FICO® Score Factors Guide - Experian

The consumer-friendly reason descriptions and actions a consumer can take (or things to keep in mind) below are provided for use within your FICO® Score Open Access customer displays. The table includes a reason description and actions (or keep in mind) for each of the reason codes associated with the FICO® Score your organization plans to disclose to its customers. This document is not intended to be provided to consumers, as it contains the actual reason code values.

FICO® Risk Score Reason Codes	Reason Statement	Full Description	*Actions You Can Take* or *Keep this in mind*
01	Amount owed on accounts is too high	Your FICO® Score considers how much you owe on your credit accounts, such as credit cards and non-mortgage loans. Generally, the more you owe on these accounts, the greater risk you pose to lenders.	*Actions You Can Take* Try to pay off your current debts and maintain low balances. Keep in mind that consolidating or moving your debt from one account to another will usually not help your FICO® Score since the total amount owed remains the same.
02	Level of delinquency on accounts	Missed and late payments, including the number of late payments, how late they were, and how recently they occurred, are an important part of your FICO® Score. Your score was hurt because you have missed payments to your creditors.	*Actions You Can Take* If you have late payments, get caught up on them and do your best to stay current. Focus on continually paying all your bills on time. This will demonstrate a good payment history and these late payments will have less of an impact on your FICO® Score as time passes.
03	Too few bank/national revolving accounts	You have fewer revolving credit card accounts than other consumers with credit histories of similar length. Actively and responsibly managing a moderate number of revolving credit cards is a sign of good credit management.	*Actions You Can Take* If you don't have many credit cards, you might consider opening a new credit card. However, opening a new account, and to a lesser extent, the credit inquiry associated with opening a new credit card may lower your score in the short term. Opening a new credit card and managing your credit wisely will demonstrate that you can handle different types of credit.
04	Too many bank/national revolving accounts	Your FICO® Score considers the total number of credit card accounts you have. Consumers with a moderate number of revolving credit cards on their credit bureau report represent lower risk than consumers with either a relatively large number or a very limited number of revolving credit cards.	*Keep this in mind* Closing an existing revolving credit card account doesn't make it disappear from your credit report immediately. So closing many or all of these accounts isn't likely to impact your FICO® Score.
05	Too many accounts with balances	Your FICO® Score considers the number of accounts you have with balances. For credit cards, even if you pay them off in full each month, your credit report may still show a balance on those cards. The total balance on your last statement is generally the amount that is shown on your credit report.	*Actions You Can Take* Consider reducing the number of your accounts that carry a balance and keeping your balances low.

FICO® Risk Score Reason Codes	Reason Statement	Full Description	*Actions You Can Take* or *Keep this in mind*
06	Too many consumer finance company accounts	The fact that you have a consumer finance company loan on your credit report means that you represent a higher risk to lenders than someone with no consumer finance loans. Even if this account is closed, it will still lower your FICO® Score.	*Keep this in mind* Consumer finance companies typically grant loans to people with poor credit histories. These are often high-interest loans because the consumer finance company is assuming more risk by lending to people with less than perfect credit. Try to stay current with all of your payments and avoid opening any new credit accounts that you don't need.
07	Account payment history is too new to rate	None of the credit accounts on your credit report contain enough payment information to determine if you are a responsible borrower.	*Keep this in mind* As your credit history lengthens, this factor may have less of a negative impact on your score.
08	Too many inquiries last 12 months	Each time you apply for credit a credit inquiry is added to your credit report. People who are actively seeking credit pose more of a risk to lenders than those who are not. Your FICO® Score was lowered due to the number of credit inquiries within the last 12 months.	*Keep this in mind* A common misperception is that every inquiry will drop your score a certain number of points. This is not true. Typically, the presence of inquiries on your credit file has only a small impact on FICO® Scores, carrying much less importance than late payments, the amount you owe, and the length of time you have used credit. However, as a general rule, if you don't need or plan to use credit, don't apply for it. Your FICO® Score will consider recent inquiries less as time passes, provided no new inquiries are added.
