



Credit and Debit Card Statistics: February 2016

Key Developments

- In December 2015, **total transactions on debit cards peaked at nearly €4.5 billion**, reflecting increased expenditure over the Christmas period. Almost €2.8 billion of this spending was attributable to Point of Sale (PoS) activity, while the remaining €1.7 billion was accounted for by ATM transactions (Chart 1). In the same month, **PoS spending on all credit cards amounted to circa €984 million**. More recently, debit card transactions have declined to just over €3.7 billion.
- Debit card e-commerce¹ expenditure has generally trended upward since February 2015. **Debit card e-commerce has risen by 45 per cent over the year, to stand at nearly €719 million at end-February 2016**. In contrast, total credit card e-commerce has been relatively stable over the same period, increasing by just 7 per cent to circa €291 million at end-February 2016.
- Approximately €1.2 billion of outstanding credit card balances included an accrued interest component. Chart 3 provides a breakdown of interest-bearing balances as a percentage of credit card limits. This shows that **9 per cent of cards have exceeded their credit limit while 37 per cent had balances between 76 and 100 per cent of their respective credit limit**. This proportion has remained virtually unchanged over the past year, although there has been a small decline in the number of personal credit cards in issue during the same period.

Chart 1: Gross new PoS spending on all cards

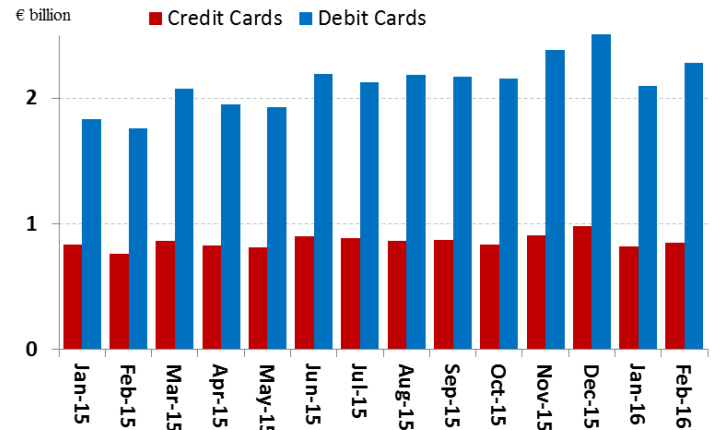


Chart 2: E-Commerce spending

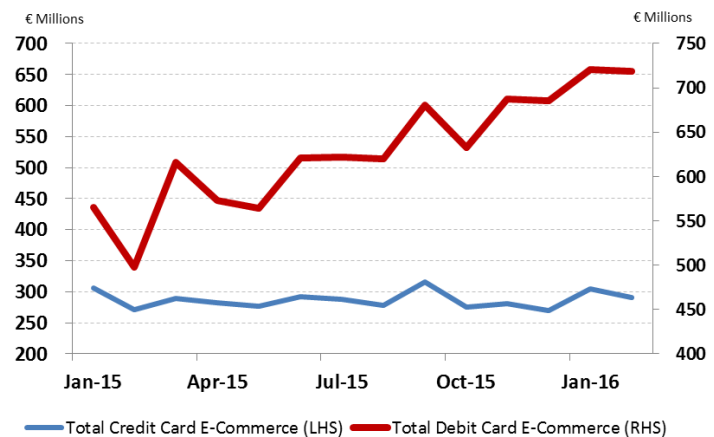
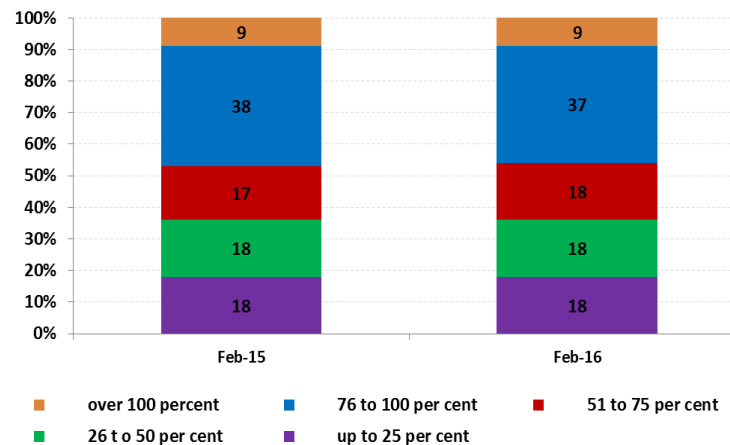


Chart 3: Credit cards' outstanding balance as a percentage of the credit limit (Distribution)



¹ Expenditure where the physical credit or debit card is not present provides a proxy for e-commerce.

