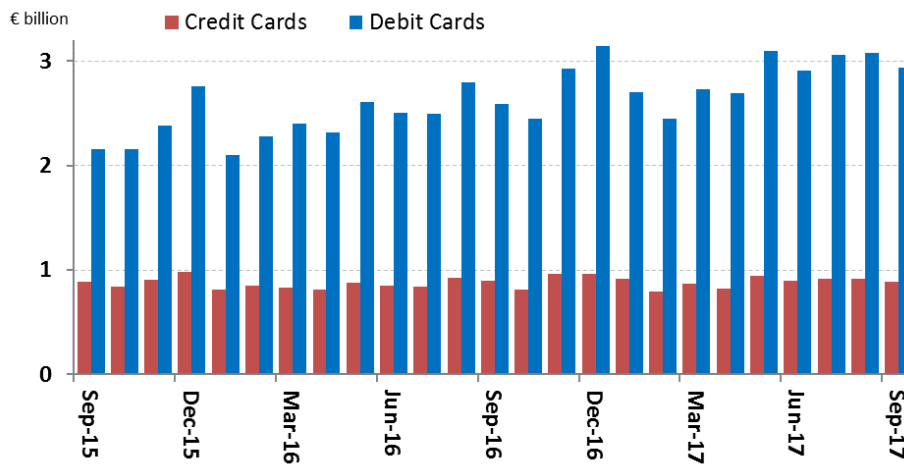


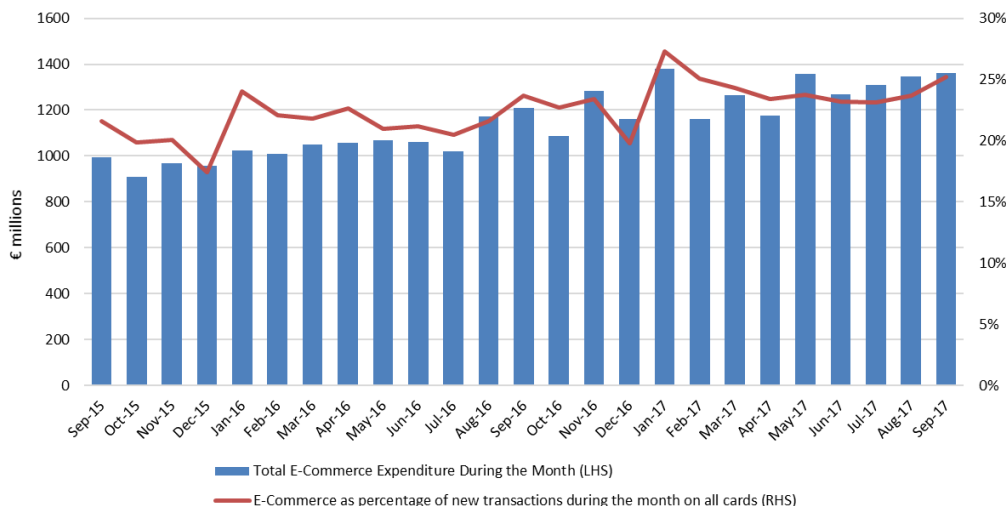
Credit and Debit Card Statistics – Q3 2017

Chart 1: Gross New PoS Spending On All Cards



Debit card Point of Sale (PoS) transactions in September 2017 were 14 per cent higher than the same month in 2016, at €2.9 billion. This accounted for 54 per cent of gross new transactions on all cards. Over the month, ATM transactions on Debit cards totalled €1.6 billion. Credit card PoS spending was largely similar to the same period in 2016, experiencing a minor fall of €4.8 million (Chart 1).

Chart 2: E-Commerce Spending



Total e-commerce¹ expenditure was €1.36 billion in September, with €948 million and €413 million attributable to debit cards and credit cards, respectively. This marked an increase of €93 million in the total figure over the quarter. The September value is 12 per cent higher than the previous year. E-commerce accounted for 25 per cent of new transactions on all cards during the month. It now forms 32 per cent of debit card PoS transactions and 46 per cent of credit card purchases.

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

	Debit Cards			Credit Cards		
	Sep-16	Sep-17	% change	Sep-16	Sep-17	% change
Total Card PoS Spending	2,586,366	2,935,667	12%	893,754	888,974	-1%
of which:						
Total Retail	1,248,969	1,418,282	12%	322,989	325,903	1%
Groceries/Perishables	586,757	654,503	10%	75,140	76,625	2%
Clothing	144,950	161,500	10%	49,538	49,362	0%
Electrical Goods	59,037	67,596	13%	29,012	29,463	2%
Hardware	156,390	187,276	16%	45,472	45,166	-1%
Total Services	601,177	695,326	14%	347,141	342,709	-1%
Transport	150,059	171,647	13%	118,142	114,268	-3%
Accommodation	84,164	98,910	15%	78,384	80,091	2%
Education	92,310	100,575	8%	47,167	43,206	-8%
Health	59,537	67,308	12%	21,465	21,667	1%
Utilities	90,626	106,555	15%	14,542	15,271	5%
Professional Services	119,958	145,492	18%	53,916	56,164	4%
Total Social	226,343	273,599	17%	70,428	71,185	1%
Restaurants/Dining	131,082	168,524	22%	37,102	38,755	4%
Entertainment	84,809	92,949	9%	27,826	26,676	-4%

