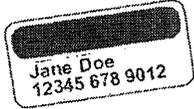




1950s

The credit card was invented in 1950.



On the April 15th income tax filing deadline, thousands of baseball fans paid to see the new Baltimore Orioles play their first home game in Memorial Stadium, helping to generate \$460,455 in admissions and amusement taxes for fiscal year 1954.

The first Chesapeake Bay Bridge was opened in July, 1952



Rush hour traffic at the corner of Hilton and Edmondson Avenues in Baltimore in 1951 became a familiar sight statewide as Maryland's post-war economy boomed with steady gains in jobs, incomes and sales. Photo courtesy of the Maryland State Archives, News American Collection, MSA SC 2117-20

Rapid growth and prosperity in the post-war years - and Maryland's 500,000 income taxpayers - prompted the comptroller to open taxpayer service offices in Bladensburg, Easton and Cumberland by 1950.

Consumer confidence and the emergence of the television as a "must-have" in every household boosted Maryland sales tax revenue from the \$28.3 million collected in fiscal year 1950 to \$56 million in fiscal year 1959. Record shops enjoyed healthy receipts, too, thanks to a new singing sensation named Elvis Presley.

The bustling economy led to significant job gains, evidenced by the 29% jump in income tax revenues from the \$28.7 million collected in fiscal year 1950 to \$99.7 million generated nine years later.

Collections and compliance both improved in 1955 when employers began automatically withholding income taxes from wage earners' paychecks.

Four years later, lawmakers boosted Maryland's sales tax rate to 3%. The comptroller's retail sales tax division moved to Baltimore, where most of the state's commercial taxpayers were located - such as the tenants of Mondawmin Mall, one of the first enclosed shopping malls built in America.