



Statistic	Debit Cards: Number of Transactions and Cards
Source	ATM & Debit News: EFT Data Book 2008: <i>Comparing Debit with Credit</i>
Time Series	2001-current, Annually
Description	<p>A debit card is a payment card issued by a bank which results in a debit from the cardholder's bank account upon settlement of a transaction such as a retail purchase or ATM cash withdrawal.</p> <p>Two types of debit cards are issued in the U.S.: online debit cards and offline debit cards.¹</p> <p>Online debit cards are payment cards issued by banks that belong to an EFT network. A personal identification number (PIN) must be used to authenticate transactions with online debit cards. Transactions initiated with a PIN are known as online debit transactions. Online debit transactions are routed through one of the electronic funds transfer (EFT) networks.²</p> <p>ATM & Debit News estimates the number of online debit cards as a percentage of offline debit cards. Each year, ATM & Debit News estimates the percentage by consulting EFT networks, banks, and card industry experts.</p> <p>Offline debit cards are payment cards issued by banks that belong to the Visa or MasterCard networks. Transactions initiated with a signature are known as offline debit or signature debit transactions. All offline debit transactions are routed through the Visa (Interlink) or MasterCard (Maestro) networks.³</p> <p>ATM & Debit News computes the number of offline debit cards⁴ by</p>

¹ Most debit cards issued by banks can be used for both online and offline transactions today; a small number of banks continue to issue online only debit cards.

² Examples of EFT networks include Star, NYCE, Pulse, Plus (Visa's PIN network), and Cirrus (MasterCard's PIN network).

³ Offline debit transactions at the POS require the cardholder's signature. Signatures are not required when transactions are made over the phone or the Internet, but these transactions carry different levels of merchant liability.

⁴ Data on offline debit cards also include prepaid products.

	summing the number of offline debit cards reported by the MasterCard and Visa networks.
Data Access	Data are not publicly available. Please contact the source for details on obtaining the data. http://www.cardforum.com/staticpage.html?pagename=eftinfo