

Best no-annual-fee credit cards of June 2020

Finding the best-no-annual-fee credit card for you doesn't have to mean sacrificing every valuable perk and reward. CardRatings editors name the top cards that don't charge annual fees, but still offer plenty of value.

Brooklyn Lowery, CardRatings Senior Manager

Last Updated, June 19, 2020

Our credit card articles, reviews and ratings maintain strict editorial integrity; however we may be compensated when you click on or are approved for offers (terms apply) from our partners. How we make money.



If "no-annual-fee credit card" makes you think of a piece of worthless plastic that doesn't do much for you besides take up space in your wallet, than it's a good thing you're here. We've compiled a solid list of no-annual-fee credit cards from our partners that are more – MUCH more – than space hogs in your wallet. The reality is that no-annual-fee credit cards don't necessarily mean you're getting a lesser card than you do when you agree to pay an annual fee. The best no-annual-fee credit cards out there

offer plenty in the way of rewards, features and perks for people who want all those things but aren't ready to pay an annual fee for them.

LIST OF WINNERS

- [Chase Freedom Unlimited®](#) - Cash-Back Rewards
- [Citi Rewards+™ Card](#) - Travel Rewards
- [Ink Business Cash™ Credit Card](#) - Small Business

These cards routinely show us that you CAN, after all, get something for nothing whether you're looking for cash-back rewards, travel rewards, extra perks for your small business or something else. Take a look at our picks for top no-annual-fee credit cards:

BEST NO-ANNUAL-FEE CARDS FOR CASH-BACK REWARDS



Chase Freedom Unlimited®

★★★★★ [About Our Ratings](#)

Why We Like It: This is a flat-rate cash-back card that accumulates rewards as Chase Ultimate Rewards® points. Those points can be combined with the points you earn through some other Chase cards (see the Pro Tip below), which means that you can think of this card as either a cash-back card or, if you want, a travel rewards card since Ultimate Rewards® points are coveted travel rewards.

[Apply Now](#)

CARD DETAILS

EDITOR'S TAKE

Bonus: New cardholders can earn \$150 cash back once spending \$500 within the first three months of opening an account. Also, take advantage of an intro period of zero interest on purchases for the first 15 months (then, 14.99 - 23.74% Variable).

Foreign Transaction Fees: 3% of each transaction in U.S. dollars

The Rewards: Earn unlimited 1.5% cash back on every purchase.




PRO TIP

[Chase Freedom Unlimited®](#) is a flat-rate cash-back card option, but there's a rotating categories version as well: [Chase Freedom®](#) (This card is not currently available on CardRatings). With Chase Freedom®, you earn 5% cash back on up to \$1,500 spent in categories that rotate quarterly (you'll need to activate the bonus categories each quarter to earn the bonus). Earn 1% cash back on purchases over the spending cap and on all your other purchases ([Check out this quarter's bonus categories](#)). You could choose to use Chase Freedom Unlimited® for all of the purchases that don't earn 5% cash back with Chase Freedom®. Yes, it takes a little thought and planning, but it's worth more cash back to you.

Going a step further, all of your rewards for both cards accumulate as Chase Ultimate Rewards® points and can be combined in a single bucket. If you also happen to be a [Chase Sapphire Preferred® Card](#), you can combine all your points under the Sapphire card and when you redeem them for travel through the Ultimate Rewards® portal, they are worth 25% more.

The information related these cards has been collected by CardRatings and has not been reviewed or provided by the issuer of the cards.



 **Apply Now**

Citi® Double Cash Card - 18 month BT offer

★★★★★ [About Our Ratings](#)

Why We Like It: A flat-rate cash-back rewards card that offers you as much as 2% cash back on your purchases is certainly a card worth considering. As an added perk, this card features a lengthy intro 0% APR for 18 months on balance transfers so it could save you some serious interest money if you have an existing balance on another card that you need a little extra time to pay off (after the intro period, the APR becomes 13.99% – 23.99% (Variable)).

CARD DETAILS

EDITOR'S TAKE

Bonus: There isn't a traditional bonus with this card, but you should consider that introductory 18 months of no interest on balance transfers (then, 13.99% – 23.99% (Variable)) a solid opportunity to put, or rather keep, some money in your wallet.

Foreign Transaction Fees: 3%

Rewards: Earn 1% cash back when you make your purchases and then rake in another 1% cash back when you pay for your purchases. That effectively means you can earn a 2% cash back on all your purchases AND it's a nice incentive to pay your balance off each billing cycle.



