Merchant Cash Advance Companies, Explained

Idea In Short

Business owners considering a merchant cash advance should compare the complete repayment obligation, not just how fast funds arrive or how large the advance can be. An MCA exchanges an upfront sum for a share of future revenue, typically priced through a factor rate rather than a traditional interest rate, which can translate into an effective annual cost far higher than a conventional bank loan once fees and repayment speed are factored in. Providers vary widely on funding limits, credit score minimums, time-in-business requirements and repayment structure, so no single company is the best fit for every business. Newer companies with strong monthly sales may qualify for options unavailable to businesses with a longer operating history but weaker cash flow, and vice versa. The right decision comes from comparing a specific offer, including total repayment and payment frequency, against the business's actual ability to absorb daily or weekly deductions.

A merchant cash advance (MCA) can be an attractive option for businesses that need working capital but do not want to rely entirely on traditional bank financing. Instead of using a conventional interest-based loan structure, an MCA generally provides an upfront advance in exchange for a portion of future business revenue. Repayment may be made through regular deductions or a percentage of receivables, depending on the agreement. The MCA market includes providers with different funding limits, qualification requirements, repayment structures and pricing models, which makes comparing companies especially important before accepting an offer. Below is a look at 10 merchant cash advance companies that business owners may want to consider in 2026.

What is a merchant cash advance?

Before comparing providers, it helps to understand what an MCA actually is. A merchant cash advance gives a business access to capital upfront based largely on its expected future revenue. Unlike a traditional business loan, an MCA is generally structured as the

purchase of future receivables rather than a conventional loan. Repayment typically works through a percentage deducted from daily or weekly card sales, called a holdback rate, or through fixed automatic withdrawals regardless of sales volume.1

This structure can make MCAs appealing to businesses with consistent sales, including companies that may have difficulty meeting the requirements of traditional lenders. Some providers place significant emphasis on revenue and time in business when evaluating applications. However, convenience can come at a cost. MCA financing may be considerably more expensive than traditional business loans, so owners should compare the total repayment obligation rather than focusing only on how quickly they can receive funds. A typical factor rate between 1.1 and 1.5 means a $50,000 advance can require $70,000 in total repayment, an amount that can translate into an effective annual cost well above 87% depending on how fast the balance is repaid.

How to choose the best merchant cash advance company

There is no single provider that is best for every business. A company with strong monthly sales and several years of operating history may have different needs from a newer business dealing with seasonal revenue. Federal Reserve survey data shows why so many owners consider this category of financing in the first place: applications to online lenders, including MCA providers, grew from 17% of financing applicants in 2020 to 29% in 2025, largely because these providers approve faster and weigh a wider range of credit profiles than banks.2 That growth means more owners are comparing MCA providers for the first time without a clear framework for what actually matters. Funding amount and speed tend to dominate the marketing on a provider's website, but they say little about what the arrangement will actually cost once fees and repayment frequency are factored in. A more useful comparison starts with the eight factors below and only then moves to which specific companies are worth contacting for a quote.

When comparing merchant cash advance providers, consider:

- Funding amount: Make sure the advance is appropriate for the actual business need
- Revenue requirements: Check whether average monthly sales meet the provider's minimum
- Time in business: Some providers require several months or years of operating history

- Credit requirements: Requirements vary considerably between providers
- Funding speed: Determine how quickly approved capital can reach the business account
- Repayment structure: Understand whether payments are fixed or tied to revenue
- Total cost: Review the complete amount that must be repaid
- Early repayment terms: Check whether paying ahead can reduce the cost

Business owners looking for a range of small-business financing options can also explore Fundshop, which offers several types of business funding, including merchant cash advances, business loans, equipment financing and lines of credit.

Best 10 merchant cash advance companies

The 10 companies below appear across independent small-business financing comparisons for 2026, though none of them will fit every applicant equally well. Some emphasize larger advances for established businesses, while others focus on faster approval or more flexible credit requirements for newer companies. None of the figures cited should be treated as a guaranteed offer, since actual terms depend on an individual business's revenue, credit history and financial profile at the time of application. The goal of comparing them side by side is narrowing the list to a handful of providers worth requesting an actual quote from, rather than choosing based on name recognition alone. Read each profile with that caveat in mind.

Fundshop

Fundshop is an alternative business financing provider offering merchant cash advances and other funding solutions. Its MCA program is designed around business revenue, with the company stating that approval can focus on card sales rather than relying primarily on the owner's credit score.

Fundshop states that businesses can receive funding of up to $3 million and that applications are completed online. It also cites revenue-linked payments and no collateral requirement as features of its MCA offering. As with any provider, the most important step is to review the specific offer, including the amount received, total repayment, payment schedule and any applicable fees.

