

Card Spending Update for January 2020



Release date : 16 April 2020

UK Finance: Card Spending Update for January 2020

Key data highlights:

Card transactions by UK cardholders both in the UK and overseas:

- There were 1.6 billion transactions on debit cards in January 2020, 8.9 per cent more than in January 2019. This reflected a total spend of £51.8 billion, 4.3 per cent more than in the same period in 2019.
- There were 284 million transactions on credit cards in January 2020, 5.9 per cent more than in January 2019. This reflected a total spend of £17.2 billion, 4.3 per cent less more in the same period a year earlier.
- The annual growth rate of outstanding balances on credit cards stood at 3.0 per cent in January 2020, continuing the downward trend from its recent peak of 8.3 per cent at the start of 2018.

Card transactions made in the UK by cardholders from both the UK and from overseas countries:

- There were 1.7 billion debit and credit card transactions in January 2020, 6.0 per cent more than a year ago. This reflected a total spend of £59.2 billion, 1.5 per cent less in the same period in 2019.
- 32 per cent of credit card transactions and 45 per cent of debit card transactions in the UK were made using contactless cards.
- In total there were 721 million contactless card transactions in January 2020, a 12.3 per cent increase from 642 million in the same month a year earlier. Growth in credit card contactless transactions were 16.0 per cent more than in the same period a year earlier and debit card contactless transactions were 11.6 per cent more than the same period a year earlier.
- The total value of contactless transactions was £6.7 billion in January 2020, a 13.6 per cent increase from £5.9 billion in the same month in 2019.

UK Residents cards in issue - January 2020

97 million

DEBIT
CARDS

85 million of which are contactless

65 million

CREDIT
CARDS

48 million of which are contactless

56 million

CREDIT
CARD
ACCOUNTS

38 million of which are active

Notes to Editors

- For more information please call the [UK Finance Press Office on 020 7416 6750](tel:02074166750) or e-mail press@ukfinance.org.uk.
- UK Finance is the collective voice for the banking and finance industry. Representing more than 250 firms across the industry, we act to enhance competitiveness, support customers and facilitate innovation
- Please note that data on UK cardholders is different to data on card activity in the UK. Data on UK cardholders refers to transactions made either inside the UK or overseas on cards issued to UK residents and reported by card issuers. Data on card activity in the UK refers to transactions made in the UK only, both on UK-issued cards and cards issued overseas, this data is provided by acquirers.
- A summary of our annual UK Payment Markets 2019 Report containing detailed analysis of the use of all types of payments in the UK, can be found here: <https://www.ukfinance.org.uk/policy-and-guidance/reports-publications/uk-payment-markets-2019>
- Please note that the Household Finance Update and Mortgage Trends Update are being replaced by the quarterly Household Finance Review, to provide a greater level of insight and analysis on the financial behaviour of households using data covering the whole market. The next Household Finance Review for Q4 2019 is due to be published on 5 March 2020. UK Finance will continue to publish the monthly Card Spending Update as usual.
- The monthly credit card data has been re-stated back to January 2019 to increase our market coverage to 97 per cent providing a more representative picture of the credit card market.

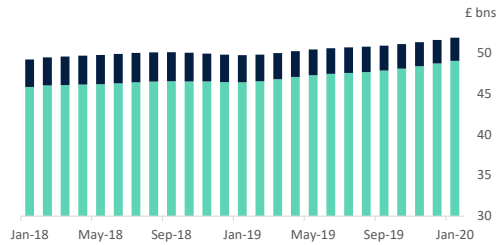
Next update:

20 May 2020

Debit cards (UK card holders)

Value of transactions

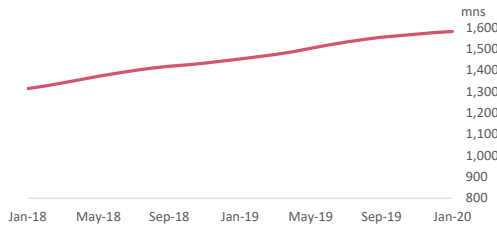
value of debit card purchases in the UK and overseas by UK cardholders (seasonally adjusted)



| | Latest (January 2020) | Y-o-Y Comparison |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| outside the UK | £2.8 bn | -14.0% |
| inside the UK | 49 mn | 5.6% |

