



Financial Cards and Payments in China

January 2026

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Debit-led mobile payments drive progress, while credit and prepaid lose relevance

KEY DATA FINDINGS

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Debit cards remain favoured within financial cards and payments

Credit cards and pre-paid cards continue to lose ground

Non-performing loan (NPL) rate of credit cards sees improvement, while international payments are easier for inbound tourists

WHAT'S NEXT?

Debit cards to remain on top

Credit cards will see positive growth in forecast period

Pre-paid cards will record slight improvement

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

China UnionPay dominates landscape

China Merchant Bank benefits from direct foreign transactions, as newer players continue to rise

MARKET INDICATORS

Table 1 - Number of POS Terminals: Units 2020-2025

Table 2 - Number of ATMs: Units 2020-2025

Table 3 - Value Lost to Fraud 2020-2025

Table 4 - Card Expenditure by Location 2025

Table 5 - Financial Cards in Circulation by Type: % Number of Cards 2020-2025

Table 6 - Domestic versus Foreign Spend 2025

MARKET DATA

Table 7 - Financial Cards by Category: Number of Cards in Circulation 2020-2025

Table 8 - Financial Cards by Category: Number of Accounts 2020-2025

Table 9 - Financial Cards Transactions by Category: Value 2020-2025

Table 10 - Financial Cards by Category: Number of Transactions 2020-2025

Table 11 - Consumer Payments by Category: Value 2020-2025

Table 12 - Consumer Payments by Category: Number of Transactions 2020-2025

Table 13 - M-Commerce by Category: Value 2020-2025

Table 14 - M-Commerce by Category: % Value Growth 2020-2025

Table 15 - Financial Cards: Number of Cards by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 16 - Financial Cards: Number of Cards by Operator 2020-2024

Table 17 - Financial Cards: Card Payment Transactions Value by Operator 2020-2024

Table 18 - Financial Cards: Card Payment Transactions Value by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 19 - Forecast Financial Cards by Category: Number of Cards in Circulation 2025-2030

Table 20 - Forecast Financial Cards by Category: Number of Accounts 2025-2030

Table 21 - Forecast Financial Cards Transactions by Category: Value 2025-2030

Table 22 - Forecast Financial Cards by Category: Number of Transactions 2025-2030

Table 23 - Forecast Consumer Payments by Category: Value 2025-2030

Table 24 - Forecast Consumer Payments by Category: Number of Transactions 2025-2030

Table 25 - Forecast M-Commerce by Category: Value 2025-2030

Table 26 - Forecast M-Commerce by Category: % Value Growth 2025-2030

COUNTRY REPORTS DISCLAIMER

SOURCES

Credit Cards in China - Category analysis

KEY DATA FINDINGS

2025 DEVELOPMENTS

Digital wallets and point-of-sale credit erode credit card relevance

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Cautious consumer sentiment undermines progress for credit cards in China

Chinese consumers unconvinced by value of credit cards

WHAT'S NEXT?

Credit card transactions set to resume growth over the forecast period

Credit card non-performing rate set to alleviate, while inbound travel card payments rise

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

Competitive landscape remains steady, with Mastercard accelerating product offerings

China Merchant Bank boasts most credit cards in circulation, and tourists benefit from digital wallets

CATEGORY DATA

Table 27 - Credit Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2020-2025

Table 28 - Credit Cards Transactions 2020-2025

Table 29 - Credit Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 30 - Credit Cards Transactions: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 31 - Commercial Credit Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2020-2025

Table 32 - Commercial Credit Cards Transactions 2020-2025

Table 33 - Commercial Credit Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 34 - Commercial Credit Cards Transactions: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 35 - Personal Credit Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2020-2025

Table 36 - Personal Credit Cards Transactions 2020-2025

Table 37 - Personal Credit Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 38 - Personal Credit Cards Transactions: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 39 - Credit Cards: Number of Cards by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 40 - Credit Cards: Number of Cards by Operator 2020-2024

Table 41 - Credit Cards Payment Transaction Value by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 42 - Credit Cards Payment Transaction Value by Operator 2020-2024

Table 43 - Commercial Credit Cards: Number of Cards by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 44 - Commercial Credit Cards: Number of Cards by Operator 2020-2024

Table 45 - Commercial Credit Cards Payment Transaction Value by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 46 - Commercial Credit Cards Payment Transaction Value by Operator 2020-2024

Table 47 - Personal Credit Cards: Number of Cards by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 48 - Personal Credit Cards: Number of Cards by Operator 2020-2024

Table 49 - Personal Credit Cards Payment Transaction Value by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 50 - Personal Credit Cards Payment Transaction Value by Operator 2020-2024

Table 51 - Forecast Credit Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2025-2030

Table 52 - Forecast Credit Cards Transactions 2025-2030

Table 53 - Forecast Credit Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2025-2030

Table 54 - Forecast Credit Cards Transactions: % Growth 2025-2030

Table 55 - Forecast Commercial Credit Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2025-2030

Table 56 - Forecast Commercial Credit Cards Transactions 2025-2030

Table 57 - Forecast Commercial Credit Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2025-2030

Table 58 - Forecast Commercial Credit Cards Transactions: % Growth 2025-2030

Table 59 - Forecast Personal Credit Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2025-2030

Table 60 - Forecast Personal Credit Cards Transactions 2025-2030

Table 61 - Forecast Personal Credit Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2025-2030

Table 62 - Forecast Personal Credit Cards Transactions: % Growth 2025-2030

COUNTRY REPORTS DISCLAIMER

[Debit Cards in China - Category analysis](#)

KEY DATA FINDINGS

2025 DEVELOPMENTS

Debit cards extend reach as everyday payments stay wallet-led

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Debit cards sees further growth as rural access expands

Debit card transactions lead in China, with consumers combining card functions

WHAT'S NEXT?

