

Good / Excellent Credit

Fair Credit

Bad Credit

No Credit

Ask the Experts: Sizing Up the Best Credit Card Rates



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All Experts

Why are even the best credit card rates still so high?

The credit that you get from cards is flexible. It is there to take it, and flexibility usually comes at a higher cost. The other factor is the risk; there is a higher risk associated with credit cards when compared with other sources of credit. For credit cards, there is no collateral, different from the case for a mortgage or an auto loan.

What's the best way to use a 0% intro rate?

The best use would be to reduce other short-term debt paying interest and replacing it for the 0% intro rate. Use the intro rate for things that you must buy. The worst way would be to purchase unnecessary goods just because the interest rate is zero.

Should you always try to get the credit card with the best interest rates?

It depends. People use credit cards for different purposes. Some use them as a replacement of cash or checks, but others as credit. If you never get to use it as credit, you pay the full amount every month; other variables may be more relevant, like points, cash backs, or additional services associated with the credit card. For example, for an international traveler, international commissions and fees can be quite expensive.

For people using cards mostly as a source of credit, keeping a positive balance, the interest rate and other commissions should be more relevant.

