

Visa International

Visa International operates the world's biggest payment system. Visa was established in 1973 as an association of financial institutions, and the name "Visa" was introduced in 1976.

The Visa system is the world's most robust electronic payments network, linking more than a billion cardholders and 24 million merchants around the world.

Visa's vision

Visa's vision for the future of commerce is one in which buyers and sellers can conduct commerce securely and conveniently anywhere, any time and in any way.

While Visa itself does not offer cards or financial services directly to consumers and merchants, it plays a key role in advancing new payment products and technologies on behalf of its members.

Visa at a glance

- 1.3 billion Visa cards in circulation worldwide
- Accepted at more than 24 million merchant locations in more than 150 countries
- Cash access at more than one million ATMs
- US\$3.6 trillion in global card sales volume
- Largest processor of financial transactions in the world
- Capable of processing 10,000 transactions per second
- 21,000 member financial institutions.

Visa in New Zealand

- 2.1 million Visa cards in circulation
- 108,172 merchant locations in New Zealand
- Cash access at more than 1,900 ATMs
- NZ\$14.0 billion in annual card sales volume (year ended June 2005)
- More than 105 million transactions processed annually
- Five member financial institutions in New Zealand.

Growth in card numbers

There are more than 2.1 million Visa cards in New Zealand. The total number of Visa cards has increased by 188 percent over the past 10 years.

Growth in card sales volume

Retail sales volume, which represents purchases of goods and services using Visa cards, totalled NZ\$3.2 billion in June quarter 2005. Cash volumes, which include withdrawals from ATMs, balance transfers and cash advances, totalled NZ\$347.3 million in June quarter 2005.

Visa's annual card sales volume, which measures all retail and cash transactions, was NZ\$14.0 billion for the year ended June 2005, a 12 percent increase over 2004, and a 488 per cent rise compared with the same period 10 years ago.

Share of Personal Consumption Expenditure (PCE)

Personal Consumption Expenditure (PCE) represents the market value of all goods and services purchased by households excluding homes. In New Zealand, Visa's share of PCE was 13.5 percent at the end of March 2005, up from 12.8 percent in 2004, demonstrating a strong consumer preference for Visa as a convenient alternative to cash and cheques.

Visa office address

New Zealand

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