

# CREDIT CARD STAR RATINGS



## IN THIS REPORT

We research & rate:

- 276 credit cards offered by
- 66 lenders

## IT'S PARTY TIME FOR CREDIT CARDS

The festive season is always a time of great socializing for credit cards. They are chauffeured via walletmobile to all the best restaurants and bars, and are frequently seen buying up big in all kinds of shops. It's not surprising that statistics tell us the big months for credit card debt are December and January each year.

To avoid having to suffer an unpleasant new year debt hangover, choosing the right card is paramount. This is where CANSTAR CANNEX's star ratings report is of value. We compare credit cards and rate them according to spender profiles, the key to having a successful relationship with a credit card. Cards rated five stars denote outstanding value.

## WHAT KIND OF SPENDER ARE YOU?

Credit cards are tailored for different profiles, and what's ideal for one is disaster for another. The four common profiles we use are:

**Habitual Spender:** one who struggles to pay off the card and carries over the debt from month to month.

**Tip:** Your best bet is to go for a low rate card with a very low or no annual fee. If you can get a suitable card that offers instant rewards or discounts at places you regularly use, that's even better.

**Beware:** Don't be swayed by cards offering big rewards, as these usually come with big monthly interest rates and/or large annual fees.

**Occasional Spender:** a person who only uses the card for emergencies or seasonal spending such as Christmas shopping, holidays or sales, then spends the

next few months paying off the balance.

**Tip:** Try to find low rate card with a low or no annual fee.

**Everyday Spender:** a person uses their card for just about everything such as groceries and petrol, then pays off the balance in full every month.

**Tip:** Because you stick to a budget and are disciplined enough to pay in full, the interest rate is of little concern. Instead, look for a card that has a reasonable annual fee, has maximum interest-free days and a rewards program you're interested in.

**Big Spender:** one who earns and spends a lot of money on the credit card and nearly always pays off the balance.

**Tip:** Look for a card that provides features and perks that you use frequently. These may include free travel insurance, concierge service and rewards program.

## BALANCE TRANSFER: TRICKS AND TRAPS

If ever there's a time when a consumer's credit card balance hits home, it's Christmas. When you're constantly paying off your credit card but barely putting a dint in it because the monthly interest rate is too high, advertised balance transfer offers can look very attractive.

Banks also use low balance transfer rates to encourage consumers to switch cards and hopefully stay with them forever.



It sounds appealing but there are fish-hooks to avoid in balance transfer deals:



**Fish-hook 1:** Most lenders apply payments to the outstanding balance that has been transferred first, rather than the new spending, which is attracting a higher interest rate. This has been a bone of contention for consumers who can, unwittingly, rack up quite a debt unless they refrain from using the balance transfer card at all until the debt has been repaid in full.

The financial industry has signaled it will change its repayment allocation practices to correct this – NAB has been first cab off the rank in announcing it will deviate from the current industry standard and now allocate repayments to the highest interest rate first.



**Fish-hook 2:** After the advertised number of months – these vary from 6 to 12 months to life of the balance - all unpaid balances are transferred to the standard interest rate. It's important to know what this 'revert' rate is, as it can be as low as 12.9% or as high as 22.20%. As a general rule, before switching credit cards, consumers should know the promotional rate, when it expires and the rate they will pay after expiration.



**Fish-hook 3:** There are no loyalty points or interest-free days on the balance transferred. Interest is charged from day one on balance transfers.



**Fish-hook 4:** When transferring from more than one card, there may be different introductory rates. The fine print in some cards says that where you've made more than one balance transfer, payments may be allocated to the balance transfer with the lowest interest rate first.

Finally, several of the banks have useful balance transfer calculators on their websites. Even better is a balance transfer calculator that includes the introductory interest rate and term, the normal credit card rate, the annual fee and any balance transfer fee that may be applicable.

## CREDIT CARDS VALUE ADD

Many credit cards offer more than just – well, credit. Some offer 'premium' services that can be quite useful but often card holders are unaware of them.

The better known premium services include purchase protection on goods bought by credit card, free travel insurance and in some cases concierge services.

Others include:

- A price guarantee scheme which will refund the cardholder if the item is found cheaper elsewhere,

- Extended warranties on goods bought using a credit card. This saves consumers from buying the expensive warranties peddled at the point of sale.

Surprisingly, the vast majority of people don't take advantage of the rewards and services offered by credit card providers. Many, for example, buy travel insurance when they go overseas, not realizing their card offers a level of cover that may well do the same job.

Not all cards offer the same premium services, such as access to top seats at entertainment venues, even when the event is booked out.

Citibank Select, for instance, elevates a credit card to a whole new level. It rewards you with 2 Citi points for every dollar spent – no limits and no expiry.

You can use Citi's online booking service for great deals on flights and accommodation across an expanded range of airline and hotel partners. The card's annual fee of \$700 means it is priced above the scope of our ratings at this stage but it has some interesting benefits for its target market.



Citibank has also put in place a new mobile banking service that enables customers to use their iPhone's GPS locator to search an offer closest to them from in excess of 6,000 retail offers available through the Citibank World Privileges credit card program. Categories such as dining, shopping, sport and travel across 17 countries are covered, adding a new dimension to a GPS service, currently used only to find ATMs or branches.

HSBC has addressed the problem of online shoppers who can't buy certain brands and products because they don't deliver to Australia. By teaming up with Borderlinx, HSBC credit card users can register with a UK and US delivery address which goods are delivered to by the online store. Borderlinx will then forward the goods on to the customer in Australia.

Some premium services aren't offered by the bank, but by Visa Platinum or Mastercard Platinum – and are available through any lender's platinum card. Generally the more 'exclusive' the card, the greater the number of premium services on offer.

Depending on the consumer's lifestyle, the premium services may be worth their weight in gold, a complete waste of time or somewhere in the middle.

## COSTLY CASH ADVANCES



If ever there was a way to get into debt fast, it's by using a credit card to withdraw cash. Certainly, a cash advance is a way of getting hold of money in an emergency or when other accounts are empty but the practice is fraught with danger, particularly if you are making a habit of it. Why? Because interest on

cash advances is up to 10% higher than your usual card rate, plus that hefty interest is charged straight away, almost as soon as you finish at the ATM. There are no interest-free days for you to repay the cash advance so you can really clock up some debt if you are not careful.

But wait, there's more! As well as paying the credit card interest rate on a cash advance, consumers are also charged fees. Those fees can be different for Australian and overseas transactions. It's normal for overseas cash advances to attract fees ranging from \$4 to \$5 as well as a fee paid to the owner of the ATM used. However, in Australia you can also pay a similar amount in transaction fees for cash advances. It all adds up so beware.

## FREE DAYS?

Interest-free days are worth investigating further if you want to take maximum



advantage of paying prior to the interest meter being turned on. In theory, the number of advertised interest-free days is correct, providing you do all your spending the day after your last statement was printed. In reality, though, you don't use your card that way and the number of free days you have are a lot less than you think.

CANSTAR CANNEX research reveals that:

- ★ 18 cards or 26% offer 14 or more days after the statement date (advertised as up to 44 free days)
- ★ 49 cards or 72% offer 25 or more days after the statement date (advertised as up to 55 free days)

While technically not misleading, it is easy to trip up and accidentally incur interest so be aware of the pitfalls and calculate how many interest-free days you really do have on your credit card.

Where credit card holders often go wrong is that they spend late in the monthly cycle and get far fewer interest-free days than they expect. For example, if a credit card month runs from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of the month, a purchase on the 1<sup>st</sup> will have 55 days free credit, but on the 30<sup>th</sup> will have 25 days.

To get the best out of the interest-free days, consumers should always pay the bill on the last day possible if they are paying manually. Those who have an automatic payment set up to cover the entire monthly bill should arrange the payment to go out on the last of the 55 or 44 days.

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# credit card star ratings



## Everyday Spender

January 2011 Report (rates current 21st Jan)