- In terms of sectoral spending, the value of **new PoS debit card spending per month was over two and a half times greater for debit cards than for credit cards** at end-February 2016. Credit card expenditure remained stable, averaging almost €870 million over the year ending February 2016. **During the same period, PoS spending on debit cards increased by circa €525 million**, to stand at nearly €2.3 billion (Table 1). The majority of debit card expenditure occurs in the retail sector, where transactions valued over €1.1 billion were recorded in February 2016.

- **Total debit card expenditure outside Ireland averaged just under €270 million over the 12 month period to end-February 2016** (Chart 4). Credit or debit card expenditure outside Ireland (when the physical card is present), provides an indication of the volume of tourism abroad vis-à-vis Irish residents. **Debit card expenditure abroad averaged €324 million during June, July and August 2015**. Over the same period, credit card expenditure averaged circa €198 million. The value of debit card expenditure outside Ireland is generally higher than the equivalent credit card transactions, reflecting the inclusion of ATM transactions.

- **Almost 69 per cent of all personal credit card expenditure at end-February 2016 was split between both the retail and services sectors** (Chart 5). However, over the same period, debit card expenditure in the retail sector accounted for almost half of all new debit card PoS transactions.

Table 1: Debit card sectoral spending (€ 000's)

	Feb-15	Feb-16
Total Debit Card PoS Spending	1,756,066	2,280,952
<i>of which:</i>		
Total Retail	763,103	1,100,832
Groceries/Perishables	439,436	611,058
Clothing	93,861	125,555
Electrical Goods	25,500	46,353
Hardware	102,070	148,298
Total Services	356,354	524,170
Transport	156,816	217,331
Accommodation	44,173	68,463
Education	37,541	52,184
Health	22,821	35,241
Utilities	32,287	57,897
Professional Services	61,570	90,980
Total Social	145,029	238,089
Restaurants/Dining	76,093	128,730
Entertainment	64,412	101,035

Chart 4: Expenditure outside Ireland (including both PoS & ATM transactions)

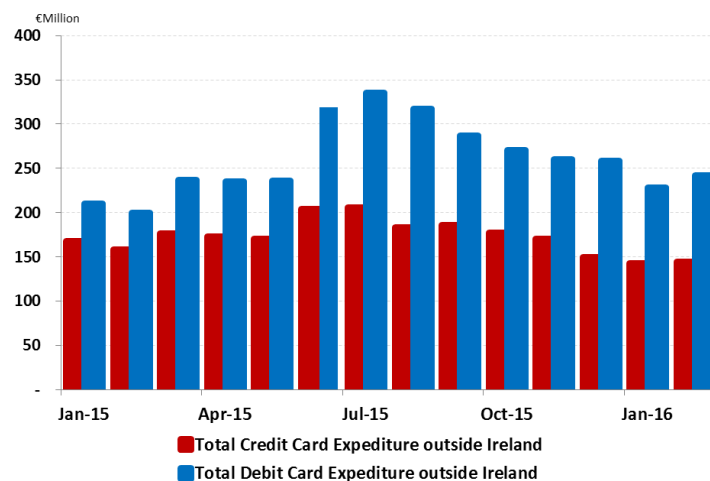
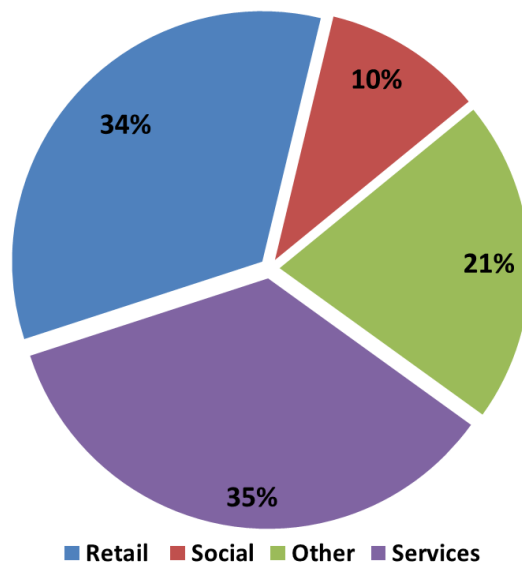


Chart 5: New spending on personal credit cards – sectoral breakdown



Note:

The primary aim of the data collected in the CDR (Credit/Debit Card Return) return is to inform national and euro-area policy making, and to enhance understanding of the role of credit/debit cards in the domestic financial system. Only euro-denominated credit/debit cards issued to Irish residents are included in the compilation of the CDR data. Monthly CDR data is derived from a sample of reporting entities heavily engaged in the provision of credit/debit services to Irish residents.

