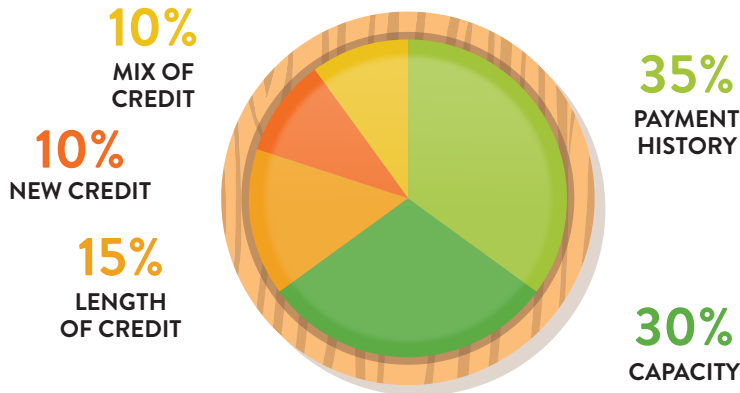


Breakdown of a CREDIT SCORE

- IT'S A -
**MONEY
THING®**

HOW IS A CREDIT SCORE CALCULATED?



PAYMENT HISTORY	Making payments on time boosts your score
CAPACITY	The less you use of your total available credit each month, the better
LENGTH OF CREDIT	A longer history of good credit habits raises your score
NEW CREDIT	Opening lots of new credit cards in a short amount of time can hurt this part of your score
MIX OF CREDIT	A mix of revolving credit (credit cards) and installment loans (mortgages, car loans) boosts your score

WHAT DOES YOUR SCORE SAY ABOUT YOU?

Actual scores may be interpreted differently, depending on the financial institution.



350

800

<550

550-720

720+

“You haven’t really been paying attention...”

A low score means you could be denied a loan or credit card. You have the most to gain, so show your score some love!

“Good, but push it higher to get the best rates!”

You may not get turned down for a loan, but you will likely be charged a higher interest rate. Figure out what’s keeping you from a prime score.

“Everything is awesome!”

This is where you want your credit score to be so you can get the best access to and interest rates on loans.

A CREDIT SCORE

is a number used by financial institutions and credit card companies to determine risk level when issuing you a loan or a credit card.

STAY ON TRACK

You are entitled to one free credit report per year from each of the major credit bureaus. Your FICO score is not shown on the report.

→ annualcreditreport.com



Space out your credit report requests so that can check on your credit throughout the year.

Curious about your score?

You can get a free estimate through creditkarma.com (but know that it’s not your actual credit score—it’ll be close, but not exact).

Need access to the real deal?

Credit bureaus usually charge a fee (\$15 to \$25) for your FICO score.

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