Company	Product	Published Rate (%)	Free Days	Annual Fee (\$)		Credit Limit (\$)		Rewards Program Available
				Annualised Fee	Spend to Waive	Min	Max	
★★★★★ <b>"outstanding value"</b>								
Citibank	Platinum Visa	20.99	55	250.00	N/A	8000	100000.00	✓
Citibank	Emirates Platinum MasterCard	20.99	55	229.00	N/A	5000	100000.00	✓
Citibank	Platinum MasterCard	20.99	55	250.00	N/A	8000	100000	✓
Coastline Credit Union	Rewarder Visa	17.00	55	52.00	12000	1000	25000.00	✓
Commonwealth Bank	Platinum Awards	20.74	55	280.00	N/A	8000	No max	✓
GE Money	Myer Visa Gold Card	20.39	62	39.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
GE Money	Coles Group Source MCD	20.49	62	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
GE Money	Myer Visa Card	20.39	62	39.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
HSBC	Gold Credit Card	19.99	55	89.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
Macquarie Bank	JetStar Platinum MasterCard	19.74	55	149.00	N/A	8000	No max	✓
Macquarie Bank	JetStar MasterCard	12.74	55	49.00	N/A	2000	No max	✓
nab	Qantas Standard	20.24	44	65.00	N/A	500	500000.00	✓
Qantas Staff CU	Lifestyle	13.99	0	0.00	N/A	500	50000.00	✓
Qld Police Credit Union	Bluey Rewarder Card	15.74	55	48.00	8000	1000	25000.00	✓
Suncorp Bank	Clear Options Platinum Card	20.49	55	205.00	N/A	5000	30000.00	✓
Woolworths Limited	Everyday Money	19.84	55	49.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
✦ <b>"rising star"</b>								
Virgin Money	Virgin Flyer Credit Card	20.99	44	99.00	N/A	5000	100000.00	✓
★★★★★								
Citibank	Clear Platinum Visa	11.99	55	99.00	N/A	8000	60000.00	✗
Citibank	Gold Visa	20.99	55	149.00	N/A	5000	60000.00	✓
Citibank	Gold MasterCard	20.99	55	149.00	N/A	5000	60000.00	✓
Commonwealth Bank	Gold Awards	20.74	55	144.00	N/A	4000	No max	✓
Credit Unions*	Silver Rewards MasterCard	19.49	55	45.00	N/A	2000	7500.00	✓
Credit Unions*	Gold Rewards MasterCard	19.49	55	85.00	N/A	5000	25000.00	✓
Macquarie Credit Union	Visa Credit Card	13.54	55	15.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✗
nab	Velocity Standard	20.24	44	65.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Police Credit	Visa Credit Card	11.95	44	0.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✗
Qantas Staff CU	Lifestyle Plus	17.35	46	0.00	N/A	500	50000.00	✓
Suncorp Bank	Clear Options Gold Card	20.25	55	99.00	N/A	5000	25000.00	✓
Teachers Credit Union	Teachers Credit Card	11.50	55	0.00	N/A	1000	25000.00	✗
Westpac	Altitude	19.99	45	100.00	N/A	1000	50000.00	✓
Westpac	Altitude Gold	19.99	45	150.00	N/A	5000	50000.00	✓
Westpac	Altitude Platinum	19.99	45	295.00	N/A	8000	65000.00	✓
Westpac	55 day Platinum Visa	19.59	55	130.00	20000	8000	No max	✗
★★★								
<b>your guide to product excellence</b>								

# credit card star ratings



## Everyday Spender

January 2011 Report (rates current 21st Jan)

Company	Product	Published Rate (%)	Free Days	Annual Fee (\$)		Credit Limit (\$)		Rewards Program Available
				Annualised Fee	Spend to Waive	Min	Max	
★★★								
American Express	David Jones AMEX Card	20.74	44	99.00	N/A	2000	30000.00	✓
American Express	Gold Ascent Credit Card	20.74	44	0.00	N/A	2000	25000.00	✓
American Express	Platinum Reserve Credit Card	20.74	55	395.00	N/A	5000	100000.00	✓
ANZ	Frequent Flyer	19.74	44	40.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
ANZ	Rewards	19.74	44	34.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
B & E Personal Banking	Visa Credit Card	12.99	57	39.00	8000	500	30000.00	✗
Bananacoast Community C	Visa Bonus Rewarder	17.25	55	59.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Bank of Queensland	Blue No Annual Fee Visa	20.49	0	0.00	N/A	2000	7500.00	✓
Bank of Queensland	Blue Visa	20.74	55	55.00	N/A	2000	7500.00	✓
BankSA	Platinum Visa Card	15.99	55	89.00	N/A	8000	No max	✓
BankSA	Vertigo MasterCard	12.74	55	55.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
BankSA	Gold Low Rate Visa	15.99	55	79.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
BankSA	Amplify Credit Card	18.74	55	79.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
BankSA	No Annual Fee Visa	20.49	0	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
BankSA	No Annual Fee MasterCard	20.49	0	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
BankSA	Platinum MasterCard	15.99	55	89.00	N/A	8000	No max	✓
BankSA	Gold Low Rate MasterCard	15.99	55	79.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
Bankwest	Zero MasterCard	16.99	55	0.00	N/A	1000	25000.00	✓
Bankwest	Lite Gold MasterCard	10.75	55	89.00	N/A	5000	50000.00	✓
Bankwest	More Gold MasterCard	18.99	55	120.00	N/A	5000	50000.00	✓
Bankwest	Zero Gold MasterCard	16.99	55	0.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
Bankwest	Lite Platinum MasterCard	10.75	55	120.00	N/A	8000	No max	✓
Bankwest	Zero Platinum MasterCard	16.99	55	0.00	N/A	8000	No max	✓
Bankwest	More MasterCard	18.99	55	89.00	N/A	1000	25000.00	✓
Bankwest	More Platinum MasterCard	18.74	55	190.00	N/A	8000	100000.00	✓
Citibank	Clear Card	15.99	55	65.00	N/A	2000	15000.00	✓
Citibank	Silver MasterCard	20.99	55	89.00	N/A	2000	7500.00	✓
Citibank	BP MasterCard	20.89	55	79.00	N/A	500	25000.00	✓
Citibank	Silver Visa	20.99	55	89.00	N/A	2000	7500.00	✓
Commonwealth Bank	Awards	20.74	55	89.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Commonwealth Bank	Low Fee Gold MasterCard	20.24	55	24.00	10000	500	No max	✗
Credit Union SA	Visa Credit Card	10.49	55	10.00	N/A	1000	20000.00	✗
Credit Unions*	Gold Qantas Rewards MasterCar	19.49	55	118.00	N/A	5000	25000.00	✓
Credit Unions*	Silver Low Rate MasterCard	13.35	55	45.00	N/A	2000	7500.00	✗
First Option CU	Cash Rewards Visa Credit Card	15.99	45	36.00	N/A	500	20000.00	✓
First Option CU	Standard Visa Credit Card	13.49	45	18.00	N/A	500	20000.00	✗
GE Money	GO MasterCard	21.74	62	47.00	N/A	600	25000.00	✓

your guide to product excellence

# credit card star ratings



## Everyday Spender

January 2011 Report (rates current 21st Jan)

Company	Product	Published Rate (%)	Free Days	Annual Fee (\$)		Credit Limit (\$)		Rewards Program Available
				Annualised Fee	Spend to Waive	Min	Max	
★★★								
Heritage Building Soc	Visa Classic No Frills	11.80	0	0.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✗
Horizon Credit Union	Visa Credit Card	12.95	45	0.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✓
HSBC	Credit Card	17.99	55	0.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
HSBC	Classic Credit Card	20.50	55	59.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
HSBC	Platinum Credit Card	19.99	55	129.00	N/A	6000	No max	✓
Hume Building Society	Gold	17.95	55	60.00	12000	7500	50000.00	✓
Hume Building Society	Value	13.15	55	0.00	N/A	500	20000.00	✗
Hume Building Society	Loyalty	17.95	55	30.00	8000	500	20000.00	✓
Maritime Mining & Power	Visa	14.19	55	42.00	N/A	1000	20000.00	✗
ME Bank	MasterCard	12.25	44	39.00	7500	1000	15000.00	✗
mecu	Visa Credit Card	13.74	55	0.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
nab	Qantas Platinum	20.24	44	290.00	N/A	12000	500000.00	✓
nab	Velocity Gold	20.24	44	150.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
nab	Qantas Gold	20.24	44	146.00	N/A	5000	500000.00	✓
Police Credit	Visa Gold	16.95	55	50.00	N/A	5000	30000.00	✓
Qld Police Credit Union	Bluey Card	12.74	55	25.00	8000	1000	25000.00	✗
St George Bank	Gold Low Rate Visa	15.99	55	79.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
St George Bank	Gold Low Rate MasterCard	15.99	55	79.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
St George Bank	No Annual Fee Visa	20.49	0	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
St George Bank	Amplify Credit Card	18.74	55	79.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
St George Bank	No Annual Fee MasterCard	20.49	0	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
St George Bank	Platinum Visa	15.99	55	89.00	N/A	8000	No max	✓
St George Bank	Platinum MasterCard	15.99	55	89.00	N/A	8000	No max	✓
St George Bank	Vertigo MasterCard	12.74	55	55.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Suncorp Bank	Clear Options Plus Card	20.49	55	63.00	N/A	2000	7500.00	✓
Victoria Teachers CU	Visa Credit Cd	13.64	55	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Westpac	55 day Gold MasterCard	19.59	55	90.00	15000	5000	No max	✗
Westpac	55 day MasterCard	19.59	55	30.00	15000	1000	No max	✗
Westpac	earth	19.99	45	75.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
Westpac	earth Gold	19.99	45	125.00	N/A	5000	50000.00	✓
Westpac	55 day Gold Visa Card	19.59	55	90.00	15000	5000	50000.00	✗
Westpac	55 day Visa Card	19.59	55	30.00	15000	1000	No max	✗
★★								
American Express	Platinum MoneyBack CCard	20.74	44	99.00	N/A	2000	25000.00	✓

# credit card star ratings



## Everyday Spender

January 2011 Report (rates current 21st Jan)

