

Payment Fraud Statistics

Payment Fraud Statistics - Summary of Results Fraud Perpetrated on Australian Cheques and Cards 1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020 (Revised November 2021)

	Fraud Transactions		Total Transactions		Fraud Rates	
	number	Value (\$)	number (millions)	Value (\$) (millions)	as % of total no. of transactions	as % of total value (\$) of transactions
Cheques	652	\$4,011,665	41	\$407,096	0.0016%	0.0010%
Australian-issued cards	4,062,183 ^	\$468,977,297 ^	11,373 ^	\$800,920 ^	0.0357%	0.0586%
- Proprietary debit cards	66,047	\$11,073,287	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
- Scheme credit, debit and charge cards	3,996,136	\$457,904,010	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	4,062,835	\$472,988,962	11,414	\$1,208,016	0.0356%	0.0392%

Note:

1. Data for the total number and total value of all transactions is from the RBA's Payment Data. The data for cheques is sourced from Table C6 and for cards from Tables C1, C4 and C5.
2. A break in the series occurred at the end of 2012 as a result of a change in the data available in Table C5. The RBA no longer publishes debit card data by card types but provides aggregated data for all cards. Therefore AusPayNet is no longer able to calculate fraud rates for proprietary debit cards and scheme credit, debit and charge cards separately.
3. For cards the number of fraud transactions does not represent the number of cards or consumers affected. Typically, multiple fraud transactions are made on a single card.

^ = Figures have been revised.

Payment Fraud Statistics

Cheque Fraud Perpetrated in Australia

1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020

Category		Actual		Exposure		Recoveries *
		Transactions	Value (\$)	Transactions	Value (\$)	Value (\$)
On-Us Fraud	Valueless	11	\$22,330	161	\$5,838,147	\$16,695
	Fraudulently Altered	218	\$1,051,416	463	\$4,731,400	\$309,849
	Stolen Blank Cheque / Book	317	\$1,221,457	1,621	\$15,210,902	\$109,277
	Originated Counterfeit Cheques	27	\$408,121	79	\$2,284,325	\$141,802
	Non-Originated Counterfeit Cheques	59	\$1,158,223	590	\$16,132,131	\$4,098,741
	Breach of Mandate	0	\$0	9	\$194,264	\$0
	On-Us Total	632	\$3,861,547	2,923	\$44,391,169	\$4,676,364
Deposit Fraud	Valueless	12	\$116,721	193	\$31,446,701	\$112,786
	Valueless - Kite Flying	3	\$29,503	14	\$423,991	\$6,527
	Third Party Conversion	5	\$3,894	157	\$1,551,265	\$0
	Deposit Total	20	\$150,118	364	\$33,421,957	\$119,313
Total	652	\$4,011,665	3,287	\$77,813,126	\$4,795,677	

* Data on the 'transactions' of recoveries is not collected.

"Actual" losses can relate to "Exposure" during an earlier period. This explains why, in some reporting periods, actual losses may exceed exposure.

Payment Fraud Statistics

Explanation of Cheque Fraud Categories

On-us Fraud

On-us cheque fraud includes cheques issued by Financial Institution X and deposited back into Financial Institution X. Categories for On-Us Fraud include:

- Valueless - Covers cheques drawn on an account where there appears to be suspicious circumstances or where it is thought that the Cheque is stolen or forged or in any other way is fraudulently issued and action is taken in terms of Rule 4.4 in Schedule 10.
- Fraudulently Altered Cheques :
 - Payee Only - cheques that have been altered to show payee details other than those originally authorized by the drawer and where no other area of the cheque has been altered.
 - Amount Only - cheques that have been altered to show \$-amount details other than those originally authorized by the drawer and where no other area of the cheque has been altered.
 - Both Payee AND Amount - Cheques that have been altered to show payee details AND \$-amount details other than those originally authorized by the drawer and where no other area of the cheque has been altered.

Note: Fraudulently altered cheques do not include cheques with forged signatures. These are included in Stolen Blank Cheque/Book and Originated or Non-Originated Counterfeit Cheques.

Where alterations are made to the MICR line, items are included in the counterfeit category

- Stolen Blank Cheque/Book - this includes original stolen blank cheques that are written or marked in order to be passed off as if by the legitimate signatory. Includes forged makers mark.
- Originated Counterfeit Cheques - originated counterfeit cheques are produced using the paper of the original cheque to create a new, unauthorized cheque. Techniques used in this process include washing, laser printing, scanning and desk-top publishing.
- Non-originated Counterfeit Cheques - non-originated counterfeit cheques made on new paper to create a new, unauthorized cheque. Techniques used in this process include laser printing, photocopying, scanning and desk-top publishing. This category also includes items where the MICR line has been altered.
- Breach of Mandate – this involves payment of cheques which do not follow the original instructions or arrangements set up. That is, the cheque may require two signatories but the financial institution, through error, allows only one signatory. Other examples include a cheque drawn by a designated authority such as Financial Officer or Accountant and used for fraudulent purposes.

Deposit Fraud

- Valueless - Covers cheques deposited to an account knowing that these cheques should not be honoured on presentation by the drawee financial institution as they are valueless (lack of funds), counterfeit, reported stolen, have been fraudulently altered or are in breach of mandate (e.g. do not contain required number of signatures).

Note: This category excludes customer cheques dishonoured or returned for lack of funds where cheques were drawn in error, that is, there was no intent to defraud.

