

**Table 1149. Usage of General Purpose Credit Cards by Families: 1995 to 2004**

[General purpose credit cards include Mastercard, Visa, Optima, and Discover cards. Excludes cards used only for business purposes. All dollar figures are given in constant 2004 dollars based on consumer price index data as published by U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Families include one-person units; for definition of family, see text, Section 1. Based on Survey of Consumer Finances; see Appendix III. For definition of median, see Guide to Tabular Presentation]

Age of family head and family income	Percent having a general purpose credit card	Median number of cards	Median new charges on last month's bills (dol.)	Percent having a balance after last month's bills	Median balance (dol.) <sup>1</sup>	Percent of cardholding families who—		
						Almost always pay off the balance	Sometimes pay off the balance	Hardly ever pay off the balance
1995, total . . . . .	66.5	2	200	56.0	1,800	52.4	20.1	27.5
1998, total . . . . .	67.5	2	200	54.7	2,200	53.8	19.3	26.9
2001, total . . . . .	72.7	2	200	53.7	1,900	55.3	19.1	25.6
<b>2004, total . . . . .</b>	<b>71.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>56.2</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>55.7</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>24.0</b>
Under 35 years old . . . . .	60.6	2	200	66.1	1,500	49.0	20.4	30.6
35 to 44 years old . . . . .	73.3	2	300	70.8	2,400	41.6	26.2	32.2
45 to 54 years old . . . . .	77.5	2	300	61.2	3,000	49.3	23.9	26.8
55 to 64 years old . . . . .	78.2	2	400	46.1	2,500	66.8	16.8	16.5
65 to 74 years old . . . . .	75.5	2	300	37.7	2,300	70.7	13.4	15.9
75 years old and over . . . . .	65.4	2	200	32.2	1,100	77.5	12.9	9.7
Less than \$10,000 . . . . .	31.5	1	100	59.4	1,200	50.9	17.3	31.9
\$10,000 to \$24,999 . . . . .	48.6	1	100	59.7	1,200	49.9	17.0	33.1
\$25,000 to \$49,999 . . . . .	71.2	2	200	64.3	2,000	46.9	20.3	32.8
\$50,000 to \$99,999 . . . . .	88.2	2	300	56.1	2,800	56.1	22.0	21.8
\$100,000 and more . . . . .	96.6	2	1,200	42.8	3,400	71.1	20.2	8.7

<sup>1</sup> Among families having a balance.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, unpublished data.