



# **FIS SUCCESS GUIDE: MAKING THE CASE FOR CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS**

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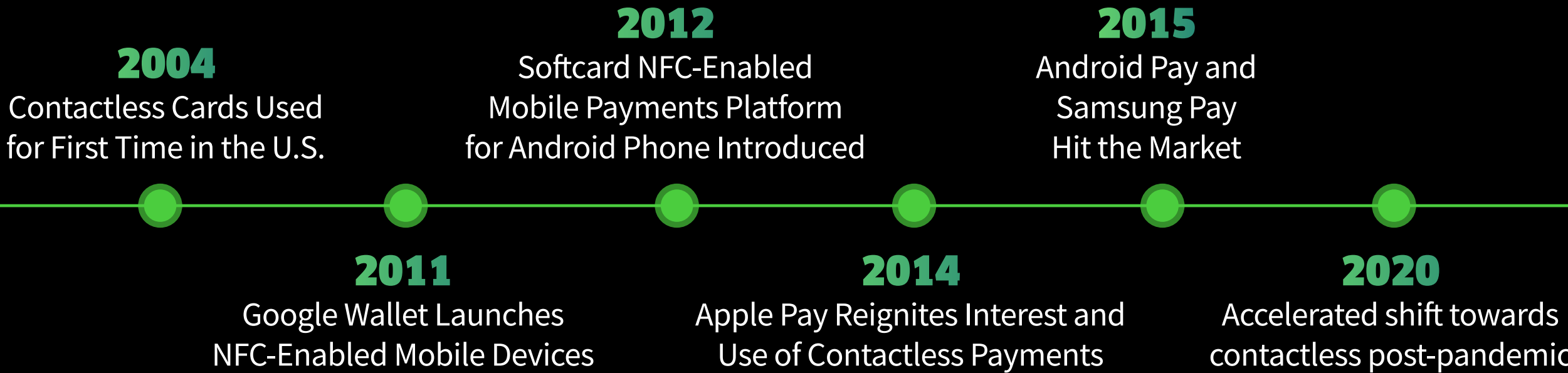
# CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS OFFER FAST, CONVENIENT AND SECURE TRANSACTIONS THAT DRIVE CUSTOMER LOYALTY

Research shows that consumers, issuers and merchants benefit from the use of contactless payments. Consumers enjoy added convenience, speed and ease of use, while issuers and merchants enjoy faster transaction times, increased card purchase volumes, lower operational costs and penetration into the cash payment market.

As a quick refresher, contactless payments require no physical contact between the consumer payment device and the physical point-of-sale (POS) terminal.

*Contactless chip cards have been available for use in the United States since 2004. As retailers have made the switch to NFC-enabled Point-of-Sale (POS) terminals, the infrastructure is now in place for contactless payments to succeed.*

## U.S. CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS MILESTONES





# CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS OFFER FAST, CONVENIENT AND SECURE TRANSACTIONS THAT DRIVE CUSTOMER LOYALTY

In a contactless payment transaction, the consumer holds a contactless payment card, mobile device or wearable closely (less than 2-4 inches) to the merchant POS terminal and the payment account information is communicated via Near Field Communication (NFC) or Magnetic Secure Transmission (MST) technology.

Large investments are being made to securing and speeding up payments at the point of sale – implementation of EMV and investment in NFC, for example. Juniper Research predicts that total **contactless payment transactions are expected to grow to more than \$10 trillion by 2027, with a whopping 221% increase in contactless payments projected between 2022 and 2026.**

Market leaders are already issuing dual interface cards. They are doing so to accelerate the decline of dependence on cash, improve transaction times at the point of sale and to pursue other use cases such as mass transit. Those who remain should be actively planning for contactless demand with their processors if they haven't yet done so.

