

# Money Best Buys



## Cash Isas that accept transfers

From 6 October, the annual cash Isa limit (how much you can save tax free) rises from £3,600 to £5,100 for people aged 50 and over. For others, the increase applies from 6 April 2010.

We've included only Isas that allow transfers into the account. Some Best Buys include bonuses, but an account can only be a Best Buy if you get the bonus for at least 12 months. Once a bonus period ends, remember to switch if the account's interest rate is no longer competitive.



If you had a nest egg worth £18,000 in Manchester Building Society's Best Buy Isa, you would earn £578 more than in a

Don't Buy account at current rates.

For the latest Best Buys, see

[www.which.co.uk/isas](http://www.which.co.uk/isas).

CASH ISAS TRANSFERS IN	ACCESS	AER (%)			TERMS	CONSISTENCY
	TYPE OF A/C	UP TO £2,999	£3,000 - £5,999	18,000+	INITIAL DEPOSIT (£)	BEST BUY FOR 12 MONTHS
<b>BEST BUYS</b>						
MANCHESTER BS Premier Isa 45 Issue 1	B/P	3.26 <sup>a</sup>	3.26 <sup>a</sup>	3.26 <sup>a</sup>	1,000	
CHELSEA BS Postal 30	P	2.60	2.60	3.00	1	
ABBEY Direct Isa Issue 3	I/P/T	2.00 <sup>b</sup>	2.00 <sup>b</sup>	3.00 <sup>c</sup>	1	✓
INTELLIGENT FINANCE Cash Isa	I/T	2.75	2.75	2.75	1	
STANDARD LIFE BANK Direct Access	I/T	2.65	2.65	2.65	1	
ALDERMORE BANK 30 Day Notice Isa	I/P/T	n/a	2.65	2.65	3,600	
AVERAGE RATE		1.45	1.52	1.57		
<b>DON'T BUYS</b>						
CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BS Cash Isa	B/P	0.05	0.05	0.05	100	n/a
ALLIANCE & LEICESTER Branch	B	0.10	0.10	0.10	1	n/a

<sup>a</sup> Includes a 0.8% bonus for a year <sup>b</sup> Includes a 1.5% bonus for a year <sup>c</sup> Includes a 2% bonus for a year (on balances from £9,000) Access Shows the type of account: B=branch; I=internet; P=postal; T=telephone Rates highlighted **red** show categories in which accounts are Best Buys. Rates highlighted **dark grey** are Don't Buys in these categories



## Savings accounts

Interest rates on many accounts have fallen as low as 0.05%, so be prepared to switch if necessary.



If you had £10,000 in our Best Buy Egg savings account, you would earn £325 interest a year. If you had the same amount in a poor-value account such as HSBC's Flexible

Saver account, paying 0.05%, it would earn just £5 interest – leaving you £320 a year worse off. See [www.which.co.uk/savings](http://www.which.co.uk/savings) for latest Best Buys.

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS	ACCESS	AER (%)				CONDITIONS		CONSISTENCY
	TYPE OF A/C	£100	£1,000	£5,000	£10,000	INITIAL DEPOSIT (£)	NOTICE (DAYS)	BEST BUY FOR 12 MONTHS
<b>BEST BUYS</b>								
EGG Savings	I	3.25 <sup>a</sup>	3.25 <sup>a</sup>	3.25 <sup>a</sup>	3.25 <sup>a</sup>	1		✓
ALLIANCE & LEICESTER Online Saver 5	I	3.15 <sup>b</sup>	3.15 <sup>b</sup>	3.15 <sup>b</sup>	3.15 <sup>b</sup>	1,000		
BIRMINGHAM MIDSHIRES Telephone Extra <sup>c</sup>	T	3.15 <sup>d</sup>	3.15 <sup>d</sup>	3.15 <sup>d</sup>	3.15 <sup>d</sup>	1		
NOTTINGHAM BS Postal Access 50	P	n/a	3.15 <sup>e</sup>	3.15 <sup>e</sup>	3.15 <sup>e</sup>	1,000	50	
CITIBANK Flexible Saver Issue 5	I/P/T	3.10 <sup>f</sup>	3.10 <sup>f</sup>	3.10 <sup>f</sup>	3.10 <sup>f</sup>	1		
LEEDS BS Online Instant Access	I	3.05 <sup>g</sup>	3.05 <sup>g</sup>	3.05 <sup>g</sup>	3.05 <sup>g</sup>	100		
TESCO PERSONAL FINANCE Internet Saver <sup>c</sup>	I	3.00 <sup>h</sup>	3.00 <sup>h</sup>	3.00 <sup>h</sup>	3.00 <sup>h</sup>	1		
SAINSBURY'S FINANCE Internet Saver	I	n/a	2.90 <sup>j</sup>	2.90 <sup>j</sup>	2.90 <sup>j</sup>	1,000		
AVERAGE RATE		0.76	0.76	0.80	0.85			
<b>DON'T BUYS</b>								
HSBC Flexible Saver	B/I/P/T	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1		
INTELLIGENT FINANCE (IF) Direct Access	I/T	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1		

Access The type of account: I=internet; P=postal; T=telephone Rates in **red** show categories in which accounts are Best Buys <sup>a</sup> Includes 2% bonus for 12 months <sup>b</sup> Includes variable bonus for 12 months <sup>c</sup> Monthly interest option available. <sup>d</sup> Includes a 2.65% bonus for 12 months <sup>e</sup> Includes a 0.9% bonus for 12 months <sup>f</sup> Includes a 2.06% bonus for 12 months with interest paid monthly <sup>g</sup> Includes a 1% bonus to 31 July 2010 <sup>h</sup> Includes 1.75% bonus for 12 months <sup>j</sup> Includes 2.05% bonus for 12 months. Rates highlighted **dark grey** are Don't Buys in these categories



## Cashback credit cards

These cards are ideal if you pay off your bill each month as they give you back a percentage of what you spend – generally 0.5% to 1.25%.

