TRENCH TOM

FREE ONE-PAGE SNAPSHOT

Where your money earns more right now

The official rates, side by side, and what the gap means on **$100,000** of cash.

Latest published rates as of November 12, 2026 · each figure's own date is in the footnotes

Most people don't need a hot tip to earn more. They need to know what their cash is paid today, and what the same cash is paid somewhere else.

THE RATES, SIDE BY SIDE

Typical savings account	FDIC national average, savings[1]	**0.38%**
High-yield savings accounts	Bankrate's top-rated online accounts, APY range[2]	**about 3.90–4.35%**
13-week Treasury bill	Coupon-equivalent yield, Nov 10[3]	**4.22%**
Fed funds target (the Fed's rate)	Held at the Oct 28 meeting[4]	**3.75–4.00%**
Card debt that's charged interest	Fed average, accounts assessed interest[5]	**22.36%**

WHAT THAT GAP LOOKS LIKE ON $100,000

13-week T-bills vs. typical savings on $100,000: **+$3,840 a year**

Illustrative only. Simple annual interest (balance × rate), with the rate held flat for a year. Not a forecast or a promise.



Typical savings, 0.38%	**$380**
High-yield savings, low end, 3.90%	**$3,900** +$3,520
13-week T-bills, 4.22%	**$4,220** +$3,840

The math: $100,000 × 0.0038 = $380 · $100,000 × 0.0390 = $3,900 · $100,000 × 0.0422 = $4,220 · bars to scale

Have less? Scale it. On **$10,000**: typical savings $38 · high-yield $390 (+$352) · T-bills $422 (+$384). Every $10,000 is one-tenth of the numbers above.

THE OTHER SIDE: $5,000 ON A CARD

At 22.36%, $5,000 costs about **$1,118 a year** in interest ($5,000 × 0.2236, simple; card interest is usually charged daily, so it can run a bit higher).

Paying down a high-rate balance works like a return equal to the interest you stop paying. Not advice, just a comparison: **$1,118** a year on $5,000 of card debt vs. **$384** more on $10,000 of cash ($3,840 on $100,000).

THREE THINGS TO CHECK

1. **Find your savings rate.** It's on your statement or app as "APY." Write it down.
2. **Compare it to the table.** Near 0.38%? Your cash is earning about the national average.
3. **Look at your card statement.** Find the purchase APR and last month's interest charge.

No account to open from this page. Nothing to buy.

Rates move. We'll tell you when. This is a snapshot. Bank rates, T-bill yields and card rates all change. Trench Tom's free letter flags it when these numbers move, in plain English. Unsubscribe anytime. — Tom

Educational commentary, not financial advice and not an offer to buy or sell any security. Rates change and aren't guaranteed. Savings accounts (FDIC-insured up to limits, withdraw anytime, interest taxed federally and by your state) and T-bills (backed by the U.S. government, set maturity, market price if sold early, interest federally taxed but exempt from state and local tax) carry different risks, access and tax treatment. No bank is named or paid for placement.

Sources. [1] FDIC, National Rates and Rate Caps, October 2026 table (published Oct 19, 2026; reflects rates at the end of September), savings, $2,500 tier. fdic.gov/national-rates-and-rate-caps [2] Bankrate, "Best high-yield savings accounts of November 2026," APYs as of Nov 12, 2026; top of range includes a limited-time promo. bankrate.com/banking/savings/best-high-yield-interests-savings-accounts [3] U.S. Treasury, Daily Treasury Bill Rates, 13-week, Nov 10, 2026 (bank discount rate 4.12%). home.treasury.gov [4] Federal Reserve, FOMC statement, Oct 28, 2026. federalreserve.gov [5] Federal Reserve G.19 Consumer Credit, released Nov 6, 2026, August 2026 data, commercial banks, credit card plans, accounts assessed interest (all accounts: 21.19%). federalreserve.gov/releases/g19