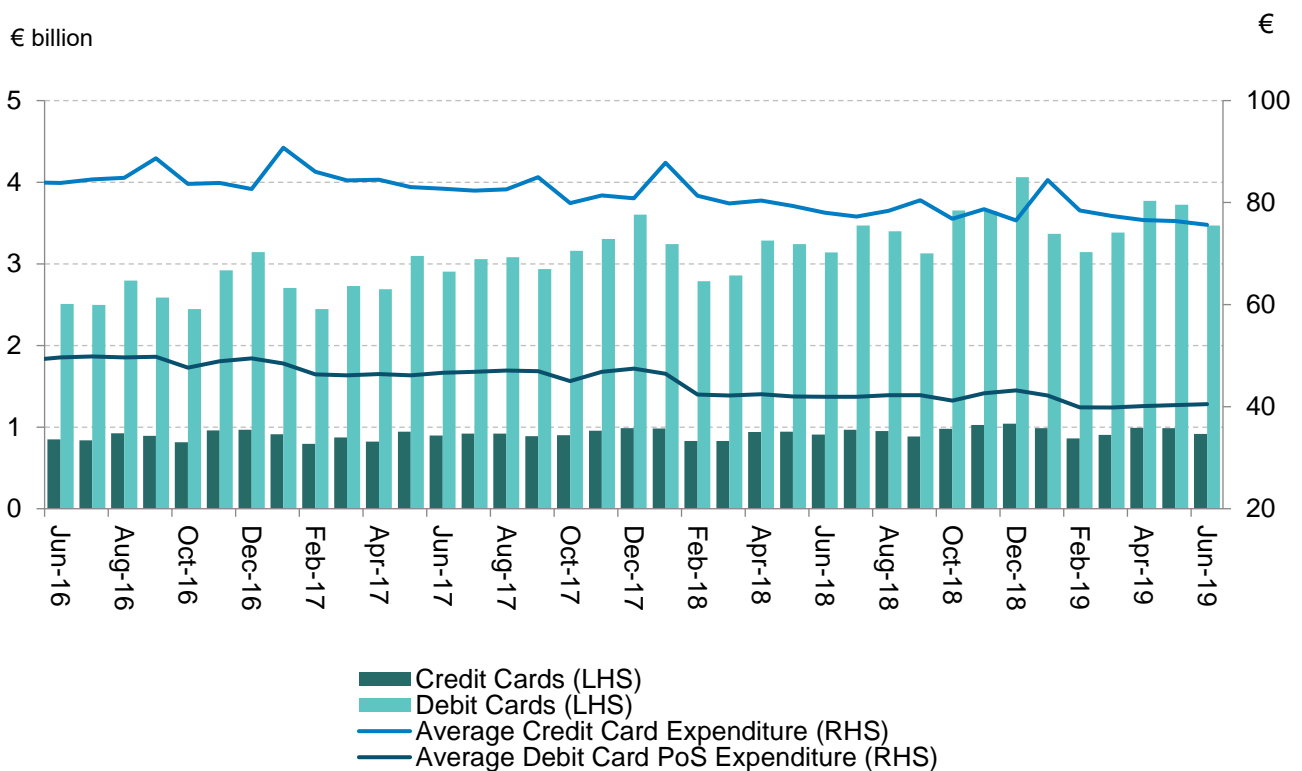




The total quarterly value of all card transactions (including ATM transactions) increased by 8 per cent in year-on-year terms to €18.9 billion in Q2 2019. Debit card expenditure at Point of Sale (PoS) and ATM were 5.5 times the value of credit card spending over the quarter. The total number of active<sup>1</sup> debit and credit cards in issue stood at 6.1 million at the end of Q2 2019, with active debit cards accounting for 74 per cent of this number.

**Chart 1: Point of Sale (PoS) Card Expenditure<sup>2</sup>**



Over Q2 2019 debit cards were used in 272 million individual PoS transactions, with an average spend of €40.30 per transaction. In comparison, the number of transactions with individual credit cards totalled 38 million, with an average spend of €76.22 per transaction.

Debit card PoS spending rose by 10 per cent in year-on-year terms in June 2019, to nearly €3.5 billion (Chart 1). Credit card spending in June 2019 was largely similar to the same month the previous year, experiencing a minor increase of 1 per cent to €915 million.

<sup>1</sup> The total number of cards in issue where there has been a customer-generated transaction in the previous six months.

<sup>2</sup> All debit card figures and percentages relate to PoS transactions unless otherwise stated. For credit cards the figures for PoS spending include ATM transactions.

