

# Card Spending Update



Release date : 13 December 2019

## UK Finance: Card Spending Update for September 2019

Key data highlights:

### Card transactions by UK cardholders:

- There were 1.6 billion transactions on UK cardholders' debit cards in September 2019, 10.4 per cent more than in September 2018.
  - This reflected a total spend of £51.1 billion, 2.0 per cent more than in the same period in 2018.
- There were 287 million transactions on UK cardholders' credit cards in September 2019, 12.3 per cent more than in September 2018.
  - This reflected a total spend of £16.6 billion, 9.5 per cent more than in the same period a year earlier.
- The annual growth rate of outstanding balances on credit cards stood at 3.4 per cent in September 2019, continuing the downward trend from its recent peak of 8.3 per cent at the start of 2018 and showing that consumers are managing their finances effectively overall.

### 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 the UK in September 2019, 8.3 per cent more than a year ago. This reflected a total spend of £63.1 billion, 3.8 per cent more than in the same period in 2018.
  - 32 per cent of credit card transactions and 46 per cent of debit card transactions in the UK were made using contactless cards.
- In total there were 740 million contactless card transactions in the UK in September 2019, a 20.1 per cent increase from 616 million in the same month a year earlier. Growth in credit card contactless transactions were 25.7 per cent more than in the same period a year earlier and debit card contactless transactions were 19.2 per cent more than the same period a year earlier.
- The total value of contactless transactions was £7.0 billion in the UK in September 2019, a 22.3 per cent increase from £5.7 billion in the same month in 2018.

### Cards issued to UK Residents - September 2019

97 million

DEBIT  
CARDS

84 million of which are contactless

62 million

CREDIT  
CARDS

47 million of which are contactless

52 million

CREDIT  
CARD  
ACCOUNTS

35 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](mailto: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. Data on card activity in the UK refers to transactions made in the UK only, both on UK-issued cards and cards issued overseas.
- 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>

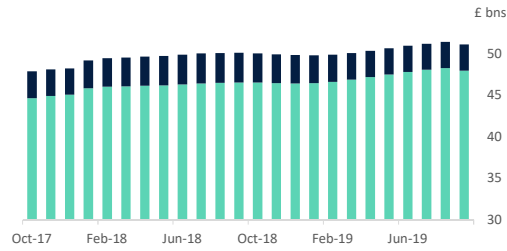
Next update:

17 January 2020

## Debit cards (UK card holders)

Value of transactions

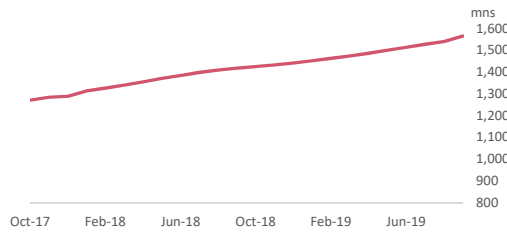
value of debit card purchases in the UK and overseas by UK cardholders



	Latest (September 2019)	Y-o-Y Comparison
inside the UK	£47.9 bn	3.0%
outside the UK	£3.1 bn	-12.0%

Number of transactions

volume of debit card purchases in the UK and overseas by UK cardholders



	Latest (September 2019)	Y-o-Y Comparison
inside the UK	1,449 mn	12.5%
outside the UK	116 mn	-10.1%

## Credit cards (UK card holders)

Value of transactions

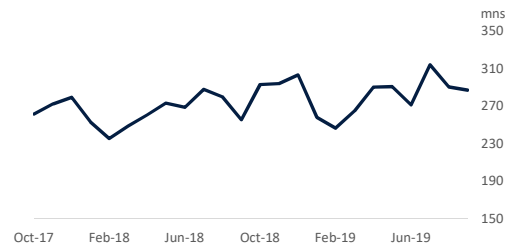
value of transactions in the month including purchases, cash withdrawals and balance transfers by UK cardholders



