

Money Matters cheat sheet 2026/27

UK personal finance at a glance. Every figure links to its official source, with an "as at" date.

Income tax (England, Wales & NI)

Personal Allowance	£12,570 (reduced by £1 for every £2 of income over £100,000)	GOV.UK , as at 2026/27 (6 Apr 2026 – 5 Apr 2027)
Basic rate 20%	£12,571 – £50,270	GOV.UK , as at 2026/27 (6 Apr 2026 – 5 Apr 2027)
Higher rate 40%	£50,271 – £125,140	GOV.UK , as at 2026/27 (6 Apr 2026 – 5 Apr 2027)
Additional rate 45%	Over £125,140 (Scotland has its own bands)	GOV.UK , as at 2026/27 (6 Apr 2026 – 5 Apr 2027)

ISAs

ISA allowance	£20,000 a year across all ISAs	GOV.UK , as at 2026/27 (6 Apr 2026 – 5 Apr 2027)
Cash ISA change	From 6 April 2027, under-65s can put at most £12,000 of the £20,000 in cash ISAs	GOV.UK/HMRC , as at Nov 2025 announcement
Lifetime ISA	Open aged 18–39; up to £4,000 a year (within the £20,000) with a 25% government bonus	GOV.UK , as at 2026/27 (6 Apr 2026 – 5 Apr 2027)
Junior ISA	£9,000 a year for under-18s	GOV.UK , as at 2026/27 (6 Apr 2026 – 5 Apr 2027)

Investing

Capital Gains Tax	Annual exempt amount £3,000; rates 18% (basic-rate) and 24% (higher/additional-rate)	GOV.UK , as at 2026/27 (6 Apr 2026 – 5 Apr 2027)
Dividends	£500 allowance; rates 10.75% basic · 35.75% higher · 39.35% additional	GOV.UK , as at 2026/27 (6 Apr 2026 – 5 Apr 2027)

Savings

Personal Savings Allowance	£1,000 basic rate · £500 higher rate · £0 additional rate	GOV.UK , as at 2026/27 (6 Apr 2026 – 5 Apr 2027)
Starting rate for savings	0% on up to £5,000, reduced £1 for £1 by other income above the Personal Allowance	GOV.UK , as at 2026/27 (6 Apr 2026 – 5 Apr 2027)
FSCS deposit protection	£120,000 per person, per banking licence (was £85,000 until 30 Nov 2025)	FSCS , as at 1 Dec 2025
Bank Rate	3.75% (since 18 December 2025)	Bank of England , as at 9 October 2026
CPI inflation	3.1% in the year to Aug 2026	ONS , as at ONS release of 16 September 2026

Pensions

Annual allowance	£60,000 for most people (all contributions, including employer)	GOV.UK , as at 2026/27 (6 Apr 2026 – 5 Apr 2027)
Tax relief	At your marginal rate, on contributions up to 100% of UK earnings (or £3,600 gross if little or no earnings)	GOV.UK , as at 2026/27 (6 Apr 2026 – 5 Apr 2027)
Access age	55, rising to 57 on 6 April 2028	HMRC Pensions Tax Manual PTM062100 , as at 12 Oct 2026
Full new State Pension	£241.30 a week (about £12,548 a year)	GOV.UK , as at 2026/27 (6 Apr 2026 – 5 Apr 2027)

Bills and consumer rights

Energy price cap	£1,723 a year for a typical dual-fuel household on Direct Debit	Ofgem , as at 1 Oct – 31 Dec 2026
Section 75	Card provider jointly liable for purchases over £100 and up to £30,000 paid at least partly by credit card	legislation.gov.uk , as at 12 Oct 2026
Current Account Switch Service	Switch in 7 working days; payments redirected; refunds if the switch goes wrong	Current Account Switch Service , as at 12 Oct 2026

Money basics checklist

- **Emergency fund** – easy-access cash for unexpected bills, built up before investing.
- **Pay off expensive debt** – credit card and overdraft interest usually costs more than savings earn.
- **Get your employer's pension match** – contributing enough to get the full employer contribution adds money you'd otherwise miss out on.
- **Use your ISAs** – interest, dividends and gains inside an ISA are tax-free.
- **Give it time** – investing is for five years or more; staying invested through ups and downs matters more than timing the market.

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