In this guide, we will discuss the benefits of contactless payment capability by considering three use cases

- Issuer
- Merchant
- Cardholder / Consumer

*“The emergence of contactless payments was always meant to be the second phase of the migration to EMV-chip cards in the United States. Much of the rest of the developed world has long-since bought into EMV-chip cards and has already made a big down-payment on contactless payments.”*

*Bastian Knoppers, Senior Vice President,  
Card Production FIS Payments Division*

## CURRENT U.S CONTACTLESS LANDSCAPE (VISA & MASTERCARD DATA)

**99%**

of new terminals shipped  
are contactless capable

**70%+**

of locations are capable  
of contactless

**50%+**

of U.S. consumers now  
regularly use contactless





# CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS MARKET TRENDS

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## Mandates Drive Momentum Elsewhere

Mandates by Visa, Mastercard and American Express outside of the U.S. gave contactless payments momentum for rapid adoption elsewhere. As a result, more than half of payments in face-to-face transactions in several countries are contactless, and half of all European cards are now contactless-enabled, according to the Retail Banking Research (RBR) forecast.

However, U.S. adoption has now started to grow rapidly. RBR Global also suggests that more than **80% of consumer credit cards will feature contactless payment technology by 2026, a 119% increase from today.**

Large segments of consumers and business owners will continue to carry and leverage plastics for decades to come. While the option to be completely cardless exists predominantly as a future state, it will be close to a decade before consumers are ready to eliminate a card as a payment form factor. The impetus is on meeting the demand by providing a bridge that lets people reap all the benefits of contactless payments – regardless of the form factor they prefer – balancing both near-term and long-term shifts in demand and expectations.



# CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS MARKET TRENDS

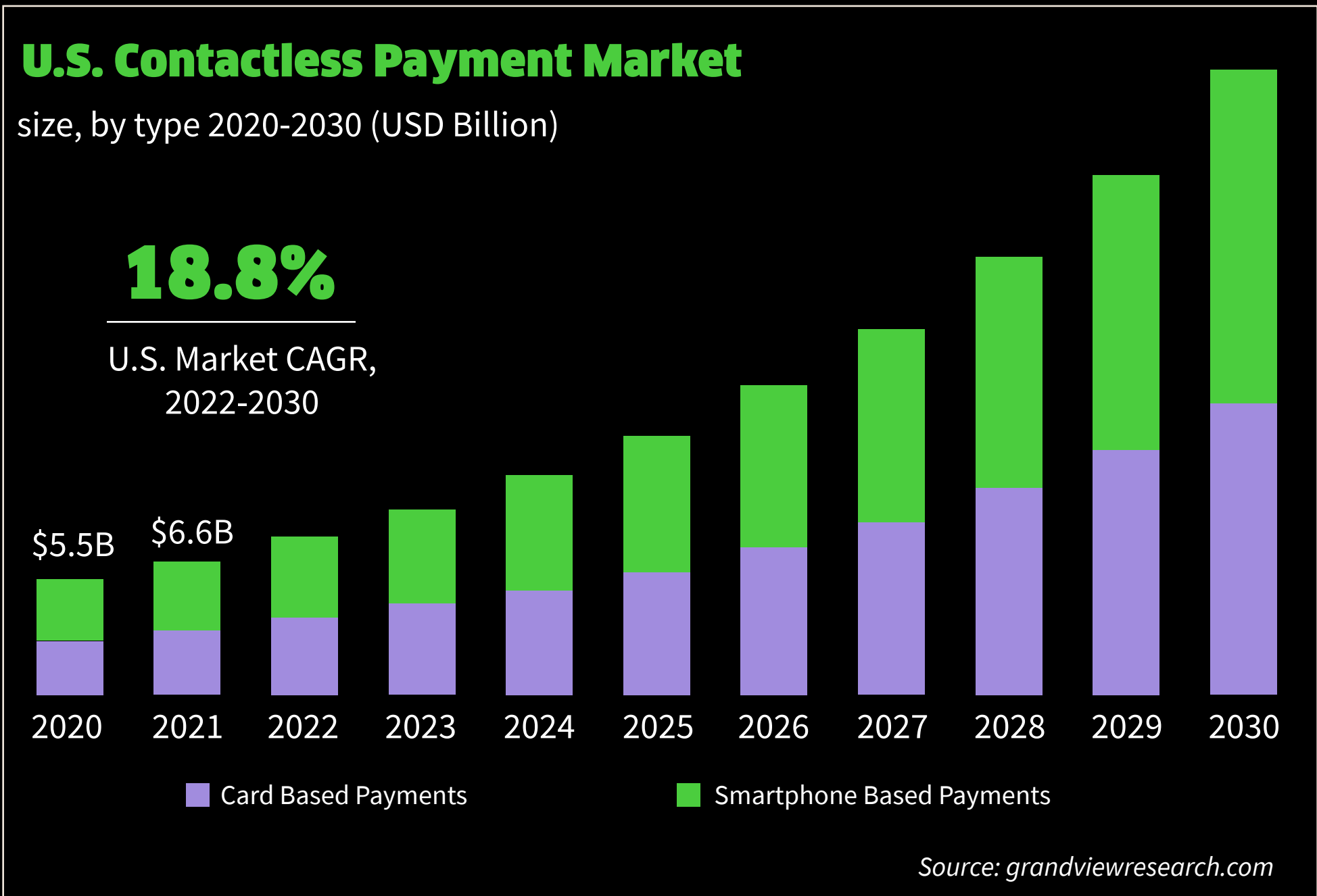
## Strongest Use Cases So Far Are Where Lines Are Longest

