



In a sign that interest rates in general would soon be increasing, Standard Chartered Bank is offering time-limited interest of up to 1% per annum on savings deposits in its e\$aver accounts. CIMB Bank runs a similar promotion.

Stanchart e\$aver

Deposit Balance	Basic Interest	Bonus Interest
Less than S\$50,000	0.2%	0.8%
\$50,000 to less than \$200,000	0.3%	0.7%
\$200,000 and above	0.4%	0.6%

{loadposition advert1}

There are "no minimum balance" and "No lock-in periods". The main terms and conditions are that:

- The bonus interest applies only to "fresh funds", which refer to funds which do not originate from any existing account with StanChart.
- The promotional period is from 1 Jun 2010 to 31 Jul 2010 for existing e#aver account

holders, while it is from 1 Jul to 31 Jul 2010 for new customers who sign up in June 2010.

- For those unfamiliar with the eSaver, it is a bare-bone "no passbook, no statement, no ATM card" account, accessible only via Internet banking.

CIMB StarSaver

CIMB's offering is not time-limited, but for a depositor to enjoy the maximum 1% interest, a monthly top-up (incremental deposit) is required. Otherwise, the interest rate is 0.5% per annum. There is also a minimum deposit of S\$5,000 to start an account. StarSaver's advantage over the eSaver is that the former provides free cheque books and a monthly statement.

Conclusion

While not very compelling, the eSaver and StarSaver accounts have one of the highest advertised rates for a Singapore dollar savings account, since the financial crisis began. It is however an ominous sign to people who have signed on floating-rate home loans.