PSCU, the nation’s premier payments credit union service organization, has updated its weekly transaction analysis tracking transaction trends.

Consumers continue to show strong adoption of digital payments, including contactless, mobile wallets and card not present (CNP) alternatives, while levels for cash decline.

Débit

Overall U.S. spend was up 9.1% for debit purchases. This increase continues from December, when debit spend was up 15.1% year over year. While debit continues to soften from January’s stimulus fund-aided performance, overall debit and credit growth remain strong.

- Nominal adult debit spend was up 7.0%, lower than the previous four-week average of +14.9% and the 21.2% increase from November.
- Card-present debit (87.4%) was up 2.9 percentage points year over year, card not present (CNP) (12.6%) was up 5.2 percentage points year over year.
- By category, the highest growth was in the Grocery (17.9%) and Restaurants (24.1%) sectors, while the lowest growth was in the Gasoline (6.2%) and Drug Store (7.3%) sectors.

Credit

Overall U.S. spend was up 9.0% for credit purchases. While credit spend continues to grow, overall growth is lower than previous peaks.

- Nominal adult credit spend was up 10.3%, compared to the previous four-week average of +13.5%.
- Credit purchases are lower than the previous four-week average of +14.9% and up 21.2% from November.
- Card-present credit (90.2%) was up 4.7 percentage points year over year, CNP (9.8%) was down 0.3 percentage points compared to the previous year.
- By category, the highest growth was in the Grocery (43.5%) and Restaurants (45.1%) sectors, while the lowest growth was in the Gasoline (0.1%) and Drug Store (0.1%) sectors.

Trends show that the regions with the best growth in debit purchase volume are the Rocky Mountain (+4.6%), Great Lakes (+13.7%) and Plains (+12.7%) regions, while the regions with the lowest growth are the South Central (-1.5%) and Pacific (-0.1%) regions.

For more COVID-19 support resources, visit pscu.com/covid19.

Notably, the Rocky Mountain region had the highest percentage growth in overall debit purchase volume for Week 9, with the East finishing as the second most popular region. Hawaii (+5.9%), the Great Lakes (+10.0%) and Southeast (+10.1%) finished as the strongest regions for Week 9. Hawaii (+5.9%), the Great Lakes (+10.0%) and Southeast (+10.1%) finished as the strongest regions for Week 9.

Gasoline

Purchases in this sector had plateaued as we entered the fall (September 2020). Starting in mid-November, we saw a strong pickup in the number of gallons of gasoline purchased.

- Overall debit purchases in the Gasoline sector are up year over year, finishing up 6.2%, with debit gasoline card purchases up 8.6% year over year.
- Card-present debit transactions are down 0.7 percentage points year over year, while CNP transactions are up 7.9 percentage points year over year.
- By category, the highest growth in gasoline purchases was in the Automated Fuel Dispensers (AFD) (Pay at the Pump) and Service Stations (with or without AFD) categories.

While debit continue to soften from January's stimulus fund-aided performance, overall debit and credit growth remain strong, with 9.1% for debit and 9.0% for credit.