

Open Accounts
Closed Accounts
Credit Summary



Our Credit Report Overview

Your credit report and credit history are valuable tools that lenders use when determining if they will extend you credit or your credit-worthiness. Lenders typically look for scores that are higher versus lower. It's important to maintain a close eye on your credit report to ensure all reported information is accurate. In the event that there is a negative or erroneous item on your credit report then there are several ways you can contact the reporting credit bureau to have the item investigated or removed.

Pay close attention to items that were reported in the past 12 months when attempting to secure a new line of credit. If you're just getting started with your first credit card, you may not see any items reported.

Account	Total Number	Balance	Available	Credit Limit	Debt to Credit Ratio	Monthly Payment
Mortgage	1	\$156,856	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,000
Installment	1	\$1,506	N/A	\$16,800	8%	\$100
Revolving	5	\$25	\$3,239	\$3,264	1%	\$10
Other	1	18	-\$18	N/A	N/A	\$10
Total	8	\$1,451	N/A	\$20,063	7%	\$120

Inquiries Related to Your Credit History

In the past 2 years: 4
 In the past 12 months: 1

\$741.52	\$2,412.00	\$1,670.48
\$903.25	\$405.00	\$508.25

Section 1

Credit Reports

Credit History

I/We warrant and confirm that the information given in the application form is true and correct and I/we understand that it is being used to determine my/our responsibility. You are authorized to obtain any information you may require relative to this application from any sources to which you may apply and each such source is hereby authorized to provide you with such information. You are furthermore authorized to disclose, in response to direct enquiries from any other parties, such information on my account as you consider appropriate, and I agree to indemnify you against and save you harmless from any and all claims in damages or otherwise arising from such disclosure on your part. You are also authorized to return the application whether or not the relative application is approved.

Mr Mrs Miss Other

Personal Information		Given Name	Middle name	Phone
Surname	City	State	Postcode	Other Telephone
Mailing Address	City	State	Postcode	Mobile Telephone
Home Address	City	Duration (yrs)	Employer	
Occupation	Employer Contact			
Employer Telephone				

Mr Mrs Miss Other

Section 1: Key Takeaway

Your credit history can affect your access to credit, loans, jobs, housing, insurance, and other important services.

Understanding your rights helps you know how to protect your credit history.

What is Listed in a Credit Report?

- **Your identifying information**
- **Your debts and some bills**
- **Public record information**
- **Your applications for new credit and other “inquiries”**

Nationwide Credit Reporting Agencies

- Equifax



- Experian



- TransUnion



What Is a Credit Score?

- A number based on information in credit reports
- Predicts payment of bills and debts as agreed
- People with higher credit scores likely to present lower risk to creditors



Who Uses Credit Reports and Scores?

- **Financial institutions**
- **Some landlords**
- **Utility companies**
- **Some cell phone companies**
- **Insurance companies (in some states)**
- **Employers (in some states)**
- **Some state agencies or affiliated organizations**

Risk-Based Pricing

- **Credit reports and scores may be used as one factor in risk-based pricing**
- **Lenders set interest rates and other terms based on estimated risks**
 - Must tell you if they used your credit reports or credit scores to deny your application or offer you less favorable terms
 - Adverse action notices
 - Risk-based pricing notices

Having No Credit Reports or Scores

- **“Credit invisible”**
- **May result in having a harder time:**
 - Getting credit or a loan
 - Renting an apartment
 - Getting a favorable cell phone plan
 - Obtaining some jobs
 - Turning on utilities without paying a large deposit

