decrease of 18.3% quarter-on-quarter and 38.2% year-on-year. Enquiries made by telecommunication providers increased by 44.7% quarter-on-quarter and 26.1% year-on-year, to 32.83 million in March 2012 quarter. Enquiries made by debt collection agencies decreased by 30.1% quarter-on-quarter and increased by 12.5% year-on-year, to 7.66 million in March 2012 quarter. Enquiries made by all other entities showed a quarter-on-quarter increase of 27.2% and 28.1% year-on-year, to 21.73 million.

Refer to Tables 4 to 7 and Figure 6 for a detailed breakdown.

Table 4: All enquiries – distribution according to sectors

		Nu	ımber of e	enquiries	(millions)						ı	Percenta	ge change	•		
Enquiries by:	Mar 10	Jun 10	Sept 10	Dec 10	Mar 11	Jun 11	Sep 11	Dec 11	Mar 12	Mar 10 to Jun 10	Jun 10 to Sep 10	Sep 10 to Dec 10	Dec 10 to Mar 11	Mar 11 to Jun 11	Jun 11 to Sep 11	Sep 11 to Dec 11	Dec 11 to Mar 12
Banks and other financial institutions	53.04	52.37	76.34	95.69	130.22	169.64	192.51	220.68	236.31	-1.3%	45.8%	25.3%	36.1%	30.3%	13.5%	14.6%	7.1%
Retailers	18.67	22.37	57.89	26.25	19.23	19.65	13.42	14.55	11.89	19.8%	158.8%	-54.7%	-26.7%	2.2%	-31.7%	8.4%	-18.3%
Telecommunication providers	25.75	31.48	27.36	26.18	26.04	38.28	24.02	22.69	32.83	22.2%	-13.1%	-4.3%	-0.5%	47.0%	-37.3%	-5.5%	44.7%
Debt collection agencies	12.57	16.97	12.26	12.36	6.81	7.06	10.21	10.95	7.66	34.9%	-27.7%	0.8%	-44.9%	3.7%	44.6%	7.3%	-30.1%
All other entities	14.81	12.16	16.00	16.17	16.96	15.07	18.17	17.08	21.73	-17.9%	31.5%	1.1%	4.9%	-11.2%	20.6%	-6.0%	27.2%
Total	124.84	135.34	189.84	176.65	199.26	249.70	258.33	285.95	310.42	8.4%	40.3%	-6.9%	12.8%	25.3%	3.5%	10.7%	8.6%

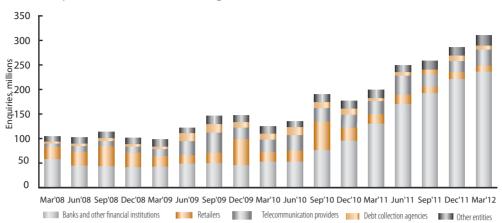


Figure 6: All enquiries – distribution according to sectors

Table 5: Enquiries by banks and other financial institutions

		Nu	mber of e	nquiries	(millions)								Percenta	ge change	2		
Enquiry purpose:	Mar 10	Jun 10	Sep 10	Dec 10	Mar 11	Jun 11	Sep 11	Dec 11	Mar 12	Mar 10 to Jun 10	Jun 10 to Sep 10	Sep 10 to Dec 10	Dec 10 to Mar 11	Mar11 to Jun 11	Jun 11 to Sep 11	Sep 11 to Dec 11	Dec 11 to Mar 12
Consumers seeking credit	8.29	8.46	8.82	9.34	9.37	10.05	11.16	12.22	11.49	2.0%	4.3%	6.0%	0.2%	7.3%	11.0%	9.5%	-6.0%
Tracing/debt collection purposes	2.33	2.51	3.12	3.68	6.02	1.32	3.47	5.13	7.18	7.9%	24.1%	18.0%	63.4%	-78.1%	163.0%	47.8%	40.0%
Other purposes	42.41	41.40	64.4	82.66	114.84	158.27	177.88	203.33	217.64	-2.4%	55.6%	28.4%	38.9%	37.8%	12.4%	14.3%	7.0%
Banks and other financial institutions	53.04	52.37	76.34	95.69	130.22	169.64	192.51	220.68	236.31	-1.3%	45.8%	25.3%	36.1%	30.3%	13.5%	14.6%	7.1%

