

# Buy 3 Credit Reports

Credit reports list your bill payment history, loans, current debt, and other financial information. They show where you work and live and whether you've been sued, arrested, or filed for bankruptcy. Credit reports help lenders decide if they'll give you credit or approve a loan. The reports also help determine what interest rate they will charge you. Employers, insurers, and rental property owners may also look at your credit report. You won't know which credit report a creditor or employer will use to check your credit. Credit reporting agencies (CRAs) collect and maintain information for your credit reports. Each CRA manages its own records and might not have information about all your accounts. Even though there are differences between their reports, no agency is more important than the others. And the information each agency has must be accurate. Check your credit reports regularly to make sure that your personal and financial information is accurate. It also helps to make sure nobody's opened fraudulent accounts in your name. If you find errors on your credit report, take steps to have them corrected. Making sure your credit report is accurate ensures your credit score can be too. You can have multiple credit scores. The credit reporting agencies that maintain your credit reports do not calculate these scores. Instead, different companies or lenders who have their own credit scoring systems create them. A medical history report is a summary of your medical conditions. Insurance companies use these reports to decide if they will offer you insurance. You have the right to get a copy of your report from MIB, the company that manages and owns the reporting database. Both your credit reports and FICO® Scores can vary from bureau to bureau, and your lender may pull your report and FICO Scores from any or all 3 of them. Having scores from all 3 bureaus is also important if you're preparing for a mortgage. Out of the 3 credit scores from each bureau, mortgage lenders will use what's called the "middle score". You need your score from all 3 bureaus to identify your middle score. It is a good idea to regularly check your credit reports for errors. If you're actively seeking credit, consider monthly updates to your credit report and full set of FICO® Scores to make sure they are accurate and up-to-date. The information in your credit report can affect your buying power. It can also affect your chance to get a job, rent or buy a place to live, and buy insurance. Credit bureaus sell the information in your report to businesses that use it to decide whether to loan you money, give you credit, offer you insurance, or rent you a home. Some employers use credit reports in hiring decisions. The strength of your credit history also affects how much you will have to pay to borrow money. You have options: order your free reports at the same time, or stagger your requests throughout the year. Some financial advisors say staggering your requests during a 12-month period may be a good way to keep an eye on the accuracy and completeness of the information in your reports. Because each nationwide credit bureau gets its information from different sources, the information in your report from one credit bureau may not be the same as the information in your reports from the other two credit bureaus. We think it's important for you to understand how we make money. It's pretty simple, actually. The offers for financial products you see on our platform come from companies who pay us. The money we make helps us give you access to free credit scores and reports and helps us create our other great tools and educational materials. A credit bureau is a company that gathers and stores various types of information about you and your financial accounts and history. It draws on this information to create your credit reports, which in turn form the basis for your credit scores. The information in your credit reports is used to calculate your credit scores. Credit-scoring models can weigh the same information from the same credit report differently. But the main scoring models, FICO and VantageScore, look at information in five key areas to determine your scores: payment history, credit usage, credit history, credit mix and recent credit. As a consumer, you can request your free credit reports from the bureaus once a year at [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com). You can also sign up for Credit Karma for free to see your Equifax and TransUnion credit reports and VantageScore 3.0

credit scores. You also have the right to dispute inaccurate information in your reports and with data furnishers. Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the consumer reporting company and the company that furnished the information to the credit bureau must conduct a free investigation to verify the information and correct a mistake, if they find one. The three main credit bureaus, Equifax, Experian and TransUnion, draw on a wide variety of sources to build your credit reports. Credit-scoring models like FICO and VantageScore use these reports to calculate your credit scores. Your credit scores can vary by credit bureau, but this is normal. Check your credit reports often for errors. As a Credit Karma member, you can access your Equifax and TransUnion credit reports and VantageScore 3.0 credit scores any time for free, or you can request a free copy of your credit reports on [annualcreditreport.com](https://annualcreditreport.com) once a year. Placing a fraud alert on your credit reports is free. Click [here](#) to place an initial one-year fraud alert or active duty alert on your Equifax credit report online by creating a myEquifax account. Once your fraud alert or active duty alert is placed, you can also check its status through myEquifax.