Company	Product	Published Rate (%)	Free Days	Annual Fee (\$)		Credit Limit (\$)		Rewards Program Available
				Annualised Fee	Spend to Waive	Min	Max	
★★								
ANZ	Balance Visa	14.49	55	57.00	N/A	1000	15000.00	✓
ANZ	First	19.24	44	30.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
ANZ	Freq Flyer Platinum	19.74	55	240.00	N/A	6000	No max	✓
ANZ	Low Rate MasterCard	13.49	55	58.00	N/A	1000	15000.00	✗
Aussie Home Loans	MasterCard	13.29	55	49.00	N/A	1000	15000.00	✗
Australian Defence CU	Low Rate Visa Card	10.99	55	49.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Bank of Queensland	Gold Visa	20.74	55	120.00	N/A	5000	25000.00	✓
Bank of Queensland	Platinum Visa	20.74	55	199.00	N/A	8000	30000.00	✓
Bankwest	Lite MasterCard	10.75	55	59.00	N/A	1000	25000.00	✓
Bendigo Bank	Basic Black MasterCard	12.49	44	45.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Bendigo Bank	RSPCA Rescue Visa	15.49	40	24.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Bendigo Bank	Basic Black Visa	12.49	44	45.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Citibank	Select Credit Card	20.74	55	700.00	N/A	18000	100000.00	✓
Commonwealth Bank	Low Rate Gold MasterCard	13.49	55	120.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Commonwealth Bank	Low Fee MasterCard	20.24	55	24.00	1000	500	No max	✗
Community First CU	McGrath Pink Visa Card	10.49	55	40.00	N/A	1000	15000.00	✗
Community First CU	Low Rate Visa Cred Card	10.49	55	40.00	N/A	1000	15000.00	✗
Credit Unions*	Gold Low Rate MasterCard	13.35	55	85.00	N/A	5000	25000.00	✗
Defence Force CU	True Blue Credit Card	11.74	55	36.00	N/A	1000	25000.00	✗
GE Money	28 Degrees MasterCard	19.49	55	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
GE Money	Low Rate MasterCard	15.49	55	58.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Heritage Building Soc	Visa Gold Basic	16.75	25	36.00	20000	5000	50000.00	✗
Heritage Building Soc	Visa Classic Basic	16.75	25	18.00	10000	1000	10000.00	✗
Heritage Building Soc	Visa Gold No Frills	11.80	0	0.00	N/A	5000	50000.00	✗
Hunter United Credit Un	Visa Credit Card	11.49	55	48.00	N/A	1000	20000.00	✗
Intech Credit Union	Titanium Visa 55	12.30	55	36.00	N/A	1000	30000.00	✗
Macquarie Bank	Visa RateSaver Card	14.20	55	50.00	N/A	2000	25000.00	✗
Macquarie Bank	Hilton Platinum Card	20.70	55	295.00	N/A	2000	50000.00	✓
Macquarie Bank	Visa Gold Card	20.70	55	100.00	N/A	2000	50000.00	✓
Macquarie Bank	Visa Platinum Card	20.70	55	200.00	N/A	10000	50000.00	✓
nab	Low Rate Visa Card	13.49	55	49.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
nab	Standard MasterCard	19.74	44	30.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
nab	Gold Visa Card	19.74	44	90.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
nab	Gold MasterCard	19.74	44	90.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
nab	Standard Visa Card	19.74	44	30.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Newcastle Permanent	Value+ Credit Card	12.45	55	45.00	N/A	500	20000.00	✗
Police&NursesMut Banking	Easypay Visa	12.25	45	36.00	N/A	500	No max	✗

# credit card star ratings



## Everyday Spender

January 2011 Report (rates current 21st Jan)

Company	Product	Published Rate (%)	Free Days	Annual Fee (\$)		Credit Limit (\$)		Rewards Program Available
				Annualised Fee	Spend to Waive	Min	Max	
<b>★★</b>								
Savings & Loans Cred Un	VISA Care Card	15.95	62	40.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
SCU	Low Rate Visa Credit Card	10.49	55	30.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
St George Bank	Private Bk Visa Platinum	19.99	55	225.00	N/A	25000	250000.00	✓
Westpac	Low Rate Visa Card	13.49	55	45.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
Westpac	Singapore Airlines Gold	19.49	45	125.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
Westpac	Low Rate MasterCard	13.49	55	45.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
Westpac	Singapore Airlines Platinum	19.49	45	250.00	N/A	8000	No max	✓
Westpac	earth Platinum	19.99	45	250.00	N/A	10000	65000.00	✓
<b>★</b>								
American Express	Qantas AMEX Premium Card	20.74	44	249.00	N/A	5000	100000.00	✓
Bananacoast Community C	Classic Visa Card	12.25	55	45.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Bank of Queensland	Low Rate Visa Card	13.49	55	55.00	N/A	2000	20000.00	✗
Bendigo Bank	Ready Red MasterCard	19.99	44	45.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Bendigo Bank	RSPCA Rescue Rewards	19.64	55	60.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Bendigo Bank	Ready Red Visa	19.99	44	45.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Bendigo Bank	Gold Visa	19.99	55	85.00	N/A	10000	50000.00	✓
Coastline Credit Union	Visa Credit Card	17.50	0	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Commonwealth Bank	Low Rate MasterCard	13.49	55	78.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Encompass Credit Union	Visa Credit Card	15.00	55	36.00	N/A	1000	5000.00	✗
GE Money	eco MasterCard	20.24	55	49.00	N/A	500	20000.00	✓
Heritage Building Soc	Visa Classic With Rewards	16.75	25	48.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✓
Heritage Building Soc	Visa Gold With Rewards	16.75	25	90.00	N/A	5000	50000.00	✓
mecu	Low Rate Visa CreditCard	10.74	0	59.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
SERVICE ONE Members B	Visa	15.25	0	0.00	N/A	500	10000.00	✗
SGE Credit Union	Solutions Gold	14.95	55	100.00	N/A	5000	20000.00	✓
SGE Credit Union	Solutions	12.95	45	50.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✓
Suncorp Bank	Clear Options Standard Card	12.74	0	39.00	N/A	2000	20000.00	✗



# credit card star ratings



## Everyday Spender

January 2011 Report (rates current 21st Jan)

Company	Product	Published Rate (%)	Free Days	Annual Fee (\$)		Credit Limit (\$)		Rewards Program Available
				Annualised Fee	Spend to Waive	Min	Max	

**\*Credit Unions includes the following financial institutions:**

- Australian Central CU
- Community CPS Australia
- Companion CU
- CUA
- ECU Australia
- Family First CU
- FCCS Credit Union
- Holiday Coast CU
- Illawarra CU NSW
- IMB
- Memberfirst Credit Union
- MyState Financial
- Qld Teachers CU
- Queenslanders CU
- SERVICE ONE Members Bank
- Sutherland Credit Union
- Unicom Credit Union
- Unicredit-WA
- Warwick Credit Union

# credit card star ratings



## Habitual Spender

January 2011 Report (rates current 21st Jan)

Company	Product	Published Rate (%)	Free Days	Annual Fee (\$)		Credit Limit (\$)		Rewards Program Available
				Annualised Fee	Spend to Waive	Min	Max	
<b>★★★★★ "outstanding value"</b>								
Australian Defence CU	Low Rate Visa Card	10.99	55	49.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Bankwest	Lite MasterCard	10.75	55	59.00	N/A	1000	25000.00	✓
Bankwest	Lite Gold MasterCard	10.75	55	89.00	N/A	5000	50000.00	✓
Community First CU	McGrath Pink Visa Card	10.49	55	40.00	N/A	1000	15000.00	✗
Community First CU	Low Rate Visa Cred Card	10.49	55	40.00	N/A	1000	15000.00	✗
Credit Union SA	Visa Credit Card	10.49	55	10.00	N/A	1000	20000.00	✗
Credit Unions*	Gold Low Rate MasterCard	13.35	55	85.00	N/A	5000	25000.00	✗
Defence Force CU	True Blue Credit Card	11.74	55	36.00	N/A	1000	25000.00	✗
Heritage Building Soc	Visa Gold No Frills	11.80	0	0.00	N/A	5000	50000.00	✗
Heritage Building Soc	Visa Classic No Frills	11.80	0	0.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✗
Horizon Credit Union	Visa Credit Card	12.95	45	0.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✓
Hunter United Credit Un	Visa Credit Card	11.49	55	48.00	N/A	1000	20000.00	✗
Intech Credit Union	Titanium Visa 55	12.30	55	36.00	N/A	1000	30000.00	✗
Macquarie Credit Union	Visa Credit Card	13.54	55	15.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✗
Maritime Mining & Power	Visa	14.19	55	42.00	N/A	1000	20000.00	✗
ME Bank	MasterCard	12.25	44	39.00	7500	1000	15000.00	✗
mecu	Low Rate Visa CreditCard	10.74	0	59.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
Police Credit	Visa Credit Card	11.95	44	0.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✗
Police&NursesMut Banking	Easypay Visa	12.25	45	36.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Qld Police Credit Union	Bluey Card	12.74	55	25.00	8000	1000	25000.00	✗
SCU	Low Rate Visa Credit Card	10.49	55	30.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
St George Bank	Vertigo MasterCard	12.74	55	55.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Teachers Credit Union	Teachers Credit Card	11.50	55	0.00	N/A	1000	25000.00	✗
<b>◇ "rising star"</b>								
Greater Building Society	Credit Card	10.49	55	30.00	10000	1000	25000.00	✗
<b>★★★★★</b>								
ANZ	Low Rate MasterCard	13.49	55	58.00	N/A	1000	15000.00	✗
Aussie Home Loans	MasterCard	13.29	55	49.00	N/A	1000	15000.00	✗
B & E Personal Banking	Visa Credit Card	12.99	57	39.00	8000	500	30000.00	✗
Bananacoast Community C	Classic Visa Card	12.25	55	45.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
BankSA	Vertigo MasterCard	12.74	55	55.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Bendigo Bank	Basic Black Visa	12.49	44	45.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Bendigo Bank	Basic Black MasterCard	12.49	44	45.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Credit Unions*	Silver Low Rate MasterCard	13.35	55	45.00	N/A	2000	7500.00	✗
First Option CU	Standard Visa Credit Card	13.49	45	18.00	N/A	500	20000.00	✗
Hume Building Society	Value	13.15	55	0.00	N/A	500	20000.00	✗

your guide to product excellence

# credit card star ratings



## Habitual Spender

January 2011 Report (rates current 21st Jan)

