

# Statistical release - 14 April 2010

This quarterly statistical report is published by the UK payments industry. It comprises the authoritative facts and figures for the latest quarter.

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## Summary of key payment statistics for Q4 2009

### Plastic cards

Number of debit cards in issue (end-2009) **79.3 mn**      Number of credit & charge cards in issue (end-2009) **64.4 mn**

### Plastic card transactions

Number of	Q4 2009	Annual rate of growth	Total value of	Q4 2009	Annual rate of growth
Debit card purchases	1.5 bn	8.7%	Debit card purchases	£70.0 bn	7.5%
Credit & charge card purchases	0.5 bn	1.5%	Credit & charge card purchases	£31.7 bn	-0.7%
All plastic card purchases	2.0 bn	6.8%	All plastic card purchases	£101.7 bn	4.7%
Number of	Annual figures (2009)	Annual rate of growth	Total value of	Annual figures (2009)	Annual rate of growth
Debit card purchases	5.9 bn	8.7%	Debit card purchases	£263.5 bn	7.5%
Credit & charge card purchases	2.0 bn	1.5%	Credit & charge card purchases	£125.4 bn	-0.7%
All plastic card purchases	7.9 bn	6.8%	All plastic card purchases	£388.9 bn	4.7%

### Cash and cheque transactions

Number of	Q4 2009	Annual rate of growth	Total value of	Q4 2009	Annual rate of growth
Cash machine withdrawals	748 mn	1.4%	Cash machine withdrawals	£50.6 bn	0.3%
Inter-bank cheques cleared	217 mn	-13.1%	Inter-bank cheques cleared	£209 bn	-19.1%
Number of	Annual figures (2009)	Annual rate of growth	Total value of	Annual figures (2009)	Annual rate of growth
<sup>1</sup> Cash payments	21,392 mn	-5.20%	<sup>1</sup> Cash payments	£266.0 bn	-0.4%
Cash machine withdrawals	2,916 mn	1.4%	Cash machine withdrawals	£192.8 bn	0.3%
<sup>1</sup> Cheque transactions	1,282 mn	n/a	<sup>1</sup> Cheque transactions	£1,255 bn	n/a
<sup>2</sup> Inter-bank cheques cleared	876 mn	-13.1%	<sup>2</sup> Inter-bank cheques cleared	£871 bn	-19.1%

<sup>1</sup> Quarterly data for cash and cheque transactions are not available.      <sup>2</sup> This figure does not include inter-branch items.

### Automated payments

Number of	Q4 2009	Annual rate of growth	Total value of	Q4 2009	Annual rate of growth
<sup>3</sup> Faster Payments	88.2 mn	14.4%	<sup>3</sup> Faster Payments	£32.2 bn	14.1%
CHAPS payments	8.2 mn	-7.7%	CHAPS payments	£15,470 bn	-12.2%
Bacs payments	1.5 bn	-0.3%	Bacs payments	£1,005 bn	-2.2%
Number of	Annual figures (2009)	Annual rate of growth	Total value of	Annual figures (2009)	Annual rate of growth
<sup>3</sup> Faster Payments	294.8 mn	-	<sup>3</sup> Faster Payments	£106.2 bn	-
CHAPS payments	31.9 mn	-7.7%	CHAPS payments	£64,617 bn	-12.2%
Bacs payments	5.6 bn	-0.3%	Bacs payments	£3,861 bn	-2.2%

<sup>3</sup> The Faster Payments Service was launched on 27 May 2008. The per cent growth for Q4 2009 relates to a three month period.

# A Spending in the UK on debit and credit cards

Spending on plastic grew less strongly in 2009 than during 2008, the annual rate of growth falling from 6.8% to 4.7%. The average monthly spend on debit cards was £22.0 billion during 2009 compared with £20.4 billion in 2008. In contrast, average monthly spending on credit cards fell from £10.5 billion in 2008 to £10.4 billion in 2009.

Plastic cards accounted for 66% of all retail spending during 2009.

