

Part 1 Merchants should not waste time fighting card networks

Part 2 There is a much better way

Mar 15, 2023 by Mark Sibthorpe

This is part one of a two part assessment of merchant frustration due to high credit card fees. The second part of this report will outline an alternative approach that merchants can consider. An approach that is a win for them and also for the card networks.

Part 1

Here we go again: another Visa/Mastercard fee battle just launched from the UK against Visa. This report provides a snapshot of the never ending legal battles since 2012, related aggregated news since 2012, and arguments to support why these legal actions have been a waste of time for US and Canadian merchants. Europe and the UK in contrast have had the upper hand, but this may change for the UK because of Brexit.

Outline of the legal battles 2012-2023

As per Table 1, suing card networks has become a lucrative business, but only for the law firms involved. For merchants, the winnings have been paltry.

The scale of card fees is immense. In 2017, card networks collected a mammoth \$96.67 billion in credit card transaction fees from merchants (Nilson); yet, since 2010, only about \$8 billion in total combined legal settlements have been awarded. Some of the legal battles are outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1 summary of settlements and voluntary fee reductions since 2012

Company	Region	Card network/s	Settlement or fee reduction	Year	Notes
Merchants	US	V/MC	\$7.25	2012	Google and Walmart opted out. Walmart sued separately for \$5 B
Cdn merchants	Canada	V/MC	9%	2014	Voluntary reduction estimated fees
Merchants	US	V/MC	10%	2014	Voluntary reduction estimated fees of \$7 B
Discover	US	V/MC/Amex	\$9.9 B	2008-14	Discover sued and settled with the three networks based on antitrust lawsuit started in 2004
Walmart	Canada	V	Visa refused	2016	Walmart ceased to accept Visa in some Canadian stores. Visa offers to pay \$10 to shoppers to go elsewhere. Visa and Walmart declared a truce in their dispute over merchant fees.

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CFIB members	Canada	MC	12.5% fee reduction	2017	
Merchants	Canada	V/MC	Surcharge	2017	Merchants are allowed to surcharge on cc purchases.
Kroger	US	V			
Merchants	Canada	V/MC/Amex	\$250 M	2018	Voluntary reduction over 5 years.
Amex	Global	Amex	6 basis points reduction	2018	Voluntary. Each basis point = 11 cents per share in earnings.
Visa	Global	V	4-5% fee increase	2020	Planned changes
Merchants	UK	V	from .2% to 1.5%	2021	Due to Brexit. For online and phone purchases. Amazon UK blocks Visa but subsequently backs down.
Merchants	Canada	V/MC	\$131 M	2022	Settlement related to 2010 suit.
Telus	Canada	V/MC/Amex	\$2	2022	Telus requests permission to surcharge clients \$2 per month for card payments.
Merchants	UK	V/MC	\$9.03 B	2023	Class action launched
Consumers	UK	MC	16.85 B	2023	Class action launched on behalf of shoppers

*Note that this table is based on a quick extraction from fsim.ca reports and is not intended to be comprehensive.

**Table 1 shows that Discover, in 2014, won an antitrust settlement of \$9.9 billion, but this is unrelated to merchant fees.

Fees by region

- ❖ US merchants pay the highest fees, ranging from 1.4% to 2.5%;
- ❖ Canada is next averaging about 1.25% for gas to 2.40% CNP;
- ❖ Europe, because of regulatory caps, pays card fees of 0.3%.
 - Although since Brexit Visa jacked its online and phone payment fees in the UK from 0.3% to 1.5% and this prompted two class actions as shown in the last row from table 1 above.

Issuing banks, although they take the lion's share, do not profit greatly from merchant fees because they are allocated as rewards to consumers. In fact, according to a 2021 [CIBC report](#), only 2 per cent of bank revenues came from interchange fees.

Example

How Canadian merchant fees are allocated based on a \$100 Visa transaction:

- \$1.40 to the card issuing bank;
- \$0.50 to the payment gateway;
- \$0.9 to Visa.

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Value of Canadian merchant settlement

Drilling down with respect to Canadian merchants, here is a summary of recent legal fee settlements as detailed in a 2022 statement:

- Small merchants – under \$5-million in annual revenue – receive \$30 per year to a maximum of \$600;
- Large can make a claim against the \$131-million settlement fund based on credit card receivables.

