



15 May 2008

Key statistics

Annual figures (end-2007)

Number of UK-issued debit cards	71.6 mn [^]
Number of debit cardholders	41.7 mn [^]
Number of debit card purchases in the UK	4.9 bn [^]
Number of cash machine withdrawals	2.8 bn
Number of cheque transactions	1.6 bn
Number of automated payments	5.8 bn
Number of UK-issued credit & charge cards	73.0 mn [^]
Number of credit cardholders	30.8 mn [^]

Latest quarterly figures (end-March 2008)

Number of plastic card purchases	1.8 bn
Total value of plastic card purchases	£91.1 bn
Number of cash machine withdrawals	726 mn
Total value of cash machine withdrawals	£42.3 bn
Number of inter-bank cheques cleared	258 mn
Value of inter-bank cheques cleared	£269 bn
Number of automated payments	1.4 bn
Total value of automated payments	£26,682 bn

[^] Denotes revised figure

In the first quarter of 2008 there were 1.8 billion plastic card purchases made in the UK totalling £91.1 billion. The number of purchases was 8.9% higher than in the first quarter of 2007, and spending was 8.9% higher. Debit cards accounted for 72.8% of all plastic card purchases compared with 71.1% in the first quarter of 2007.

Bank of England figures show that gross credit card lending to individuals in the first quarter of 2008 amounted to £32.1 billion. The sum of all monthly repayments to UK banks also amounted to £32.1 billion. During the 12 months to the end of March 2008 outstanding credit card balances have increased by £1.0 billion.

Bacs volumes and values grew by 3.3% and 7.5% respectively over the 12 months to March 2008. Over the same period, the volume of CHAPS payments increased by 1.9% with a 9.8% rise in values. Cheque and credit clearing volumes declined by 10.3%, total values declined by 2.9%.

Chart 1

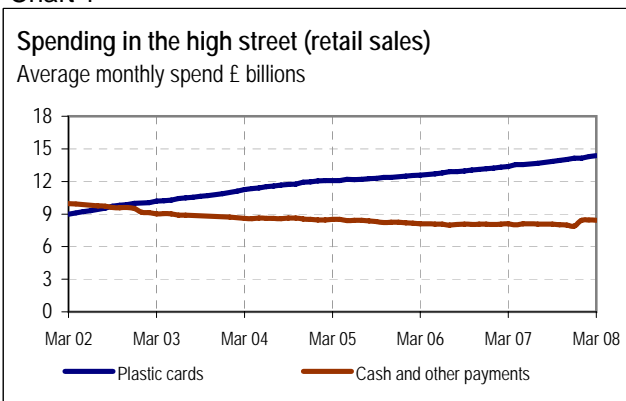


Chart 2

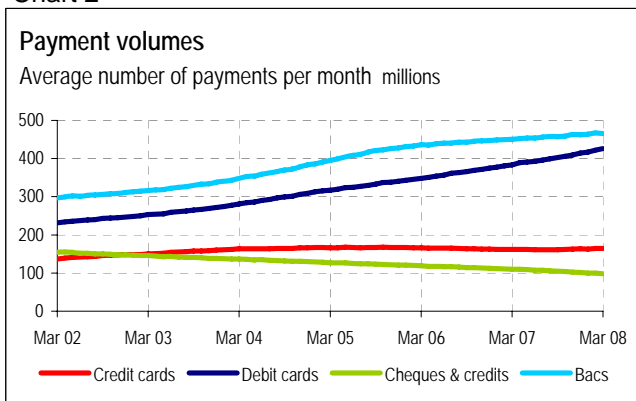


Chart 3

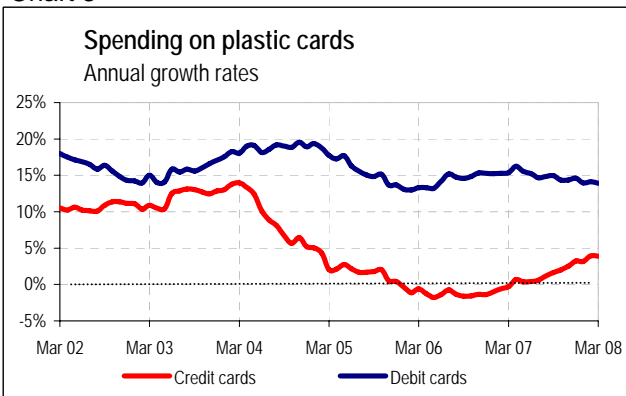
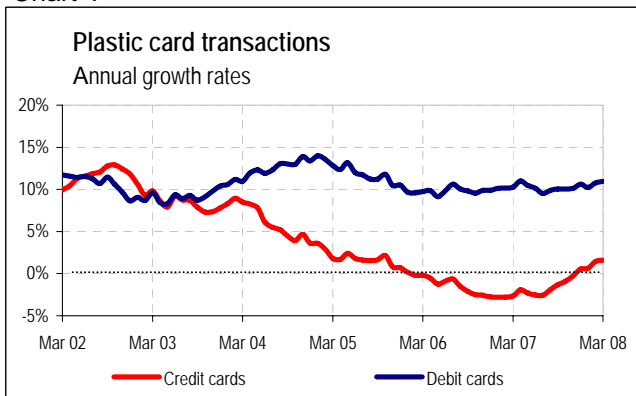


