



The **VISA/MasterCard** Settlement  
**Interchange Fee & Merchant Discount** Antitrust Litigation


**Case**  
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## IN A NUTSHELL



At a massive \$7.3 billion, the VISA/MasterCard Settlement is the biggest anti-trust settlement in history. Case details focused on an issue that U.S. merchants have faced for years: credit card interchange fees (fees charged to merchants when customers use credit cards to pay).


While merchants argued that the amount is extreme, the credit card companies maintained that interchange fee rates were reasonable, appropriate, and legal. While these interchange fees continued to rise year after year, merchants were making less profit while the credit card companies benefited tremendously.

## THE SETTLEMENT

In July 2012, after 7 years of courtroom battles, all parties agreed that it was in their shared best interests to settle. By October of that year, the District Court for the Eastern District of New York granted a preliminary approval for the proposed settlement, the key terms of which are:

- \$6.05 billion will go into a fund to reimburse merchants for a fair portion of interchange paid between January 2004 and Nov 2012, paid by VISA, MasterCard, and some member issuing banks
- \$1.6 billion reduction in interchange rates for merchants over an 8 month period from November 28, 2012

By agreeing to a class settlement, both sides avoided the expense of further trial and appeal. But, where does this class settlement leave business owners like you?





## YOUR RIGHTS

If you are a merchant, own a retail company, or operate a business that accepted any VISA/MasterCard branded cards in the United States between January 1, 2004 and November 28, 2012, you could qualify as an eligible class member in the VISA/MasterCard Class Settlement – meaning you can claim your share of the available monies.

## THE RIVEREDGE BENEFIT

Riveredge Recovery Group is a boutique claims recovery firm providing class action dedicated to helping businesses recover maximum possible payouts from commercial class action settlements, government refunds, and antitrust lawsuits.



Riveredge works closely with claimants to determine eligibility, identify requisite business records, prepare and file settlement claims and ultimately secure a financial recovery. Throughout the settlement process, our clients receive case updates, notifications, and access to our specialized support services. Register today with Riveredge to ensure that you maximize your cash payout from the settlement. Remember, we have a no-risk policy: No upfront fees and we don't get paid unless you do. We will make sure that you get your rightful share of the settlement.

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