Learn More

Wells Fargo Cash Wise Visa® card

(This card is not currently available on CardRatings)

★★★★★ [About Our Ratings](#)

Why We Like It: This card features a simple-to-understand rewards earning structure and offers you the added perk of cell phone protection against covered damage and theft as long as you pay your cellular bill on the card; that could save you \$100 or more a year in insurance premiums alone.

CARD DETAILS

EDITOR'S TAKE

Bonus: Receive a \$150 cash rewards bonus if you spend \$500 in the first three months as a cardholder. Plus, you'll earn 1.8% cash back (as compared to the standard 1.5%) on qualified digital wallet purchases during your first 12 months as a cardholder. Lastly, new cardholders can take advantage of an introductory 15 months no interest on purchases and qualifying balance transfers (then, 13.99%-25.99% Variable).

Foreign Transaction Fees: 3%

Rewards: Earn an unlimited 1.5% cash back on all your purchases without having to worry about categories or spending caps.



[Learn More](#)

[See Rates and Fees](#)

Blue Cash Everyday® Card from American Express

(This card is not currently available on CardRatings)

★★★★★ [About Our Ratings](#)

Why We Like It: Tiered rewards credit cards require sort of an intermediate level of credit card savvy to make them really work for you. They require a bit more planning and strategy than a flat-rate card, but not nearly as much as a rotating categories or cardholder-choice card. Likewise, they often give you an intermediate level of rewards earning potential – likely more than a flat-rate card offers and less than a strategically used rotating categories/cardholder-choice card offers. *American Express is a CardRatings advertiser.*

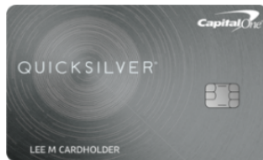
CARD DETAILS

EDITOR'S TAKE

Welcome Offer: Earn a \$150 statement credit after you spend \$1,000 in the first three months of card membership. You can also enjoy an introductory period of zero interest on purchases for the first 15 months (then, 12.99% - 23.99% Variable).

Foreign Transaction Fees: 2.7% of each transaction after conversion to US dollars.

The Rewards: Cardholders earn 3% cash back on U.S. supermarket purchases (up to \$6,000 spent annually, then 1%), 2% back at U.S. gas stations and select U.S. department stores and 1% cash back on all your other purchases.



[Learn More](#)

Capital One® Quicksilver® Cash Rewards Credit Card

(This card is not currently available on CardRatings)

★★★★★ [About Our Ratings](#)

Why We Like It: Four words: No foreign transaction fees. That rarity among cash-back rewards cards, plus the rewards-earning opportunity, make this an excellent no-annual-fee option in our books.

CARD DETAILS

EDITOR'S TAKE

Bonus: Earn a \$150 cash-back bonus after spending just \$500 on purchases with your new card in the first three months. This card also offers a solid introductory 15 months of no interest on purchases and balance transfers (then, 15.49% - 25.49% (Variable)).

Foreign Transaction Fees: None

The Rewards: Earn an easy-to-understand 1.5% cash back on every purchase. There are no caps, categories or hoops to worry about.



[Learn More](#)

Capital One® SavorOne® Cash Rewards Credit Card

(This card is not currently available on CardRatings)

★★★★★ [About Our Ratings](#)

Why We Like It: This is a card designed to reward all your food adventures, from dining out to experimenting in your own kitchen. And, since everyone has to eat and this card doesn't even charge an annual fee, this could be the perfect card for a lot of different people.

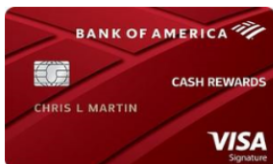
CARD DETAILS

EDITOR'S TAKE

Bonus: Earn a one-time \$150 cash-back bonus after you spend \$500 on purchases within your first three months as a cardholder.

Foreign Transaction Fees: None

The Rewards: Earn 3% cash back on your dining and entertainment purchases, 2% back at grocery stores and 1% back on all your other purchases. Read our full [Capital One® SavorOne® Cash Rewards Credit Card review](#).

[Learn More](#)

Bank of America® Cash Rewards credit card

(This card is not currently available on CardRatings)

★★★★★ [About Our Ratings](#)

Why We Like It: This cardholder-choice cash-back rewards card offers solid rewards on everyday purchases, but it's the opportunity to choose a category in which you'll earn top rewards (from among a list of six options) that makes it truly special.

