FOUNDWELL
GROUP

CREDIT SCORE 101

How It Works and Why It Matters for Your Financial Future

Free Guide 2026 by Team FoundWell Group

CREDIT CARDS
Manage & Monitor

SCORE RANGE
300–850
Track Your Score

CREDIT REPORT
Details & History

FINANCIAL GROWTH

Build Credit • Improve Score • Secure Your Future

Key Topics Inside:
- What Builds Your Credit
- Score Ranges Explained
- Tips to Improve Your Score
- Protecting Against Fraud

TEAM FOUNDWELL GROUP
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CREDIT SCORE 101
How It Works and Why It Matters for Your Financial Future

FREE GUIDE 2026

Your credit score is one of the most important numbers in your financial life. It can determine whether you qualify for a loan, rent an apartment, or even get a job.

Yet many people don’t fully understand how it works — or how to improve it.

The good news? Understanding your credit score doesn’t have to be complicated.
This guide breaks down everything you need to know.

WHAT IS A CREDIT SCORE?

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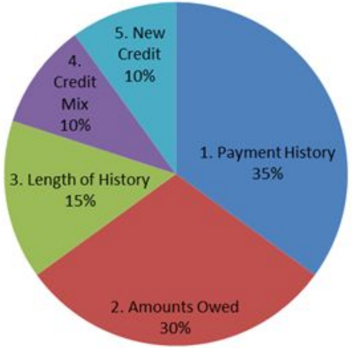
A credit score is a THREE-DIGIT NUMBER — typically between 300 and 850 — that estimates how likely you are to repay a loan and make payments on time.

WHY IT MATTERS:
Higher score = Easier to qualify + Lower interest rates
Lower score = Higher rates or Denied credit

Even cellphone companies and insurers use your credit score



IMPORTANT: YOU HAVE MANY CREDIT SCORES

Why?

- Different scores for different products: Credit cards vs Mortgages
- Different formulas: FICO, VantageScore
- Different data sources

HOW YOUR CREDIT SCORE IS CALCULATED

FICO = Used by 90% of top lenders | Range: 300 to 850

SCORE RANGES + HOW TO IMPROVE PART 1

CREDIT SCORE RANGES: WHERE DO YOU STAND?	
CATEGORY	**FICO SCORE RANGE**
Exceptional	800 – 850
Very Good	740 – 799
Good	670 – 739
Fair	580 – 669
Poor	300 – 579

Average US Score 2025: 715 - "GOOD" range

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR CREDIT SCORE
Building good credit takes time. Consistent habits = Real results.

1. PAY YOUR BILLS ON TIME, EVERY TIME
Impact: 35% of your score. Set up automatic payments.

2. KEEP CREDIT CARD BALANCES LOW
Keep utilization below 30% - Ideally under 10%

3. DON'T CLOSE OLD ACCOUNTS
Closing hurts your credit history + increases utilization

HOW TO IMPROVE PART 2 + MYTHS

4. ONLY APPLY FOR CREDIT YOU NEED
Too many "hard inquiries" = signal of financial distress

5. CHECK YOUR CREDIT REPORTS REGULARLY
FREE report from each bureau every 12 months at: annualcreditreport.com

LOOK FOR MISTAKES:
☑️ Wrong name, address, phone
☑️ Accounts that aren't yours
☑️ Late payments reported incorrectly
☑️ Closed accounts still listed as open

6. FIX ERRORS IMMEDIATELY
Contact the credit bureau + the business.
They must investigate within 30 days by law.

COMMON CREDIT SCORE MYTHS — BUSTED

MYTH: Checking my own score hurts it.
TRUTH: False. It's a "soft inquiry" - No effect.

MYTH: I need to carry a balance to build credit.
TRUTH: False. Pay in full each month = Better.

MYTH: Closing old accounts improves my score.
TRUTH: False. It shortens your history.

MYTH: Credit scores reflect how rich you are.
TRUTH: False. They reflect HABITS, not income.

YOUR CREDIT REPORT MATTERS AS MUCH AS YOUR SCORE

Your score is only as good as the data behind it.
Errors can lower your score unfairly.

Remember: You have the RIGHT to dispute inaccurate information for FREE.
The Fair Credit Reporting Act - FCRA protects you.

FINAL THOUGHTS: TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR CREDIT TODAY

Pay on time. Keep balances low. Monitor your reports. Dispute errors.
These simple steps can transform your credit health.

A good credit score opens doors.
Lower interest rates. Better loan terms. Financial peace of mind.

NEED HELP? FOUNDWELL GROUP IS HERE FOR YOU

SCAN ME- SELECT SERVICE

Navigating credit repair can feel overwhelming.
We specialize in credit repair services for individuals and small businesses in Central Florida.

We analyze your reports, challenge inaccurate items, and help you build a stronger financial future.