Know Your Score
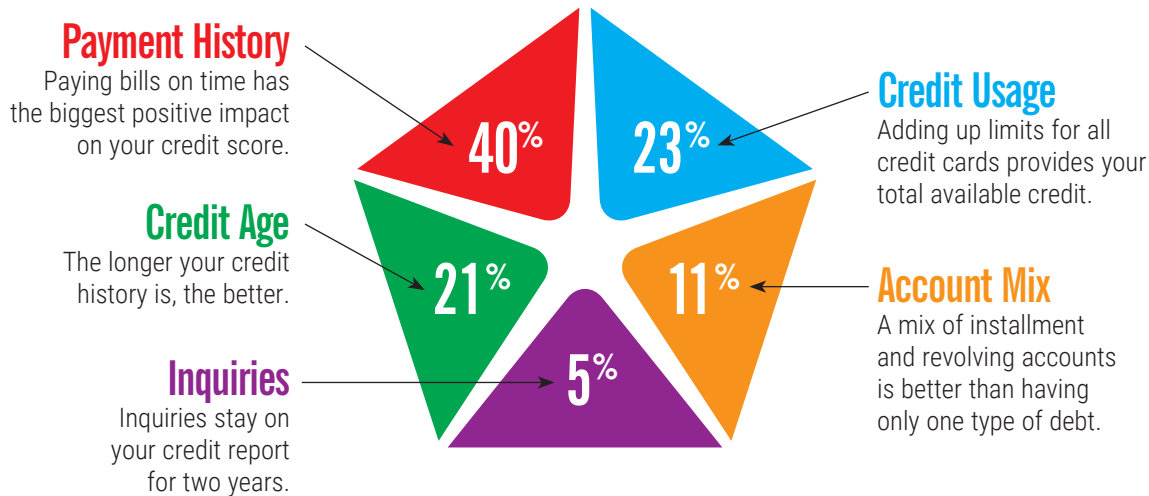
It's easier to reach your goals (own a home, buy a car and even get a job) when you have good credit.

Rating	Credit Range
Excellent	781–850
Good	661–780
Fair	601–660
Unfavorable	501–600
Deficient	Below 500

What makes up your credit score?

Payment History
Paying bills on time has the biggest positive impact on your credit score.

Credit Age
The longer your credit history is, the better.

Inquiries
Inquiries stay on your credit report for two years.

Credit Usage
Adding up limits for all credit cards provides your total available credit.

Account Mix
A mix of installment and revolving accounts is better than having only one type of debt.

40% 23% 21% 11% 5%

Score Rating Your Vantage 3.0 credit score is calculated on a scale of 300-850.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Payment History
• Use auto pay or budget payments with pay cycles for smaller, more frequent payments.
• Contact your lender if monthly payments become difficult to manage. They might be able to help.

Credit Usage
• Try to avoid using more than 30% of your available credit on each credit card.
• Keep unused cards open. Closing them reduces your total available credit.

Credit Age
• Be patient and keep accounts in good standing. Your score will keep improving over time.
• Keep credit cards open, especially the ones with the longest history. Long-term stability helps raise your credit score.

Account Mix
• Avoid having any accounts in collections.
• Maintain a mix of credit types, like a credit card plus a car, student or home loan.

Inquiries:
• Do not open too many new accounts in a short span. This will allow your score to recover from any drop due to a hard inquiry.
• When shopping for a home, auto or credit card, understand that each application will be counted as an inquiry.

## Who uses credit to make decisions about you?

Many people and companies can review your credit depending on the transaction.

- A potential employer may use your credit report to determine whether you'll be hired.
- A landlord may use your credit report to determine whether to rent to you.
- A bank or credit union may use your credit report to decide whether to give you a loan and at what rate.
- A cell phone provider may use your credit report to determine if you're eligible for a plan and what you'll pay.
- An insurance company may use your credit report to determine the rates you'll pay.

Dupaco
CREDIT UNION

What actions hurt your credit score?

- Missing payments—regardless of dollar amounts (it will take 24 months to restore credit with one late payment)
- Credit cards at capacity (maxing out cards)
- Closing out credit cards (this lowers your available capacity)
- Opening numerous credit accounts in a short time period
- Having more revolving loans (when a source of money can be used and repaid repeatedly, such as credit cards) in relation to installment loans (repaid over time with a set number of payments, like a home loan)
- Borrowing from finance companies
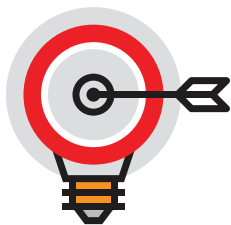
How can you improve your credit score?

- Pay down credit card balances
- Keep existing cards open with available credit
- Continue to make payments on time (older late payments will become less significant with time)
- Slow down opening new accounts
- Acquire a solid credit history with years of experience
- Move revolving debt to installment debt

What doesn't affect your credit score?

- Debt ratio: the total of both long-term and short-term debt to total assets, shown as a decimal or percentage
- Income
- Length of residence
- Length of employment
- Soft inquiries on your credit report from checking your own credit or background checks

How can you monitor your credit score?

Bright Track is a free tool in Shine Online and Mobile Banking that helps you monitor your credit report and score and watch for signs of identity theft. You'll see your Vantage credit score, which ranges from 300 to 850, along with key factors from your credit report that impact your score.

BrightTrack

CREDIT HISTORY LESSON

Meet one-on-one with a Dupaco credit expert to review your credit report and discuss strategies for raising your score. Schedule your **free** Credit History Lesson at **dupaco.com/CreditHistory.**

Date _____   **My Credit Score** _____

Action Steps

1. _____
   _____
2. _____
   _____
3. _____
   _____

Vantage Score Goal _____   **Savings Goal** _____   **Follow-up Date** _____

Asset & Debt Review

Assets:

	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
= Total Assets	**$**

Debts:

Other Loan:	$
Other Loan:	$
Credit Card Debt:	$
Credit Card Debt:	$
Student Loan Debt:	$
= Total Debts	**$**