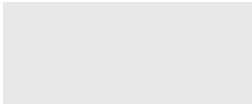


Scammers prefer gift cards, but not just any card will do

Gift cards are an easy way to give. Reports to the FTC's Consumer Sentinel show they're also an easy way to take. About 2.6 million gift cards were reported to the FTC's Consumer Sentinel in 2020, up from 1.7 million in 2019. The total value of gift cards reported to the FTC's Consumer Sentinel in 2020 was \$1.7 billion, up from \$1.1 billion in 2019. The average value of a gift card reported to the FTC's Consumer Sentinel in 2020 was \$637, up from \$647 in 2019. The most common type of gift card reported to the FTC's Consumer Sentinel in 2020 was a retail gift card, accounting for 60.6% of all reports. Other common types of gift cards reported to the FTC's Consumer Sentinel in 2020 include travel gift cards (13.0%), restaurant gift cards (10.6%), and utility gift cards (4.1%).



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