

EA-A — Empirical Annex Retail Payments Leakage & Intermediary Tax Retention

1. Structural Intermediary Leakage

Modern retail payments rely on intermediary networks that impose structural fees on each transaction.

These fees constitute persistent economic leakage independent of transaction efficiency or fraud outcomes.

2. Deterministic Settlement Impact

Index-linked, sovereign-neutral settlement architectures eliminate discretionary routing and intermediary rent extraction.

Deterministic admissibility ensures settlement finality without reliance on extraterritorial networks.

3. Economic Recovery Estimate

Based on a \$1.5 trillion domestic digital trade baseline and a 20% adoption scenario, intermediary leakage is materially reduced.

The resulting retained value is estimated at approximately \$25.5 billion annually.

This recovery represents direct fiscal and consumer surplus retained within the domestic economy.