



Euromonitor
International

Credit Cards in the United Kingdom

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INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Usage contracts as consumers prioritise flexibility and cost control
Commercial charge card marginalised by digital efficiency and corporate controls

WHAT'S NEXT?

Personal charge cards towards gradual decline in a digital-dominant landscape
Commercial charge cards will be sidelined by integrated expense platform
Consolidation and strategic retrenchment set to continue

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

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2025 DEVELOPMENTS

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Experiences underpin personal credit card growth, with 2025 momentum steady and ticket sizes higher

BNPL usage remains widespread at checkouts, with regulatory oversight ahead

WHAT'S NEXT?

BNPL regulations expected to encourage card-funded instalments and steadier e-commerce volumes and value

Card rails to remain spine of UK payments, but PSR remedies on scheme and processing fees could reshape pricing and acceptance

Future opportunities cluster around wallets and tokenised card credentials rather than displacement

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

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2025 DEVELOPMENTS

Growth for the category across metrics in 2025

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Debit cards strengthen their dominance in the UK
Cash and cheque usage continues to fade as electronic options hold sway
AI-based acceleration behind debit card innovations

WHAT'S NEXT?

Soft POS and tap-to-pay to unlock the long tail for debit
Regulatory dynamics set to play a key role in growth of segment
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COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

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2025 DEVELOPMENTS

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Open loop pre-paid grows on “controlled-exposure” safety and wallet integration

Closed loop pre-paid sees growth thanks to gift cards

Youth and family propositions scale pre-paid with bite-sized literacy

WHAT'S NEXT?

Financial inclusion and gift card momentum will underpin growth, especially in digital formats

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2025 DEVELOPMENTS

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Retailer credit consolidates as store cards migrate to digital credit under looming BNPL rules

Debit card issuers offer auto-earn rewards

Gift cards cement their lead over store cards as pre-paid, digital-first budgets rule

WHAT'S NEXT?

Store cards set to decline steeply as digital credit and BNPL dominate

BNPL will continue to present further threat

Consolidation will deepen as store card issuers retreat and retailers pivot towards digital credit

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

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Contactless and mobile wallets cement their dominance

BNPL faces regulatory challenges amid explosive growth

AI and sustainability redefine card innovation

WHAT'S NEXT?

Growth set to be driven by increased transactions for everyday purchases

UK policy will shape the direction of the category

Steady outlook for the years ahead

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

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