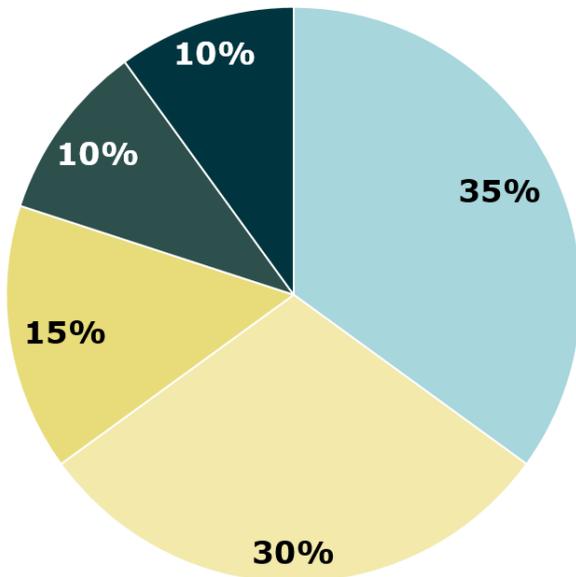


Your credit score plays a big role when shopping for an apartment, home or any consumer credit. Your credit score is a numerical score that is based on information from a credit reporting agency. Credit scores are used to assess how likely a person is to meet his or her financial responsibilities. It is important for you to know and understand your credit history prior to applying for an apartment or home loan so that you can correct any mistakes that may adversely affect you.

## WHERE CAN I GET MY CREDIT SCORE?

Federal law allows you to obtain a free credit report each year. For a copy of a free report, visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com). Please note that this is a report only. To obtain your score, a nominal fee may apply. See resources on *Repairing Your Credit* for more information.

## WHERE DOES MY CREDIT SCORE COME FROM?<sup>1</sup>



### 35% payment history

Late payments can damage your score quickly, but a record of on-time payments helps your score.

### 30% outstanding debt

Less is more! Lowering debt can be the key to a higher credit score.

### 15% length of credit history

The longer history of responsible credit the better.

### 10% types of credit used

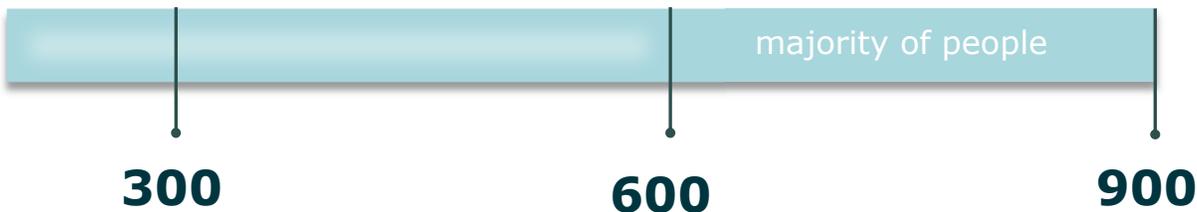
Responsibly managing different types of credit such as a student loan, auto loan and credit cards can help your score.

### 10% new credit

Opening new credit accounts may potentially lower your score; it represents a greater credit risk.

## CREDIT SCORE RANGES

Most credit scores range from 300 to 900. Ideally, the higher credit score the better. If your credit score is below 600, refer to *Repairing Your Background* in this guide for more information and helpful resources.



Your credit score is a key component when it comes to housing. It always pays to improve your score before renting or purchasing a home.

<sup>1</sup> myfico.com