The CDR sectoral breakdown is compiled referencing the MCC code system for credit/debit card transactions. A merchant category code (MCC) is generally a four-digit number assigned to a business by credit card companies (e.g. American Express, MasterCard or Visa) when an entity first begins to accept one of these cards as a form of payment. The MCC is used to classify the business by the type of goods or services it typically provides.

Table A.13 Credit and Debit Card Statistics - Card Values												
Gross New Transactions on all Cards (€ thousands)	Credit Cards						Debit Cards					
	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16
1. New Transactions during the Month on all Cards	887,135	836,520	905,151	983,971	816,503	848,375	3,725,813	3,737,201	3,920,985	4,489,200	3,449,146	3,727,145
1.1 ATM Transactions							1,573,762	1,580,685	1,535,289	1,734,282	1,350,880	1,446,193
1.2 POS Transactions							2,152,051	2,156,516	2,385,696	2,754,918	2,098,266	2,280,952
2. New Spending during the Month on all Personal Credit Cards	701,393	653,834	715,626	787,253	653,143	663,636						
2.1 Total Retail	243,190	251,572	307,547	361,749	211,462	224,051	1,057,199	1,117,900	1,267,019	1,537,652	1,003,882	1,100,832
of which:												
2.1.1 Groceries/Perishables	80,264	82,491	96,683	125,683	70,167	78,358	558,382	587,573	644,647	786,914	545,895	611,058
2.1.2 Clothing	47,300	51,779	67,112	80,985	38,355	40,480	135,502	149,909	180,764	255,753	114,811	125,555
2.1.3 Electrical Goods	17,446	17,436	24,884	29,713	18,404	15,517	48,906	52,283	66,484	83,043	50,919	46,353
2.1.4 Hardware	49,010	50,791	56,949	50,480	43,301	44,875	148,544	157,652	175,593	172,955	138,979	148,298
2.2 Total Services	256,699	207,014	191,652	182,079	254,404	232,659	525,327	466,055	450,981	454,622	514,983	524,170
of which:												
2.2.1 Transport	92,598	82,236	73,696	68,829	124,631	104,840	190,648	180,901	173,052	168,518	219,230	217,331
2.2.2 Accommodation	53,118	50,064	45,435	43,001	44,032	46,502	69,394	67,840	64,350	70,233	61,539	68,463
2.2.3 Education	56,069	20,783	16,456	12,935	31,337	24,540	97,351	47,538	39,734	31,678	62,586	52,184
2.2.4 Health	13,219	13,190	13,691	12,023	12,011	13,523	32,264	32,600	33,254	30,265	31,730	35,241
2.2.5 Utilities	10,322	10,710	11,363	13,007	10,610	11,032	52,185	53,431	54,879	62,396	56,519	57,897
2.2.6 Professional Services	30,339	29,291	30,234	31,385	29,663	31,371	81,354	82,059	83,906	89,670	81,216	90,980
2.3 Total Social	62,357	60,634	71,621	88,224	52,098	68,598	200,162	211,614	242,212	305,264	197,928	238,089
of which:												
2.3.1 Restaurants/Dining	25,131	26,181	25,904	30,977	20,966	24,971	105,055	115,592	119,596	141,269	106,395	128,730
2.3.2 Entertainment	33,768	31,291	42,286	52,789	26,998	39,323	88,842	89,997	116,621	156,827	83,775	101,035
2.4 Other	139,147	134,614	144,806	155,201	135,179	138,328	369,363	360,947	425,484	457,380	381,392	417,861
3. New Spending during the Month on all Business Cards	185,742	182,685	189,525	196,718	163,361	184,741						
3.1 Total Retail	43,213	42,682	47,722	53,364	38,099	41,067						
of which:												
3.1.1 Clothing	4,491	4,330	4,922	5,323	3,209	3,807						
3.1.2 Electronics/Phones/Laptops/Tablets	10,276	10,055	11,534	11,652	10,147	10,632						
3.2 Total Services	83,298	81,778	80,203	66,110	74,578	82,406						
of which:												
3.2.1 Transport	38,553	36,701	34,074	26,127	36,854	38,197						
3.2.2 Accommodation	20,066	21,945	22,234	18,921	15,467	19,976						
3.2.3 Professional Services	16,034	15,973	16,143	14,444	14,963	16,618						
3.3 Total Social	15,926	15,910	17,001	24,358	12,903	16,820						
of which:												
3.3.1 Restaurants/Dining	9,748	10,369	11,278	17,977	7,908	10,052						
3.3.2 Entertainment	5,295	4,794	4,919	5,349	4,075	5,805						
3.4 Other	43,305	42,315	44,599	52,886	37,781	44,448						
Total E-Commerce Expenditure during the Month	315,036	274,549	281,411	269,986	304,979	290,980	680,872	632,954	687,638	685,497	720,365	718,844
Personal Credit Cards	213,888	177,444	182,869	181,114	209,612	188,983						
Business Credit Cards	101,148	97,105	98,542	88,872	95,367	101,997						
Total Expenditure outside Ireland during the Month	186,051	177,648	170,571	149,228	142,242	144,190	287,085	270,410	260,172	258,662	228,046	242,375
ATM Transactions							101,240	88,993	72,863	69,034	64,291	68,654
POS Transactions							185,845	181,417	187,309	189,628	163,755	173,721
Personal Cards	147,571	137,160	131,815	119,615	111,456	108,501						
Business Cards	38,480	40,488	38,756	29,613	30,786	35,689						
Indebtedness (€ thousands)												
1. Outstanding Indebtedness on Credit Cards	1,938,844	1,898,730	1,922,844	1,966,950	1,923,008	1,868,238						
1.1 Personal Cards	1,784,206	1,742,794	1,762,408	1,803,747	1,777,243	1,719,076						
1.2 Business Cards	154,638	155,936	160,436	163,203	145,765	149,162						
2. Interest Bearing Balance on Credit Cards at the End of the Payment Cycle	1,236,839	1,241,436	1,237,768	1,207,921	1,241,459	1,223,470						
2.1 Personal Cards	1,236,549	1,241,116	1,237,335	1,207,284	1,241,267	1,223,111						
2.2 Business Cards	290	320	433	637	192	359						
Credit Cards (percentage share)												
Value of Accounts with an Outstanding Balance to Credit Limit Percentage of:												
up to 25 per cent	18	19	19	19	18	18						
26 to 50 per cent	18	18	18	19	19	18						
51 to 75 per cent	18	18	18	18	18	18						
76 to 100 per cent	37	37	37	36	36	37						
over 100 per cent	9	9	8	9	9	9						

