



Credit Cards in Saudi Arabia

March 2026

Table of Contents

Charge Cards in Saudi Arabia - Category analysis

Charge Cards in Saudi Arabia - Company Profile

KEY DATA FINDINGS

2025 DEVELOPMENTS

Aspirational image and new entrants attract interest

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Charge card circulation continues to expand alongside premium consumer demand

Transaction volumes increase due to travel and corporate usage

WHAT'S NEXT?

Premium consumer growth and tourism expansion will support charge card transactions

Expansion in merchant acceptance and corporate usage will drive further adoption

Competition from other payment methods and high merchant fees may limit growth

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

American Express maintains leadership through scale and expanding acceptance

American Express remains the leading issuer, while Al Rajhi expands its presence

Al Rajhi emerges as a key challenger through new product launches

American Express continues to shape the ecosystem, while Mastercard strengthens supporting infrastructure

CATEGORY DATA

Table 1 - Charge Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2020-2025

Table 2 - Charge Cards Transactions 2020-2025

Table 3 - Charge Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 4 - Charge Cards Transactions: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 5 - Commercial Charge Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2020-2025

Table 6 - Commercial Charge Cards Transactions 2020-2025

Table 7 - Commercial Charge Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 8 - Commercial Charge Cards Transactions: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 9 - Personal Charge Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2020-2025

Table 10 - Personal Charge Cards Transactions 2020-2025

Table 11 - Personal Charge Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 12 - Personal Charge Cards Transactions: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 13 - Charge Cards: Number of Cards by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 14 - Charge Cards: Number of Cards by Operator 2020-2024

Table 15 - Charge Cards Payment Transaction Value by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 16 - Charge Cards Payment Transaction Value by Operator 2020-2024

Table 17 - Commercial Charge Cards: Number of Cards by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 18 - Commercial Charge Cards: Number of Cards by Operator 2020-2024

Table 19 - Commercial Charge Cards Payment Transaction Value by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 20 - Commercial Charge Cards Payment Transaction Value by Operator 2020-2024

Table 21 - Personal Charge Cards: Number of Cards by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 22 - Personal Charge Cards: Number of Cards by Operator 2020-2024

Table 23 - Personal Charge Cards Transaction Value by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 24 - Personal Charge Cards Transaction Value by Operator 2020-2024

Table 25 - Forecast Charge Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2025-2030

Table 26 - Forecast Charge Cards Transactions 2025-2030

Table 27 - Forecast Charge Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2025-2030

Table 28 - Forecast Charge Cards Transactions: % Growth 2025-2030

Table 29 - Forecast Commercial Charge Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2025-2030

Table 30 - Forecast Commercial Charge Cards Transactions 2025-2030

Table 31 - Forecast Commercial Charge Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2025-2030

Table 32 - Forecast Commercial Charge Cards Transactions: % Growth 2025-2030

Table 33 - Forecast Personal Charge Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2025-2030

Table 34 - Forecast Personal Charge Cards Transactions 2025-2030

Table 35 - Forecast Personal Charge Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2025-2030

Table 36 - Forecast Personal Charge Cards Transactions: % Growth 2025-2030

COUNTRY REPORTS DISCLAIMER

[Credit Cards in Saudi Arabia - Category analysis](#)

[Credit Cards in Saudi Arabia - Company Profile](#)

KEY DATA FINDINGS

2025 DEVELOPMENTS

Flexible payments and regulatory reforms offer bright prospects

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

SAMA's updated credit card rules strengthen transparency and support broader acceptance

Credit card usage grows as issuers expand instalments, rewards and Sharia-compliant propositions

WHAT'S NEXT?

Credit cards set to expand further as instalments and travel-led spend support demand

Tourism and premium travel benefits are expected to lift higher-value card spending

Digital wallets accelerate everyday credit card usage through convenience and instant activation

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

Visa strengthens its presence through integration with Mada and digital innovation

Promotional campaigns and customer incentives strengthen issuer competition

Premium and Sharia-compliant credit card propositions expand across major banks

American Express expands access through open banking and acceptance growth

Visa strengthens long-term ecosystem through innovation centre and issuer partnerships

CATEGORY DATA

Table 37 - Credit Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2020-2025

Table 38 - Credit Cards Transactions 2020-2025

Table 39 - Credit Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 40 - Credit Cards Transactions: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 41 - Commercial Credit Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2020-2025

Table 42 - Commercial Credit Cards Transactions 2020-2025

Table 43 - Commercial Credit Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 44 - Commercial Credit Cards Transactions: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 45 - Personal Credit Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2020-2025