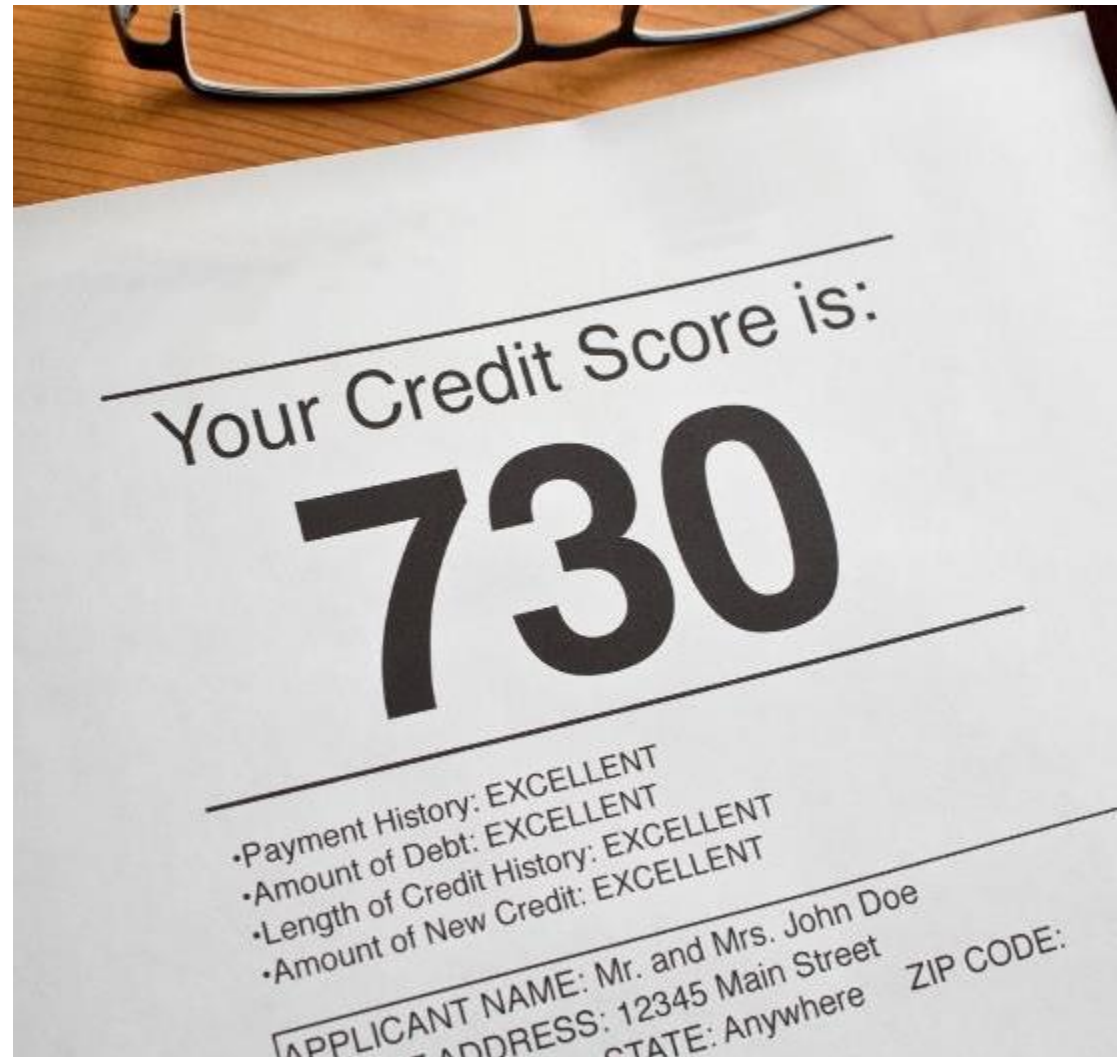
Section 1: Remember the Key Takeaway

Your credit history can affect your access to credit, loans, jobs, housing, insurance, and other important services.

Understanding your rights helps you know how to protect your credit history.

Section 2

Credit Scores



Section 2: Key Takeaway

You can take steps to improve and manage your credit scores. This includes paying your bills on time and as agreed.

