An Expert-Level Analysis of Axis Bank's Loan Portfolio

1. Introduction: A Primer on Axis Bank's Lending Landscape

1.1. Report Mandate and Scope

This report provides a consolidated, in-depth analysis of the diverse loan offerings from Axis Bank. Its primary objective is to synthesize information from a collection of financial documents and web-based resources to create a single, authoritative reference for prospective borrowers, financial analysts, and other stakeholders. The report meticulously examines the key parameters of a wide range of loan products, including Home Loans, Personal Loans, Car Loans, Business Loans, Education Loans, Gold Loans, and Instant Loans on Credit Cards. By systematically detailing eligibility criteria, interest rates, fee structures, and required documentation for each product, this analysis aims to facilitate a more informed decision-making process.

1.2. Methodological Approach and Data Context

The findings presented herein are derived from a comprehensive review of publicly available documents, including product guides and termsheets valid as of September 2025. The report employs a structured approach, extracting and cross-referencing information to present a coherent and complete picture of the bank's lending portfolio. It is important to note that the interest rates and charges cited throughout this document are based on the data available for the specified periods, such as September 2025 rates for various products. These figures should be considered indicative, as they are subject to change based on market conditions, regulatory policies, and the bank's internal lending criteria. The information provided is for

analytical purposes, and it is always recommended that individuals consult with the bank for the most current terms and conditions.

2. In-Depth Analysis of Loan Categories

2.1. Home Loans: The Cornerstone of Long-Term Wealth

Securing a Home Loan is often the most significant financial decision an individual makes. Axis Bank offers a variety of products tailored to different borrower profiles and financial needs, extending beyond a standard housing loan to include specialized schemes that address specific financial goals.

2.1.1. Eligibility and Applicant Segments

Eligibility for a Home Loan from Axis Bank is segmented based on the applicant's professional and employment status. Salaried individuals, professionals, and self-employed applicants all have distinct criteria.

- Salaried and Professionals: Applicants in this category, including salaried doctors, lawyers, chartered accountants, and management consultants, must be at least 21 years old at the time of loan initiation. The maximum age at the loan's maturity should not exceed 65 years or the age of retirement, whichever comes first. The bank views a stable employment history in the government sector or a "reputed company" as a significant advantage.
- **Self-Employed Individuals:** Business owners and entrepreneurs are also eligible. The age criteria remain the same, with applicants needing to be between 21 and 65 years of age. The application process for this segment requires the submission of a more extensive set of documents that demonstrate "consistent income through tax returns" and a strong financial track record.

2.1.2. Financial Parameters and Loan Structures

Axis Bank's Home Loan products are designed to offer flexibility in both loan quantum and repayment tenure. The maximum loan amount available can be up to ₹5 Crore, with a repayment tenure that can extend up to 30 years.² The bank can finance up to 90% of the total property cost, but this is subject to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) guidelines, which prohibit 100% financing.³

The bank has strategically designed a portfolio of specialized Home Loan schemes to cater to a broad spectrum of the market. These schemes go beyond a simple interest rate offering and provide unique value propositions:

- QuikPay Home Loan: This product is structured to allow borrowers to make larger principal payments early in the loan's term, which results in a reduction of monthly installments (EMIs) over time. This helps borrowers save a considerable amount on total interest paid.³
- **Shubh Aarambh Home Loan:** This scheme offers a notable incentive of 12 EMIs being waived off on regular repayments. The waivers are strategically distributed, with four EMIs being waived at the end of the fourth, eighth, and twelfth years of the loan tenure.²
- Fast Forward Home Loan: Similar to the Shubh Aarambh scheme, this product also provides 12 EMI waivers, but at different intervals. Six EMIs are waived at the end of the tenth and fifteenth years.²
- Asha Home Loan: This is a socially-focused scheme designed to provide affordable home financing. It is tailored for families with a minimum combined monthly income of ₹8,000, making homeownership accessible to a wider demographic. The scheme may also include interest subsidy benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).²
- Super Saver Home Loan: This scheme includes an overdraft facility. It allows borrowers to deposit surplus funds into their loan account, which reduces the effective interest payable. The funds can be withdrawn as needed, providing a flexible financial tool that helps lower the total cost of borrowing.²
- **Power Advantage Home Loan:** This loan offers a hybrid interest rate model where the rate is fixed for the initial two years of the tenure. Following this period, the interest rate becomes a floating rate for the remainder of the loan term.²

