

Factors that determine credit scores

I. Payment History

- a. Has the largest impact on credit score
- b. Missing higher payments more impact than missing lower payment
- c. Delinquencies past two years greater impact

II. Outstanding Credit balances

- a. Ratio between outstanding balance and available credit is key
- b. Keep the ratio under 10%

III. Credit History

- a. Length of time credit line was established
- b. Small penalties for closing old accounts
- c. long record of consistent payments on older accounts, positive

IV. Type of Credit

- a. Auto loans, mortgages – highest impact
- b. Mixture is best, store cards minimal compared to bank credit cards

V. Inquiries

- a. Number of inquires on a consumer's credit within 6 month period
- b. Most a score can be reduced is by 50 points, and that would be 10 inquiries or more

Credit Score and credit Reports can fluctuate even within the course of a week.

FICO has 10 groupings of people they rank consumers in. Bankruptcy filers are one such group and their score is compared with other "bankruptcy filers". Highest score for this group can be in the 700's.

ANNUALCREDITREPORT.COM No fee, no credit score.

Dispute credit reporting agencies to the Federal Trade Commission-online seems to get best results.