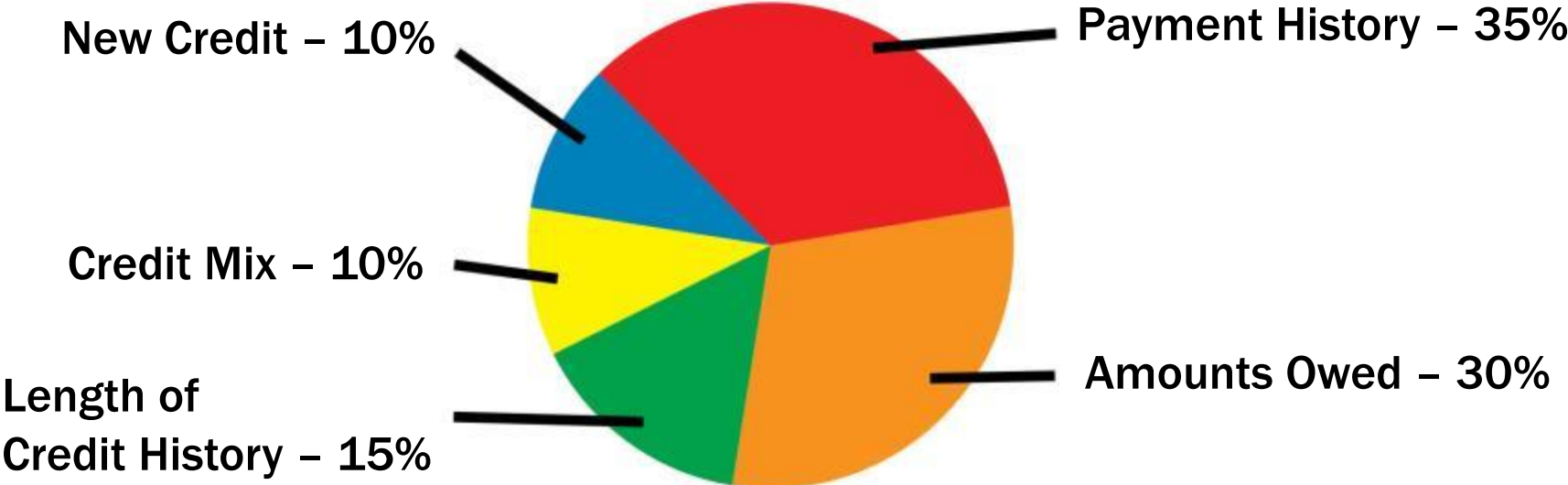
The Basics of Credit Scoring

- **Number calculated from information in credit reports**
- **Generally, higher number = better credit history**
- **Predicts likelihood of payment of credit obligations on time and as agreed**
- **Two significant factors affect your credit scores:**
 - Whether you repay debts on time and as agreed
 - Your credit utilization rate

More Basics of Credit Scoring

- **Multiple producers of credit scores**
- **You likely have multiple credit scores**
 - FICO[®] (Fair Isaac Corporation)
 - Vantage Score[®]
 - Others too
- **Different models for different types of credit**

Five Factors in General FICO® Model



Order Your Credit Scores

- **If turned down for credit, you have the right to see the exact score used**
- **Make sure your credit scores accurately reflect information in your credit reports**
 - Get and review your credit reports and dispute errors

What is a Good Credit Score?

Exceptional	800 – 850
Very Good	740 – 799
Good	670 – 739
Fair	580 – 669
Poor	300 – 579

Note: this is an example, based on FICO®

Section 2: Remember the Key Takeaway

You can take steps to improve and manage your credit scores. This includes paying your bills on time and as agreed.

Section 3

Getting and Understanding Your Credit Reports and Scores



Section 3: Key Takeaway

Get and review your credit reports at least once every 12 months to make sure the information is accurate.

Right to Free Credit Reports

- **One free credit report every 12 months from each nationwide credit reporting agency**
 - Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion
- **Go to [Annualcreditreport.com](https://annualcreditreport.com)**
 - Official website to fill orders for these free credit reports

Watch Out for Imposters

- Others that advertise free credit reports, credit scores, or credit monitoring are not part of the legally mandated free annual credit report program
- Often, “free” services convert to ones you have to pay for after the trial period
- Go directly to **[Annualcreditreport.com](https://www.annualcreditreport.com)**

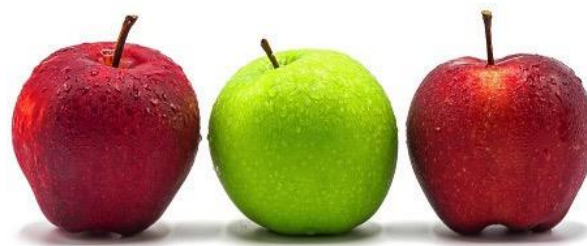
Right to Additional Free Credit Reports

- Receive public assistance
- Unemployed and looking for a job
- Victim of identity theft or financial fraud
- State law provides for a free credit report
- Denied credit, service, an apartment, or employment



What Sections are in Credit Reports?

- Personal or identifying information
- Public records
- Accounts assigned or sold
- Credit accounts
- Inquiries



Getting Your Credit Scores

- Some nonprofit organizations
- Credit card statements or websites
- FICO® at www.myfico.com
- VantageScore® at www.vantagescore.com
- Three nationwide credit reporting agencies

Section 3: Remember the Key Takeaway

Get and review your credit reports at least once every 12 months to make sure the information is accurate.

Section 4

Disputing Errors in Your Credit Reports



Section 4: Key Takeaway

If you find errors on your credit reports, file a dispute right away. Be sure to keep records and follow up.

Time Limits on Negative Information

- Generally can only be reported on credit reports for seven years
- Some bankruptcies are an exception



The Seven-Year Reporting Period

- Can be confusing
- Generally starts 180 days after you stopped paying on the debt

Seven-Year Reporting Example

- **August 2018:** 30 days late
- **November 2018:** 120 days late and creditor closes account
- **Delinquency started in August**
- **July 2018 is the month before that**

- **July 2018 + 180 days = January 2019**
- **January 2019 + 7 years = January 2026**
- **January 2026:** account no longer reported

Medical Debt and Credit Reports

- **Medical debt generally not on credit reports until unpaid for at least 180 days**
- **Provides time to:**
 - Resolve billing disputes
 - Make payments
 - Make payment arrangements

