

STORE CARD FACTS

FLA (Finance & Leasing Association) is the biggest UK representative organisation for the UK consumer credit and asset finance sectors. Our members comprise banks, subsidiaries of banks and building societies, the finance sections of leading retailers and manufacturing companies, and a range of independent firms. They provide a wide range of facilities, including finance leasing, operating leasing, hire purchase, conditional sale, personal contract purchase plans, personal lease plans, secured and unsecured personal loans, credit cards and store card facilities.

Almost all of the major providers in the store cards market are members of FLA. Those of our members providing store cards include:

- Argos Limited/ARG
- Clydesdale Financial Services (owned by Barclays)
- Creation Financial Services Limited
- GE Consumer Finance (UK)
- HFC Bank
- Ikano Financial Services Ltd
- Lloyds TSB (Black Horse Retail Finance)
- Marks & Spencer Financial Services
- Style Financial Services Limited

Based on data from FLA members, in 2003

- Total number of store cards transactions was 131.5 million;
- Total value of store card transactions was around £5,394 million;
- At the end of 2003, there were 23.2 million store cards in circulation;
- On average, each store card was used only around 6 times last year. Also, the majority of transactions on store cards are modest – FLA estimate that the average transaction value in 2003 was £41;
- At the end of 2003, the total value of balances outstanding on store cards was around £2,840 million. FLA estimate that 60% of accounts had a debit balance, the remaining 40% had a nil or credit balance. On each account, the average balance was £135. This compares to something in the region of £1,466 on a credit cards¹.

For further information, please contact:

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1. Source: APACS Plastic card Review 2004