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By Andrew

Credit, debit and prepaid cards in 2016 saw a percentage volume increase of 7 percent based on a year-over-year comparison, according to *The Nilson Report*, a Carpinteria, Calif.–based trade publication reporting on the payments industry. In America, credit, debit and prepaid cards’ purchase volume reached \$5.648 trillion in 2016.

Nilson also recently announced a breakdown of how much retailers pay to accept cards. It is \$1.49 for every \$100 in card sales, David Robertson, publisher of *The Nilson Report*, said. American credit, debit and private-label cards generated \$5.936 trillion to pay for goods and services last year.

The most prominent card companies, **Visa**, **Mastercard** and **American Express**, as well as private-label cards—think store cards—comprised \$3.347 trillion in purchase volume, which amounted to 56.38 percent of all card spending.

Controversy on the fees merchants pay to use payment-card systems has been an issue for years. In 2010, the Durbin Amendment of the Dodd-Frank Financial Reform Act required the Federal Reserve to limit fees for debit-card processing.

Some merchant groups and bank-card issuers sued the Federal Reserve over the amount of merchant fees. In 2014, a D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Federal Reserve had rolled out the Durbin Amendment reasonably. But it continues to be an issue in Congress. The Washington, D.C.–based **Retail Industry Leaders Association** released a statement in April stating that it opposed an announcement by Jeb Hensarling (R–Texas) of the House Financial Services Committee to repeal swipe-fee reform.

“Preserving swipe-fee reform is essential for the retail community and will remain our top priority in the debate over financial reform,” Austen Jensen, vice president, government affairs for RILA, said.

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