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ADVISOR BUSINESS BEST CASH REGISTERS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Best Cash Registers For Small Business 2025

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	hardware)	Free Trial	No	Free trial	Unlimit
Free trial	90 days				
Key features	Versatile POS, invoicing, employee management	Key Features	POS built specifically for restaurants, payroll, online ordering, team and inventory management	Key features	Inventi managem, cust reporti advanc cash functional account integrati

Why You Can Trust Forbes Advisor Small Business

The Forbes Advisor Small Business team is committed to bringing you unbiased rankings and information with full editorial independence. We use product data, strategic methodologies and expert insights to inform all of our content and guide you in making the best decisions for your business journey.

We reviewed multiple cash registers, looking at several available features that small retail businesses need to help you find the seven best cash registers for small businesses. Our ratings consider factors, such as the actual price of the software, hardware, monthly fees and payment processing fees. The types of POS systems that the cash registers work with as well as how well it integrates with third-party platforms and our own expert analysis. All ratings are determined solely by our editorial team.

7 Best Cash Registers for Small Business (2025)

BEST OVERALL

Shopify Countertop Kit



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Payment Processing**2.7% + \$0 per in-person transaction**
(midtier level)**Editor's Take**

The Shopify Countertop Kit is a nearly complete package that includes a stand for an iPad, charging docks and cables and a tap and chip reader for credit cards and contactless payments. It's one of the most affordable options to replace a traditional cash register, but it doesn't include an iPad to use as your terminal, cash drawer or receipt printer. However, you can purchase separate components, such as the receipt printer and cash drawer, to complete your checkout experience.

As a POS system and cash register, Shopify provides all you need to accept payments for an online or brick-and-mortar store. The software is easy to use and lets you track orders, inventory and customer information. If you use Shopify for online and in-person orders, your inventory syncs automatically, so you can manage both in one place. Standard reports are also available so that you can see how sales are going, who your best salesperson is or run reports on taxes and payroll.

There are a few downsides to using Shopify as a cash register. After purchasing the hardware for \$219.00, you'll have to pay \$39 per month for the software if you go with the Basic plan. If you prefer to use the merchant account you already have, you'll have to pay an additional fee to Shopify. Otherwise, you can use Shopify Payments for payment processing.

Who should use it:

Retailers who want an affordable cash register terminal and POS system in one package should consider purchasing a Shopify Countertop Kit. It's also a great choice for omnichannel retailers who also sell online or have multiple locations.

Pros & Cons

Low-cost hardware

Uses iPads as terminal

Additional components available (receipt printer, cash drawer, etc.)

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Chip & tap reader accepts credit card and NFC payments

Extra fee if you use a third-party payment gateway

iPad not included in cost

Stands are incompatible with Android devices

Requires monthly fee for POS software

[POS Features](#)

iPad stand, mounting kit, cable, tap and chip card reader, inventory management, employee management, omnichannel sales, create discounts, analytics, accept credit cards, gift cards and NFC payments, sell at multiple locations.

Clover Station Duo WiFi



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On Clover's Website

Price	\$1,799 (or \$135 to \$140 per month for hardware and software plus \$49.95 or \$54.95 per month)
Payment Processing	2.3% + 10 cents to 3.5% + 10 cents per transaction

[Editor's Take](#)

The Clover Station Duo includes two monitors, a touchscreen for entry and a smaller screen for customers to use, with a built-in credit card reader. There are also accessories such as a barcode scanner and cash drawer available, all tied into the Clover POS software.

resellers, but the pricing may vary wildly—you may even be able to find it around \$1,299. It's worth noting that you may not be able to use your preferred [merchant services provider](#) (MSP) because each seller has its own MSP as a partner.

The Clover Station Duo with the Clover POS software lets you manage everything from orders and inventory to employees and customers. The system includes features that let you run a retail store or restaurant with ease. Digital receipts are the default, but you can purchase accessories such as a receipt printer and kitchen display system separately. Clover lets you run basic reports, which help you make better business decisions based on your top-selling items, best salespeople and end-of-day numbers.

Who should use it:

Any business that wants an all-in-one cash register and POS system should consider Clover Station Duo. It's an expensive upfront cost, but the monthly fee for the software is reasonable. New businesses especially might want to take advantage of the built-in MSP, too.

