



How Travel Powers Our Economy

From weekend getaways and family vacations to business trips and conferences, travel plays a vital role in American life and credit card rewards are a crucial to ensuring it remains affordable and accessible.

Reward credit cards support more than **183,000 jobs**. The U.S. collects **\$901 million in state and local tax revenue** from airline reward redemptions, which helps fund public services and community development.



90% of consumers believe reward cards provide meaningful value. In 2024, Americans redeemed more than **\$60 billion in credit card rewards**, including more than **\$32 billion in miles and other points**.

The Durbin-Marshall Bill Jeopardizes This Economic Engine

Electronic payments have driven more than **\$93 trillion in economic activity** since 2006. By gutting credit card rewards, the Durbin-Marshall bill risks an **\$80 billion drop** in consumer discretionary spending, devastating local economies, workers, and tourist destinations.

In total, economists project this bill would **cost the U.S. \$227 billion in lost economic output** over four years and **eliminate 156,000 jobs** by year two.

\$227 billion

projected **loss in economic output** across the U.S. economy for four years under the Durbin-Marshall bill.

\$80 billion

projected **decrease in consumer discretionary spending** due to reduced rewards and benefits.



Security Concerns

The Durbin-Marshall bill could **weaken credit card security** by forcing merchants to use alternative, potentially less secure, processing networks. This **increases the risk of fraud** and data breaches for both consumers and businesses.



With **\$22 billion** invested annually in security, the payments industry **blocks or refunds 96% of card fraud**.

Common Misconception

The Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council reports that interchange, what merchants pay to issuing banks for card services, makes up **less than 1%** of small business expenses.

The Durbin Amendment's Impact on Debit Cards

We have seen this situation before. The Durbin Amendment of 2010 had detrimental effects on small businesses and cardholders, while megaretailers benefited from the legislation.

After the 2010 Bill Went Into Effect:

98% of merchants increased or kept prices the same

124% increase in debit card fraud attempts

Repeating History

The **current Durbin-Marshall bill** threatens to **weaken the payment system** and **dismantle programs** that support rewards. This directly translates to **fewer travelers, less spending**, and real consequences for an industry that supports local workers and economies.

Analysis compiled by Airlines for America, Electronic Payments Coalition, Motley Fool, and Oxford Economics.



**U.S. TOURISM
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