The existence of such a wide array of specialized schemes reveals a deliberate strategy by the bank to segment the market and offer products that resonate with the specific financial behaviors and needs of different customer groups. A product like the Asha Home Loan caters to a demographic that might be overlooked by more traditional offerings, demonstrating a focus on financial inclusion and leveraging government schemes. Conversely, the Super Saver and Power Advantage loans are aimed at financially sophisticated borrowers who seek greater control and optimization of their debt. This tailored approach allows the bank to effectively compete across all segments of the Home Loan market.

2.1.3. Interest Rates and the Cost of Borrowing

The interest rates on a Home Loan are a critical determinant of its total cost. Axis Bank offers both floating and fixed interest rates.

- **Floating Rates:** The floating interest rates on a Home Loan from Axis Bank are highly competitive, ranging from 8.60% p.a. to 9.15% p.a..² A notable feature is the concessionary rate of 8.75% p.a. provided specifically to women applicants.²
- **Fixed Rates:** A fixed rate of 14.00% p.a. is also available.³ The significant difference between the floating and fixed rates highlights the premium that borrowers must pay for the certainty of a fixed rate over the long term.

Beyond the headline interest rate, a comprehensive understanding of all fees and charges is essential.

- **Processing Fee:** This fee is charged upfront and can be up to 1% of the total loan amount, subject to a minimum of ₹10,000.²
- **Penal Interest:** In the event of a financial default, the bank levies a high penal interest rate of 24% per annum.²
- Prepayment Charges: A major benefit offered by Axis Bank is the absence of prepayment charges on floating-rate Home Loans.² This is a significant competitive advantage. The ability to make partial or full prepayments without penalty provides immense flexibility, allowing borrowers to reduce their principal and interest burden whenever they have surplus funds. This policy incentivizes long-term customer relationships by giving them the power to actively manage and accelerate their debt repayment.

2.1.4. Documentation Requirements

A meticulous approach to gathering and submitting the required documents is crucial for a smooth loan application process.

Mandatory Documents:

- Application form and PAN card.¹
- Proof of Identity (Passport, Aadhaar Card, Driving License, Voter ID).¹
- Proof of Address (Aadhaar Card, Voter ID, Utility Bills).¹
- o Date of Birth Proof (PAN Card, Aadhaar Card, Birth Certificate).1
- o Signature Proof (Passport, PAN Card).1

Proof of Income:

- Salaried Individuals: Last three months' salary slips, six months' bank statements, and the latest two years' Form 16.¹
- Self-Employed Individuals: Audited financials with ITR, a partnership authority letter, and the company's Articles of Incorporation/MOA and AOA.¹
- **Documents for Disbursement:** Once a loan is sanctioned, a separate set of documents is required for fund disbursement. This includes the signed loan agreement, NACH/SI mandates, security cheques, and property documents.¹

2.2. Personal Loans: Flexible Financing for Personal Needs

Personal Loans are unsecured financial products that provide quick access to funds for a variety of personal expenses.

2.2.1. Eligibility and Financial Terms

Eligibility for a Personal Loan is primarily determined by an individual's employment status and income. The loan is available to salaried individuals, including salaried doctors, and employees of government bodies, public and private limited companies.¹

- **Age and Income:** Applicants must be at least 21 years old, with the maximum age at loan maturity capped at 60 years. A minimum net monthly income of ₹15,000 is required to be eligible.¹
- Loan Amount and Tenure: Personal Loans range from ₹50,000 to ₹40 Lakh, with repayment tenures from 12 to 84 months.¹

2.2.2. Interest Rates and Fee Structure

Interest rates are a critical component of the cost of a Personal Loan. Axis Bank offers rates starting at 9.99% per annum.¹ However, the actual rate is determined by an individual's financial profile. A valuable piece of data from the bank's own reporting for the period of April to June 2025 indicates a wide range of rates, with a mean of 12.45%, a minimum of 9.90%, and a maximum of 21.55%.¹ This highlights that the headline "starting from" rate is the best-case scenario and that the actual rate can vary significantly.

