Credit and Debit Card Interchange Fees
Assessed to Merchants in the United States
August 2016 Update‡

Payments System Research Department§
Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

‡ This update includes regular and “premium issuer” interchange fees for different merchant categories and sizes. In 2010 or after, several PIN-debit networks introduced the “premium issuer” fees, which are assessed on transactions where the cards belong to qualifying issuers that typically commit to a specific level of transaction volume on a given network. Fees shown in this document as assessed to merchants are from individual networks’ fee schedules and may not necessarily represent interchange fee revenue issuers actually earn. Some networks also offer lower interchange fees than represented in the fee schedule to some (large) merchants.

I. Consumer credit card interchange fees

$40 transaction at small supermarkets

$40 transaction at largest supermarkets
Notes: * indicates products with volume tiered rates. The base rates are shown.
II. Consumer signature debit card interchange fees

Note: Exempt interchange fees are shown from October 2011 to 2016.
$40 transaction at small retailers

$40 transaction at largest retailers

Note: Exempt interchange fees are shown from October 2011 to 2016.
Notes: Exempt interchange fees are shown from October 2011 to 2016.

* indicates networks with volume tiered rates. The base rates are shown.
III. Consumer PIN debit card interchange fees

$40 transaction at small supermarkets

$40 transaction at small retailers

Note: Exempt interchange fees are shown from October 2011 to 2016.
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* indicates networks with volume tiered rates. The base rates are shown.
Notes: Exempt interchange fees are shown from October 2011 to 2016.
†See footnote ‡ in the title page for the definition of premium issuer rate.
+ indicates networks with premium issuer rates, which are shown. For other networks, regular rates are shown.
* indicates networks with volume tiered rates. The base rates are shown.
Notes: Exempt interchange fees are shown from October 2011 to 2016.
†See footnote ‡ in the title page for the definition of premium issuer rate.
+ indicates networks with premium issuer rates, which are shown. For other networks, regular rates are shown.
* indicates networks with volume tiered rates. The base rates are shown.
IV. Consumer signature versus PIN debit interchange fees

Note: Exempt interchange fees are shown from October 2011 to 2016.
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* indicates networks with volume tiered rates. The base rates are shown.
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+ indicates networks with premium issuer rates, which are shown. For other networks, regular rates are shown.
* indicates networks with volume tiered rates. The base rates are shown.
V. Visa, MasterCard, and Discover consumer card interchange fees

$40 Visa transaction at small retailers

$40 Visa transaction at largest retailers

Note: (c) indicates credit card.
$40 Discover transaction at small and largest retailers

[Graph showing $40 Discover transaction at small and largest retailers from 1995 to 2016]
VI. Commercial credit card interchange fees

$200 transaction at retailers

$1,000 B2B Level II transaction
VII. Consumer versus commercial credit card interchange fees

$100 Visa transaction at small retailers

$100 Visa transaction at largest retailers

Note: (c) indicates credit card.
$100 MasterCard transaction at small retailers

$100 MasterCard transaction at largest retailers

Note: (c) indicates credit card.
$100 Discover transaction at small and largest retailers

Note: (c) indicates credit card.