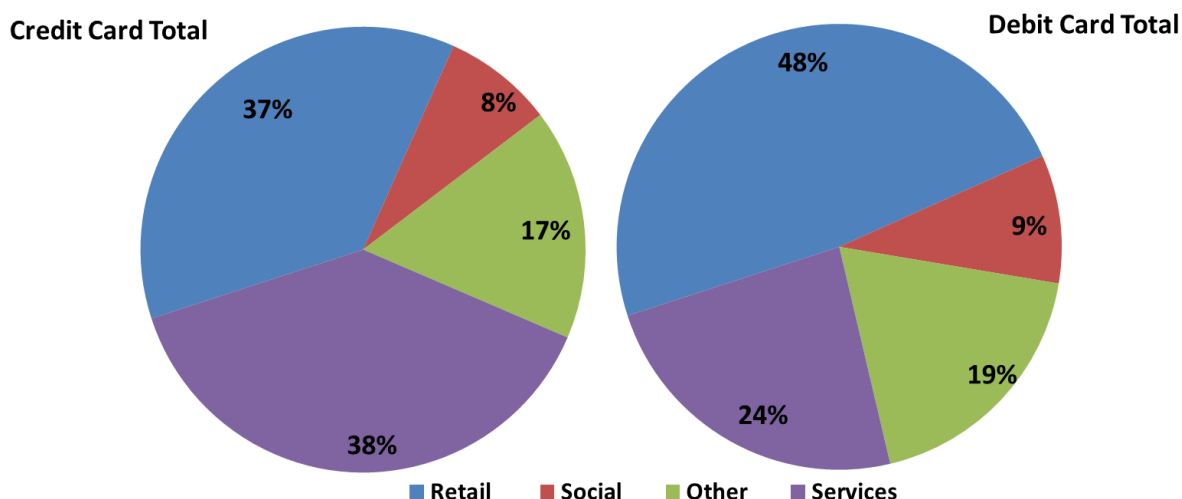
Debit card PoS spending was just under three times the value of credit card spending in September. There were increases across all categories of spending, but social and services spending had the highest increases over the year, at 17 per cent and 14 per cent respectively. Within services, Professional Services² have increased by 18 per cent since September 2016.

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

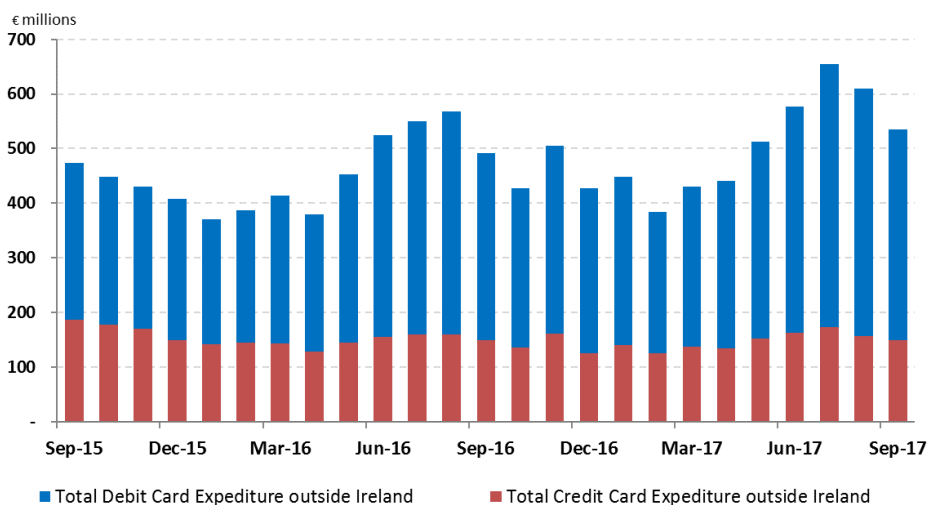
Within social, a similar trend is evident for Restaurants/Dining, which recorded a 22 per cent increase. In contrast to this, credit cards witnessed reductions in total spending, although there was limited growth in certain categories. Total spending on Services fell by 1 per cent while both Retail and Social grew by the same amount. Within Services, Utilities experienced the largest growth of 5 per cent, while Education decreased by 8 per cent.

Chart 3: New Spending on Cards – Sectoral Breakdown



Just over 75 per cent of all credit card expenditure in September 2017 was split between the retail (37 per cent) and services (38 per cent) sectors (Chart 3). In comparison, retail was predominant for debit cards, accounting for 48 per cent, or double the expenditure on services.

Chart 4: Expenditure outside of Ireland



Total card expenditure outside Ireland averaged €600 million in the 3 months to end-September (Chart 4). Credit or debit card expenditure outside Ireland (when the physical card is present) provides an indication of expenditure abroad by Irish tourists³. A large seasonal effect can be seen in the data, particularly for debit cards, with higher expenditures outside Ireland recorded in the summer months compared to the winter months. Debit card expenditure abroad during Q3 2017 amounted to €1.3 billion, an increase of 15 per cent on the Q3 2016 figure. Credit card expenditure outside Ireland saw a 3 per cent increase in Q3 2017 compared with the Q3 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.

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.

³ Only total figures are available for expenditure outside of Ireland