The Transport for London’s early contactless adoption in 2012 set a precedent, with contactless now covering a significant portion of pay-as-you-go fares across subways, rail lines, buses and trams. This innovation has not only streamlined fare collection but also inspired cities like New York, Boston, Miami and Sydney to adopt similar technology, enhancing the commuter experience globally.

Stateside, cities such as Portland with its Hop Fastpass and Chicago’s Ventra system are leading the charge in integrating contactless payments, bolstering public transport’s efficiency and accessibility. Recognizing this shift, BMO Harris has proactively begun issuing contactless cards to its U.S. customers, especially those in major transit markets, ensuring they’re ahead of the curve.

The pivot towards contactless in mass transit isn’t just about convenience; it’s a cost-saving move too. Visa’s Cashless Cities study highlights a stark contrast in costs, revealing that digital transactions are significantly more economical for transit agencies than cash handling, costing an average of 4.2 cents per digital dollar compared to 14.5 cents for physical dollars. This efficiency is a testament to the transformative power of contactless payments, marking a new era for urban mobility.

The global contactless payment market size was valued at USD 34.55 billion in 2021 and is expected to expand at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 19.1% from 2022 to 2030.







## CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS MARKET TRENDS

As of 2024, the landscape of consumer transactions has continued to evolve dramatically. The Federal Reserve's Diary of Consumer Payment Choice reveals that cash now accounts for just 19% of point-of-sale transactions, a significant decrease from previous years. This shift is even more pronounced for transactions under \$10, where digital payments are becoming increasingly prevalent.

Contactless payment cards have played a pivotal role in this transition. In developed markets like Australia, Canada and the U.K., adopting contactless technology has led to a 10-15% decrease in cash use. This trend not only simplifies transactions for consumers but also presents clear financial benefits for merchants and issuers alike.

By reducing handling and processing costs associated with cash transactions, merchants can operate more efficiently. Concurrently, issuers benefit from increased revenue streams generated through the fees associated with digital payment processing.

***“For contactless payments, the major benefits are clear. There is less friction in payments yielding a better customer experience at point-of-sale, safer and more secure payments, and proven transaction lift.”***

