

**\$12 FOR 12 WEEKS** **SUBSCRIBE NOW**

U.S. EDITION Tue Mar 03 2015 13:12:46 GMT-0500 (EST)

[Subscribe](#) | [Log In](#)

[Home](#) [World](#) [U.S.](#) [Business](#) [Tech](#) [Markets](#) [Market Data](#) [Your Money](#) [Opinion](#) [Life & Culture](#) [N.Y.](#) [Real Estate](#) [Management](#)

 **TOTAL RETURN**  
Real-time coverage of personal-finance news

[INVESTING](#) [FAMILY FINANCES](#) [RETIREMENT](#) [TAXES](#) [MUTUAL FUNDS](#) [ETFs](#) [BANKING](#)

1:07 pm ET  
Mar 2, 2015 [CREDIT CARDS](#)

# Costco to Accept Visa Credit Cards Next Year

**ARTICLE** **COMMENTS (23)**

[COSTCO](#) [COSTCO AND VISA](#) [CREDIT CARDS AT COSTCO](#)

[Email](#) [Print](#) [f](#) [t](#) [g+](#) [in](#)

By [ROBIN SIDEL](#)



— Associated Press

**Costco Wholesale** **COST -0.45%** customers will have more flexibility with their plastic next year.

That's the main takeaway for shoppers from Monday's announcement that **the giant warehouse club struck a new deal with Citigroup** **C +0.34%** and **Visa** **V -1.21%** to replace its 16-year partnership with **American Express** **AXP -0.51%**.

The new deal means that consumers will be able to use any Visa-branded credit card when they make purchases at Costco stores. Previously, they were only able to use AmEx credit cards.

Visa already dwarfs AmEx in terms of the number of cards that are in shoppers' hands. There are 281.4 million Visa cards in circulation compared with 54.9 AmEx cards, according to the Nilson Report, a card-industry newsletter.

The new deal takes effect April 1, 2016, although there could be some overlapping period in which AmEx cards are still accepted at Costco.

Costco will continue to accept debit cards from both Visa and **MasterCard** **MA -0.95%**.

The current AmEx Costco card that is in the hands of many Costco shoppers will be replaced by a Costco Visa card that is issued by Citigroup. AmEx will try to get the existing holders of the AmEx Costco cards to switch to another type of AmEx card, but it won't be accepted at Costco.


Safari Power Saver  
Click to Start Flash Plug-in

**See what paying 82% less in investment costs could mean for you.**

Enter fund name or symbol to compare **GO**

There may be other material differences between products that must be considered prior to investing.

Sources: Vanguard and Lipper, a Thomson Reuters Company, as of 12/31/2013. Vanguard average expense ratio of 0.19% and industry average expense ratio of 1.06%.



SEARCH TOTAL RETURN

## About Total Return

Total Return covers the latest personal-finance and investing news and trends, helping readers make sensible money decisions in a complex financial world.


**Karen Damato**  
Deputy Editor,  
Personal Finance



**Follow** Total Return on Twitter  
Total Return on Facebook

PARTNER CENTER

An Advertising Feature

 **Looking for a broker? Ready to trade?**

## SPONSORED RESULTS

- [Unique Cocktail Dresses](#)
- [Party Dresses](#)
- [Softspots Supremes](#)
- [Ethnic Clothing For Women](#)
- [Designer Wedding Gowns](#)
- [Men's Formal Wear](#)
- [Fashion Designer Job](#)
- [Top 10 Fashion Magazines](#)
- [Women's Clothing](#)
- [Classic Women's Clothing](#)

It isn't clear yet what it all means in terms of rewards, which is a key reason why Costco shoppers like having a Costco-branded card in the first place. Costco didn't provide many details of the new Citi card, saying only that it "would provide generous rewards to Costco members."

While any Visa card will be accepted at Costco under the new deal, the same can't be said for Citi cards. Most of Citi's vast card portfolio is processed through the MasterCard network, so many of Citi's existing cards won't be accepted at Costco.

Citi does issue a few credit cards under the Visa brand, including the [Hilton Hotels](#) **HLT -0.07%** co-branded card and the ThankYou preferred card. Those will be accepted at Costco since they are Visa cards.

Safari Power Saver  
 Click to Start Flash Plug-in  
 It's time to make financial education exciting.  
**See if you're eligible for a Roth IRA with this awesome quiz.**



[TOTAL RETURN HOME PAGE](#)



SPONSORED RESULTS

- [Ethnic Clothing For Women](#)
- [Prom Dresses](#)
- [Women's Apparel](#)
- [Online Clothes Shopping](#)
- [Unique Cocktail Dresses](#)
- [Plus Size Fashion](#)
- [Classic Women's Clothing](#)
- [Plus Size Dresses](#)
- [Cute Plus Size Clothes](#)
- [Top 10 Fashion Magazines](#)



[Subscribe](#) / [Login](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Customer Service  
 Customer Center  
**New!** Live Help  
 Contact Us  
 WSJ Weekend  
 Contact Directory  
 Corrections

Policy  
 Privacy Policy  
 Cookie Policy  
 Data Policy  
 Copyright Policy  
 Subscriber Agreement & Terms of Use  
 Your Ad Choices

Advertise  
 Advertise  
 Place a Classified Ad  
 Sell Your Home  
 Sell Your Business  
 Commercial Real Estate Ads  
 Recruitment & Career Ads  
 Franchising  
 Advertise Locally

Tools & Features  
 Apps  
 Emails & Alerts  
 Graphics  
 Columns  
 Topics  
 Guides  
 Portfolio  
 Old Portfolio

More  
 Why Subscribe  
 Register for Free  
 Reprints  
 Content Partnerships  
 Make Time  
 Conferences  
 Price & Volume  
 Keyword & Symbol  
 News Archive  
 Jobs at WSJ