

Card Spending Update for April 2020



Release date : 15 July 2020

UK Finance: Card Spending Update for April 2020

Key data highlights:

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

- There were 1.4 billion transactions on debit cards in April 2020, 5.1 per cent fewer than in April 2019. This reflected a total spend of £51.8 billion, 0.9 per cent more than in the same period in 2019.
- There were 163 million transactions on credit cards in April, 45.9 per cent fewer than in April 2019 reflecting a total spend of £8.7 billion. This was 50 per cent less than in the same period a year earlier and shows the consumer reaction to lockdown with significantly reduced spending.
- The annual growth rate of outstanding balances on credit cards contracted by 9.2 per cent in April 2020 as consumer repayments outstrip new lending though the impact of payment deferrals may be more apparent in future months as these were introduced in April 2020.

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

- There were 1.3 billion debit and credit card transactions in April 2020, 20.9 per cent fewer than a year ago. This reflected a total spend of £50.8 billion, 15.4 per cent less than in the same period in 2019.
- 24 per cent of credit card transactions and 33 per cent of debit card transactions in the UK were made using contactless cards.
- In total there were 404 million contactless card transactions in April 2020, a 44.3 per cent reduction from 725 million in the same month a year earlier. The volume of contactless credit card transactions was 42.2 per cent lower than in the same period a year earlier and contactless debit card transactions was 44.7 per cent lower than the same period a year earlier.
- The total value of all contactless transactions was £4.1 billion in April 2020, a 40 per cent decrease from £6.8 billion in the same month in 2019.

Eric Leenders, Managing Director of Personal Finance, UK Finance, said:

'The Covid-19 crisis has significantly changed how, where and when people spend their money.

'The banking and finance industry has put in place a number of measures to help customers adapt to this new economic environment and pay in a way that suits them. This includes increasing the contactless limit to £45 and offering deferrals on credit card repayments.

'As the economy begins to open up, the sector will continue to support customers to help them through this difficult time.'

Notes to Editors

- 1 For more information please call the [UK Finance Press Office on 020 7416 6750](tel:02074166750) or e-mail press@ukfinance.org.uk.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 A summary of our annual UK Payment Markets 2020 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-2020>.
- 5 The quarterly Household Finance Review containing analysis and economic commentary on household finance in the UK, can be found here: <https://www.ukfinance.org.uk/data-and-research/data/household-finance/household-finance-review>.
- 6 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.

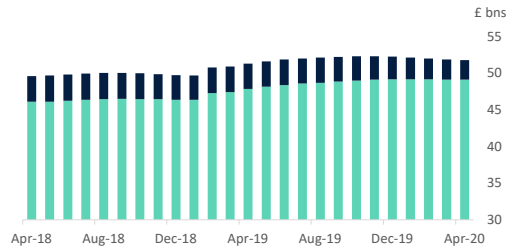
Next update:

18 August 2020

Debit cards (UK card holders)

Value of transactions

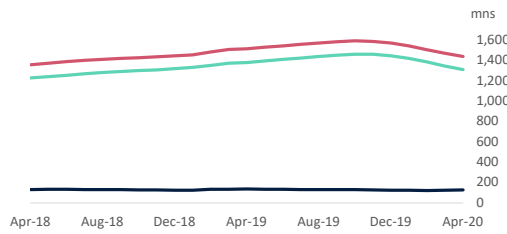
value of debit card purchases in the UK and overseas by UK cardholders (seasonally adjusted)



	Latest (April 2020)	Y-o-Y Comparison
outside the UK	£2.7 bn	-23.5%
inside the UK	£49.2 bn	2.7%

Number of transactions

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

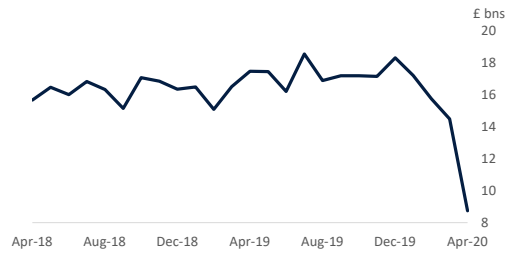


	Latest (April 2020)	Y-o-Y Comparison
total transactions	1,436 mn	-5.1%
inside the UK	1,309 mn	-5.0%
outside the UK	127 mn	-6.6%

Credit cards (UK card holders)

Value of transactions

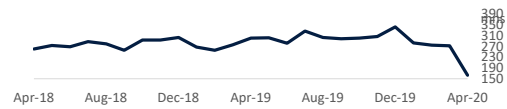
value of transactions in the month including purchases, cash withdrawals and balance transfers by UK cardholders



