money monitor

We track down the best places for your savings

facts and figures

WHAT WE DID

We looked at 465 accounts from around 120 companies to find the best notice and easy-access savings accounts and the best regular savings accounts.

SAVE MONEY

Use our tables to compare rates. If you're not getting as good a deal, switch to a Best Buy – and save.

MORE INFO

Information on this page is based on data supplied at www.moneyfacts.co.uk. Rates are correct as at 3 December 2004.

For contact details for our Best Buys, see 'Contacts'. For full guides to choosing and switching savings accounts, current accounts, cash Isas and credit cards, go to www.which.co.uk/ whichextra.

Savings accounts

We list the best-paying easy-access and notice accounts. Choose an account in red for the amount nearest your savings. Our Best Buy notice accounts require a maximum of 90 days' notice. With most easy-access accounts, you have to wait a few days to get at your money (until either the cheque arrives or the money has been transferred to another account), so, if you need instant access, choose an account with a cashcard (footnoted). All our Best Buys are available nationally but it's also worth checking rates in local building societies. Rates change fairly often, so check at least every six months that your account is still competitive.

Best						
Buys	Туре	£100	£1,000	£5,000	£10,000	Notice (days)
Alliance & Leicester Online Saver ^b	Ν	5.35	5.35	5.35	5.35	
Anglo Irish Bank 7 Day Notice ^b	P/T		5.05	5.05	5.05	7
Bradford & Bingley eSavings ^b	Ν		5.25 ^c	5.25 ^c	5.25 ^c	
Cahoot Savings ^d	N/T	5.10	5.10	5.10	5.10	
ING Direct (UK) Savings Account ^d	N/T	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	
Leeds & Holbeck BS Online Saver ^b	N	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	
Sainsbury's Bank Direct Saver ^{b,e}	N/P/T	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	
Scarborough BS Tracker Guarantee ^{b,e}	P/T			5.15	5.15	
Yorkshire BS e-Saver ^{b,f}	Ν		5.20	5.20	5.20	

Key to type N Internet only P Postal T Telephone

Regular savings

All our Best Buys are nationally available. Those in **red** pay better rates than comparable notice accounts but, when choosing our Best Buys, we also consider flexibility – whether you can miss deposits or withdrawals, say. Choose an account for the amount nearest your level of savings. Most accounts pay the same rate however much you save.

Unless shown in the footnotes, the amount to open the account is the same as the minimum monthly payment. We show how many times a year you can miss deposits and how many withdrawals you can make without losing the interest bonus. Term is how long the account runs (where there is no entry, it means there is no set term). Accounts which allow you to make extra payments in addition to your regular monthly amount are shown in the footnotes.

Best Buys	Int	Interest (%) AER			Deposits		Conditions		
	£100	£1,000	£2,500	Min (£)	Max (£)	Miss deposits	Withdraw	Term (years)	
Abbey	7.00	7.00	7.00	20	500	0	0	1	
Bath BS	5.35	5.35	5.35	10	200	0	1	3	
Cheshire BS	5.75	5.75	5.75	25	250	0	1		
Derbyshire BS	5.85	5.85	5.85	10	1,000	O ^a	1		
Furness BS	5.65	5.65	5.65	50	200	0ª	0	5	
Halifax/Bank of Scotlar	d 7.00	7.00	7.00	25	250	0	0	1	
Hanley Economic BS	5.45	5.45	5.45	25	1,000	0	1		
Leeds & Holbeck BS	5.50	5.50	5.50	20	500	O ^a	1		
Yorkshire BS	5.85	5.85	5.85	10	100	0	0	3	

next month

Mini cash IsasBalance transfers

a Extra payments permitted