

Card Spending Update

April 2024



Release date : 17 July 2024

UK Finance: Card Spending Update for April 2024

Key data highlights:

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

- There were 2.2 billion debit card transactions in April, 6.9 per cent more than in April 2023. The total spend of £69.1 billion was 3.4 per cent higher than April 2023.
- There were 374.6 million credit card transactions in April, 15.3 per cent more than in April 2023. The total spend of £21 billion was 14.4 per cent higher than April 2023.
- Outstanding balances on credit card accounts have grown by 8.3 per cent over the twelve months to April and 49.4 per cent of outstanding balances incurred interest compared to 49.6 per cent in April 2023.

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

- There were 2.05 billion debit and credit card transactions in the UK in April, 0.1 per cent more than in April 2023. The total spend of £73.9 billion was 1.9 per cent lower than April 2023.
- Contactless payments accounted for 64 per cent of all credit card and 75 per cent of all debit card transactions.
- There were 1.59 billion contactless card transactions in April, 1 per cent more than the 1.49 billion in April 2023. The total value of contactless transactions was £23.7 billion in April, a 1.2 per cent increase on £23.5 billion in April 2023.
- The number of contactless credit card transactions was 6 per cent higher than April 2023. The number of contactless debit card transactions was 0.2 per cent higher than April 2023.

UK Residents cards in issue - April 2024

102 million	DEBIT CARDS	95 million of which are contactless
59 million	CREDIT CARDS	55 million of which are contactless
53 million	CREDIT CARD ACCOUNTS	37 million of which are active

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 around 300 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 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-and-publications/uk-payment-statistics-2023>
- 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>.

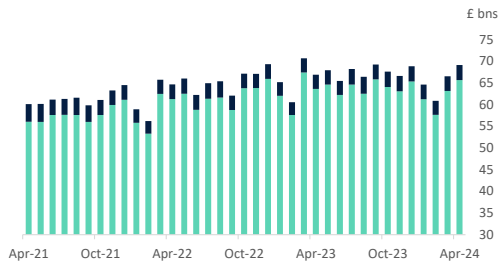
Next update:

16 August 2024

Debit cards (UK card holders)

Value of transactions

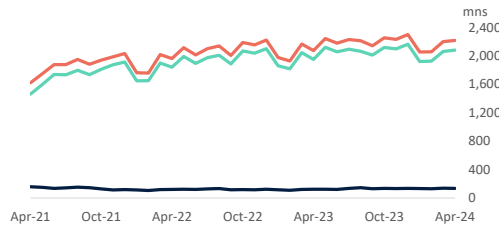
value of debit card purchases in the UK and overseas by UK cardholders



	Latest (April 2024)	Y-o-Y Comparison
outside the UK	£3.5 bn	5.7%
inside the UK	£65.7 bn	3.2%

Number of transactions

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

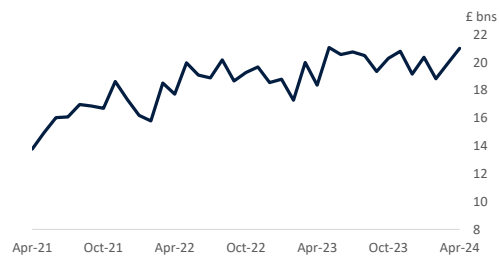


total transactions	2,218 mn	6.9%
inside the UK	2,080 mn	6.7%
outside the UK	137 mn	10.5%

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 2024)	Y-o-Y Comparison
	£21.0 bn	14.4%

Number of transactions

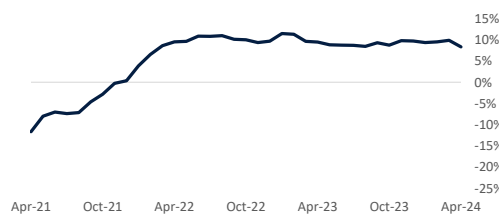
volume of transactions in the month including purchases, cash withdrawals and balance transfers by UK cardholders



	Latest (April 2024)	Y-o-Y Comparison
	375 mn	15.3%

Credit card growth rate

annual growth rate in credit card balances outstanding for UK cardholders



	Latest (April 2024)
	8.3%

Credit card balances bearing interest ^(a)

percentage of total balances outstanding that incur interest

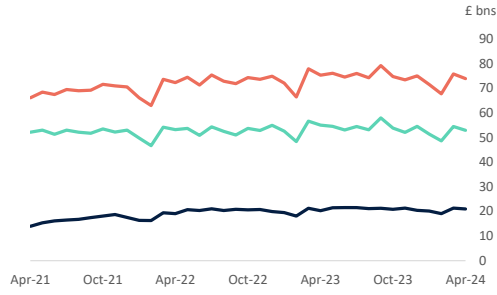


	Latest (April 2024)
	49.4%

Card activity in the UK

Value of transactions in the UK

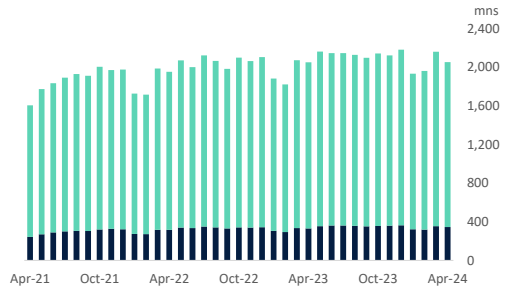
value of all debit and credit card transactions in the UK including overseas-issued cards



