

GOVERNMENT-ISSUED, GENERAL-USE PREPAID CARD SURVEY

Government Survey



Survey Period:
Calendar Year 2011

General Instructions

About this Survey

The Board is required to report annually to the Congress on the prevalence of the use of general-use prepaid cards in federal, state, or local government-administered payment programs, and the interchange fees and cardholder fees charged with respect to the use of such general-use prepaid cards. [15 U.S.C. 1693o-2] The information requested in this survey will be used as input to this report.

Your Participation

To achieve the most reliable results, it is important that you respond completely and accurately. Please leave no survey item blank.

The survey should be completed in aggregate for all programs and for each program individually administered within your jurisdiction. Sections II through IV should be repeated as many times as needed to provide the requested data on each program.

There are **three possible ways** to answer a survey question:

Enter a Value: The actual numeric value of the data element.

Enter a Zero: When the calculated value equals zero. **Please do not enter a non-numeric value**, e.g. "NA" or "NR," when the value equals zero.

Enter "NR" (Not Reported): If your government agency engages in the activity of the type being measured but you are unable to report a figure that reflects that activity. **Please do not enter "NA."**

If for any reason you cannot provide complete data or you have questions please contact Jennifer Williams at 202-452-2446 or e-mail debit.card.surveys@frb.gov for assistance.

The survey will be made available online at <https://www.federalreserve.gov/debitcardsurveys>. **Please complete the survey by April 16, 2012.**

Response Confidentiality and Burden

The Federal Reserve Board does **not** regard the individual organization information provided by each respondent as confidential.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to be 15 hours per response, including the time to gather data in the required form and to review instructions and complete the information collection. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551, or via email to regs.comments@frb.gov; and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (7100-to be assigned), Washington, D.C. 20503. The Federal Reserve may not conduct or sponsor, and an organization (or a person) is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Section I: Respondent Information

1. Name of government agency/agencies covered in this response

--

2. Contact person(s) by section of the survey for which responsible

Name		Email	
Section		Phone	

Name		Email	
Section		Phone	

Name		Email	
Section		Phone	

Section II: Government-Administered, General-Use Prepaid Card Program Information

Please enter totals only for programs related to general-use prepaid cards linked to U.S.-domiciled accounts involving a merchant located in the United States during the calendar year (CY) 2011.

Provide totals in every section aggregating all programs covered by this agency. Then repeat sections II through IV (as many times as needed) to provide totals for each individual program that your agency administers (as listed in Question 1 below).

Include: All general-use prepaid card programs administered by a federal, state, or local government agency. Examples of such general-use card programs include, but are not limited to, federal benefit programs (such as Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Income, and Veterans Administration), electronic benefit transfer programs (such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)), cash assistance programs (such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and the Heating and Energy Assistance Program), payroll programs, child support programs, reimbursement programs, disaster relief programs, and petty cash programs.

Specific instructions for Section II when reporting in aggregate:

- List the name of each individual program covered in 1.
- Check all programs that apply in 2.
- List all relevant jurisdictions in 3.
- List all relevant sponsoring government agencies that apply in 4.
- List all relevant card-issuing banks in 5.
- Provide a description of each payment program covered in 6.
- Report the total number of recipients receiving prepaid card payments for all programs in 7. and specify all relevant categories of recipients.
- Report the total number of recipients receiving payments (all payment methods, e.g., check, automated clearing house, general-use prepaid card) for all programs in 8.

1. Name of government-administered payment program(s) covered in this response

2. Does this response cover federal, state, or local program(s)?

Federal	State	Local
[]	[]	[]

For reporting totals for an individual program, check only one.

3. Jurisdiction(s)

Geographic area in which the government-administered, general-use prepaid cards have been issued (e.g. nationally, specific state(s), county/counties, municipality/municipalities).

4. Sponsoring government agency/agencies

Government agency administering the general-use prepaid card program

5. Card-issuing bank(s)

6. Description of government-administered payment program

Please provide the type of program (e.g. medical benefit, unemployment insurance, child support, SNAP, in-kind assistance).

Number

7. Recipients receiving payments on government-administered, general-use prepaid cards as of December 31, 2011

Count each card, individual, household, or other category only once.

Please specify how recipients are counted:
For reporting totals for an individual program, check only one.

Individual	Household	Other
[]	[]	[]

If other, please specify:

8. All Recipients receiving payments (all payment methods, e.g., check, automated clearing house, general-use prepaid card) as of December 31, 2011

Number

Section III: Government-Administered Payment Cards

Number

1. Government-administered, general-use prepaid cards outstanding as of December 31, 2011

1a. Government-administered, general-use prepaid cards on which cardholders receive benefits or payments from multiple programs as of December 31, 2011

Please list all programs covered within this response for which 1a. applies:

--

Section IV: Funding

Value (\$)

1. Funds loaded onto government-administered, general-use prepaid cards in 2011
2. All funds paid (all payment methods, e.g., check, automated clearing house, general-use prepaid card) in 2011

Glossary of Terms

Government-administered payment program: A program is considered government-administered regardless of whether a federal, state, or local government agency operates the program or outsources some or all functions to third parties so long as the program is operated on behalf of the government agency. In addition, a program may be government-administered even if a federal, state, or local government agency is not the source of funds for the program it administers. For example, child support programs are government-administered programs even though a federal, state, or local government agency is not the source of the funds. In addition, to the extent Health Savings Accounts, Flexible Spending Accounts, and Health Reimbursement Arrangement accounts are offered in connection with a person's employment and administered by or on behalf of a government employer, such accounts are considered government-administered payment programs. Jury duty payment programs administered by federal, state, or local governments, including courts, are also considered government-administered payment programs. Further, local government-administered payment programs would include programs administered by tribal governments.

General-use prepaid card: A card or other payment code or device that is (1) issued on a prepaid basis in a specified amount, whether or not that amount may be increased or reloaded, in exchange for payment and (2) redeemable upon presentation at multiple unaffiliated merchants for goods or services. For the purposes of this survey, this definition applies to card programs, which include, but are not limited to, federal benefits (such as Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Income, and Veterans Administration), electronic benefit transfer (such as SNAP), cash assistance (such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and the Heating and Energy Assistance Program), payroll, child support, reimbursements, disaster relief, and petty cash. In addition, the funds related to these card programs may be loaded directly onto the card, into an account associated with the card, or set aside in some other manner for the benefit of the cardholder.

Jurisdiction: Geographic area in which government-administered, general-use prepaid cards have been issued (such as nationally, specific state, county, or municipality).

United States: The states, territories, and possessions of the U.S., the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any political subdivision of any of the foregoing.