Pros & Cons

- No need to purchase separate hardware
- Affordable monthly fee for POS software
- Complete retailer solution with payment processing
- Accept all forms of payments
- 60-day money-back guarantee
- Expensive hardware
- May not be able to use your existing MSP
- Lots of resellers, so you may see different pricing elsewhere

POS Features

Smart terminal, inventory management, employee management, analytics, accept credit card, NFC payments and gift cards, rewards program, send digital receipts, create discounts, process offline sales

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Square Register Kit

 Square

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On Square's Website

Price	\$1,269
Payment Processing	2.6% + 10 cents per transaction

Editor's Take

Square’s Register Kit includes everything you need to get started with your retail shop or restaurant. You get an all-in-one system that includes a touchscreen terminal for you, a customer-facing display with built-in card reader and a receipt printer. There are plenty of Square-made accessories that you can connect, but they come at a high price (\$119 for a USB barcode scanner compared with other brands that range from \$13.99 to \$69.99).

There’s no monthly fee for the Square POS software, and you can use an app on your mobile device for additional checkouts when needed. You can manage inventory, get low stock alerts, handle customer management and create sales reports using their native apps. If you’re operating a restaurant, you can use the Square for Restaurants plan to create menus, manage tables, take tips and handle other restaurant-specific needs.

Who should use it:

Square Register Kit works well for new businesses that need a system that’s easy to set up and use, plus lots of accessory options (albeit pricey ones). You pay a flat percentage and cents-per-transaction fee, so there are no surprises with payment processing costs.

Pros & Cons

Affordable all-in-one system

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- Flat payment processing fee per transaction
- POS software included free
- Suitable for retailers and restaurants
- Payment processing is pricey compared to traditional MSPs
- Cannot use with other MSPs
- Square hardware accessories can be expensive

POS Features

Touchscreen checkout, customer-facing screen with built-in card reader, cash drawer, receipt printer (and paper), use POS on smartphone or tablet, inventory management, employee management, accept credit cards, contactless payments and gift cards, send email or text message custom receipts, create discounts, customer management

BEST FOR MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Lightspeed POS

 **lightspeed**

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On Lightspeed's Website

Price	Quote-based + \$89 per month
Payment processing	2.6% + 10 cents per in-person transaction

Editor's Take

The Lightspeed POS iPad hardware kit includes everything you need to get started for your brick-and-mortar retail business, except the iPad and payment terminal. Lightspeed makes it easy to manage

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purchase separately, including receipt printers, barcode scanners and the payment terminals you need.

Pricing for the POS software starts at \$89 per month for restaurants or retail and extra registers cost \$29 each per month. As a POS cash register, you'll get the features you need to take payments, manage inventory, integrate other software you use and get powerful reports. If you upgrade to the mid- or high-level plans, you can add e-commerce and get omnichannel sales.

Lightspeed Payments offers an average card-present rate of 2.6%, plus 10 cents per transaction. The good news is that Lightspeed allows you to use a third-party processor, so if you can get a better rate elsewhere, you can still use Lightspeed as your cash register and POS system.

Learn more: Read our full [Lightspeed POS review](#).

Who should use it:

Lightspeed POS offers specific kits for desktop or iPad cash registers along with POS software to help you run your business—or businesses. It's a great option for businesses with multiple locations or for omnichannel sales because it charges a low fee for extra registers.

Pros & Cons

- Excellent inventory system
- Extra registers only additional \$29 per month
- Built-in payment processing (or choose your own)
- Add e-commerce for omnichannel sales
- POS software is expensive
- Hardware pricing not published

POS Features

Integrated payments, e-commerce compatibility, advanced reporting, dedicated account manager, software integrations, free training resources, touch screen interface, employee management, loyalty programs, marketing automation

[Subscribe](#)**ALL-IN-ONE POS SYSTEM****eHopper All-In-One POS System****4.2** Forbes ADVISOR[Learn More](#)[Read Forbes' Review](#)**Price****\$1,109, or \$99.99 per month lease**
(plus software subscription)**Payment Processing****2.5% plus 15 cents per transaction****Editor's Take**

The all-in-one POS system by eHopper includes some of the basics you need to get started with taking payments for your retail store. You get a touchscreen monitor, a computer to run the POS software on, a customer display and a built-in receipt printer. Other necessities, like a cash drawer, credit card terminals and barcode scanners are sold separately (and they're a bit pricey). Typical payment processing can be on the steep side, but eHopper also offers a free option that charges customers the processing fee instead of the merchant. This can potentially save you hundreds of dollars per month, though it is a bit controversial.

The eHopper POS software comes at three different levels, and you'll need to choose the one that best fits your business type. Smaller businesses may be able to use the free version of the POS software, but you're limited to only 50 products and 300 transactions per month. When you upgrade to the OmniChannel plan, you pay \$29.99 per month (paid annually) for unlimited inventory and transactions, and you get more features, such as low stock alerts, accounting integration and menu management. There is also an OmniChannel + Processing plan geared for large-volume retailers and restaurants with custom pricing after the first year.