Seasonally adjusted		Debit cards			Credit cards			All plastic cards	
		Number of purchases	Value	Average purchase value	Number of purchases	Value	Average purchase value	Number of purchases	Value
		000	£ mn	£	000	£ mn	£	000	£ mn
2003		3,264,529	125,405	38.41	1,919,595	115,177	60.00	5,184,124	240,583
2004		3,701,947	149,131	40.28	1,988,864	121,165	60.92	5,690,811	270,295
2005		4,090,802	169,524	41.44	2,002,786	121,632	60.73	6,093,588	291,155
2006		4,494,700	195,468	43.49	1,948,219	119,954	61.57	6,442,919	315,421
2007	Q1	1,191,407	53,261	44.70	485,065	30,493	62.86	1,676,472	83,754
	Q2	1,224,051	55,656	45.47	486,783	30,661	62.99	1,710,834	86,317
	Q3	1,252,230	56,186	44.87	484,952	30,890	63.70	1,737,182	87,075
	Q4	1,303,437	58,902	45.19	501,923	31,752	63.26	1,805,360	90,654
2008	Q1	1,328,816	59,555	44.82	496,197	31,715	63.92	1,825,013	91,270
	Q2	1,350,997	60,938	45.11	491,674	31,753	64.58	1,842,671	92,691
	Q3	1,393,213	61,535	44.17	493,014	31,795	64.49	1,886,227	93,330
	Q4	1,395,814	63,244	45.31	491,313	30,936	62.97	1,887,127	94,180
2009	Jan	460,749	20,559	44.62	159,812	10,089	63.13	620,561	30,648
	Feb	470,176	20,974	44.61	160,485	10,142	63.19	630,662	31,115
	Mar	499,770	21,942	43.90	168,970	10,617	62.83	668,739	32,559
	Apr	487,252	21,249	43.61	166,967	10,474	62.73	654,218	31,722
	May	474,191	20,891	44.06	160,755	10,067	62.62	634,946	30,958
	Jun	509,458	22,185	43.55	170,918	10,668	62.42	680,376	32,853
	Jul	491,432	21,488	43.72	168,123	10,492	62.41	659,554	31,980
	Aug	480,063	21,130	44.02	160,367	10,021	62.49	640,429	31,151
	Sep	540,901	23,179	42.85	176,748	11,084	62.71	717,649	34,264
	Oct	490,742	22,064	44.96	166,557	10,401	62.45	657,299	32,465
	Nov	523,281	24,333	46.50	171,339	10,584	61.77	694,620	34,917
	Dec	514,455	23,554	45.78	170,856	10,721	62.75	685,311	34,274

Chart A1

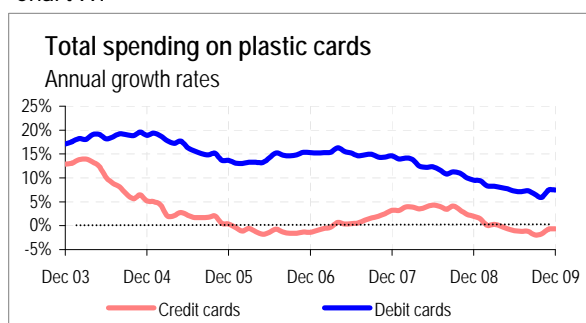


Chart A2

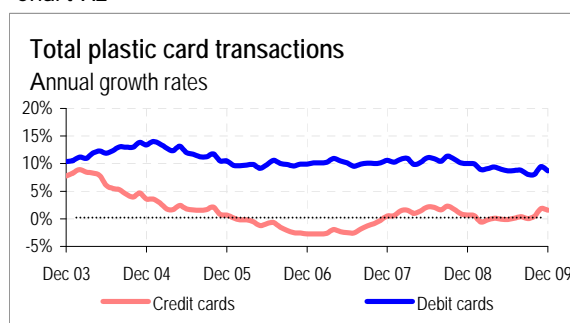
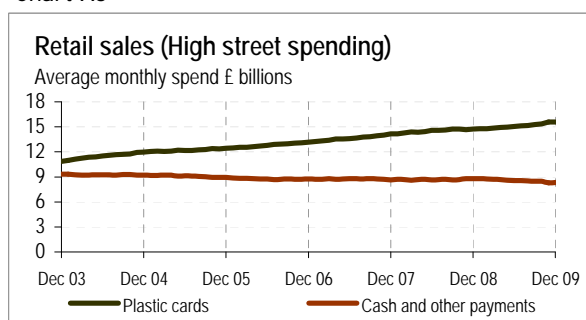


Chart A3



## Notes

Section A shows spending in the UK on plastic cards as reported to The UK Cards Association 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, but exclude spending abroad on UK-issued cards. Cash withdrawals from ATMs are not included.

**Seasonal adjustment** is the process of estimating and removing seasonal effects from a time series in order to more accurately compare consecutive months.

