**C**[**ryptocurrency**](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/cryptocurrency) **and the future of cash – Sunday Telegraph (334 words)**

Many economists believe the world will someday be cashless. They point to India, which recently banned notes with lower denominations (Rs 500 and Rs 1,000). How long before the UK follows suit? asks Henley Business School Professor Dr Benjamin Laker.

Consumers are embracing a wide array of payment options in today's increasingly complex marketplaces. C[ryptocurrency](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/cryptocurrency) evangelists believe that cash is a relic of the past but Mark Ridley, Partner at global advisory firm Transform Performance International states “cash is a symbol of the nation state. It will always be king.”

He’s right. Contrary to widely held beliefs cash is not dying out, even despite the increasing use of mobile phones and contactless payment for purchases. The [Bank for International Settlements](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/bank-for-international-settlements) said in its latest report that the amount of cash in circulation rose from 7 per cent of global GDP in 2000 to 9 per cent in 2016.

As cashless society therefore remains an elusive myth — both today and for the foreseeable future, with 79% of U.S. consumers in Cardtronics’ recent research claiming that they can’t imagine a world without cash. 83% of respondents said they would miss cash if it went away, and 85% believe cash will never go out of style. And while digital and mobile payment adoption is rising, a moderate pace of adoption indicates that consumers are complementing the use of cards and cash rather than replacing them large-scale.

[A separate study](http://www.frbsf.org/cash/publications/fed-notes/2016/november/state-of-cash-2015-diary-consumer-payment-choice" \t "_blank) conducted by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco reached three similar conclusions:

1. Cash continues to be the most frequently used consumer payment instrument.

2. Cash is widely used in a variety of circumstances.

3. Cash dominates small-value transactions.

The third point is particularly troublesome for those pushing digital payments. For consumers to embrace digital payments in all settings and situations, they not only need to be as fast and as simple as cash, consumers have to perceive them as such. Until this happens, cash will remain King. It isn’t going away. Not now, nor anytime soon.