When you consider that large Canadian merchants pay hundreds of millions in credit card fees each year, the portion of the multi-year settlement they will receive is really insignificant.

Summary

This report was intended to give readers an idea of the backstory behind credit card fees. What follows is an aggregated list of articles, reports and legal statements related to the ongoing fee battle between merchants and card networks.

UK merchants, on the other hand, have benefited from fee regulations, but in the UK the tides may have shifted as a result of Brexit.

If you would like information on subscriptions contact mark@banknews.tv for info.

Aggregated news from 2012-2023 follows

[GOOGLE SUES VISA AND MASTERCARD OVER INTERCHANGE FEES](#)

Finextra

Google is suing Visa and MasterCard over the card giants' interchange fees, alleging that they violated federal antitrust law. Jan 6

[CREDIT CARD RATE CUTS ARE A PRICELESS GIFT FOR RETAILERS](#)

FP - Dan Kelly

Although the written commitments by Visa and MasterCard do not represent a massive reduction in the swipe fees charged to merchants, they will go a long way toward reducing the cost pressure

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[DISCOVER SUES VISA, ALLEGING ILLEGAL ANTI-COMPETITIVE TACTICS](#)

MNTS

Discover on Tuesday (Nov. 25) sued Visa, slamming the card brand with antitrust violation accusations. The court's issue: Is Visa just an aggressive company or did it cross the line?

Nov 27

[VISA AND MASTERCARD FACE SCRUTINY BY NEW UK WATCHDOG](#)

Finextra

The UK government is planning to put supervision of MasterCard and Visa alongside the country's main interbank payment systems into the hands of a new Payment Systems Regulator (PSR), whose chief remit is to inject more competition into the country's payments industry. Oct 15

[VISA'S \\$1.3 TRILLION QUARTER](#)

Pymnts

Overall, Visa's net income for the quarter hit \$1.5 billion, a 12 percent increase from the year prior. Payments volume growth hit \$1.3 trillion, an 11 percent increase on the year. Cross-border volume growth, which was called out by Visa CEO Charlie Scharf during the call as a continual strength, grew 5 percent in the quarter. Total processed transactions for Q4 hit 18.4 billion, which was an 8 percent increase YOY. Total processed transactions for the 12-month period ending Sept. 30 hit 71 billion, which is a 9 percent increase from the year prior.

[CONSUMERS OVERWHELMED BY PAYMENTS OPTIONS](#)

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Maciej Maciejewski, Mobile Delivery Team, Visa Europe, discusses the many payment options from which Polish customers must choose, and the impact of regulation on the market.

[VISA/MASTERCARD EU DOMINANCE ADDS IMPETUS TO CALLS FOR BANK-BACKED COMPETITOR](#)

Finextra

MasterCard and Visa now account for 86% of all payment cards in Europe, as domestic and private label schemes continue their decline, according to data from RBR.

[AMERICAN EXPRESS, DISCOVER, MASTERCARD & VISA PURCHASE VOLUME UP 7.8% IN 2015](#)

The City Wire - The Nilson Report

American Express, Discover, MasterCard, and Visa brand consumer and commercial credit, debit, and prepaid cards issued in the U.S. generated \$4.786 trillion in purchase volume in 2015, up 7.8% versus 2014. These statistics are published in the current issue of The Nilson Report newsletter, a leading publication covering the card and mobile payment industries.

Visa brand debit cards generated \$1.374 trillion in purchase volume last year, up 7.9% versus 2014. For the seventh year in a row, no other credit or debit card brand generated more spending at merchants.

Visa credit cards were the second most popular card type at merchants last year.

Purchase volume was \$1.344 trillion, up 10.8%. David Robertson, publisher of The Nilson Report, said, "For the third year in a row, the percentage increase for purchase volume on Visa credit cards was better than any other credit or debit card type." Credit card purchase volume for American Express at \$717.29 billion was up 4.8% in 2015 vs.

