

Key Developments

- Debit card Point of Sale (PoS) transactions, at €2.9 billion in June 2017, were 16 per cent higher than the same month in 2016. Credit card PoS spending was 5 per cent higher than in the same period in 2016 (Chart 1).
- Debit card e-commerce¹ was €873 million in June compared to €857 million in March. The June value is 25 per cent higher than one year earlier. E-commerce now accounts for 30 per cent of debit card PoS transactions and 44 per cent of credit card purchases.
- Debit card PoS spending was more than three times the value of credit card spending in June. There were increases across all categories of spending, but services and social spending had the highest increases over the year, at 20 per cent and 23 per cent respectively.
- Within services, Professional Services² have increased by 27 per cent since June 2016. Within social, a similar trend is evident for Restaurants/Dining, which recorded a 28 per cent increase.

Chart 1: Gross New PoS Spending On All Cards

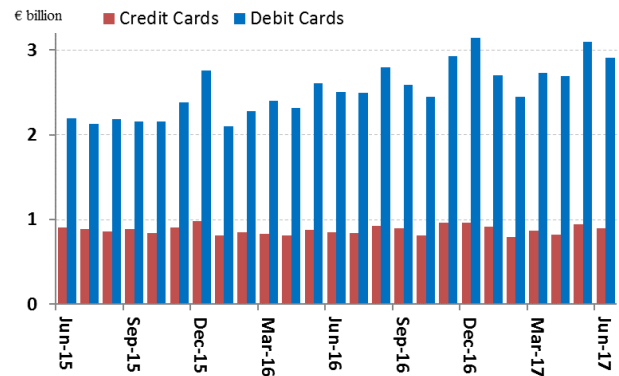


Chart 2: E-Commerce Spending

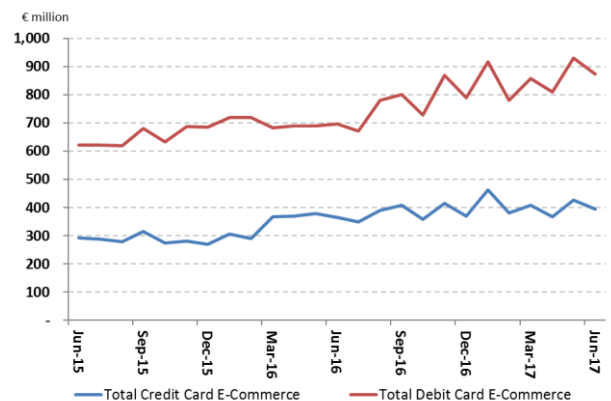


Table 1: Debit Card Sectoral Spending (€000's)

	Jun-16	Jun-17	%
Total Debit Card PoS Spending	2,507,175	2,904,976	16%
of which:			
Total Retail	1,247,681	1,420,688	14%
Groceries/Perishables	586,797	663,242	13%
Clothing	155,037	172,047	11%
Electrical Goods	54,193	62,301	15%
Hardware	157,437	188,580	20%
Total Services	537,839	644,827	20%
Transport	180,383	205,781	14%
Accommodation	85,576	105,583	23%
Education	15,006	18,530	23%
Health	55,771	66,374	19%
Utilities	90,211	108,000	20%
Professional Services	107,686	137,015	27%
Total Social	225,692	278,180	23%
Restaurants/Dining	135,739	173,756	28%
Entertainment	80,495	93,133	16%

¹ Expenditure where the physical card is not present during the transaction provides a proxy for e-commerce. It includes instances where card details are communicated online, or by other communication means, such as telephone orders.

² Professional services includes sectors such as legal services, general contractors, car dealers and real estate agents.

- Just over 73 per cent of all personal credit card expenditure in June 2017 was split between the retail (38 per cent) and services (35 per cent) sectors (Chart 3). In comparison, debit card expenditure in the retail and services sectors accounted for 49 per cent and 22 per cent of all new debit card PoS transactions, respectively.
- Total debit card expenditure outside Ireland averaged €361 million in the 3 months to end-June (Chart 4). Credit or debit card expenditure outside Ireland (when the physical card is present) provides an indication of expenditure abroad by Irish tourists. A large seasonal effect can be seen in the data, particularly for debit cards, with higher expenditures outside Ireland recorded in the summer months than in the winter months. Debit card expenditure abroad during Q2 2017 amounted to €1.1 billion, an increase of 17 per cent on the Q2 2016 figure. Credit card expenditure outside Ireland saw a 5 per cent increase in Q2 2017 compared with the Q2 2016 figure. The total value of debit card expenditure outside Ireland (including ATM transactions) is 2.6 times the value of equivalent credit card expenditure. This compares with a ratio of just 1.3 recorded in January 2015.

