

Press release

29 January 2026

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January 2026**

Payments statistics: first half of 2025

- [Total number of non-cash payments in the euro area](#) in first half of 2025 was 77.7 billion, 7.7% higher compared with first half of 2024, with [total value](#) of €116.0 trillion, 2.9% higher than in first half of 2024
- [Card payments](#) accounted for 57% of total number of non-cash payments in first half of 2025, [credit transfers](#) for 22%, [direct debits](#) for 14% and [e-money payments](#) for 6%¹
- [Number of contactless card payments](#) in first half of 2025 was 29.6 billion, 12.8% higher compared with first half of 2024, with [total value](#) of €0.8 trillion, 13.9% higher than in first half of 2024
- [Number of payment cards in circulation](#) at the end of first half of 2025 was 879.3 million, 12.2% higher compared with first half of 2024, averaging 2.5 [payment cards per euro area inhabitant](#), with an [average value](#) of around €38 per card payment
- Around 55.7 billion [transactions processed by retail payment systems in the euro area](#) in first half of 2025, worth €26.2 trillion

The European Central Bank (ECB) today published statistics on non-cash payments for the first half of 2025.² The statistics comprise indicators on access to and use of payment services, payment cards and payment terminals by the public, as well as volumes and values of transactions processed through retail and large-value payment systems. This press release focuses on developments in the euro area as a whole, while statistics are also published at country level for all euro area and most non-euro area EU member states. EU and euro area aggregates are also published.³

¹ Statistics are also collected for cheques, money remittances and other payment services, which together accounted for around 1% of the total number and for 1% of the total value of non-cash euro area payment transactions in the first half of 2025.

² The published data have been collected in accordance with Regulation ECB/2020/59 amending Regulation ECB/2013/43 on payments statistics, which came into effect on 1 January 2022. Regulation ECB/2020/59 increased the frequency of data collection from annual to semi-annual. Data for some high-level indicators as well as additional details on card payments are collected with quarterly frequency. Data for the first half of 2025 are flagged as provisional and may be subject to revisions.

³ At the time of reporting the semi-annual data for the first half of 2025, some non-euro area EU countries were still in the process of implementing the requirements of Regulation ECB/2020/59. EU aggregates therefore do not cover all EU countries. Further information on which EU countries are reporting partial scope can be found in the country-specific methodological notes on the [ECB Data Portal](#).

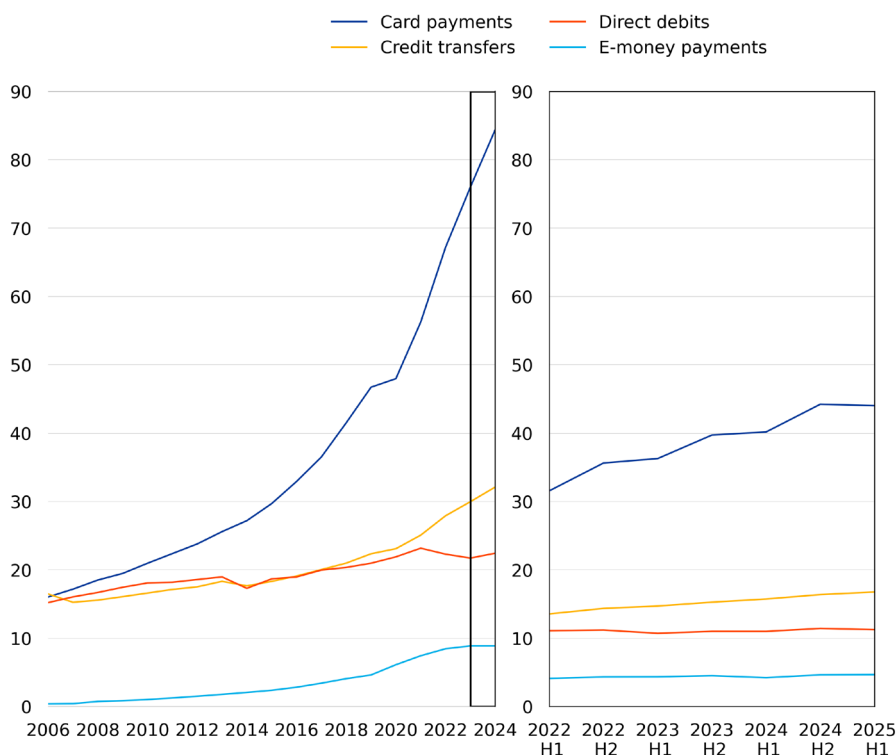
Payment services⁴

In the first half of 2025 the total number of non-cash payment transactions⁵ in the euro area was 77.7 billion, 7.7% higher compared with the first half of 2024, with a corresponding total value of €116.0 trillion, 2.9% higher than in the first half of 2024. Card payments accounted for 57% of the total number of transactions, while credit transfers accounted for 22%, direct debits for 14% and e-money payments for 6%. The remaining 1% comprised cheques, money remittances and other payment services (see annex, Table 1).

