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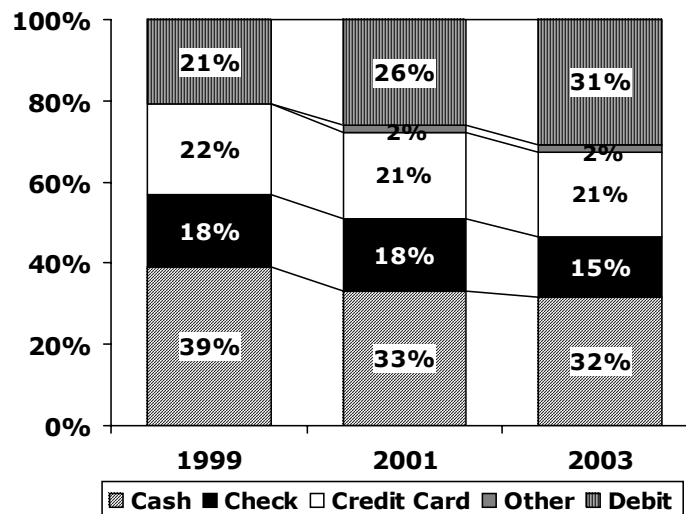
CONSUMERS NOW FAVOR CREDIT AND DEBIT OVER CASH AND CHECKS AS PAYMENT FOR IN-STORE PURCHASES

ABA/Dove Consulting study confirms ongoing migration to plastic transactions

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 — For the first time, electronic payments have surpassed cash and checks as consumers' preferred payment method for in-store purchases, according to a new nationwide consumer payment preferences study conducted by the American Bankers Association and Boston-based strategy consulting firm Dove Consulting. The research was sponsored by ACI Worldwide, eFunds Corporation and PULSE EFT Association.

The 2003/2004 Study of Consumer Payment Preferences found that cash and checks now account for 47 percent of consumers' in-store purchases, as compared to 57 percent in 1999 and 51 percent in 2001. This evolution of payment behavior continues to be driven by the increasing popularity of debit cards. Four years ago, debit represented only 21 percent of in-store transactions; today consumers report that nearly one out of three (31 percent) in-store purchases are made with a debit card.

HOW CONSUMERS MAKE IN-STORE PAYMENTS



(more)

PAYMENTS STUDY/P2

This growth in debit card use has come at the expense of both cash and checks. While cash remains the single most frequently used payment method in stores, its share of the transaction mix has fallen from 39 percent in 1999 to 32 percent in 2003. Checks also play a diminishing role at the point-of-sale, accounting for just 15 percent of purchases. Comparatively, consumer use of credit cards for in-store purchases has remained relatively constant at 21 percent. At 2 percent, the “other” payments category is made up of prepaid cards.

“While in-store payment habits develop early for most consumers, they are by no means static,” said Jane Yao, ABA’s managing director of surveys and statistics. “Consumers will continue to look for — and migrate toward — new payment methods that satisfy their payment needs.”

This migration in consumers’ payment behavior is occurring across all payment venues: in stores, for bill payments and for Internet purchases.

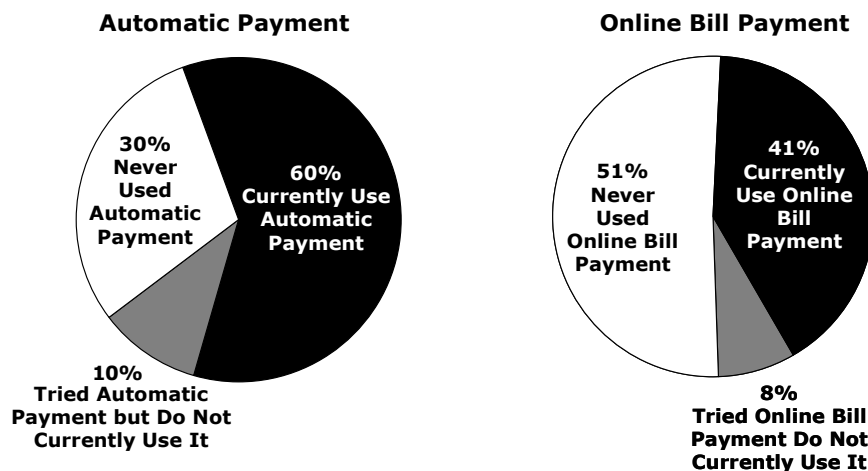
Bill Payers Still Prefer Checks

Consumers still prefer to pay their bills by check, but electronic methods are gaining in popularity. In 2001, 72 percent of recurring bill payments were made with checks; today, this percentage has fallen to 60 percent.