09	Too many accounts recently opened	Your FICO® Score was hurt because of recent credit account openings. Opening several credit accounts in a short time period is reflective of greater risk – especially for people with short credit histories.	*Actions You Can Take* Avoid opening more credit accounts at this time and as a general rule, if you don't need or plan to use credit, don't apply for it.
10	Ratio of balance to limit on bank revolving or other rev accts is too high	Your FICO® Score evaluates your balances in relation to available credit on revolving accounts. The extent of your credit usage is one of the most important factors in your FICO® Score. In your case, this proportion of balances to credit limits is too high on these accounts	*Actions You Can Take* Try to pay down your credit cards or other revolving balances. Keep in mind that consolidating or moving your debt from one account to another will usually not help your FICO® Score since the total amount owed remains the same.
11	Amount owed on revolving accounts is too high	Your FICO® Score evaluates how much you owe on your revolving accounts, such as your credit cards. Generally, the more you owe on these accounts, the greater risk you pose to lenders.	*Actions You Can Take* Consider lowering the balances on your revolving accounts, e.g., by paying more than the minimum payment each month if you can. Keep in mind that consolidating or moving your debt from one account to another will usually not help your FICO® Score since the total amount owed remains the same.
12	Length of time revolving accounts have been established	People who do not frequently open new accounts and have longer credit histories generally pose less risk to lenders. In your case, the age of your oldest revolving account and/or the average age of your revolving accounts is relatively low.	*Keep this in mind* As your revolving credit history lengthens and you pay your bills on time, this factor may have less of a negative impact on your FICO® Score.
13	Time since delinquency is too recent or unknown	Missed and late payments, including the number of late payments, how late they were, and how recently they occurred, are an important part of your FICO® Score. Your score was hurt because the time since your most recent past due payment was too recent.	*Actions You Can Take* Focus on continually paying all your bills on time. This will demonstrate a good payment history so that your last missed payment will have less of an impact on your FICO® Score as time passes.
14	Length of time accounts have been established	People who do not frequently open new accounts and have longer credit histories generally pose less risk to lenders. In your case, the age of your oldest account and/or the average age of your accounts is relatively low.	*Keep this in mind* As your credit history lengthens and you pay your bills on time, this factor should have less of a negative impact on your score.

FICO® Risk Score Reason Codes	Reason Statement	Full Description	*Actions You Can Take* or *Keep this in mind*
15	Lack of recent bank/national revolving information	Your FICO® Score evaluates your mix of credit cards, loans, and mortgages, and your credit report shows no open credit cards or sufficient recent information about your credit cards. People who demonstrate responsible use of different types of credit are generally less risky to lenders.	*Actions You Can Take* You might want to show new activity on any credit card. If you already have a credit card, you can do this by using it and paying it back on time. If you don't have a credit card, consider opening one. However, be aware that a new account opening, and to a lesser extent, the credit inquiry associated with applying for a new card may lower your FICO® Score in the short term.
16	Lack of recent revolving account information	Your FICO® Score evaluates your mix of credit products, and your credit report shows no open revolving accounts or sufficient recent information about your revolving accounts. People who demonstrate responsible use of different types of credit are generally less risky to lenders.	*Actions You Can Take* If you already have a revolving account, you might want to show new activity by using it and paying it back on time. If you don't have a revolving account, consider opening one. However, be aware that a new account opening, and to a lesser extent, the credit inquiry associated with applying for a new card may lower your FICO® Score in the short term.
17	No recent non-mortgage balance information	People who demonstrate responsible use of different types of credit are generally less risky to lenders, and your credit report shows no open or recently reported credit accounts, except for possibly a mortgage.	*Actions You Can Take* Demonstrate an ability to moderately and responsibly use credit accounts. If you have a credit card, show new balance activity by using the card and paying it back on time. If you don't have any open non-mortgage credit accounts, consider opening one. However, be aware that opening a new account, and to a lesser extent, the credit inquiry associated with applying for one may lower your FICO® Score in the short term.
