

For immediate release
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THE
UKCARDS
ASSOCIATION

MEDIA ALERT

UK Card Expenditure Statistics: April 2017

- Total card spending reached £58.0 billion in April, an increase of £306 million on March, and up from £52.6 billion in April 2016.
- The number of card purchases increased to 1.4 billion, a 1.2 per cent rise on March. Contactless payments accounted for 30 per cent of all card purchases in April.
- The average transaction value fell to the lowest level since October 2000, at £41.86.
- Retail card spending totalled £26.5 billion in the month, an increase of £201 million on March. The largest increases in spending came from food and drink, where spending reached a milestone of £10.0 billion in a single month, after increasing by £103 million on March.
- Service sector card spending rose to £31.6 billion in April, up by £105 million in the month.
- The debit and credit card share of total retail sales was 78.4 per cent in April.
- The largest monthly increases in card spending was recorded at amusement parks (up 143 per cent), aquariums (up 100 per cent) and tourist attractions (up 51 per cent), coinciding with Easter and the half term holiday.

Richard Koch, Head of Policy at The UK Cards Association, said:

“The average amount spent in a card transaction is now at the lowest level in over 16 years. This is clear sign of how contactless technology is changing the way people pay, with consumers choosing cards over cash for lower value purchases.”

	Total Spending <i>£ billions</i>		Annual growth rates for spending		Number of purchases <i>Millions</i>	
	Apr 2017	Apr 2016	Apr 2017	Apr 2016	Apr 2017	Apr 2016
All payment cards	58.0	52.6	6.8%	5.9%	1,386	1,200
<i>Of which online</i>	<i>15.1</i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>17%</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>192</i>	<i>146</i>
Debit cards	41.2	37.5	7.2%	6.6%	1,071	926
Credit cards	16.8	15.1	6.0%	4.5%	315	274

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For further information, please contact The UK Cards Association Press Office on 020 3217 8436 or email press@ukcards.org.uk



Notes to Editors:

1. The full April 2017 Card Expenditure Statistics, include detailed retail and service sector data, are available at: <http://www.theukcardsassociation.org.uk/2017-facts-figures/index.asp>. Total spending figures are seasonally adjusted. Sub-sector level spending figures have not been seasonally adjusted.

2. From 1 July 2017, the finance and banking industry operating in the UK will be represented by a new trade association, UK Finance. It will represent around 300 firms in the UK providing credit, banking, markets and payment-related services. The new organisation will take on activities previously carried out by the Asset Based Finance Association, the British Bankers' Association, the Council of Mortgage Lenders, Financial Fraud Action UK, Payments UK and the UK Cards Association.

About the *Card Expenditure Statistics* figures:

Card Expenditure Statistics reveal where credit, debit and charge cards are used in the UK. They are reported to The UK Cards Association by banks and other financial institutions, known as merchant acquirers, that process plastic card transactions on behalf of businesses and enterprises.

Spending is shown separately for debit and credit cards, by volume and by value, and the location is broken down into the principle UK retail and services sectors with a detailed analysis covering over 100 merchant categories across the full range of industries in the UK.

About The UK Cards Association:

The UK Cards Association is the trade body for the card payments industry in the UK, representing financial institutions which act as card issuers and acquirers.

The Association promotes co-operation between industry participants in order to progress non-competitive matters of mutual interest; informs and engages with stakeholders to shape legal and regulatory developments; develops industry best practice; safeguards the integrity of the card payments industry by tackling card fraud; develops industry standards; and co-ordinates other industry-wide initiatives such as those aiming to deliver innovation. As an Association we are committed to delivering a card payments industry that is constantly focused on improved outcomes for the customer. www.theukcardsassociation.org.uk

