



CONSUMERS HAVE STARTED RECEIVING PAYMENTS FROM THE EQUIFAX DATA BREACH SETTLEMENT

Cash payments that were approved as part of Equifax's settlement over its 2017 data breach are now reaching consumers.

The money — which comes from a \$425 million consumer restitution fund created as part of the settlement — began going out Dec. 19, [according to Equifax](#), a credit-reporting firm.

Depending on how you chose to receive your share in the claims process, you may receive a check, payment to your Paypal account, or prepaid card via email from the settlement administrator.

More than 147 million people's data was compromised

In the wake of Equifax's 2017 data breach, which compromised the personal information of more than **147 million consumers** — including names, birthdates and Social Security numbers — the company became the target of multiple lawsuits and reached a settlement in 2019 with the Federal Trade Commission, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and all U.S. states and territories.

As a result, consumers who were affected by the breach had the option of signing up for either up to receive \$125 or free Credit Monitoring at all three of the largest credit reporting firms: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion.

While consumers who sought up to \$125 began receiving payments last week, the amount they end up getting will likely be far less. Twitter users have reported receiving small payments, with amounts ranging from \$2.64 or \$5.21 to \$21.06 and \$40.44.

Additionally, although the initial deadline to file a claim was **Jan. 22, 2020**, consumers are still permitted to file a claim for expenses incurred after that date but **before Jan. 22, 2024**, due to the data breach. That could include losses from unauthorized charges to your accounts, as well as fees paid or expenses incurred as part of recovering from identity theft.

Freezing Your Credit

Whether you filed a claim for a cash payment or free credit-monitoring, it's worth protecting your credit from criminals trying to use your personal information.



The best way is to “freeze” your credit report, and/or continuously monitor your Credit Report. Freezing your Report blocks a lender from checking your Report, which means a fraudster would be unable to open an account using your personal data.

Call us for more information on protecting your CREDIT.