The total cost of borrowing includes several other charges:

- Processing Fee: A fee of up to 2% of the loan amount is charged.¹
- **Penal Charges:** In case of financial default, a penal charge of 8% per annum above the applicable interest rate is applied to the overdue amount, with the aggregate not exceeding 24% per instance.¹
- Part Payment and Foreclosure: Charges for part payment or foreclosure range from 2% to 3% of the outstanding principal, depending on the number of EMIs paid. A new policy, effective from December 31, 2024, allows for a yearly pre-payment of up to 25% of the outstanding principal after the completion of 12 EMIs, without any charges. This new policy provides significant financial flexibility.

2.2.3. Documentation and Application

The documentation process for a Personal Loan is designed to be streamlined. Required documents include a filled application form, KYC documents, and proof of income. For salaried individuals, this typically involves the latest two months' salary slips and two months' bank statements showing salary credits. A key feature is the availability of a seamless digital process that requires minimal to zero paperwork for pre-qualified loans. This convenience is a direct result of the bank leveraging its existing data on the customer to pre-approve a loan, significantly reducing the turnaround time and hassle of document submission.

The bank's explicit guidance on how to improve Personal Loan eligibility—by maintaining a credit score of 750 or higher and keeping total EMIs below 40% of net monthly income—provides a clear window into its underwriting model. These criteria are not arbitrary; they are the core metrics the bank uses to assess a borrower's capacity and willingness to repay an unsecured loan. This information empowers a prospective borrower to take strategic steps to optimize their financial health before applying, thereby improving their chances of approval and securing a more favorable interest rate.

2.3. Car Loans: Financing Mobility

A Car Loan is a secured loan product that offers a flexible and cost-effective way to purchase a new vehicle. The loan amount can cover up to 100% of the car's value, with the car itself serving as collateral.¹

2.3.1. Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility for a Car Loan varies significantly depending on the applicant's profile:

- Salaried Individuals: Must be at least 18 years old (maximum 60 years at loan maturity) with a minimum of one year of continuous employment. A minimum net annual salary of ₹4-6 Lakh is required, verified through salary slips and Form 16.¹
- Self-Employed Individuals: Must be at least 18 years old (maximum 75 years at loan maturity) with a minimum of three years in the same line of business. A minimum net annual business income of ₹3.5-6 Lakh is required, verified through the latest Income Tax Returns.¹
- Self-Employed Non-Individuals: These include partnership firms and companies. They must have a minimum of three years in the same line of business with a minimum net annual business income of ₹3.5-6 Lakh, verified through the last two years' audited financials and ITRs.¹
- Priority/Wealth/Privee Customers: Existing customers receive a streamlined process.

 The criteria are based on a six-month banking relationship with a minimum Average

 Quarterly Balance (AQB) of ₹1 Lakh for the last two quarters. The maximum loan amount is restricted to three times the AQB.¹

The preferential eligibility criteria for existing high-value customers demonstrates a strategic approach to customer retention and cross-selling. By offering a simplified and more accessible loan process to its Priority and Wealth clients, the bank incentivizes them to consolidate their financial services with Axis. This mutually beneficial relationship reduces the bank's risk by providing access to a known financial history while offering a convenient service to the customer.

2.3.2. Interest Rates and Influencing Factors

Car Loan interest rates can be either fixed or floating. A fixed rate remains constant throughout the loan tenure, providing stability in monthly payments, while a floating rate fluctuates in sync with market changes. The effective ROI for a Car Loan ranges from 8.80% to 11.80%.

Several key factors determine the final interest rate offered to a borrower:

• **Income:** Higher earnings are perceived as a greater ability to repay, which can lead to a more favorable rate.¹

- Loan Tenure: Longer loan terms are considered higher-risk for the bank and typically result in a higher interest rate.¹
- Relationship with the Bank: An established, long-term relationship with the bank can result in a more favorable rate due to the availability of the customer's financial history.
- **Employment Status:** Government employees and individuals working for well-established, reputable companies may receive lower rates due to their perceived stability.¹

2.3.3. Schedule of Charges

The total cost of a Car Loan extends beyond the interest rate. The following is a breakdown of the key charges:

