

For immediate release
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THE
UKCARDS
ASSOCIATION

MEDIA ALERT

UK Card Expenditure Statistics: September 2016

- Payment card spending grew by 0.6 per cent in September to reach £54.7 billion, driven largely by a £302 million rise in debit card spending.
- Card spending increased by £4.4 billion in the three months to the end of September compared to the previous quarter, a 2.8 per cent rise, with 103 million more purchases.
- 22 per cent of card transactions were made using contactless cards in September, with internet purchases constituting a further 13 per cent of transactions.
- Annual growth in service sector card spending exceeded retail spending, up 5.1 per cent and 2.8 per cent respectively.
- Educational establishments and employment agencies saw the strongest monthly growth in spending, rising 191 per cent and 23 per cent respectively, reflecting the start of the new academic year.
- Visitor destinations such as amusement parks, aquariums and tourist attractions saw the biggest declines in spending between August and September.
- The debit and credit card share of total retail sales was 77.1 per cent in September.

Richard Koch, head of policy at The UK Cards Association, said:

“We’re making over three million more card transactions every day compared to September last year, with contactless and online payments playing a significant role.

“While the annual growth in card spending has slowed, the rate still far outstrips GDP growth as card payments become an increasingly important part of how the UK transacts.”

	Total Spending <i>£ billions</i>		Annual growth rates for spending		Number of purchases <i>Millions</i>	
	Sep 2016	Sep 2015	Sep 2016	Sep 2015	Sep 2016	Sep 2015
All payment cards	54.7	52.3	4.0%	8.3%	1,259	1,150
<i>Of which online</i>	<i>12.7</i>	<i>11.5</i>	<i>11.0%</i>	<i>12.0%</i>	<i>157</i>	<i>135</i>
Debit cards	38.9	37.0	4.7%	8.8%	975	882
Credit cards	15.8	15.3	2.3%	7.1%	283	267

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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 September 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. GDP annual growth at end of September 2016 was 1.7 per cent according to the latest ONS estimate: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossdomesticproductgdp/bulletins/grossdomesticproductpreliminaryestimate/julytosept2016>

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