## B Credit card lending and repayments

Gross lending on credit cards amounted to £121 billion in 2009, £10 billion lower than in 2008. Repayments fell back from a total of £127 billion in 2008 to £119 billion in 2009, a reduction of £8 billion. With repayments declining less rapidly than new borrowing the repayment ratio averaged 98.0% during 2009 compared with 96.8% during 2008.

Outstanding balances declined from £65.8 billion at the end of 2008 to £63.5 billion at the end of 2009.

Seasonally adjusted		Gross lending		Repayments		Outstanding balances		Average credit card APR	
		Source Bank of England		Source Bank of England		Source Bank of England		Source Bank of England	
		£ mn	£ mn	%	£ mn	%			
2003		122,949	114,223	92.9%	55,186	15.2			
2004		132,478	122,588	92.5%	64,792	15.4			
2005		131,426	125,294	95.3%	68,723	16.0			
2006		124,586	121,952	97.9%	67,708	16.3			
2007	Q1	30,716	30,228	98.4%	67,041	15.8			
	Q2	30,853	30,606	99.2%	66,315	15.5			
	Q3	31,054	30,120	97.0%	66,319	15.1			
	Q4	32,508	31,592	97.2%	66,387	15.2			
2008	Q1	33,374	32,200	96.5%	66,562	14.8			
	Q2	33,098	31,936	96.5%	66,769	15.5			
	Q3	32,793	31,288	95.4%	66,025	15.6			
	Q4	31,804	31,407	98.8%	65,821	15.6			
2009	Jan	9,762	9,587	98.2%	65,855	16.1			
	Feb	10,064	9,821	97.6%	65,790	15.7			
	Mar	10,708	10,251	95.7%	65,701	15.7			
	Apr	10,376	10,032	96.7%	65,679	15.7			
	May	9,734	9,667	99.3%	65,389	15.9			
	Jun	10,526	10,281	97.7%	65,082	15.9			
	Jul	10,213	10,182	99.7%	64,231	15.9			
	Aug	9,910	9,607	96.9%	64,188	15.9			
	Sep	10,195	10,024	98.3%	63,921	15.9			
	Oct	9,514	9,353	98.3%	63,770	15.9			
	Nov	10,104	9,804	97.0%	63,678	15.9			
	Dec	10,167	10,236	100.7%	63,527	16.3			

^ revised figure

Chart B1

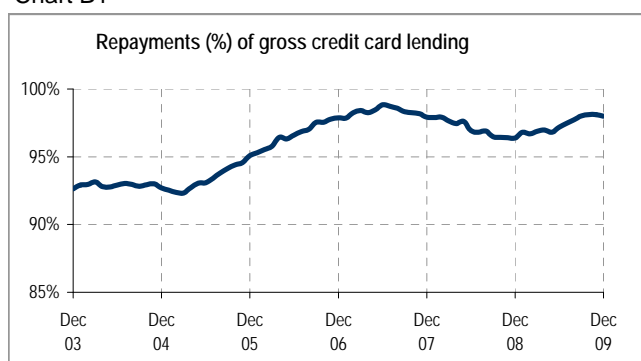


Chart B1 shows the rolling 12-month average of repayments

Section B shows data relating to UK households' credit and charge card use. Gross lending equates to new spending on credit and charge cards, including interest and other charges, whilst outstanding balances is the total amount still owed at the end of the period. These data are provided by members of The UK Cards Association which accounted for 98.7% of all UK credit card lending over the 12 months to December 2009.

Outstanding balances are reported to the Bank of England by all UK credit card issuers. The figures shown here include estimated amounts that have been securitised, ie, transferred by the UK credit card issuer to a non-resident associated company. These estimates are based on the published footnotes to the Bank of England's data series LPMVZRJ. Following the publication by the Bank on 1 March 2010 of data that include (from 1 January 2010) these securitisations within the total figure, the estimates in this table have been revised.

The average interest rate (Bank of England data series IUMCCTL) is expressed in terms of Annual Percentage Rate of Charge (APR) and applies to credit card purchases, rather than other transaction types. The series is weighted according to each credit card issuer's monthly gross credit card lending.

## C Cash machines



The number of cash machines fell by 1,700 during the course of 2009, largely due to the withdrawal of machines by the independent operators from locations with low usage levels. The number of machines at the branches of banks and building societies increased by 133 to 19,770, and the overall number of free-to-use machines increased by over 1,100 to 39,900. Free-to-use machines accounted for 97% of all cash withdrawals.

