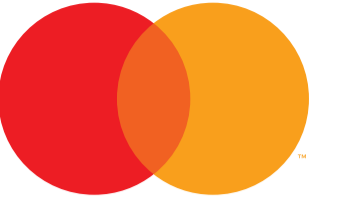


Asia Pacific Spotlight

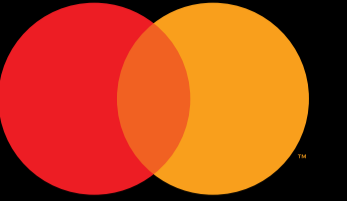




As we announced our **first-quarter 2021 results** we were encouraged by the good momentum and growth we've seen. At the same time, we reflected on all the changes of the past year — the lost social connections, economic opportunities, the lost lives. With the crisis intensifying in India, Ajay Banga said, "The situation is gut-wrenching; it's clear that no one has been left untouched and that no one can be a bystander." To help, Mastercard is doing whatever we can to directly address critical COVID-related needs in India. Read more about **our commitment here**.

In this issue, we explore how emerging payment technologies supported so many people through the pandemic, and how Mastercard is continuing to advance many forms of digital payments as we push for real changes to make for a better, more inclusive world. To learn more about the next steps we're taking to help people and economies to rebuild together, read this **Annual Letter** from Mastercard's leadership.

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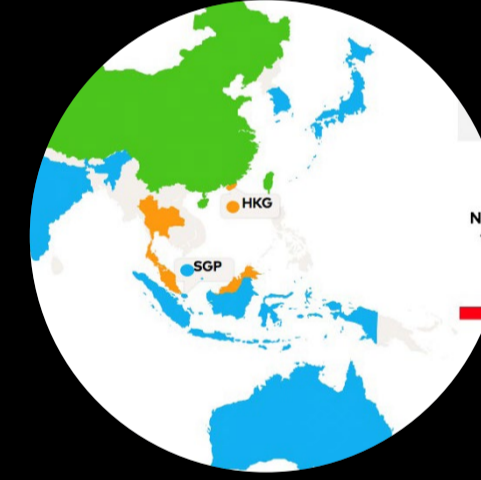
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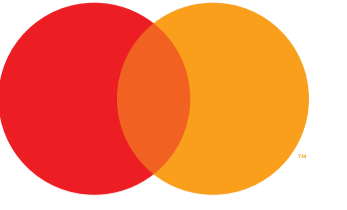


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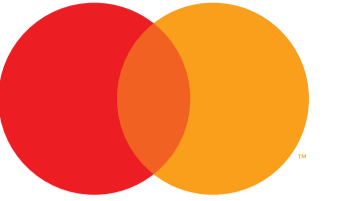
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COVID Effect: Consumers Quickly Shift to Emerging Payment Technologies

New global research from Mastercard reveals that more than 9 out of 10 people globally are considering using emerging payment methods this year. Here in APAC, consumers are even more enthusiastic about QR codes, cryptocurrencies and digital wallets than their global counterparts. Sandeep Malhotra explains the findings [on CNBC](#).

Explore the Mastercard
New Payments Index →



Digital First Program: Now Boarding APAC FIs

To help customers get ahead of shifting consumer preferences, Mastercard has strengthened its Digital First program by providing a network of partners that support each step of the consumer digital journey – from acquisition and usage to management. Consumers enjoy near-instant issuance and more choice.

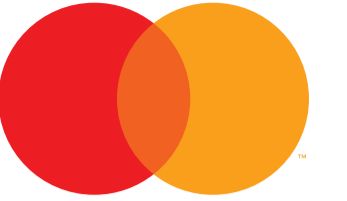
[Learn more →](#)



Podcast: Why Are Instalments Booming?

43% of consumers in Asia would be willing to spend 15% more if they could pay by instalments – a compelling proposition for many in the payments ecosystem. In this episode, we unpack the surging popularity of “buy now, pay later” offerings and how instalments differ from the layaway plans of old.

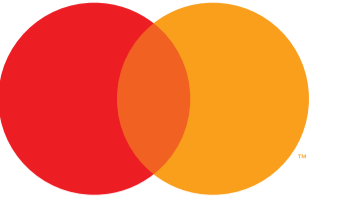
[Listen now →](#)



Expert Opinion: Here's What's Next in Payments

INSIDER brings **Finance Transformers** together to discuss the massive shift towards digital payments spurred by the pandemic and what's in store in 2021. Mastercard's Ari Sarker says that, like "muscle memory," many changes - and drivers of digital payments growth - will persist as consumers and merchants adopt a "digital first" mindset.