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an 8.1% increase in 2014. This included spending at merchants on cards issued by 10 network partners. American Express remains the second largest credit card brand in the U.S., a position it has held since 2011 when it moved past MasterCard. Credit card purchase volume at MasterCard grew 7.4% to \$652.75 billion in 2015, while purchase volume on its debit cards increased 8.0% to \$580.14 billion. Purchase volume on Discover cards reached \$118.49 billion in 2015, a decline of 6.9%. This includes spending at merchants on cards issued by three network partners.

Visa credit cards in circulation increased by 22.3 million in 2015. MasterCard added 11.0 million credit cards. Amex added 2.7 million cards. Discover added 0.6 million cards.

American Express, Discover, MasterCard, and Visa credit card outstandings reached \$800.87 billion in 2015, up \$35.67 billion or 4.7%. Visa credit card outstandings grew the most, up \$15.65 billion, compared to an increase of \$14.17 billion for MasterCard, an increase of \$4.08 billion for American Express, and an increase of \$1.77 billion for Discover cards.

[THE INTERCHANGE SHAKE-UP: WHY BENEFITTING FROM NEW CARD TRANSACTION FEE CAPS MAY NOT BE AS STRAIGHTFORWARD](#)

Bobsguide - Callum Godwin

When the European Interchange Fee Regulation (IFR) was introduced at the end of 2015, it was regarded as a victory for merchants in the long-fought battle for fairer interchange fees. The new regulation has imposed caps on both debit and credit cards of 0.2% and 0.3% of the transaction value respectively which, in theory, should result in substantial savings for merchants – with key players Visa and MasterCard forced to impose significant reductions

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of 50% on average to their existing interchange fees across the EU. Indeed, CMSpi estimated that the IFR could save UK merchants as much as £650 million per annum.

[VISA FEES TOO HIGH: WALMART CANADA](#)

The Star - Nicole Thompson

[WALMART CANADA TO STOP ACCEPTING VISA, SAYS FEES TOO HIGH](#)

Reuters - Ethan Lou

Walmart Canada stores will stop accepting Visa Inc (V.N) cards because the credit card provider charges merchants "unacceptably high" fees, the retailer said on Saturday.

[WALMART'S DECISION TO AXE VISA COULD COST CANADIAN BANKS MILLIONS IN FEES](#)

FP - FP

The loss could prompt the banks to put pressure on Visa to head back to the negotiating table to cut a better deal

[VISA VS. WAL-MART: FEE BATTLE ESCALATES](#)

G&M - Marina Strauss

Credit-card operator Visa Canada has upped the ante in its unusual public spat with one of its top clients – retail giant Wal-Mart Canada Corp.

[VISA ACCUSES WALMART OF USING CUSTOMERS AS PAWNS AS BATTLE OVER CREDIT CARD FEES HEATS UP](#)

FP - Barbara Shecter

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Visa is ratcheting up a battle with Walmart over credit card fees by exposing elements of private negotiations between the pair, a move the credit card company says was prompted by Walmart's announcement that it will stop accepting Visa cards at its Canadian stores beginning next month.

[GOLIATH VS. GOLIATH: CONSUMERS CAUGHT IN MIDDLE OF HIGH-STAKES FEE FIGHT BETWEEN VISA AND WALMART](#)

CBC - CBC

Visa says consumers are the real victims in a high profile battle over merchant fees with Walmart now that the retailer is threatening to ban the credit card from its Canadian stores.

[WAL-MART MAY GET A BETTER DEAL FROM VISA, BUT IT WON'T HELP SMALL RETAILERS](#)

G&M - Barrie McKenna

Businesses who stood in Wal-Mart's way when it barged into Canada in the early 1990s were often crushed – by cutthroat competition and sometimes litigation.

[CUSTOMERS SIDE WITH WALMART IN VISA SPAT, BUT RETAILER MAY LOSE SHOPPERS ANYWAY](#)

FP - FP

The company plans to make its move on July 18, when it says it will reject Visa at three locations in Thunder Bay, Ont. before moving nationally

[WALMART TO STOP ACCEPTING VISA IN THUNDER BAY, ONT., STORES STARTING MONDAY](#)

CBC - CBC

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"We are moving ahead as planned regarding our decision to stop accepting Visa at our three Thunder Bay stores on Monday, July 18," said Alex Robertson, senior director, corporate affairs, at Walmart Canada.

