

Payment Statistics

In Focus:

Industry standards

Promoting adoption by the industry of technical standards that maximise payments system safety, reliability, and efficiency.

The payments system, both domestically and internationally, proved resilient in the face of the global financial crisis and the resulting economic slowdown.

However, its impact is evident within payment statistics worldwide. Consumer payments volumes and values growth tapered off or declined throughout the major economies of Europe and North America.

While there was a decline in overall payments values (primarily as a result of declining payment values made through the high value system), Australia weathered the economic and political storm better than many other developed economies. Non-cash payment volumes actually rose over the past 12 month period.

Overall Australian businesses and households adjusted their payment choices in the face of hardening economic conditions – with debit cards growing in popularity at point of sale and elsewhere. Governments made significant use of the payments system to push stimulus payments to households, and consumers appear to have adjusted their behaviours with the introduction of ATM direct charging in March 2009.

As economic conditions improve, we should expect the longer-term trends such as the move away from paper-based payments such as cheques, and towards electronic payments to continue and likely accelerate.

	May 2009	May 2008
Items by Numbers		
Cash (ATM Withdrawals)	70.8 million	72.9 million
Non-Cash*	455 million	433 million
Items by Value		
Cash (ATM Withdrawals)	\$12.4 billion	\$12.5 billion
Non-Cash*	\$3,546 billion	\$3,818 billion

SOURCE: APCA – www.apca.com.au and RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA – www.rba.gov.au

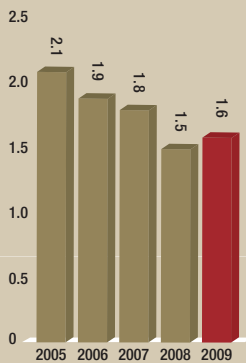
* Note: "Non-cash" is based on value and volume statistics for credit and debit cards, cheques, direct entry and high value systems. The combined non-cash figures should be treated as estimates due to the different collection methodologies for the respective payment instruments and systems. The Cash – ATM Withdrawal figures are actuals.

Cheque Statistics

Cheque volumes appeared to have bounced upwards slightly in 2009, from 1.5 million per business day in May 2008 to 1.6 million cheques per business day in May 2009. This lift was likely the result of the one-off Government stimulus package. During April and May 2009, the Australian Taxation Office issued 4.3 million stimulus cheques to households, in the midst of APCA's cheque data collection period of May 2009. The daily value of cheques remained consistent at \$6.3 billion between May 2008 and May 2009.

1.6m

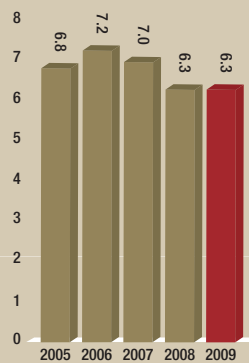
AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHEQUES PER BUSINESS DAY (IN MILLIONS)



SOURCE: APCA – www.apca.com.au

\$6.3bn

AVERAGE VALUE OF CHEQUES PER BUSINESS DAY (IN \$BILLIONS)



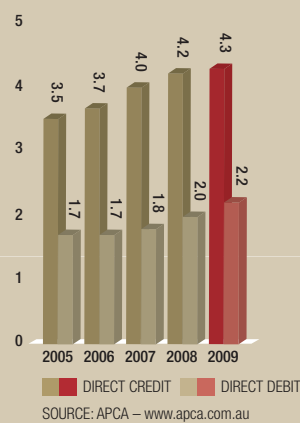
SOURCE: APCA – www.apca.com.au

Direct Debit and Direct Credit Statistics

Direct debit and direct credit volumes rose from May 2008 to May 2009, extending the longer-term trend towards electronic payments by businesses and consumers. However the growth of volumes was moderate (from 4.2 to 4.3 million per day for direct credit and from 2.0 to 2.2 million per day for direct debit) and average daily values declined somewhat. Again, the economic conditions throughout the year are the likely explanation for the moderate volume growth and declining value in this 12 month period.

6.5m

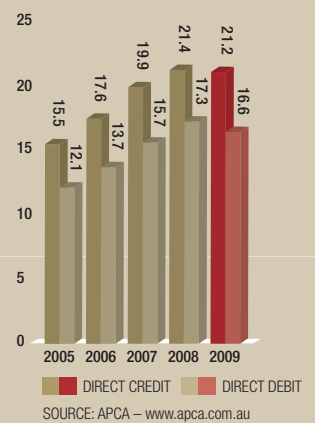
AVERAGE NUMBER OF DIRECT ENTRY TRANSACTIONS PER BUSINESS DAY (IN MILLIONS)



SOURCE: APCA – www.apca.com.au

\$37.8bn

AVERAGE VALUE OF DIRECT ENTRY TRANSACTIONS PER BUSINESS DAY (IN \$BILLIONS)



SOURCE: APCA – www.apca.com.au

Payment statistics (continued)

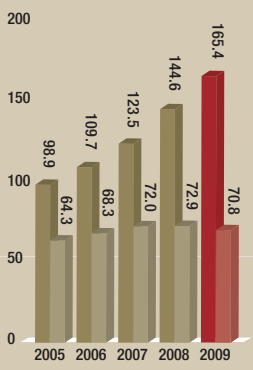
Card Payments Statistics

Consumers appeared to have moderated their use of credit cards and continued their shift towards debit cards in the light of the weaker economic conditions. The number of point-of-sale and other non-ATM debit transactions using EFTPOS and scheme debit jumped from 144 million in May 2008 to 165 million in May 2009, an increase of 14 per cent. Values similarly jumped to \$11.3 billion in May 2009 from \$9.8 billion in May 2008.