Who should use it:

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peripherals and software, but it’s a feature-rich POS system that’s hard to beat.

Pros & Cons

- Works well for any type of business
- Offers a free payment processing plan
- Core hardware included in package
- Cash register, barcode scanner and payment terminal sold separately
- Expensive payment processing

POS Features

Touchscreen monitor, customer display, stand, receipt printer, order management, inventory management, customer management, analytics, employee management, accept cash, credit cards and NFC payments, barcode scanner option

BEST ECR FOR PERIPHERALS

SAM4S ER-925



Price	\$347 to \$819
Payment processing	Varies

Editor's Take

If you’re in the market for a more traditional electronic cash register (ECR), the SAM4S ER-925 is a good choice because it connects to so many different types of peripherals. It comes with some built-in hardware essentials for restaurants and retailers including a receipt printer, cash drawer and a customer-facing display.

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ports that allow for a scale, so it can work for a small grocery store or a yogurt shop—any retailer that needs to weigh items.

Keep in mind that ECRs don’t include POS software, so your inventory management is limited. You also won’t get access to more than X and Z reports, nor is there customer data collection or loyalty programs. Also, you’ll have to find a payment processor to take payments.

Who should use it:

Any retailer that needs an electronic cash register with multiple ports for options to connect peripherals such as a scale or barcode scanner.

Pros & Cons

- Affordable cash register
- 50 employee logins allowed
- 3,500 PLUs (up to 22,000 with barcode scanner)
- Can connect scale, kitchen printer
- Programming it isn’t intuitive
- No options for collecting customer data

BEST COMPACT CASH REGISTER

SAM4S ER-180U



Price	\$176 to \$264
Payment processing	Varies

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The SAM4S ER-180U is a small, affordable cash register that’s an ideal choice for retailers that need a cash register at pop-up shops or markets. You can likely find it for less than the manufacturer cost of \$279, but even that price is relatively affordable.

Because it’s a smaller cash register, it doesn’t have all the features or support more full-featured registers have. For example, you can only track up to 500 PLUs. You can add up to 10 employee logins, but again, this is meant for a smaller operation. There is a built-in thermal printer and a cash drawer, but not much else.

You’ll have to get a separate card reader (and payment processor, for that matter), and this cash register doesn’t support many peripherals.

Who should use it:

The SAM4S ER-180U is a great pick if you need a lightweight, small cash register to cart around to markets outside of your retail location.

Pros & Cons

- Affordable cash register
- Lightweight, compact register
- Built-in thermal receipt printer
- Up to 500 PLUs
- Only 10 employee logins
- No built-in card reader

Forbes Advisor Ratings

Company	Forbes Advisor Rating	Best For	Price	Learn More	>

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Shopify
Countertop Kit



Clover Station
Duo WiFi

Forbes ADVISOR
4.3 ★★★★★

Best for
Process
Automation

not included)

\$1,799 (or \$135
to \$140 per
month for
hardware and
software plus
\$49.95 or
\$54.95 per
month

More

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Square
Register Kit

Forbes ADVISOR
4.2 ★★★★★☆

Best for Ease
of Use

\$1,269

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Lightspeed
POS

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Best for
Multiple
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Quote-based +
\$89 per month

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eHopper

Forbes ADVISOR
4.2 ★★★★★☆

All-In-One
POS System

\$1,109, or
\$99.99 per
month lease
(plus software
subscription)

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SAM4S ER-925

Best ECR for
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\$347 to \$819

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Best Compact
Cash Register

\$176 to \$264

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What You Need To Know About Choosing Cash Registers

Finding the right cash register for your small business comes down to the details in cost, components and features. One of the best reasons to choose a traditional cash register is that it has a low upfront cost. However, a basic cash register doesn't add much value to your business, which is why you should seriously consider buying a POS system that connects to a cash register.

Here's a bit more information on choosing the right cash register for you.

Types of Cash Registers

A cash register can refer to the software or hardware you need to accept payments and track sales. Some cash registers are specifically made for payment processing and can track sales while others are more advanced and include features to help you with the more nuanced operations of your business.

ECR: An ECR usually includes a full keyboard with shortcuts for ringing up specific sales and can track those sales. There's typically a cash drawer and an electronic display for your employees to see the totals, and usually an option for a customer-facing display as well.

POS cash register: A POS cash register includes the software and hardware needed to process transactions and operate your business, from inventory to loyalty programs. The POS system includes many powerful features including detailed reports, omnichannel sales support and light CRM tools.

Mobile POS cash register: A mobile POS is essentially software that turns your tablet or smartphone into a mini POS system. You can process payments (with a card reader) and manage inventory and other business details with it—you can also take cash payments if you get a separate cash drawer.

