

# Regular vs. Premium Credit Card Rate Chart for Small Business

Currently, understanding which Canadian credit cards can carry premium rates is very challenging for smaller merchants. While both VISA and MasterCard post their interchange rates on their website, information on which cards carry the different rates is difficult to access and understand. Following discussions with CFIB, MasterCard recently posted a list of cards with their associated rate categories on its website. VISA provided CFIB with its rate categories by card and is in the process of posting the information on its site. This chart is designed to allow merchants, employees and customers to understand which cards carry regular or premium rates. While the rate categories should be common to most processors (e.g. Moneris, Global, Chase Paymentech), the merchant fee examples given below are based on preferred total merchant rates for CFIB members with Chase Paymentech and may differ based on the card processor or specific agreement.

**Note: While merchants are allowed to suggest customers use lower cost forms of payment, they are not permitted to surcharge or refuse higher cost cards if they accept that brand.**

REGULAR	PREMIUM/COMMERCIAL						
Merchant Fee Examples*: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VISA: 1.65%</li> <li>• MasterCard: 1.75%</li> </ul>	Merchant Fee Examples*: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">(1) VISA Infinite: 2.15%</td> <td style="width: 50%;">(4) MasterCard Commercial: 2.46%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(2) VISA Commercial: 2.31%</td> <td>(5) MasterCard Premium High</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(3) MasterCard High Spend: 1.75 or 2.46%</td> <td>Spend: 2.71%</td> </tr> </table>	(1) VISA Infinite: 2.15%	(4) MasterCard Commercial: 2.46%	(2) VISA Commercial: 2.31%	(5) MasterCard Premium High	(3) MasterCard High Spend: 1.75 or 2.46%	Spend: 2.71%
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<b>Bank of Montreal</b>							
BMO CashBack MasterCard BMO US Dollar MasterCard BMO Preferred Rate MasterCard BMO Student Price Card MasterCard(s) BMO MasterCard on Personal Line of Credit BMO PrePaid Travel MasterCard No Fee BMO Sobeys Air Miles MasterCard BMO No Fee Club Sobeys MasterCard No Fee BMO IGA Air Miles MasterCard	BMO Air Miles MasterCard (3) BMO Premium CashBack MasterCard (3) BMO Gold Air Miles MasterCard (3) Shell Air Miles MasterCard (3) Shell Cash Back MasterCard (3) BMO Gold AIR MILES MasterCard for Business (4) BMO AIR MILES MasterCard for Business (4) BMO Premium CashBack MasterCard for Business (4) BMO CashBack MasterCard for Business (4) BMO Preferred Rate MasterCard for Business (4) BMO U.S. Dollar MasterCard for Business (4) BMO World Elite MasterCard (5)						
<b>CIBC</b>							
CIBC Dividend One MasterCard CIBC Petro Points MasterCard CIBC Platinum MasterCard CIBC Platinum VISA Card Dividend VISA Card Classic VISA Card Aero Classic VISA Card Select VISA Card U.S. Dollar VISA Gold Card Aerogold VISA Card Gold VISA Card Aventura Gold VISA Card Dividend Platinum VISA Card Classic VISA Card for Students Aventura MasterCard	Aerogold INFINITE VISA Card (1) Aventura VISA INFINITE Card (1) Dividend VISA INFINITE Card (1) Aerogold VISA Card for Business (2) bizline VISA Card (2) Dividend Unlimited World MasterCard (5) Aventura World MasterCard (5) CIBC Drivers Edge World MasterCard (5)						

**REGULAR**

## Merchant Fee Examples\*:

- VISA: 1.65%
- MasterCard: 1.75%

**PREMIUM/COMMERCIAL**

## Merchant Fee Examples\*:

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**Royal Bank of Canada**

WestJet RBC MasterCard  
 VISA Classic II  
 Esso VISA Classic  
 VISA Classic Low Rate  
 VISA Cash Back  
 Rewards VISA Gold  
 VISA Gold Preferred  
 U.S. Dollar VISA Gold  
 VISA Platinum Avion  
 British Airways VISA Platinum  
 Cathay Pacific VISA Platinum  
 VISA Platinum  
 Signature RBC Rewards VISA  
 RBC Rewards VISA Preferred