Number of transactions

volume of debit card purchases in the UK and overseas by UK cardholders (seasonally adjusted)

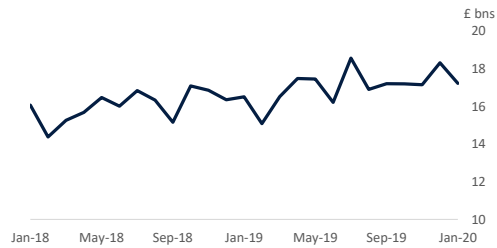


| | Latest (January 2020) | Y-o-Y Comparison |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| inside the UK | 1,468 mn | 10.5% |
| outside the UK | 113 mn | -8.9% |

Credit cards (UK card holders)

Value of transactions

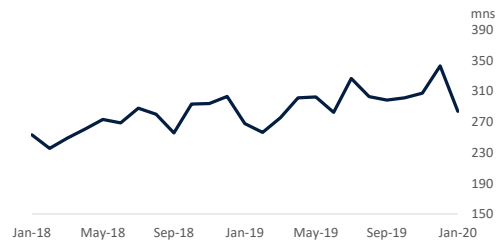
value of transactions in the month including purchases, cash withdrawals and balance transfers by UK cardholders



| | Latest (January 2020) | Y-o-Y Comparison |
|--|-----------------------|------------------|
| | £17.2 bn | 4.3% |

Number of transactions

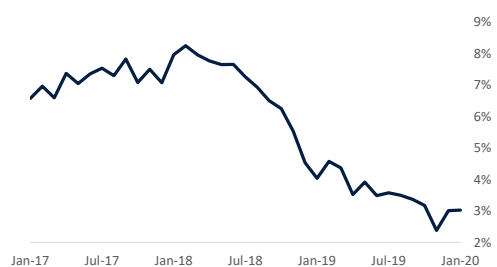
volume of transactions in the month including purchases, cash withdrawals and balance transfers by UK cardholders



| | Latest (January 2020) | Y-o-Y Comparison |
|--|-----------------------|------------------|
| | 284 mn | 5.9% |

Credit card growth rate

annual growth rate in credit card balances outstanding for UK cardholders



| | Latest (January 2020) |
|--|-----------------------|
| | 3.0% |

Credit card balances bearing interest ^(b)

percentage of total balances outstanding that incur interest

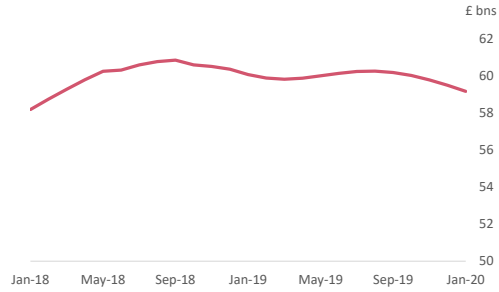


| | Latest (January 2020) |
|--|-----------------------|
| | 53.9% |

Card activity in the UK

Value of transactions in the UK

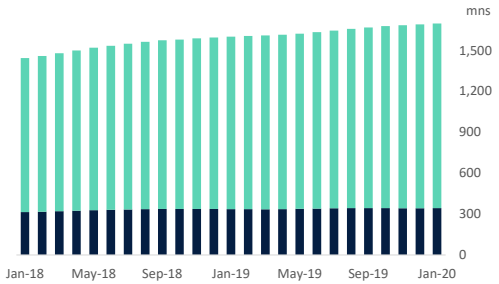
value of all debit and credit card transactions in the UK including overseas-issued cards (seasonally adjusted)



| | Latest (January 2020) | Y-o-Y comparison |
|--------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| debit cards | £41.2 bn | -1.5% |
| credit cards | £18.0 bn | -1.6% |

