



Credit and Debit Card Statistics: May 2016

Key Developments

In May 2016, **total transactions on debit cards reached €4.2 billion**, the highest recorded figure since December 2015. Just over €2.6 billion of this spending was attributable to Point of Sale (PoS) activity, while the remaining €1.6 billion was accounted for by ATM transactions (Chart 1). Debit card transactions have continued on an upward trend since the post-Christmas low of €3.4 billion in January. In the same month, **PoS spending on all credit cards amounted to circa €876 million**.

- Debit card e-commerce¹ expenditure has generally trended upward since February 2015. **Debit card e-commerce has risen by 22 per cent over the year, to stand at €691 million at end-May 2016. Total credit card e-commerce has increased by 30 per cent since February 2016 to €379 million at end-May 2016.**
- Slightly over €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 **8 per cent of cards have exceeded their credit limit while 36 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 increase in the number of personal credit cards in issue during the same period.

Chart 1: Gross New PoS Spending On All Cards

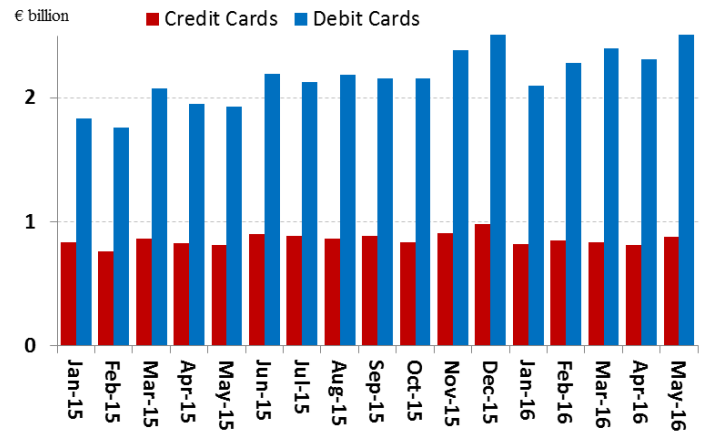


Chart 2: E-Commerce Spending

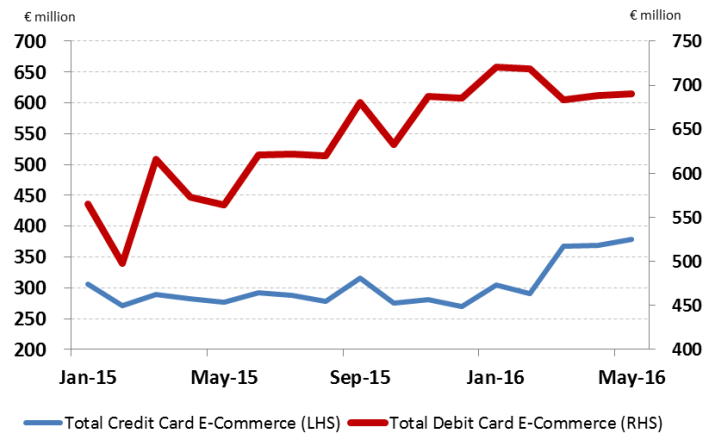
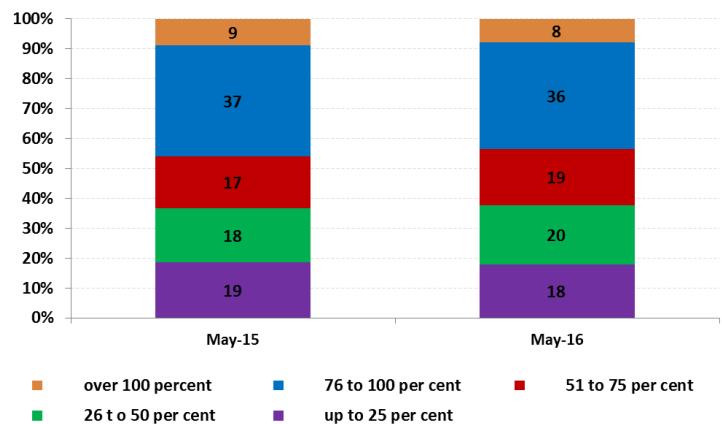


Chart 3: Credit Cards' Outstanding Balance as a Percentage of the Credit Limit (Distribution)