You can contact any of the three nationwide credit bureaus to request an initial fraud alert or active duty alert. Once you have placed an initial fraud alert or active duty alert on your credit report with one of the bureaus, that bureau will send a request to the other two bureaus to do the same, so you do not have to contact all three.

You can also request an initial one-year fraud alert or active duty alert: Annual Credit Report Request Service P.O. Box 105281 Atlanta, GA 30348-5281 Your Equifax credit report will be mailed to you within 15 days. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's website has additional information on free credit reports. A security freeze is one step you can take to help prevent access to your Equifax credit report to open new credit accounts, with certain exceptions.

Security freezes are federally regulated, and a security freeze must be temporarily lifted or permanently removed each time you apply for new credit. Click [here](#) to learn more about how to place, temporarily lift, or permanently remove a security freeze on your credit reports.

Placing, temporarily lifting and permanently removing a security freeze (also known as a credit freeze) on your Equifax credit report is free.

To freeze your credit reports at the other two nationwide credit bureaus, you will need to contact Experian ([www.experian.com/freeze](https://www.experian.com/freeze)) and TransUnion ([freeze.transunion.com](https://freeze.transunion.com)). In connection with various settlements, Equifax is making at least six additional free Equifax credit reports each year available online to U.S. consumers on [annualcreditreport.com](https://annualcreditreport.com) until December 31, 2026. These reports are included in the free weekly Equifax credit reports currently offered on [annualcreditreport.com](https://annualcreditreport.com) through April 2021. You are entitled to free copies of your credit reports from all three major bureaus at least once a year. You can request them at the official website for that purpose: [AnnualCreditReport.com](https://AnnualCreditReport.com). If you find any errors, you have a right to challenge them, and the credit bureau is required to investigate. The information in your credit reports is also used in calculating your credit score. The two major credit-scoring companies are FICO (formerly Fair Isaac Corp.) and VantageScore. Their scores are calculated based on proprietary models and can differ based on the type of loan for which you are applying. Under California law, you can report identity theft to your local police department.<sup>1</sup> Ask the police to issue a police report of identity theft. Give the police as much information on the theft as possible. One way to do this is to provide copies of your credit reports showing the items related to identity theft. Black out other items not related to identity theft. Give the police any new evidence you collect to add to your report. Be sure to get a copy of your police report. You will need to give copies to creditors and the credit bureaus. For more information, see "Organizing Your Identity Theft Case" by the Identity Theft Resource Center, available at [-Sheets/fs106.html](https://www.itrc.com/resources/identity-theft-victims-with-a-police-report-of). California identity theft victims with a police report of

identity theft are entitled to receive up to 12 free credit reports, one per month for the 12 months following the date of the police report. The procedure for requesting free monthly reports is different for each of the credit bureaus.<sup>2</sup> Georgia Consumers have the right to receive up to 3 free credit reports per year from the three credit reporting agencies. Please visit [www.annualcreditreport.com/index.action](http://www.annualcreditreport.com/index.action) for more information. Be aware that this website is the **only** verified source for free credit reports. Other companies or services offering these reports may be attempting to collect your personal information to sell or use for fraudulent activity. It is important to be aware of any significant changes to your credit scores. In some cases, you may identify an error on your credit report based on a significant change to your credit score. If you identify an error, you should notify the credit reporting agency immediately. Additionally, you should notify the company that provided apparent inaccurate information, if applicable. The credit reporting agency is required to investigate your allegations. If the information is inaccurate, the credit reporting agency should remove it from your report. For more information on disputing errors on your credit report, please visit [www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0151-disputing-errors-credit-reports](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0151-disputing-errors-credit-reports).



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