“Decreasing check volume represents an enormous growth opportunity for electronic payments,” said Tony Hayes, managing director of Dove’s financial services practice and author of the study. “As consumers write fewer checks for bill payments, financial institutions and payment organizations have the ability to play an active role in influencing what payment methods are used in their place.”

This decline in check volume is due in part to increasing consumer adoption of automatic payment and online bill payment. Today, 60 percent of consumers use automatic payment, with only 30 percent of consumers having never tried automatic payment. While adoption of online bill payment is lower than automatic payment — 41 percent of consumers currently use online bill payment — it represents one of the fastest growing payment methods.

USE OF AUTOMATIC PAYMENT AND ONLINE BILL PAYMENT



PAYMENTS STUDY/P3

About the Study

The 2003/2004 Study of Consumer Payment Preferences is the definitive guide to how consumers pay in different venues, why, and how their payment habits are likely to evolve going forward.

This study provides insights into consumer behavior and preferences across three important payment venues: retail point-of-sale (in-stores), Internet purchases, and bill payments. Data for the 2003/2004 Study was collected through a national paper and Web survey sent to consumers in the United States. A total of 2,008 completed surveys were received, and the data set is weighted to represent the overall population.

This study is the third in a series tracking consumers' payment habits, preferences and their migration from paper to electronic payments.

The cost of the 2003/2004 Study of Consumer Payment Preferences is \$500 for ABA members and \$1,500 for non-members. To order or for more information, call 1-800-BANKERS or visit www.aba.com.

About the American Bankers Association

The ABA brings together all categories of banking institutions to best represent the interests of this rapidly changing industry. Its membership — which includes community, regional and money center banks and holding companies, as well as savings associations, trust companies and savings banks makes ABA the largest banking trade association in the country. ABA can be found on the Internet at www.aba.com.

About Dove Consulting

Dove Consulting is a Boston-based consulting firm specializing in strategy and organizational effectiveness. The firm's Financial Services Practice is a leader in developing retail payments, distribution and customer strategies for banks, payment networks, and government entities. The firm's consulting work is supported by an ongoing commitment to industry research spanning consumer payment preferences, ATM deployment, and issuer and merchant debit strategies. For more information, visit www.doveconsulting.com or call (617) 482-2100.

About ACI Worldwide

ACI (NASDAQ: TSAI) was founded in 1975 and pioneered the development of applications and networking software for online transaction processing. Today more than 500 banks, retailers, and service providers in over 70 countries use ACI software. The company's products are integrated in the ACI Commerce Framework to enable transaction initiation through Web and wireless channels; processing of transactions in real-time; and automation of back office functions associated with settlement, dispute processing, fraud detection, and account service. For more information, visit www.aciworldwide.com.

About eFunds Corporation

Headquartered in Scottsdale, Arizona, eFunds Corporation (NASDAQ: EFDS) is an industry leader with nearly 30 years of experience and expertise in electronic payments. eFunds provides electronic funds transfer (EFT) software and processing, ATM driving, deployment and management, risk management, and global outsourcing services to financial institutions, retailers, electronic funds transfer networks, government agencies, and other businesses around the world. Visit the company online at www.efunds.com, or call 1.888.9eFunds (1-888-933-8637) or 480-629-7700.

About PULSE EFT Association

PULSE provides a unique program to its more than 4,300 member banks, credit unions, and savings institutions across the United States. As the leading independent financial industry-owned and -controlled electronic funds transfer (EFT) network, PULSE imparts a Power of Ownership over network pricing, participation requirements, and program agenda. The PULSE Board of Directors is committed to preserving the network as one owned and directed by financial institutions for financial institutions. For more on PULSE and all that it offers the financial services industry, please visit www.pulse-efit.com or call 800-420-2122.