Credit Cards Market Size & Share Analysis - Growth Trends and Forecast (2026 - 2031)

> **Industry:** Payments, Remittance & Cards (Financial Services & Investment Intelligence)
> **Source:** https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/global-credit-cards-market
> **Scraped Date:** 2026-09-17

Executive Market Summary

Market Metric	Details
Base Market Size	USD 15.36 Trillion
Projected Forecast (2031)	USD 15.36 Trillion
Growth Rate (CAGR)	3.77 %
Largest Market Region	N/A
Fastest-Growing Region	N/A

Market Visualizations & Infographics

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![Major players in Credit Cards industry](images/chart_2.png)

![Credit Cards Market Size](images/chart_3.png)

![Credit Cards Market Share by Application, 2025](images/chart_4.png)

![Credit Cards Market Share by Card Format, 2025](images/chart_5.png)

![Credit Cards Market Growth Rate by Region](images/chart_6.png)

![Credit Cards Market Concentration](images/chart_7.png)

![footer background image](images/chart_10.png)

![Mordor Intelligence on Facebook](images/chart_12.svg)

![Mordor Intelligence on Pinterest](images/chart_14.svg)

![Mordor Intelligence on Instagram](images/chart_15.svg)

![ESOMAR](images/chart_17.png)

![GPTW](images/chart_19.png)
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Comprehensive Research Analysis

Overview Points List Flex 49 Share Feature End

Market Overview

Study Period | 2020 - 2031 |
Market Size (2026) | USD 15.36 Trillion |
Market Size (2031) | USD 18.48 Trillion |
Growth Rate (2026 - 2031) | 3.77 % |
Fastest Growing Market | Asia Pacific |
Largest Market | North America |
Market Concentration | Medium |
Major Players*Disclaimer: Major Players sorted in no particular order

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Market Overview

Credit Cards Market Analysis by Mordor IntelligenceThe Credit Cards Market size in terms of transaction value is expected to increase from USD 14.80 trillion in 2025 to USD 15.36 trillion in 2026 and reach USD 18.48 trillion by 2031, growing at a CAGR of 3.77% over 2026-2031.

Issuers are rebalancing economics toward fee-based and analytics-led services as regulation and credit normalization compress interchange yields, while networks scale tokenization and authentication to protect online approval rates and fraud outcomes. Contactless adoption has become mainstream in card-present commerce and continues to expand tap-enabled acceptance, which reinforces daily use cases in transit and small-ticket retail that underpin steady volume growth in the Global credit cards market. Competition from account-to-account rails is rising in bill pay and selected e-commerce use cases, which shifts the competitive focus toward card-on-file loyalty, dispute rights, and bundled benefits that A2A does not replicate at scale. Networks and issuers are also leaning into installments-on-card, SoftPOS acceptance, and AI-driven risk controls to expand addressable volume among long-tail merchants, defend yield, and stabilize approval performance across channels in the Global credit cards market.

Key Report Takeaways

* By application, Food & Groceries led with 35.38% of the Global credit cards market share in 2025, while Travel & Tourism is projected to expand at a 6.12% CAGR through 2031.
* By card type, General-Purpose cards commanded 85.06% of the Global credit cards market share in 2025, while Specialty & Other cards are forecast to grow at a 4.33% CAGR through 2031.
* By card format, Physical cards held 90.12% of the Global credit cards market share in 2025, while Digital or Virtual-only formats are expected to advance at a 6.78% CAGR through 2031.
* By provider, Visa held 52.22% of the Global credit cards market share in 2025, while the Other category, which includes American Express and China UnionPay, is projected to grow at a 5.02% CAGR through 2031.
* By geography, North America accounted for 45.72% of the Global credit cards market share in 2025, while Asia-Pacific is expected to register a 4.24% CAGR through 2031.

Key Market Trends

Global Credit Cards Market Trends and InsightsDrivers Impact Analysis*

Driver	(~) % Impact on CAGR Forecast	Geographic Relevance	Impact Timeline
Contactless ubiquity lifts card-present spend	+1.2%	Global, including the United States and Europe, with strong tap-to-pay penetration	Medium term (2-4 years)
Network tokenization and passkeys raise approval rates, cut CNP fraud	+0.9%	Global programs with high issuer adoption across the United States, Europe, and Australia	Short term (≤ 2 years)
Card-funded wallets and subscriptions expand card-on-file volumes	+0.7%	Global wallet ecosystems and recurring commerce at scale	Medium term (2-4 years)
Cross-border e-commerce and travel recovery support high-yield transactions	+0.6%	Global corridors across travel and digital commerce	Medium term (2-4 years)
Installments-on-card recaptures pay-later volumes	+0.5%	United States anchor	

with spillover to Europe and Asia-Pacific | Short term (≤ 2 years) |
SoftPOS and Tap to Pay on iPhone expand SMB acceptance | +0.4% | Global rollout across developed and emerging markets | Long term (≥ 4 years) |
Source: Mordor Intelligence |

