



# Credit Cards in China

January 2026

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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

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

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## 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

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## 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?

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[Financial Cards and Payments in China - Industry Overview](#)

## 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

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