[VISA PROFIT TOPS ESTIMATES: SETS \\$5-BILLION BUYBACK](#)

G&M - Reuters

Visa Inc., the world's largest payments network operator, reported a higher-than-expected quarterly profit and announced a \$5-billion (U.S.) share buyback program.

[2 MONTHS AFTER FIRST STRIKE AGAINST VISA, WALMART MUM ON FOLLOW-UP](#)

CBC - Sophia Harris

But the delay in any action beyond Thunder Bay leads some business experts to suspect that — with Visa not yet giving in — Walmart may be close to backing down.

[NILSON CARD STATISTICS](#)

Nilson Report - Lori Fulmer

Global brand general purpose cards accounted for 60.79% of total payment cards worldwide at the end of 2015. UnionPay cards accounted for 30.10% of the worldwide total of all payment cards. Visa cards accounted for 16.42%, Mastercard cards accounted for 8.71%. Amex, Discover/Diners Club, JCB, and Maestro combined accounted for 5.57%.

Domestic general purpose cards accounted for 5.53% of the worldwide total. Private label cards accounted for 33.69% of the total.

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"By 2020, payment cards are expected to increase 21.3% to 21.93 billion," said David Robertson, Publisher of The Nilson Report. "Mastercard and UnionPay are projected to be the only global general purpose brands to increase their share - Mastercard growing 67 basis points to 9.37%, and UnionPay growing 248 basis points to 32.57%. RuPay and Elo are projected to lead domestic general purpose cards, collectively gaining 96 basis points to 2.79%."

[VISA'S QUARTERLY PROFIT, REVENUE BEAT ANALYST ESTIMATES](#)

G&M - Reuters

Visa Inc., the world's largest payments network operator, reported better-than-expected quarterly profit and revenue, boosted by the inclusion of Visa Europe's results and as customers spent more using its network.

[WALMART IN MANITOBA DROPS VISA AT 16 STORES STARTING TODAY](#)

CBC - CBC

The dispute between Walmart Canada and Visa over merchant fees heats up today as the retail giant stops accepting the credit card at its 16 stores in Manitoba.

[VISA UPS ANTE IN BATTLE WITH WALMART. OFFERS MANITOBANS \\$10 TO SHOP ELSEWHERE](#)

FP - FP

Walmart Canada stopped accepting Visa in Manitoba stores on Oct. 24, following an earlier withdrawal from stores in Thunder Bay, Ont. after a dispute over fees

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[VISA EXPANDS \\$10 FREE GROCERY OFFER FOR SHOPPERS HIT BY WALMART'S VISA BAN](#)

CBC - CBC

Visa and Walmart are engaged in an all-out battle over credit card fees and Visa is the latest to strike. It's offering its customers in Thunder Bay a \$10 rebate if they shop at a grocery store other than Walmart.

[WAL-MART CANADA, VISA DECLARE TRUCE IN CREDIT CARD FEE DISPUTE](#)

G&M - Alexandra Posadzki

Corporate behemoths Wal-Mart Canada and Visa have declared a truce in their dispute over merchant fees, allowing Wal-Mart customers in Manitoba and Thunder Bay to resume using the credit card beginning Friday.

[VISA-WAL-MART DEAL COULD MEAN HIGHER FEES FOR SMALLER MERCHANTS: CFIB](#)

G&M - Alexandra Posadzki

The head of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business says he's concerned that a deal struck between Walmart Canada and Visa over merchant fees could lead to higher costs for smaller businesses.

[MASTERCARD CANADA REACHES DEAL WITH SMALL-BUSINESS GROUP TO LOWER FEES](#)

G&M - Marina Strauss

A small-business group has won lower merchant fees for its members from MasterCard Canada, a move that could put more pressure on credit-card firms to reduce their rates and prompt other associations to seek preferential pricing.

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[VISA'S QUARTERLY PROFIT JUMPS 27 PER CENT ON PAYMENT NETWORK ACTIVITY](#)

G&M - Reuters

Visa Inc, the world's largest payments network operator, reported better-than-expected quarterly earnings and said it expects full-year profit at the high-end of its forecast, as it reaps the benefits of its purchase of Visa Europe.