	Latest (April 2020)	Y-o-Y Comparison
	£8.7 bn	-50.0%

Number of transactions

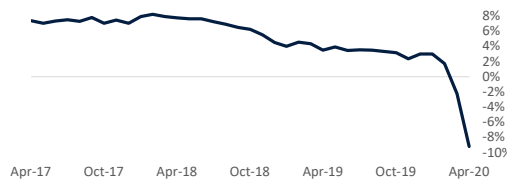
volume of transactions in the month including purchases, cash withdrawals and balance transfers by UK cardholders



	Latest (April 2020)	Y-o-Y Comparison
	163 mn	-45.9%

Credit card growth rate

annual growth rate in credit card balances outstanding for UK cardholders



	-9.2%
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Credit card balances bearing interest ^(b)

percentage of total balances outstanding that incur interest



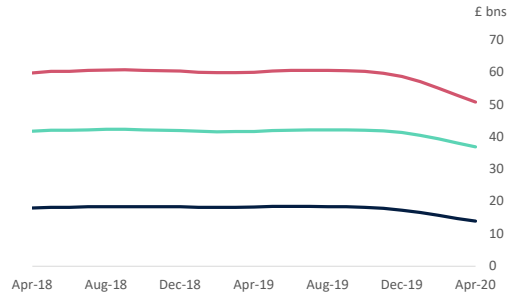
	Latest (April 2020)
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	56.3%
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Card activity in the UK

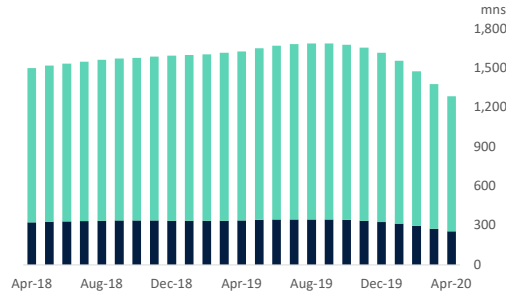
Value of transactions in the UK

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



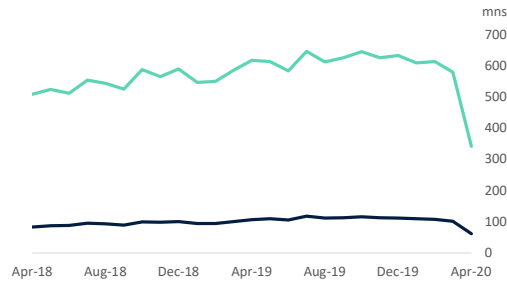
Number of transactions in the UK

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



Contactless card transactions

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



UK card holders

		Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20
Cards in issue with UK residents (000's)	debit cards	97,455	97,331	97,239	97,325	97,210	97,350	97,300	97,103	96,833	97,332	96,561	96,700	96,049
	credit cards	65,031	65,294	65,245	65,595	65,489	65,720	64,864	64,847	64,851	64,650	65,924	65,048	64,972
	total	162,486	162,625	162,484	162,919	162,699	163,070	162,164	161,950	161,684	161,982	162,484	161,748	161,021
of which have contactless functionality (000's)	debit cards	82,966	83,197	83,377	83,759	83,937	84,475	84,371	84,765	84,553	85,269	84,742	85,183	85,235
	credit cards	47,670	47,582	46,877	47,084	47,261	47,407	46,928	47,125	47,257	47,672	51,649	51,828	51,542
	total	130,636	130,778	130,253	130,844	131,198	131,881	131,298	131,890	131,811	132,941	136,391	137,011	136,777

UK Debit card holders

		Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20
value of purchases (seasonally adjusted)	£ mns	51,353	51,663	51,892	52,048	52,167	52,265	52,336	52,350	52,308	52,195	52,034	51,895	51,812
	of which inside the UK	£ mns	47,874	48,188	48,424	48,595	48,738	48,878	49,017	49,130	49,208	49,219	49,176	49,145
of which outside the UK	£ mns	3,479	3,475	3,468	3,454	3,430	3,387	3,319	3,220	3,100	2,976	2,858	2,750	2,662
volume of purchases (seasonally adjusted)	mns	1,513	1,528	1,541	1,553	1,567	1,581	1,590	1,586	1,567	1,538	1,503	1,467	1,436
	of which inside the UK	mns	1,378	1,394	1,408	1,421	1,435	1,449	1,459	1,458	1,442	1,415	1,381	1,343
of which outside the UK	mns	136	134	132	132	132	131	130	128	125	123	122	124	127