Chart 4



APACS publishes *UK Payment Statistics*, an annual publication providing comprehensive statistics of all UK payments, covering cheques, electronic payments and plastic cards, including historical data and ten year forecasts. The 2008 edition will be published in June, together with other publications on how we make payments in the UK. You can email APACS Statistical Service at askapacs@apacs.org.uk for more information.

A Credit card lending and repayments

B Cash machines

Source: Bank of England

		Gross lending	Repayments		Outstanding balances	Number of cash machines	Cash withdrawals			
		£ mn	£ mn	See note % A %	£ mn		Number mn	Value £ mn	Average value (£)	
2001	Q1	23,964	22,906	96%	37,227	34,261	490	27,840	57	
	Q2	25,793	22,204	86%	39,214	33,869	533	30,510	57	
	Q3	25,997	23,554	91%	39,972	36,241	547	32,399	59	
	Q4	28,731	24,364	85% 89%	42,802	36,666	553	33,118	60	
2002	Q1	26,147	24,731	95%	42,538	37,233	526	29,909	57	
	Q2	28,943	25,125	87%	43,230	38,265	569	33,489	59	
	Q3	30,053	25,940	86%	46,030	39,370	574	34,754	61	
	Q4	31,917	27,133	85% 88%	48,248	40,825	591	36,271	61	
2003	Q1	28,485	27,586	97%	42,980	41,779	565	33,642	60	
	Q2	30,538	27,413	90%	45,620	43,688	606	36,029	59	
	Q3	32,329	29,867	92%	47,745	44,764	603	36,247	60	
	Q4	33,638	30,908	92% 93%	48,638	46,461	607	38,009	63	
2004	Q1	31,663	30,988	98%	49,576	48,158	605	38,095	63	
	Q2	32,726	29,680	91%	51,717	52,777	621	39,842	64	
	Q3	34,201	31,243	91%	53,288	53,595	641	40,765	64	
	Q4	34,959	31,699	91% 93%	56,057	54,412	662	42,568	64	
2005	Q1	32,024	31,464	98%	55,787	54,768	647	41,048	63	
	Q2	32,889	30,828	94%	57,083	57,480	676	42,762	63	
	Q3	33,581	32,087	96%	57,490	58,499	677	43,263	64	
	Q4	33,948	31,815	94% 95%	59,036	58,286	699	44,951	64	
2006	Q1	31,265	31,837	102%	56,379	59,014	652	41,313	63	
	Q2	31,357	29,786	95%	56,121	58,991	691	44,719	65	
	Q3	31,213	30,521	98%	55,630	59,383	689	45,572	66	
	Q4	32,829	30,902	94% 97%	55,797	60,468	720	48,205	67	
2007	Q1	30,193	30,885	102%	53,647	61,301	674	42,678	63	
	Apr	10,058	9,430	94%	53,807	-	-	-	-	
	May	10,895	10,867	100%	53,628	-	-	-	-	
	Jun	10,302	9,793	95%	53,517	61,749	715	46,348	65	
	Jul	11,352	10,748	95%	53,577	-	-	-	-	
	Aug	10,861	10,462	96%	53,462	-	-	-	-	
	Sep	9,986	9,384	94%	54,182	61,297	719	47,428	66	
	Oct	11,527	11,282	98%	54,244	-	-	-	-	
	Nov	11,336	10,438	92%	54,911	-	-	-	-	
	Dec	12,013	10,350	86% 96%	56,086	63,420	726	49,705	68	
	2008	Jan	11,090	11,577	104%	55,066	-	-	-	-
		Feb	10,405	10,190	98%	54,848	-	-	-	-
Mar		10,649	10,372	97%	54,614	64,492	692	42,276	61	

Table A shows data relating to all UK households' credit card use and is collated by the Bank of England. Gross lending equates to what households have put on their credit cards during a certain period, whilst outstanding balances is the total amount still owed at the end of the period by UK households on their credit and charge cards to UK banks, building societies and other specialist lenders.