18	Number of accounts with delinquency	Missed and late payments, including the number of late payments, how late they were, and how recently they occurred, are an important part of your FICO® Score. Your score was hurt because your credit report shows one or more accounts with missed payments.	*Actions You Can Take* Try to catch up on any late payment and focus on continually paying all your bills on time. This will demonstrate a good payment history, and these late payments will have less of a negative impact on your FICO® Score as time passes.
19	Too few accounts currently paid as agreed	Your FICO® Score considers the number of accounts where you are paying your bills as agreed. In your case this number is too low because you have very few accounts or because you've missed payments recently on some of your accounts.	*Actions You Can Take* If you don't have many accounts, you might consider opening a new credit card. However, opening a new account, and to a lesser extent, the credit inquiry associated with opening a new credit card may lower your score in the short term. Opening a new credit card and managing your credit wisely will demonstrate that you can handle different types of credit.
20	Time since derogatory public record or collection is too short	The recency of a derogatory public record (such as a bankruptcy or tax lien) or collection is a powerful predictor of future payment risk. Satisfying the public record or paying off the collection will not remove the item from your credit report. It will still be considered by your FICO® Score.	*Keep this in mind* As this item ages, its impact on your FICO® Score will gradually decrease. Most public records and collections stay on your report for no more than seven years – though bankruptcies may remain for up to 10 years.
21	Amount past due on accounts	Your FICO® Score was hurt because you have payments past due on your accounts. Generally, the greater amount that is past due, the greater the risk to lenders.	*Actions You Can Take* Try to get caught up on these past-due amounts and continue to pay your bills on time.
24	No recent revolving balances	Your credit report shows no recent balances on your revolving accounts. Your FICO® Score was hurt because you are not currently demonstrating active revolving credit management.	*Actions You Can Take* You might consider moderate and responsible use of your revolving accounts, such as charging low balances and repaying them on time.

FICO® Risk Score Reason Codes	Reason Statement	Full Description	*Actions You Can Take* or *Keep this in mind*
25	Length of time installment loans have been established	People who do not frequently open new accounts and have longer credit histories generally pose less risk to lenders. In your case, the age of your oldest installment loan and/or the average age of your installment loan accounts is relatively low.	*Keep this in mind* As your installment loan credit history lengthens and you pay your bills on time, this factor may have less of a negative impact on your FICO® Score.
26	Number of revolving accounts	Your FICO® Score looks at the total number of revolving accounts you have. Consumers with a moderate number of revolving accounts on their credit bureau report represent lower risk than consumers with either a relatively large number or a very limited number of revolving accounts.	*Actions You Can Take* If you don't have many revolving accounts, you might consider opening a new credit card. However, please keep in mind, opening a new account, and to a lesser extent, the resulting credit inquiry may lower your FICO® Score in the short term.
28	Number of established accounts	Your FICO® Score looks at the total number of accounts you have. Consumers with a moderate number of credit accounts on their credit bureau report represent lower risk than consumers with either a relatively large number of accounts or a very limited number of accounts.	*Keep this in mind*. If you don't have many credit accounts, you might consider opening a new credit card. However, please keep in mind that opening a new account, and to a lesser extent, the resulting credit inquiry, may lower your FICO® Score in the short term.
30	Time since most recent account opening is too short	Your FICO® Score considers how recently you opened a new credit account. People who recently opened a new credit account are more likely to miss future payments than those who have not.	*Actions You Can Take* Avoid opening more credit accounts at this time and as a general rule, if you don't need or plan to use credit, don't apply for it.
31	Too few accounts with recent payment information	Your FICO® Score considers the number of accounts with recent payment or activity information. In your case this number is too low because you have very few accounts or because you have few accounts with recent payment or activity information.	*Actions You Can Take* Demonstrate an ability to moderately and responsibly use credit accounts. If you have a credit card, show new balance activity by using the card and paying it back on time. If you don't have any open non-mortgage credit accounts, consider opening one. However, be aware that opening a new account, and to a lesser extent, the credit inquiry associated with applying for one may lower your FICO® Score in the short term.