	Latest (September 2019)	Y-o-Y Comparison
	£16.6 bn	9.5%

Number of transactions

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



	Latest (September 2019)	Y-o-Y Comparison
	287 mn	12.3%

Credit card growth rate

annual growth rate in credit card balances outstanding for UK cardholders



	Latest (September 2019)
	3.4%

Credit card balances bearing interest <sup>(b)</sup>

percentage of total balances outstanding that incur interest

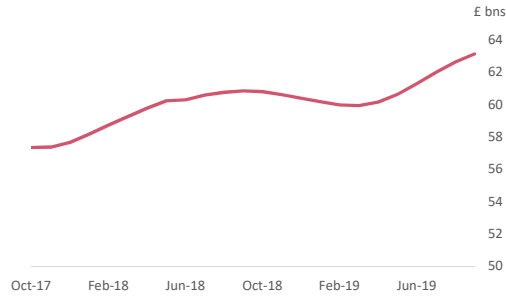


	Latest (September 2019)
	53.0%

# 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)

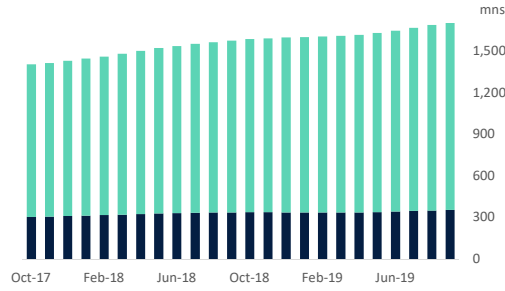


	Latest (September 2019)	Y-o-Y comparison
debit cards	£44.1 bn	4.0%
credit cards	£19.0 bn	3.1%

### A summary of our

## Number of transactions in the UK

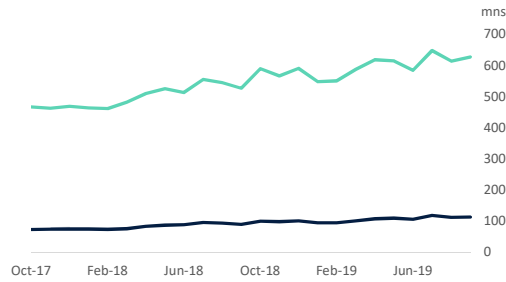
volume of all debit and credit card transactions in the UK including overseas-issued cards (seasonally adjusted)



	Latest (September 2019)	Y-o-Y comparison
debit cards	1,351 mn	9.2%
credit cards	353 mn	4.7%

## Contactless card transactions

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



	Latest (September 2019)	Y-o-Y comparison
debit cards	627 mn	19.2%
credit cards	113 mn	25.7%

## UK card holders

	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19
debit cards	98,967	98,490	98,430	97,896	98,632	97,398	97,377	97,455	97,331	97,239	97,325	97,210	97,350
credit cards	59,794	59,846	60,013	60,113	60,469	61,001	61,333	61,468	61,699	61,641	61,914	61,754	61,962
<b>total</b>	<b>158,761</b>	<b>158,335</b>	<b>158,443</b>	<b>158,009</b>	<b>159,101</b>	<b>158,400</b>	<b>158,710</b>	<b>158,922</b>	<b>159,031</b>	<b>158,880</b>	<b>159,239</b>	<b>158,964</b>	<b>159,312</b>
debit cards	81,610	81,771	81,927	82,425	82,804	82,473	82,668	82,966	83,197	83,377	83,759	83,937	84,475
credit cards	40,809	40,976	41,174	41,181	45,859	46,561	47,831	47,670	47,582	46,877	47,084	47,261	47,407
<b>total</b>	<b>122,418</b>	<b>122,747</b>	<b>123,102</b>	<b>123,605</b>	<b>128,663</b>	<b>129,034</b>	<b>130,499</b>	<b>130,636</b>	<b>130,778</b>	<b>130,253</b>	<b>130,844</b>	<b>131,198</b>	<b>131,881</b>

## UK Debit card holders

	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19
value of purchases (seasonally adjusted)	£ mns	50,076	50,015	49,907	49,798	49,767	49,837	50,038	50,322	50,630	50,929	51,184	51,066
of which inside the UK	£ mns	46,523	46,497	46,439	46,395	46,438	46,582	46,841	47,160	47,483	47,790	48,048	47,940
of which outside the UK	£ mns	3,553	3,518	3,468	3,404	3,329	3,256	3,198	3,163	3,147	3,139	3,137	3,126
volume of purchases (seasonally adjusted)	mns	1,418	1,425	1,433	1,442	1,452	1,463	1,474	1,487	1,500	1,514	1,528	1,566
of which inside the UK	mns	1,288	1,297	1,306	1,317	1,328	1,340	1,353	1,368	1,382	1,397	1,410	1,449
of which outside the UK	mns	129	128	126	125	124	122	119	118	117	118	118	116

