

How can I compare the currency conversion charges when I use my card in the European Economic Area (EEA)?

Why you should compare currency conversion charges

When you use your card while travelling in a non-euro country in the European Economic Area (EEA), you may be able to choose to pay in the local currency of the country you are in or in euro. If you choose to pay in the local currency, HSBC will convert the amount of the transaction using the daily card exchange rate(s) provided by the card schemes. If you choose to pay in euro, currency conversion will be done on the spot by the merchant in exchange for a fee.

What this means for you

As from 19 April 2020, when you are offered currency conversion services at either POS / ATM, the provider should disclose total charges for dynamic currency conversion, including any fixed fees they will apply, as a percentage mark-up over the latest available Foreign Exchange Rate(s) issued by the European Central Bank. This means that you will be able to compare the cost of paying in euro to what HSBC would charge if you choose to pay in the local currency and we perform the currency conversion (using the exchange rates provided by the card schemes). The table below shows the % difference between the daily European Central Bank Rate, and the total cost you would be charged for using your card abroad providing you with full information about the costs of using your debit or credit card outside the euro zone. Under European Union (EU) law, all parties providing currency conversion services in the EU must publish their currency conversion charges as a percentage mark-up over the "reference rate" last issued by the European Central Bank (ECB). You can see our current mark-ups for each EEA currency below. You can use these to compare our rates with the published rates of other providers.

How to find the best way to pay

First consider whether you're making an ATM withdrawal or making a card payment in a non-euro country in the EEA (e.g. paying in a shop or restaurant). Then go to the relevant table, find the local currency and choose either debit or credit card, and if it's issued by Visa or Mastercard. You can find this on the front of your card.

The lower the percentage, the lower the mark-up. A minus mark-up means the rate we refer to is lower than the recently published ECB reference rate.

About our rates

The tables below are updated regularly using recently published ECB reference exchange rates.

However, please be aware that the mark-ups displayed below may differ from the actual currency conversion charge applied to your payment, because:

- ECB, Visa and Mastercard rates may change between updates to the tables.
- Visa and Mastercard convert transactions into euro using the exchange rate applicable on the day the transaction is processed. This processing date may be different to the day on which you ask us to make the payment. This means that the actual percentage mark-up applied could be higher or lower than the rate indicated in the tables below.

Indicative % mark-ups for using your card in the EEA

Using an ATM or making a purchase e.g. in a shop or restaurant

	VISA		Mastercard	
	Debit Card	Credit Card	Debit Card	Credit Card
Great Britain Pounds (GBP)	1.82%	1.82%	N/A	1.81%
Bulgarian Lev (BGN)	1.75%	1.75%	N/A	1.75%
Croatian Kuna (HRK)	2.34%	2.34%	N/A	2.53%
Czech Korona (CZK)	1.37%	1.37%	N/A	1.33%
Danish Krone (DKK)	1.74%	1.74%	N/A	1.74%
Hungarian Forint (HUF)	1.32%	1.32%	N/A	1.32%
Icelandic Króna (ISK)	2.11%	2.11%	N/A	2.01%
Swiss Franc (CHF)	1.98%	1.98%	N/A	1.98%
Norwegian Krone (NOK)	1.52%	1.52%	N/A	1.20%
Polish Zloty (PLN)	1.17%	1.17%	N/A	1.10%
Romanian Lei (RON)	2.34%	2.34%	N/A	2.38%
Swedish Krona (SEK)	1.86%	1.86%	N/A	1.76%