Table 6: Enquiries by retailers

		Nu	mber of e	nquiries	(millions)								Percentag	ge change)		
Enquiry purpose:	Mar 10	Jun 10	Sep 10	Dec 10	Mar 11	Jun 11	Sep 11	Dec 11	Mar 12	Mar10 to Jun 10	Jun 10 to Sep 10	Sep 10 to Dec 10	Dec 10 to Mar 11	Mar11 to Jun11	Jun 11 to Sep11	Sep 11 to Dec 11	Dec 11 to Mar 12
Consumers seeking credit	1.55	1.82	1.84	2.33	1.70	2.13	2.20	2.66	1.91	17.1%	0.9%	27.1%	-27.1%	25.3%	3.1%	21.1%	-28.4%
Tracing/debt collection purposes	0.57	0.53	0.59	0.63	0.49	0.41	0.53	0.61	0.54	-6.7%	10.9%	7.2%	-22.0%	-17.2%	28.7%	15.4%	-11.1%
Other purposes	16.54	20.02	55.47	23.29	17.04	17.12	10.70	11.28	9.45	21.0%	177.1%	-58.0%	-26.8%	0.4%	-37.5%	5.4%	-16.3%
Retailers	18.67	22.37	57.89	26.25	19.23	19.65	13.42	14.55	11.89	19.8%	158.8%	-54.7%	-26.7%	2.2%	-31.7%	8.4%	-18.3%

Table 7: Enquiries by telecommunication providers

		Num	ber of en	quiries (ı	millions)								Percentag	je change	!		
Enquiry purpose:	Mar10	Jun 10	Sep 10	Dec 10	Mar11	Jun 11	Sep 11	Dec 11	Mar 12	Mar 10 to Jun 10	Jun 10 to Sep 10	Sep 10 to Dec 10	Dec 10 to Mar 11	Mar 11 to Jun 11	Jun 11 to Sep 11	Sep 11 to Dec 11	Dec 11 to Mar 12
Telecommunication services	0.74	0.70	0.84	1.37	0.84	0.84	0.99	1.02	0.81	-6.2%	19.9%	63.9%	-38.7%	0.3%	17.3%	2.9%	-20.7%
Tracing/debt collection purposes	0.24	0.41	2.42	3.85	5.20	10.25	5.48	3.65	2.42	74.6%	487.9%	59.2%	35.2%	96.9%	-46.5%	-33.4%	-33.8%
Other purposes	24.77	30.37	24.10	20.96	20.00	27.19	17.55	18.02	29.61	22.6%	-20.6%	-13.0%	-4.6%	36.0%	-35.5%	2.7%	64.3%
Telecommunication providers	25.75	31.48	27.36	26.18	26.04	38.28	24.02	22.69	32.83	22.2%	-13.1%	-4.3%	-0.5%	47.0%	-37.3%	-5.5%	44.7%

Credit bureau activity

Demand for credit reports increased for the quarter

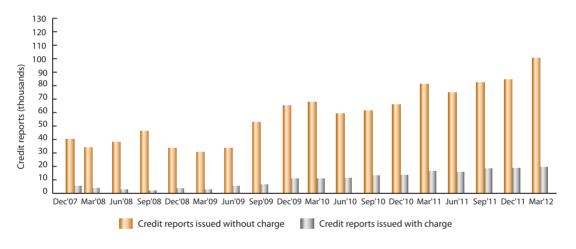
Of the total 120,094 credit reports issued to consumers at their request during the quarter ended March 2012, 83.6% (100,446) were issued without charge, and the remaining 16.4% (19,648) were issued with charge. The total number of credit reports issued increased by 16.1% quarter-on-quarter and increased by 23.1% year-on-year.

See Table 8 and Figure 7 for details.

