

For immediate release  
November 7, 2016

Contact  
020 3217 8436  
Press@ukcards.org.uk

THE  
**UKCARDS**  
ASSOCIATION

## MEDIA ALERT

# UK Card Expenditure Statistics: August 2016

- £54.3 billion was spent on payment cards in August 2016, up 4.2 per cent from £52.1 billion in August 2015
- Cards were used for 77.6 per cent of retail spending
- Retail sector card spending increased by £134 million to £25.2 billion in August, while service sector spending rose by £235 million to £29.1 billion.
- Spending grew more in the service sector than in retail, with growth strong in financial services and hotels. Spending on automotive fuels declined year-on-year
- Spending grew at tourism-related merchants such as aquariums, amusement parks and tourist attractions, reflecting the summer holidays and the lower value of the pound.
- Restaurants and pubs saw a growth in spending of 2.8 and 11.9 per cent respectively, while there was also a notable increase at electronics and furniture retailers too.

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

“Spending on cards as a proportion of overall spending increased to 77 per cent in August, despite a slight downturn in spending in the wake of the EU referendum.

“More and more spending is via cards, which are central to the economy and used increasingly for smaller, everyday purchases.”

	Total Spending <i>£ billions</i>		Annual growth rates for spending		Number of purchases <i>Millions</i>	
	Aug 2016	Aug 2015	Aug 2016	Aug 2015	Aug 2016	Aug 2015
<b>All payment cards</b>	<b>54.3</b>	52.1	<b>4.3%</b>	8.2%	<b>1,243</b>	1,134
<i>Of which online</i>	<i>12.6</i>	<i>11.4</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>12%</i>	<i>157</i>	<i>133</i>
<b>Debit cards</b>	<b>38.6</b>	36.8	<b>5.0%</b>	8.7%	<b>960</b>	868
<b>Credit cards</b>	<b>15.7</b>	15.3	<b>2.6%</b>	7.0%	<b>283</b>	266

## Spending by sector

- Retail sector spending increased by £134 million to £25.2 billion in August, while service sector spending rose by £235 million to £29.1 billion.
- The debit and credit card share of total retail sales was 77.6 per cent in August.

ENDS



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

**Notes to Editors:**

1. The full August 2016 Card Expenditure Statistics, include detailed retail and service sector data, are available at: <http://www.theukcardsassociation.org.uk/2016-facts-figures/index.asp>. Total spending figures are seasonally adjusted. Sub-sector level spending figures have not been seasonally adjusted.

2. Further details of the August contactless statistics are available at: [http://www.theukcardsassociation.org.uk/contactless\\_contactless\\_statistics/index.asp](http://www.theukcardsassociation.org.uk/contactless_contactless_statistics/index.asp)

**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. Members of the Association account for the vast majority of debit and credit cards issued in the UK - issuing in excess of 55 million credit cards and 95 million debit cards - and cover the whole of the payment card acquiring market.

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. More information about The UK Cards Association is available at [www.theukcardsassociation.org.uk](http://www.theukcardsassociation.org.uk)