		Number of cash machines at period end	Cash withdrawals					Number of withdrawals where a fee is charged to the cardholder
			Volume		Value			
			mn	Increase %	£ mn	Increase %	Average value	
2003		46,461	2,373	4.6%	144,123	5.7%	60	2.9%
2004		54,412	2,528	6.5%	161,269	11.9%	64	4.5%
2005		58,286	2,699	6.8%	172,023	6.7%	64	4.5%
2006		60,468	2,752	2.0%	179,808	4.5%	65	4.3%
2007	Q1	61,301	674	2.6%	42,698	5.2%	63	4.1%
	Q2	61,749	715	2.9%	46,364	4.9%	65	4.2%
	Q3	61,350	720	3.6%	47,528	4.7%	66	4.0%
	Q4	63,476	727	3.1%	49,783	3.7%	68	3.7%
2008	Q1	62,416	682	2.6%	44,631	3.9%	65	3.6%
	Q2	64,459	735	2.4%	48,489	4.2%	66	3.6%
	Q3	64,547	734	1.7%	49,503	4.1%	67	3.6%
	Q4	63,916	725	1.4%	49,564	3.1%	68	3.4%
2009	Q1	63,293	689	1.3%	44,648	2.1%	65	3.2%
	Q2	63,678	740	0.8%	48,414	0.9%	65	3.4%
	Q3	63,400	738	0.5%	49,143	-0.3%	67	3.3%
	Q4	62,192	748	1.4%	50,596	0.3%	68	3.0%

Chart C1

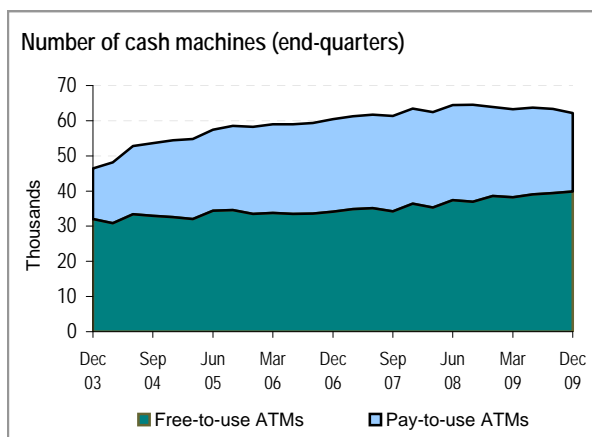
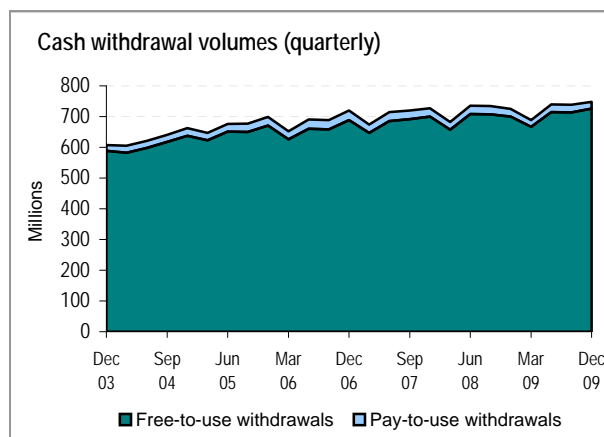


Chart C2



Section C 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 value of a withdrawal (rounded). Data from other cash machine deployers are provided by LINK.

## D Bacs Direct Credits and Direct Debits

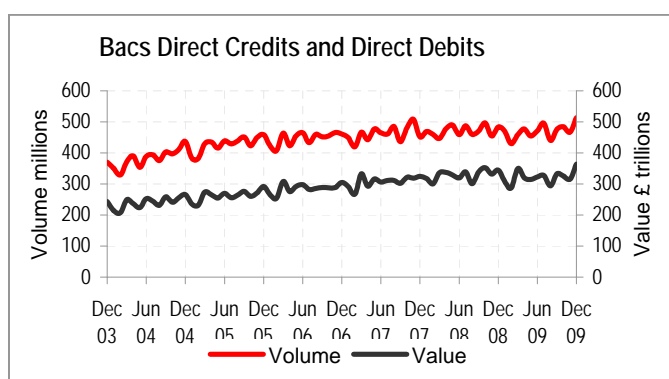


The volume of Bacs payments in 2009 (5.6 billion) was only very slightly lower than during 2008, but there was a small fall of 2.2% in the total value of payments from £3.95 billion in 2008 to £3.86 billion in 2009.