	Latest (April 2024)	Y-o-Y comparison
total cards	£73.9 bn	-1.9%
debit cards	£52.9 bn	-3.9%
credit cards	£21.0 bn	3.6%

Number of transactions in the UK

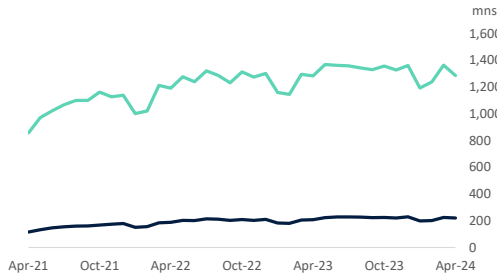
volume of all debit and credit card transactions in the UK including overseas-issued cards



	Latest (April 2024)	Y-o-Y comparison
debit cards	1,708 mn	-0.6%
credit cards	345 mn	4.1%

Contactless card transactions

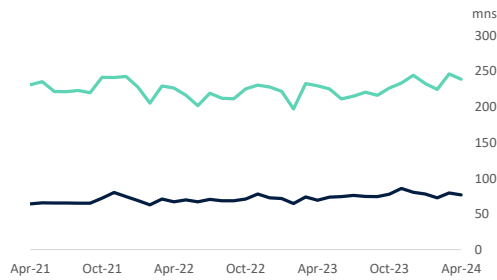
volume of all contactless debit and credit card transactions in the UK including overseas-issued cards



	Latest (April 2024)	Y-o-Y comparison
debit cards	1,286 mn	0.2%
credit cards	220 mn	6.0%

Online card transactions

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



	Latest (April 2024)	Y-o-Y comparison
debit cards	239 mn	4.0%
credit cards	77 mn	10.9%

UK card holders

	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24
debit cards	100,996	101,406	100,829	100,874	101,075	101,466	101,813	101,593	101,485	101,707	101,983	102,325	102,397
credit cards	58,529	58,300	58,090	58,142	58,131	58,188	58,206	58,258	58,228	58,462	58,414	58,582	58,619
total	159,525	159,706	158,919	159,015	159,206	159,654	160,019	159,851	159,713	160,169	160,398	160,907	161,016
debit cards	93,283	93,801	93,359	93,440	93,674	94,077	94,393	94,218	94,121	94,338	94,608	94,922	95,001
credit cards	54,522	54,432	54,363	54,412	54,517	54,623	54,773	54,829	54,913	55,135	55,173	55,250	55,328
total	147,804	148,233	147,722	147,852	148,191	148,699	149,166	149,048	149,034	149,473	149,782	150,172	150,329

of which have contactless functionality (000's)

UK Debit card holders

	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	
value of purchases	£ mns	66,878	67,923	65,453	68,207	66,405	69,245	67,611	66,630	68,833	64,618	60,874	66,530	69,124
of which inside the UK	£ mns	63,610	64,617	62,220	64,604	62,509	65,800	64,046	63,075	65,343	61,236	57,641	63,144	65,669
of which outside the UK	£ mns	3,268	3,306	3,233	3,603	3,896	3,445	3,566	3,554	3,491	3,382	3,233	3,386	3,454
volume of purchases	mns	2,074	2,245	2,178	2,230	2,212	2,143	2,255	2,232	2,301	2,056	2,058	2,200	2,218
of which inside the UK	mns	1,950	2,120	2,057	2,094	2,065	2,011	2,118	2,099	2,164	1,921	1,927	2,062	2,080
of which outside the UK	mns	124	125	121	136	147	131	137	133	137	135	131	138	137

