



Banc Ceannais na hÉireann  
Central Bank of Ireland

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Eurosystem

# Explanatory notes

## Payment Statistics

## General

Payment statistics contain information on the usage of different payment services and instruments, and on payments processed by the main payment and settlement systems. The statistics provide information on the number and value of payment transactions for each type of payment instrument and service in Ireland. The data is collected under Regulation (EU) No 1409/2013 of the European Central Bank of 28 November 2013 on payment statistics ([ECB/2013/43](#)).

Data are collected from payment service providers (PSPs) and payment system operators (PSOs) resident in the Republic of Ireland. PSPs include banks, credit unions, payment institutions and e-money institutions, while PSOs manage the systems that facilitate funds transfers between PSPs.

The statistics can be used to identify trends in payments and are essential in helping policymakers take well-informed decisions, as well as identifying and monitoring developments in the payments markets within the EU, and for assisting in the promotion of the smooth operation of payment systems.

These data do not contain information on inter-bank payments. Only payments that involve a non-monetary financial institution (MFI) are included.

Please note that Payment statistics will differ to the [Credit and Debit Card Statistics](#) as they are based on a different reporting population, and therefore may not align.

## Glossary

### ***Acquirer***

The term is applicable in the following cases:

- The entity that holds deposit accounts for card acceptors, i.e. merchants, and to which the card acceptor transmits the data relating to the transactions. The acquirer is responsible for the collection of transaction information and settlement with the acceptors.
- In POS transactions, the entity to which the acceptor, usually a merchant, transmits the information necessary in order to process the card payment. The acquirer is the entity that manages the account of the merchant.
- In ATM transactions, the entity which makes banknotes available to the cardholder, whether directly or via the use of third-party providers.
- The entity which provides terminals, regardless of the ownership of the terminals.

### ***ATM cash deposit (except e-money transactions)***

Cash deposit performed at an ATM using a card with a cash function. Includes all transactions in which cash is deposited at a terminal, without manual intervention, and the payer is identified with a payment card.

### ***ATM cash withdrawal (except e-money transactions)***

Cash withdrawal performed at an ATM using a card with a cash function. Cash advances at POS terminals using a card with a debit, credit or delayed debit function are only included if they are unconnected to a payment transaction. Cash withdrawals together with a payment transaction are not included.

### ***Card***

A device that can be used by its holder either to conduct transactions or to withdraw money. Cards offer the cardholder, in accordance with the agreement with the card issuer, one or more of the following functions: cash, debit, delayed debit, credit and e-money.

### ***Card issuer***

A financial institution that makes payment cards available to cardholders, authorises transactions at POS terminals or ATMs and guarantees payment to the acquirer for transactions that are in conformity with the rules of the relevant scheme.

### ***Card payment initiated at a physical EFTPOS***

Electronically initiated card payment transaction at a physical POS allowing electronic fund transfers. This item typically includes payments with cards through an EFTPOS terminal at a merchant's location. It does not include e-money payments.

### ***Card payments with cards issued by resident PSPs initiated remotely***

Electronically initiated card payment transactions which are not initiated at a physical POS terminal. This item typically includes payments with cards for products and services purchased by telephone or over the internet.

### ***Cheques***

A written order from one party, i.e. the drawer, to another, i.e. the drawee, which is normally a credit institution, requiring the drawee to pay a specified sum on demand to the drawer or to a third party specified by the drawer.

Cash withdrawals with cheques are included, but cash withdrawals using bank forms are not (these are reported as "OTC cash withdrawals").

Cheques are counted on the payee's side when submitted for cheque clearing.

Cheques issued but not submitted for clearing are not included.

### ***Credit transfer***

Payment service which allow the payer to instruct the institution holding its account to transfer funds to the beneficiary. It is a payment order or a sequence of payment orders made for the purpose of placing funds at the disposal of the beneficiary. Both the payment order and the funds described therein move from the PSP of the payer to the PSP of the payee, i.e. the beneficiary, possibly via several other credit institutions as intermediaries and/or one or more payment and settlement systems.

The following breakdown of credit transfers is provided:

- credit transfers initiated in paper-based form;
- credit transfers initiated electronically.

Each transaction is allocated to only one sub-category, i.e. the sub-categories are mutually exclusive. Thus the total number of credit transfers is the sum of the subcategories.

### ***Direct debit***

A payment service for debiting a payer's payment account, potentially on a recurrent basis, where a payment transaction is initiated by the payee on the basis of the payer's consent given to the payee, to the payee's PSP or to the payer's own PSP.

***Electronic money***

Electronically, including magnetically, stored monetary value, as represented by a claim on the issuer, which is issued on receipt of funds for the purpose of making payment transactions as defined in Article 4(5) of Directive 2007/64/EC, and which is accepted by a natural or legal person other than the electronic money issuer.

***E-money payment***

A transaction whereby a holder of e-money transfers e-money value from his/her own balance to the balance of the beneficiary, either with a card on which e-money can be stored directly or with e-money accounts.

***OTC cash deposit***

Cash deposit in an account at a PSP using a form, including where a card is used merely to identify the payer. Includes cash deposited in a PSP's day/night deposit box for crediting to an account at the PSP. These transactions do not represent payments in the strict sense, comprising only a change from cash to account money. Thus they are not included in the breakdown of payment services. However, data may be reported if available.

***OTC cash withdrawal***

Cash withdrawal from an account at a PSP using a form, including where a card is used merely to identify the payee. These transactions do not represent payments in the strict sense, comprising only a change from account money to cash. Thus they are not included in the breakdown of payment services. However, data may be reported if available.

***Payer***

The party to a payment transaction which issues the payment order or agrees to the transfer of funds to the payee.

***Payment institution***

A legal person that has been granted authorisation in accordance with Article 10 of Directive 2007/64/EC to provide and execute payment services throughout the European Union.

***Payment instrument***

Any personalised device(s) and/or set of procedures agreed between the payment service user and the PSP and used by the payment service user in order to initiate a payment order.

***Payment service provider (PSP)***

A natural or legal person whose regular occupation or business activity includes the provision of payment services to payment service users.

***Payment transaction***

The act, initiated by the payer or by the payee, of placing, transferring or withdrawing funds, irrespective of any underlying obligations between the payer and the payee.

For further definitions, please see the ECB's [Methodological Notes](#).

T: +353 (0)1 224 6000  
E: [xxx@centralbank.ie](mailto:xxx@centralbank.ie)  
[www.centralbank.ie](http://www.centralbank.ie)



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