Note Repayments refers only to those repayments to UK resident banks, whereas gross lending covers total credit card lending to individuals. UK resident banks, however, account for a highly significant proportion of each month's gross credit card lending, frequently over 95%. The figures in the % columns express the repayments to UK resident banks as a proportion of gross lending; they are not adjusted to reflect UK resident banks' share of total credit card lending.

Table B shows key statistics on UK cash machines, indicating the total number of machines installed at the end of each period, the total number and value of withdrawals processed during the period, and shows the average (rounded) value of a withdrawal. Data are available only at end-quarter months.

C Spending in the UK on plastic cards

Seasonally-adjusted

		Debit cards			Credit cards			
		Number of purchases	Value	Average purchase value	Number of purchases	Value	Average purchase value	
		000	£ mn	£	000	£ mn	£	
2001	Q1	649,435	22,080	34.00	381,596	22,202	58.18	
	Q2	663,803	23,047	34.72	389,508	22,805	58.55	
	Q3	681,952	23,565	34.55	401,046	23,034	57.43	
	Q4	727,575	25,030	34.40	420,789	23,790	56.54	
2002	Q1	700,952	25,124	35.84	434,152	24,564	56.58	
	Q2	735,374	26,410	35.91	440,806	25,101	56.94	
	Q3	759,743	27,498	36.19	454,595	25,993	57.18	
	Q4	761,519	28,093	36.89	451,790	26,399	58.43	
2003	Q1	783,440	29,285	37.38	459,639	26,948	58.63	
	Q2	807,402	31,103	38.52	487,029	29,217	59.99	
	Q3	826,064	31,787	38.48	490,075	29,827	60.86	
	Q4	847,715	33,237	39.21	483,314	29,198	60.41	
2004	Q1	892,299	35,233	39.49	499,528	30,776	61.61	
	Q2	916,015	36,781	40.15	493,046	29,706	60.25	
	Q3	935,552	37,906	40.52	497,130	30,229	60.81	
	Q4	958,213	39,228	40.94	499,683	30,480	61.00	
2005	Q1	995,577	40,769	40.95	505,090	31,019	61.41	
	Q2	1,009,799	41,450	41.05	499,160	30,348	60.80	
	Q3	1,031,348	42,949	41.64	501,580	30,176	60.16	
	Q4	1,054,606	44,389	42.09	497,444	30,125	60.56	
2006	Q1	1,080,692	46,472	43.00	493,293	30,064	60.94	
	Q2	1,115,054	48,172	43.20	490,903	30,011	61.13	
	Q3	1,136,966	49,328	43.39	481,601	29,861	62.00	
	Q4	1,162,683	51,520	44.31	482,508	30,063	62.31	
2007	Q1	1,190,909	53,178	44.65	484,152	30,436	62.87	
	Apr	427,217	19,266	45.10	167,444	10,434	62.31	
	May	398,765	18,168	45.56	159,597	10,090	63.22	
	Jun	398,996	18,207	45.63	157,761	10,008	63.44	
	Jul	421,889	19,035	45.12	164,521	10,475	63.67	
	Aug	413,070	18,539	44.88	162,194	10,343	63.77	
	Sep	415,138	18,623	44.86	159,450	10,183	63.87	
	Oct	437,103	19,815	45.33	170,205	10,798	63.44	
	Nov	427,228	19,462	45.56	165,871	10,576	63.76	
	Dec	442,239	19,736	44.63	167,937	10,530	62.70	
	2008	Jan	428,510	19,146	44.68	163,038	10,423	63.93
		Feb	453,813	20,274	44.67	170,329	10,872	63.83
Mar		445,682	20,037	44.96	161,990	10,335	63.80	

Table C shows spending in the UK on plastic cards as reported to APACS by the banks that process card purchases on behalf of UK merchants, retailers and other service providers. The data include a small proportion of spending using non-UK-issued cards, eg, by tourists; spending outside the UK by holders of UK-issued cards is excluded. Cash withdrawals from ATMs are not included.

Detailed monthly data providing a breakdown of debit and credit spending in the UK by volume and by value grouped by merchant categories under the headings of Food & drink, Mixed business, Clothing, Household, Other retailers, Motoring, Entertainment, Hotels, Travel, Financial and Other services, are available on request from APACS.