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

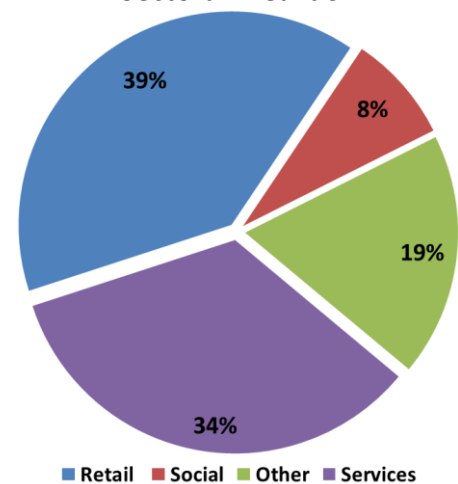
- The value of **new PoS debit card spending per month** was almost three times greater for debit cards than for credit cards at end-May 2016. Credit card expenditure remained stable, averaging €871 million over the year ending May 2016. **During the same period, PoS spending on debit cards increased by circa €671 million**, to stand at over €2.6 billion (Table 1). In terms of sectoral spending, the majority of debit card expenditure occurs in the retail sector, where transactions valued over €1.3 billion were recorded in May 2016. The education sector is the only one to experience a decrease in expenditure in May 2016 compared to May 2015.

Table 1: Debit Card Sectoral Spending (€ 000's)

	May-15	May-16
Total Debit Card PoS Spending	1,931,556	2,602,386
<i>of which:</i>		
Total Retail	999,954	1,311,198
Groceries/Perishables	544,367	623,103
Clothing	122,982	157,681
Electrical Goods	43,115	53,978
Hardware	135,064	166,317
Total Services	439,730	547,502
Transport	198,503	186,870
Accommodation	60,260	82,243
Education	27,541	15,372
Health	29,527	57,780
Utilities	44,818	91,385
Professional Services	77,149	110,694
Total Social	182,627	237,048
Restaurants/Dining	100,403	143,852
Entertainment	76,516	82,607

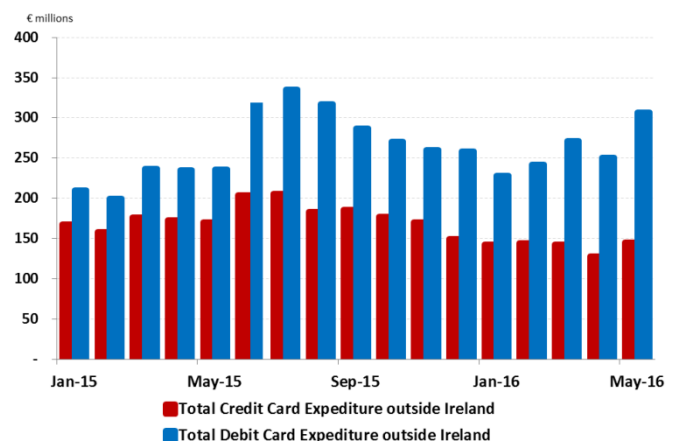
- Just over **73 per cent of all personal credit card expenditure at end-May 2016 was split between both the retail and services sectors** (Chart 4). Over the same period, debit card expenditure in the retail sector accounted for over half of all new debit card PoS transactions.

Chart 4: New Spending on Personal Credit Cards – Sectoral Breakdown



- Total debit card expenditure outside Ireland averaged €279 million over the 12-month period to end-May 2016** (Chart 5). 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 increased to €307 million during May the highest since August 2015.** This jump was not reflected in credit card expenditure outside Ireland which has remained relatively unchanged since December 2015. The value of debit card expenditure outside Ireland is generally higher than the equivalent credit card transactions, reflecting the inclusion of ATM transactions.