The number of ATM withdrawals declined for the same period, possibly reflecting economic conditions and a shift in consumer behaviour as a result of the ATM direct charging regime, which commenced in March 2009. Credit card cash-out and purchase volumes remained steady, with values declining modestly.

236.2m

TOTAL NUMBER OF DEBIT CARD TRANSACTIONS IN MAY (IN MILLIONS)

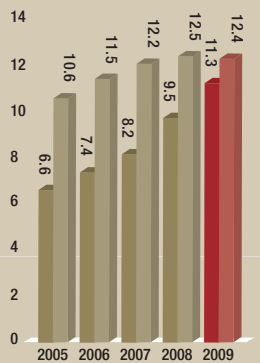


■ EFTPOS TRANSACTIONS
■ ATM WITHDRAWALS

SOURCE: RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA
– www.rba.gov.au

\$23.7bn

TOTAL VALUE OF DEBIT CARD TRANSACTIONS IN MAY (IN \$BILLIONS)

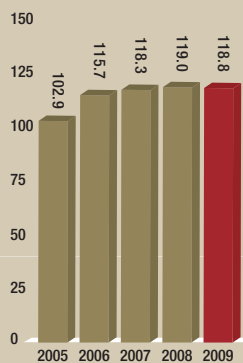


■ EFTPOS TRANSACTIONS
■ ATM WITHDRAWALS

SOURCE: RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA
– www.rba.gov.au

118.8m

TOTAL NUMBER OF CREDIT/CHARGE CARD TRANSACTIONS IN MAY (IN MILLIONS)

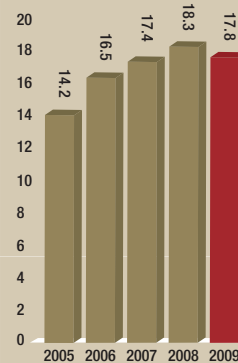


CASH-OUT AND PURCHASES

SOURCE: RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA
– www.rba.gov.au

\$17.8bn

TOTAL VALUE OF CREDIT/CHARGE CARD TRANSACTIONS IN MAY (IN \$BILLIONS)



CASH-OUT AND PURCHASES

SOURCE: RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA
– www.rba.gov.au

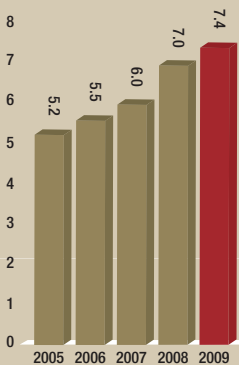
High Value Statistics

Across the world, high value clearing system volumes declined. Global payments volume through SWIFT contracted for the first time in SWIFT's 37-year history, while high value systems such as the UK CHAPS system, saw double digit reductions in both volumes and values from 2008 to 2009.

High value system volumes increased in Australia in 2008-09 to 7.4 million, from 7.0 million seen in the previous financial year. However values declined to \$31.1 trillion from the previous year's \$33.7 trillion, likely a reflection of the economic situation.

7.4m

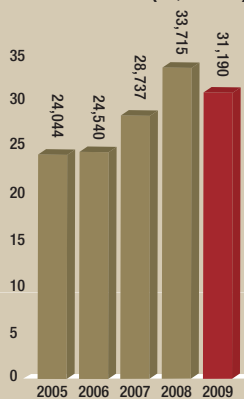
TOTAL NUMBER OF HVCS TRANSACTIONS PER FINANCIAL YEAR (IN MILLIONS)



SOURCE: APCA – www.apca.com.au

\$31,190bn

TOTAL VALUE OF HVCS TRANSACTIONS PER FINANCIAL YEAR (IN \$BILLIONS)



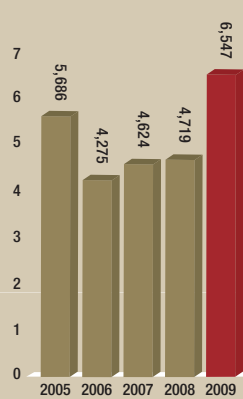
SOURCE: APCA – www.apca.com.au

Cash Statistics

The cash trade statistics track the volumes and values of cash trades made between the ACDES members. The value of cash trades declined for the 2009 statistical collection period but the number of trades rose significantly. Though further work would be needed to identify the links, it is likely that the Commonwealth Government stimulus payments, shifting consumer behaviours around ATM direct charging and the general financial and economic conditions all injected volatility in cash demand during the 2008-09 financial year, a point identified by the Reserve Bank in its August 2009 Bulletin.

6,547

NUMBER OF CASH TRADES*

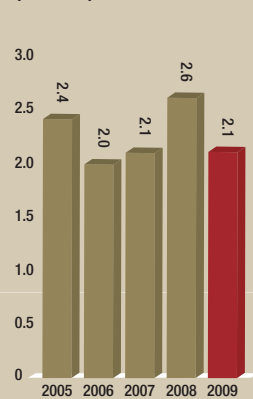


* Figures each year are for a 4-week period between May and August.

SOURCE: APCA – www.apca.com.au

\$2.1bn

VALUE OF CASH TRADES* (\$BILLIONS)



* Figures each year are for a 4-week period between May and August.

SOURCE: APCA – www.apca.com.au