Chart 1

Use of the main payment services in the euro area

(number of transactions in billions, graph on the right-hand-side refers to half-yearly data)



Source: ECB.

Note: Data have been partially estimated for periods prior to 2010, as methodological changes were implemented in those years and some data are not directly available. The historical estimations done by the ECB ensure comparability of figures over the entire period. Statistics were also collected for cheques, money remittances and other payment services which together accounted for 1% of the total number of non-cash euro area payment transactions in the first half of 2025.

[Data on payment services](#)

⁴ SEPA instruments are included in the respective categories. Information on these instruments can be found [on the ECB's website](#).

⁵ Total non-cash payment services exclude cash-withdrawals and include credit transfers, direct debits, card payments with cards issued by resident payment service providers, e-money payment transactions with e-money issued by resident payment service providers, cheques, money remittances and other payment services. A wider [total](#) that includes cash withdrawals is also available on the ECB Data Portal.

Card payments

In the first half of 2025 the number of card payments within the euro area was 44.0 billion, 9.6% higher compared with the first half of 2024. The corresponding total value of card payments was €1.7 trillion, 8.7% higher than in the first half of 2024, reflecting an average value of around €38 per payment. The split between remote and non-remote⁶ transactions in the total number of card payments was 19% to 81%, while the split in terms of value was 30% to 70%. The number of contactless card payments initiated at a physical electronic funds transfer point of sale terminal was 29.6 billion, 12.8% higher compared with the first half of 2024, with the corresponding total value of €0.8 trillion, 13.9% higher than in the first half of 2024. As a result, their share in the total number of non-remote card payments accounted for 83%, while the corresponding share in terms of value was 67%. At the national level, Portugal had the largest share of card payments as a percentage of the total number of non-cash payments in the first half of 2025, at around 76% (see annex, Table 2).

Credit transfers⁷

In the first half of 2025 the number of credit transfers within the euro area was 16.8 billion, 6.5% higher compared with the first half of 2024, and the corresponding total value was €107.3 trillion, 2.6% higher than in the first half of 2024. As higher-value payments are usually made by credit transfer⁸, they accounted for 92% of the total value of non-cash payments. The ratio of transactions initiated electronically to those initiated using paper forms was around 18 to 1, while in terms of value the ratio was around 14 to 1. At the national level, Latvia continued to have the largest share of credit transfers as a percentage of the total number of non-cash payments in the first half of 2025, at around 37% (see annex, Table 2).

Direct debits

In the first half of 2025 the number of direct debits within the euro area was 11.3 billion, 2.3% higher compared with the first half of 2024, and the corresponding total value was €5.6 trillion, 6.2% higher than in the first half of 2024. Of the total number of direct debits, those with an electronic mandate accounted for 12% whereas those with consent given in other forms accounted for 88%, while in terms of value the split was 13% to 87%. At the national level, Germany continued to have the largest share of direct debits as a percentage of the total number of non-cash payments in the first half of 2025, at around 31% (see annex, Table 2).

⁶ Remote card payments are payment transactions initiated using the internet or a device that can be used for distance communication, whereas non-remote card payments are initiated at terminals, including those using contactless technology.

⁷ Credit transfers also include SEPA instant credit transfers.

⁸ The ECB payments statistics on credit transfers involving non-monetary financial institutions also include those between corporations and other business entities, which significantly contribute to the high value of the total credit transfers in the euro area.

E-money payments

In the first half of 2025 the number of e-money payment transactions within the euro area was 4.7 billion, 10.7% higher compared with the first half of 2024, and the corresponding value was €0.3 trillion, 13.2% higher than in the first half of 2024. Of the total number of e-money payment transactions, those made with e-money accounts accounted for 98% whereas those made with cards on which e-money can be stored accounted for 2%, while in terms of value the split was 97% to 3%.

Cards and accepting devices

At the end of the first half of 2025 the number of cards with a payment function⁹ was 879.3 million, 12.2% higher compared with the number at the end of the first half of 2024. With a total euro area population of around 352 million, this implies an average of 2.5 payment cards per euro area inhabitant.

At the end of the first half of 2025 the total number of automated teller machines (ATMs) in the euro area was around 249.3 thousand, 2.9% lower compared with the number at the end of the first half of 2024. Of these, 34% accepted contactless transactions.

At the end of the first half of 2025 the total number of point of sale (POS) terminals was around 24.7 million¹⁰, 24.0% higher compared with the corresponding number at the end of the first half of 2024. Of these terminals, 93% accepted contactless transactions.