32	Lack of recent installment loan information	Your credit report shows no recent non-mortgage loans (such as auto or student loans) or sufficient recent information about your loans. Having a loan along with other types of credit demonstrates that you are able to manage a variety of credit types.	*Actions You Can Take* Consider financing your next purchase with an installment loan, and paying back the loan on time. However, be aware that a new account opening, and to a lesser extent, the credit inquiry associated with applying for a new account may lower your FICO® Score in the short term.
33	Proportion of loan balances to loan amounts is too high	Your FICO® Score weighs the balances of your mortgage and non-mortgage installment loans (such as auto or student loans) against the original loan amounts. In general, when you first obtain an installment loan your balance is high, and as you pay this loan down, the balance decreases.	*Keep this in mind* This factor will have less of a negative impact on your FICO® Score as you pay down your installment loans and the total balance decreases.
34	Amount owed on delinquent accounts	Late payments are a very powerful predictor of future payment risk, and the amount you owe on your past-due accounts is too high. The higher the balances on past-due accounts, the greater the risk.	*Actions You Can Take* Try to get caught up on these past-due amounts and continue to pay your bills on time.
36	Length of time open installment loans have been established	People who do not frequently open new accounts and have longer credit histories generally pose less risk to lenders. In your case, the age of your oldest open (not yet paid off) installment loan and/or the average age of your open installment loan accounts is relatively low.	*Keep this in mind* As your credit history on your open installment loans lengthen and you pay your bills on time, this factor may have less of a negative impact on your FICO® Score.

FICO® Risk Score Reason Codes	Reason Statement	Full Description	*Actions You Can Take* or *Keep this in mind*
38	Serious delinquency, and public record or collection filed	The presence of a derogatory public record or collection and a serious delinquency is a powerful predictor of future payment risk. Satisfying the public record or paying off the collection will not remove the item from your credit report. It will still be considered by your FICO® Score.	*Keep this in mind* As these items age, the impact on your FICO® Score will gradually decrease. Most collections, public records and delinquencies stay on your report for no more than seven years – though bankruptcies may remain for up to 10 years.
39	Serious delinquency	The presence of a serious delinquency is a powerful predictor of future payment risk. People with previous late payments are much more likely to pay late in the future.	*Keep this in mind* As these items age, the impact on your FICO® Score will gradually decrease. Most late payments stay on your report for no more than seven years.
40	Derogatory public record or collection filed	A derogatory public record or collection is a powerful predictor of future payment risk. Satisfying a public record or paying off a collection will not remove a valid item from your credit report. It will still be considered by your FICO® Score.	*Keep this in mind*. As this item ages, its impact on your FICO® Score will gradually decrease. Most public records and collections stay on your report for no more than seven years – though bankruptcies may remain for up to 10 years. Try to demonstrate a good payment history on any credit accounts you have. If you have none, consider opening a secured credit card to re-establish your repayment history.
41	No recent retail balances	Your FICO® Score evaluates your mix of credit products. People who demonstrate responsible use of different types of credit are generally less risky to lenders, and your credit report shows no retail account balances or it does not report recent balance information about any of your retail accounts.	*Actions You Can Take* You might want to show new activity on any retail card. You can do this by using it and paying it back on time.
46	Payments due on accounts	Missed and late payments, including the number of late payments, how late they were, and how recently they occurred, are an important part of your FICO® Score. Your score was hurt because you have missed payments to your creditors.	*Actions You Can Take* Focus on continually paying all your bills on time. This will demonstrate a good payment history and these late payments will have less of an impact on your FICO® Score as time passes.
50	Lack of recent retail account information	Your FICO® Score evaluates your mix of credit products, and your credit report shows no retail accounts or sufficient recent information about your retail accounts. People who demonstrate responsible use of different types of credit are generally less risky to lenders.	*Actions You Can Take* If you already have a retail card, you may want to show new activity by using it and paying it back on time. If you don't have a retail card, consider opening one. However, be aware that a new account opening, and to a lesser extent, the credit inquiry associated with applying for a new card may lower your FICO® Score in the short term.
