CHECKLIST · SOFTWARE & SYSTEMS

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

Published 26 September 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.