Credibly

Credibly is one of the established names in alternative business financing and can be particularly relevant for businesses looking for fast funding and relatively flexible qualification criteria. NerdWallet's review of the company lists a maximum funding amount of $600,000, a minimum credit score of 500, a minimum of six months in business and a minimum annual revenue of $180,000, though a company representative indicated some flexibility below that revenue threshold in certain cases.

Business owners should still compare the revenue requirements, payment frequency and total financing cost before accepting an offer. Businesses closer to that six-month minimum should ask specifically how underwriting weighs recent revenue trends, since a newer business with rising sales may qualify differently than one with flat or declining receipts. Ask early, before submitting a full application.

Rapid Finance

Rapid Finance offers several forms of small-business financing, including merchant cash advances, and stands out for offering a broad range of funding products rather than focusing exclusively on MCAs. NerdWallet's review lists a maximum funding amount of $500,000, a minimum credit score of 600 and a minimum of three years in business, a longer operating history requirement than several competitors.

Applicants should request clear information about the purchased amount and total repayment before proceeding. The three-year time-in-business threshold makes Rapid Finance less relevant for newer companies, but it can suit an established business that wants a provider with a broad menu of financing products beyond a single MCA. Confirm which product actually fits the need.

Fora Financial

Fora Financial is another prominent provider of alternative business financing, notable for relatively large potential advances and flexible qualification criteria. According to NerdWallet's review, Fora offers advances of up to $1.5 million, with qualification requirements including a minimum credit score of 570, six months in business and $20,000 in monthly revenue.

The company may be worth considering for established businesses with strong revenue that

need substantial working capital. Applicants should pay close attention to fees and the factor rate associated with their individual offer, since a larger maximum advance does not automatically mean a lower effective cost. Bigger is not always cheaper here.

National Funding

National Funding is a small-business financing provider offering working-capital solutions and other financing products, and it can be relevant for businesses that prioritize a relatively straightforward funding process. NerdWallet's review lists a maximum funding amount of $500,000 for short-term financing, a minimum credit score of 600, a minimum of six months in business and a minimum annual revenue of $250,000, with advertised early-payoff discounts available under certain conditions.

Business owners should verify the exact terms of any offer, because pricing and repayment conditions can depend on the applicant's financial profile. The early-payoff discount is worth asking about directly, since it can meaningfully lower the total cost for a business confident it can repay faster than the standard schedule. Get that discount confirmed in writing.

Libertas Funding

Libertas Funding is another alternative financing provider that appears in small-business lending comparisons and can be worth investigating for businesses looking for larger funding amounts. Published figures on funding limits, credit requirements and revenue thresholds vary or go outdated quickly in this category, so applicants should request current net funding, total repayment and payment count directly from the company rather than relying on older published comparisons.

Because a larger advance also creates a larger financial obligation, businesses should borrow according to their actual working-capital needs rather than simply choosing the highest available amount. That principle matters most for a provider like Libertas, where the potential for a large advance makes it especially important to confirm the actual repayment schedule before signing. A phone call can clarify this quickly.

Everest Business Funding

Everest Business Funding focuses on alternative financing for small businesses and appears

in independent small-business lender reviews. One such review lists a funding range from roughly $15,000 to $2 million, a minimum personal credit score around 500, a minimum of three months in business and a minimum monthly revenue near $15,000, figures that make it relevant for businesses that do not fit the requirements of conventional bank financing.

Applicants should nevertheless review the complete repayment structure and determine whether the expected cash flow can support the payments. The relatively low three-month time-in-business threshold makes Everest one of the more accessible options for a younger company, though that accessibility typically comes paired with a higher factor rate than longer-established lenders offer. Weigh access against that added cost.

Reliant Funding

Reliant Funding offers financing solutions for small businesses and is included among independent merchant funding comparisons, with flexibility as its potential appeal for businesses seeking an alternative to conventional loans. A review from LendingTree lists a maximum funding amount of $400,000, a minimum credit score of 525, a minimum of six months in business and a minimum annual revenue of $60,000, a relatively accessible entry point compared with some competitors.

The best way to evaluate the company is to compare a specific offer with competing proposals, particularly in terms of total repayment and payment frequency. Its lower revenue and credit thresholds can make Reliant worth a look for a business that has been turned down elsewhere, provided the owner still confirms the total repayment amount before accepting. Do not skip that final check.