Payment systems¹¹

Retail payment systems

Retail payment systems located in the euro area handle mainly payments that are made by individuals and businesses, with a relatively low value and high volume overall.

In the first half of 2025, 35 retail payment systems within the euro area processed around 55.7 billion transactions with a combined value of €26.2 trillion. Instant credit transfers accounted for 23% of the total number and for 7% of the total value of credit transfer transactions processed by euro area retail payment systems.

⁹ Cards with a payment function exclude cards having only an e-money function.

¹⁰ Due to multi-acquiring of card accepting devices, the number of ATM and/or POS terminals is affected by double counting in some euro area countries. This has been flagged in the country-specific methodological notes of the affected countries. The concept of multi-acquiring refers to a business case where more than one payment service provider acquires transactions at the same card accepting device.

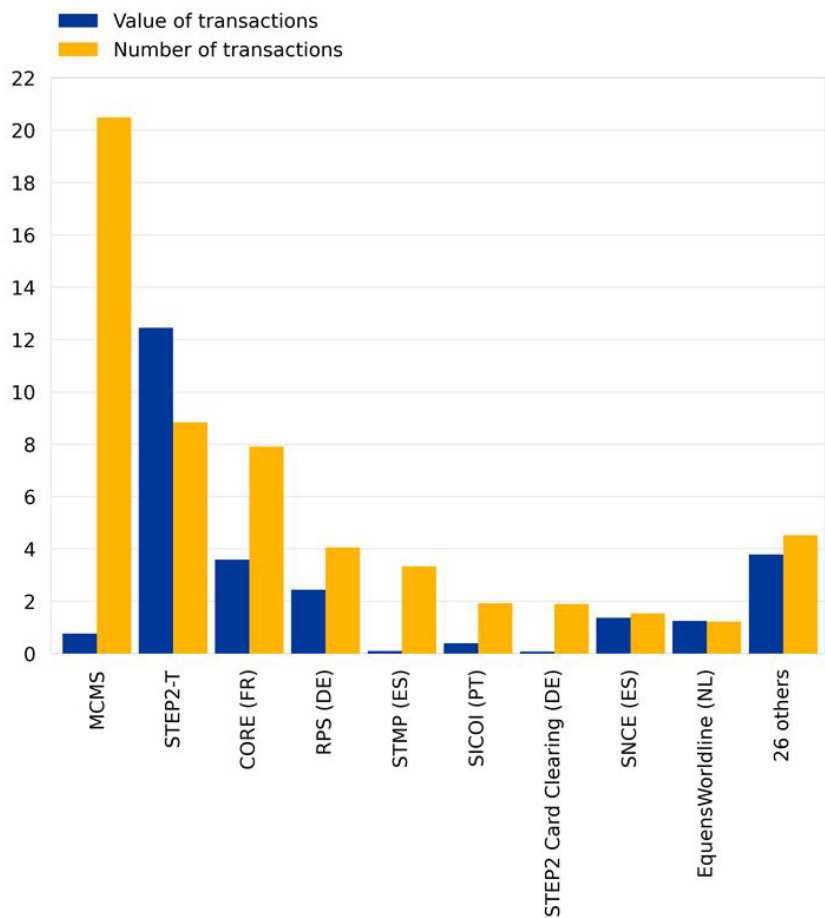
¹¹ Some of the payment systems mentioned in this press release are systemically important payment systems at euro area level. More information can be found on the [ECB's website](#).

Retail payment systems located in the euro area differ significantly in terms of type, size and geographical scope of transactions they process. The three largest systems (MCMS¹², STEP2-T¹³ and CORE (France)) processed 67% of the volume and 64% of the value of all transactions processed by the retail payment systems located in the euro area in the first half of 2025.

Chart 2

Main retail payment systems located in the euro area, values and numbers of transactions processed in the first half of 2025

(value of transactions in EUR trillions and number of transactions in billions)



Source: ECB.

[Data on retail payment systems](#)

¹² The Mastercard Clearing Management System (MCMS) is a payment system for processing transactions in euro and other currencies. It is operated by Mastercard Europe in Belgium with participants in more than 50 countries and territories.

¹³ STEP2 is a pan-European automated clearing house for retail payments in euro operated by EBA CLEARING.