Company	Product	Published Rate (%)	Free Days	Annual Fee (\$)		Credit Limit (\$)		Rewards Program Available
				Annualised Fee	Spend to Waive	Min	Max	
★★★★								
Macquarie Bank	JetStar MasterCard	12.74	55	49.00	N/A	2000	No max	✓
mecu	Visa Credit Card	13.74	55	0.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
nab	Low Rate Visa Card	13.49	55	49.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Newcastle Permanent	Value+ Credit Card	12.45	55	45.00	N/A	500	20000.00	✗
Qantas Staff CU	Lifestyle	13.99	0	0.00	N/A	500	50000.00	✓
SGE Credit Union	Solutions	12.95	45	50.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✓
Suncorp Bank	Clear Options Standard Card	12.74	0	39.00	N/A	2000	20000.00	✗
Victoria Teachers CU	Visa Credit Cd	13.64	55	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Westpac	Low Rate MasterCard	13.49	55	45.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
Westpac	Low Rate Visa Card	13.49	55	45.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
★★★								
ANZ	First	19.24	44	30.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
ANZ	Rewards	19.74	44	34.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
ANZ	Frequent Flyer	19.74	44	40.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
ANZ	Balance Visa	14.49	55	57.00	N/A	1000	15000.00	✓
Bananacoast Community C	Visa Bonus Rewarder	17.25	55	59.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Bank of Queensland	Low Rate Visa Card	13.49	55	55.00	N/A	2000	20000.00	✗
BankSA	Amplify Credit Card	18.74	55	79.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
BankSA	No Annual Fee MasterCard	20.49	0	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
BankSA	No Annual Fee Visa	20.49	0	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
BankSA	Gold Low Rate Visa	15.99	55	79.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
BankSA	Gold Low Rate MasterCard	15.99	55	79.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
Bankwest	More MasterCard	18.99	55	89.00	N/A	1000	25000.00	✓
Bankwest	More Gold MasterCard	18.99	55	120.00	N/A	5000	50000.00	✓
Bankwest	Zero Gold MasterCard	16.99	55	0.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
Bankwest	Zero MasterCard	16.99	55	0.00	N/A	1000	25000.00	✓
Bendigo Bank	RSPCA Rescue Rewards	19.64	55	60.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Bendigo Bank	RSPCA Rescue Visa	15.49	40	24.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Citibank	Gold Visa	20.99	55	149.00	N/A	5000	60000.00	✓
Citibank	Clear Card	15.99	55	65.00	N/A	2000	15000.00	✓
Citibank	Silver Visa	20.99	55	89.00	N/A	2000	7500.00	✓
Citibank	Silver MasterCard	20.99	55	89.00	N/A	2000	7500.00	✓
Citibank	Gold MasterCard	20.99	55	149.00	N/A	5000	60000.00	✓
Coastline Credit Union	Visa Credit Card	17.50	0	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Coastline Credit Union	Rewarder Visa	17.00	55	52.00	12000	1000	25000.00	✓

# credit card star ratings



## Habitual Spender

January 2011 Report (rates current 21st Jan)

Company	Product	Published Rate (%)	Free Days	Annual Fee (\$)		Credit Limit (\$)		Rewards Program Available
				Annualised Fee	Spend to Waive	Min	Max	
★★★								
Commonwealth Bank	Low Rate MasterCard	13.49	55	78.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Commonwealth Bank	Low Rate Gold MasterCard	13.49	55	120.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Commonwealth Bank	Low Fee Gold MasterCard	20.24	55	24.00	10000	500	No max	✗
Commonwealth Bank	Low Fee MasterCard	20.24	55	24.00	1000	500	No max	✗
Credit Unions*	Silver Rewards MasterCard	19.49	55	45.00	N/A	2000	7500.00	✓
Credit Unions*	Gold Qantas Rewards MasterCar	19.49	55	118.00	N/A	5000	25000.00	✓
Credit Unions*	Gold Rewards MasterCard	19.49	55	85.00	N/A	5000	25000.00	✓
Encompass Credit Union	Visa Credit Card	15.00	55	36.00	N/A	1000	5000.00	✗
First Option CU	Cash Rewards Visa Credit Card	15.99	45	36.00	N/A	500	20000.00	✓
GE Money	Coles Group Source MCD	20.49	62	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
GE Money	Myer Visa Gold Card	20.39	62	39.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
GE Money	Low Rate MasterCard	15.49	55	58.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
GE Money	eco MasterCard	20.24	55	49.00	N/A	500	20000.00	✓
GE Money	28 Degrees MasterCard	19.49	55	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
GE Money	Myer Visa Card	20.39	62	39.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Heritage Building Soc	Visa Classic Basic	16.75	25	18.00	10000	1000	10000.00	✗
Heritage Building Soc	Visa Gold With Rewards	16.75	25	90.00	N/A	5000	50000.00	✓
Heritage Building Soc	Visa Classic With Rewards	16.75	25	48.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✓
Heritage Building Soc	Visa Gold Basic	16.75	25	36.00	20000	5000	50000.00	✗
HSBC	Credit Card	17.99	55	0.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
HSBC	Gold Credit Card	19.99	55	89.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
Hume Building Society	Loyalty	17.95	55	30.00	8000	500	20000.00	✓
Macquarie Bank	Visa RateSaver Card	14.20	55	50.00	N/A	2000	25000.00	✗
nab	Velocity Gold	20.24	44	150.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
nab	Standard MasterCard	19.74	44	30.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
nab	Gold MasterCard	19.74	44	90.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
nab	Qantas Gold	20.24	44	146.00	N/A	5000	50000.00	✓
nab	Gold Visa Card	19.74	44	90.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
nab	Standard Visa Card	19.74	44	30.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
nab	Qantas Standard	20.24	44	65.00	N/A	500	50000.00	✓
nab	Velocity Standard	20.24	44	65.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Police Credit	Visa Gold	16.95	55	50.00	N/A	5000	30000.00	✓
Qantas Staff CU	Lifestyle Plus	17.35	46	0.00	N/A	500	50000.00	✓
Qld Police Credit Union	Bluey Rewarder Card	15.74	55	48.00	8000	1000	25000.00	✓
Savings & Loans Cred Un	VISA Care Card	15.95	62	40.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
SERVICE ONE Members B	Visa	15.25	0	0.00	N/A	500	10000.00	✗
SGE Credit Union	Solutions Gold	14.95	55	100.00	N/A	5000	20000.00	✓

your guide to product excellence

# credit card star ratings



## Habitual Spender

January 2011 Report (rates current 21st Jan)

Company	Product	Published Rate (%)	Free Days	Annual Fee (\$)		Credit Limit (\$)		Rewards Program Available
				Annualised Fee	Spend to Waive	Min	Max	
★★★								
St George Bank	No Annual Fee Visa	20.49	0	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
St George Bank	Amplify Credit Card	18.74	55	79.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
St George Bank	No Annual Fee MasterCard	20.49	0	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
St George Bank	Gold Low Rate MasterCard	15.99	55	79.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
St George Bank	Gold Low Rate Visa	15.99	55	79.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
Suncorp Bank	Clear Options Plus Card	20.49	55	63.00	N/A	2000	7500.00	✓
Suncorp Bank	Clear Options Gold Card	20.25	55	99.00	N/A	5000	25000.00	✓
Westpac	Singapore Airlines Gold	19.49	45	125.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
Westpac	55 day MasterCard	19.59	55	30.00	15000	1000	No max	✗
Westpac	Altitude Gold	19.99	45	150.00	N/A	5000	50000.00	✓
Westpac	55 day Gold MasterCard	19.59	55	90.00	15000	5000	No max	✗
Westpac	55 day Visa Card	19.59	55	30.00	15000	1000	No max	✗
Westpac	55 day Gold Visa Card	19.59	55	90.00	15000	5000	50000.00	✗
Westpac	earth Gold	19.99	45	125.00	N/A	5000	50000.00	✓
Westpac	earth	19.99	45	75.00	N/A	1000	50000.00	✓
Westpac	Altitude	19.99	45	100.00	N/A	1000	50000.00	✓
Woolworths Limited	Everyday Money	19.84	55	49.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
★★								
American Express	David Jones AMEX Card	20.74	44	99.00	N/A	2000	30000.00	✓
American Express	Gold Ascent Credit Card	20.74	44	0.00	N/A	2000	25000.00	✓
Bank of Queensland	Gold Visa	20.74	55	120.00	N/A	5000	25000.00	✓
Bank of Queensland	Blue Visa	20.74	55	55.00	N/A	2000	7500.00	✓
Bank of Queensland	Blue No Annual Fee Visa	20.49	0	0.00	N/A	2000	7500.00	✓
Bendigo Bank	Ready Red Visa	19.99	44	45.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Bendigo Bank	Ready Red MasterCard	19.99	44	45.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Citibank	Emirates Platinum MasterCard	20.99	55	229.00	N/A	5000	100000.00	✓
Citibank	BP MasterCard	20.89	55	79.00	N/A	500	25000.00	✓
Commonwealth Bank	Awards	20.74	55	89.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Commonwealth Bank	Gold Awards	20.74	55	144.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
GE Money	GO MasterCard	21.74	62	47.00	N/A	600	25000.00	✓
HSBC	Classic Credit Card	20.50	55	59.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
Macquarie Bank	Visa Gold Card	20.70	55	100.00	N/A	2000	50000.00	✓
Suncorp Bank	Clear Options Platinum Card	20.49	55	205.00	N/A	5000	30000.00	✓
★								