[CANADIAN SHOPPERS PAY WHEN VISA AND MASTERCARD SQUEEZE SMALL BUSINESS](#)

FP - Gary Sands

A recent column from Neil Mohindra ("Competition checks Visa fees," April 7) contained both errors of omission and flat-out inaccuracies. In the past, Mohindra has advocated for slashing securities regulations and also argued in defence of tax havens. So perhaps it is not surprising he is now running his hanky up the flagpole for the banking and payments industry as that near-monopolistic sector faces more intense scrutiny.

[MERCHANTS GIVEN RIGHT TO APPLY VISA, MASTERCARD SURCHARGES](#)

G&M - Marina Strauss

Retailers will be able to charge customers extra for using Visa or MasterCard to pay for their purchases under settlements of a class-action lawsuit, threatening to leave some consumers with bigger bills.

[SPENDING ON U.S. PAYMENT CARDS REACHES \\$5.555 TRILLION VISA TOPS ALL OTHER CARDS THE NILSON REPORT RELEASES ANNUAL MARKET SHARE REPORT](#)

Nilson Report - David Robinson

Infographic

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[RETAILERS FIGHT FOR LOWER CREDIT-CARD FEES AS BUSINESS GROUP STRIKES DEAL](#)

G&M - Marina Strauss

Retailers and other businesses are pushing for lower fees from major credit-card companies amid a long standing battle over what many merchants say are inflated Canadian rates.

[U.S. MERCHANTS PAID \\$96.67 BILLION IN CARD PROCESSING FEES IN 2017 THE NILSON REPORT ON MERCHANT PROCESSING FEES](#)

Nilson Report - Nilson Report

Credit, debit, and prepaid general purpose and private label cards issued in the United States generated \$6.361 trillion in payments for goods and services in 2017. Processing fees, which include interchange, paid by U.S. merchants to handle all card payments were \$96.67 billion, up \$8.28 billion over 2016, according to The Nilson Report, the leading card and mobile payment trade publication.

"When you add up all of the spending and divide by fees merchants pay, the average is \$1.52 for every \$100 in card sales," commented David Robertson, Publisher of The Nilson Report.

American Express, Discover, Mastercard, and Visa general purpose credit cards and store, gasoline, medical, etc. private label credit cards accounted for \$3.633 trillion in purchase volume. Credit cards accounted for 57.1% of all card purchase volume including debit and prepaid spending for goods and services. Merchants paid \$77.07 billion in processing fees to accept credit cards, which was 79.7% of total processing fees.

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The weighted average of processing fees paid as a percentage of purchase volume from all credit, debit, and prepaid general purpose and private label cards was 1.52% in 2017.

[AFTER KROGER STRIKES BACK AT VISA, BATTLE OVER CREDIT-CARD FEES MAY ONLY GET WORSE](#)

MarketWatch - Maria Lamagna

If you have a Visa credit card, be careful next time you go to Kroger: It might get declined. And the same could start happening at more stores.

[RETAIL COUNCIL OF CANADA 'UNDERWHELMED' BY REDUCTION IN CREDIT CARD MERCHANT FEES](#)

G&M - Andy Blatchford

Major credit card companies have struck an agreement with the federal government to trim the fees they charge to merchants in a move Ottawa hopes will provide a boost to small businesses.

[AMEX MAKES BIGGEST FEE CUT IN TWO DECADES](#)

Pymnts

With about 1.3 million fewer locations in the U.S. accepting American Express over Visa and MasterCard, this move is engineered by chief executive Stephen Squeri to entice merchants to accept his company's card. In fact, Squeri has said he is willing to make "conscious trade-offs" to get more businesses to take Amex.

[ECB CHIEF SAYS INSTANT PAYMENTS COULD BREAK VISA/MASTERCARD DUOPOLY](#)

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The ECB has for the past twelve years been seeking a mechanism to challenge the dominance of Visa and Mastercard in the European payments landscape. Interchange fee caps have brought a measure of control, but calls for banks to set up a rival third scheme to take on the might of the global giants and promote increased competition have so far fallen on deaf ears.

[VISA AND MASTERCARD COULD RAISE INTERCHANGE FEES](#)

Techcrunch

According to a report from the WSJ, Visa and Mastercard are considering raising interchange fees on card transactions in the U.S. Visa and Mastercard generate most of their revenue from these small processing fees, and it could have implications for merchants and fintech startups.

