

For immediate release
22 December 2016

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THE
UKCARDS
ASSOCIATION

MEDIA ALERT

UK Card Expenditure Statistics: October 2016

- There are now 100 million contactless cards in circulation, with £2.8 billion spent using contactless in October
- Total card spending in October increased by 0.8 per cent, with a record monthly spend of £55 billion, the majority of which was on debit cards
- The number of card purchases increased to 1.3 billion transactions, up by 0.9 per cent on September
- Card spending online grew by 0.8 per cent to £12.9 billion, representing 23 per cent of total card spending. At 160 million, the number of online purchases represented 13 per cent of total card payments
- Merchants offering leisure goods and services, such as digital entertainment providers and cinema, theatre and dance establishments, saw the strongest monthly increase in spending. There was also a notable rise in spending at sweet stores, likely due to Halloween.

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

“Cards continue to play a central role in the economy and our wallets. As the preferred way to pay for the majority of consumers, spending on cards will only increase.”

	Total Spending <i>£ billions</i>		Annual growth rates for spending		Number of purchases <i>Millions</i>	
	Oct 2016	Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2015
All payment cards	55.3	52.5	3.9%	8.3%	1,274	1,155
<i>Of which online</i>	<i>12.9</i>	<i>11.5</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>13%</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>137</i>
Debit cards	39.4	37.2	4.6%	8.8%	986	886
Credit cards	15.9	15.3	2.3%	7.1%	288	269

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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 October 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. The contactless usage figures for October are available here
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