This slight fall was due to the decrease in the number of standing orders processed through Bacs falling by 38% year-on-year as a result of the introduction of Faster Payments.

The volume of Direct Debits has shown a slight increase during 2009, growing by 2.4% to reach 3.1 billion payments; total values are down by 5.3% and amounted to £886 billion.

		Total				of which			Direct Debits	
		Volume		Value		Bacs Direct Credits	Standing orders	Bacs Direct Credits 2	Volume	Value
		000s	% growth 1	£ mn	% growth 1	Volume 000s	Volume 000s	Value £ mn	000s	£ mn
2003		4,060,357	9%	2,574,367	8%	1,341,998	288,443	1,912,175	2,429,915	662,192
2004		4,602,570	13%	2,883,452	12%	1,710,757	301,879	2,133,071	2,589,934	750,381
2005		5,134,250	12%	3,150,207	9%	2,093,983	318,022	2,353,168	2,722,245	797,039
2006		5,361,749	4%	3,429,333	9%	2,171,743	332,245	2,584,501	2,857,761	844,832
2007	Q1	1,335,652	3%	891,995	8%	541,610	85,470	683,484	708,571	208,511
	Q2	1,384,527	3%	915,635	7%	553,287	85,730	695,623	745,510	220,012
	Q3	1,382,958	3%	923,979	7%	551,442	86,003	700,294	745,513	223,685
	Q4	1,440,972	3%	964,297	8%	586,948	90,144	732,914	763,880	231,383
2008	Q1	1,375,123	3%	953,473	7%	556,223	89,195	731,743	729,705	221,730
	Q2	1,426,726	3%	985,362	8%	565,610	88,173	749,153	772,944	236,209
	Q3	1,418,502	3%	978,673	7%	552,744	83,066	739,762	782,691	238,911
	Q4	1,435,400	2%	1,028,813	7%	580,473	63,409	790,307	791,518	238,506
2009	Jan	470,258	2%	308,573	6%	193,367	19,606	237,065	257,284	71,508
	Feb	429,427	0%	286,244	4%	176,702	16,807	220,200	235,918	66,044
	Mar	459,025	1%	349,784	5%	186,087	19,154	275,831	253,785	73,953
	Apr	477,321	0%	319,500	3%	195,309	17,400	245,965	264,612	73,535
	May	454,336	-1%	314,375	2%	176,169	17,110	242,437	261,057	71,937
	Jun	471,292	0%	322,819	2%	188,236	16,715	250,519	266,341	72,300
	Jul	496,255	-1%	328,129	1%	202,422	16,934	250,063	276,899	78,066
	Aug	439,808	0%	293,371	1%	178,096	14,608	224,225	247,104	69,147
	Sep	476,015	-1%	333,013	0%	186,396	16,816	254,499	272,803	78,514
	Oct	484,748	-1%	325,474	-1%	196,107	15,400	248,041	273,242	77,433
	Nov	467,111	0%	315,133	-2%	197,311	13,981	241,792	255,819	73,341
	Dec	513,323	0%	364,258	-2%	213,804	15,229	284,328	284,290	79,931



### Notes

1 Per cent growth figures relate to 12 month periods.

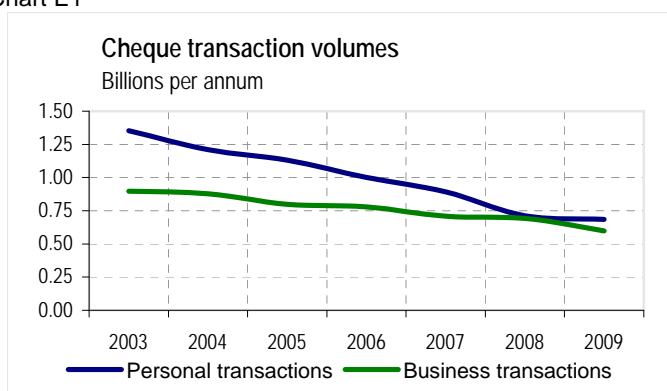
2 Data are not available for standing order values; these are included within Bacs Direct Credit values.