How Does a Cash Register Work?

A cash register is a machine that, at its core, lets you add up sales by inputting prices, including taxes and printing receipts. Modern cash registers typically include POS software, which is helpful for managing your business from inventory to reporting. A POS cash register is especially important in the food industry for menu and table management, for example. If you work in the food industry, be sure to review our guides to the [best restaurant POS systems](#) and [best food truck POS systems](#).

POS System vs. Cash Register: What's the Difference?

There are two big [differences between a cash register and POS system](#): cost and features. A cash register makes it possible for you to accept cash payments, and with a connected payment terminal, you can accept credit cards. A POS system typically includes or connects to a cash drawer or register, so you can accept all forms of payments, as well. Additionally, POS software makes it possible for you to track sales, inventory, employee and customer information and taxes (most with automation).

Zero-cost Credit Card Processing

An accepted unwritten rule of doing business is that operating costs include payment processing. Retailers and restaurants typically pay around 2% plus a flat fee (10 to 15 cents, usually) per transaction. Some merchant services

Essential Cash Register Features

From a basic cash register to an advanced and modern POS cash register, there are certain features you need to make sure you have. Usually, the essential cash register features depend on the type of business you’re running.

Look for these cash register features before you purchase:

- Card reader:** To process credit, debit, gift card and contactless payments, you need a modern card reader that connects to your POS system.
- Cash drawer:** If you plan to accept any cash payments, it’s important to have a cash drawer (even if it doesn’t directly connect to your cash register).
- Receipt printer:** Many POS cash registers let you send digital receipts, but some customers prefer to have a printed copy.
- Barcode scanner:** Retailers that want to ring up customers quickly should invest in a barcode scanner—it will help reduce wait times and help you manage inventory automatically.
- Dual-facing display:** Employees need to see what they’re keying and customers need to see totals, so a dual-facing display is helpful.
- Report function:** Many ECRs include the ability to run X and Z reports (sales, returns, end-of-day reports), while POS cash registers include reporting features to show you all sorts of details including your most popular items, loss leaders and most loyal customers.
- Tax button:** Many cash registers include a way to program various types of taxes, including sales tax or custom tax rates.

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Clover



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Price starts at

\$14.95 per month (plus hardware)

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Toast



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Price starts at

\$0

Free Trial

No

3

KORONA POS



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Price starts at

\$59/

Free trial

Unlimit

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Key features	Versatile POS, invoicing, employee management	Key Features	for restaurants, payroll, online ordering, team and inventory management	Key features	, customer reports, advanced cash functional account integration
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How Much Do Cash Registers Cost?

Pricing for a new cash register varies depending on the type of cash register you purchase. Traditional cash registers can range anywhere from \$100 to \$1,200. A POS cash register costs more because it has updated technology and software to help you manage your business.

Hardware

The cost of a cash register depends on the type of cash register you want. An ECR is much more affordable and typically ranges from \$100 to \$800. The pricier the ECR, the more built-in features you get, such as a card reader, cash drawer and card reader. A POS cash register usually is more expensive because kits include a lot of the peripherals you need and software to run your business (with the exception of a desktop computer, tablet or mobile phone, which you need to purchase separately).

You can add on accessories to most cash registers, such as a barcode scanner, scale, card reader and receipt printer. These vary wildly in cost from \$35 to \$500 or more.

Payment Processing Fees

Card processing costs also vary depending on the MSP or payment processor you use. Businesses that do high-volume sales can usually negotiate lower fees, but there is always a cost. The lowest rates can be less than 2%, but the average rate is 2.5% plus 10 cents per transaction.

There are affordable options available, but if you're having a hard time choosing between two of the most popular choices, consider checking out our comparison of [Square vs. Clover](#).

Methodology

To determine the best cash registers for small businesses, Forbes Advisor considered specific criteria important for most small to midsize companies, whether they're retailers or restaurants. Online stores can use these cash registers too because the POS software supports online payments.

Pricing

We looked at the cost of hardware and monthly fees, including payment processing. Not only did we consider the costs of the main cash register, but we also considered the cost of accessories used frequently in conjunction with

Features

Every modern cash register that made the list includes POS software to help businesses track inventory, manage customer information and run end-of-day reports, at the very least. We omitted any competitor that doesn't support mobile payments or offer software integrations. The best cash registers make it easy for you to accept cash payments along with credit card and NFC payments. We also gave points to those providers who supported both restaurants and retailers.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- + **Do I need a cash register for my business?**
 - + **What can I use instead of a cash register?**
 - + **Are cash registers secure?**
 - + **Do all cash registers calculate change?**
-

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