



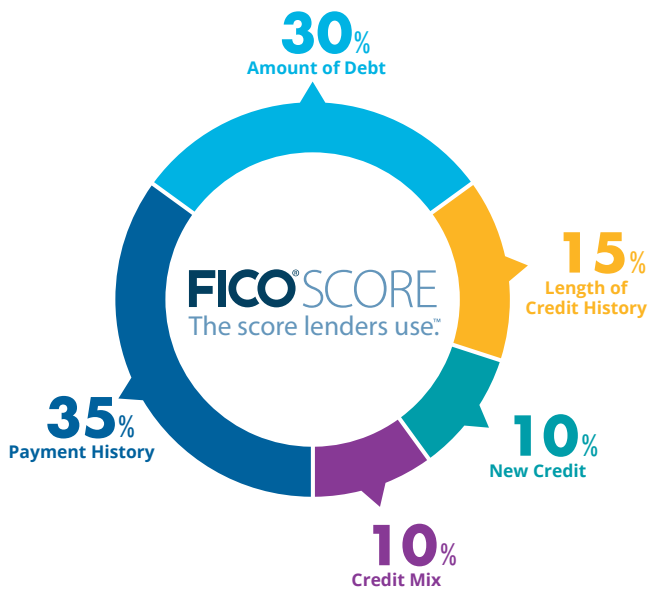
## Understand Your Credit Score

Your credit score is a vital part of your credit health. It can influence your credit and loan approvals and what terms and interest rates you qualify for. Reviewing your credit score can help you get a better understanding of how lenders will evaluate your credit risk when you apply for a loan or credit.

Your score will generally range from 300 to 850, the higher the score, the better. Knowing what makes up your score and what affects it can help you improve your score over time.

## What makes up my score?

There are five key things that make up your score:



## What doesn't affect my score?

- Debt ratio
- Income
- Length of employment
- Length of residence

## What actions will hurt my score?

- Late or missing payments – can take up to 24 months to restore credit
- Credit cards at capacity
- Closing credit cards out (lowers capacity)
- Shopping excessively for credit
- Opening numerous trade lines in a short time period
- Having more revolving debt in relation to installment debt
- Borrowing from finance companies

## How can I improve my score?

- Pay debts on time each month
- Pay down on credit card balances
- Do not close credit cards (lose capacity)
- Continue to make payments on time (older slow pays will become less significant with time)
- Slow down on opening new accounts
- Acquire a solid credit history with years of experience

Work on improving your credit today. We are here to help you! Stop by your local Member Center and talk with a Financial Coach about your credit score and how to improve it.

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