## **Chase Ink Business Preferred (Visa)**

Why You Need It: 25% Travel Redemption Bonus, Earn 3x points for travel and business purchases

Sign-Up Bonus Value:\$1,000+

Annual Fee: \$95 (waived for the first year)

The <u>Ink Business Preferred</u> comes with an incredible 80,000 point sign-up bonus that's worth \$800 in cash/statement credits, \$1,000 in travel redeemed through Chase's Travel Portal, or possibly even more if you transfer your points to an Ultimate Rewards travel partner like United Airlines or Hyatt hotels.

With the Ink Preferred, you enjoy the same travel benefits of the personal Chase Sapphire Preferred that lets you redeem points for 1.25 cents each through Chase or transferring on a 1:1 basis to an Ultimate Rewards travel partner. In addition to the flexible travel benefits, you will also enjoy the following purchase rewards:

- Earn 3 points per \$1 on the first \$150,000 in combined spending (then 1 point) on these categories:
  - o Travel
  - Shipping purchases
  - o Internet, cable, and phone services
  - Social media and search engine advertising
- Earn 1 point per \$1 on all other purchase categories

If you travel and run an online marketing business that requires you to run digital marketing campaigns or even shipping products to clients, you can seriously rack up the purchase rewards. What's awesome about each Ultimate Rewards point you earn is worth at least one cent when redeemed for cash statement credits or gift cards. You will receive a 25% redemption bonus that makes each point worth 1.25 cents each. Or, transferring them to your favorite airline or hotel loyalty program can easily make them worth 1.5 cents or more. While most credit card points have a maximum value of 1 cent each for any reward, <a href="Chase Ultimate Rewards">Chase Ultimate Rewards</a> points are an excellent return on investment.

## **Capital One Spark Cash**

Why You Need It: Unlimited 2% Cashback on Every Purchase

Sign-Up Bonus Value:\$500

Annual Fee: \$95 (\$0 the first year)

Very few credit cards, personal or business, offer unlimited flat-rate 2% cash rewards. The <u>Captial One Spark Cash for Business</u> is one of the few cards that do. You will need to spend more than \$4,750 a year on the Spark Cash to earn enough cash rewards to offset the \$95 annual fee. If this isn't possible, the no-annual-fee <u>Spark Cash Select</u> earns unlimited 1.5% back on every purchase.

Neither of the Spark Cash cards charges a foreign transaction fee, which can be a huge benefit as well if you travel internationally. If you prefer cash back rewards to banking up credit card points for award travel or other benefits, this will be your best option.

## Capital One Spark Cash Select for Business

Sign-up bonus: Earn a one-time \$200 cash bonus once you spend \$3,000 on purchases within the first three months from account opening.

Earning rates: 1.5% cash-back on all purchases

Additional perks: Same as above but with a 0% APR on purchases for the first 9 months

(14.24%-22.24% variable rate after that)

Annual fee: \$0

If you're hesitant to incur the \$95 annual fee on the regular Spark Cash card profiled above, the Spark Cash Select could be a great option. For no annual fee, you're still getting a solid 1.5% return on your spending, and avoiding foreign transaction fees on a card that doesn't cost anything is pretty fantastic. It's also great that this card comes with the same Visa Signature benefits as the regular Spark Cash.

That being said, given that the Spark Cash has a higher sign-up bonus and no annual fee for the first year, I'd recommend going with that card and then potentially downgrading to this card later. However, I'd only recommend this route for a small business with limited expenses ( $\sim$ \$1,000 per month or less). That's because the break-even points between the two cards is \$19,000. At that level of spending in a year, you'll earn exactly \$95 *more* with the Spark Cash than the Spark Cash Select, since the earning rate is 0.5% higher. Here are the calculations: \$95 ÷ 0.005 = \$19,000

If you typically spend more than this amount, you're better off keeping the <u>Spark Cash</u> and incurring the annual fee. If not, stick with the <u>Spark Cash Select</u>.