Number of transactions in the UK

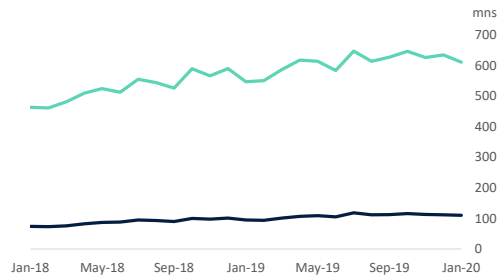
volume of all debit and credit card transactions in the UK including overseas-issued cards (seasonally adjusted)



| | Latest (January 2020) | Y-o-Y comparison |
|--------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| debit cards | 1,353 mn | 7.0% |
| credit cards | 343 mn | 2.1% |

Contactless card transactions

volume of all contactless debit and credit card transactions in the UK including overseas-issued cards



| | Latest (January 2020) | Y-o-Y comparison |
|--------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| debit cards | 611 mn | 11.6% |
| credit cards | 110 mn | 16.0% |

UK card holders

| | Jan-19 | Feb-19 | Mar-19 | Apr-19 | May-19 | Jun-19 | Jul-19 | Aug-19 | Sep-19 | Oct-19 | Nov-19 | Dec-19 | Jan-20 |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| debit cards | 98,632 | 97,398 | 97,377 | 97,455 | 97,331 | 97,239 | 97,325 | 97,210 | 97,350 | 97,300 | 97,103 | 96,833 | 97,332 |
| credit cards | 63,917 | 64,410 | 64,813 | 65,031 | 65,294 | 65,245 | 65,595 | 65,489 | 65,720 | 64,864 | 64,847 | 64,851 | 64,650 |
| total | 162,549 | 161,809 | 162,191 | 162,486 | 162,625 | 162,484 | 162,919 | 162,699 | 163,070 | 162,164 | 161,950 | 161,684 | 161,982 |
| debit cards | 82,804 | 82,473 | 82,668 | 82,966 | 83,197 | 83,377 | 83,759 | 83,937 | 84,475 | 84,371 | 84,765 | 84,553 | 85,269 |
| credit cards | 45,859 | 46,561 | 47,831 | 47,670 | 47,582 | 46,877 | 47,084 | 47,261 | 47,407 | 46,928 | 47,125 | 47,257 | 47,672 |
| total | 128,663 | 129,034 | 130,499 | 130,636 | 130,778 | 130,253 | 130,844 | 131,198 | 131,881 | 131,298 | 131,890 | 131,811 | 132,941 |

Cards in issue with UK residents (000's)

of which have contactless functionality (000's)

UK Debit card holders

| | Jan-19 | Feb-19 | Mar-19 | Apr-19 | May-19 | Jun-19 | Jul-19 | Aug-19 | Sep-19 | Oct-19 | Nov-19 | Dec-19 | Jan-20 | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| value of purchases (seasonally adjusted) | £ mns | 49,703 | 49,772 | 49,970 | 50,207 | 50,408 | 50,566 | 50,660 | 50,742 | 50,875 | 51,067 | 51,304 | 51,579 | 51,846 |
| of which inside the UK | £ mns | 46,395 | 46,523 | 46,768 | 47,034 | 47,249 | 47,415 | 47,523 | 47,636 | 47,817 | 48,066 | 48,362 | 48,689 | 49,001 |
| of which outside the UK | £ mns | 3,307 | 3,249 | 3,202 | 3,172 | 3,159 | 3,151 | 3,137 | 3,106 | 3,059 | 3,001 | 2,942 | 2,890 | 2,845 |
| volume of purchases (seasonally adjusted) | mns | 1,452 | 1,462 | 1,473 | 1,486 | 1,502 | 1,518 | 1,532 | 1,544 | 1,554 | 1,562 | 1,569 | 1,576 | 1,581 |
| of which inside the UK | mns | 1,328 | 1,340 | 1,352 | 1,367 | 1,384 | 1,400 | 1,414 | 1,427 | 1,438 | 1,447 | 1,455 | 1,463 | 1,468 |
| of which outside the UK | mns | 124 | 122 | 121 | 119 | 119 | 118 | 117 | 117 | 116 | 115 | 114 | 113 | 113 |