# credit card star ratings



## Habitual Spender

January 2011 Report (rates current 21st Jan)

Company	Product	Published Rate (%)	Free Days	Annual Fee (\$)		Credit Limit (\$)		Rewards Program Available
				Annualised Fee	Spend to Waive	Min	Max	
★								
American Express	Qantas AMEX Ultimate Card	20.74	44	450.00	N/A	5000	100000.00	✓
American Express	Qantas AMEX Premium Card	20.74	44	249.00	N/A	5000	100000.00	✓
American Express	Platinum MoneyBack CCard	20.74	44	99.00	N/A	2000	25000.00	✓
Macquarie Bank	Hilton Platinum Card	20.70	55	295.00	N/A	2000	50000.00	✓

**\*Credit Unions includes the following financial institutions:**

- Australian Central CU
- Community CPS Australia
- Companion CU
- CUA
- ECU Australia
- Family First CU
- FCCS Credit Union
- Holiday Coast CU
- Illawarra CU NSW
- IMB
- Memberfirst Credit Union
- MyState Financial
- Qld Teachers CU
- Queenslanders CU
- SERVICE ONE Members Bank
- Sutherland Credit Union
- Unicom Credit Union
- Unicredit-WA
- Warwick Credit Union

# credit card star ratings



## Occasional Spender

January 2011 Report (rates current 21st Jan)

Company	Product	Published Rate (%)	Free Days	Annual Fee (\$)		Credit Limit (\$)		Rewards Program Available
				Annualised Fee	Spend to Waive	Min	Max	
★★★★★ <b>"outstanding value"</b>								
Bankwest	Zero MasterCard	16.99	55	0.00	N/A	1000	25000.00	✓
Credit Union SA	Visa Credit Card	10.49	55	10.00	N/A	1000	20000.00	✗
Heritage Building Soc	Visa Classic No Frills	11.80	0	0.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✗
Horizon Credit Union	Visa Credit Card	12.95	45	0.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✓
Hume Building Society	Value	13.15	55	0.00	N/A	500	20000.00	✗
Macquarie Credit Union	Visa Credit Card	13.54	55	15.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✗
mecu	Visa Credit Card	13.74	55	0.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
Police Credit	Visa Credit Card	11.95	44	0.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✗
Qantas Staff CU	Lifestyle	13.99	0	0.00	N/A	500	50000.00	✓
Teachers Credit Union	Teachers Credit Card	11.50	55	0.00	N/A	1000	25000.00	✗
Victoria Teachers CU	Visa Credit Cd	13.64	55	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
✧ <b>"rising star"</b>								
Virgin Money	Virgin No Annual Fee Credit Car	16.95	44	0.00	N/A	2000	10000.00	✗
★★★★★								
BankSA	No Annual Fee MasterCard	20.49	0	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
BankSA	No Annual Fee Visa	20.49	0	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Coastline Credit Union	Visa Credit Card	17.50	0	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Commonwealth Bank	Low Fee MasterCard	20.24	55	24.00	1000	500	No max	✗
GE Money	Coles Group Source MCD	20.49	62	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
GE Money	28 Degrees MasterCard	19.49	55	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
HSBC	Credit Card	17.99	55	0.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
Maritime Mining & Power	Visa	14.19	55	42.00	N/A	1000	20000.00	✗
Qantas Staff CU	Lifestyle Plus	17.35	46	0.00	N/A	500	50000.00	✓
Qld Police Credit Union	Bluey Card	12.74	55	25.00	8000	1000	25000.00	✗
SERVICE ONE Members B	Visa	15.25	0	0.00	N/A	500	10000.00	✗
St George Bank	No Annual Fee Visa	20.49	0	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
St George Bank	No Annual Fee MasterCard	20.49	0	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
★★★								
American Express	Gold Ascent Credit Card	20.74	44	0.00	N/A	2000	25000.00	✓
ANZ	Low Rate MasterCard	13.49	55	58.00	N/A	1000	15000.00	✗
ANZ	Frequent Flyer	19.74	44	40.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
ANZ	Balance Visa	14.49	55	57.00	N/A	1000	15000.00	✓
ANZ	Rewards	19.74	44	34.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
ANZ	First	19.24	44	30.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗

your guide to product excellence

# credit card star ratings



## Occasional Spender

January 2011 Report (rates current 21st Jan)

Company	Product	Published Rate (%)	Free Days	Annual Fee (\$)		Credit Limit (\$)		Rewards Program Available
				Annualised Fee	Spend to Waive	Min	Max	
★★★								
Aussie Home Loans	MasterCard	13.29	55	49.00	N/A	1000	15000.00	✗
Australian Defence CU	Low Rate Visa Card	10.99	55	49.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
B & E Personal Banking	Visa Credit Card	12.99	57	39.00	8000	500	30000.00	✗
Bananacoast Community C	Classic Visa Card	12.25	55	45.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Bank of Queensland	Low Rate Visa Card	13.49	55	55.00	N/A	2000	20000.00	✗
Bank of Queensland	Blue No Annual Fee Visa	20.49	0	0.00	N/A	2000	7500.00	✓
BankSA	Amplify Credit Card	18.74	55	79.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
BankSA	Vertigo MasterCard	12.74	55	55.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Bankwest	More MasterCard	18.99	55	89.00	N/A	1000	25000.00	✓
Bankwest	Lite MasterCard	10.75	55	59.00	N/A	1000	25000.00	✓
Bendigo Bank	Basic Black Visa	12.49	44	45.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Bendigo Bank	RSPCA Rescue Visa	15.49	40	24.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Bendigo Bank	Basic Black MasterCard	12.49	44	45.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Bendigo Bank	RSPCA Rescue Rewards	19.64	55	60.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Bendigo Bank	Ready Red Visa	19.99	44	45.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Citibank	Silver MasterCard	20.99	55	89.00	N/A	2000	7500.00	✓
Citibank	Silver Visa	20.99	55	89.00	N/A	2000	7500.00	✓
Citibank	Clear Card	15.99	55	65.00	N/A	2000	15000.00	✓
Coastline Credit Union	Rewarder Visa	17.00	55	52.00	12000	1000	25000.00	✓
Commonwealth Bank	Low Rate MasterCard	13.49	55	78.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Commonwealth Bank	Low Fee Gold MasterCard	20.24	55	24.00	10000	500	No max	✗
Commonwealth Bank	Low Rate Gold MasterCard	13.49	55	120.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Community First CU	McGrath Pink Visa Card	10.49	55	40.00	N/A	1000	15000.00	✗
Community First CU	Low Rate Visa Cred Card	10.49	55	40.00	N/A	1000	15000.00	✗
Credit Unions*	Silver Rewards MasterCard	19.49	55	45.00	N/A	2000	7500.00	✓
Credit Unions*	Silver Low Rate MasterCard	13.35	55	45.00	N/A	2000	7500.00	✗
Defence Force CU	True Blue Credit Card	11.74	55	36.00	N/A	1000	25000.00	✗
Encompass Credit Union	Visa Credit Card	15.00	55	36.00	N/A	1000	5000.00	✗
First Option CU	Standard Visa Credit Card	13.49	45	18.00	N/A	500	20000.00	✗
First Option CU	Cash Rewards Visa Credit Card	15.99	45	36.00	N/A	500	20000.00	✓
GE Money	eco MasterCard	20.24	55	49.00	N/A	500	20000.00	✓
GE Money	Low Rate MasterCard	15.49	55	58.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
GE Money	GO MasterCard	21.74	62	47.00	N/A	600	25000.00	✓
GE Money	Myer Visa Card	20.39	62	39.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
GE Money	Myer Visa Gold Card	20.39	62	39.00	N/A	500	No max	✓



# credit card star ratings



## Occasional Spender

January 2011 Report (rates current 21st Jan)

Company	Product	Published Rate (%)	Free Days	Annual Fee (\$)		Credit Limit (\$)		Rewards Program Available
				Annualised Fee	Spend to Waive	Min	Max	
★★★								
Heritage Building Soc	Visa Classic With Rewards	16.75	25	48.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✓
Heritage Building Soc	Visa Classic Basic	16.75	25	18.00	10000	1000	10000.00	✗
Hume Building Society	Loyalty	17.95	55	30.00	8000	500	20000.00	✓
Hunter United Credit Un	Visa Credit Card	11.49	55	48.00	N/A	1000	20000.00	✗
Intech Credit Union	Titanium Visa 55	12.30	55	36.00	N/A	1000	30000.00	✗
Macquarie Bank	Visa RateSaver Card	14.20	55	50.00	N/A	2000	25000.00	✗
Macquarie Bank	JetStar MasterCard	12.74	55	49.00	N/A	2000	No max	✓
ME Bank	MasterCard	12.25	44	39.00	7500	1000	15000.00	✗
mecu	Low Rate Visa CreditCard	10.74	0	59.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
nab	Qantas Standard	20.24	44	65.00	N/A	500	500000.00	✓
nab	Low Rate Visa Card	13.49	55	49.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
nab	Standard Visa Card	19.74	44	30.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
nab	Velocity Standard	20.24	44	65.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
nab	Standard MasterCard	19.74	44	30.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Newcastle Permanent	Value+ Credit Card	12.45	55	45.00	N/A	500	20000.00	✗
Police&NursesMut Banking	Easypay Visa	12.25	45	36.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Qld Police Credit Union	Bluey Rewarder Card	15.74	55	48.00	8000	1000	25000.00	✓
Savings & Loans Cred Un	VISA Care Card	15.95	62	40.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
SCU	Low Rate Visa Credit Card	10.49	55	30.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
SGE Credit Union	Solutions	12.95	45	50.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✓
St George Bank	Vertigo MasterCard	12.74	55	55.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
St George Bank	Amplify Credit Card	18.74	55	79.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
Suncorp Bank	Clear Options Standard Card	12.74	0	39.00	N/A	2000	20000.00	✗
Suncorp Bank	Clear Options Plus Card	20.49	55	63.00	N/A	2000	7500.00	✓
Westpac	earth	19.99	45	75.00	N/A	1000	50000.00	✓
Westpac	Altitude	19.99	45	100.00	N/A	1000	50000.00	✓
Westpac	Low Rate MasterCard	13.49	55	45.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
Westpac	55 day Visa Card	19.59	55	30.00	15000	1000	No max	✗
Westpac	55 day MasterCard	19.59	55	30.00	15000	1000	No max	✗
Westpac	Low Rate Visa Card	13.49	55	45.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
Woolworths Limited	Everyday Money	19.84	55	49.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
★★								
Bananacoast Community C	Visa Bonus Rewarder	17.25	55	59.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Bank of Queensland	Blue Visa	20.74	55	55.00	N/A	2000	7500.00	✓
Bendigo Bank	Ready Red MasterCard	19.99	44	45.00	N/A	500	No max	✓

your guide to product excellence

# credit card star ratings



## Occasional Spender

January 2011 Report (rates current 21st Jan)