Table A.13 Credit and Debit Card Statistics - Card Numbers						
	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16
Credit Cards (units)						
Total Number of Cards in Issue	1,891,836	1,890,965	1,890,635	1,883,607	1,889,641	1,887,498
Active Use	1,615,195	1,610,382	1,607,769	1,604,381	1,600,287	1,597,458
Non-Active Use	276,641	280,583	282,866	279,226	289,354	290,040
Number of Personal Cards in Issue	1,727,933	1,726,592	1,725,946	1,718,938	1,724,531	1,723,937
Active Use	1,485,372	1,480,243	1,477,431	1,473,727	1,469,791	1,466,297
Non-Active Use	242,561	246,349	248,515	245,211	254,740	257,640
Number of Business Cards in Issue	163,903	164,373	164,689	164,669	165,110	163,561
Active Use	129,823	130,139	130,338	130,654	130,496	131,161
Non-Active Use	34,080	34,234	34,351	34,015	34,614	32,400
Total Number of Accounts	1,487,596	1,488,501	1,487,917	1,487,985	1,487,743	1,477,757
One active card on the account	696,671	694,505	691,759	692,406	691,672	690,500
More than one active card on the account	209,252	209,483	208,089	208,507	207,736	206,562
Total Number of Transactions during the Month	9,581,603	9,637,149	10,539,025	11,553,268	8,852,857	9,522,415
Personal Cards	8,279,685	8,328,576	9,176,381	10,260,312	7,676,009	8,174,374
Business Cards	1,301,918	1,308,573	1,362,644	1,292,956	1,176,848	1,348,041
Credit Cards (percentage share)						
Number of Accounts with an Outstanding Balance to Credit Limit Percentage of:						
up to 25 per cent	55	56	56	55	55	57
26 to 50 per cent	14	14	14	15	15	14
51 to 75 per cent	10	10	10	10	10	10
76 to 100 per cent	16	16	16	16	16	16
Over 100 per cent	4	4	4	4	4	4
Debit Cards (units)						
Total Number of Cards in Issue	4,525,409	4,527,197	4,548,900	4,562,213	4,587,374	4,595,736
Active Use	3,907,159	3,888,848	3,908,165	3,923,924	3,925,308	3,934,747
Non-Active Use	618,249	638,349	640,735	638,289	662,066	660,989
Total Number of Transactions during the Month	55,235,819	57,139,478	60,518,778	66,676,712	52,956,884	59,534,809
ATM Transactions	13,091,728	13,218,430	12,860,671	13,104,777	11,333,347	12,212,768
Point of Sale Transactions	42,144,091	43,921,048	47,658,107	53,571,935	41,623,537	47,322,041