Description of Charges	Amount
Processing Fee	₹3,500 to ₹12,000
Documentation Charges	₹700
Duplicate Statement Issuance	₹250 per instance
Penal Charges	8% p.a. above applicable rate, capped at 24% p.a. on overdue amount
Loan Cancellation/Re-booking	₹550 per case
Foreclosure/Part Payment Closure	5% of the Principal Outstanding
Issuance of Credit Report	₹50 per instance

All charges are subject to applicable Goods and Services Tax (GST).1

2.3.4. Required Documents

A comprehensive list of documents is required for a Car Loan application, with specific proofs needed for different applicant types:

- **General Documents:** Application form, Proforma Invoice, passport-size photographs, KYC documents, and proof of age.¹
- Salaried Individuals: Latest two months' salary slips, latest Form 16 or ITR, and last three months' bank statements.¹
- **Self-Employed Professionals:** Utility bills for the business location, business registration certificate, last three months' bank statements (Current and Savings), and the latest two years' ITR with audited financials.¹
- Non-Individual Cases (Partnership/Companies): Audited balance sheet, P&L account, and ITR for the last two years. Additional documents like a Board Resolution and Shareholding Pattern are also required.¹

2.4. Business Loans: Empowering Enterprise Growth

Business Loans are designed to provide quick and convenient banking solutions to finance both short-term and long-term business needs.

2.4.1. General Business Loan Eligibility and Terms

Axis Bank extends business loan facilities to a wide range of business constitutions, including Individuals with business registration, Proprietorship Firms, Partnership Firms, Limited Liability Partnerships (LLP), Pvt Ltd Companies, Unlisted Public Ltd Companies, and Trusts & Societies (for educational/hospital institutions). A fundamental eligibility criterion is that the business must have been under its current ownership for a minimum of three years.

Interest rates for general business loans are not standardized. They are determined on a case-by-case basis through a comprehensive assessment of the business profile, financial history, past track record, and the requested loan amount and tenure.¹

2.4.2. Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY): A Specialized Product

In addition to its general business loan offerings, Axis Bank participates in the government's flagship Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) scheme. This initiative aims to provide funding

to non-corporate, small, and micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector.¹

The scheme categorizes loans into three types based on the funding needs of the enterprise:

- **Shishu:** Loans sanctioned up to ₹50,000.
- **Kishore:** Loans sanctioned from ₹50,001 to ₹5 Lakh.
- **Tarun:** Loans sanctioned from ₹5,00,001 to ₹10 Lakh.

The maximum loan amount available under this scheme is ₹10 Lakh.¹ A key feature of the Mudra Loan is its collateral-free nature, which means borrowers are not required to provide any security for the loan.¹ This addresses a significant barrier for many micro-entrepreneurs who lack tangible assets to pledge. The bank's participation in this scheme, alongside its offering of general business loans, reveals a dual-pronged strategy: one product is designed for established, proven businesses with a track record of at least three years, while the other is a developmental tool to support emerging, unbankable micro-enterprises. This approach balances commercial objectives with regulatory and social mandates.

2.5. Education Loans: Investing in Human Capital

Education Loans are a crucial financial instrument for students pursuing higher education, both in India and abroad. Axis Bank offers various unsecured and secured options.

2.5.1. Eligibility and Applicant Type

Eligibility for an Education Loan depends on the student's academic record and the financial stability of a co-applicant. The bank offers several collateral-free loan options, especially for studies abroad. The criteria for these unsecured loans are stringent:

- Student Requirements: Must be an Indian citizen with at least 60% marks in Higher Secondary and Graduation. The student must have an admission letter for a Master's course from an institution on the bank's approved list.⁵
- Co-Applicant Requirements: The co-applicant must be an immediate family member (father, mother, brother, sister, or spouse) who is also an Indian citizen. The co-applicant must have a credit score above 600, a monthly income of over ₹35,000, and no existing EMIs. They are required to provide either three years of ITR or two years of Form 16.⁵

The stringent requirements for collateral-free Education Loans demonstrate the bank's risk management framework. Without a physical asset to secure the loan, the bank relies on the co-applicant's current financial standing and the student's future earning potential as the

primary guarantees. The restriction to specific Master's courses at approved institutions is a calculated risk mitigation strategy, as these programs are likely to lead to high-paying jobs, increasing the probability of timely loan repayment.