The Amex Platinum Cashback card has the best deal, though the top rate of cashback has been reduced by 0.25% to 1.25%, and to get

this top rate you now have to spend £7,501 in a year, rather than £10,000 as before. The typical APR has been increased to 19.9%, so pay off your bill in full each month.

Cashback is only given on spending up to your credit limit each month and you must spend at least £3,000 a year to qualify.

The relatively new Egg Money World MasterCard offers 1% cashback on all your spend. However, it has a fee of £1 a month, so you must spend at least £100 a month to counter the fee with cashback earned. If you spend more than £200 a month on your card, it's a competitive deal.

CASHBACK CREDIT CARDS						APR	SATISFACTION
BEST BUYS	0 TO £1,999	£2,000 - £3,500	£3,501 - £7,500	£7,501+	MAX ANNUAL CASHBACK (£)	(%)	2009 (%)
AMEX Platinum Cashback Card <sup>a</sup>	0.5	0.5	1	1.25	no max	19.9	66
EGG Money World Cashback MasterCard	1	1	1	1	200	17.8 <sup>b</sup>	73
LEEDS BS MasterCard	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	no max	17.9	Sample too small
BANK OF IRELAND (UK) Moneyback MasterCard <sup>c</sup>	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	75	17.9	Sample too small

Rates highlighted red have cashback of 1% or more. For all cards, the rate depends on your credit score, also cashback only available on spending up to credit limit each month. <sup>a</sup> Up to 5% cashback for first three months (to £100 maximum). To be eligible, you need a household income of £30,000.

The card has a £20 dormancy fee if you spend nothing on it in the previous year. <sup>b</sup> Typical APR includes £1 monthly fee, purchase APR is 16.9%

<sup>c</sup> Also available as a Gold card with same rates and features. **Satisfaction** Based on our April and July surveys of Which? online panel members.

## EARN £110 WITH A BEST BUY

■ You'd get £110 cashback in your first year if you spend £500 a month on an Amex Platinum Cashback Card. You'd earn £48 in cashback with the Egg Money World Mastercard, after the £12 annual fee.



## Credit cards for spending abroad

Most UK credit cards charge an extra 2.5 to 3% (a foreign exchange loading fee) each time you use them to buy things abroad.

We only make a card a Best Buy if it doesn't charge such a fee. That's why the Post Office and Santander cards shown in the table are Best Buys to use worldwide. The Nationwide BS Gold Visa and Saga Platinum Visa are only Best Buys

to use in Europe where they charge no fee. Elsewhere the fee is 0.84 and 1% respectively.

Also, make sure to pay your bill in full when you get home as these cards charge 16.9 to 18.9% interest (Saga charges 11.9%).

Avoid using cash machines abroad as most will charge for withdrawals.

Using a Best Buy saves around £10 each time you spend £350 on a single purchase abroad compared with most UK credit cards.



PURCHASES MADE ABROAD	APR	FOREIGN EXCHANGE LOADING		SATISFACTION
BEST BUYS	(%)	EU (%)	WORLD (%)	2009 (%)
POST OFFICE Platinum MasterCard <sup>a</sup>	16.9	0	0	71
SANTANDER Zero MasterCard	18.9	0	0	59
NATIONWIDE BS Gold Visa <sup>a</sup>	16.9	0	0.84	77
SAGA Platinum Visa <sup>b</sup>	11.9	0	1	76
AVERAGE	16.8	c		68
WIDELY HELD CARD				
NATWEST Classic Card	16.9	2.75	2.75	59
TESCO PERSONAL FINANCE Clubcard MasterCard	16.9	2.75	2.75	75

Rates highlighted in red are Best Buys for that category. For all cards in the table exact rate depends on your credit score.

<sup>a</sup> Also available as a Standard Classic Card (typical 19.9% APR) <sup>b</sup> Only available to customer over 50 <sup>c</sup> All other cards charge a foreign exchange loading fee of 2.5 to 3%. **Satisfaction** Based on April and July surveys of Which? online panel members

## Contacts

### CREDIT CARDS

**Amex**  
01273 696933  
www.americanexpress.co.uk

**Bank of Ireland**  
0800 085 0444  
www.bankofireland.co.uk

**Leeds BS**  
0845 050 5075  
www.leedsbuilding society.co.uk

**Nationwide BS**  
0800 302 010  
www.nationwide.co.uk

**Post Office**  
0800 169 2000  
www.postoffice.co.uk

**Saga** 0800 096 4082  
www.saga.co.uk

**Santander (Abbey)**  
0800 032 4265  
www.abbey.com

### SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

**Abbey**  
0800 234 6065  
www.abbey.com

**Alliance & Leicester**  
0870 333 3444  
www.alliance-leicester.co.uk

**Aldermore Bank**  
0845 604 2678  
www.aldermore.co.uk

**Birmingham Midshires**  
0845 603 2191  
www.askbm.co.uk

**Chelsea BS**  
0800 678 3826  
www.thechelsea.co.uk

**Citibank**  
0800 008800  
www.citibank.co.uk

**Egg**  
www.egg.com

**Intelligent Finance**  
www.if.com

**Leeds BS** 0845 050 5075  
www.leedsbuilding society.co.uk

**Manchester BS**  
0161 923 8015  
www.themanchester.co.uk

**Nottingham BS**  
0845 155 6330  
www.thenottingham.com

**Sainsbury's Finance**  
www.sainsburysfinance.co.uk

**Tesco Personal Finance**  
www.tesco.com

**Standard Life Bank**  
0845 755 5657; www.standardlifebank.com