



What are the Canstar *Travel Credit and Debit Card Star Ratings*?

Canstar's *Travel Credit and Debit Cards Star Ratings* use a sophisticated and unique ratings methodology that compares both cost and features across both credit cards and deposit accounts with card access (debit cards), with a particular focus on the features and fees related to overseas travel. Canstar star ratings represent a shortlist of credit cards and debit cards, enabling consumers to narrow their search products that have been thoroughly assessed and ranked. Canstar's *Travel Credit and Debit Cards Star Ratings* are a transparent analysis comparing a range of credit and debit cards across the market.

Ratings range from five stars to one star. Five-star rated products have been assessed as offering outstanding value to consumers. The titles of "**Outstanding Value Travel Credit Cards**" and "**Outstanding Value Travel Debit Cards**" are awarded to products that obtain a five-star rating based on performance across judging criteria set down by Canstar.

Eligibility Requirements

In order to be considered for the star rating, a product must meet the following requirements:

Product Type	Eligibility
Travel Credit Card	All personal, unsecured credit cards and charge cards with access to point of sale and ATMs overseas
Travel Debit Card	All personal deposit accounts with access to point of sale and ATMs overseas

Profile Description

Canstar appreciates that travellers have different spending habits and therefore value different features in their cards that they take with them overseas. In recognition of these differences, the Canstar *Travel Credit and Debit Card Star Ratings* reflect a range of spending styles and card usage patterns.

Product Type	Profile Name	Summary
Credit Card	Occasional Overseas Traveller	For consumers looking for a low cost credit card to take on an overseas trip, perhaps as a once-off or once a year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total cost of an annual travel scenario with \$5,000 spent. • Includes annual fee waivers where applicable. • Ease of activation and depth of travel insurance offering. • Security and ATM access overseas
	Regular Overseas Traveller	For consumers looking for fully-featured credit card to use overseas on a regular basis or at least a few times per year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total cost of an annual travel scenario with \$10,000 spent. • Includes annual fee waivers where applicable. • Rewards on spending are considered. • Ease of activation and depth of travel insurance offering. • Security and ATM access overseas
Deposit Account (Debit Card)	Overseas Travel	For consumers looking to spend their own money overseas – primarily for use at ATMs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total cost of a travel scenario with \$5,000 spent. • Includes annual fee waivers where applicable. • Account is kept active for 3 months. • Access to an overseas ATM network. • Other fees and charges

CANSTAR has adopted three different user profiles across credit and debit cards in an attempt to cover different types of spending patterns. The star ratings methodology differs for each profile in terms of the relative importance placed on the fees and features of the products assessed. For example, the methodology recognises that a “Regular Overseas Traveller” may gain more from having a premium card that includes features such as travel insurance and airport lounge access, than someone who is looking for a credit card to take with them on a once-off overseas trip.

Star Ratings Methodology

Each credit and debit card reviewed for the CANSTAR *Travel Credit and Debit Card Star Ratings* is awarded points for its comparative Pricing and for the array of positive Features attached to the card. These features include international ATM access, airline lounge access, travel insurance, security and fees.

To arrive at the total score CANSTAR, applies a weight against a Pricing and Feature Score. This weight will vary for each profile of card usage. The weight will reflect the relative importance of either costs or features in determining the best value card for the type of overseas traveller.

$$\text{Total Score} = \text{Price Score} + \text{Feature Score}$$



Product Type	Profile Name	Pricing	Features
Credit Card	Occasional Overseas Traveller	80%	20%
	Regular Overseas Traveller	60%	40%
Debit Card	Overseas Travel	80%	20%

Price Score

To find the overall cost of taking a card on an overseas trip, CANSTAR has designed a scenario that includes the cost of keeping the account open (account keeping fees or annual fees), fees for using the card overseas (currency conversion fees, ATM fees) as well as any reward points earned for spending on the card. Interest rates on credit cards are not considered in these ratings, as a credit card could become an extremely expensive way to pay for a holiday if it is not paid off within the interest free period. These ratings focus on the transaction costs and benefits of using a credit card overseas, rather than the cost of financing an overseas trip.

Fees for withdrawing cash from a credit card whilst overseas can be costly and users would likely encounter cash advance interest charges as soon as the withdrawal is made. In addition to this, some credit card products do not allow cash advances at all. For these reasons, CANSTAR has only compared credit cards on the cost of making purchases overseas. There are also other differences in how CANSTAR has assessed each product type within each profile – these are included in the table below.

Product Type	Profile	Account active (months)	Amount spent overseas*	Total Purchase Use Overseas	ATM Use Overseas			Rewards points considered
					Total ATM Use Overseas	Network Use	Non-Network Use	
Credit Card	Occasional Traveller	12	\$5,000	100%	-	-	-	✗
	Regular Traveller	12	\$10,000	100%	-	-	-	✓
Debit Card	Overseas Travel	3	\$5,000	50%	50%	50%	50%	✗

*To calculate the net cost of the card, the amount spent overseas is divided by the assumed average of 20 transactions per trip, *Regular Traveller* profile is assumed to take 2 trips per year, whereas the other profiles are assumed to take 1 trip per year.

Network ATMs: Where an institution provides free or discounted access to some ATMs overseas, ATM use overseas is apportioned between the discounted Network ATMs and Non-Network ATMs. For an ATM network to be considered there must be a reasonable chance that a traveller will encounter a Network ATM in their travels.