Competitive Landscape

Competitive Landscape

The Global credit cards market is anchored by a Visa–Mastercard duopoly on open-loop networks, while issuer competition is fragmented across banks, fintechs, and co-branded programs, which creates intense rivalry at the portfolio level. Visa reported USD 16.7 trillion in total volume, 4.9 billion credentials, and USD 40 billion in net revenue in fiscal 2025, which underscores scale in acceptance, compliance, and security infrastructure. Mastercard is expanding beyond routing with AI-enabled orchestration tools, cybersecurity, and multi-rail settlement capabilities, which deepen value-added services for issuers and merchants. American Express advances a premium closed-loop strategy with large investments in travel and dining ecosystems, which compete for affluent spend and loyalty. These positions reinforce a market where service depth and trust are decisive differentiators alongside acceptance reach in the credit card industry.

Strategic moves show a platform pivot across the value chain as networks monetize security, analytics, and AI-driven commerce orchestration. Mastercard launched Agent Suite to enable AI agents to transact under enterprise guardrails and partnered with Cloudflare to extend cyber defense for payments infrastructure, which demonstrates how network data and intelligence translate into merchant and issuer services. Stablecoin settlement pilots and payout programs are moving from test to production for specific corridors, which introduces new back-end options while front-end card experiences remain consistent. Retail co-brands continue to refresh with instant issuance, tokenization, and embedded wallets, which help accelerate activation and card-on-file usage across omnichannel journeys.

Acceptance expansion is a visible battleground as SoftPOS and Tap to Pay on iPhone remove hardware requirements and onboard millions of long-tail merchants, which increases total points of acceptance for cards and wallets. American Express delivered major Platinum updates that added lounges and dining access, which strengthened premium positioning where affluent users demand service quality and travel benefits. Networks launched threat intelligence and merchant cloud solutions that bundle tokenization, risk, orchestration, and multi-rail capabilities, which favor scaled players in compliance and security-sensitive categories. With approval and fraud outcomes central to merchant economics, value-added services across routing, data, and security are the decisive levers to defend and expand share in the Global credit cards market.

Credit Cards Industry Leaders* Wells Fargo & Co.

* JPMorgan Chase

* Citigroup

* American Express

* Bank of America

* *Disclaimer: Major Players sorted in no particular order

Scope Methodology P Space

Our study defines the global credit cards market as the total annual purchase value settled through open-loop consumer and commercial credit cards, be they trad itional embossed plastics, tokenized mobile credentials, or single-use virtual numbers, issued by banks, credit unions, and fintechs and processed on any network worldwide.

Scope Exclusion: Private-label store cards and charge cards that do not carry a revolving credit facility are excluded.

Segmentation Container

* By Application* Food & Groceries
* Health & Pharmacy
* Restaurants & Bars
* Consumer Electronics
* Media & Entertainment
* Travel & Tourism
* Other Applications

* By Card Type* General Purpose Credit Cards
* Specialty & Other Credit Cards

* By Card Format* Physical
* Digital

* By Provider* Visa
* Mastercard
* Other Providers

* By Geography* North America* United States
* Canada
* Mexico

* South America* Brazil
* Peru
* Chile
* Argentina
* Rest of South America

* Europe* United Kingdom
* Germany
* France
* Spain
* Italy
* BENELUX
* NORDICS
* Rest of Europe

* Asia-Pacific* India
* China
* Japan
* Australia
* South Korea
* South-East Asia
* Rest of Asia-Pacific

* Middle East and Africa* United Arab Emirates
* Saudi Arabia
* South Africa
* Nigeria
* Rest of Middle East and Africa

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Global credit cards market growth outlook to 2031?

The Global credit cards market size is projected to reach USD 18.48 trillion by 2031 at a 3.77% CAGR over 2026-2031, supported by contactless ubiquity, tokenization, and authentication that protect approval and fraud outcomes.

Which applications are leading and growing fastest within cards?

Food and Groceries are the largest in 2025 at 35.38% while Travel and Tourism is the fastest growing at 6.12% CAGR through 2031, reflecting sticky necessity spend and premium cross-border travel flows.

How are issuers defending economics amid fee caps?

Issuers emphasize premium cards, annual-fee propositions, installments-on-card, and value-added services such as fraud prevention and tokenization to offset regulated interchange and preserve approval rates.

Where will regional growth be strongest to 2031?

Asia-Pacific is expected to grow the fastest at a 4.24% CAGR, driven by middle-class expansion, wallet adoption, and upgraded acceptance and authentication infrastructure across major markets.

What technologies most improve online approvals and security?

Network tokenization, passkeys, and biometric authentication are lifting e-commerce authorization rates and reducing fraud while helping merchants comply with SCA in regulated markets.

How is SoftPOS changing acceptance for small businesses?

SoftPOS and Tap to Pay on iPhone are onboard long-tail merchants without hardware, which expands acceptance points and adds incremental card-present volume in cash-heavy niches.