Table 8: Credit reports issued

				Numb	er of cred	it reports	;							Perc	entage ch	ange			
Credit reports:	Dec 09	Mar 10	Jun 10	Sep 10	Dec 10	Mar 11	Jun 11	Sep 11	Dec 11	Mar 12	Dec 09 to Mar 10	Mar 09 to Jun 10	Jun 10 to Sep10	Sep 10 to Dec 10	Dec 10 to Mar11	Mar11 to Jun11	Jun 11 to Sep 11	Sep 11 to Dec 11	Dec 11 to Mar 12
Issued without charge	65,082	67,694	59,220	61,592	66,034	81,179	74,837	82,348	84,561	100,446	4.0%	-12.5%	4.0%	7.2%	22.9%	-7.8%	10.0%	2.7%	18.8%
Issued with charge	10,935	10,938	11,486	13,220	13,601	16,399	15,694	18,537	18,842	19,648	0.0%	5.0%	15.1%	2.9%	20.6%	-4.3%	18.1%	1.6%	4.3%
Total issued	76,017	78,632	70,706	74,812	79,635	97,578	90,531	100,885	103,402	120,094	3.4%	-10.1%	5.8%	6.4%	22.5%	-7.2%	11.4%	2.5%	16.1%

Figure 7: Credit reports issued



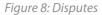
Consumer disputes

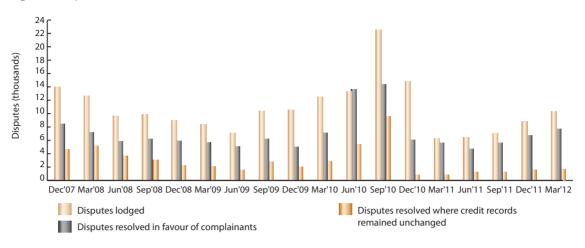
In the quarter ended March 2012, 10,357 disputes were lodged in respect of the accuracy of the information recorded on consumer credit records. This was a quarter-on-quarter increase of 17.3% and a year-on-year increase of 63.6%. More disputes were resolved in favour of complainants (7,722) as compared to disputes where credit records remained unchanged (1,646).

See Table 9 and Figure 8 for details.

Table 9: Disputes

			Nun	nber of di	sputes								Percentag	ge change			
Disputes:	Mar 10	Jun 10	Sep 10	Dec 10	Mar 11	Jun 11	Sep 11	Dec 11	Mar 12	Mar 09 to Jun 10	Jun 10 to Sep 10	Sep 10 to Dec 10	Dec 10 to Mar 11	Mar 11 to Jun11	Jun 11 to Sep11	Sep 11 to Dec 11	Dec 11 to Mar 12
Lodged	12,530	13,300	22,569	14,836	6,329	6,437	7,070	8,826	10,357	6.1%	69.7%	-34.3%	-57.3%	1.7%	9.8%	24.8%	17.3%
Resolved in favour of complainants	7,112	13,652	14,400	6,086	5,614	4,715	5,652	6,761	7,722	92.0%	5.5%	-57.7%	-7.8%	-16.0%	19.9%	19.6%	14.2%
Resolved where credit record remained unchanged	2,834	5,401	9,583	847	806	1,257	1,305	1,562	1,646	90.6%	77.4%	-91.2%	-4.8%	56.0%	3.8%	19.7%	5.4%





Definitions

Terms used in this report	Definitions
Credit-active consumers	Consumers obligated to pay credit providers and/or service providers, etc. These obligations result in transactional entries on the consumer's credit record at the credit bureaus.
Impaired record	A record on which a consumer and/or any of the accounts, are either classified as three or more payments or months in arrears, or which has an "adverse listing", or that reflects a judgment or administration order.
Good standing	An account or consumer showing as current or on which the client has not missed more than one or two instalments, which has no adverse listings and has no judgments.
Adverse listing	Accounts with adverse classifications such as 'handed over' and/or 'written-off'.
Current	A consumer or account is up-to-date with payments and has not missed any instalment over the period of the credit agreement.

Notes

- 1. Where values have been rounded off, the percentage calculations and summed totals are calculated off the unrounded values.
- 2. *Refer to the table below for omitted quarters and to the NCR website for complete tables of twenty quarters from June 2007 to March 2012.

Topic	Reporting Quarter
Consumers	March 2009
Accounts	March 2009
Enquiries	December 2009
Disputes	December 2009
Credit Reports	September 2009