UK Credit card holders

| | Jan-19 | Feb-19 | Mar-19 | Apr-19 | May-19 | Jun-19 | Jul-19 | Aug-19 | Sep-19 | Oct-19 | Nov-19 | Dec-19 | Jan-20 | |
|---|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| number of accounts | 000's | 55,702 | 55,431 | 56,202 | 55,841 | 55,929 | 55,938 | 56,189 | 56,262 | 56,332 | 55,579 | 55,649 | 55,660 | 55,623 |
| of which active accounts (those with balances outstanding at the end of the calendar month) | 000's | 36,985 | 37,459 | 37,693 | 37,714 | 37,793 | 37,807 | 38,013 | 37,992 | 38,113 | 38,146 | 38,179 | 38,293 | 38,110 |
| value of transactions | £ mns | 16,502 | 15,083 | 16,508 | 17,469 | 17,445 | 16,211 | 18,551 | 16,893 | 17,194 | 17,184 | 17,145 | 18,304 | 17,214 |
| of which purchases | £ mns | 14,579 | 13,472 | 14,936 | 15,889 | 15,830 | 14,707 | 16,844 | 15,342 | 15,629 | 15,624 | 15,633 | 16,836 | 15,242 |
| of which cash advances | £ mns | 352 | 328 | 352 | 376 | 386 | 362 | 410 | 400 | 383 | 344 | 299 | 331 | 307 |
| of which balance transfers | £ mns | 1,571 | 1,283 | 1,220 | 1,205 | 1,229 | 1,142 | 1,296 | 1,150 | 1,181 | 1,216 | 1,213 | 1,136 | 1,665 |
| volume of transactions | 000's | 267,785 | 256,333 | 275,380 | 301,231 | 302,375 | 282,451 | 326,554 | 302,915 | 298,450 | 301,364 | 307,332 | 342,882 | 283,698 |
| of which purchases | 000's | 263,723 | 252,501 | 271,354 | 296,800 | 298,224 | 278,638 | 322,317 | 298,795 | 294,371 | 297,496 | 303,713 | 339,044 | 279,898 |
| of which cash advances | 000's | 3,340 | 3,224 | 3,444 | 3,859 | 3,572 | 3,274 | 3,628 | 3,574 | 3,525 | 3,294 | 3,059 | 3,293 | 3,057 |
| of which balance transfers | 000's | 723 | 608 | 582 | 572 | 580 | 540 | 609 | 546 | 554 | 574 | 560 | 546 | 744 |
| credit card balances outstanding | £ mns | 69,324 | 69,831 | 69,327 | 69,383 | 69,888 | 70,177 | 70,137 | 70,185 | 70,297 | 69,735 | 70,116 | 70,364 | 69,699 |
| percentage bearing interest ^(b) | | 56.0% | 55.9% | 56.0% | 54.7% | 54.9% | 54.8% | 54.4% | 54.3% | 54.5% | 54.3% | 53.9% | 53.7% | 53.9% |
| net change on month | £ mns | -637 | 506 | -503 | 56 | 504 | 290 | -41 | 49 | 112 | -562 | 381 | 247 | -665 |
| annual growth rate | | 4.0% | 4.6% | 4.4% | 3.5% | 3.9% | 3.5% | 3.6% | 3.5% | 3.4% | 3.2% | 2.4% | 3.0% | 3.0% |