Forward Financing

Forward Financing is another provider in the alternative business financing market and can be considered by businesses seeking revenue-based financing and relatively fast access to working capital. NerdWallet's review lists a maximum advance of $500,000, a minimum credit score of 500 and a minimum of 12 months in business, making it potentially relevant when a business needs capital without waiting through a lengthy traditional loan process.

Speed should not be the only deciding factor. A business should always assess whether the repayment obligation fits its normal cash flow. Confirm the payment frequency before signing anything.

Kapitus

Kapitus provides a range of financing products for established businesses, including revenue-based financing solutions, and can be particularly relevant to companies seeking larger amounts of capital. An independent lender review lists direct funding up to $750,000, with access to as much as $5 million through its broader financing network, alongside a minimum credit score around 650 and a minimum of two years in business.

Businesses considering a larger MCA or revenue-based financing arrangement should carefully calculate how the additional obligation will affect future operating capital. The two-year time-in-business requirement puts Kapitus toward the more established end of this list, which typically corresponds to somewhat more favorable pricing than newer or higher-risk-focused providers offer. Established businesses often benefit most here.

What makes a merchant cash advance provider worth considering?

The best merchant cash advance companies are not necessarily those advertising the fastest approval or largest funding amount. The quality of an offer depends on how well its terms match the business's financial situation. Transparency should be one of the first things to check: how much money will actually reach the account, how much must be repaid, how frequently payments will be collected and whether additional fees apply.

Regulators have taken an active interest in this question. The Federal Trade Commission has permanently banned merchant cash advance providers found using deceptive fees, undisclosed account withdrawals and aggressive collection tactics against small businesses and nonprofits.3 States have also begun requiring more disclosure directly from providers. California's Department of Financial Protection and Innovation now requires certain commercial financing providers to report cost information, including whether an annual percentage rate equivalent has been calculated and disclosed to the borrower.4

It is also important to consider cash flow. Daily or weekly payments can put pressure on a business if sales decline unexpectedly, and even when repayment is linked to revenue, the business should have enough financial stability to handle the arrangement. Federal Reserve research on online lender applicants found that only about a third were satisfied with their lender after approval, with high interest rates and unfavorable repayment terms cited as the

most common complaints.5 Finally, avoid taking more money than necessary. A larger advance may look attractive, but additional capital only makes sense when it creates enough business value to justify its cost.

Bad credit and merchant cash advances

One reason business owners search for a bad credit merchant cash advance is that MCA providers may evaluate business performance differently from traditional banks. Revenue, sales volume and cash-flow consistency can play an important role in the underwriting process.

That does not mean bad credit guarantees approval. Providers still have their own requirements, and a business with weak revenue or unstable cash flow may have difficulty obtaining financing regardless of its owner's credit score. If credit is less than perfect, focus on presenting a clear picture of business finances. Recent bank statements, consistent sales records and evidence of regular revenue can help demonstrate the ability to support additional financing.

Choosing among the best merchant cash advance companies requires more than finding a provider willing to approve an application. Business owners should compare funding amounts, eligibility requirements, repayment structures, fees and total costs before making a decision. Fundshop, Credibly, Rapid Finance, Fora Financial, National Funding, Libertas Funding, Everest Business Funding, Reliant Funding, Forward Financing and Kapitus all represent options that businesses can research when considering alternative working-capital solutions. The most suitable provider will ultimately depend on the company's revenue, financial history, funding requirements and ability to manage repayment. Comparing the complete terms, rather than focusing solely on speed or approval, is what allows business owners to make a genuinely informed financing decision.

- 1What Is A Merchant Cash Advance (MCA)?
- 22026 Report On Employer Firms: Findings From The 2025 Small Business Credit Survey
- 3Merchant Cash Advance Providers Banned From Industry, Ordered To Redress Small Businesses
- 4California Consumer Financial Protection Law: Commercial Financing Annual Report Information

- 5Clicking For Credit: Experiences Of Online Lender Applicants From The Small Business Credit Survey

Summary

Choosing among merchant cash advance companies takes more than finding a provider willing to approve an application. Business owners should compare funding amounts, eligibility requirements, repayment structures, fees and total costs before committing to any offer. Fundshop, Credibly, Rapid Finance, Fora Financial, National Funding, Libertas Funding, Everest Business Funding, Reliant Funding, Forward Financing and Kapitus all represent options worth researching for alternative working-capital needs, but none of them removes the need to read the actual terms of a specific offer. The most suitable provider ultimately depends on a company's revenue, financial history, funding needs and ability to manage repayment. Comparing complete terms, rather than focusing solely on approval speed or funding size, is what turns a merchant cash advance from a costly shortcut into a financing decision that actually fits the business.