Chart 5: Expenditure Outside Ireland (Including Both PoS & ATM Transactions)



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 ¹												
	Credit Cards						Debit Cards ²					
	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16
Gross New Transactions on all Cards (€ thousands)												
1. New Transactions during the Month on all Cards	983,971	816,503	848,375	835,670	814,539	876,456	4,489,200	3,449,146	3,727,145	3,978,165	3,858,020	4,217,160
1.1 ATM Transactions							1,734,282	1,350,880	1,446,193	1,580,401	1,546,804	1,614,774
1.2 POS Transactions ³							2,754,918	2,098,266	2,280,952	2,397,764	2,311,216	2,602,386
2. New Spending during the Month on all Personal Credit Cards	787,253	653,143	663,636	658,495	634,330	688,690						
<u>2.1 Total Retail</u>	361,749	211,462	224,051	252,017	242,062	271,509	1,537,652	1,003,882	1,100,832	1,197,350	1,149,787	1,311,198
of which:												
2.1.1 Groceries/Perishables	125,683	70,167	78,358	77,024	69,940	81,065	786,914	545,895	611,058	589,491	545,340	623,103
2.1.2 Clothing	80,985	38,355	40,480	44,011	43,074	49,946	255,753	114,811	125,555	132,080	131,699	157,681
2.1.3 Electrical Goods	29,713	18,404	15,517	15,613	15,137	15,641	83,043	50,919	46,353	50,154	50,100	53,978
2.1.4 Hardware	50,480	43,301	44,875	43,055	44,397	49,128	172,955	138,979	148,298	142,060	145,403	166,317
<u>2.2 Total Services</u>	182,079	254,404	232,659	220,402	215,245	233,819	454,622	514,983	524,170	505,856	500,576	547,502
of which:												
2.2.1 Transport	68,829	124,631	104,840	91,228	94,848	99,530	168,518	219,230	217,331	164,487	173,208	186,870
2.2.2 Accommodation	43,001	44,032	46,502	50,979	45,020	55,057	70,233	61,539	68,463	74,359	65,671	82,243
2.2.3 Education	12,935	31,337	24,540	7,796	6,160	6,501	31,678	62,586	52,184	16,978	15,651	15,372
2.2.4 Health	12,023	12,011	13,523	19,799	20,743	21,294	30,265	31,730	35,241	55,057	56,183	57,780
2.2.5 Utilities	13,007	10,610	11,032	15,815	14,518	15,372	62,396	56,519	57,897	89,430	83,086	91,385
2.2.6 Professional Services	31,385	29,663	31,371	32,233	32,972	34,925	89,670	81,216	90,980	102,563	103,480	110,694
<u>2.3 Total Social</u>	88,224	52,098	68,598	55,552	50,744	56,393	305,264	197,928	238,089	223,534	204,093	237,048
of which:												
2.3.1 Restaurants/Dining	30,977	20,966	24,971	27,038	23,875	28,687	141,269	106,395	128,730	131,592	116,074	143,852
2.3.2 Entertainment	57,247	31,132	43,627	28,514	26,869	27,706	164,000	91,533	109,359	91,942	88,019	93,196
<u>2.4 Other</u>	155,201	135,179	138,328	130,524	126,279	126,969	457,380	381,392	417,861	471,024	456,760	506,638
3. New Spending during the Month on all Business Cards	196,718	163,361	184,741	177,175	180,209	187,767						
<u>3.1 Total Retail</u>	53,364	38,099	41,067	58,969	60,155	63,381						
of which:												
3.1.1 Clothing	5,323	3,209	3,807	3,760	3,744	4,041						
3.1.2 Electronics/Phones/Laptops/Tablets	11,652	10,147	10,632	9,335	9,507	9,614						
<u>3.2 Total Services</u>	66,110	74,578	82,406	79,408	80,060	83,486						
of which:												
3.2.1 Transport	26,127	36,854	38,197	34,216	33,649	34,958						
3.2.2 Accommodation	18,921	15,467	19,976	18,656	19,041	20,823						
3.2.3 Professional Services	14,444	14,963	16,618	16,831	17,648	18,033						
<u>3.3 Total Social</u>	24,358	12,903	16,820	13,306	13,853	14,394						
of which:												
3.3.1 Restaurants/Dining	17,977	7,908	10,052	9,274	9,981	10,416						
3.3.2 Entertainment	5,349	4,075	5,805	2,991	2,734	2,748						
<u>3.4 Other</u>	52,886	37,781	44,448	25,492	26,141	26,506						
Total E-Commerce Expenditure during the Month⁴	269,986	304,979	290,980	367,669	369,328	378,675	685,497	720,365	718,844	683,232	688,774	690,780
Personal Credit Cards	181,114	209,612	188,983	271,897	271,722	278,422						
Business Credit Cards	88,872	95,367	101,997	95,772	97,606	100,253						
Total Expenditure outside Ireland during the Month⁵	149,228	142,242	144,190	142,674	128,057	145,011	258,662	228,046	242,375	271,019	251,047	307,055
ATM Transactions							69,034	64,291	68,654	76,077	67,620	88,701
POS Transactions							189,628	163,755	173,721	194,942	183,427	218,354
Personal Cards	119,615	111,456	108,501	109,008	94,520	110,193						
Business Cards	29,613	30,786	35,689	33,666	33,537	34,818						
Indebtedness (€ thousands)												
1. Outstanding Indebtedness on Credit Cards	1,966,950	1,923,008	1,868,238	1,871,985	1,911,282	1,887,077						
1.1 Personal Cards	1,803,747	1,777,243	1,719,076	1,721,720	1,741,963	1,723,258						
1.2 Business Cards	163,203	145,765	149,162	150,265	169,319	163,819						
2. Interest Bearing Balance on Credit Cards at the End of the Payment Cycle	1,207,921	1,241,459	1,223,470	1,201,009	1,178,432	1,202,957						
2.1 Personal Cards	1,207,284	1,241,267	1,223,111	1,200,543	1,178,093	1,201,713						
2.2 Business Cards	637	192	359	466	339	1,244						
Credit Cards (percentage share)												
Value of Accounts⁶ with an Outstanding Balance to Credit Limit Percentage of:												
up to 25 per cent	19	18	18	18	18	18						
26 to 50 per cent	19	19	18	19	20	20						
51 to 75 per cent	18	18	18	18	19	19						
76 to 100 per cent	36	36	37	37	35	36						
over 100 per cent	9	9	9	8	9	8						

