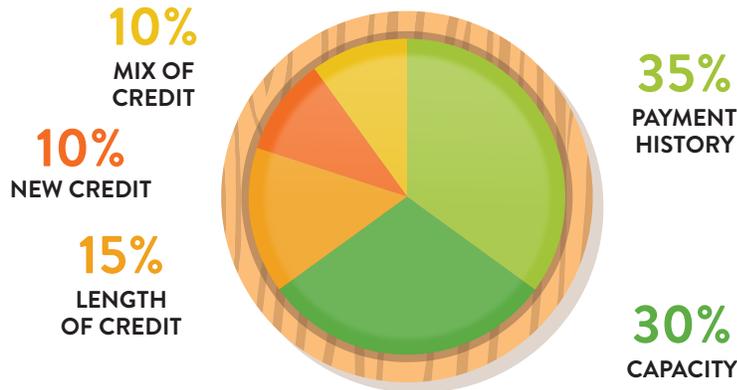


# Breakdown of a CREDIT SCORE

- IT'S A -  
**MONEY  
THING®**

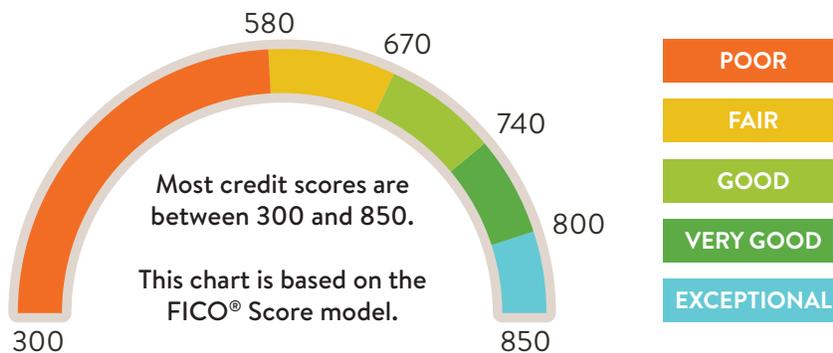
## HOW IS A CREDIT SCORE CALCULATED?



<b>PAYMENT HISTORY</b>	Making payments on time boosts your score
<b>CAPACITY</b>	The less you use of your total available credit each month, the better
<b>LENGTH OF CREDIT</b>	A longer history of good credit habits raises your score
<b>NEW CREDIT</b>	Opening lots of new credit cards in a short amount of time can hurt this part of your score
<b>MIX OF CREDIT</b>	A mix of revolving credit (credit cards) and instalment 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 one free credit report per year from each of the major credit bureaus. Your FICO Score is not shown on the report.



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

**Need access to the real deal?** Credit bureaus usually charge a fee (\$15 to \$25) for your FICO Score.

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