Company	Product	Published Rate (%)	Free Days	Annual Fee (\$)		Credit Limit (\$)		Rewards Program Available
				Annualised Fee	Spend to Waive	Min	Max	
★★								
Citibank	BP MasterCard	20.89	55	79.00	N/A	500	25000.00	✓
Commonwealth Bank	Awards	20.74	55	89.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
HSBC	Classic Credit Card	20.50	55	59.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
Macquarie Bank	Visa Gold Card	20.70	55	100.00	N/A	2000	50000.00	✓
Macquarie Bank	Hilton Platinum Card	20.70	55	295.00	N/A	2000	50000.00	✓
★								
American Express	David Jones AMEX Card	20.74	44	99.00	N/A	2000	30000.00	✓
American Express	Platinum MoneyBack CCard	20.74	44	99.00	N/A	2000	25000.00	✓

**\*Credit Unions includes the following financial institutions:**

Australian Central CU  
 Community CPS Australia  
 Companion CU  
 CUA  
 ECU Australia  
 Family First CU  
 FCCS Credit Union  
 Holiday Coast CU  
 Illawarra CU NSW  
 IMB  
 Memberfirst Credit Union  
 MyState Financial  
 Qld Teachers CU  
 Queenslanders CU  
 SERVICE ONE Members  
 Bank  
 Sutherland Credit Union  
 Unicom Credit Union  
 Unicredit-WA  
 Warwick Credit Union

# credit card star ratings



## Big Spender

January 2011 Report (rates current 21st Jan)

Company	Product	Published Rate (%)	Free Days	Annual Fee (\$)		Credit Limit (\$)		Rewards Program Available
				Annualised Fee	Spend to Waive	Min	Max	
★★★★★ <b>"outstanding value"</b>								
ANZ	Freq Flyer Platinum	19.74	55	240.00	N/A	6000	No max	✓
Bankwest	More Platinum MasterCard	18.74	55	190.00	N/A	8000	100000.00	✓
Citibank	Emirates Platinum MasterCard	20.99	55	229.00	N/A	5000	100000.00	✓
Citibank	Platinum Visa	20.99	55	250.00	N/A	8000	100000.00	✓
Citibank	Gold MasterCard	20.99	55	149.00	N/A	5000	60000.00	✓
Citibank	Gold Visa	20.99	55	149.00	N/A	5000	60000.00	✓
Citibank	Clear Platinum Visa	11.99	55	99.00	N/A	8000	60000.00	✗
Citibank	Platinum MasterCard	20.99	55	250.00	N/A	8000	100000	✓
Commonwealth Bank	Platinum Awards	20.74	55	280.00	N/A	8000	No max	✓
Commonwealth Bank	Gold Awards	20.74	55	144.00	N/A	4000	No max	✓
HSBC	Gold Credit Card	19.99	55	89.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
HSBC	Platinum Credit Card	19.99	55	129.00	N/A	6000	No max	✓
nab	Qantas Platinum	20.24	44	290.00	N/A	12000	500000.00	✓
Suncorp Bank	Clear Options Platinum Card	20.49	55	205.00	N/A	5000	30000.00	✓
Westpac	earth Platinum	19.99	45	250.00	N/A	10000	65000.00	✓
Westpac	Altitude Platinum	19.99	45	295.00	N/A	8000	65000.00	✓
Westpac	Altitude Gold	19.99	45	150.00	N/A	5000	50000.00	✓
★★★★★								
American Express	David Jones AMEX Card	20.74	44	99.00	N/A	2000	30000.00	✓
ANZ	Rewards	19.74	44	34.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
Bank of Queensland	Platinum Visa	20.74	55	199.00	N/A	8000	30000.00	✓
BankSA	Platinum Visa Card	15.99	55	89.00	N/A	8000	No max	✓
BankSA	Platinum MasterCard	15.99	55	89.00	N/A	8000	No max	✓
Coastline Credit Union	Rewarder Visa	17.00	55	52.00	12000	1000	25000.00	✓
Credit Unions*	Gold Rewards MasterCard	19.49	55	85.00	N/A	5000	25000.00	✓
Credit Unions*	Gold Qantas Rewards MasterCar	19.49	55	118.00	N/A	5000	25000.00	✓
GE Money	Coles Group Source MCD	20.49	62	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Qld Police Credit Union	Bluey Rewarder Card	15.74	55	48.00	8000	1000	25000.00	✓
St George Bank	Platinum Visa	15.99	55	89.00	N/A	8000	No max	✓
St George Bank	Platinum MasterCard	15.99	55	89.00	N/A	8000	No max	✓
Suncorp Bank	Clear Options Gold Card	20.25	55	99.00	N/A	5000	25000.00	✓
Westpac	Altitude	19.99	45	100.00	N/A	1000	50000.00	✓
Woolworths Limited	Everyday Money	19.84	55	49.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
★★★								

# credit card star ratings



## Big Spender

January 2011 Report (rates current 21st Jan)

Company	Product	Published Rate (%)	Free Days	Annual Fee (\$)		Credit Limit (\$)		Rewards Program Available
				Annualised Fee	Spend to Waive	Min	Max	
★★★								
American Express	Qantas AMEX Ultimate Card	20.74	44	450.00	N/A	5000	100000.00	✓
American Express	Platinum Reserve Credit Card	20.74	55	395.00	N/A	5000	100000.00	✓
American Express	Qantas AMEX Premium Card	20.74	44	249.00	N/A	5000	100000.00	✓
American Express	Gold Ascent Credit Card	20.74	44	0.00	N/A	2000	25000.00	✓
American Express	Platinum MoneyBack CCard	20.74	44	99.00	N/A	2000	25000.00	✓
Banacoast Community C	Visa Bonus Rewarder	17.25	55	59.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Bank of Queensland	Gold Visa	20.74	55	120.00	N/A	5000	25000.00	✓
BankSA	Gold Low Rate Visa	15.99	55	79.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
BankSA	Gold Low Rate MasterCard	15.99	55	79.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
BankSA	Amplify Credit Card	18.74	55	79.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
BankSA	Vertigo MasterCard	12.74	55	55.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Bankwest	Zero Gold MasterCard	16.99	55	0.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
Bankwest	More Gold MasterCard	18.99	55	120.00	N/A	5000	50000.00	✓
Bankwest	Lite MasterCard	10.75	55	59.00	N/A	1000	25000.00	✓
Bankwest	Lite Gold MasterCard	10.75	55	89.00	N/A	5000	50000.00	✓
Bankwest	Lite Platinum MasterCard	10.75	55	120.00	N/A	8000	No max	✓
Bankwest	More MasterCard	18.99	55	89.00	N/A	1000	25000.00	✓
Bankwest	Zero Platinum MasterCard	16.99	55	0.00	N/A	8000	No max	✓
Citibank	BP MasterCard	20.89	55	79.00	N/A	500	25000.00	✓
Citibank	Select Credit Card	20.74	55	700.00	N/A	18000	100000.00	✓
Citibank	Clear Card	15.99	55	65.00	N/A	2000	15000.00	✓
Commonwealth Bank	Low Rate Gold MasterCard	13.49	55	120.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Commonwealth Bank	Awards	20.74	55	89.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Commonwealth Bank	Low Fee Gold MasterCard	20.24	55	24.00	10000	500	No max	✗
Community First CU	Low Rate Visa Cred Card	10.49	55	40.00	N/A	1000	15000.00	✗
Community First CU	McGrath Pink Visa Card	10.49	55	40.00	N/A	1000	15000.00	✗
Credit Union SA	Visa Credit Card	10.49	55	10.00	N/A	1000	20000.00	✗
Credit Unions*	Gold Low Rate MasterCard	13.35	55	85.00	N/A	5000	25000.00	✗
First Option CU	Standard Visa Credit Card	13.49	45	18.00	N/A	500	20000.00	✗
First Option CU	Cash Rewards Visa Credit Card	15.99	45	36.00	N/A	500	20000.00	✓
GE Money	Myer Visa Card	20.39	62	39.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
GE Money	Myer Visa Gold Card	20.39	62	39.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
GE Money	GO MasterCard	21.74	62	47.00	N/A	600	25000.00	✓
Horizon Credit Union	Visa Credit Card	12.95	45	0.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✓
HSBC	Classic Credit Card	20.50	55	59.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
HSBC	Credit Card	17.99	55	0.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓

