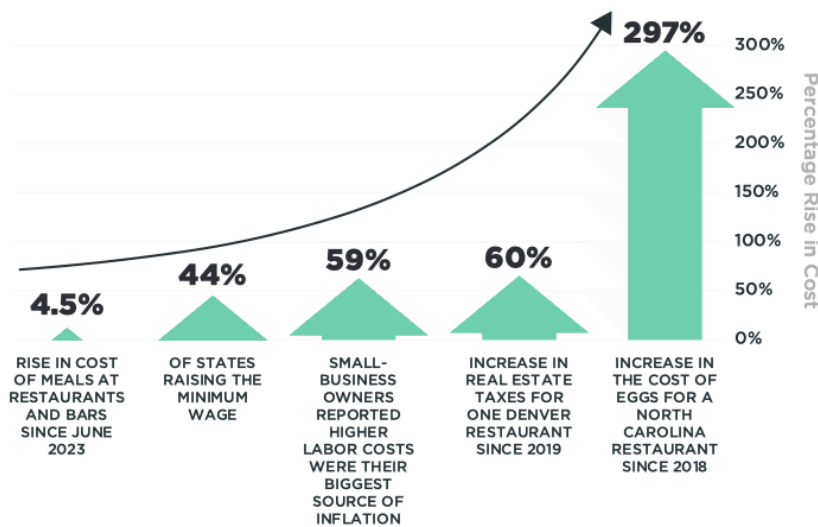
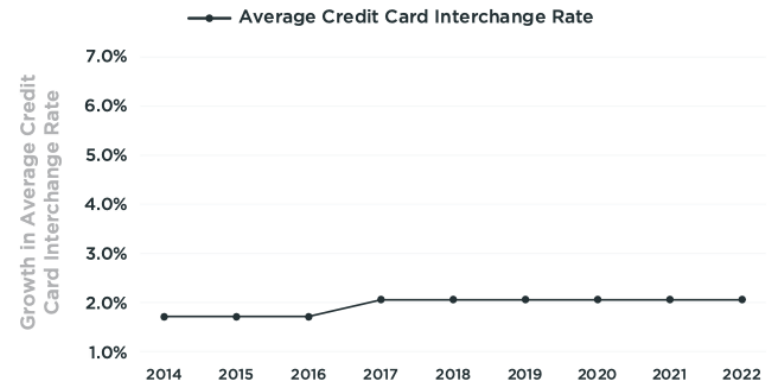


IT'S NOT YOUR CARD: Unpacking the Costs that *Actually* Crush Small Restaurants

Rising Cost Pressure for Restaurants



Credit Card Interchange Rates



*In January, **59%** of small-business owners reported higher labor costs were their biggest source of inflation.*

*The restaurant's real-estate taxes have **increased 60%** since 2019, and energy costs 30%.*

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

In the face of escalating food prices, increased taxation, a tightening labor market, and consumer price sensitivity, **small restaurants** nationwide **are finding it increasingly difficult to sustain operations**. But despite these challenges, one aspect that has remained constant is **credit card interchange**, which **has remained flat for nearly a decade**.