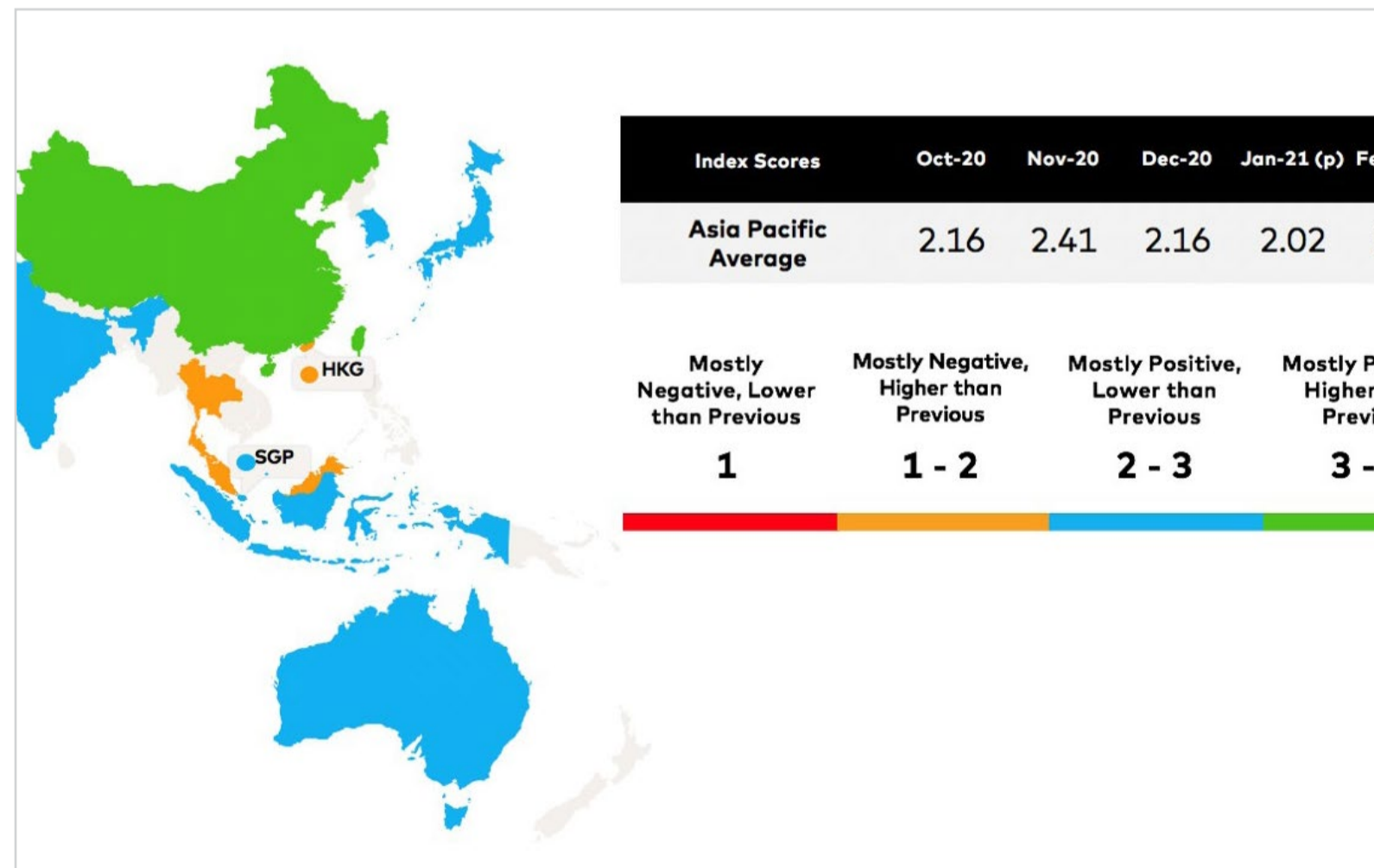
[See what they had to say →](#)



New Report: Retail's Digital Acceleration

Consumers worldwide spent nearly \$9 trillion at online retailers in 2020 as Covid-19 forced new ways of getting goods and services. Chief Economist APAC & MEA **speaks to CNBC** about what's next in the commerce e-volution.

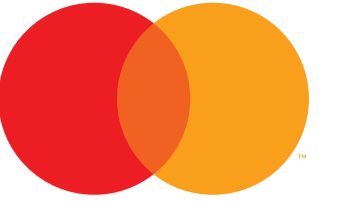
[Get the Recovery Insights report →](#)



Asia Pacific Consumer Retail Barometer

With most markets seeing upticks in sentiment, retail sales and credit card expenditure, the APAC average rebounded strongly in February to its highest point in 13 months, after a weak start to 2021 in January.

[Download the report →](#)



TIME 100
MOST INFLUENTIAL
COMPANIES

For Making An Extraordinary Impact

We're delighted to be recognized in TIME's inaugural list for Mastercard's leadership in contactless and B2B payments, as well as digital and cryptocurrencies - including collaboration with national governments.

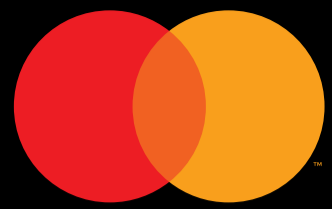
[See the list →](#)

For Commitment to Business Integrity

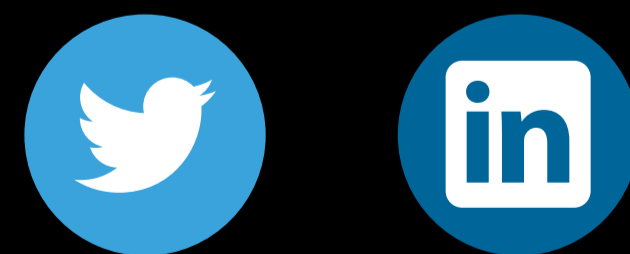
Mastercard's commitment to ethics and doing well by doing good is essential to accomplishing great things with our partners and driving positive change. Delighted to be included for a 6th time.

[See the 135 honorees →](#)

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