53	Amount paid down on open mortgage loans is too low	Your FICO® Score considers how much you owe on your open mortgage loans relative to the original mortgage amount. Generally, the less you have paid down existing mortgage loans, the greater risk you pose to lenders.	*Actions You Can Take* Consider paying down your open mortgage loan to lower your remaining balance, e.g., by applying more than the scheduled payment amount to the principal each month if you can.
55	Amount paid down on open installment loans is too low	Your FICO® Score considers how much you owe on your open installment loans, such as auto loans, relative to the original loan amount. Generally, the less you have paid down existing installment loans, the greater risk you pose to lenders.	*Actions You Can Take* Consider paying down your open installment loan to lower your remaining balance, e.g., by paying more than the scheduled payment amount each month if you can.
56	Amount owed on retail accounts	Your FICO® Score considers how much you owe on your retail credit accounts. Generally, the more you owe on these accounts, the greater risk you pose to lenders.	*Actions You Can Take* Consider lowering the balances on your retail accounts, e.g., by paying more than the minimum payment each month if you can. Keep in mind that consolidating or moving your debt from one account to another will usually not help your FICO® Score since the total amount owed remains the same.

FICO® Risk Score Reason Codes	Reason Statement	Full Description	*Actions You Can Take* or *Keep this in mind*
58	Proportion of balances to loan amounts on mortgage loans is too high	Your FICO® Score evaluates the balances of mortgage loans in relation to the original loan amount on your mortgages. In general, when you first obtain a mortgage loan, your balance is high, and as you pay these loans down, the balance decreases.	*Keep this in mind* This factor will have less of a negative impact on your FICO® Score as you pay down your mortgage loans and the total balance decreases.
59	Lack of recent revolving HELOC information	Your FICO® Score evaluates your mix of credit products, and your credit report shows no open revolving home equity lines of credit (HELOC) or sufficient recent information about your revolving HELOC accounts. People who demonstrate responsible use of different types of credit are generally less risky to lenders.	*Actions You Can Take* If you have equity in your home, you might consider opening a HELOC. Although the credit inquiry associated with opening a revolving HELOC account may lower your FICO® Score in the short term, opening and responsibly managing a revolving HELOC account will demonstrate your ability to handle different types of credit.
62	Ratio of balances to credit limits on revolving HELOC accts is too high	Your FICO® Score evaluates your balances in relation to available credit on home equity lines of credit (HELOC). The extent of your credit usage is one of the most important factors to your FICO® Score. In your case, this proportion of balances to credit limits is too high on these accounts.	*Actions You Can Take* Try to pay down your revolving HELOC balances. Keep in mind that consolidating or moving your debt from one account to another will usually not help your FICO® Score since the total amount owed remains the same.
64	Proportion of revolving HELOC balances to total revolving balances is too high	Your FICO® Score evaluates the balances of your revolving home equity line of credit (HELOC) accounts in relation to your total revolving balances. In your case, this proportion of revolving HELOC revolving balances to total revolving balances is too high.	*Actions You Can Take* Consider paying down your HELOC balances. Keep in mind that consolidating or moving your debt from one account to another will usually not help your FICO® Score since the total amount owed remains the same.
65	Length of time bank/national revolving accounts have been established	People who do not frequently open new accounts and have longer credit histories generally pose less risk to lenders. In your case, the age of your oldest credit card account and/or the average age of your credit card accounts is relatively low.	*Keep this in mind* As your revolving credit card account history lengthens and you pay your bills on time, this factor may have less of a negative impact on your FICO® Score.
67	Length of time open mortgage loans have been established	People who do not frequently open new accounts and have longer credit histories generally pose less risk to lenders. In your case, the age of your oldest open mortgage loan and/or the average age of your open mortgage loans is relatively low.	*Keep this in mind* As your open mortgage credit history lengthens and you pay your bills on time, this factor may have less of a negative impact on your FICO® Score.