# credit card star ratings



## Big Spender

January 2011 Report (rates current 21st Jan)

Company	Product	Published Rate (%)	Free Days	Annual Fee (\$)		Credit Limit (\$)		Rewards Program Available
				Annualised Fee	Spend to Waive	Min	Max	
★★★								
Hume Building Society	Loyalty	17.95	55	30.00	8000	500	20000.00	✓
Hume Building Society	Value	13.15	55	0.00	N/A	500	20000.00	✗
Hume Building Society	Gold	17.95	55	60.00	12000	7500	50000.00	✓
Macquarie Bank	JetStar Platinum MasterCard	19.74	55	149.00	N/A	8000	No max	✓
Macquarie Bank	Hilton Platinum Card	20.70	55	295.00	N/A	2000	50000.00	✓
Macquarie Bank	Visa Platinum Card	20.70	55	200.00	N/A	10000	50000.00	✓
Macquarie Credit Union	Visa Credit Card	13.54	55	15.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✗
Maritime Mining & Power	Visa	14.19	55	42.00	N/A	1000	20000.00	✗
ME Bank	MasterCard	12.25	44	39.00	7500	1000	15000.00	✗
nab	Qantas Standard	20.24	44	65.00	N/A	500	500000.00	✓
nab	Gold Visa Card	19.74	44	90.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
nab	Qantas Gold	20.24	44	146.00	N/A	5000	500000.00	✓
nab	Gold MasterCard	19.74	44	90.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
nab	Velocity Standard	20.24	44	65.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
nab	Velocity Gold	20.24	44	150.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
Police Credit	Visa Gold	16.95	55	50.00	N/A	5000	30000.00	✓
Police Credit	Visa Credit Card	11.95	44	0.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✗
Qantas Staff CU	Lifestyle	13.99	0	0.00	N/A	500	50000.00	✓
Qantas Staff CU	Lifestyle Plus	17.35	46	0.00	N/A	500	50000.00	✓
Qld Police Credit Union	Bluey Card	12.74	55	25.00	8000	1000	25000.00	✗
St George Bank	Private Bk Visa Platinum	19.99	55	225.00	N/A	25000	250000.00	✓
St George Bank	Gold Low Rate MasterCard	15.99	55	79.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
St George Bank	Vertigo MasterCard	12.74	55	55.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
St George Bank	Amplify Credit Card	18.74	55	79.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
St George Bank	Gold Low Rate Visa	15.99	55	79.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
Teachers Credit Union	Teachers Credit Card	11.50	55	0.00	N/A	1000	25000.00	✗
Victoria Teachers CU	Visa Credit Cd	13.64	55	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Westpac	earth Gold	19.99	45	125.00	N/A	5000	50000.00	✓
Westpac	55 day Platinum Visa	19.59	55	130.00	20000	8000	No max	✗
Westpac	earth	19.99	45	75.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
Westpac	55 day Gold MasterCard	19.59	55	90.00	15000	5000	No max	✗
Westpac	Singapore Airlines Gold	19.49	45	125.00	N/A	5000	No max	✓
Westpac	Singapore Airlines Platinum	19.49	45	250.00	N/A	8000	No max	✓
Westpac	55 day Gold Visa Card	19.59	55	90.00	15000	5000	50000.00	✗

★★

# credit card star ratings



## Big Spender

January 2011 Report (rates current 21st Jan)

Company	Product	Published Rate (%)	Free Days	Annual Fee (\$)		Credit Limit (\$)		Rewards Program Available
				Annualised Fee	Spend to Waive	Min	Max	
★★								
ANZ	Balance Visa	14.49	55	57.00	N/A	1000	15000.00	✓
ANZ	Low Rate MasterCard	13.49	55	58.00	N/A	1000	15000.00	✗
ANZ	Frequent Flyer	19.74	44	40.00	N/A	1000	No max	✓
ANZ	First	19.24	44	30.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
Aussie Home Loans	MasterCard	13.29	55	49.00	N/A	1000	15000.00	✗
Australian Defence CU	Low Rate Visa Card	10.99	55	49.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
B & E Personal Banking	Visa Credit Card	12.99	57	39.00	8000	500	30000.00	✗
Bananacoast Community C	Classic Visa Card	12.25	55	45.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Bank of Queensland	Low Rate Visa Card	13.49	55	55.00	N/A	2000	20000.00	✗
BankSA	No Annual Fee MasterCard	20.49	0	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
BankSA	No Annual Fee Visa	20.49	0	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Bankwest	Zero MasterCard	16.99	55	0.00	N/A	1000	25000.00	✓
Bendigo Bank	RSPCA Rescue Visa	15.49	40	24.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Bendigo Bank	Basic Black MasterCard	12.49	44	45.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Bendigo Bank	RSPCA Rescue Rewards	19.64	55	60.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Bendigo Bank	Basic Black Visa	12.49	44	45.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Commonwealth Bank	Low Rate MasterCard	13.49	55	78.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Commonwealth Bank	Low Fee MasterCard	20.24	55	24.00	1000	500	No max	✗
Defence Force CU	True Blue Credit Card	11.74	55	36.00	N/A	1000	25000.00	✗
GE Money	eco MasterCard	20.24	55	49.00	N/A	500	20000.00	✓
GE Money	Low Rate MasterCard	15.49	55	58.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
GE Money	28 Degrees MasterCard	19.49	55	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Heritage Building Soc	Visa Classic Basic	16.75	25	18.00	10000	1000	10000.00	✗
Heritage Building Soc	Visa Gold Basic	16.75	25	36.00	20000	5000	50000.00	✗
Heritage Building Soc	Visa Classic With Rewards	16.75	25	48.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✓
Heritage Building Soc	Visa Gold No Frills	11.80	0	0.00	N/A	5000	50000.00	✗
Heritage Building Soc	Visa Classic No Frills	11.80	0	0.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✗
Hunter United Credit Un	Visa Credit Card	11.49	55	48.00	N/A	1000	20000.00	✗
Intech Credit Union	Titanium Visa 55	12.30	55	36.00	N/A	1000	30000.00	✗
Macquarie Bank	Visa Gold Card	20.70	55	100.00	N/A	2000	50000.00	✓
Macquarie Bank	JetStar MasterCard	12.74	55	49.00	N/A	2000	No max	✓
Macquarie Bank	Visa RateSaver Card	14.20	55	50.00	N/A	2000	25000.00	✗
mecu	Visa Credit Card	13.74	55	0.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
mecu	Low Rate Visa CreditCard	10.74	0	59.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
nab	Standard MasterCard	19.74	44	30.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
nab	Standard Visa Card	19.74	44	30.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
nab	Low Rate Visa Card	13.49	55	49.00	N/A	500	No max	✗

# credit card star ratings



## Big Spender

January 2011 Report (rates current 21st Jan)

Company	Product	Published Rate (%)	Free Days	Annual Fee (\$)		Credit Limit (\$)		Rewards Program Available
				Annualised Fee	Spend to Waive	Min	Max	
<b>★★</b>								
Newcastle Permanent	Value+ Credit Card	12.45	55	45.00	N/A	500	20000.00	✗
Police&NursesMut Banking	Easypay Visa	12.25	45	36.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Savings & Loans Cred Un	VISA Care Card	15.95	62	40.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
SCU	Low Rate Visa Credit Card	10.49	55	30.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
SGE Credit Union	Solutions Gold	14.95	55	100.00	N/A	5000	20000.00	✓
SGE Credit Union	Solutions	12.95	45	50.00	N/A	1000	10000.00	✓
St George Bank	No Annual Fee Visa	20.49	0	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
St George Bank	No Annual Fee MasterCard	20.49	0	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Suncorp Bank	Clear Options Standard Card	12.74	0	39.00	N/A	2000	20000.00	✗
Westpac	55 day MasterCard	19.59	55	30.00	15000	1000	No max	✗
Westpac	55 day Visa Card	19.59	55	30.00	15000	1000	No max	✗
Westpac	Low Rate MasterCard	13.49	55	45.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
Westpac	Low Rate Visa Card	13.49	55	45.00	N/A	1000	No max	✗
<b>★</b>								
Bendigo Bank	Ready Red MasterCard	19.99	44	45.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Bendigo Bank	Gold Visa	19.99	55	85.00	N/A	10000	50000.00	✓
Bendigo Bank	Ready Red Visa	19.99	44	45.00	N/A	500	No max	✓
Coastline Credit Union	Visa Credit Card	17.50	0	0.00	N/A	500	No max	✗
Heritage Building Soc	Visa Gold With Rewards	16.75	25	90.00	N/A	5000	50000.00	✓
SERVICE ONE Members B	Visa	15.25	0	0.00	N/A	500	10000.00	✗

# credit card star ratings



## Big Spender

January 2011 Report (rates current 21st Jan)

Company	Product	Published Rate (%)	Free Days	Annual Fee (\$)		Credit Limit (\$)		Rewards Program Available
				Annualised Fee	Spend to Waive	Min	Max	

**\*Credit Unions includes the following financial institutions:**

- Australian Central CU
- Community CPS
- Companion CU
- CUA
- ECU Australia
- Family First CU
- FCCS Credit Union
- Holiday Coast CU
- Illawarra CU NSW
- IMB
- Memberfirst Credit Union
- MyState Financial
- Qld Teachers CU
- Queenslanders CU
- SERVICE ONE Members Bank
- Sutherland Credit Union
- Unicom Credit Union
- Unicredit-WA
- Warwick Credit Union





## CREDIT CARD STAR RATINGS

### What are the CANSTAR CANNEX credit card star ratings?

CANSTAR CANNEX credit card star ratings are a sophisticated rating methodology, unique to CANSTAR CANNEX, which compare the dominant credit card products in Australia and present the results in a simple, user-friendly format.