CARD DETAILS

EDITOR'S TAKE

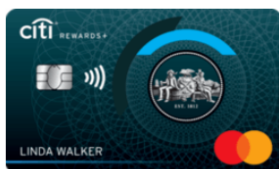
Bonus: \$200 online cash rewards bonus after you spend at least \$1,000 on purchases in the first 90 days of account opening.

Foreign Transaction Fees: 3%

The Rewards: Earn 3% cash back in your choice category from among a list of six: gas, online shopping, dining, travel, drug stores, or home improvement/furnishing. You'll also earn 2% back at grocery stores and wholesale clubs (up to \$2,500 in combined choice category/grocery store/wholesale club quarterly purchases) and an unlimited 1% on all other purchases. You can update your choice category for future purchases once each calendar month using the mobile banking app or online banking or it will remain the unchanged if you don't choose to update. There is no expiration on rewards.

If you are a Preferred Rewards client with the bank, you can receive 25%-75% more cash back on each purchase depending on your tier.

BEST NO-ANNUAL-FEE CARDS FOR TRAVEL REWARDS

[Learn More](#)

Citi Rewards+SM Card

(This card is not currently available on CardRatings)

★★★★★ [About Our Ratings](#)

Why We Like It: This card allows you to rack up rewards quickly as it essentially gives points in increments of 10. You'll earn two points for every \$1 spent at supermarkets and gas stations (up to \$6,000 in purchases each year) and one point for every \$1 spent on all other eligible purchases. However, since Citi rounds up points on every purchase to the next highest 10, you'll get a bit more than that. For example, buy a \$3 cup of coffee and get 10 points instead of three. Spend \$41 at the supermarket and get 90 points instead of 82. *Citi is a CardRatings advertiser*

CARD DETAILS

EDITOR'S TAKE

The Bonus: Earn 15,000 bonus points after you spend \$1,000 in purchases with your card within three months of opening an account; redeemable for \$150 in gift cards at [thankyou.com](#). Plus, enjoy 0% intro APR on balance transfers and purchases for 15 months (then, 13.49% - 23.49% (Variable)); balance transfers are subject to a fee of \$5 or 3% of each transfer, whichever is greater.

Foreign Transaction Fees: 3%

The Rewards: Earn 2X ThankYou® points at supermarkets and gas stations for the first \$6,000 per year and then 1X point thereafter. Plus, earn 1X point on all other purchases.

[Learn More](#)

Capital One® VentureOne® Rewards Credit Card

(This card is not currently available on CardRatings)

★★★★★ [About Our Ratings](#)

Why We Like It: Travel rewards cards often come with annual fees, which is why a card that features no annual fee, no foreign transaction fees and healthy rewards opportunities really catches our attention.

CARD DETAILS

EDITOR'S TAKE

Bonus: Earn 20,000 bonus miles – equal to \$200 in travel – after you spend \$1,000 on purchases in the first three months. You can also take advantage of a no-interest intro offer for the first 12 months on purchases (then, 14.49% - 24.49% (Variable)).

Foreign Transaction Fees: None

The Rewards: Earn 1.25 miles per \$1 spent on every purchase.

[Learn More](#)

Wells Fargo Propel American Express® card

(This card is not currently available on CardRatings)

★★★★★ [About Our Ratings](#)

Why We Like It: This is another no-annual-fee travel rewards credit card option with no foreign transaction fees and healthy rewards opportunities.

CARD DETAILS

EDITOR'S TAKE

Bonus: Earn 20,000 bonus points – that's worth \$200 in cash value – after you spend \$1,000 on purchases in the first three months. There's also an intro no-interest period of 12 months on purchases and qualifying balance transfers made within the first 120 days for the first 12 months (after the intro, the APR jumps to 13.99%-25.99% Variable).

Foreign Transaction Fees: None

The Rewards: Earn three points per \$1 spent eating out and ordering in; for gas station, rideshare and transit purchases; on travel purchases, including flights, hotels, homestays and car rentals; and on popular streaming services. Earn 1 point per \$1 on your other purchases. Keep in mind that earning that level of points on travel purchases is usually reserved for travel rewards cards with annual fees. This is a special card, indeed.

[Learn More](#)

Discover it® Miles

(This card is not currently available on CardRatings)

★★★★★ [About Our Ratings](#)

Why We Like It: This card features an easy-to-understand way to rack up unlimited rewards toward your travel expense; additionally, the bonus match Discover offers could make this intro offer HUGE.