Growth in debit card PoS expenditures was recorded across all categories, with spending in the retail sector increasing by 5 per cent (€76 million), the services sector by 10 per cent (€76 million) and the social sector by 16 per cent million (€52 million) year-on-year in June 2019 (Table 1). Within the social sector, restaurant/dining recorded the highest annual growth rate of any sub-category, rising by 18 per cent.

Credit card spending experienced falls in certain sub-categories. Total spending on retail fell by 2 per cent, while both the services and social sectors grew by 4 per cent. Within retail, clothing experienced the largest decline of any sub-category, decreasing by 7 per cent. In contrast, restaurant/dining in the social sector increased by 7 per cent on the year.

**Table 1:** PoS Sectoral Card Expenditure (€000s)

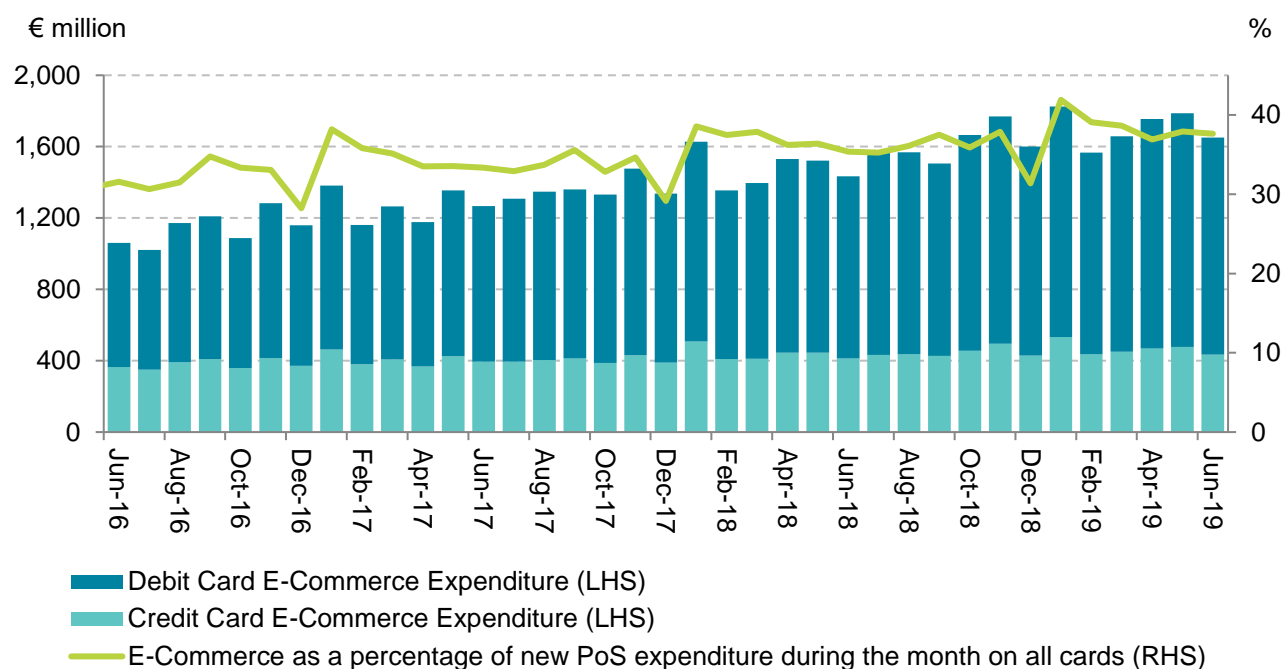
	Debit Cards			Credit Cards		
	Jun-18	Jun-19	Y-o-Y % change	Jun-18	Jun-19	Y-o-Y % change
Total PoS Spending	3,141,509	3,471,270	10%	909,944	915,170	1%
of which <sup>3</sup> :						
Total Retail	1,673,974	1,750,133	5%	350,946	343,764	-2%
Groceries/Perishables	738,972	773,624	5%	84,876	81,979	-3%
Clothing	190,391	195,217	3%	54,271	50,546	-7%
Electrical Goods	70,450	75,606	7%	27,236	28,618	5%
Hardware	220,171	229,335	4%	50,360	48,842	-3%
Total Services	739,232	815,324	10%	347,772	360,601	4%
Transport	224,395	246,474	10%	139,683	146,940	5%
Accommodation	124,745	137,322	10%	93,334	96,548	3%
Education	22,040	23,985	9%	7,061	6,990	-1%
Health	72,985	79,395	9%	22,520	22,994	2%
Utilities	129,906	147,496	14%	17,706	18,362	4%
Professional Services	161,319	176,542	9%	57,732	59,549	3%
Total Social	333,886	385,647	16%	79,791	82,738	4%
Restaurants/Dining	214,002	253,037	18%	45,284	48,470	7%
Entertainment	105,419	115,265	9%	28,490	27,577	-3%

In total, 77 per cent of credit card spending was split between the retail (38 per cent) and services sectors (39 per cent) in June 2019. In comparison, retail spending accounted for half of all debit card PoS spending, which was more than double the debit card expenditure on services.