Card activity in the UK

on both UK and overseas issued cards

| | | Jan-19 | Feb-19 | Mar-19 | Apr-19 | May-19 | Jun-19 | Jul-19 | Aug-19 | Sep-19 | Oct-19 | Nov-19 | Dec-19 | Jan-20 |
|---|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | total | 60,073 | 59,886 | 59,819 | 59,874 | 60,005 | 60,140 | 60,241 | 60,261 | 60,182 | 60,025 | 59,786 | 59,497 | 59,168 |
| Debit & credit card value of transactions (£ mns) seasonally adjusted | of which online £ mns | 17,313 | 17,320 | 17,480 | 17,743 | 18,018 | 18,208 | 18,286 | 18,239 | 18,097 | 17,906 | 17,699 | 17,511 | 17,346 |
| | of which contactless £ mns | 5,907 | 5,904 | 6,372 | 6,788 | 6,678 | 6,381 | 7,201 | 6,914 | 6,968 | 7,037 | 6,917 | 7,396 | 6,710 |
| | total | 41,792 | 41,669 | 41,628 | 41,669 | 41,760 | 41,863 | 41,955 | 41,995 | 41,963 | 41,868 | 41,696 | 41,465 | 41,178 |
| Debit cards | of which online £ mns | 11,648 | 11,652 | 11,743 | 11,894 | 12,063 | 12,202 | 12,298 | 12,333 | 12,302 | 12,217 | 12,094 | 11,962 | 11,828 |
| | of which contactless £ mns | 4,969 | 4,973 | 5,355 | 5,698 | 5,576 | 5,317 | 5,989 | 5,703 | 5,762 | 5,861 | 5,738 | 6,154 | 5,554 |
| | total | 18,281 | 18,217 | 18,191 | 18,205 | 18,245 | 18,277 | 18,286 | 18,266 | 18,219 | 18,157 | 18,090 | 18,031 | 17,990 |
| Credit cards | of which online £ mns | 5,665 | 5,668 | 5,737 | 5,848 | 5,955 | 6,007 | 5,988 | 5,906 | 5,795 | 5,688 | 5,605 | 5,549 | 5,517 |
| | of which contactless £ mns | 937 | 932 | 1,017 | 1,090 | 1,102 | 1,064 | 1,212 | 1,211 | 1,206 | 1,176 | 1,179 | 1,242 | 1,155 |
| | total | 1,601 | 1,605 | 1,609 | 1,615 | 1,623 | 1,633 | 1,645 | 1,658 | 1,669 | 1,678 | 1,685 | 1,691 | 1,697 |
| Debit & credit card volume of transactions (mns) seasonally adjusted | of which online mns | 217 | 216 | 215 | 216 | 219 | 221 | 224 | 225 | 226 | 225 | 224 | 222 | 220 |
| | of which contactless mns | 642 | 644 | 688 | 725 | 723 | 689 | 766 | 726 | 740 | 762 | 740 | 746 | 721 |
| | total | 1,265 | 1,270 | 1,274 | 1,279 | 1,285 | 1,293 | 1,303 | 1,315 | 1,325 | 1,334 | 1,342 | 1,348 | 1,353 |
| Debit cards | of which online mns | 137 | 137 | 137 | 138 | 139 | 140 | 142 | 144 | 145 | 145 | 145 | 143 | 142 |
| | of which contactless mns | 547 | 551 | 587 | 618 | 614 | 584 | 647 | 614 | 627 | 647 | 627 | 635 | 611 |
| | total | 336 | 335 | 335 | 336 | 338 | 340 | 342 | 343 | 343 | 343 | 343 | 343 | 343 |
| Credit cards | of which online mns | 80 | 79 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 81 | 81 | 81 | 80 | 79 | 78 | 78 |
| | of which contactless mns | 95 | 94 | 101 | 107 | 109 | 105 | 118 | 112 | 113 | 116 | 113 | 112 | 110 |

Annual growth rates are adjusted to exclude the effects of population changes, data revisions, write-offs and sales/purchases of loan books, to reflect underlying business trends where appropriate and are based on non-seasonally adjusted.

Year-on-year percentage changes compare the latest month's figure with the same month's figure in the previous year.

Please note data on UK cardholders is separate to data on card activity in the UK. Data on UK cardholders refers to transactions on cards issued to UK residents, both overseas and inside the UK. Data on card activity in the UK refers to transactions in the UK only, but on both UK-issued cards and cards issued overseas this data is provided by acquirers.

We estimate data covers over 97 per cent of the total market.

Active accounts are defined as those with balances outstanding at the end of the calendar month.

(a) There has been a break in this data series, as a result of improved member reporting and re-submission of data.

(b) Please note this figure refers to the percentage of total credit card balances outstanding that incurred interest at the end of the month i.e. excluding spending in the interest-free period or with balances on a zero per cent rate.

The monthly credit card data has been re-stated back to January 2019 to increase our market coverage to 97 per cent providing a more representative picture of the credit card market.

For more information please call the [UK Finance Press Office on 020 7416 6750](tel:02074166750) or e-mail press@ukfinance.org.uk