



DECATUR REGIONAL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Credit Rating Downgrade

The credit rating agency Fitch Ratings [downgraded](#) the U.S. government's top credit rating to AA+. The highest rating possible is AAA which the U.S. has held for decades. Fitch Ratings shared that their [rationale](#) for the downgrade was partly due to doubts about the government's ability to tackle increasing debt, as they see evidence in repeated debt-limit standoffs. U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen criticized the decision.

Credit ratings are akin to one's credit score, so one may question if the U.S. downgrade will impact their finances as a resident. Many experts and analysts note that the [financial impact](#) is more likely to be long-term rather than immediate. For example, interest rates will remain elevated on credit cards, mortgages and auto loans for longer. The stock market dropped after the announcement, but some experts think that may be temporary.

In Other News

Governor Pritzker signs legislation that bans [e-cigarette](#) use in indoor public spaces.

Pritzker also signs legislation establishing [full-day](#) kindergarten programs across Illinois.

[Negotiations](#) between the Writers Guild of America (WGA) and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers may resume amid WGA strike.

The [Mega Millions](#) jackpot hits 6th largest in U.S. history ahead of Friday's drawing.

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs launches [Illinois First Steps](#) college savings program.

The West Wood Street [railroad crossing](#) will be closed for construction through Tuesday, August 8.

140 Decatur Public School students [participate](#) in leadership conference.

Decatur Public School students will [start](#) August 14 with the exception of Dennis Lab School students who tentatively start September 5.

Decatur breaks ground on first of its kind [electric vehicle hub](#).

Bids and RFPs

Macon County: None at this time.

City of Decatur: [Current RFP list](#)

Village of Mt. Zion: None at this time.

Decatur Park District: None at this time.

