

# FICO® Score 10 T Migration Guide

2022

**FICO**® SCORE

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## Executive Summary

Transitioning to a new FICO® Score is an exciting milestone for a financial institution. By moving to a newer version of the FICO Score, you will gain a higher level of predictiveness, and you will also benefit from a model built using a consistent blueprint from prior FICO Scores, carrying forward key features and maintaining the trusted FICO scoring scale, and the same score range and minimum scoring criteria.

Since you've likely been using an earlier FICO® Score version for many years, you may be wondering what steps are needed to transition from the current score you use to the new FICO Score. FICO is here to help. This guide is designed to support you through your transition to FICO® Score 10 T by outlining key planning steps and activities and sharing some implementation best practices.

Transitioning to a new FICO® Score entails the following high-level activities:

1. Learn about the new FICO® Score model
2. Identify where you currently use the FICO Score
3. Confirm compliance requirements
4. Determine systems / data impacts
5. Update third-party agreements if needed
6. Plan for ongoing testing, monitoring, and maintenance
7. Go live

## Learn about the new FICO® Score model

Stakeholders should familiarize themselves with the new model's features and benefits prior to implementation. Did you know that FICO® Score 10 T bypasses paid 3<sup>rd</sup> party collection agency accounts and considers rental data when found on credit files? From a predictive power perspective, FICO Score 10 T provides significant lift over the prior models. *Learn about these and other FICO Score 10 T key features and benefits at: [www.fico.com/ficoscore10T](http://www.fico.com/ficoscore10T)*

You'll also want to consider whether there are any changes to score distributions, or the odds-to-score relationship based on industry data. With any score change, there will be some score distribution differences; however, given FICO® Score 10 T has a similar design as prior FICO® Scores, these differences are generally minor. *Learn more about score distribution and odds-to-score relationship on national sample and by industries, Access FICO Score 10 T odds charts in the Implementation Resources section of the FICO Score Support website:*

[community.fico.com/s/fico-score-support-registration](http://community.fico.com/s/fico-score-support-registration)

Identify and prepare for any new score reason codes required for the new model. FICO® Score 10 T incorporates trended bureau data, and as a result there are a few new reason codes. The good news is that many of the reason codes generated by FICO Score 10 T are the same as prior versions of FICO® Scores. So, you will only have a handful of new reason codes to prepare for. *For a list of all FICO Score 10 T reason codes, see the Implementation Resources section of the FICO Score Support website:*

[community.fico.com/s/fico-score-support-registration](http://community.fico.com/s/fico-score-support-registration)

## Identify where FICO® Score is currently used

The FICO® Score (and associated reason codes) may be used in numerous processes at your organization. An important first step is to identify all its applications so that each transition can be prioritized and managed.

Common uses for FICO Scores include:

- Customer / member and prospect decisions and strategies across the credit lifecycle, such as prescreen, underwriting, origination, account management, and collections / recovery
- Reporting (internal, regulatory, and other external)
- Credit loss forecasting, stress testing, and other regulatory models
- Within custom models, strategies, and policies
- As part of adverse action, risk-based pricing, or other notices

Once you have an inventory of all the ways you use FICO® Scores, you can create a plan for updating any required systems, processes, and strategies. FICO developed FICO® Score 10 T with ease of transition in mind, so you can easily operationalize and gain benefits of the new model.

## Confirm compliance requirements

It is important to understand and meet all your internal compliance requirements as well as any external requirements. Your compliance team will likely ask the following types of questions:

- Is the model compliant with fair lending laws?
- Is the model designed to be an empirically derived, demonstrably and statistically sound (EDDSS) credit scoring model as defined under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA)?
- Does the model consider variables that are prohibited bases (or proxies) under fair lending laws (i.e., the Fair Housing Act (FHA) and ECOA)), such as race, color, or national origin?
- Are the reason codes explainable and palatable for lenders and consumers?
- Has the model undergone rigorous testing?
- Do independent third-party experts conclude the model complies with fair lending requirements?

FICO is proud of its longstanding commitment to fair lending and compliance. At FICO, a fundamental goal is—and has always been—development of credit score models that provide lenders with a tool they can use to extend credit fairly and objectively to more consumers. *Learn about FICO® Score Fair Lending and Compliance in the Implementation Resources section of the FICO Score Support website:*

[community.fico.com/s/fico-score-support-registration](https://community.fico.com/s/fico-score-support-registration)

Some organizations may choose to perform a statistical validation of the new FICO® Score model(s) in addition to reviewing the materials provided by FICO. If your organization intends to perform such an analysis. *Learn about performing validations with our FICO® Score Validation Guide in the Implementation Resources section of the FICO Score Support website:*

[community.fico.com/s/fico-score-support-registration](https://community.fico.com/s/fico-score-support-registration)

## Determine systems / data impacts

Transitioning to a new FICO® Score may have important systems and/or data impacts. The following areas should be considered:

### Check availability at third party Loan Origination System provider (if required)

If you rely on a third-party Loan Origination System (LOS) provider, you should inform them of your intent to begin using the new FICO® Score and identify any actions they or you may need to take to do so.

### Determine historical re-scoring and archival requirements

You may wish to re-score some or all of your portfolio as of one or more dates in the past to support comparisons, analyses, reporting, or other activities. If so, you will need to work with at least one of the US nationwide consumer reporting agencies (CRAs) to receive archive scores. To support those lenders that wish to validate FICO® Score 10 T using archive data, we have provided all three CRAs the right to allow lenders to obtain a number of FICO® Scores needed for retrospective validation projects prior to July 2023 with no fees from FICO.

### Determine impacts of new reason codes

As noted previously, your systems may need to be updated to accommodate any new reason codes so they can be incorporated into prospect / customer / member communications as needed. *For a list of all FICO Score 10 T reason codes see the Implementation Resources section of the FICO Score Support website:* [community.fico.com/s/fico-score-support-registration](https://community.fico.com/s/fico-score-support-registration)

### Coordinate with third parties as needed

Updates may be needed to your current arrangements with one or more CRAs (or their resellers) and/or LOS providers for you to obtain the new FICO® Score and reason codes. Consider what archives may be required, when and at what cadence the new FICO Score should start being received on an ongoing basis, and when the current FICO Score should no longer be received. We recommend processing both the current and new FICO Scores for a period to allow a smooth transition.

### Plan for ongoing testing, monitoring, and maintenance

Your organization may have requirements to test, monitor, and maintain new models and data sources, as well as any custom models that use these new models or data sources as inputs. We recommend that you establish a regular cadence for such activities to ensure the robust performance and integration of FICO® Scores across your business.

### Go live

Once the above assessments and plans have been put into place, you are ready to go live with your new FICO® Score. Congratulations!

## Conclusion

By following the steps above, you are setting up for a smooth transition to the new FICO® Score. Thank you for being a FICO Score customer!

- For additional resources please visit our FICO Score Migration Resource Center: [www.fico.com/ficoscore10T](https://www.fico.com/ficoscore10T)
- We are available to answer questions and look forward to hearing from you: [ficoscoreinfo@fico.com](mailto:ficoscoreinfo@fico.com)