

Unraveling Information Sharing in Consumer Credit Markets

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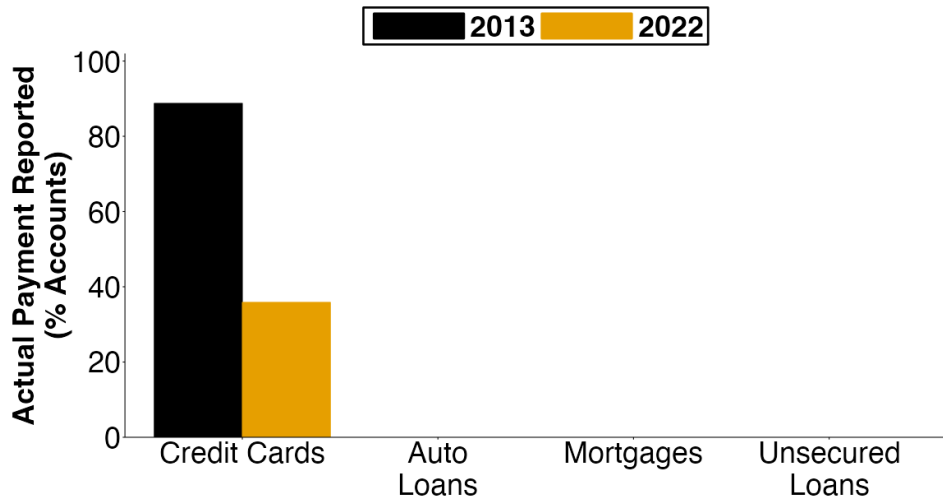
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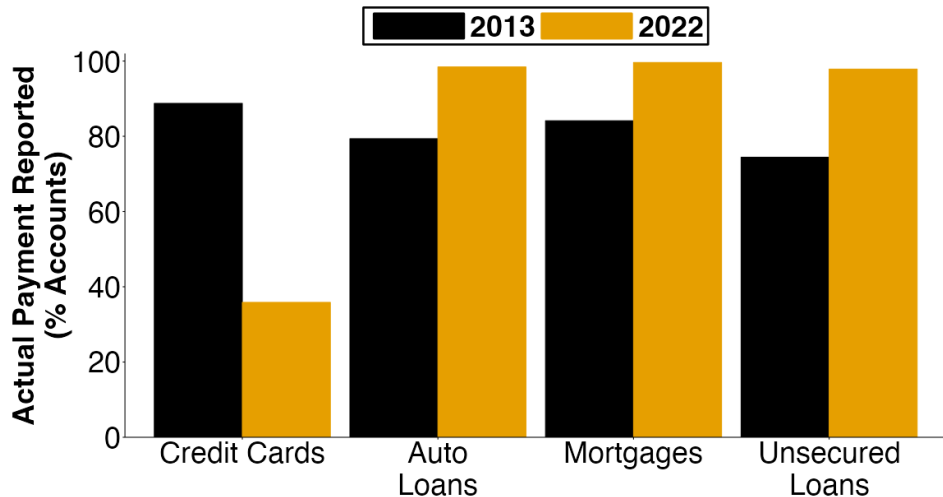
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Breakdown in information sharing

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Breakdown in information sharing in credit cards but not in other credit products



Key Contributions

1. **Empirically document fragility of information sharing in highly developed market**
 - Information sharing sensitive to innovations enabling targeting profitable customers
(e.g., Diamond, 84; Ramakrishan & Thakor, 84; Pagano & Japelli, 93; Raith, 96; Bouckaert & Degryse, 06; Bergemann & Bonatti, 19; Jones & Tonetti, 20)

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- 4. What information is missing in YOUR credit report and why missing?**

1. **Unraveling Information Sharing**
2. **Consumer Credit Profitability**
3. **Selection in Credit Card Lenders Sharing Information**
4. **Effects of Mandating Information Sharing**

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Data: TransUnion US consumer credit reports

Part 1. Unraveling Information Sharing

Describe breakdown of sharing information on actual payments in US consumer credit markets

Institutional details of innovation (“Trended Data”)

“The most important tool developed...since the credit score”

- Innovation uses history of actual payments information to reveal profitable consumers to target
- Unraveling an unintended response to innovation

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Difference-in-differences: innovation \rightarrow information sharing \downarrow

- \downarrow 65 p.p. for credit cards vs. auto loans

Framework for consumer credit profitability

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Measurement error by not observing actual payments data

- Credit card spending $R^2 = 0.51$
- Revolving credit card debt $R^2 = 0.94$

Part 2. Consumer Credit Profitability

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Predict profitability in credit cards, auto loans, & unsecured loans

- Actual payments information \rightarrow predicting lifetime profits \uparrow
 - +31% interchange net of rewards
 - +4% financing charges (interest + fees) net of charge-offs

Part 3. Selection in Credit Card Lenders Sharing Information

Higher profitability & higher spending lenders stop sharing

- Spending: +31% mean & +41% variance
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Difference-in-differences: innovation \rightarrow switching \uparrow

- Heterogeneous exposure by % card balances with lenders who share information
- More exposed \rightarrow more information revealed \rightarrow +13% new credit cards openings

Part 4. Effects of Mandating Information Sharing: Evidence from Credit Card Limits

Effects of mandating sharing information on credit card limits

- Mandate by Federal Trade Commission
- Heterogeneous exposure by institutional feature of utilization

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- ↑ 23 point credit score moving from 0 to 100% exposure
- ↑ competition with substitution from inside to outside lenders

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Thank you!

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