

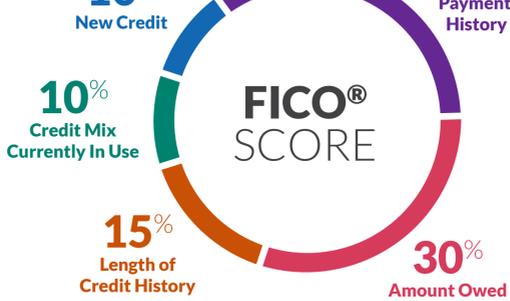
Understanding Your Credit Score



You know how important your credit score is to your financial health, but do you know how your credit score gets calculated?

There are five categories that make up your FICO® Score, the model that most lenders use. Knowing what gets calculated — and how — will help you understand how to keep your credit score healthy.

Understanding Your FICO® Score



Payment History

Your payment history is the most important part of your credit score, comprising more than 1/3 your total credit score.

Credit Mix Currently in Use

The different types of credit (installment loans and/or revolving credit) that you are using makes up 10% of your FICO Score.

Amount Owed

The amount of debt you owe represents 30% of your credit score. Less debt is better, in terms of a higher credit score.

New Credit

10% of your credit score is made up of any new credit that you've recently taken on. Too much new credit could lower your credit score.

Length of Credit History

The length of time your accounts have been open and how long since the most recent action determines your credit history length. If you don't have a credit history, you should begin using credit card — and never miss a payment.

The 3 Major Credit Bureaus

There are 3 major credit bureaus and each calculates their own score using FICO software. Your score may vary slightly from based on the information each bureau has.



Credit Score Ranges

WORST	VERY POOR	POOR	BELOW AVERAGE	AVERAGE	ABOVE AVERAGE	VERY GOOD	EXCELLENT
<520	520-579	580-619	620-679	680-719	720-739	740-779	780-850



Credit Score Fast Facts

Did you know?

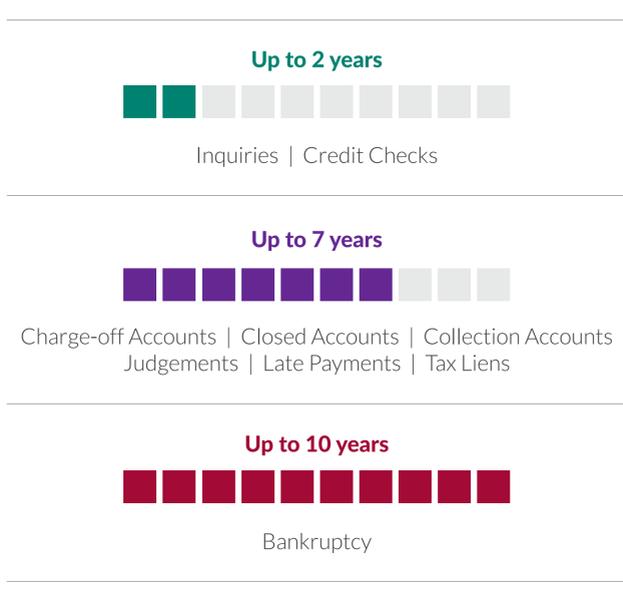
- Married couples have separate FICO scores.
- You need a credit history before you have a credit score.
- It's against the law to consider age, race, religion and national origin when determining credit score.

What Damages Your Credit Score?

- Missed payments (Illustration: Bill with PAST DUE stamp)
- Overspending using credit (Illustration: Person surrounded by credit icons)
- Closing credit cards that have a positive credit history (Illustration: Hand cutting a credit card)
- Applying for credit too frequently (Illustration: Credit application forms)
- Relying only on one form of credit to build credit history (Illustration: Credit card)

Negative Credit Score Items

How long do negative items impact your credit score?



FREE

Annual Report



All Americans are entitled to one free credit report in every 12-month period from each of the three credit bureaus.

Visit AnnualCreditReport.com to access your free report. Your credit score can also be requested — but for a fee.

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