## E Cleared cheques and paper credits

During the course of 2009 cheque clearing volumes fell by 13% and values by 19%. Similar falls have occurred for paper credits with clearing volumes falling by 15% and values by 19%.

	Total				of which				
	Volume		Value		Cheques 1		Credits		
	000s	% growth <sup>2</sup>	£ mn	% growth <sup>2</sup>	Volume 000s	Value £ mn	Volume 000s	Value £ mn	
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%	1,230,371	1%	1,237,401	1,171,062	108,309	59,309	
2007	Q1	317,779	-8%	303,187	..	292,621	287,230	25,159	15,957
	Q2	310,284	-8%	305,518	..	286,364	291,768	23,920	13,750
	Q3	293,859	-8%	308,626	..	270,199	294,193	23,660	14,433
	Q4	299,237	-9%	296,700	-1%	275,686	283,494	23,551	13,206
2008	Q1	279,723	-10%	283,471	-3%	257,530	268,830	22,193	14,642
	Q2	279,176	-10%	289,522	-4%	257,415	276,867	21,761	12,655
	Q3	266,085	-11%	277,696	-6%	244,368	265,096	21,717	12,600
	Q4	268,837	-10%	276,645	-7%	248,066	264,901	20,771	11,744
2009	Jan	81,759	-11%	83,559	-8%	74,970	77,903	6,789	5,656
	Feb	73,603	-12%	72,652	-10%	67,885	69,012	5,718	3,640
	Mar	87,642	-11%	82,496	-9%	80,667	78,715	6,975	3,781
	Apr	79,245	-12%	77,126	-12%	73,061	73,579	6,184	3,547
	May	76,475	-12%	72,659	-13%	70,518	69,597	5,956	3,062
	Jun	85,097	-12%	79,323	-13%	78,784	76,049	6,313	3,274
	Jul	83,871	-12%	82,857	-14%	77,420	79,073	6,451	3,784
	Aug	66,564	-12%	67,482	-14%	61,144	64,704	5,420	2,778
	Sep	80,850	-12%	76,001	-15%	74,564	72,818	6,287	3,183
	Oct	79,195	-13%	75,241	-19%	73,095	72,157	6,100	3,083
	Nov	76,241	-12%	70,707	-18%	70,554	67,928	5,687	2,779
	Dec	78,677	-13%	72,113	-19%	72,871	69,056	5,806	3,057

Chart E1



1 Excludes euro debits

2 Per cent growth figures relate to 12 month periods.

## F Same-day payments



The volume of CHAPS same-day sterling payments in 2009 fell by 7.7% to 31.9 million compared with 34.6 million in 2008; the total value of these payments was £64,617 billion compared with £73,626 billion in 2008, a reduction of 12.2%.

Faster Payments volumes averaged 29.4 million per month in 2009 Q4 compared with 17.2 million per month in 2008 Q4. On average, by the end of 2009 nearly 1 million payments per day were being made. The number of standing order payments passing through Faster Payments exceeded 15 million during December 2009 bringing the share of standing order payments processed via Faster Payments up to 50% (see Chart F1). Online and telephone banking payments continue to grow in popularity with an annual rate of growth of 37%. Over three-quarters (77%) of these payments were processed via Faster Payments in December 2009 (see Chart F2).

