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Card Expenditure Statistics [CES] – June 2010

Seasonally-adjusted

At a glance key figures for June

	Total spending *£ billions*		Annual growth rates for spending		Number of purchases *millions*	
	2010	2009	**2010**	2009	**2010**	2009
All plastic cards	**36.1**	32.4	**7.1%**	4.3%	**727**	672
Debit cards	**24.9**	21.9	**9.5%**	7.2%	**553**	502
Credit cards	**11.2**	10.6	**2.2%**	-1.1%	**175**	170

Spending on plastic cards strengthened significantly in June following weakening spend in the preceding three months. Total spending amounting to £36.1 billion, the highest monthly spend to date. This will have been inflated, in part, by the higher number of trading days within the five week reporting period. £24.9 billion was spent on debit cards and £11.2 billion on credit cards. Annual growth rates continued to strengthen (see Chart 1) with total spending growth up to 7.1%.

Average transaction values (see Chart 3) fell marginally in June but remained higher than the average of the three preceding months at £49.71. Strong growth is evident in the ATVs in travel agents, airlines and in hotels. Spending at supermarkets increased to 235 million transactions, with growth predominantly on debit cards. ATVs at supermarkets fell slightly to £29.44. It is likely that a combination of factors such as the World Cup and the good weather experienced for much of this time will have increased spontaneous purchases. Many of these spontaneous transactions would likely have been on discounted promotional goods including alcohol and barbecue related items.

Growth in the share of all retail spending accounted for by plastic cards has been slowing in recent months. In the 12 months to June 2010 the **plastic card share of total retail sales** (including automotive fuels) [1] grew by 2.1 percentage points to stand at 67.3%. In the food & drink sector the share was 60.6%.

[1]CES 3-month moving average spending for June of £18.2 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 £27.0 billion.

Chart 1

Spending on plastic cards
Annual growth rates

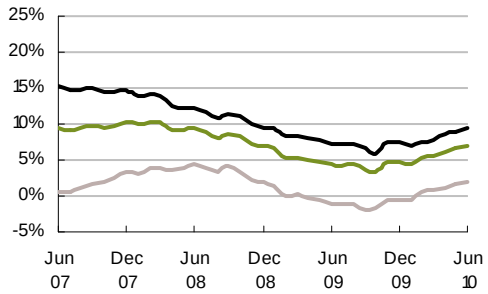


Chart 2

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

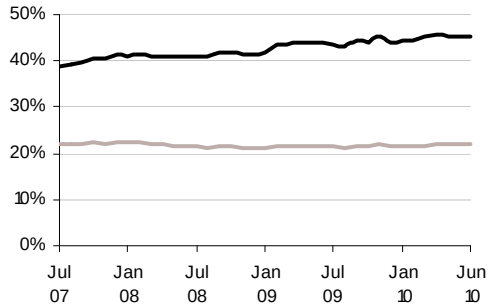


Chart 3

Average transaction values
Three-month moving average

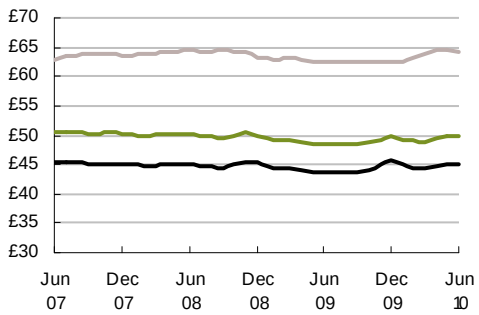
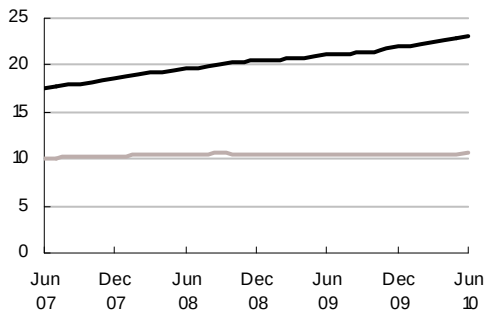


Chart 4

Average monthly expenditure
£ billions



Debit cards
Credit cards
All plastic cards