UK Credit card holders

	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	
number of accounts	000's	53,637	53,404	53,122	52,964	52,960	53,075	53,059	53,122	52,940	53,164	53,235	53,438	53,475
of which active accounts (those with balances outstanding at the end of the calendar month)	000's	36,689	36,351	36,391	36,338	36,405	36,489	36,568	36,713	36,452	36,520	36,487	36,525	36,673
value of transactions	£ mns	18,360	21,062	20,560	20,743	20,486	19,340	20,287	20,798	19,155	20,366	18,817	19,932	21,012
of which purchases	£ mns	16,950	19,450	18,834	18,938	18,759	17,757	18,690	19,275	17,809	18,342	17,083	18,289	19,236
of which cash advances	£ mns	220	259	251	250	262	241	230	203	203	212	200	215	236
of which balance transfers	£ mns	1,190	1,353	1,475	1,554	1,466	1,342	1,367	1,320	1,142	1,812	1,535	1,427	1,540
volume of transactions	000's	324,813	377,271	366,610	372,683	376,010	353,057	375,918	377,455	369,557	347,918	329,750	346,254	374,638
of which purchases	000's	322,590	374,755	364,104	370,166	373,438	350,671	373,524	375,273	367,501	345,528	327,569	344,010	372,177
of which cash advances	000's	1,611	1,832	1,778	1,748	1,820	1,699	1,696	1,516	1,476	1,537	1,451	1,548	1,706
of which balance transfers	000's	613	684	728	769	751	687	698	666	580	853	730	696	755
credit card balances outstanding	£ mns	61,226	61,552	62,609	62,605	63,160	63,914	63,628	65,256	65,219	64,414	64,775	65,066	65,102
percentage bearing interest ^(a)		49.6%	49.7%	49.8%	50.0%	50.1%	50.1%	51.2%	49.5%	50.1%	50.5%	50.0%	49.8%	49.4%
net change on month	£ mns	894	327	1,056	-4	555	754	-286	1,628	-36	-805	361	291	36
annual growth rate		9.5%	8.8%	8.7%	8.7%	8.5%	9.3%	8.7%	9.8%	9.7%	9.4%	9.5%	9.9%	8.3%

Card activity in the UK on both UK and overseas issued cards		Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24
	total	75,253	75,997	74,520	75,972	74,174	79,144	74,666	73,338	74,948	71,488	67,691	75,755	73,854
Debit & credit card value of transactions (£ mns)	of which online £ mns	26,492	25,824	24,500	25,626	24,662	30,500	25,644	24,816	23,516	27,649	23,907	26,625	26,757
	of which contactless £ mns	23,450	24,526	24,424	24,818	24,559	23,799	24,415	24,423	27,517	21,470	22,073	25,087	23,737
	total	54,994	54,501	52,998	54,434	53,089	57,913	53,793	52,014	54,496	51,324	48,582	54,402	52,860
Debit cards	of which online £ mns	18,621	17,370	16,330	17,407	16,602	22,269	17,641	16,219	16,045	18,939	16,078	17,917	18,105
	of which contactless £ mns	18,989	19,800	19,593	19,933	19,720	19,086	19,659	19,606	22,087	17,324	17,875	20,245	18,998
	total	20,258	21,497	21,521	21,538	21,085	21,231	20,873	21,324	20,451	20,164	19,109	21,353	20,995
Credit cards	of which online £ mns	7,871	8,454	8,170	8,220	8,059	8,231	8,003	8,598	7,471	8,710	7,829	8,708	8,652
	of which contactless £ mns	4,461	4,726	4,831	4,885	4,838	4,713	4,755	4,817	5,430	4,145	4,198	4,842	4,739
	total	2,050	2,162	2,145	2,145	2,127	2,097	2,142	2,122	2,181	1,932	1,962	2,161	2,053
Debit & credit card volume of transactions (mns)	of which online mns	299	299	285	291	295	290	304	319	325	311	297	326	316
	of which contactless mns	1,491	1,592	1,591	1,587	1,571	1,552	1,581	1,548	1,590	1,391	1,439	1,589	1,506
	total	1,719	1,807	1,783	1,782	1,769	1,745	1,786	1,762	1,817	1,609	1,643	1,806	1,708
Debit cards	of which online mns	230	225	211	215	221	216	226	233	244	233	225	246	239
	of which contactless mns	1,284	1,368	1,362	1,358	1,343	1,329	1,357	1,327	1,361	1,193	1,238	1,364	1,286
	total	332	355	362	362	358	352	356	360	364	323	319	355	345
Credit cards	of which online mns	69	73	74	76	74	74	78	86	80	78	73	79	77
	of which contactless mns	208	223	229	229	228	223	224	221	229	198	201	225	220

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 credit card market.

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

(a) 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.

Debit card transactions outside the UK include foreign POS transactions as well as online purchases and subscriptions acquired outside the UK. No further breakdown of this data is available to identify the split between foreign transactions and UK transactions acquired outside the UK.

Data series are subject to restatement, based on corrections or the receipt of additional information.

UK issued debit card data series from 2021 onwards contain partially modelled data. This note will be updated upon receipt of actual data.

The contactless limit on credit and debit cards was raised to £30 in September 2015, £45 in April 2020 and £100 in mid-October 2021.

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