[KROGER EXTENDS VISA BAN](#)

Finextra

The company last year initiated a Visa ban on 26 stores in its Foods Co. business. The new moratorium will now see the policy extended to 142 supermarket and 108 petrol stations across seven states.

[SWIPING THEIR WAY HIGHER: VISA, MASTERCARD COULD BE THE NEXT \\$1 TRILLION COMPANIES](#)

Reuters - Lewis Krauskoff

Soaring stock prices are propelling credit and debit card companies Visa Inc and Mastercard Inc up the market value charts, where they currently rank 7th and 11th among

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companies in the benchmark S&P 500 index. The stock prices of both Visa and Mastercard have gained roughly 50% in the past year.

[CHANGES IN VISA'S INTERCHANGE RATE SCHEDULE COMING THIS YEAR](#)

Digital Transactions - Jim Daly

Sakhrani further said he expects Mastercard to follow suit “if it hasn’t done so already.” And for American Express Co., “we believe that the change is mildly positive as it strengthens [AmEx’s] argument that in many cases the rates on premium Visa (and Mastercard) credit cards are equal to higher than the discount rate it charges merchants.”

[AUSTRALIA CENTRAL BANK LOOKS TO RID VISA, MASTERCARD OF DEBIT PAYMENTS EDGE](#)

Reuters - Paulina Duran

Australian regulators will consider intervening to stop banks from automatically directing “tap-and-go” card payments through the world’s largest payment processors Visa (V.N) and Mastercard Inc. (MA.N), the central bank said on Wednesday.

[MASTERCARD AND VISA RAISE TAP LIMITS TO \\$250 SO FEWER CONSUMERS NEED TO TOUCH PAYMENT MACHINES](#)

G&M - Clare O'Hara

Credit card companies Mastercard and Visa are raising the tap limit on all credit cards to \$250 from \$100 as retailers seek more cashless payment options during the outbreak of COVID-19.

[VISA AND MASTERCARD SHOULD LOWER E-COMMERCE CREDIT CARD PROCESSING FEES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES](#)

G&M - Rita Trichur

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Back in the summer of 2018, the federal government announced new agreements with Visa and MasterCard to lower credit-card processing costs for small and medium-sized businesses.

[VISA HIKES UK-EU ONLINE INTERCHANGE FEES; FACES US INVESTIGATION INTO DEBIT CARD PRACTICES](#)

Finextra

But with the country withdrawing from Europe, from October Visa will increase the fees for online and over-the-phone purchases to 1.5%, says the FT, citing sources. The fee for debit card payments is also set to rise from 0.2% to 1.15%.

[AS SHOPPING HABITS CHANGE, OTTAWA TARGETS CREDIT CARD SWIPE FEES](#)

G&M - James Bradshaw

This is the third time in less than seven years that the federal government has pressured credit-card companies to lower transaction fees, which vary between retailers, types of cards and payment methods. In 2014, there was an agreement reached with Visa Canada and Mastercard Canada to lower average fees to 1.5 per cent. Then in 2018 a five-year pact was struck that included voluntary commitments to lower average fees to 1.4 per cent, starting in 2020. (American Express struck a separate deal with Ottawa.)

[AUSTRALIA MAY MANDATE LOW-COST DEBIT CARD SYSTEM FOR PAYMENTS](#)

Reuters - Paulina Duran

Australia's treasurer has asked the central bank to consider forcing large- and medium-sized banks and debit card issuers to provide multiple network options for merchants to route "tap-and-go" payments.

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[LONDON TAKES AIM AT NEW YORK WITH FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN](#)

Reuters - Huw Jones

Britain needs to ease taxes on banks and make it easier to hire staff from abroad, its financial and professional services lobby said in a blueprint to help London unseat New York as the world's top international financial centre within five years.

[VISA BEATS PROFIT ESTIMATES ON TRAVEL. ONLINE SPENDING BOOM](#)

G&M - NOOR ZAINAB HUSSAIN AND SWETA SINGH

Visa's net income rose to \$3.58 billion, or \$1.65 per Class A share, for the fourth quarter ended Sept. 30, from \$2.14 billion, or 97 cents per Class A share, a year earlier.

