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U.S. 2013 Credit and Debit Card Purchases Increased 8% Over 2012

Break \$4 Trillion Barrier for First Time



The Nilson Report February 18, 2014 3:46 PM

CARPINTERIA, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--

American Express, Discover, MasterCard, and Visa consumer and commercial credit, debit, and prepaid cards issued in the U.S. combined to generate \$4.077 trillion in spending at merchants in 2013, up 7.9% from 2012, according to the annual report on U.S. General Purpose Credit Cards, published in the most recent issue of The Nilson Report, the top trade newsletter covering the card and mobile payment systems industries.

Debit cards carrying the Visa brands generated \$1.187 trillion in purchase volume last year. This was up 7.3% from 2012, and comprised more spending at merchants than any other debit or credit product available from other brands.

"Visa debit cards remain the most popular payment method of American consumers, followed by Visa credit cards," said David Robertson, Publisher of The Nilson Report. Visa credit cards generated \$1.079 trillion in spending at merchants last year, up 9.9% over 2012.

American Express's \$633.29 billion in credit card purchase volume was up 7.8% last year. Figures include the results from cards issued by network partners. Amex remained the second largest credit card brand in the U.S., a position it achieved for the first time in 2011.

MasterCard debit card purchase volume totaled \$491.07 billion, up 9.5%, while MasterCard credit card purchase volume rose 4.9% to \$560.12 billion.

Discover Card purchase volume rose 3.9% to \$127.11 billion.

As of December 31, 2013, there were 1.14 billion general purpose credit, debit, and prepaid cards in circulation in the United States.

About The Nilson Report

The Nilson Report is a highly respected source of global news and analysis of the card and mobile payment industries. The subscription newsletter provides in-depth rankings and statistics on the current status of the industry, as well as company, personnel, and product updates. David Robertson, Publisher of The Nilson Report, and a recognized expert in the field, is a frequent speaker at industry conferences, and is regularly quoted in publications worldwide. Over 18,000 readers in 90 countries value The Nilson Report to track industry trends and market information.

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There's a new reason to carefully read the fine print in contracts you sign: to find out who might be coming for dinner. [MarketWatch](#)

### SC govts. could be banned from charging credit fee

South Carolina's towns and counties would no longer be able to charge taxpayers a processing fee for credit card payments under a proposed ban in the state budget. The House budget-writing committee defeated ... [Associated Press](#)

### Credit Cards Are Now Offering 0% APR Through 2015

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Consumers can now get rid of high interest rates and get 0% APR for 18 months. Compare these leading 2013 credit card offers and find your best offer. [CompareCards.com](#) Sponsored

### Credit Issuers Making It Easier to Know Your Score

Several credit-card companies have begun providing certain types of FICO credit scores to card holders, free. [The New York Times](#)

### 6 Things You Must Do After Hackers Steal Your Credit Card Data

In the wake of the Target security breach that put more than 70 million customers at risk for identity theft, consumers are realizing it's more important than ever to monitor financial accounts and be careful about sharing personal information. [U.S.News & World Report LP](#)

### Inside Target, CEO Gregg Steinhafel Struggles to Contain Giant Cyberheft

MINNEAPOLIS—Executives settled around a square table inside a Target Corp. conference room here earlier this month and munched on store-brand snacks as they chewed over something far less appetizing. Opinion surveys [The Wall Street Journal](#)

### Identity theft victim thrown in jail

Identity thieves may perpetrate crimes while masking their true identities with the names of their victims, which can result in the wrong person being imprisoned. [MarketWatch](#)

### Technip: oh buoy!

Push a rubber ball under water and it resists. Let it slip and its buoyancy sends it right back to the surface. Technip provides offshore oil services to major oil companies, all of whom have been submerged ... [Financial Times](#) 21 mins ago

### 10 Infuriating Consumer Fees to Stop Paying Now

In some cases (particularly with many of the charges associated with cell or cable service providers), the fees are unavoidable. Last year, banks charged non-customers an average of \$2.60 to use their ATMs, on top of the \$1.53 [The Fiscal Times](#)

### [video] What Fisker Sale to Wanxiang Means for Tesla

Feb. 20 (Bloomberg) -- Fisker won court approval to sell its assets to China's Wanxiang Group for an offer valued at \$149.2 million, almost six times what the hybrid-car maker sought when it filed for ... [Bloomberg](#)

### Strategy could goose portfolio substantially: Cramer

Cramer says there's an easy way to give your bottom line a hefty boost. Want to know about it? [CNBC](#)

### [video] Don't point the finger at the Fed for EM woes

Thierry Apoteker, CEO, Founder & Chief Economist at TAC Financial says the Fed's tapering announcement only served as a trigger for emerging markets to fix the imbalances in their economies. [CNBC](#)

### Women Rare at Top of European Banks as ECB's Nouy Ascends

Daniele Nouy may find herself the only woman in the room in meetings with Europe's top bankers. The 63-year-old, who took over last month as the head of the euro area's newly created banking watchdog, ... [Bloomberg](#)

### Signet Jewelers: Bigger is Better

Yesterday, Sterne Agee's Ike Boruchow and Tom Nikic called Zale's (ZLC) the next big catalyst for Signet Jewelers (SIG). They had no idea how right they'd be. Boruchow and Nikic were referring to Zale's ... [Barrons.com](#)

### [video] Implications of Detroit's bankruptcy

The city of Detroit is expected to release its restructuring plan in the next few days amid another bankruptcy hearing. CNBC's Scott Cohn explains the implications of Detroit's bankruptcy on the municipal ... [CNBC](#)

### Homeowners Get a Bailout This Year

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If you own a home and pay for a mortgage, you could reduce your payments by as much as \$3,000 a



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30 yr fixed refi	4.28%
15 yr fixed refi	3.29%
30 yr jumbo	4.48%
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### **Lafarge: out loud**

Descend the monumental staircase of the Louvre's Islamic wing and you will notice the floor and walls of the space below gleaming back at you, though the deepest black, under the exhibition lighting. These ...

[Financial Times](#)

### **[video] Europe stocks close mixed**

European stocks closed mixed on Wednesday, with worse-than-expected jobs data weighing on the U.K.'s FTSE 100, and investors awaiting the release of the latest minutes from the U.S Federal Reserve.

[CNBC](#)

### **[video] Coke's head & shoulders**

Discussing the case for Coke, as the company shows a head-and-shoulders pattern in the stock. Trouble in the emerging markets could spell trouble for Coke.

[CNBC](#)

### **Square takes philanthropic swipe with red reader**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Financial services startup Square is trying to turn the swipe of a credit card into an act of generosity.

[Associated Press](#)

### **[video] What to Expect from Deere's Earnings**

Feb. 19 (Bloomberg) — Bloomberg Industries Senior Analyst Karen Ubelhart joins the Surveillance team to preview Deere & Co. ahead of its earnings release. (Source: Bloomberg) Venezuela President Calls ...

[Bloomberg](#)

### **Image Recognition Startup ViSenze Gets \$3.5M From Rakuten Ventures**

It's been a very busy week for Rakuten as it seeks to take over the Internet. Earlier today the Tokyo-based online services giant announced the opening of its first R&D center in Europe. Just last week, ...

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