

2019 Insights: Digital payments in the UAE

A "Stay Secure" campaign infographic on consumer experiences, attitudes and behaviors

UAE's most preferred payment methods

Security:



Convenience:



Card



Cash

Innovative payment technologies

There is a high awareness to usage rate for:

Contactless card:

97%

aware

80%

own

72%

use

Digital wallet:

95%

aware

83%

own

81%

use

81%

claim to have started making more digital payments while making face-to-face purchases in the past two years

93%

claim to have done at least one online transaction in the past one month

92%

of those customers preferring Cash-on-Delivery would pay by card if a mobile Point-of-Sale machine was available upon delivery

When deciding on preferred payment methods when shopping online:



73%

prefer card payments over cash

87%

have started making more card payments online over the past two years

Top 4 drivers for paying by card when shopping

Online:

73%

Safe / secure

58%

Helps manage budget

52%

No need to carry cash

52%

Offers rewards

In-store:

75%

Perception of security

69%

Practicality & convenience

66%

Helps manage budget

60%

Acceptance at most stores

When it comes to trust, there's a general sense of security in using these technologies amongst respondents:

Contactless card:

75%

Overall trust based on awareness

84%

of users trust it while

49%

of non-users perceive it to be reliable and safe to use

Digital wallet:

82%

Overall trust based on awareness

91%

of users trust it while

29%

of non-users perceive it to be reliable and safe to use

What triggers the lack of consumer trust in contactless cards

50%

Card details could be misused

38%

Still a new technology / new payment method

30%

Don't know about security in place at merchants

... in digital wallets

36%

Card details could be misused

32%

Don't trust mobile phone to be secure enough

28%

Not comfortable sharing info with digital wallet providers

How online merchants can build consumer trust in digital payments



63%

Display trust badges on websites (ex: lock icon on browser and payment provider logos)



61%

Provide strong customer service



49%

Display customer reviews

Preferred authentication methods for online payments

One-time passwords:



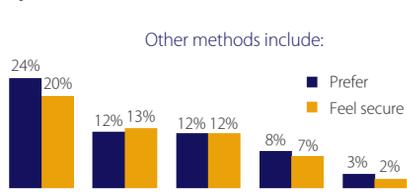
42%

prefer

44%

most secure

Other methods include:



What do in-store merchants have to say?*

63%

of small retailers claim an increase in footfall when adopting digital payment options

68%

claim an increase in store revenues

83%

of those who have acquired a Point-of-Sale terminal recommend that other businesses do the same

Worries regarding cash include*:

33%

employees can steal money

32%

possibility of errors in giving back change

31%

difficult accounting

29%

lack of control over cash flow

Protect yourself from payments-related fraud with these simple steps

1. Activate Verified by Visa with your bank
2. Avoid using public WiFi to shop – choose a strong, secure mobile data connection
3. Look for the "s" after "http" in the website address to confirm that a site is secure
4. Make sure you are using the latest software updates on your mobile device and enable biometrics as an additional authentication step on your phone.
5. Log out whenever you leave a website, especially if using a public computer
6. Never share your personal account information on social media, over email, phone or chat
7. Only open emails, attachments, and links from people you know

About the Study

Visa commissioned 4SIGHT Research & Analytics to explore digital and online shopping behaviors and attitudes. 4SIGHT interviewed 451 people in the UAE in February 2019, comprising Emirati citizens (16%), expat Arabs (34%), expat Asians (46%), Western expats (4%), and others (2%). Respondents lived in Abu Dhabi (24%), Dubai (62%), Sharjah (10%), and the Northern Emirates (4%). They were aged between 25-35 (61%), 36-45 (32%), and 46-55 (7%) years old, with males accounting for 66% and females for 34% of the respondents. Each had made at least one online payment in the past six months.

*Results of a separate Visa study commissioned by 4SIGHT Research & Analytics that analyzed the impact of digital payments on small retailers and customer spending habits. The study took place in October 2018 in the UAE, in the cities of Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Sharjah. 208 small retailers (50 only accepting cash, and 158 accepting digital payments) were surveyed, and 416 users of the UAE's current demographic, comprising of males and females from the ages of 25-55.