Payment volumes						Payment values							
	CHAPS		Faster Payments		of which			CHAPS		Faster Payments		of which	
	000s	% growth <sup>1</sup>	000s	% growth <sup>1</sup>	Standing orders <sup>2</sup>	Online and telephone banking payments		£ mn	% growth <sup>1</sup>	£ mn	% growth <sup>1</sup>	Standing orders <sup>2</sup>	Online and telephone banking payments
2003	33,202	8%					88,576,506	8%					
2004	34,862	5%					91,334,788	3%					
2005	36,756	5%					97,100,206	6%					
2006	40,686	11%					109,637,149	13%					
2007													
Q1	10,594	10%					29,499,274	11%					
Q2	10,918	9%					31,576,018	12%					
Q3	11,151	9%					34,044,873	16%					
Q4	10,872	7%					31,549,684	16%					
2008													
Q1	9,507	5%					25,728,574	19%					
Q2	9,158	3% <sup>3</sup>	4,498 <sup>4</sup>		440	4,058	20,170,794	17% <sup>3</sup>	2,475 <sup>4</sup>		11	28,083	
Q3	8,655	0%	26,585		9,268	17,317	17,844,493	10%	12,261		569	21,258	
Q4	8,477	-3%	51,705		28,048	23,658	19,273,249	6%	18,135		2,802	26,079	
2009													
Jan	2,575	-4%	18,679	54%	10,450	8,229	5,879,948	4%	6,208	23%	1,176	5,032	
Feb	2,412	-6%	18,476	30%	10,333	8,143	5,482,453	2%	6,234	15%	1,352	4,882	
Mar	2,749	-5%	22,950	16%	12,908	10,042	6,127,115	2%	8,183	14%	2,233	5,951	
Apr	2,648	-7%	21,802	16%	12,084	9,719	5,384,007	-2%	8,007	23%	2,117	5,890	
May	2,493	-8%	22,223	18%	11,821	10,402	4,953,684	-3%	8,033	28%	2,071	5,962	
Jun	2,736	-8%	25,316	15%	13,776	11,540	5,701,692	-4%	9,147	22%	2,507	6,641	
Jul	2,868	-8%	25,797	16%	13,835	11,962	5,513,757	-5%	9,447	19%	2,345	7,102	
Aug	2,434	-8%	23,593	12%	12,849	10,745	4,670,092	-4%	8,563	12%	2,178	6,385	
Sep	2,809	-9%	27,721	11%	14,854	12,866	5,434,412	-6%	10,208	12%	2,635	7,573	
Oct	2,846	-9%	28,178	8%	14,676	13,502	5,236,282	-10%	10,217	9%	2,468	7,749	
Nov	2,581	-8%	29,614	14%	14,879	14,735	4,854,385	-11%	10,636	14%	2,649	7,987	
Dec	2,776	-8%	30,438	14%	15,073	15,365	5,379,129	-12%	11,339	14%	2,934	8,406	

Chart F1

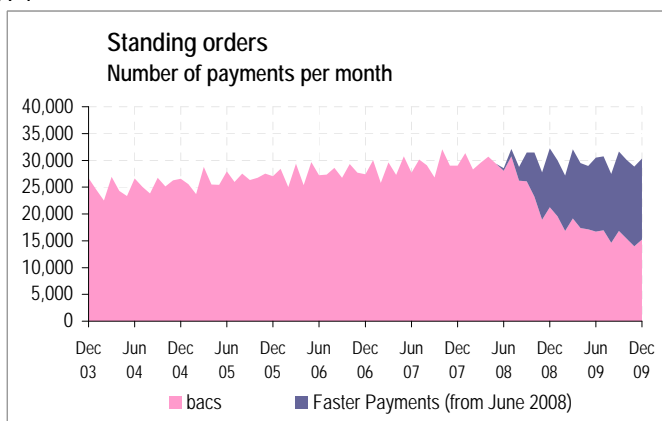
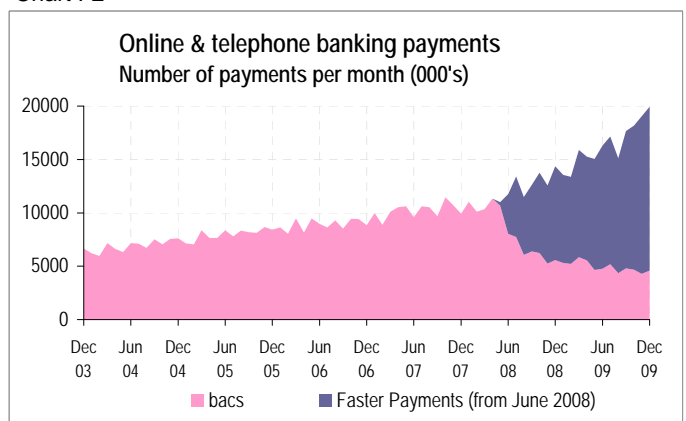


Chart F2



### Notes

1 Per cent growth figures for CHAPS payments relate to 12 month periods. For Faster Payments, per cent growth is based on 3 month periods.

2 Standing orders includes a small volume and value of returned payments.

3 Prior to June 2008 data for CHAPS volumes and values included CHAPS Euro, which ceased operations on 16 May 2008. Details of the amounts of CHAPS Euro volumes and values may be found in earlier Statistical Releases (contact [press@ukpayments.org.uk](mailto:press@ukpayments.org.uk)). Percentage growth figures from Q1 2008 relate only to CHAPS Sterling.

4 Faster Payments began operations on 27 May 2008; the CHAPS Clearing Company has responsibility for the management of the service.