

If you're interested in trading but want to explore markets beyond forex, you're in the right place. UK brokers like **TIOmarkets (TIO Markets UK Ltd)**, **Plus500 (Plus500UK Ltd)**, and **IG Group** offer a vast range of trading opportunities with the safety nets of FCA regulation and FSCS protection. Whether you prefer CFDs or spread betting, platforms like MetaTrader 4 (MT4) and MetaTrader 5 (MT5) can cater to your trading style. In this article, we'll break down what markets you can access beyond forex and what makes these brokers trustworthy and beginner-friendly.

Understanding FCA Regulation and How It Protects You

First and foremost, when looking for a CFD broker UK or spread betting broker UK, it's crucial to check FCA authorisation. This reminds me of something that happened was shocked by the final bill.. All three brokers we're discussing are regulated by the UK's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), meaning they meet strict requirements designed to keep your money safe and trading fair.



- **TIOmarkets:** Operating under TIO Markets UK Ltd, FCA reference number (FRN) 546837.
- **Plus500:** Plus500UK Ltd, FRN 509909.
- **IG Group:** Regulated through IG Markets Ltd, FRN 195355.

FCA regulation mandates that brokers keep client funds separate from their own operational accounts, ensuring your deposits are protected if the company runs into trouble.

What Does FSCS Coverage Actually Cover?

The Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) further underpins your protection. If, for example, a spread betting broker in the UK goes bust, FSCS can cover up to £85,000 per person, per firm—provided the broker is FCA authorised.

Important to note:

- FSCS protects against broker insolvency, but not against trading losses.
- It also does not cover losses from your own trading mistakes or adverse market moves.

For beginners, this highlights the importance of risk management and using demo accounts before risking [deeside.com](https://www.deeside.com) real money.

Markets Beyond Forex: What Your UK Broker Offers

While forex often grabs headlines, these FCA-regulated UK brokers provide access to a substantial range of other markets, enabling diversification and tailored strategies.

TIOmarkets – Beyond Forex on MT4 and MT5

Here's what kills me: tiomarkets is best known for its robust metatrader platform compatibility. Both MetaTrader 4 and MetaTrader 5 are available, with MT5 offering more timeframes and market types than its predecessor.

Here are some of the main markets TIOmarkets offers besides forex:

- **Indices:** Trade major and minor stock indices with typical spreads from 0.6 points, e.g., UK100.
- **Commodities:** Access gold, silver, oil, and soft commodities CFDs.
- **Cryptocurrencies:** Popular coins like Bitcoin and Ethereum CFDs (note this varies by jurisdiction).
- **Stocks:** Hundreds of global shares available via CFDs.

Minimum deposit at TIOmarkets starts from £250, which is moderate compared to some UK brokers. They also offer demo accounts, an essential tool for practising how these markets behave before live trading.

Plus500 – User-Friendly Access to Diverse Markets

Plus500UK Ltd specialises in easy-to-use web and mobile platforms rather than MetaTrader, but the range is impressive. Known for being a solid spread betting broker UK option, Plus500 offers:

- **Shares:** Over 2,000 global stocks for CFD or spread betting.
- **Indices:** Popular indices like FTSE 100, Dow Jones, and others available with spreads from around 0.8 points.
- **Forex:** Over 70 currency pairs.
- **Cryptocurrencies:** Bitcoin, Litecoin, Ripple, and many more.
- **Commodities:** Gold, oil, natural gas CFDs.
- **Options & ETFs:** Selected ETFs and options available, providing interesting hedging avenues.

The minimum deposit on Plus500 is £100, ideal if you want to start small. Plus, their free demo account lets you hone your strategies without financial risk.

IG Group – The Giant with 16,000+ Markets

IG is a heavyweight in UK trading circles and offers what few others can: access to over 16,000 markets, including **CFD trading** and **spread betting** options.

Here's a snapshot of markets you can trade at IG:

- **Shares:** Over 13,000 shares on UK and international exchanges.
- **Indices:** Major global indices like NASDAQ, FTSE 100, DAX, plus niche indices.
- **Forex:** A comprehensive range of currency pairs.
- **Commodities:** Gold, silver, crude oil and more.
- **Cryptocurrencies:** Bitcoin, Ether, Ripple, etc.

- **Bonds:** Government and corporate bonds CFDs.
- **Interest rates & ETFs:** Advanced asset classes for diversified portfolio strategies.

IG supports both bespoke proprietary platforms and MetaTrader 4, so you can leverage automated trading and advanced charting. Minimum deposit varies, but you can start from as low as £250.

Starting Small and Practising Smart: What You Need to Know

Once you've spotted the markets and brokers that fit your needs, here's a vital approach for beginner traders:



Minimum Deposits: What to Expect

Broker Minimum Deposit (£) Account Types TIOmarkets 250 Standard, ECN with different spreads and commissions Plus500 100 Single account, no commissions, spreads only IG Group 250 Pro and standard accounts, with spread betting or CFD options

Starting with as little as £100 or £250 allows you to test strategies without significant financial exposure. Always confirm minimum deposit requirements on the broker's official website, as these can vary by payment method and country.

Demo Accounts: Your Best Friend as a Novice Trader

All three brokers provide robust demo accounts letting you trade with virtual money before funding real accounts. Use these practice accounts to:

1. Get familiar with platform navigation (whether MT4, MT5, or proprietary web interfaces).
2. Test trading strategies on real-time, live market data.
3. Understand how margins and leverage work.
4. Practice risk management techniques such as stop-loss orders.

Consistent practice in demo mode reduces your chances of costly mistakes when real money is on the line.

Conclusion: More Than Forex at Your Fingertips

If forex isn't the only market that piques your interest, UK brokers like TIOmarkets, Plus500, and IG offer an extensive playground of alternatives—stock CFDs, indices, commodities, cryptocurrencies, and even bonds and

ETFs. Thanks to FCA regulation and FSCS protection, your funds enjoy an extra layer of safety, though risk from trading remains your responsibility.

Choosing a broker with transparent terms, reasonable minimum deposits, and solid demo accounts will make your market exploration smoother and less stressful. Remember, no claims of “tight spreads” or “best prices” are worth much without numbers and real-world conditions. Inspect platforms carefully, check FCA registers for FRNs, and always start small.

Happy trading!