



What are the Canstar Personal and Car Loan Star Ratings?

Canstar's Personal and Car Loans Star Ratings use a sophisticated rating methodology, unique to Canstar, which compares both cost and features across personal loan products available to New Zealand consumers. Canstar's Personal and Car Loan Star Ratings represent a shortlist of products, enabling consumers to narrow their search to products that have been assessed and ranked.

Ratings range from five to one star. Five-star rated products have been assessed as offering outstanding value to consumers.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for a star rating, products must have been available within the market for at least six months. Those products with less than six months of historical information can only achieve a Rising Star. Rising Star products will be allocated a Star Rating in the next rating period once at least six months of historical data is available.

Borrower Profiles

Canstar appreciates the clear distinction of borrowers seeking personal loans as two separate groups. One group uses personal loans for financing motor vehicle purchases while the other group uses personal loans to finance or refinance other scenarios including debt consolidation or holidays. Borrowers seeking a personal loan for non-automotive intentions may seek either a secured or unsecured loan product depending on their individual needs and circumstances. In recognition of these differences, the Canstar *Personal and Car Loan Star Ratings* methodology has been tailored to reflect the distinction between these groups.

Consumer Profile	Description
Car Loan	Loans must be available for car purchase and be available for \$20,000 for a loan period of 5 years.
Unsecured Personal Loan	Loans must be available for either debt consolidation (excluding loans exclusively for debt) or holidays and be available for \$10,000 for a loan period of 3 years.

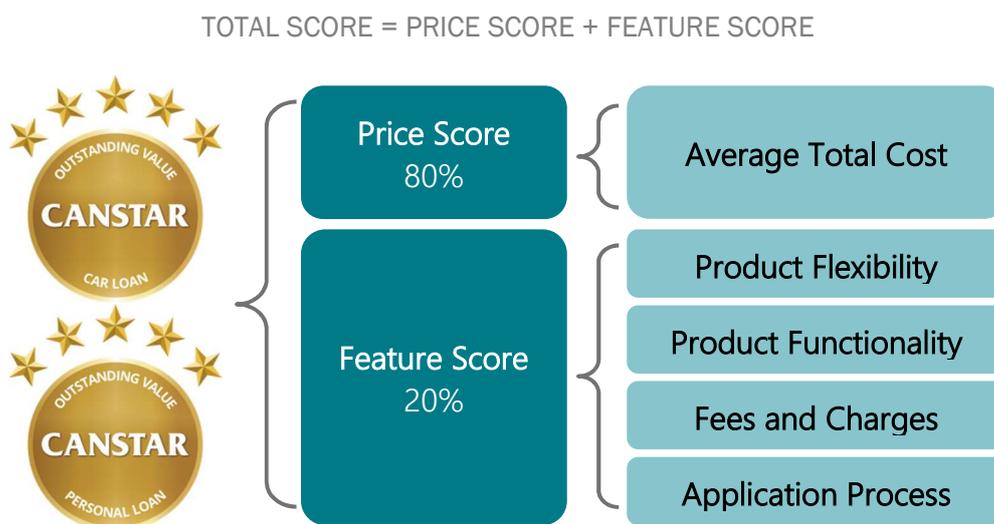
Overall Star Ratings

Products that have different interest rates or rate brackets based on credit rating are assessed on their individual credit rating brackets. However, to ensure products are rated on a like-for-like basis, an Overall Star Rating is also calculated. The Overall Star Ratings are calculated using an average interest rate within each credit rating tier to provide a representation of what a cross section of consumers would receive when applying for these loans. Where this information has not been available, a midpoint rate across all tiers is taken into consideration.

Star Ratings Methodology

Each provider reviewed for the Canstar Personal Loan Star Ratings is awarded points for its comparative pricing and for the array of positive features attached to the product. These features include the availability of product functionality, flexibility, additional fees & charges and the application process. Points are aggregated to achieve a Price Score and a Feature Score.

To arrive at the Total Score, Canstar applies a weight against the Price and Feature Scores. This weight will reflect the relative importance of either costs or features in determining the best product. This method can be summarised as:



Price Score

Canstar compares the current and historical loan pricing data to calculate the cost component of each product's overall score.

Included in the total cost is; the interest rate, upfront fees and ongoing fees, which are used to calculate the total cost to repay each loan by the borrower for the loan scenario used for each category (scenarios below). For car loans we also take into consideration a one – off documentation & documentation release fees if applicable.

For the products with tiered interest rates based on loan amount and period the appropriate tiers based on the below table is considered. If the product has a rate range, the midpoint rate is considered for calculation. The interest rate is the average interest rate for the applicable six month period equally weighted.

Category	Loan Amount	Term
Car Loan	\$20,000	5 Years
Unsecured Personal Loan	\$10,000	3 Years

Feature Score

The feature score takes into account a number of features across four different categories, with individual features allocated points and each category, and subcategory, assigned a weighting. The product with the highest feature score is allocated the maximum score, with all remaining products indexed against it.

Feature Category	Car Loan	Unsecured Loan
Product Flexibility	25%	20%
Lending Terms	50%	70%
Loan Insurance	5%	5%
Security Requirements	15%	-
Deposit Requirements	15%	-
Loan Purpose	15%	25%
Product Functionality	40%	45%
Repayment capabilities	50%	50%
Redraw, Top Up Facility & Offset	35%	35%
Statement Options	15%	5%
Switching Facility		10%
Fees and Charges	10%	20%
Additional Fees and Charges	100%	20%
Early Repayment Fees		80%
Application Process	25%	15%
Application Process	100%	100%

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 process 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 twelve 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?

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 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.co.nz if you would like to view the latest star ratings reports of interest.



- Business deposits
- Term Deposit
- Credit cards
- Credit card rewards
- Home loans
- Kiwisaver
- Online banking
- Personal loans
- Savings accounts
- Transaction accounts

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