- Valueless: Kite Flying - the activity of depositing valueless cheques and making withdrawals against those valueless cheques, between accounts owned by the same person. Also called round robin transactions.
- Third Party Conversion - this category includes unaltered cheques which have been deposited to an account other than the payee. This arises where the financial institution has made insufficient enquiry or verification of the depositor regarding their title to the cheque. It also includes cheques where there are two payees but the financial institution has allowed one payee to deposit the amount into their personal account without authority from the other payee.

Payment Fraud Statistics

Proprietary Debit Cards Fraud Perpetrated in Australia

1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020

Category		Transactions	Value (\$)
Debit Card Fraud - PIN Used	Lost / Stolen	16,480	\$3,428,020
	Never Received	1,847	\$730,722
	Counterfeit / Skimming	8,204	\$2,796,632
	Other	6,298	\$2,024,768
	PIN Used Total	32,829	\$8,980,142
Debit Card Fraud - PIN Not Used	Lost / Stolen	20,407	\$987,060
	Never Received	4,540	\$280,248
	Counterfeit / Skimming	619	\$40,128
	Other	7,652	\$785,709
	PIN Not Used Total	33,218	\$2,093,145
Total Debit Card Fraud		66,047	\$11,073,287

Note: For fraudulent transactions initiated at ATMs, POS terminals and other devices, the above statistics incorporate all transactions where either "cheque" or "savings" was selected, regardless of the type of card used (that is debit card, 'combo' card, scheme card etc). The number of fraud transactions does not represent the number of cards or consumers affected. Typically, multiple fraud transactions are made on a single card.

Explanation of Proprietary Debit Cards Fraud Categories

- Lost/Stolen - fraud resulting from the loss or theft of an existing card and a fraudulent transaction has taken place.
- Card Never Received - fraud where a card has been intercepted (stolen) during delivery to the customer and used before it was received by the customer.
- Counterfeit/Skimming - the use of altered or illegally reproduced cards including the replication/alteration of the magnetic stripe and/or changes to the details on the face of the card with intent to defraud. Skimming is a form of magnetic-stripe counterfeiting in which criminals are able to copy magnetic stripe track information (including Card Verification Value - CVV) from a valid card. Information is then encoded on a counterfeit or stolen card and then used fraudulently.
- Other - fraud that cannot be categorized under any of the other fraud type categories. This includes identity takeover and false applications etc.

Payment Fraud Statistics

Scheme Credit, Debit and Charge Card Fraud Perpetrated in Australia and Overseas on Australia-issued Cards

1 July 2020 - 30 June 2021 (Revised November 2021)

Category	In Australia		Overseas		Total	
	Transactions	Value (\$)	Transactions	Value (\$)	Transactions	Value (\$)
Lost / Stolen	232,756	\$19,198,585	44,671	\$4,568,372	277,427	\$23,766,957
Never Received	11,459	\$1,613,774	487	\$108,307	11,946	\$1,722,081
Fraudulent Application	3,109	\$1,601,531	655	\$266,844	3,764	\$1,868,375
Counterfeit / Skimming	41,289	\$2,365,927	35,154	\$3,683,073	76,443	\$6,049,000
Card Not Present (CNP)	1,915,220	\$290,485,639	1,824,229	\$151,504,575	3,739,449	\$441,990,214
Other	8,144	\$1,658,292	9,064	\$1,771,431	17,208	\$3,429,723
Total	2,211,977	\$316,923,747	1,914,260	\$161,902,602	4,126,237	\$478,826,349

Fraud Perpetrated in Australia on Cards Issued Overseas

Category	Transactions	Value (\$)
Lost / Stolen	12,249	\$2,083,736
Never Received	532	\$94,416
Fraudulent Application	434	\$76,584
Counterfeit / Skimming	21,222	\$3,326,882
Card Not Present (CNP)	288,302	\$59,117,429
Other	2,300	\$944,470
Total	325,039	\$65,643,517

Note: The number of fraud transactions does not represent the number of cards or consumers affected. Typically, multiple fraud transactions are made on a single card.

Explanation of Scheme Credit, Debit and Charge Cards Fraud Categories

- Lost/Stolen Card - fraud resulting from the loss or theft of an existing card and a transaction has taken place without the cardholder's consent or authority.
- Card Never Received - fraud where a card has been intercepted (stolen) during delivery to the customer and used before it was received by the customer.
- Fraudulent Application - fraudulent applications are applications for card accounts using a fictitious identity, using someone else's identity or providing false information during the application process.
- Counterfeit/Skimming - the use of altered or illegally reproduced cards including the replication/alteration of the magnetic stripe and changes to the details on the face of the card with intent to defraud. Skimming is a form of magnetic stripe counterfeiting in which criminals are able to copy magnetic stripe track information (including Card Verification Value - CVV) from a valid card. Information is then encoded on a counterfeit or stolen card and used fraudulently.
- Card Not Present (CNP) - the use of account information including pseudo account information without the physical card being involved, via the phone, mail, Internet etc. without the authority of the cardholder. This category also includes fraud where a card should normally be present (eg: in a retail transaction) but a merchant has chosen to accept the transaction based on a card number only and it turns out to be a fraudulent transaction.
- Other - fraud that cannot be categorised under any of the other Fraud Type categories. For example fraud using imprints of cards at merchants, or use of an existing account without the authority of the cardholder by a person who gains access to and use of the account through an unauthorized means, such as a fraudulent change of address or request for re-issuance of cards (but not lost or stolen cards).