Table 46 - Personal Credit Cards Transactions 2020-2025

Table 47 - Personal Credit Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 48 - Personal Credit Cards Transactions: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 49 - Credit Cards: Number of Cards by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 50 - Credit Cards: Number of Cards by Operator 2020-2024

Table 51 - Credit Cards Payment Transaction Value by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 52 - Credit Cards Payment Transaction Value by Operator 2020-2024

Table 53 - Commercial Credit Cards: Number of Cards by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 54 - Commercial Credit Cards: Number of Cards by Operator 2020-2024

Table 55 - Commercial Credit Cards Payment Transaction Value by Issuer 2020-2024
Table 56 - Commercial Credit Cards Payment Transaction Value by Operator 2020-2024
Table 57 - Personal Credit Cards: Number of Cards by Issuer 2020-2024
Table 58 - Personal Credit Cards: Number of Cards by Operator 2020-2024
Table 59 - Personal Credit Cards Payment Transaction Value by Issuer 2020-2024
Table 60 - Personal Credit Cards Payment Transaction Value by Operator 2020-2024
Table 61 - Forecast Credit Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2025-2030
Table 62 - Forecast Credit Cards Transactions 2025-2030
Table 63 - Forecast Credit Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2025-2030
Table 64 - Forecast Credit Cards Transactions: % Growth 2025-2030
Table 65 - Forecast Commercial Credit Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2025-2030
Table 66 - Forecast Commercial Credit Cards Transactions 2025-2030
Table 67 - Forecast Commercial Credit Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2025-2030
Table 68 - Forecast Commercial Credit Cards Transactions: % Growth 2025-2030
Table 69 - Forecast Personal Credit Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2025-2030
Table 70 - Forecast Personal Credit Cards Transactions 2025-2030
Table 71 - Forecast Personal Credit Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2025-2030
Table 72 - Forecast Personal Credit Cards Transactions: % Growth 2025-2030

COUNTRY REPORTS DISCLAIMER

[Debit Cards in Saudi Arabia - Category analysis](#)

[Debit Cards in Saudi Arabia - Company Profile](#)

KEY DATA FINDINGS

2025 DEVELOPMENTS

Government initiatives boost demand

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Debit cards in circulation increase as inflation remains moderate and digital payments expand
Mada network and e-commerce expansion support strong debit card transaction growth

WHAT'S NEXT?

Debit card usage set to increase further as Saudi Arabia accelerates transition to cashless economy
Younger consumers and SME adoption support continued debit card growth
Alternative payment methods and digital wallets may moderate long-term debit card growth

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

Mada remains the dominant operator of debit cards in Saudi Arabia
Major banks strengthen debit card penetration through Mada-linked offerings
SNB leads in scale while Alinma Bank stands out for innovation and digital capabilities
Mada continues to drive innovation and shape the debit card ecosystem

CATEGORY DATA

Table 73 - Debit Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2020-2025
Table 74 - Debit Cards Transactions 2020-2025
Table 75 - Debit Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2020-2025
Table 76 - Debit Cards Transactions: % Growth 2020-2025
Table 77 - Debit Cards: Number of Cards by Issuer 2020-2024
Table 78 - Debit Cards: Number of Cards by Operator 2020-2024
Table 79 - Debit Cards Payment Transaction Value by Issuer 2020-2024
Table 80 - Debit Cards Payment Transaction Value by Operator 2020-2024

Table 81 - Forecast Debit Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2025-2030

Table 82 - Forecast Debit Cards Transactions 2025-2030

Table 83 - Forecast Debit Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2025-2030

Table 84 - Forecast Debit Cards Transactions: % Growth 2025-2030

COUNTRY REPORTS DISCLAIMER

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

[Pre-Paid Cards in Saudi Arabia - Company Profile](#)

KEY DATA FINDINGS

2025 DEVELOPMENTS

Fintech expansion and digital payments boost demand

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Prepaid card circulation rises due to financial inclusion and payroll usage

Transaction growth supported by new launches and expanding use cases

WHAT'S NEXT?

Government initiatives and fintech innovation will support transaction growth

Payroll and workforce usage will continue expanding across sectors

Regulatory and competitive pressures may create challenges

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

STC Bank and fintech players drive open-loop prepaid card growth

Banks expand prepaid card issuance through digital integration and partnerships

CATEGORY DATA

Table 85 - Pre-paid Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2020-2025

Table 86 - Pre-paid Cards Transactions 2020-2025

Table 87 - Pre-paid Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 88 - Pre-paid Cards Transactions: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 89 - Closed Loop Pre-paid Cards Transactions 2020-2025

Table 90 - Closed Loop Pre-paid Cards Transactions: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 91 - Open Loop Pre-paid Cards Transactions 2020-2025

