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Energy costs and ticket sales among drivers as April card spending rises 7% - AIB Spend Trend

- **Service station spend rises 12% year on year, spending on EV charging up 72%**
 - **Airline spend down 8% compared with April 2025**
- **Seven-fold increase in spend on event tickets on Ryder Cup ticket sale day**
 - ***The Super Mario Galaxy Movie* helps cinemas 'power-up' over Easter**

Card spending by AIB customers was up 7% overall year on year in April, as rising energy costs caused by the Middle East conflict continued to influence spending habits. Spending at service stations was up 12% compared to the same month a year earlier. County Monaghan recorded the largest service station spending increase over that 12-month period, up 23%, with Roscommon up 22%. The county with the lowest increase in service station spending over that timeframe was Clare, where the spend rose 3%, while in Limerick it was 7% higher.

Service stations were not the only places where energy cost concerns appear to have driven spending patterns, with the latest AIB Spend Trend also showing that:

- Electric vehicle charging spend was up 9% compared to the previous month and grew 72% in the 12 months to April 2026.
- On Friday April 10th, when fuel protests were underway, the number of road toll payments by AIB customers hit their lowest point of the year so far, at approximately 16,600, 37% below the average for April.
- Airline spend was down 8% compared with April 2025.
- Spending on utilities (excluding telecoms) climbed 9% year on year.
- Grocery spend increased by 2% over the past 12 months.

The data also shows that spending on event tickets was well above par on Friday 24th April, when Ryder Cup 2027 tickets went on sale to residents of the island of Ireland. The spend by AIB customers on event tickets that day was more than seven times the daily average for the rest of the month.

Easter Sunday was the lowest spending day of 2026 so far, with spend overall 44% below the average daily level recorded year-to-date. This is a pattern seen most years, with Easter Sunday typically only surpassed by Christmas Day as the quietest day for card spending.

Easter saw cinemas record their best weekend of the year so far though, with peak sales on Saturday April 4th, the day after the release of *The Super Mario Galaxy Movie* on Good Friday. However, for the month as a whole, spend in cinemas was up just 1% when compared to April of last year.

The data was compiled from 77 million card transactions carried out by AIB customers in store and online during April 2026 and has been anonymised and aggregated. Data provided by AIB features one of the most comprehensive and accurate data sets on consumer spending in Ireland.

AIB's Head of Consumer, Adrian Moynihan, said: "April's data shows a 7% increase in spending and once again we saw consumer activity influenced by key events, in this case the rising energy costs. The broader picture points to steady year-on-year spending growth, alongside continued increases in everyday costs like motoring and utilities, as energy prices rise. Monitoring these developments helps us to better support our personal and business customers in communities across Ireland, and to advise them to make the right decisions for them and their long-term financial wellbeing."

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