## UK Credit card holders

	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19
number of accounts	000's	50,675	50,801	50,870	50,882	51,743	51,468	52,241	51,830	51,907	51,909	52,079	52,127
of which active accounts	000's	34,653	34,753	34,893	34,870	34,076	34,569	34,805	34,773	34,874	34,897	35,054	35,141
value of transactions	£ mns	15,152	17,074	16,848	16,341	15,974	14,565	15,971	16,894	16,853	15,641	17,908	16,594
of which purchases	£ mns	13,621	15,322	15,262	14,964	14,121	13,018	14,455	15,379	15,298	14,189	16,262	15,084
of which cash advances	£ mns	377	393	346	353	312	288	310	331	340	320	363	340
of which balance transfers	£ mns	1,154	1,359	1,241	1,023	1,541	1,259	1,205	1,184	1,215	1,132	1,283	1,170
volume of transactions	000's	255,585	293,120	293,984	303,169	258,152	246,600	264,977	290,254	290,891	271,390	313,961	287,044
of which purchases	000's	252,138	289,333	290,584	299,819	254,626	243,302	261,505	286,415	287,330	268,104	310,324	283,517
of which cash advances	000's	2,921	3,176	2,851	2,882	2,824	2,709	2,906	3,286	2,997	2,760	3,046	2,992
of which balance transfers	000's	525	611	549	468	701	589	565	553	564	525	591	535
credit card balances outstanding	£ mns	67,777	67,364	68,257	68,127	65,731	66,249	65,750	65,743	66,260	66,524	66,456	66,549
percentage bearing interest <sup>(b)</sup>		55.1%	55.1%	54.1%	54.1%	54.6%	54.5%	54.7%	53.3%	53.5%	53.4%	53.0%	52.8%
net change on month	£ mns	109	-413	893	-130	-637	518	-499	-7	517	265	-68	92
annual growth rate		6.5%	6.3%	5.5%	4.5%	4.3%	4.9%	4.6%	3.6%	4.1%	3.6%	3.7%	3.4%

## Card activity in the UK

on both UK and overseas issued cards

	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19
<b>total</b>	<b>60,853</b>	<b>60,808</b>	<b>60,621</b>	<b>60,403</b>	<b>60,185</b>	<b>59,984</b>	<b>59,954</b>	<b>60,174</b>	<b>60,647</b>	<b>61,305</b>	<b>62,017</b>	<b>62,656</b>	<b>63,143</b>
Debit & credit card value of transactions (£ mns) seasonally adjusted													
of which online £ mns	17,820	17,697	17,531	17,326	17,238	17,278	17,491	17,870	18,372	18,902	19,405	19,839	20,179
of which contactless £ mns	5,699	6,351	6,194	6,775	5,907	5,904	6,372	6,788	6,678	6,381	7,201	6,914	6,968 nsa
<b>total</b>	<b>42,410</b>	<b>42,379</b>	<b>42,244</b>	<b>42,066</b>	<b>41,920</b>	<b>41,773</b>	<b>41,737</b>	<b>41,883</b>	<b>42,225</b>	<b>42,719</b>	<b>43,266</b>	<b>43,758</b>	<b>44,124</b>
Debit cards													
of which online £ mns	11,999	11,913	11,801	11,710	11,647	11,651	11,752	11,956	12,228	12,525	12,810	13,050	13,227
of which contactless £ mns	4,806	5,357	5,203	5,694	4,969	4,973	5,355	5,698	5,576	5,317	5,989	5,703	5,762 nsa
<b>total</b>	<b>18,443</b>	<b>18,429</b>	<b>18,377</b>	<b>18,337</b>	<b>18,265</b>	<b>18,211</b>	<b>18,216</b>	<b>18,291</b>	<b>18,422</b>	<b>18,586</b>	<b>18,750</b>	<b>18,898</b>	<b>19,019</b>
Credit cards													
of which online £ mns	5,821	5,784	5,730	5,616	5,591	5,628	5,738	5,914	6,143	6,377	6,595	6,788	6,951
of which contactless £ mns	893	994	991	1,082	937	932	1,017	1,090	1,102	1,064	1,212	1,211	1,206 nsa
<b>total</b>	<b>1,574</b>	<b>1,583</b>	<b>1,591</b>	<b>1,595</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,604</b>	<b>1,608</b>	<b>1,616</b>	<b>1,628</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>1,686</b>	<b>1,704</b>
Debit & credit card volume of transactions (mns) seasonally adjusted													
of which online mns	220	220	219	217	215	214	215	216	219	224	230	235	239
of which contactless mns	616	689	664	691	642	644	688	725	723	689	766	726	740 nsa
<b>total</b>	<b>1,237</b>	<b>1,245</b>	<b>1,253</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>1,268</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>1,279</b>	<b>1,289</b>	<b>1,302</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>1,336</b>	<b>1,351</b>
Debit cards													
of which online mns	135	135	136	136	136	136	136	137	139	142	146	150	153
of which contactless mns	527	590	566	590	547	551	587	618	614	584	647	614	627 nsa
<b>total</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>353</b>
Credit cards													
of which online mns	86	85	83	81	79	78	78	79	81	82	84	85	86
of which contactless mns	90	100	98	101	95	94	101	107	109	105	118	112	113 nsa

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.

We estimate data covers over 90 per cent of the total market.

(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.

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