Our rating methodology is transparent and extensive. The methodology compares all types of personal unsecured credit cards in Australia and accounts for an array of characteristics such as;

- Free Days
- No Free Days
- Standard Features
- Premium Features
- Reward/Loyalty Programs
- No Frills

The results are reflected in a consumer-friendly 5-star concept, with five stars denoting a product that offers outstanding value.

Only the top 75% of the credit cards examined actually receive a star rating between 1 and 5. Rising Stars are those products that would be rated 3-star or higher but have not been in the market for over 6 months. Rising Star products will be formally rated in the next ratings period once more historical data is available.

### What are the Profiles used by CANSTAR CANNEX credit card star ratings?

CANSTAR CANNEX appreciates that credit card users have different spending habits and therefore value different aspects of their credit card. In recognition of these differences, the CANSTAR CANNEX credit card star ratings methodology has been modified to reflect a range of spending styles and credit card usage.

CANSTAR CANNEX has adopted four different credit card user profiles in an attempt to cover the majority of card spending and payment patterns. The star ratings methodology differs for each profile in terms of the relative importance placed on the fees and features of the cards assessed. For example the methodology recognises that interest rates will be more important to someone who rarely pays off their card balance each month than they will be for someone who always pays the balance owing on their card.

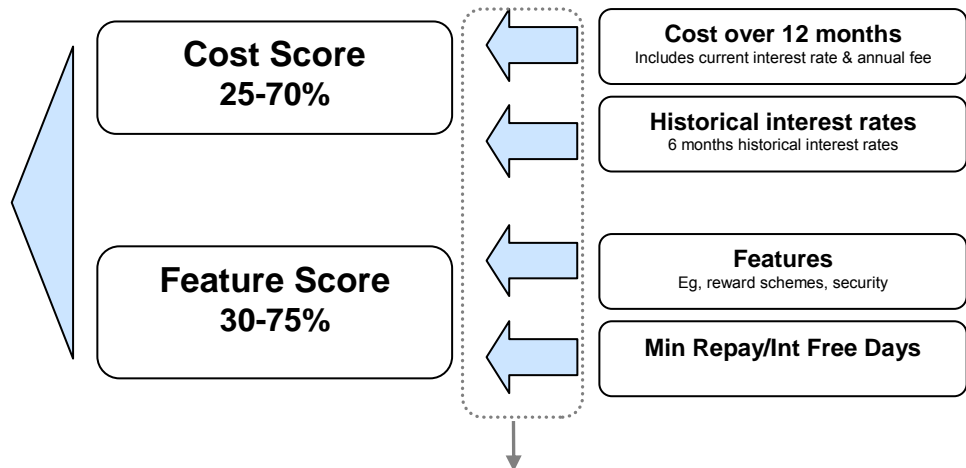
### How does it work? How are the 'stars' calculated?

Each credit card reviewed for the CANSTAR CANNEX credit card star ratings is awarded points for its comparative Costs and for the array of positive Features attached to the card. These features include rewards programs, premium card facilities, repayment capabilities and conditions attached to interest charging.

To arrive at the total score CANSTAR CANNEX applies a weight (w) against the Cost score (C) and the Features score (F). This weight will vary for each profile of credit card usage. The weight will reflect the relative importance of either costs or features in determining the best card for the type of credit card usage and payment.

$$w_1 \text{COST SCORE ( C )} + w_2 \text{FEATURES SCORE ( F )} = \text{TOTAL SCORE ( T )}$$





### Indexed Score

Product with the best pricing or features will receive a full score

Weightings:

Profiles	COST		FEATURES		
	COST	Historical Rates	Product features	Free days	Min Repayment
DELXD06SHQHU	70%		30%		
2FFDVLRDQ06SHQHU	60%		40%		
YHUGD6SHQHU	35%		65%		
%L6SHQHU	25%		75%		

### Costs (C)

CANSTAR CANNEX compares both current and historical credit card pricing data to calculate the COST (C) component of each product's overall score. Current data is used to calculate the annual cost to the cardholder for using each card. The cost of each card varies depending on the characteristics of the spending profile. Below are some of the spending and revolving details used in the calculation of the cost of each credit card.

- Current Data** – includes a scenario for each of the four credit card spending profiles
  - Habitual Spender - spends \$12,000 per year while revolving \$5,000
  - Everyday Spender - spends \$24,000 per year and revolves \$3000 for one month
  - Occasional Spender - spends \$6,000 per year and revolves \$1,500 for one month
  - Big Spender - spends \$60,000 per year and revolves \$9,000 for one month
- Historical Performance of Interest Rate** – takes into account the product history in the last 6 months.

### Features (F)

Each card Feature (F) is allocated points. Points are awarded for positive credit card traits such as no fees or greater flexibility. The total features score for each category of information (eg repayment capabilities) is ranked and weighted with each category contributing to the overall Features Score (F). As Features are relatively static, they are not measured over time.

### Weightings

The Costs and Features are weighted differently for each spending profile. This is done in recognition of the relative importance of the different product components to each profile.

The methodology for each profile is subtly adjusted to account for the differences between them. The process considers each profile separately and assigns weights representative of that profile (see table below). For the



Habitual spender for example, the rates and fees associated with a card account for 70% of that card's total score and the features account for the remaining 30%. The cards targeting this user demographic have fewer features, less flexibility and compete mainly on pricing. The cards targeting the Big Spender on the other hand (eg. Gold, Platinum or rewards cards) typically offer more features. The Big spender profile has therefore been adjusted so that features account for 75% of the total score, while rates and fees account for 25%.

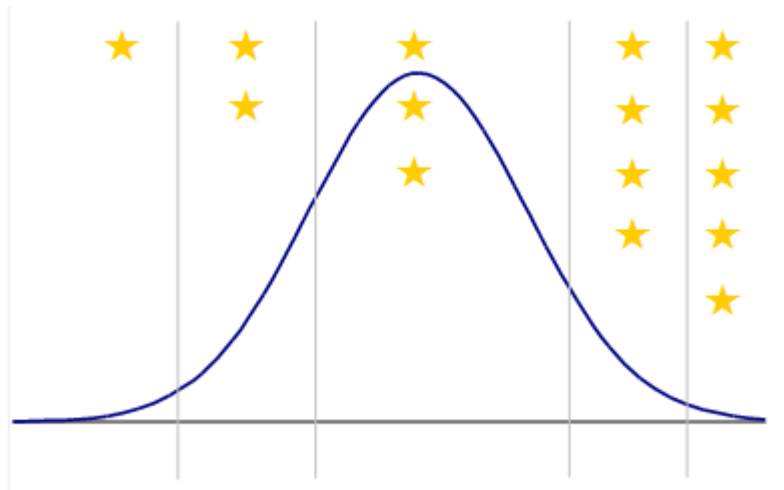
The Costs (C) plus Features (F) point scores are indexed and totalled to provide the Total Index Points. Together they form the basis of the CANNEX credit card star ratings.

FEATURES WEIGHTS USED IN STAR RATINGS SCORING				
FEATURES CATEGORY	HABITUAL SPENDER	OCCASIONAL SPENDER	EVERYDAY SPENDER	BIG SPENDER
Additional Fees & Charges	11.5%	20%	5%	4.5%
Lending Terms	20%	15%	7%	6%
Late Payment Interest Charging	10%	10%	10.5%	9%
Merchant Acceptability	15%	15%	9.5%	8%
Online Transactions	13.5%	16%	6.5%	5.5%
Premium Card Facilities	3%	3%	14.5%	22%
Repayment Capabilities	7%	5%	3.5%	3%
Rewards Program	3.5%	3.5%	35%*	35%**
Special Purchasing Policies	10%	7.5%	5%	4%
Application Process	6.5%	5%	3.5%	3%

\*based on \$24k rewards star ratings  
 \*\*based on \$60k rewards star rating

### How are the stars awarded?

The total score received for each profile ranks the products. The stars are then awarded based on the distribution of the scores with the objective to award the top 5-10% of products with the CANSTAR CANNEX 5-star rating.



The results are reflected in a consumer-friendly CANSTAR CANNEX star rating concept, with five stars denoting outstanding value.

### How many products and financial institutions are analysed?

In order to calculate the ratings, CANSTAR CANNEX analyses 278 Credit Card products from 69 financial institutions in Australia. In addition, over 100 parts of a product are analysed which includes product parameters, flexibility and operating terms and conditions.



## How often are CANSTAR CANNEX credit card star ratings re-rated?

All ratings are fully recalculated every six months based on the latest features offered by each institution. CANSTAR CANNEX also monitors rate changes on an ongoing basis.

## Does CANSTAR CANNEX rate other product areas?

CANSTAR CANNEX researches, compares and rates the suite of banking and insurance products listed below. These star ratings use similar methodologies to guarantee quality, consistency and transparency. Results are freely available to consumers who use the star ratings as a guide to product excellence. The use of similar star ratings logos also builds consumer recognition of quality products across all categories. Please access the CANSTAR CANNEX website at [www.canstar.com.au](http://www.canstar.com.au) if you would like to view the latest star ratings reports of interest.



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- Direct life insurance
- Health insurance
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- Home loans
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- Low-doc home loans
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