VISA Infinite Avion (1)  
 Royal Bank VISA CreditLine for Small Business (2)  
 VISA Business (2)  
 VISA Business Avion (2)  
 VISA Business Platinum Avion (2)  
 U.S. Bank Canada Corporate VISA Card (2)  
 U.S. Bank Canada US Dollar Corporate VISA Card (2)  
 U.S. Bank Canada Purchasing VISA Card (2)  
 U.S. Bank Canada One VISA Card (2)  
 WestJet RBC World MasterCard (5)

**Scotiabank**

Scotia Momentum VISA  
 No-Fee Moneyback VISA  
 ScotiaHockey VISA  
 SCENE VISA  
 No-Fee ScotiaGold VISA  
 Scotiabank Value VISA  
 No-Fee Scotiabank VISA  
 ScotiaGold Passport VISA  
 L'earn VISA Card  
 No-Fee Scotiabank Value VISA  
 ScotiaLine VISA  
 Scotia Momentum No-Fee VISA

Scotia Momentum VISA Infinite (1)  
 Scotialine VISA for Business VISA Card (2)  
 Scotiabank VISA Commercial Card (2)  
 Scotiabank VISA Business Card (2)  
 ScotiaGold Passport for Business VISA Card (2)

**TD Canada Trust**

TD Classic Travel VISA Card  
 TD First Class Travel VISA Card  
 TD Rebate Rewards VISA Card  
 TD Drivers Rewards VISA Card  
 TD Emerald VISA Card  
 TD Green VISA Card  
 TD U.S. Dollar VISA Card  
 TD Gold Elite VISA Card  
 TD Gold Select VISA Card  
 TD Platinum Travel VISA Card  
 TD AAdvantage Platinum VISA Card

TD First Class Travel VISA Infinite Card (1)  
 TD Small Business Travel VISA Card (2)  
 TD Business VISA Card (2)  
 TD Venture Line of Credit VISA Card (2)

**Desjardins**

Desjardins Classic VISA  
 Desjardins Elegance Gold VISA  
 Desjardins Modulo Gold VISA  
 Desjardins Odyssey Gold VISA  
 Desjardins Platinum VISA  
 For Students Only VISA

Desjardins Business VISA Card (2)  
 Desjardins Corporate VISA Card (2)  
 Desjardins Purchasing VISA Card (2)  
 Desjardins Business Freedom Solutions VISA (2)  
 Business Advantage VISA Card (2)

**National Bank**

Ultramar MasterCard  
 Allure MasterCard  
 Edition MasterCard  
 MC1 MasterCard  
 Syncro MasterCard

Ovation Gold MasterCard (3)  
 Platinum MasterCard (3)  
 Platinum Business MasterCard (4)  
 MasterCard Business Card (4)  
 MasterCard Business Line (4)  
 MasterCard Corporate Card (4)  
 Ultramar MasterCard Business Card (4)

**American Express**

All American Express Cards have the same very high merchant fees (i.e. no separate premium category) that are negotiated with individual firms.

**Citizens Bank of Canada**

Shared Interest Classic VISA  
 Amnesty International VISA  
 Oxfam Canada VISA  
 Shared Interest Gold VISA  
 Shared Interest Classic Student VISA

**REGULAR**

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**Capital One**

Cash Back Gold MasterCard  
 SmartLine Platinum MasterCard  
 Aspire Gold MasterCard  
 Gold MasterCard with a 9.9% Interest Rate  
 Gold MasterCard with a 11.9% Interest Rate  
 Gold MasterCard with a 14.9% Interest Rate  
 Delta SkyMiles Gold MasterCard  
 Low Rate Guaranteed MasterCard  
 Guaranteed MasterCard  
 Guaranteed Secured MasterCard  
 Low Rate Guaranteed Secured MasterCard  
 Guaranteed MasterCard for Newcomers

