

Financial activities

Credit cards 2012

Credit card sales grew and bad card debts decreased in 2012

Corrected on 7 May 2013 at 12.00. The correction is indicated in red. Was previously billion.

In 2012, the value of sales charged on domestic credit cards amounted to EUR 8.9 billion in Finland. The sales increased by 8 per cent from the previous year. Retail shops accounted for the largest share and service stations for the second largest share of the card sales. Cash withdrawals and bank transfers made on domestic credit cards in Finland fell by good 5 per cent to EUR 1.2 billion. These data derive from Statistics Finland's Financial intermediation statistics.

Credit card sales in 2011 and 2012, EUR million

	2011	2012	Change %
Sales to domestic credit cards in Finland	8 305	8 910	8,0
Sales to domestic credit cards abroad	1 984	2 217	11,8
Sales to foreign credit cards in Finland	1 406	1 996	42,0

Purchases made with Finnish credit cards abroad amounted to EUR 2.2 billion and cash withdrawals abroad totalled EUR 224 million. Foreign cards were used in Finland to the value of EUR 2.2 billion, of which 2.0 billion were purchases and the rest cash withdrawals.

There were 3.4 million active credit card accounts in Finland in 2012. The number of active card accounts increased by one per cent from the previous year. Eleven per cent of the card accounts were non-interest bearing charge card accounts and 89 per cent actual interest bearing credit card accounts. An active card account was used for purchases by an average of 45 times per year. Accounts that have been used at least once during the year are regarded as active card accounts. No statistics are compiled on the number of the cards themselves as several cards may be issued for one card account.

At the end of 2012, the stock of credit card debts amounted to EUR 2.5 billion, or 3 per cent more than one year earlier. Households held 67 per cent, and enterprises and entrepreneurs 33 per cent of the credit card debt. Over the year, credit card accounts generated EUR 39 million bad card debts, which is 5 per cent less than in 2011. Accounts closed due to delayed repayments numbered 45,000, and they decreased by 20 per cent from the previous year.

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Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Active card accounts, 1,000

Year	General credit card	Special credit card	Total	Charge card	Credit card proper
1996	1 032	877	1 909	1 121	788
1997	1 126	1 174	2 300	1 426	874
1998	1 242	1 300	2 542	1 577	965
1999	1 351	1 046	2 397	1 406	991
2000	1 474	946	2 420	1 416	1 004
2001	1 546	1 026	2 572	1 477	1 095
2002	1 651	913	2 564	1 471	1 093
2003	1 692	944	2 636	1 418	1 218
2004	1 849	1 064	2 913	1 664	1 249
2005	2 096	1 013	3 109	1 808	1 301
2006	2 265	1 019	3 284	1 204	2 081
2008	2 537	1 000	3 537	1 138	2 399
2008	2 907	618	3 525	1 178	2 347
2009	3 108	349	3 457	792	2 665
2010	3 061	354	3 415	430	2 985
2011	3 101	289	3 390	381	3 009
2012	3 135	295	3 430	394	3 036

Appendix table 2. Value of domestic credit card sales in Finland by industry in 2012, EUR million

Card type	Trade	Service stations	Accommodation and food service activities	Tourism and car rental	Other industry	Total
General credit card	3 731	488	584	547	670	6 019
Special credit card	23	2 894	3	9	19	2 948
Total	3 754	3 382	587	555	689	8 967
Charge card	628	2 962	150	211	151	4 102
Charge card	3 126	419	437	345	539	4 866