<sup>3</sup> The Sectors Retail, Services, and Social sectors will not sum to Total PoS Spending. The sub-category items pertaining to these sectors represent a subset of the full granularity, and will not sum to the respective 'Total' category.

Total e-commerce<sup>4</sup> expenditure increased on an annual basis in June 2019, rising by 15 per cent to €1.7 billion. Of this, €1.2 billion and €434 million is attributable to debit and credit cards respectively (Chart 2). E-commerce accounted for 24 per cent of all debit card expenditure, and 47 per cent of all credit card spending in June 2019.

**Chart 2: E-Commerce Card Expenditure**



Credit and debit card expenditure outside Ireland (when the card is physically present) provides an indication of spending abroad by Irish tourists.<sup>5</sup> Significant 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.

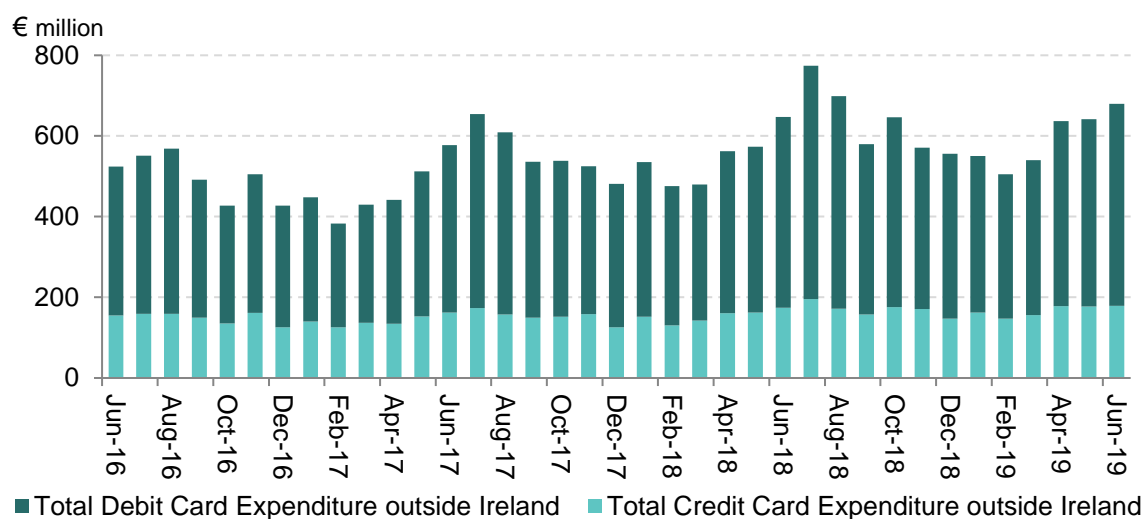
Card expenditure (including ATM transactions) outside Ireland averaged €653 million over the three months to end-June 2019 (Chart 3), up 10 per cent on the same period the previous year.

Expenditure abroad accounted for 9 per cent of total debit card spending, and 18 per cent of credit card expenditure in Q2 2019. Debit card expenditure abroad (including ATM transactions) amounted to €1.4 billion in the second quarter of 2019, an increase of 11 per cent on the same quarter the previous year. Credit card expenditure abroad rose by 8 per cent year-on-year to €534 million in Q2 2019.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> Only total figures are available for expenditure outside of Ireland.

**Chart 3: Card Expenditure outside of Ireland<sup>6</sup>**



**Note:**

The primary aim of the data collected in the Credit/Debit Card 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. Monthly data is collected from the largest issuers of credit/debit cards resident in Ireland. Only euro-denominated cards issued by these providers to Irish residents are included. Cards issued to Irish residents by issuers that are not resident in Ireland are not included in the compilation of data.

The sectoral breakdown is compiled referencing the MCC code system for retail financial services. 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.

<sup>6</sup> Card expenditure outside of Ireland includes ATM transactions.