pickwise

MONEY · UPDATED NOVEMBER 2026

Loan worksheet

We compared popular US personal loan lenders on APR, repayment terms, fees and who they suit, so you can build a shortlist before you check your rate.

The 10 at a glance

#	Lender	Best for	APR	Terms	Origination fee
1	SoFi	Best overall	6.49% to 35.49%	24 to 84 months	None required
2	Wells Fargo	Best bank lender	6.74% to 26.74%	12 to 84 months	None
3	PenFed Credit Union	Best credit union	6.39% to 17.99%	Up to 60 months	None
4	Discover Personal Loans	Best for no fees	6.99% to 24.99%	36 to 84 months	None
5	Upgrade	Best secured option	7.74% to 35.99%	24 to 84 months	1.85% to 9.99%
6	Upstart	Best for thin credit	6.20% to 35.99%	36 or 60 months	On some loans
7	Best Egg	Best for debt consolidation	6.99% to 35.99%	36 to 60 months	0.99% to 9.99%
8	Happen Bank (formerly LendingClub)	Best for joint loans	5.96% to 35.99%	24 to 84 months	Up to 8%
9	Rocket Loans	Best for fast funding	7.99% to 29.99%	36 or 60 months	Up to 9.99%
10	LendingPoint	Best for fair credit	7.99% to 35.99%	24 to 72 months	Up to 10%

For information only. PickWise isn't a lender, broker or financial adviser, and no lender pays to appear here. APRs on this list range from 5.96% to 35.99%, so the highest APR shown is 35.99%. Repayment periods range from 12 to 84 months. Example: borrow $10,000 over 36 months at a 15.00% fixed interest rate with a 5% origination fee ($500) taken from the loan. You receive $9,500 and make 36 monthly payments of $346.65. You repay $12,479.52 in total, so the loan costs $2,979.52 including the fee, which is an APR of 18.67%. Rates and terms were checked on November 26, 2026 and change often. Your rate depends on your credit and the lender, so always check the lender's current terms before you apply.

How to choose a personal loan

What affects the cost of your loan

General guide only. Your rate depends on the lender and your situation.

Credit score
Higher scores usually get lower rates
Big impact

Origination fee
Taken from the amount you borrow
Check the %

Loan term
Longer terms add more interest
Lower payment

Rate type
Most personal loans are fixed
Fixed

1 Check your credit first

Your credit score has the biggest effect on the rate you're offered. Check your report for mistakes before you apply, as fixing them can help.

2 Compare APR, not just the rate

The APR includes interest and most fees, so it shows the real yearly cost. Two loans with the same interest rate can have very different APRs.

3 Watch for fees

Some lenders take an origination fee from your loan before you get the money. Check for late fees and prepayment penalties too.

4 Prequalify with a soft check

Many lenders show you an estimated rate with a soft credit check, which doesn't affect your score. Compare a few offers before you formally apply.

5 Look at the total cost

A longer term means a lower monthly payment but more interest overall. Pick the shortest term you can comfortably afford.

6 Borrow only what you need

Make sure the payment fits your budget. For small or short-term needs, a 0% intro APR card or a credit union loan may cost less.

Your checklist

Tick things off as you go.

BEFORE YOU APPLY

- [ ] Check your credit report for mistakes
- [ ] Work out exactly how much you need
- [ ] Set a monthly payment you can afford
- [ ] List any debts you want to pay off

COMPARE OFFERS

- [ ] Prequalify with 3 lenders (soft check)
- [ ] Compare APR, not just the rate
- [ ] Note any origination fee
- [ ] Compare the total cost over the term

CHECK THE TERMS

- [ ] Is there a prepayment penalty?
- [ ] What are the late fees?
- [ ] When will the money arrive?
- [ ] Can the lender pay creditors directly?

AFTER YOU'RE APPROVED

- [ ] Set up autopay
- [ ] Pay off the old debts straight away
- [ ] Avoid new card balances
- [ ] Keep the loan paperwork safe

See the full list online

All 10, with pros and cons and who each one suits.

pickwiseguides.com/money/personal-loans

Open the list