2.5.2. Loan Structures and Terms

Axis Bank offers a diverse range of unsecured Education Loans tailored to different needs:

- **PRIME ABROAD:** An unsecured loan of up to ₹75 Lakh for full-time premier courses abroad, with a tenure of up to 15 years.⁵
- **GRE-based funding:** An unsecured loan of up to ₹50 Lakh for abroad universities, based on the student's GRE score, with a tenure of up to 10 years.⁵
- Income-based funding: This loan offers amounts up to ₹50 Lakh based on the co-applicant's income and covers all full-time courses, domestic and abroad. The tenure can be up to 10 years.⁵
- Loan for higher study: A general unsecured loan for higher education in India or abroad, offering amounts up to ₹7.5 Lakh. A key benefit is the absence of pre-closure charges.⁵

Overall, Education Loans from Axis Bank can range from ₹50,000 to ₹5 Crore with a maximum tenure of 240 months.⁶

2.5.3. Interest Rates and Charges

There is some variation in the available data regarding Education Loan interest rates. One source indicates a range of 13.70% p.a. to 15.20% p.a. ⁷, while another cites a broader range of 8% to 16%. This discrepancy may be due to different loan products or data collection periods. Regardless, the rates for unsecured loans are higher than for secured loans, which is a common practice in the lending industry.

- Processing Fees: Fees can be up to 2% of the loan amount.⁶
- **Penal Charges:** A penal charge of 8% p.a. on the overdue amount is applied, capped at 24% p.a..⁶
- Foreclosure Charges: A notable benefit for borrowers is that there are no foreclosure charges for Education Loans, providing the flexibility to clear the loan early without penalty.⁶

2.5.4. Documentation

Both the student and the co-applicant must provide a set of documents for the loan application:

- **Student Documents:** Academic records, an admission letter from the institute, KYC documents, and bank statements from the last six months.⁸
- Co-Applicant Documents: Financial proofs (salary slips, ITRs), and KYC documents.8

2.6. Gold Loans and Instant Loans on Credit Cards

These products are designed to provide rapid access to funds, one through a secured channel and the other through an unsecured, pre-approved channel.

2.6.1. Gold Loans: Liquidity Against Collateral

A Gold Loan is a secured loan against pledged gold ornaments or coins. This loan provides quick liquidity while the gold asset remains in the bank's secure custody.

- **Eligibility and Assets:** Applicants must be resident Indians between 18 and 75 years of age. The primary eligibility criterion is the possession of physical gold in the form of jewelry or ornaments of at least 18-carat purity, or pure gold coins issued by a bank. A key advantage of this loan is that credit history is considered "less significant" because the loan is backed by a valuable, physical asset.
- Financial Terms: Loan amounts range from ₹25,001 to ₹25 Lakh.¹⁰ The loan amount is determined by the gold's value and the loan-to-value (LTV) ratio, which is capped at 75% as per RBI guidelines.⁹ The mean interest rate for Gold Loans disbursed between April and June 2025 was 11.94%.¹¹

2.6.2. Instant Loan on Credit Cards: Unsecured, Fast Access

This product is a unique offering that provides instant access to funds for existing Axis Bank

credit cardholders.

- Key Features: The central benefit is the "zero documentation" and "fast processing".

 The loan is based on a pre-approved offer, which means the bank has already conducted its due diligence on the customer's financial history and credit profile based on their credit card usage. This allows for instant fund disbursement without any additional paperwork.
- Financial Terms: The loan amount can be up to ₹15 Lakh, with tenures ranging from 12 to 48 months. The interest rate starts at 10.8% p.a..¹
- **Fees:** A one-time processing fee of 2% of the loan amount is charged. A foreclosure fee of 3% of the outstanding principal is also applicable.¹

The "zero documentation" feature of the Instant Loan on Credit Card is not an indicator of a lack of scrutiny. It is a highly efficient and strategic process that leverages the bank's existing data on its customers. By pre-vetting borrowers based on their established relationship and credit card behavior, the bank can provide a rapid, convenient service that meets a pressing financial need while minimizing its own risk and operational overhead.

3. Integrated Analysis and Comparative Insights

A comprehensive view of Axis Bank's loan portfolio reveals a sophisticated, multi-product strategy designed to serve a wide range of customer needs, from short-term financial emergencies to long-term wealth creation. A comparative analysis highlights the key differences and underlying commonalities across the loan categories.

