

# GOVERNMENT-ADMINISTERED, GENERAL-USE PREPAID CARD SURVEY

## Government Survey



**Survey Period:**  
Calendar Year ~~2014~~2017

# 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 for each program administered within your jurisdiction. Sections I through III should be repeated as many times as needed to provide the requested data on each program.

### **There are three possible ways to answer a numeric 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 Therese Ngo Bikoi at 202-785-6008 or e-mail [debit.card.surveys@frb.gov](mailto: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 15~~16~~, 2015~~2018~~.**

## 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](mailto:regs.comments@frb.gov); and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (7100-0343), 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: Government-Administered, General-Use Prepaid Card Program Information

**Please enter totals only for government-administered payment programs that disbursed funds to payment recipients on general-use prepaid cards linked to U.S.-domiciled accounts in calendar year (CY) 20142017.**

**Complete the survey for each individual program that your agency administers. If you are unable to disaggregate values for a group of programs, note clearly in Section I the name of each program included in your aggregate response, check all boxes that apply throughout the survey, and provide explanatory descriptions where appropriate to fully answer all questions for each program included in that response.**

**Include:** All general-use prepaid cards (linked to U.S.-domiciled accounts) issued under programs administered by a federal, state, or local government agency, except for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Board will collect cumulative data for the SNAP program directly from the Food and Nutrition Service under the United States Department of Agriculture. Examples of general-use prepaid cards issued under programs administered by a government agency include, but are not limited to, cards issued under federal benefit programs (such as Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Income, and Veterans Administration), electronic benefit transfer programs (such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and the energy assistance programs), payroll programs, child support programs, reimbursement programs, disaster relief programs, and petty cash programs.

1. Name of government-administered payment program(s) covered in this response  
*If this response covers more than one program, please separate each distinct program name with a semicolon (;)*

Number

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

2. Sponsoring government agency  
*Government agency administering the general-use prepaid card program(s)*

Name of agency/agencies

Jurisdiction of agency/agencies

State/Local      Federal  
[ ]                      [ ]

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

4. Card-issuing bank(s)

5. Type of government-administered payment program(s)

TANF [ ]	Unemployment [ ]	Payroll [ ]	Child Support [ ]	Disability [ ]
WIC [ ]	Prisons/ Corrections [ ]	Section 8 Housing [ ]	Social Security [ ]	Supplemental Security Income [ ]
Veterans Administration [ ]	Disaster Relief [ ]	Energy Assistance [ ]	Tax Refund [ ]	Other [ ]

If other, please specify:

Number of recipients receiving payments

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

Number

6. All recipients receiving payments (by all payment methods, e.g., check, ACH, prepaid card, etc.) as of December 31, ~~2014~~2017

6a. Recipients receiving payments on government-administered, general-use prepaid cards as of December 31, ~~2014~~2017

Please specify how recipients are counted:  
*Check only one.*

Individual	Household	Other
[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

If other, please specify:

## Section II: Number of Cards

Number

1. Government-administered, general-use prepaid cards outstanding as of December 31, ~~2014~~2017


1a. Government-administered, general-use prepaid cards on which cardholders receive benefits or payments from multiple programs as of December 31, ~~2014~~2017

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

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## Section III: Funds Disbursed to Payment Recipients

*In instances where funds disbursed to a recipient are voided or returned: When answering questions 1, 2a, and 2b, do not include funds that were ultimately voided or returned to the government agency (or other funding entity). That is, report the value of funds ultimately retained by the recipients. In comment box 2c, indicate that some funds disbursed to recipients were ultimately voided or returned. [Click here to see specific examples illustrating how to properly respond to the questions in this section.](#)*

*For WIC programs only: Report the value of items redeemed when answering questions 1, 2a, and 2b.*

	Value (\$)
1. Funds disbursed to payment recipients <u>by all payment methods</u> (check, ACH, prepaid card, etc.) in <u>20142017</u>	[ ]
2. Allocate "Funds disbursed to payment recipients <u>by all payment methods</u> in <u>20142017</u> " between the following categories: $2a + 2b = 1$	1: [ ]
2a. Funds disbursed by government-administered, general-use prepaid cards in <u>20142017</u>	[ ]
2b. Funds disbursed by all other payment methods than government-administered, general-use prepaid cards in <u>20142017</u>	[ ]
<b>2c. Comments</b>	
[ ]	

## Glossary of Terms

Cards outstanding: All active general-use prepaid cards in circulation on which funds may be disbursed for the government administered payment program for which data ~~is~~ are being reported. This does not include cards in inventory or that are no longer eligible to receive benefit funds.

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.

For the purposes of this survey, this definition includes, but is not limited to, federal benefit programs (such as Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Income, and Veterans Administration), electronic benefit transfer programs (such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and the energy assistance programs), payroll programs, child support programs, reimbursement programs, disaster relief programs, and petty cash programs.

While the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a government-administered payment program, it should not be reported in this survey. The Board will collect cumulative data for the SNAP program directly from the Food and Nutrition Service under the United States Department of Agriculture.

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. 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.

Sponsoring government agency: Government agency administering a general-use prepaid card program.

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.