70	Amount owed on mortgage loans is too high	Your FICO® Score evaluates how much you owe on your mortgage loans. Generally, the more you owe on these accounts, the greater risk you pose to lenders.	*Actions You Can Take* Consider paying down your mortgage balance, e.g., by paying a small additional amount each month towards your principal. Keep in mind that consolidating or moving your debt from your mortgage to another account will usually not help your FICO® Score since the total amount owed remains the same.
71	Too many recently opened installment accounts	Your FICO® Score was hurt because you recently opened too many new installment loans. Opening several installment loans in a short time period is reflective of greater risk – especially for people with short credit histories.	*Actions You Can Take* Avoid opening more credit accounts at this time and as a general rule, if you don't need or plan to use credit, don't apply for it.
77	Proportion of balances to loan amounts on auto accounts is too high	Your FICO® Score evaluates the balances in relation to your original loan amount on automobile loans. In general, when you first obtain an automobile loan, your balance is high, and as you pay these loans down, the balance decreases.	*Keep this in mind* This factor will have less of a negative impact on your FICO® Score as you pay down your auto loans and the total balance decreases.

FICO® Risk Score Reason Codes	Reason Statement	Full Description	*Actions You Can Take* or *Keep this in mind*
78	Length of time reported mortgage accounts have been established	People who do not frequently open new accounts and have longer credit histories generally pose less risk to lenders. In your case, the age of your oldest reported mortgage loan and/or the average age of your mortgage loans is relatively low.	*Keep this in mind* As your mortgage credit history lengthens and you pay your bills on time, this factor may have less of a negative impact on your FICO® Score.
79	Lack of recent reported mortgage loan information	Your FICO® Score evaluates your mix of credit cards, loans, and mortgages, and your credit report shows no open mortgage loans or sufficient recent information about your mortgage loans. People who demonstrate responsible use of different types of credit are generally less risky to lenders.	*Actions You Can Take* Only take out a mortgage loan if you can afford the payments over the life of the loan. However, be aware that a new account opening, and to a lesser extent, the credit inquiry associated with applying for a new mortgage loan may lower your FICO® Score in the short term.
81	Frequency of delinquency	Missed and late payments, including the number of late payments, how late they were, and how recently they occurred, are an important part of your FICO® Score. Your score was hurt because your credit report shows multiple missed payments.	*Actions You Can Take* Focus on continually paying all your bills on time. This will demonstrate a good payment history and these late payments will have less of a negative impact on your FICO® Score as time passes.
85	Too few active accounts	Your FICO® Score considers the number of accounts which you are actively using and paying as agreed. In your case this number is too low because you have very few accounts or because you have not used your credit accounts recently.	*Actions You Can Take* If you don't have many accounts, you might consider opening a new credit card. Opening a new credit card and managing your credit wisely will demonstrate that you can handle different types of credit. However, opening a new account, and to a lesser extent, the resulting credit inquiry may lower your score in the short term.
96	Too many mortgage loans with balances	Your FICO® Score looks at the total number of mortgage loan accounts you have with outstanding balances. People with a moderate number of mortgage loans with balances represent lower risk than those with a relatively large number of mortgage loans with balances.	*Keep this in mind* Closing an existing mortgage loan doesn't make it disappear from your credit report immediately. So closing many or all of your accounts isn't likely to impact your FICO® Score.
98	Lack of recent auto loan information	Your credit report shows no open auto loans or sufficient recent information about any of your auto loans. Your FICO® Score evaluates your mix of credit cards, loans, and mortgages. People who demonstrate responsible use of different types of credit are generally less risky to lenders.	*Actions You Can Take* You might consider financing your next automobile purchase and paying back the loan on time. However, be aware that a new account opening, and to a lesser extent, the credit inquiry associated with applying for a new account may lower your FICO® Score in the short term.
99	Lack of recent consumer finance company account information	Your credit report shows no consumer finance loans or it does not report recent information (such as payment information) about any of your consumer finance loans.	*Keep this in mind* Consumer finance companies typically grant loans to people with poor credit histories. You should try to stay current with all of your payments and avoid opening any new credit accounts that you don't need.