

Card Expenditure Statistics [CES] – February 2010

Seasonally-adjusted

At a glance key figures for February

	Total spending £ billions		Annual growth rates for spending		Number of purchases millions	
	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009
All plastic cards	33.5	31.0	5.2%	5.4%	680	631
Debit cards	22.9	20.9	7.5%	8.3%	515	470
Credit cards	10.6	10.1	0.5%	0.1%	164	161

Spending on plastic cards recovered in February after a weak January and amounted to £33.5 billion, an increase of £2.4 billion. Annual growth rates rose slightly (see Chart 1) with total spending growth at 5.2% compared to 4.4% in January. Credit card spending of £10.6 billion was slightly higher than the recent 12 month average and was enough to tip the annual growth from last month's negative figure of -0.6% to a positive of 0.5%. The annual rate of growth in debit card spending moved up from 7.0% to 7.5%.

The strongest rise was in the vehicle sales sector where spending grew by 17% to £2.8 billion reflecting last minute purchases before the end of the government's vehicle scrappage scheme. Financial also grew strongly (by 16%), well-spread across the detailed sub-sectors. In petrol and in other retailing increased spending reflected price rises. There was also a small rise in spending on food & drink although this was not price-related as the ATV fell by £0.55 from £30.25 to £29.70.

Apart from food & drink and clothing **average transaction values** rose in February with the strongest rises in financial, other services and household goods.

The **plastic card share of total retail sales** (including automotive fuels)¹ in January was 66.2% (see Chart 2); in the food & drink sector the share was 58.2%.

¹CES 3-month moving average spending for February of £17. billion expressed as a percentage of a similar 3-month moving average for National Statistics 'All retailing including automotive fuel' (AGG 21) based on the value of Retail Sales at current prices (SA) that gives a figure of £26.1 billion.

Chart 1

Spending on plastic cards
Annual growth rates

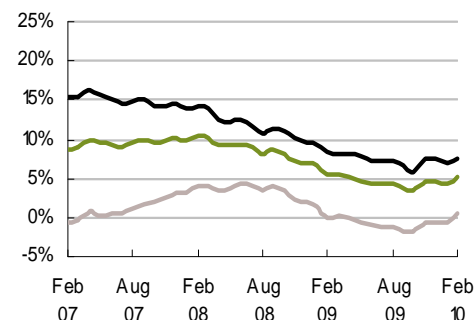


Chart 2

Percent of retail sales made on plastic cards
(including automotive fuel)
Three-month moving average

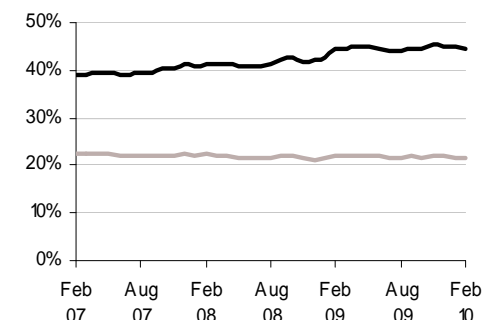


Chart 3

Average transaction values
Three-month moving average

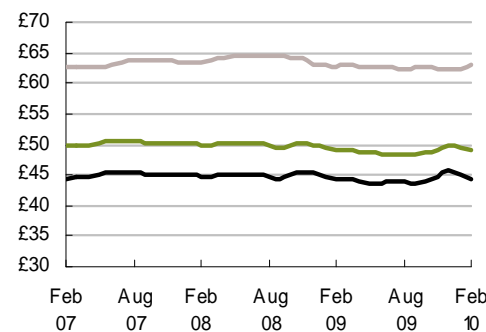
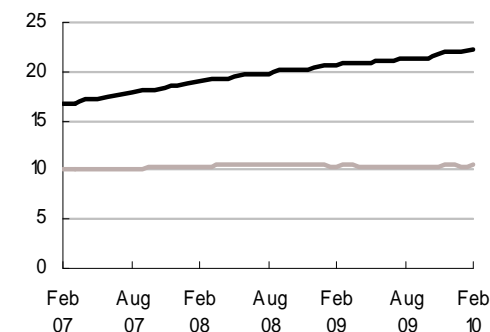


Chart 4

Average monthly expenditure
£ billions



— Debit cards
— Credit cards
— All plastic cards