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Best balance transfer credit cards for July 2023

Nerdy Recommendations Contributor Best balance transfer credit cards with 0% introductory APR

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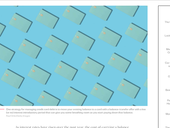

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Quick Notes
The best balance transfer credit card overall
Discover it® Balance Transfer
Best balance transfer credit cards
Discover it® Balance Transfer
What we like about this card
Blue Cash Preferred® Card from American Express
Best everyday card
Blue Cash Preferred® Card from American Express
What we like about this card
Blue Cash Everyday® Card from American Express
Best for families
Blue Cash Everyday® Card from American Express
What we like about this card
Capital One Quicksilver Cash Rewards Credit Card
Best for straightforward cash back
Capital One Quicksilver Cash Rewards Credit Card
What we like about this card
Citi Simplicity® Card
Best for low fees
Citi Simplicity® Card
What we like about this card
Wells Fargo Reflect Card
Best for cardholders looking for a no-frills balance transfer card with a long introductory period
Wells Fargo Reflect Card
What we like about this card
BankAmericard Credit Card
Best for a long 0% intro APR on purchases
BankAmericard Credit Card
What we like about this card
How do balance-transfer cards work?
How to choose a balance transfer credit card
How to make the most of your balance-transfer card
Methodology for best airline credit cards

A balance transfer card allows you to consolidate debt from other credit cards or some credit cards to a new card with a lower rate or no rate at all for a set period of time. That break from interest accumulation can give cardholders some breathing room to eliminate some or all of their debt.

How to choose a balance transfer credit card

There are several factors to consider when selecting a balance transfer card. It's important to make sure that you understand how long the introductory period lasts and how the interest rate could change when that period is over. With rewards and cash back are enticing if you carry a balance on a credit card, your priority from a financial perspective should be paying off that balance rather than spending more to earn rewards.

How to make the most of your balance-transfer card

The best way to use a balance transfer card is to have a plan to pay off the balance before the introductory period ends. Keep in mind that the introductory period is the end of the period could be subject to market rates once again creating a challenge for those working on debt reduction.

Methodology for best airline credit cards

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We reviewed dozens of credit cards and assessed them on quantifiable comparisons of APRs, intro offers, annual fees, balance transfer fees, required credit scores, rewards, and foreign transaction fees. We also factored in qualitative analysis of rewards value, how easy it is to redeem rewards, additional cardholder benefits, and customer experience. From there, we give each card a score between one and five stars (with five stars being the best score). We review our ratings and scores quarterly to make sure you're getting the latest analysis of a particular card's strengths and weaknesses. Each credit card category has additional requirements that must be met in order for it to be considered for a rating. You can read our full credit card methodology here.

To be considered one of the best balance transfer credit cards, the card must have a 0% APR offer for balance transfers for at least 12 months. Introductory APR on balance transfers (both rate and period length), any additional fees, and ongoing APR after the introductory period are weighted most heavily when reviewing balance transfer credit cards. Additional factors, such as how much a person could save in interest by moving debt to the card while paying it off, are also weighted heavily.

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This article was originally published on SFGate.com and reviewed by Lauren Williamson, who serves as Financial and Home Services Editor for the Hearst E-Commerce team. Email her at lauren.williamson@hearst.com.

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Beth Braverman is a freelance writer, covering mostly about personal finance, parenting, and careers. Throughout her 20-year career as a journalist, she's loved helping people see how making smart money decisions can improve their lives. Beth began her career as a daily newspaper reporter, before moving into the world of magazines and personal finance. A former Money magazine writer, Beth has been a full-time freelancer for seven years. Her work has appeared in dozens of publications, including magazines like Real Simple, Consumer Reports, and AARP, and online at sites like CNNBusiness.com, CNBC.com, and USNews.com. She has received multiple awards for her work, including recognition from the American Society of Business Publication Editors, the Society of American Business Editors and Writers, and the New York Financial Writers Association. Beth received her undergraduate degree in newspaper journalism from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University. She also holds a master's degree in business reporting from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

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