Your FICO score in Canada can impact major thingsin your life. This score is crucial when applying for a credit card or a loan because lenders use it todetermine your creditworthiness.

The three-digit FICO score indicates how you are as a borrower, so understanding it is essential. Learnmore about FICO scores, how it is calculated, whyyou should check your score and more.

Key Takeaways

- A FICO score is a credit score that uses the proprietary scoring model of analytics firm FICO or Fair Isaac Corporation.
- FICO scores range from 300 to 850, with theaverage range being 670 to 739.
- FICO scores are calculated based on paymenthistory (35%), credit utilization (30%), length ofcredit history (15%), new credit accounts (10%) and credit mix (10%).

What is a FICO Score?

A <u>FICO score</u> is a specific brand of credit score that uses the proprietary scoring model of FICO, or Fairlsaac Corporation, a US-based analyticsorganization that develops credit scoring models lenders use to determine an individual's credit score.

FICO scores range from 300 to 850, with 850 beingthe best. The higher the FICO score of the borrower, the lower the lender risk.

FICO scores depend on your credit report, astatement containing information about your credit activity, including loan paying history and the statusof your credit accounts.

Lenders use FICO scores to evaluate borrower riskand assess the creditworthiness of a potentialborrower. Borrowers with higher scores have betterchances of qualifying for a loan and a better interestrate.

FICO Score Range

As mentioned, the FICO score range is from 300 to 850. These are usually broken down into five ranges:

Poor Fair Good Very Good Exceptional 579 and below 580 to 669 670 to 739 740 to 799 800 and above

How is a FICO Score Calculated?

FICO scores are calculated based on information in consumer credit reports. Five factors go into the calculation of your FICO score:

- Payment history 35%
- Credit utilization / Amounts owed 30%
- Length of credit history 15%
- New credit accounts 10%
- Credit mix / Types of credit used 10%