3.1. Cross-Product Comparison Table

Loan Product	Loan Amount Range	Interest Rate Range	Max Tenure	Processin g Fees	Security	Target Applicant
Home Loan	Up to ₹5 Cr ²	Floating: 8.60%-9. 15% ³ ,	30 years	Up to 1%, min ₹10,000	Secured (Property)	Salaried, Self-Emp loyed

		Fixed: 14.00% ³		2		
Personal Loan	₹50K-₹4 OL ¹	9.90%-21 .55% ¹	84 months ¹	Up to 2%	Unsecure d	Salaried, Govt. Employee s
Car Loan	Up to 100% of car value	8.80%-11. 80% ¹	Over 36 months ¹	₹3,500-₹ 12,000 ¹	Secured (Vehicle)	Salaried, Self-Emp loyed
Business Loan	Varies by profile	Varies by profile ¹	Varies by profile	Varies by profile	Secured	Proprieto rship, Compani es, etc.
Mudra Loan (PMMY)	₹50K-₹1 0L ¹	Varies by profile	Varies by profile	Varies by profile	Collateral -Free	Small & Micro-En terprises
Educatio n Loan	₹50K-₹5 Cr ⁶	8%-16% ⁶	240 months ⁶	Up to 2%	Secured/ Unsecure d	Students (w/Co-ap plicant)
Gold Loan	₹25K-₹25 L ¹⁰	Mean: 11.94% ¹¹	36 months ¹⁰	1% ¹⁰	Secured (Gold)	Resident Indians
Instant Loan on CC	₹25K-₹15 L ¹	Starting from 10.8% ¹	48 months ¹	2% 1	Unsecure d	Existing CC holders

3.2. Common Trends and Nuances

The analysis of Axis Bank's loan portfolio reveals several overarching trends in its lending philosophy:

• The Advantage of a Stable Profile: Across all unsecured and even some secured loan

categories, a strong preference for salaried individuals and government employees is evident. These applicants benefit from more streamlined processes and are often eligible for more favorable interest rates.¹ This approach reflects a fundamental lending principle where a predictable income stream is considered a reliable indicator of repayment capacity.

- The Power of Collateral: A clear trade-off exists between secured and unsecured loan products. Secured loans, such as Home and Car Loans, offer significantly lower interest rates and higher loan amounts in exchange for an asset that serves as collateral.¹ Unsecured products, like Personal and Instant Credit Card Loans, are faster to access and do not require collateral but carry a higher interest rate to compensate the bank for the increased risk.
- The Role of Credit History: The importance of a strong credit score is a recurring theme. The bank explicitly states that a score above 750 improves Personal Loan eligibility and can lead to competitive rates. The financial health of a co-applicant is a primary consideration for unsecured Education Loans. This demonstrates that regardless of whether a loan is secured or unsecured, the bank places a high value on a borrower's financial discipline as a key indicator of creditworthiness.

4. Conclusion and Strategic Recommendations

The analysis confirms that Axis Bank offers a comprehensive and highly segmented suite of loan products. The bank has successfully balanced its portfolio to cater to both the commercial market (with its Business and Car Loans) and the social market (with its participation in the Mudra Yojana and specialized Home Loan schemes). Its strategic use of digital channels and existing customer data provides a significant competitive advantage in a fast-paced lending environment.

Based on this analysis, the following strategic recommendations are offered for any prospective borrower:

- 1. Assess Your Profile Beforehand: A prospective borrower should first identify their own applicant segment (salaried, self-employed, etc.) and honestly evaluate their financial standing. This will pre-determine eligibility for many loan products and guide the selection process.
- 2. Look Beyond the Headline Rate: The "starting from" interest rate should be considered a best-case scenario. It is crucial to evaluate the total cost of borrowing, which includes processing fees, penal charges, and any prepayment penalties. A loan with a slightly higher starting rate but lower fees and flexible prepayment terms might prove to be a more cost-effective option over the long run.
- 3. Leverage Your Financial Standing: A borrower's credit score and existing banking

relationship are powerful assets. Maintaining a high credit score and a healthy EMI-to-income ratio will not only improve the chances of loan approval but also secure more favorable interest rates and terms. The bank's own guidance underscores this point; by improving these metrics, an applicant is, in effect, strengthening their own position as a borrower.

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