

UNFAIR CREDIT CARD FEES.COM

FACTS ABOUT FULL DISCLOSURE

Full disclosure is not in the interest of the card companies and their banks

Credit card interchange fees are completely hidden from consumers, and the big credit card companies and their banks want to keep it that way. The card companies and their banks claim that interchange fees and the rules that govern merchant card acceptance are available to anyone. The truth is that *only recently* have the card companies bowed to public and government pressure to make their interchange fee schedules public.

MasterCard and Visa write the rules that *keep* consumers in the dark

Most consumers have never heard of credit card interchange fees because of Visa and MasterCard rules that make it practically impossible for merchants to tell consumers how much the fees are costing them. The fee system is too complex and there are different fees associated with different types of cards and different types of stores that merchants and their customers don't know what it actually costs to make a credit card purchase at the time it takes place.

Credit card interchange fees are non-negotiable

Most consumers are unaware that credit card interchange fees are a non-negotiable cost of doing business for merchants who accept card payments. Other business costs are negotiable and merchants constantly work to lower them so they can run their businesses more efficiently and offer greater value to their customers. The fact that interchange fees are fixed by Visa, MasterCard and their member banks and cannot be negotiated is bad for consumers and merchants alike.

Americans should know that they pay some of the highest credit card fees in the world

Visa and MasterCard charge Americans among the highest credit card interchange fees in the world - averaging close to 2 percent for credit card and signature debit transactions, compared with only 0.7 percent in the United Kingdom and 0.50 percent in Australia. The difference translates into hundreds of dollars in added costs to the average American family.

The fact that other consumers in countries around the world are charged substantially lower credit card interchange fees than in the U.S. indicates that there is room to reduce these rates and still cover the cost of the actual transactions.

Americans should have lower credit card interchange fees like many other industrialized countries. Why should Americans pay higher fees than consumers pay in other countries?



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