*Jim Johnson, Head of Financial Institution Payments, FIS*

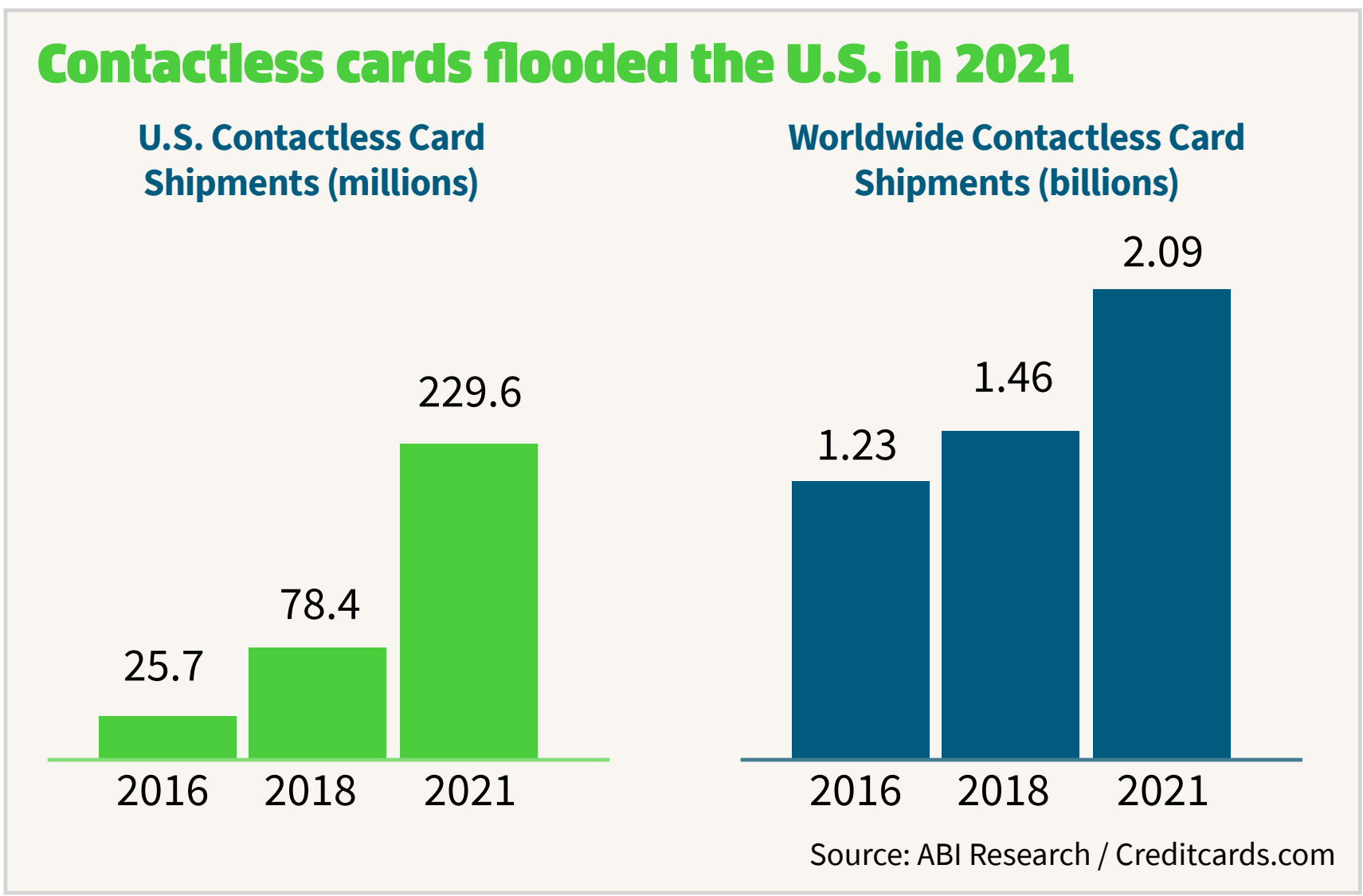


# ISSUER INSIGHTS

**Contactless adoption will help issuers be competitive in the marketplace, while helping to retain existing customers.**

As issuers acclimated the cost of their payment card strategy to support the migration to EMV chip cards, many opted not to adopt dual-interface cards because of the additional costs. Today, the cost differential between standard EMV chip cards and dual-interface (contactless) cards is a fraction of what it once was.

Removing friction and authorization lag times from the payment process will drive better consumer experiences that influence consumer payment preferences.





## ISSUER INSIGHTS

FIS is investing millions of dollars to ready its card personalization and processing platforms to support contactless payment card technology. This investment underscores the firm belief contactless payment cards will better enable issuers to deliver better customer experiences at the point of sale, increase transaction volumes and open up new opportunities to facilitate payments at new locations such as mass transit and unattended parking locations.

Issuers across the globe are capitalizing on opportunities to migrate costly cash transactions over to branded payments mediums - whether cards or mobile solutions. Visa conducted a survey in Europe and issuers saw an 18% lift in transactions after implementing contactless. A MasterCard Advisory study reflected that an average lift of approximately 30% in total spend in the first 12 months, post contactless adoption in the U.S.