CARD DETAILS

EDITOR'S TAKE

Bonus: Discover will match, mile-for-mile all the miles you earn during your first year as a cardholder. Earn 35,000 miles (that's worth \$350 in flexible travel redemption) and Discover will make that 70,000 miles (worth \$700) at the end of your first year.

Foreign Transaction Fees: None

The Rewards: Earn an unlimited 1.5 miles per \$1 spent on every purchase, every day. Remember, Discover will match all the miles you earn at the end of your first year, which means you'll basically be earning three miles per \$1 spent on all your purchases during year one.

BEST NO-ANNUAL-FEE CARDS FOR BUSINESS

[Learn More](#)

Ink Business CashSM Credit Card

(This card is not currently available on CardRatings)

★★★★★ [About Our Ratings](#)

Why We Like It: Business owners are always looking to cut expenses, so a no-annual-fee credit card that rewards you for your everyday business purchases is a nice find. And, this one offers you up to 5% cash back on some common business purchases.

CARD DETAILS

EDITOR'S TAKE

Bonus: Earn \$500 bonus cash back after you spend \$3,000 in the first three months. If you happen to have a big business expense coming up, you'll be glad to know this card offers an intro period of 12 months no interest on purchases (then, 14.74% - 20.74% Variable).

Foreign Transaction Fees: 3% of each transaction in U.S. dollars

The Rewards: Earn 5% cash back on the first \$25,000 spent in combined office supply store and internet, cable and phone services each anniversary year. Also, earn 2% cash back on the first \$25,000 spent in combined gas station and restaurant purchases each anniversary year. You'll earn 1% cash back on everything else.

The information related this credit card has been collected by CardRatings and has not been reviewed or provided by the issuer of this card.



PRO TIP

There is a family of Chase Ink small business credit cards and, in a number of ways, they actually work best in combination thanks to the unique features of each. In particular, the no-annual-fee [Ink Business UnlimitedSM Credit Card](#) (described below) offers 1.5% cash back on every purchase. That means it's a great card to use in addition to the Ink Business CashSM Credit Card so that you can earn 1.5% back on all the purchases that don't earn at a higher rate with the other Ink card. If you want to get really fancy (and venture beyond no-annual-fee cards), the [Ink Business Preferred[®] Credit Card](#) offers yet again different rewards earning opportunities and, more importantly, offers cardholders 25% more value when you redeem your points for travel through Chase Ultimate Rewards[®]. Yes, there is a \$95 annual fee, but it just might be worth it for your business.

The information related to the Chase Freedom card has been collected by CardRatings and has not been reviewed or provided by the issuer of the card.



[Learn More](#)

[See Rates and Fees](#)

American Express Blue Business CashTM Card

(This card is not currently available on CardRatings)

★★★★★ [About Our Ratings](#)

Why We Like It: No two businesses are exactly alike, which is why it's nice that this card offers cardholders the opportunity to earn flat-rate cash-back on all your eligible purchases up to \$50,000 spent in a calendar year (then, 1%). No categories to worry about means this card could be an excellent fit for just about any small business.

CARD DETAILS

EDITOR'S TAKE

Welcome Offer: The bonus here is being able to take advantage of an introductory offer of no interest on purchases for 12 months (then, 13.24% - 19.24% Variable).

Foreign Transaction Fees: 2.7% of each transaction after conversion to US dollars.

The Rewards: Cardholders earn 2% cash back on the first \$50,000 spent each calendar year. You earn 1% cash back on all your purchases after you reach the spending cap.



[Learn More](#)

Ink Business UnlimitedSM Credit Card

(This card is not currently available on CardRatings)

★★★★★ [About Our Ratings](#)

Why We Like It: This card offers an easy, straightforward way to earn cash back with unlimited 1.5% earned on every purchase made. Plus, as mentioned in the pro tip above, it pairs well with other Chase Ink business credit cards.

CARD DETAILS

EDITOR'S TAKE

Bonus: Earn \$500 in bonus cash back after you spend \$3,000 in the first three months from account opening. Plus, take advantage of an introductory 12 months no interest on purchases (then 14.74% - 20.74% Variable).

