



## Media / News Item

### Debit Cards Outpacing Credit Cards

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**SYDNEY:** Debit cards are set to become the most popular form of payment by the end of the year because they save consumers from clocking up debt, a report says.

Consumers have increasingly turned to debit cards as their preferred payment method, shunning credit cards whenever possible due to hefty surcharges and reluctance to go further into debt in tough economic times.

The report by banking research firm East & Partners found 28.9 per cent of all merchant sales were paid

with a debit card in the six months to June, up from about 24 per cent in the previous six months.

East & Partners financial markets analyst Zoran Knezevic said that after a gradual shift towards debit cards over the past few years, the pace had accelerated quite rapidly in the past six months.

The move away from credit card debt was in line with what was happening overseas, with debit cards already the most popular form of payment in Britain. *AFP*