Nationwide Credit Reporting Agencies

- Equifax



- Experian



- TransUnion



Errors on Your Credit Reports

- Identity errors
- Incorrect reporting of account status
- Data management errors
- Balance errors
- Outdated information



How to Dispute Errors on Your Credit Reports

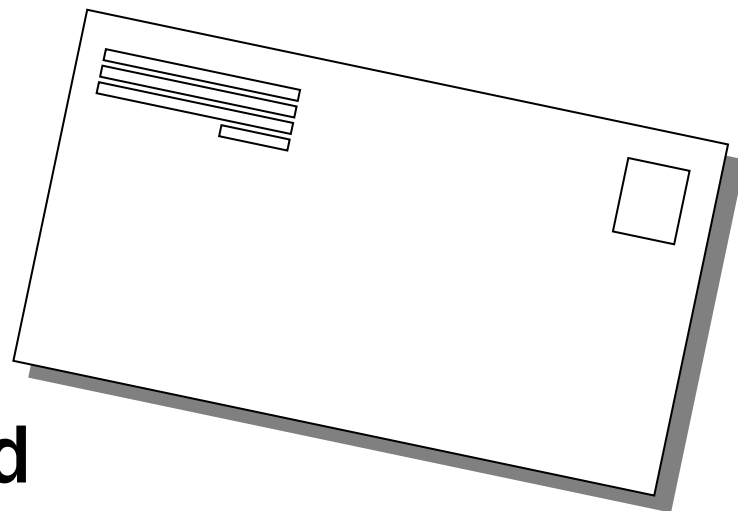
- **Option 1:** Online
- **Option 2:** By mail

Dispute Errors With Each Of The Nationwide Credit Bureaus



What to Include in Dispute Letters

- **Your complete name and address**
- **Clear description of each item you are disputing and reason for each dispute**
- **A request for correction or removal**



Also Include Supporting Information

- **Send copies – not originals**
- **Receipts**
- **Credit card or account statement**
- **Image of a check**
- **Screenshot of online transaction or automatic bill payment**

After You File a Dispute

- **Credit reporting agency will send you a letter**
- **Incorrect information cannot be put back**
 - Check to make sure
- **You can request notices of corrections to be sent to individuals or businesses that received your report**

Section 4: Remember the Key Takeaway

If you find errors on your credit reports, file a dispute right away. Be sure to keep records and follow up.

Section 5

Build, Repair, and Maintain a Productive Credit History



Section 5: Key Takeaway

*Your credit history does not
have to be your credit future.*

Repair and Improve Credit

- Get and review your credit reports
- Dispute and correct any errors
- Pay all of your bills on time and as agreed
- Use as little of your credit limit as possible
- Use a credit building strategy
- Keep old accounts open if you can
- Apply for credit only if you need it
- Negotiate different terms
- Ask for a “good will” deletion

Build Alternative Credit History

Document other payments you regularly make, such as:

- Rent
- Childcare
- Cell phone bill
- Electric bill
- Gas bill
- Water, sewage, and garbage bills
- Television service bill
- Internet service bill
- Insurance payments
- Loan from friend or family member
- Savings

Build Credit

- **Get a secured credit card**
- **Get a credit-building loan**
- **Become an authorized user on an account**
- **Get a cosigner**
- **Apply for a credit card at a store or gas station**
- **Make a large down payment and negotiate a loan for the balance**

Maintain Credit

- Pay your bills on time and as agreed
- Continue to pay down your debt balances
- Keep the proportion of the credit you use low compared with credit limits
- Don't apply for too much credit
- Avoid actions or inactions that may create new entries
- Pay your taxes and child support in full and on time
- Check your credit reports and regularly dispute errors
- Keep good financial records

Get Help

- **Financial institution**
- **Nonprofit consumer credit counseling service**
- **Housing Counseling Agency** approved by Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- **Financial education nonprofit organization**
- **Certified Financial Planners (CFPs)**



Credit Repair and Debt Consolidation

■ Credit Repair Companies

- Promise to fix your credit for a fee

■ Debt Consolidation Businesses

- Offer different services
- Often specialize in debt consolidation loans and debt settlement services

Use Caution

■ Debt consolidation

- Taking out new loan to pay off other debts
- Does not address underlying causes of debt

■ Debt settlement

- Working with creditors to accept lower payment and settle debt
- Might have to pay income tax on portion that was settled



Credit Repair Scams

Beware of credit repair companies that:

- Promise to erase bad credit or remove other negative, but accurate, information
- Promise fast and easy credit repair
- Offer to create a new identity for you
- Want you to pay upfront
- Will not tell you about your rights



Protecting Your Credit History

- Initial fraud alert
- Active duty military alert
- Extended fraud alert
- Credit freeze
- Credit lock

Section 5: Remember the Key Takeaway

*Your credit history does not
have to be your credit future.*