Being on the forefront of the contactless adoption will help issuers be competitive in the marketplace, while helping to retain existing customers. Consumers adapt quickly to new technology and solutions that offer convenience. Enabling contactless payments improves the payment experience for existing cardholders and demonstrates the forward thinking and innovation that drives acquisition.

## Processors Speed Readiness for Issuers

The goal of processors this year is to ensure support for issuers so that when they are ready to act they can roll out contactless payments efficiently. Processors such as FIS have already invested in readying platforms and enabling issuers' bank identification numbers (BINS) for contactless payments.

Deploying chip cards with faster data transaction speeds is simple and cost-effective for issuers focused on improving cardholder experience at the POS.

### ISSUER BENEFITS OF CONTACTLESS CARDS:

- **Differentiation** – ease of use for cardholder, the contactless card eliminates friction and speeds up the transaction. Also, early adopters will have an advantage in the market.
- **Top of Wallet** – helps ensure top of wallet preference for issuers' card, and defends against migration to other cards, especially in open loop transit markets and high travel cardholder programs.
- **Incremental Transaction Volume/Spend** – ease of use is proven to drive incremental transaction volume and spend, from both preference to that card as well as migration of cash to contactless.



# MERCHANT INSIGHTS

## Merchants Laying the Groundwork in the United States

Although issuers led the migration to EMV, merchants are laying the groundwork for facilitating contactless payments. **80 of the top 100 U.S. merchants are now contactless enabled**, signaling a robust readiness to meet new consumer expectations for contactless payments. (Visa).

Fortunately, almost all of the new POS terminals required for EMV payments are contactless capable. Certification to enable that capability is a simple process that many large retailers are already taking advantage of. Merchants for whom long lines result in customer dissatisfaction and an uptick in cart abandonment are leading the way. For example, fast food restaurants, grocery stores, convenience stores, drugstores and high-volume mass merchants such as Walmart and Costco, are among the greatest proponents.

The business case for merchants to adopt contactless payments is clearly focused on improving the face-to-face customer experience. After all, the majority of consumers (59 percent) believe that their chip cards are slower than mag stripe, according to Visa Global Market Research on EMV. In contrast, consumers view contactless card and mobile payments as fast and easy. Merchants also benefit from contactless by reducing the expense of handling cash.

*“We see more merchants increasingly accepting dual-interface cards – it’s gone up fourfold since 2014.”*

*Melanie Gluck, VP Mastercard*





## MERCHANT INSIGHTS

One softer benefit for both merchants and issuers is the added security of Dual Interface EMV Contact and Contactless cards. If the terminal fails to read the contactless transaction, EMV remains a secure way to accept payments.

### Faster Checkout Experience; Serve More Customers

A faster checkout experience equates to a better checkout experience and the ability to serve more customers. The use of contactless cards will help to optimize the investment in new terminals that was made for initial U.S. EMV migration. Most terminals are already equipped to support contactless payments and merchants need only enable that software functionality vs. investing in new terminals. Additionally, reduced cash-based transactions improve payment handling costs overall and offers greater security and protection from fraud losses with the layering of contactless and EMV acceptance at the physical POS.

### Merchant Acquirer Benefits of Contactless Cards

- Faster transaction speeds compared to contact cards
- Differentiates cards from competition with faster checkout experience
- No impact to acceptance: EMV approved terminals already support faster transmission rates

### IMPORTANT FACTS:

**70%+** of **merchants** are **contactless capable**.

**99%** of all new **terminals** being deployed to the field are **contactless capable**.

**51%** of all **U.S. consumers** now using **contactless**.

**48%** of all **face to face transactions** occur at **contactless enabled** merchants.

### ACCEPTANCE LANDSCAPE FOR U.S. CARDHOLDERS

**80** of the **top 100 merchants**

**95%** of **F2F U.S. transactions** occur at **contactless enabled merchants**





## CONSUMER INSIGHTS

Consumer expectations for speed or instant gratification is reinforced in many ways daily. Consumers expect it to be just as fast and easy to make a payment as it is to order a ride on Uber or search a global database. Mag stripes and EMV cards, cash and checks all require the consumer to give of their time. Contactless authorizations are nearly instantaneous. The ability to “tap and go” is easy – whether with a plastic, a wearable or a mobile device frees consumers from any remaining friction in the payment experience. They also provide seamless and ubiquitous transaction experience with the rest of the world (for customers who travel outside the U.S.).