[AMAZON TO BAN VISA CREDIT CARDS IN THE UK](#)

Finextra

A spokesperson told Sky News: "The cost of accepting card payments continues to be an obstacle for businesses striving to provide the best prices for customers. These costs should be going down over time with technological advancements, but instead they continue to stay high or even rise."

[VISA'S AMAZON SPAT SHOWS POWER IS SHIFTING TO RETAILERS IN FEE BATTLE](#)

Reuters - David Henry and Matt Scuffham

While Amazon may yet back down on the UK front, where the company accounts for less than 1% of Visa's credit card volume, according to an estimate by Piper Sandler analysts, the dispute is a bad sign for the card industry. Some analysts said it could presage a fight in the much bigger U.S. market.

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"Amazon is treating this dispute with Visa as an experiment," said Piper Sandler analyst Christopher Donat. "Our biggest concern is that Amazon seeks concessions from Visa in other geographies."

[AMAZON BACKS OFF THREAT TO BAN U.K.-ISSUED VISA CREDIT CARDS](#)

WSJ - Julie Steinberg

Amazon.com Inc. said customers can continue to make purchases with Visa Inc. U.K. credit cards, stepping back from a threat to block such transactions because of the card network's high fees.

[BUSINESSES URGED TO CLAIM THEIR SHARE OF MULTI-MILLION CLASS-ACTION SETTLEMENT WITH VISA, MASTERCARD](#)

G&M - Chris Hannay

Business groups are urging merchants to sign up for a multimillion-dollar class-action settlement with Visa and MasterCard over credit-card processing fees.

[UK PAYMENT REGULATOR TO PROBE POST-BREXIT CARD CHARGES](#)

FT - Mark Wembridge

The UK's Payment Systems Regulator is to probe the card charges imposed by Visa and Mastercard, focusing on the post-Brexit jump in processing fees and cross-border transaction levies.

[CREDIT-CARD REWARDS AREN'T FREE. SHOPPERS DON'T CARE.](#)

Bloomberg - Marc Rubinstein

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The US credit-card market is the oldest and largest in the world. It's also the least regulated and most expensive. In other countries, policy makers keep card companies in check by setting price caps or by funding public sector alternatives. The result is lower prices. In the US, credit-card fees stand at between 1.3% and 2.7% of transaction value; in Europe, they are as low as 0.3%.

[PAYING WITH A CREDIT CARD WILL SOON COST MORE AS SOME BUSINESSES ADD TRANSACTION FEES](#)

G&M - Chris Hannay

Telus Corp. wrote to its industry regulator, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, in August asking permission to charge customers a 1.5-per-cent transaction fee if they pay their bill with a credit card. Telus told The Canadian Press it expected the charge to amount to an average of \$2 a month.

[VISA, MASTERCARD PROFITS EXPECTED TO JUMP AS TRAVEL REBOUNDS](#)

Reuters - Niket Nishant

U.S. card companies are expected to benefit as pandemic-weary consumers continue to fuel demand for travel, one of the biggest contributors to revenue, despite rising inflation.

[OTTAWA IS MOVING TO REDUCE CREDIT-CARD FEES. WHAT IT MEANS FOR BUSINESSES, BANKS AND YOUR LOYALTY POINTS](#)

G&M - Chris Hannay

At Gordon Dean's small-town grocery stores in Ontario and Quebec, the rattle of coins in the checkout tills is a more infrequent sound than it used to be.

[U.S. CARD FIRMS' GROWTH TO MODERATE AS LUXURY BUYING FALTERS](#)

Reuters - NIKET NISHANT AND MANYA SAINI

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Part 2 There is a much better way

Mar 15, 2023 by Mark Sibthorpe

U.S. card companies are expected to post the slowest revenue growth in seven quarters, as consumers tighten their purse strings and avoid spending on luxury and big-ticket items.

[MASTERCARD AND VISA TO FACE ANOTHER CARD INTERCHANGE CLASS ACTION SUIT](#)

Finextra

The law firm will argue that the interchange fees are set by Visa and Mastercard, not market forces. Thomas Ross from Harcus Parker tells Sky: "These fees are unlawful and should be abolished."

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