For queries contact: Central Bank, Press Office at press@centralbank.ie or (01) 224 6299

Table A.13 Credit and Debit Card Statistics - Card Numbers

	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16
Credit Cards (units)						
Total Number of Cards in Issue	1,883,607	1,889,641	1,887,498	1,916,219	1,917,419	1,915,369
Active Use	1,604,381	1,600,287	1,597,458	1,568,352	1,568,448	1,572,388
Non-Active Use	279,226	289,354	290,040	347,867	348,971	342,981
Number of Personal Cards in Issue	1,718,938	1,724,531	1,723,937	1,751,334	1,751,488	1,749,932
Active Use	1,473,727	1,469,791	1,466,297	1,436,839	1,436,287	1,440,320
Non-Active Use	245,211	254,740	257,640	314,495	315,201	309,612
Number of Business Cards in Issue	164,669	165,110	163,561	164,885	165,931	165,437
Active Use	130,654	130,496	131,161	131,513	132,161	132,068
Non-Active Use	34,015	34,614	32,400	33,372	33,770	33,369
Total Number of Accounts	1,487,985	1,487,743	1,477,757	1,397,022	1,406,892	1,421,349
One active card on the account	692,406	691,672	690,500	1,010,391	1,015,562	1,028,617
More than one active card on the account	208,507	207,736	206,562	266,703	272,941	278,609
Total Number of Transactions during the Month	11,553,268	8,852,857	9,522,415	9,883,572	9,444,762	10,434,148
Personal Cards	10,260,312	7,676,009	8,174,374	8,579,968	8,116,670	9,046,688
Business Cards	1,292,956	1,176,848	1,348,041	1,303,604	1,328,092	1,387,460
Credit Cards (percentage share)						
Number of Accounts with an Outstanding Balance to Credit Limit Percentage of:						
up to 25 per cent	56	56	57	53	55	54
26 to 50 per cent	15	14	14	15	15	15
51 to 75 per cent	10	10	10	11	10	11
76 to 100 per cent	16	16	16	17	15	16
Over 100 per cent	4	4	4	4	4	4
Debit Cards (units)						
Total Number of Cards in Issue	4,562,213	4,587,374	4,595,736	4,550,782	4,560,453	4,572,392
Active Use	3,923,924	3,925,308	3,934,747	3,910,428	3,917,955	3,931,583
Non-Active Use	638,289	662,066	660,989	640,354	642,498	640,809
Total Number of Transactions during the Month	66,676,712	52,956,884	59,534,809	62,113,170	59,261,224	66,379,236
ATM Transactions	13,104,777	11,333,347	12,212,768	13,152,577	12,798,843	13,358,558
Point of Sale Transactions	53,571,935	41,623,537	47,322,041	48,960,593	46,462,381	53,020,678