

Executive Summary: Survey of Financial Discrimination Against Workers in the Adult Entertainment Industry

To better understand the extent of financial discrimination and its effect on members of the adult industry, the FSC conducted a survey. These results represent the 600 responses received between December 2022 and April 2023 from persons who earned an income through the adult industry at the time of their submission.

How Widespread is Banking Discrimination?

We found that 77% of survey respondents had experienced some form of financial discrimination, including:

- Account closure by bank or other financial service provider: 63%
- Loan application denial: 50%
- Insurance application denial: 55%

What Forms Does This Discrimination Take?

In addition to account closures, application denials, and being charged exorbitant fees, adult workers – especially performers – are subject to extreme rates of fraudulent chargebacks, threats, and discrimination when seeking housing and non-adult industry employment.

- 3 in 5 performers have experienced employment discrimination
- 2 in 3 performers have experienced housing discrimination
- 59% have been threatened with or experienced a fraudulent chargeback
- 30% have been threatened with or experienced being “outed” to a bank

Who is Most Affected?

This issue affects businesses and individuals equally. In the past 12 months:

- 36% of adult businesses have had an account closed by a bank

- 45% of adult businesses have had an account closed by a digital wallet/payment app (Paypal, Stripe, Venmo, etc.)
- 46% of creator/performers have had an account closed by a digital wallet/payment app

Respondent Profile

- 93% of respondents were 25 or older
- 63% of respondents were women, 27% men, 7% were trans (all genders)
- 9% of creators earned money through exotic dancing
- More than half (51%) of respondents identified as LGBTQ+, and nearly 2/3 of content creators did
- 18% of respondents identified as a person of color, while 21% of creators did

Conclusions

Nearly everyone in the adult industry is impacted by arbitrary and discriminatory practices in the financial services industry.

Losing an account makes it difficult to run a business or pay bills, and can have a domino effect, complicating efforts to secure new accounts or keep old ones afloat. Those who have lost accounts are more likely to keep losing them, as well as other financial services.

This report is some of the first real research into the level of discrimination in our industry and the numbers have been crucial in FSC's fight for banking fairness. We've been to Congress twice, met with the Department of Treasury and filed written complaints with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. We're just getting started and we're not stopping until we win.

To read the full report, see <https://freespeechcoalition.com/banks>

To join the fight for fairness, become a member: <https://freespeechcoalition.com/join>

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