UK Credit card holders

		Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	
number of accounts	000's	37,891	37,829	37,938	38,189	38,267	38,457	38,579	38,829	38,881	38,826	38,781	38,724	38,885	
	of which active accounts (those with balances outstanding at the end of the calendar month)	000's	37,714	37,793	37,807	38,013	37,992	38,113	38,146	38,178	38,293	38,110	38,730	38,154	36,474
value of transactions	£ mns	17,789	17,705	18,211	18,551	18,894	19,109	19,180	19,195	18,809	17,214	15,701	14,281	8,700	
	of which purchases	£ mns	15,889	15,830	14,707	16,844	15,342	15,629	15,624	15,633	16,836	15,241	14,134	12,893	7,765
	of which cash advances	£ mns	376	386	362	410	400	383	344	299	331	307	292	256	103
	of which balance transfers	£ mns	1,205	1,229	1,142	1,296	1,150	1,181	1,216	1,213	1,136	1,665	1,314	1,332	873
volume of transactions	000's	301,231	302,375	282,451	326,554	302,915	298,450	301,364	307,332	342,882	283,691	275,033	272,281	163,055	
	of which purchases	000's	296,800	298,224	278,638	322,317	298,795	294,371	297,496	303,713	339,044	279,890	271,511	269,035	161,647
	of which cash advances	000's	3,859	3,572	3,274	3,628	3,574	3,525	3,294	3,059	3,293	3,057	2,905	2,637	1,004
	of which balance transfers	000's	572	580	540	609	546	554	574	560	546	744	616	609	404
credit card balances outstanding	£ mns	69,383	69,888	70,177	70,137	70,185	70,297	69,735	70,116	70,364	69,699	69,394	66,268	61,601	
percentage bearing interest ^(b)		54.7%	54.9%	54.8%	54.4%	54.3%	54.5%	54.3%	53.9%	53.7%	53.9%	53.8%	54.3%	56.3%	
net change on month	£ mns	56	504	290	-41	49	112	-562	381	247	-665	-304	-3,126	-4,667	
annual growth rate		3.5%	3.9%	3.5%	3.6%	3.5%	3.4%	3.2%	2.4%	3.0%	3.0%	1.8%	-2.2%	-9.2%	

Card activity in the UK

on both UK and overseas issued cards

		Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	
Debit & credit card value of transactions (£ mns) seasonally adjusted	total	60,041	60,415	60,631	60,673	60,625	60,508	60,281	59,737	58,707	57,119	55,114	52,924	50,808	
	of which online £ mns	17,785	18,065	18,259	18,331	18,300	18,228	18,177	18,126	18,049	17,935	17,777	17,588	17,403	
	of which contactless £ mns	6,788	6,678	6,381	7,201	6,914	6,968	7,037	6,917	7,396	6,710	6,729	6,513	4,070	nsa
Debit cards	total	41,705	41,957	42,116	42,175	42,185	42,161	42,088	41,851	41,352	40,519	39,412	38,155	36,900	
	of which online £ mns	11,909	12,075	12,204	12,285	12,325	12,360	12,427	12,515	12,609	12,689	12,738	12,753	12,750	
	of which contactless £ mns	5,698	5,576	5,317	5,989	5,703	5,762	5,861	5,738	6,154	5,554	5,585	5,415	3,387	nsa
Credit cards	total	18,336	18,458	18,515	18,498	18,440	18,347	18,193	17,886	17,355	16,600	15,702	14,769	13,908	
	of which online £ mns	5,876	5,990	6,055	6,046	5,975	5,868	5,750	5,612	5,441	5,246	5,040	4,835	4,653	
	of which contactless £ mns	1,090	1,102	1,064	1,212	1,211	1,206	1,176	1,179	1,242	1,155	1,143	1,098	683	nsa
Debit & credit card volume of transactions (mns) seasonally adjusted	total	1,627	1,651	1,671	1,684	1,689	1,688	1,678	1,656	1,617	1,556	1,475	1,379	1,286	
	of which online mns	217	219	222	224	226	226	225	223	219	215	211	208	206	
	of which contactless mns	725	723	689	766	726	740	762	740	746	721	723	683	404	nsa
Debit cards	total	1,288	1,308	1,325	1,336	1,342	1,342	1,336	1,320	1,290	1,243	1,178	1,104	1,030	
	of which online mns	138	139	141	142	144	145	146	144	142	140	137	135	134	
	of which contactless mns	618	614	584	647	614	627	647	627	635	611	615	581	342	nsa
Credit cards	total	338	343	346	348	348	346	343	337	327	314	297	274	256	
	of which online mns	79	80	81	82	81	81	80	78	77	75	74	73	72	
	of which contactless mns	107	109	105	118	112	113	116	113	112	110	108	102	62	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 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.

(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