EPC Electronic Payments Coalition

Corporate Mega-Stores Are Driving Higher Prices for Americans

While prices at corporate mega-stores have skyrocketed faster than inflation, credit card processing costs have remained virtually flat.

Corporate mega-stores have raised prices on Americans faster than inflation, and now they are trying to blame credit card processing costs for their greed.

1 **The Federal Trade Commission found mega-retailers inflated prices beyond cost drivers.**

The Federal Trade Commission found that the biggest retailers and grocery conglomerates raised prices far higher than necessary to cover cost increases, expanding profit margins while consumers bore the burden.

2 **Grocery prices are still rising faster than overall inflation.**

Food prices continue to outpace headline inflation, disproportionately affecting working families.

3 **Retail profits are growing faster than inflation.**

Major retailers have reported huge profit growth as consumer prices rise. For example, over the past five years, Walmart's stock has risen by approximately 150 percent as Walmart has increased prices and tried to blame credit cards.

4 **Food inflation is accelerating again.**

Recent Consumer Price Index data show food inflation increasing at its fastest pace in years.

These increases have nothing to do with credit card processing costs, which have remained virtually flat for a decade.

The cost of processing credit cards has remained essentially the same at just over 2%. This allows credit cards to offer consumers and small businesses valuable rewards, state-of-the-art security and fraud protections, and enable real-time payments in stores or online – fueling our economic growth.

Blaming credit cards for rising costs is a dishonest way for corporate mega-stores to pass the blame, while they continue to raise prices and profit from working Americans.