CHECKLIST · SOFTWARE & SYSTEMS

Square vs Stripe: what card payments cost a small business now

Updated 4 October 2026. Read the full story, sources and any updates at digitaladvisors.com.au/journal/card-payment-fees-square-vs-stripe/

- [ ] **Find your actual rate.** Check your Square, Stripe or Tyro statement or dashboard, not the website, because older Square accounts can pay 1.9% on Square Reader, Stand and Tap to Pay, and custom plans differ.
- [ ] **Remove any manual surcharge before 1 October.** In Square, delete any card surcharge set up as a service charge, sales tax or automatic tipping, because Square only switches off its own card surcharge setting.
- [ ] **Check your Stripe rate after 1 October.** Standard-plan domestic card fees should show 1.65% plus A$0.30 online or A$0.10 in person; the announced cut covers standard pricing only, so if you're on a custom plan, ask Stripe.
- [ ] **Work out your average sale.** Compare a flat 1.6% or 2.2% with Stripe's 1.65% plus a fixed fee at your typical sale size, in person and online separately.
- [ ] **Ask Tyro for a written quote.** Get the per-transaction rate, terminal rental, any monthly fee and whether any rate changes from 1 October 2026.
- [ ] **Count invoice costs.** If customers pay invoices by card, include Square's 2.2% online rate or Stripe's card fee plus 0.4% per paid invoice.
- [ ] **Ask about custom pricing if you're large enough.** Square offers custom rates for annual sales over $250,000 with an average sale over $15, and Stripe offers custom and interchange-plus pricing for larger volumes.

General information only, not legal, tax or financial advice. Check the full story and its sources before acting.