Capital One Miles Plus MasterCard (3)  
 Cash Back Plus Platinum MasterCard (3)  
 Aspire World MasterCard (5)  
 Delta SkyMiles World MasterCard (5)

**ATB Financial**

ATB Alberta MasterCard  
 My Husky Rewards MasterCard  
 ATB Alberta Rewards MasterCard  
 Student First MasterCard  
 ATB Gold MyRewards MasterCard  
 ATB Gold Cash Back MasterCard  
 ATB Preferred Variable Rate MasterCard  
 ATB Preferred Fixed Rate MasterCard

ATB Platinum MasterCard (3)  
 Alberta Gold Rewards Business MasterCard (4)  
 Alberta Business MasterCard (4)  
 Alberta Gold Ag-Rewards Business MasterCard (4)  
 Alberta Agri-Industry Business MasterCard (4)

**Canadian Tire**

Low Rate Options MasterCard  
 Gas Advantage MasterCard  
 Cash Advantage MasterCard

Options MasterCard (3)  
 Gold Options MasterCard (3)

**Chase**

Sears MasterCard  
 Sears Voyage MasterCard  
 Best Buy Reward Zone VISA Card  
 Chase Marriott Rewards Platinum VISA

**Citi**

Low Rate Gold MasterCard  
 Gold MasterCard  
 Enrich MasterCard  
 Citi MasterCard  
 Staples easyRewards MasterCard  
 Platinum MasterCard  
 Driver's Edge Platinum MasterCard  
 Petro-Points MasterCard

**HSBC**

Standard MasterCard

Premier MasterCard (3)  
 Gold MasterCard (3)  
 Advance MasterCard (3)

**MBNA (includes Credit Union cards)**

World Points MasterCard  
 Smart Cash Platinum Plus MasterCard  
 Travel Rewards MasterCard  
 Travel Rewards Elite MasterCard  
 Premier Rewards MasterCard  
 Gold MasterCard  
 Platinum Plus MasterCard  
 Retail and Co-brand MasterCard (e.g. Universities, Sports Teams)  
 Shoppers Drug Mart/Pharmaprix MasterCard  
 All Credit Union MasterCards

**People's Trust**

People's Trust Secured MasterCard  
 Non-Reloadable PrePaid MasterCard  
 Reloadable PrePaid MasterCard

**President's Choice Financial**

President's Choice Financial MasterCard (3)

**Walmart Canada Bank**

Walmart Rewards MasterCard

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<b>Laurentian</b>							
VISA Black Reward Me VISA Black Reduce Rate VISA Black VISA Gold Passport Student VISA Black	VISA Business Card (2) VISA Business Performance Card (2) Laurentian Bank VISA Business Crevier (2)						
<b>Home Trust</b>							
Secured VISA Card Equityline VISA Card VISA PropriOR							
<b>Vancity</b>							
enviro Classic VISA enviro Gold VISA	enviro Expense Gold VISA (2)						

**Notes:**

MasterCards noted with a (3) have a “high spend” feature that means merchant fees will escalate to a higher level once a consumer meets the spending or income requirements and consents to the card. Currently, there is no way for a merchant to know by looking at the card whether it will carry regular or high rates. CFIB refers to these cards as “variably high” cards and has asked MasterCard to replace them with separately branded cards.

MasterCards with a (5) are in the World/World Elite category which typically carries very high merchant fees. Some such cards may also be in the regular or high category. CFIB has asked MasterCard to ensure all its cards are separately branded to allow merchants to understand their rate categories.

(\* All merchant fee examples are based on:

- Fully authorized, electronic transactions where the card is present and the magnetic stripe or chip is read.
- Regular merchant rates for smaller retailers (not supermarket or petroleum retailers).
- The low rates under the Chase Paymentech program for members of CFIB. These rates are given as an example only and are subject to change and will differ for those using other card processors.

Credit card companies and banks frequently change card names/fee structures and issue new card brands. Please visit [www.cfib.ca/debitcredit](http://www.cfib.ca/debitcredit) for the most recent version of this document or call CFIB’s Business Resources for more information at: **1 888 234-2232**.

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