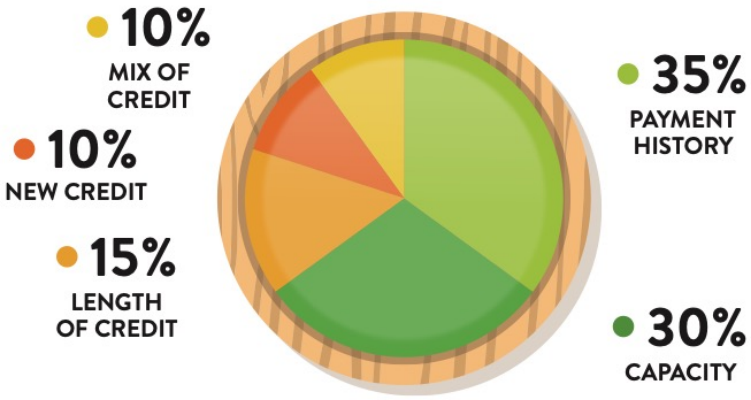
Breakdown of a CREDIT SCORE

IT'S A MONEY THING®

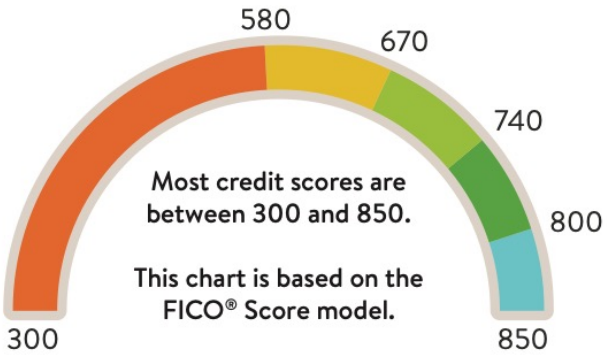
HOW IS A CREDIT SCORE CALCULATED?



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 CREDIT SCORE MEAN?

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



<580

A low score means you could be denied a loan or credit card.

580–740

You may not get turned down for a loan, but you will likely be charged a higher interest rate.

740+

You're in good shape. This is where you want your credit score to be.

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 free weekly credit reports from each of the major credit bureaus. Your FICO Score is not shown on the report.

→ ***annualcreditreport.com***



Set seasonal calendar reminders so you can remember to 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? Get your actual FICO Score from myFICO.com for a one-time fee or through a monthly subscription.

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