



# Financial Facts

Discover 10 financial facts that may surprise you including topics on credit scores, credit cards, and credit history. See the common traits of those with high credit scores, learn the secret codes to credit cards, and compare your credit score to the average score in America. All throughout you'll find links to articles where you can learn more. And to help put the numbers in context, the US population in January 2020 was 331 million.

- 1 The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) says an [estimated 45 million Americans may not have credit scores](#). This includes people who have never built a credit history, people who have let their history go stale, or people whose credit activity is insufficient for standard models to score.



## 2 FICO® Score vs. VantageScore®

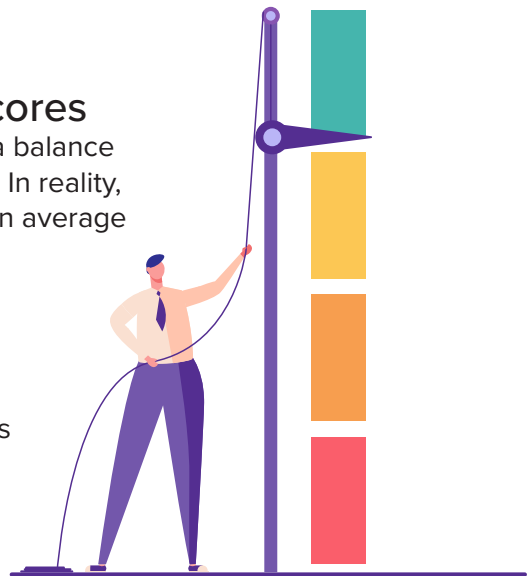
### – What’s the difference?

These [two scores](#) are used by lenders to determine your creditworthiness. They are calculated a bit differently, but both use the same score range – 300 to 850 – and measure similar factors. The higher your score, the more likely you are to get approved for better pricing.

## 3 Use Less Credit to Get Better Scores

Some people mistakenly believe that carrying a balance month-to-month will increase their credit score. In reality, according to this [FICO study](#), consumers with an average credit score of 800 actually use just 7% of their available credit limit on average.

- 4 The average FICO score among Americans was 703 in 2019, [according to Experian](#).



## 5 Bad Credit Isn’t Forever... But!

It does take a while for negative items to come off your report: at least 7 years for missed payments, and 10 or more if you’ve ever filed for bankruptcy. Learn more [here](#).

6 **Don't Be Late!**

If you are more than 30 days past due on a payment, [FICO](#) says you can expect a drop of 17 to 83 points. Let that bill go unpaid for 90 days or more? You'll see a 27 to 133 point decrease. Not to mention, you'll be contacted constantly by collectors looking to make good on what you owe.



7 **Credit Cards Have Secret Codes**

The numbers on a credit card aren't random. They all stand for something. The first digits indicate industry:

- 1 and 2 = Airlines
- 3 = Travel/Entertainment
- 4 and 5 = Banking/Financial
- 6 = Merchandising/Financial
- 7 = Petroleum
- 8 = Telecommunications

Learn more [here](#).

8 As of late 2019, more than [191 million American adults](#) had a credit card, a charge card, or both.

9 "[59% of Americans](#) have a FICO® Score of 700 or higher."

10 "The youngest millennials, age 23, carried an average [credit card balance](#) of \$2,288, while the oldest, age 38, carried an average balance of \$6,675 in Q1 2019."