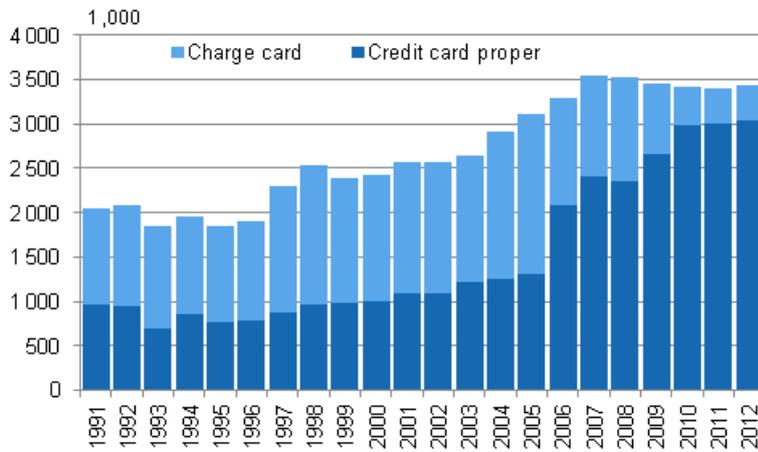
Appendix table 3. Stock of credit card debts, EUR million

Year	Stock of outstanding debts		
	General credit card	Special credit card	Total
1996	579	348	927
1997	685	364	1 049
1998	779	378	1 157
1999	915	363	1 278
2000	1 086	405	1 491
2001	1 222	460	1 682
2002	1 405	413	1 818
2003	1 453	407	1 860
2004	1 546	449	1 995
2005	1 765	580	2 345
2006	1 855	563	2 419
2007	2 167	596	2 763
2008	2 528	346	2 875
2009	2 622	254	2 876

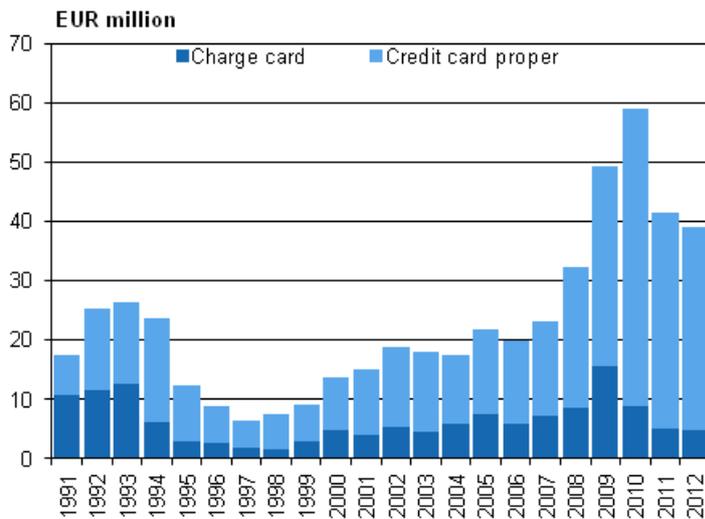
Year	Stock of outstanding debts		
	General credit card	Special credit card	Total
2010	1 994	313	2 307
2011	2 075	339	2 414
2012	2 178	313	2 490

Appendix figures

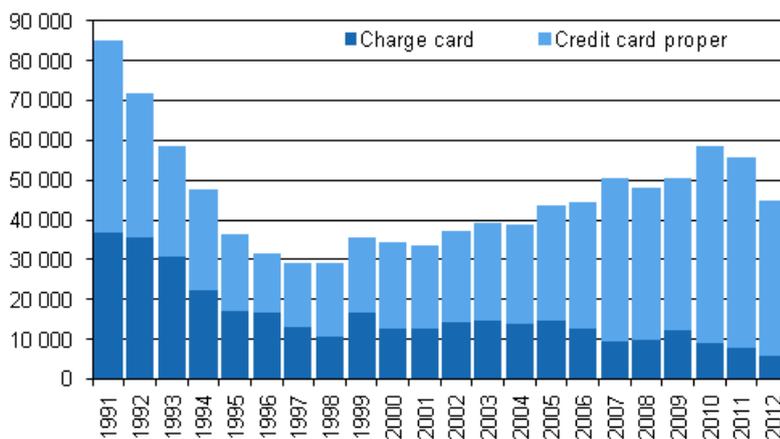
Appendix figure 1. Active card accounts



Appendix figure 2. Credit losses from credit card accounts



Appendix figure 3. Accounts cancelled due to payment defaults



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