Consumer preference will shape the future of payments. It’s all about ease, convenience and secure transactions. With contactless cards, transactions take 1 second to tap versus 9 seconds to dip. No matter the form factor, contactless cards enable speed and convenience.

According to CGI, dual-interface cards offers consumers a convenient, fast, frictionless experience at the point of sale. Consumers prefer to pay quickly at the point-of-sale which positions contactless payments to overtake cash transactions. The cards also provide EMV chip technology security so consumers feel secure with their card payments, regardless of whether they insert or wave their card at point-of-sale terminals.



# CONSUMER INSIGHTS

## CONTACTLESS CHIP CARDS BENEFIT ISSUERS & CARDHOLDERS

### Seamless consumer experience

- ✓ Consumers still prefer to use **cards** over other form factors
- ✓ Consumers find “**tap-to-pay**” to be **simple, quick, and secure** as they can pay in about a second
- ✓ Happy, engaged cardholders have **more frequent transactions** and **higher spend**

### Competitive differentiation

- ✓ Issuing contactless cards demonstrates payments **leadership** and **innovation**
- ✓ As contactless sees **increasing global momentum**, contactless cards offer consistency around the world
- ✓ Contactless cards are more likely to achieve **top-of-wallet status**

### Strong contact less business case

- ✓ Contactless cards have proven effective in **converting cash to card-based payments**
- ✓ Cash is used for **one-third of transactions** in the U.S., representing a **\$2T** opportunity

Visa 2018

## There is pent up demand for contactless

Consumer expect an improved experience and contactless cards remain one of the most accessible payment forms across all consumer segments. According to Visa data:

**59%**

of consumers think chip is slower than mag stripe

**<10%**

are really bothered by the chip

**57%**

expect the EMV experience to improve in the next year

**40%**

who own a contactless card use it whenever they can

***“With contactless cards, transactions take 1 second to tap versus 9 seconds to dip.”***





## WHAT'S NEXT?

Being an early adopter in contactless payments will provide issuers and merchant acquirers with a multitude of benefits. Like the value of being differentiated in a marketplace that is still evolving. Also, it positions the financial institution or business with demonstrated relevance by way of an innovative payment strategy. And, there is immediate efficiency associated with migrating more cash based transactions like transit and quick-service, to a contactless form factor with robust security.

## WHY NOW?

Contactless transactions globally are now on track to surpass \$10 trillion, showcasing an unprecedented embrace of this technology. In the U.K., now a beacon for contactless payment adoption, an impressive 53.8% of all card-based payments in the euro area were contactless in the second half of 2022, reflecting a significant uptick in consumer preference for this payment method. Canada has similarly embraced the convenience of tap-and-go, with the trend continuing to rise sharply.