Chart 3: New Spending on Personal Credit Cards – Sectoral Breakdown

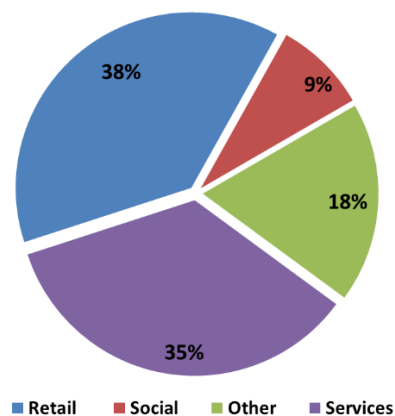
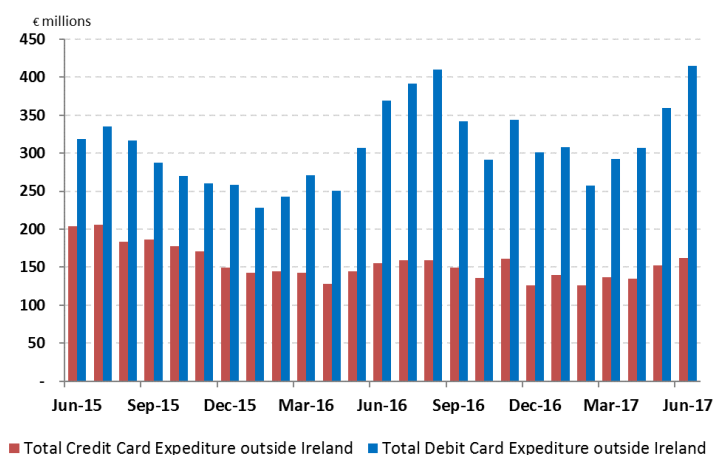
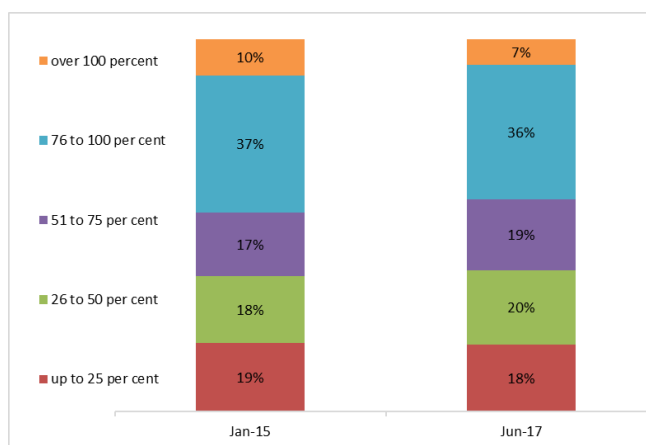


Chart 4: Expenditure Outside Ireland (Including both PoS and ATM Transactions)



- Over €1.1 billion of outstanding credit card balances included an accrued interest component at end-June 2017. Chart 5 provides a breakdown of interest-bearing balances as a percentage of credit card limits. This shows that 7 per cent of cards have exceeded their credit limit, while 36 per cent had balances between 76 and 100 per cent of their credit limit. This represents a 3 per cent and 1 per cent respective decrease in these categories from the amounts recorded when the series began in January 2015.

Chart 5: Credit Cards’ Outstanding Balance as a Percentage of the Credit Limit (Distribution)



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 Numbers						
	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17
Credit Cards (units)						
Total Number of Cards in Issue	1,884,241	1,885,145	1,885,243	1,886,928	1,882,388	1,883,905
Active Use	1,538,480	1,534,489	1,534,686	1,537,028	1,545,036	1,545,821
Non-Active Use	345,761	350,656	350,557	349,900	337,352	338,084
Number of Personal Cards in Issue	1,715,523	1,716,066	1,715,441	1,718,917	1,714,280	1,715,705
Active Use	1,405,500	1,401,174	1,400,777	1,403,546	1,410,356	1,411,192
Non-Active Use	310,023	314,892	314,664	315,371	303,924	304,513
Number of Business Cards in Issue	168,718	169,079	169,802	168,011	168,108	168,200
Active Use	132,980	133,315	133,909	133,482	134,680	134,629
Non-Active Use	35,738	35,764	35,893	34,529	33,428	33,571
Total Number of Accounts	1,420,209	1,420,593	1,419,399	1,422,770	1,428,343	1,430,644
One active card on the account	1,025,340	1,024,012	1,022,730	1,025,911	1,038,345	1,039,898
More than one active card on the account	277,588	277,853	276,919	278,815	278,840	280,245
Total Number of Transactions during the Month	10,049,462	9,251,645	10,330,988	9,754,113	11,380,297	10,835,516
Personal Cards	8,742,576	7,939,796	8,872,548	8,479,807	9,846,301	9,414,296
Business Cards	1,306,886	1,311,849	1,458,440	1,274,306	1,533,996	1,421,220
Credit Cards (percentage share)						
Number of Accounts with an Outstanding Balance to Credit Limit Percentage of:						
up to 25 per cent	51	52	54	56	54	54
26 to 50 per cent	16	16	15	15	15	15
51 to 75 per cent	11	11	11	10	11	11
76 to 100 per cent	17	17	17	15	16	16
Over 100 per cent	4	4	4	4	4	4
Debit Cards (units)						
Total Number of Cards in Issue	4,744,873	4,690,138	4,711,094	4,715,488	4,713,449	4,733,882
Active Use	4,072,970	4,050,423	4,065,872	4,086,146	4,078,290	4,093,843
Non-Active Use	671,903	639,716	645,222	629,342	635,159	640,039
Total Number of Transactions during the Month	67,897,286	64,469,782	72,649,887	70,501,778	81,129,599	75,659,088
ATM Transactions	12,045,344	11,634,350	13,500,529	12,548,794	14,059,702	13,399,825
Point of Sale Transactions	55,851,942	52,835,432	59,149,358	57,952,984	67,069,897	62,259,263