



SKYROCKETING PRICES

INTERCHANGE OR BIG BOX GREED?

A lot of attention has been given to skyrocketing prices at the checkout counter, with **consumer prices soaring above 9% in the past year**. The nation's largest retailers and their lobbyists are pointing fingers at interchange rates and have gone so far as to petition Congress for intervention.

But when you look at the numbers, **retailer claims just don't add up**.

While retail prices have experienced a historic 13% increase over the last two years, **interchange rates have remained flat for an astonishing seven-year period**.

So, if not interchange, what's really driving skyrocketing prices?

Largest U.S. retailers raised prices on way to record profits

Long Island Business News

Walmart Lifts Sales Outlook, Fueled by Consumers Looking for Deals

Country's largest retailer by revenue says consumer picture is looking up compared with start of the year

The Wall Street Journal

Why are company profits rising despite inflation?

Marketplace.org

The truth is that retailers are riding higher prices to record profits, and interchange mandates wouldn't save consumers a dime.

DON'T BELIEVE US?

Consider that a decade after Congress put debit interchange price caps and routing mandates in place, a Richmond Fed study shows 98 percent of retailers either failed to reduce prices or actually raised them.

If Congress cares about reducing higher prices for consumers, they should **leave interchange alone and hold retailers accountable**.



CONSUMER ACTION for a **STRONG ECONOMY**
The Free-Market Voice for America's Consumers