Rewards: Using CANSTAR's sophisticated Credit Card Rewards methodology, the value of rewards points earned are subtracted from the overall cost of ownership. This recognises that some credit card products provide bonus points for purchases made overseas that can partially or fully offset currency conversion fees. For credit cards with multiple rewards programs, the rewards option that leads to the best outcome is chosen.

Net Travel Cost

The Net Travel Cost of each card is calculated in consideration of how much will be available to the cardholder for spending on their trip, after fees for owning and using the card are subtracted:

Net Amount Available to spend for each product
Total overseas spend amount of between \$5,000 and \$10,000
Minus annual fees and/or account keeping fees (fee waivers are considered)
Minus cost of foreign ATM withdrawals (usually a fixed fee plus a percentage fee)
Minus cost of point-of-sale transactions (usually a percentage fee)
Plus the cash-equivalent value of any rewards points earned (in cashback, vouchers or flights)

Feature Score

Each card feature is allocated points. Points are awarded for positive traits such as low fees or greater flexibility. The total features score for each category of information (e.g. Travel Insurance) is ranked and weighted with each category contributing to the overall Feature score.

Weightings

The Pricing and Features are weighted differently for each spending profile, and slightly different product features are considered for both debit cards and credit cards. This is done in recognition of the relative importance of the different product components to each profile.

Feature Category	Credit Cards		Debit Cards	Example of Data Captured
	Occasional Traveller	Regular Traveller	Overseas Travel	
Travel Insurance**	50%	50%	-	
Activation Policies	20%	20%	-	Activation policy, cert of insurance provided, etc.
Insurance Coverage	80%	80%	-	Item limits, exclusions, claims process, conditions.
Security	10%	10%	15%	Card security, change pin online, block purchases
International ATM access	10%	10%	45%	International ATM network coverage.
Fees and Charges	10%	10%	20%	International Card replacement fee, over limit fees
Airline Lounge Access	5%	10%	-	Availability and usability of lounge access.
Card Terms	15%	10%	20%	Free days, interest rate, interest charging polices

**Note: see next page for clarification on Travel Insurance feature score breakdown.

All weights for the travel insurance coverage component of the rating are taken from the [Travel Insurance Star Ratings](#), and based on cover for a single traveller.

Category	International	Definition
Policy Conditions	20%	
Definitions	45%	Definition on covers, e.g. definition of dependents, pre-existing medical condition, etc.
Policy Flexibility	20%	Nil excess, adjustable excess, extend travel period, extra cover for paying extra
Claim processes	35%	Claim online, claim over the phone, 24hr helpline, helpline accept reverse charge calls
Policy Inclusions	10%	
Inclusions	100%	Terrorism ,snow sport, water sport, rock climbing, motor cycle, non-professional sporting trip that insurers may/may not include
Policy Benefits	70%	
Overseas Medical and Dental	40%	Level of covers on medical and dental related issue
Luggage and Travel Documents	15%	Level of covers on personal belonging
Cancellation Fees and Loss of Deposit	20%	Level of covers on administrative related fees
Emergency Travel Arrangements	15%	Level of covers on unexpected changes during period of travel
Rental Vehicle Cover	5%	Level of covers on rental vehicle excess
Other Benefits	5%	Accidental Death, Disability and Loss of Income, Legal Liability, Domestic Services

Does Canstar rate all products available in the market?

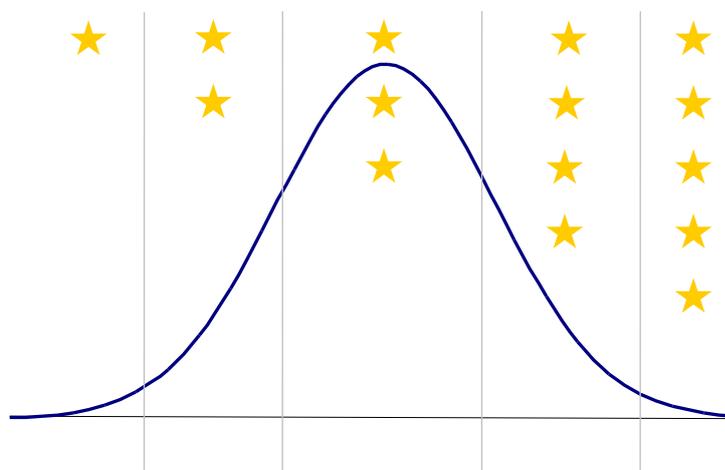
We endeavour to include the majority of product providers in the market and to compare the product features most relevant to consumers in our ratings. However, this is not always possible and it may be that not every product in the market is included in the rating nor every feature compared that is relevant to you.

How often are products reviewed for awards or star ratings purposes?

All ratings are fully recalculated every 12 months based on the latest features offered by each provider. Canstar also monitors changes on an ongoing basis. The results are published in a variety of mediums (newspapers, magazines, television, websites, etc.)

How are the stars awarded?

Products are ranked based on the total score received for each profile. 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 five-star rating.



Does Canstar rate other product areas?

Canstar 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 website at www.canstar.com.au if you would like to view the latest star ratings reports of interest.



- Account based pensions
- Business life insurance
- Deposit accounts
- Health insurance
- Landlord insurance
- Margin lending
- Package banking
- Reward programs
- Travel insurance
- Agribusiness
- Car insurance
- Direct life insurance
- Home & contents
- Life insurance
- Online banking
- Personal loans
- Superannuation
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- Business banking
- Credit cards
- First home buyer
- Home loans
- Managed investments
- Online share trading
- Pet insurance
- Term deposits
- Youth banking

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