Table 92 - Open Loop Pre-paid Cards Transactions: % Growth 2020-2025

Table 93 - Pre-paid Cards: Number of Cards by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 94 - Pre-paid Cards: Number of Cards by Operator 2020-2024

Table 95 - Pre-paid Cards Transaction Value by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 96 - Pre-paid Cards Transaction Value by Operator 2020-2024

Table 97 - Closed Loop Pre-paid Cards: Number of Cards by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 98 - Closed Loop Pre-paid Cards: Number of Cards by Operator 2020-2024

Table 99 - Closed Loop Pre-paid Cards Transaction Value by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 100 - Closed Loop Pre-paid Cards Transaction Value by Operator 2020-2024

Table 101 - Open Loop Pre-paid Cards: Number of Cards by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 102 - Open Loop Pre-paid Cards: Number of Cards by Operator 2020-2024

Table 103 - Open Loop Pre-paid Cards Transaction Value by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 104 - Open Loop Pre-paid Cards Transaction Value by Operator 2020-2024

Table 105 - Forecast Pre-paid Cards: Number of Cards in Circulation 2025-2030

Table 106 - Forecast Pre-paid Cards Transactions 2025-2030

Table 107 - Forecast Pre-paid Cards in Circulation: % Growth 2025-2030

Table 108 - Forecast Pre-paid Cards Transactions: % Growth 2025-2030

Table 109 - Forecast Closed Loop Pre-paid Cards Transactions 2025-2030

Table 110 - Forecast Closed Loop Pre-paid Cards Transactions: % Growth 2025-2030

Table 111 - Forecast Open Loop Pre-paid Cards Transactions 2025-2030

Table 112 - Forecast Open Loop Pre-paid Cards Transactions: % Growth 2025-2030

COUNTRY REPORTS DISCLAIMER

Financial Cards and Payments in Saudi Arabia - Industry Overview

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Digital developments and e-commerce fuel growth

KEY DATA FINDINGS

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Saudi Arabia accelerates transition towards a cashless economy

BNPL services reshape consumer spending behaviour

Digital banks transform the financial services landscape

Mobile wallets accelerate shift to cashless payments

WHAT'S NEXT?

Financial cards set to benefit from fintech expansion and digital adoption

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

Al Rajhi Bank strengthens position through partnerships and co-branded card launches

Mastercard enhances cyber security and strengthens digital payment ecosystem

Saudi National Bank and Arab National Bank expand partnerships to accelerate payment innovation

Visa and neoleap expand digital payment solutions and SME financial services

Digital wallets and new digital banks accelerate shift towards cashless economy

MARKET INDICATORS

Table 113 - Number of POS Terminals: Units 2020-2025

Table 114 - Number of ATMs: Units 2020-2025

Table 115 - Value Lost to Fraud 2020-2025

Table 116 - Card Expenditure by Location 2025

Table 117 - Financial Cards in Circulation by Type: % Number of Cards 2020-2025

Table 118 - Domestic versus Foreign Spend 2025

MARKET DATA

Table 119 - Financial Cards by Category: Number of Cards in Circulation 2020-2025

Table 120 - Financial Cards by Category: Number of Accounts 2020-2025

Table 121 - Financial Cards Transactions by Category: Value 2020-2025

Table 122 - Financial Cards by Category: Number of Transactions 2020-2025

Table 123 - Consumer Payments by Category: Value 2020-2025

Table 124 - Consumer Payments by Category: Number of Transactions 2020-2025

Table 125 - M-Commerce by Category: Value 2020-2025

Table 126 - M-Commerce by Category: % Value Growth 2020-2025

Table 127 - Financial Cards: Number of Cards by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 128 - Financial Cards: Number of Cards by Operator 2020-2024

Table 129 - Financial Cards: Card Payment Transactions Value by Operator 2020-2024

Table 130 - Financial Cards: Card Payment Transactions Value by Issuer 2020-2024

Table 131 - Forecast Financial Cards by Category: Number of Cards in Circulation 2025-2030

Table 132 - Forecast Financial Cards by Category: Number of Accounts 2025-2030

Table 133 - Forecast Financial Cards Transactions by Category: Value 2025-2030

Table 134 - Forecast Financial Cards by Category: Number of Transactions 2025-2030

Table 135 - Forecast Consumer Payments by Category: Value 2025-2030

Table 136 - Forecast Consumer Payments by Category: Number of Transactions 2025-2030

Table 137 - Forecast M-Commerce by Category: Value 2025-2030

Table 138 - Forecast M-Commerce by Category: % Value Growth 2025-2030

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SOURCES

Summary 1 - Research Sources

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