Debit cards likely to remain preferred option within consumer payments

Multi-currency debit card set to gain traction

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

Competitive environment remains stable despite entry of American Express and Mastercard

Potential for rural-bank expansion

CATEGORY DATA

Table 63 - Debit Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2020-2025

Table 64 - Debit Cards Transactions 2020-2025

Table 65 - Debit Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 66 - Debit Cards Transactions: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 67 - Debit Cards: Number of Cards by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 68 - Debit Cards: Number of Cards by Operator 2020-2024

Table 69 - Debit Cards Payment Transaction Value by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 70 - Debit Cards Payment Transaction Value by Operator 2020-2024

Table 71 - Forecast Debit Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2025-2030

Table 72 - Forecast Debit Cards Transactions 2025-2030

Table 73 - Forecast Debit Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2025-2030

Table 74 - Forecast Debit Cards Transactions: % Growth 2025-2030

COUNTRY REPORTS DISCLAIMER

[Pre-Paid Cards in China - Category analysis](#)

KEY DATA FINDINGS

2025 DEVELOPMENTS

Digital wallets and tighter oversight subvert growth for pre-paid cards

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Pre-paid card market faces contraction in 2025

Pre-paid cards see limited use in China, despite increased personalisation

WHAT'S NEXT?

Pre-paid card transaction volumes to see marginal increase going forward

Regulatory environment likely to remain restrictive

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

Competitive landscape remains largely unchanged

Transport players as biggest operators in pre-paid cards

CATEGORY DATA

Table 75 - Pre-paid Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2020-2025

Table 76 - Pre-paid Cards Transactions 2020-2025

Table 77 - Pre-paid Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 78 - Pre-paid Cards Transactions: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 79 - Closed Loop Pre-paid Cards Transactions 2020-2025

Table 80 - Closed Loop Pre-paid Cards Transactions: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 81 - Open Loop Pre-paid Cards Transactions 2020-2025

Table 82 - Open Loop Pre-paid Cards Transactions: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 83 - Pre-paid Cards: Number of Cards by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 84 - Pre-paid Cards: Number of Cards by Operator 2020-2024

Table 85 - Pre-paid Cards Transaction Value by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 86 - Pre-paid Cards Transaction Value by Operator 2020-2024

Table 87 - Closed Loop Pre-paid Cards: Number of Cards by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 88 - Closed Loop Pre-paid Cards: Number of Cards by Operator 2020-2024

Table 89 - Closed Loop Pre-paid Cards Transaction Value by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 90 - Closed Loop Pre-paid Cards Transaction Value by Operator 2020-2024

Table 91 - Open Loop Pre-paid Cards: Number of Cards by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 92 - Open Loop Pre-paid Cards: Number of Cards by Operator 2020-2024

Table 93 - Open Loop Pre-paid Cards Transaction Value by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 94 - Open Loop Pre-paid Cards Transaction Value by Operator 2020-2024

Table 95 - Forecast Pre-paid Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2025-2030

Table 96 - Forecast Pre-paid Cards Transactions 2025-2030

Table 97 - Forecast Pre-paid Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2025-2030

Table 98 - Forecast Pre-paid Cards Transactions: % Growth 2025-2030

Table 99 - Forecast Closed Loop Pre-paid Cards Transactions 2025-2030

Table 100 - Forecast Closed Loop Pre-paid Cards Transactions: % Growth 2025-2030

Table 101 - Forecast Open Loop Pre-paid Cards Transactions 2025-2030

Table 102 - Forecast Open Loop Pre-paid Cards Transactions: % Growth 2025-2030

COUNTRY REPORTS DISCLAIMER

About Euromonitor International

Euromonitor International is an independent market intelligence provider. Data, insight and analysis stem from in-the-field research spanning 210 national markets.

Content ranges from the in-depth and country-specific, to key strategic themes with a global range and significance. Products cover a comprehensive range of insights and market data, but can be broadly categorised as:

- **Strategy Briefings:** Global or regional in scope, and focussing on the most important themes shaping consumer demand, the key markets, competitive environment and future outlook across a range of industries.
- **Company Profiles:** Analysis dedicated to the world's most significant companies, with detailed insight into their activities, focus of operations, their competitors, their geographic presence and performance.
- **Country Reports:** For an in-depth understanding of specific countries, whether by industry, economic metrics or consumer trends and lifestyles. These reports cover current trends, consumer demand, market potential and future prospects, with country-specific local insight and comprehensive data, unavailable elsewhere.

For more information on this report, further enquiries can be directed via this link www.euromonitor.com/financial-cards-and-payments-in-china/report.