

Information

August 2005

Fast facts – cards, cash and crime

- More than 42 million people in the UK hold plastic cards
- There are more than 166 million plastic cards in issue in the UK
- The number of payment cards (debit, credit and charge) exceeds 141 million. There are a further 24.8 million stand-alone cash machine cards and 0.8 million cheque guarantee cards in issue
- Over 8.3 billion transactions were made on UK cards in 2004
- The total value of all transactions reached £464 billion in 2004
- Debit cards were used 3.7 billion times for purchases with a value totalling over £150 billion in 2004
- Credit and charge cards were used 1.9 billion times for purchases with a value of £123 billion in 2004
- The average purchase value on a UK-issued credit card in the UK is around £58
- The average purchase value on a UK-issued debit card in the UK is £41

Cash machine facts

- There are 54,412 cash machines in the UK – up from 46,461 in 2003
- In 2004 95.1% of all cash machine withdrawals and 96.6% of all cash withdrawn were from cash machines owned by banks and building societies
- In 2004 there were 2.53 billion cash withdrawals from cash machines in the UK – an average of 80 per second
- The total value withdrawn from cash machines in the UK in 2004 was £161.3 billion – an average of £5,114 per second
- The average cash withdrawal at a bank or building society-owned cash machine is £65 and £45 at an independently-owned machine

- 32.9 million adults in the UK are regular cash machine users

Retail Terminals

- There are an estimated 920,000 POS (point-of-sale) retailer terminals in the UK

Plastic card fraud facts

- £504.8 million of card fraud took place on UK-issued cards in 2004
- Almost £1.4 million worth of card fraud occurs on UK-issued plastic cards every day
- A fraudulent transaction takes place every seven seconds
- Just over 53 per cent of all fraudulent card use in the UK takes place at the retail point-of-sale
- In 2004 the average loss per fraudulent case was £696
- In 2004 the average value of a fraudulent transaction was £117
- If chip and PIN was not put into action, forecasts estimate that UK card fraud losses would be in the region of £800 million by the end of 2005 and £1 billion per year by the end of the decade

- All information correct as of 31 December 2004 -