Foreign Transaction Fees: 3% of each transaction in U.S. dollars

The Rewards: Earn a flat and unlimited 1.5% cash back on every purchase. Those rewards accumulate as Chase Ultimate Rewards[®] points, a common currency among numerous Chase rewards cards. If you have other Chase rewards cards in your wallet, you can combine Chase Ultimate Rewards[®] points earned on those other cards into a single bucket as needed in order to redeem your points more quickly or, in some cases, for more value.

The information related this credit card has been collected by CardRatings and has not been reviewed or provided by the issuer of this card.



[Learn More](#)

Capital One® Spark® Cash Select for Business

(This card is not currently available on CardRatings)

[About Our Ratings](#)

Why We Like It: Flat-rate cash back means one less thing for busy business owners to think about. Rack up cash-back rewards no matter where your (or your employees) use the card.

CARD DETAILS

EDITOR'S TAKE

Bonus: Earn a \$200 cash-back bonus after you spend \$3,000 on purchases within the first three months. You'll also save money thanks to a 0% interest intro offer on purchases for the first nine months (then, 14.49% - 22.49% (Variable)).

Foreign Transaction Fees: None

The Rewards: Earn a flat 1.5% cash back on all your purchases; there are no spending caps or categories to keep up with.



EDITOR'S NOTE

If yours is a business that requires you to travel frequently, you might consider the no-annual-fee travel version of this card, [Capital One® Spark® Miles Select for Business](#) (This card is not currently available on CardRatings). With this card, you'll earn 1.5 miles per \$1 spent on every purchase (plus 5X miles on hotel and rental car bookings through Capital One Travel™) and you can earn 20,000 bonus miles – worth \$200 – if you spend \$3,000 in the first three months.

WHO SHOULD CONSIDER A NO-ANNUAL-FEE CREDIT CARD?

OK, not to be trite here, but the answer to this question, quite frankly, is everybody. The fact is, there are some excellent perks and features to be had with credit cards that charge annual fees. If your credit is good and you're financially responsible, taking advantage of those perks offered by cards with an annual fee is likely worth it. However, you basically have nothing to lose by also carrying a card that DOESN'T have an annual fee and, in fact, you may find yourself raking in additional rewards or being glad you have that credit available in the case of an emergency.

Still not convinced? Let's get a bit more specific about who can benefit most from these cards:

1. Someone needing a 0% interest period. You may have noticed a trend in the cards above in that all of them feature some kind of zero interest introductory period, whether for purchases or balance transfers or both. That means that not only can these cards save you money when it comes to no annual fee, they may also be able to save you a bundle when it comes to interest.

Very often, cards with annual fees focus their features and perks in areas besides the interest rate and it can be a bit harder to find a no-interest period on cards with annual fees.

2. Someone who wants the security of a credit card, but won't use it often enough to offset an annual fee. Let's face it: Credit cards are simply more secure to carry, particularly when you travel, than loads of cash (or a debit card, for that matter, thanks to how the laws are written). If you lose a credit card, your credit card company has you protected against fraud. Lose a wad of cash or your debit card, and you could be out hundreds of dollars. Just having the card available to you so that you can travel and shop securely isn't a bad idea. And, who knows, you just might like the rewards you rake in along the way.

3. New credit card users. Navigating the world of credit cards can be daunting for a newcomer. Sometimes it's hard to determine whether you'll use it enough to offset the annual fee another card might be charging. That's why a no-annual-fee credit card could be an excellent "Guinea pig" of sorts. Use the card for a year, see how much you like earning those rewards (and whether you earn enough to offset an annual fee) and then decide whether you would like the perks and features of a card with an annual fee.

One last note, if you do decide to venture to another card over time, feel free to keep your no-annual-fee credit card open. In general, it's better for your credit to keep the card open and it isn't costing you anything to keep it around.

To see the rates and fees for the American Express cards featured in this post, please visit the following links: [American Express Blue Business Cash™ Card](#) ([See Rates and Fees](#)); [Blue Cash Everyday® Card](#) from American Express ([See Rates and Fees](#))

Disclaimer: The information in this article is believed to be accurate as of the date it was written. Please keep in mind that credit card offers change frequently.

Therefore, we cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information in this article. Reasonable efforts are made to maintain accurate information. See the online credit card application for full terms and conditions on offers and rewards. Please verify all terms and conditions of any credit card prior to applying.

This content is not provided by any company mentioned in this article. Any opinions, analyses, reviews or recommendations expressed here are those of the author's alone, and have not been reviewed, approved or otherwise endorsed by any such company. CardRatings.com does not review every company or every offer available on the market.