

Our Rich History

Western Union has been making our customers' lives a little better for more than 160 years.

Founded as the New-York and Mississippi Valley Printing Telegraph Company in 1851, Western Union continues to span distances with innovative technology. For more than 160 years, we have been a powerful force fueling global economic growth and innovation.

Today, we promote global economic opportunity and growth by bridging gaps in the financial services sector. Our growing product portfolio includes business solutions, consumer-to-consumer money transfer, bill-payment services and stored-value options such as prepaid cards. Online, by phone, from more than 100,000 ATMs and through more than 500,000 Agent locations worldwide, Western Union aims to move money anytime, anywhere and any way our customers choose, helping consumers and businesses grow.

See our highlights below, or learn more about our colorful heritage of progress from our expanded timeline at right.

Western Union Through the Years

1851



Western Union founded as the New-York and Mississippi Valley Printing Telegraph Company.

1856



Changed our name from the New York and Mississippi Valley Printing Telegraph Company to Western Union. The new name marked consolidation of several lines in the western-most reaches of the U.S. telegraph system.

1861



Completed the first transcontinental telegraph line across North America.



1865

First traded on NYSE under ticker symbol WU.



1869

Introduced the first successful stock ticker.



1871

Introduced money transfer.

JACKAWANNA &
WESTERN RAILRO
LAKE SHORE RAIL
NEW YORK CENT
WESTERN UNION
ST. PAUL RAILROA
NORTHERN PACI

1884

Named one of the original 11 stocks in the Dow Jones Industrial Average.



1890s



Provided service to Europe, Northern Africa, North and South America, Australia and Asia.



1914

Introduced the first customer charge card.



1933

Delivered the first singing telegram.



1943

Pioneered the first commercial inter-city microwave communications system.



1974

Introduced the first commercial satellite in the U.S.



1980

Money transfer revenue exceeded telegram service revenue for the first time.



1982

In 1982, we introduced EasyLink email service to consumers.



1995

Acquired by First Data Corporation.



2000

Launched westernunion.com to provide consumers with fast, convenient ways to send money online.



2001



Celebrated 150th anniversary by expanding to more than 100,000 Agent Locations worldwide.

2006



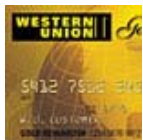
Spun off as independent company; traded on NYSE under ticker symbol WU.

2007



Announced partnership with GSMA to develop mobile money transfer.

2009



Expanded pre-paid card business.

2009



Acquired Custom House to grow cross-border business-to-business payments.

2010



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