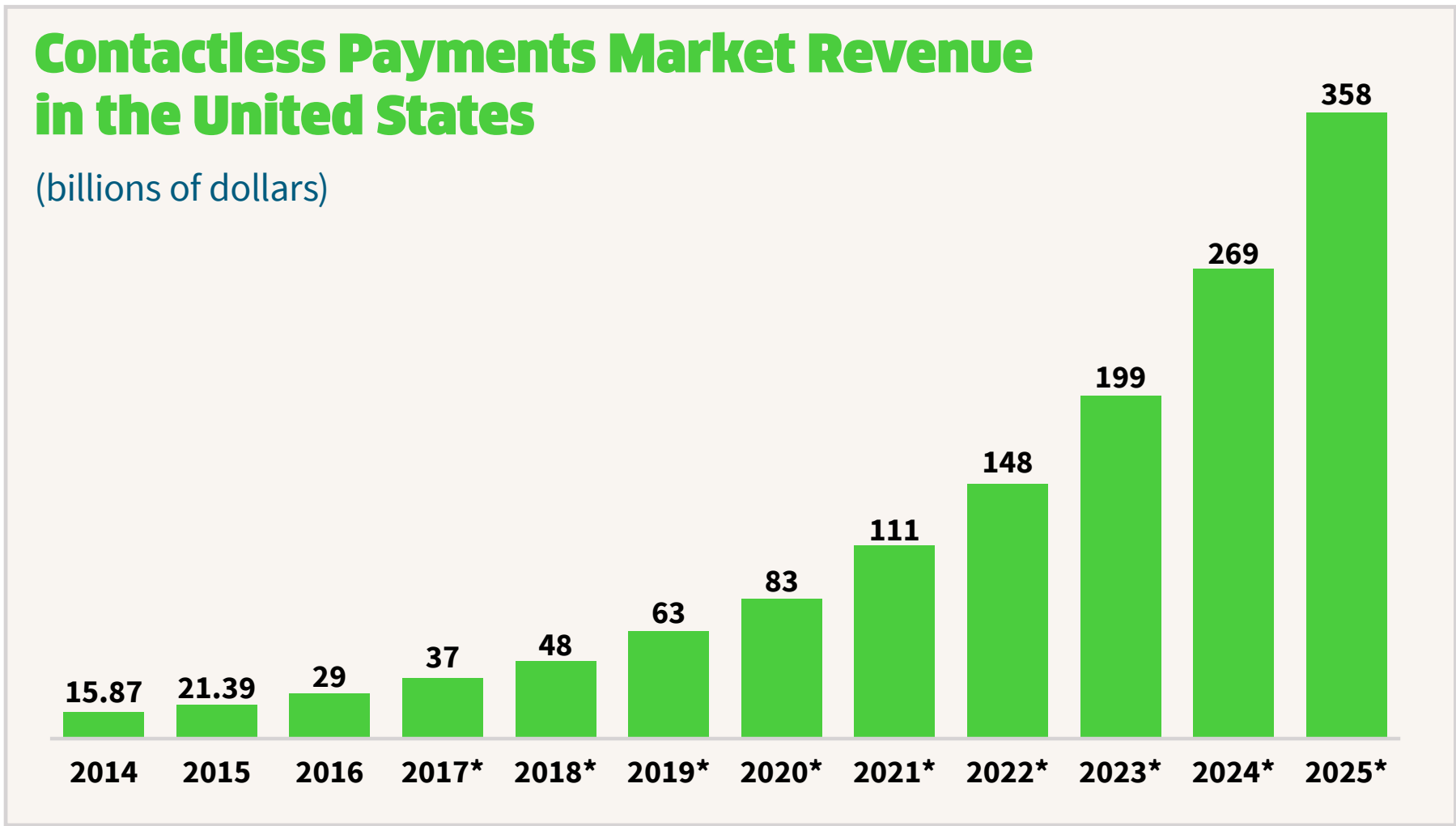
In the U.S., the trajectory for contactless card shipments and usage has soared beyond expectations. **By the end of 2023, the number of contactless cards in circulation reached a staggering 175 million**, as reported by Visa. This surge is part of a global movement towards digital-first payment solutions, with mobile devices, wearables and other innovative payment forms gaining traction. The integration of dual-interface technology ensures that the payment experience remains not only consistent but also seamlessly efficient across different platforms and devices.



# WHY NOW?

The use of non-cash payment methods continues to grow worldwide, with the U.S. ranking 5th in the world in terms of countries embracing cashless technology. Unsurprisingly, Millennials are major proponents of this trend, with nearly one in five predicting a cashless society in the future where currency is no longer used for transactions.

According to CPI’s white paper, “Catch the Dual Interface Wave Now,” the rapid acceleration of dual interface cards in the U.S is due to increasing consumer and retailer acceptance, advances in technology, and Issuer benefits, thus making the timing right for dual interface.





# Interested in hearing more?

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The team at FIS is eager to discuss how we can help you with payments solutions that are right for you and your customers.

Please contact your FIS strategic account manager at  
**GETINFO@FISGLOBAL.COM**

For ongoing insight into the world of payments,  
Please visit us at:

**PAYMENTSLEADER.COM**

**RISEWITHFIS.COM**

## About FIS

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