D Clearing statistics



	Total				of which			
	Volume		Value		Credits		Direct debits	
	000s	% growth	£ mn	% growth	000s	£ mn	000s	£ mn
2001	3,527,329	6%	2,166,065	13%	1,375,271	1,610,193	2,152,058	555,873
2002	3,734,737	6%	2,381,518	10%	1,446,151	1,764,625	2,288,586	616,893
2003	4,060,357	9%	2,574,367	8%	1,630,442	1,912,175	2,429,915	662,192
2004	4,602,570	13%	2,883,452	12%	2,012,635	2,133,071	2,589,934	750,381
2005	5,134,250	12%	3,150,207	9%	2,412,005	2,353,168	2,722,245	797,039
2006	5,361,749	4%	3,429,333	9%	2,503,988	2,584,501	2,857,761	844,832
2007 Q1	1,335,652	3%	891,995	8%	627,081	683,484	708,571	208,511
Q2	1,384,527	3%	915,635	7%	639,017	695,623	745,510	220,012
Q3	1,382,958	3%	923,979	7%	637,445	700,294	745,513	223,685
Q4	1,440,972	3%	964,297	8%	677,092	732,914	763,880	231,383
2008 Jan	469,388	3%	317,571	8%	220,025	243,247	249,363	74,323
Feb	459,763	4%	300,058	8%	214,826	227,773	244,937	72,285
Mar	445,972	3%	335,845	7%	210,568	260,723	235,404	75,122



	Total				of which			
	Volume		Value		CHAPS sterling		CHAPS Euro	
	000s	% growth	£ mn	% growth	000s	£ mn	000s	£ mn
2001	27,945	12%	84,927,816	14%	23,962	52,912,886	3,983	32,014,931
2002	30,845	10%	82,278,534	-3%	25,563	51,896,045	5,281	30,382,489
2003	33,202	8%	88,576,506	8%	27,215	51,613,456	5,987	36,963,050
2004	34,862	5%	91,334,788	3%	28,322	52,347,525	6,541	38,987,263
2005	36,756	5%	97,100,206	6%	29,686	52,671,592	7,070	44,428,614
2006	40,686	11%	109,637,149	13%	33,030	59,437,370	7,656	50,199,779
2007 Q1	10,594	10%	29,499,274	11%	8,575	15,937,204	2,019	13,562,070
Q2	10,918	9%	31,576,018	12%	8,872	16,559,141	2,046	15,016,877
Q3	11,151	9%	34,044,873	16%	9,059	18,569,885	2,092	15,474,988
Q4	10,872	7%	31,549,684	16%	9,081	18,286,092	1,791	13,263,592
2008 Jan	3,344	6%	10,032,177	15%	2,905	6,277,918	438	3,754,259
Feb	3,154	5%	8,417,590	14%	2,827	5,899,978	327	2,517,612
Mar	3,010	2%	7,278,807	10%	2,835	6,040,514	175	1,238,294



	Total				of which			
	Volume		Value		Cheques		Credits	
	000s	% growth	£ mn	% growth	000s	£ mn	000s	£ mn
2001	1,889,700	-5%	1,401,323	-1%	1,732,304	1,316,906	157,396	84,417
2002	1,771,010	-6%	1,361,558	-3%	1,620,599	1,281,091	150,411	80,467
2003	1,659,908	-6%	1,315,051	-3%	1,519,117	1,240,685	140,792	74,366
2004	1,556,641	-6%	1,278,318	-3%	1,423,742	1,210,057	132,899	68,261
2005	1,449,042	-7%	1,214,100	-5%	1,325,762	1,152,256	123,280	61,844
2006	1,345,711	-7%	1,230,803	1%	1,237,401	1,171,062	108,309	59,741
2007 Q1	317,779	-8%	303,313	..	292,621	287,230	25,159	16,083
Q2	310,279	-8%	305,574	..	286,359	291,768	23,920	13,806
Q3	293,859	-8%	308,694	..	270,199	294,193	23,660	14,501
Q4	299,237	-9%	296,801	-1%	275,686	283,494	23,551	13,308
2008 Jan	101,298	-10%	103,739	-2%	92,976	97,220	8,322	6,519
Feb	89,691	-10%	90,601	-2%	82,830	86,370	6,861	4,231
Mar	88,733	-10%	89,189	-3%	81,723	85,240	7,010	3,949

Table D shows the data for payments processed through the three UK payment systems for Bacs – Direct Credits, standing orders and Direct Debits; for CHAPS Clearing Company – £ and € high-value same-day payments (£ equivalent, including payments to/from TARGET); for Cheque & Credit Clearing Company – cheques and paper credits (Great Britain only). Per cent growth figures relate to 12 month periods.