Large-value payment systems

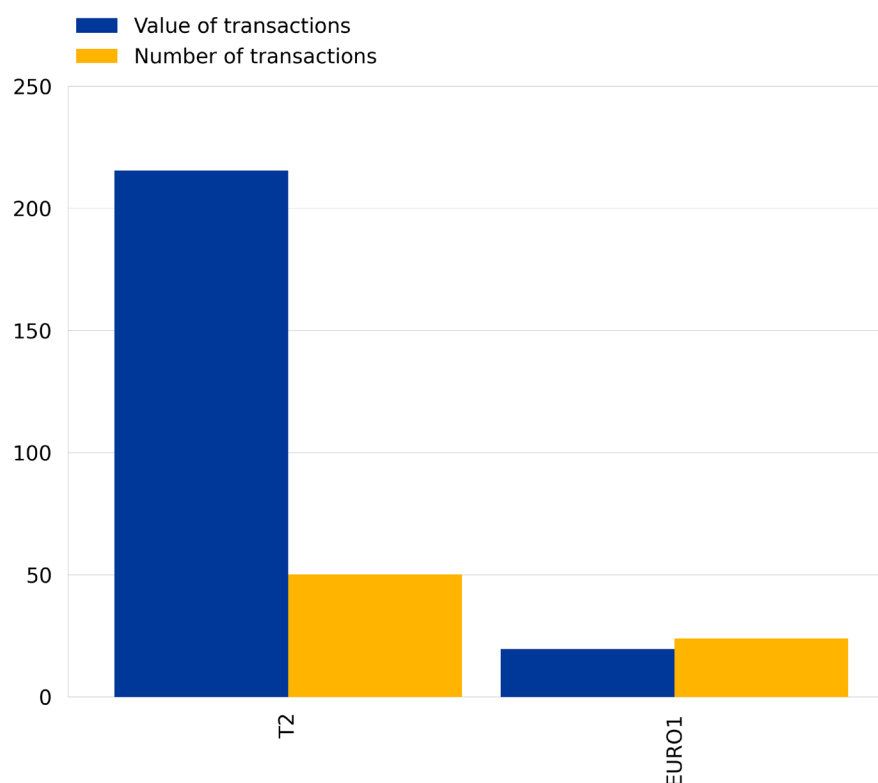
Large-value payment systems form the backbone of the euro area financial market infrastructure and are designed primarily to process large-value and/or high-priority payments made between system participants for their own account or on behalf of their customers.

In the first half of 2025, large-value payment systems located in the euro area settled 74.0 million payments with a total value of €235.1 trillion in euro payments, with T2 and EURO1 being the two main systems.¹⁴

Chart 3

Main large-value payment systems located in the euro area, values and numbers of transactions processed in the first half of 2025

(value of transactions in EUR trillions and number of transactions in millions)



Source: ECB.

[Data on large-value payment systems](#)

¹⁴ T2 is the Eurosystem's real-time gross settlement service that settles euro payments in central bank money. From a legal point of view, T2 is part of the consolidated TARGET Services platform, which replaced the pre-existing TARGET2 RTGS system operated by the Eurosystem until March 2023. EURO1 is an EU-wide multilateral net large-value payment system for euro payments operated by EBA CLEARING. Payments are processed in EURO1 throughout the day and final balances are settled at the end of the day in T2.

Notes:

- > The full set of payment statistics can be downloaded from the [ECB Data Portal](#) (EDP). The EDP also includes [interactive dashboards](#) and [interactive reports](#) supporting data visualization. Detailed methodological information, including a list of all data definitions, is available under “Payment services and large-value and retail payment systems” in the “[Statistics](#)” section of the ECB's website.
- > As of 2025, the dissemination scope of payments statistics in the EDP has been extended in two-waves. Since March 2025, the quarterly publication of payments statistics has been significantly widened, offering more detailed geographical breakdowns as well as additional details on card payments per type of merchant category codes (MCC). As of July 2025, the semi-annual publication includes details on the payment schemes for credit transfers and direct debits as well as more granular geographical breakdowns, among others. In addition, some indicators related to fraudulent payment transactions are now publicly available in the EDP. For the latter, please also refer to the relevant disclaimer available towards the bottom of the [EDP page](#).
- > Taking effect on 1 January 2022, the methodological and reporting framework for payments statistics was enhanced to take progressive developments in the payments market and related changes in the legal framework in Europe into account. The enhanced reporting requirements are set out in Regulation ECB/2020/59 amending Regulation ECB/2013/43 on payments statistics and in Guideline ECB/2021/13 on reporting requirements on payments statistics. In addition, the Manual on payments statistics reporting is available on the [ECB's website](#).
- > Hyperlinks in the main body of the press release and in annex tables lead to data that may change with subsequent releases as a result of revisions. Figures shown in annex tables are a snapshot of the data at the time of the current release. Unless otherwise indicated, statistics referring to the euro area cover the EU Member States that had adopted the euro at the time to which the data relate.

Table 1: Non-cash payment services in the euro area (first half of 2025)
(number of transactions in billions; value of transactions in EUR trillions)

	Number of transactions (billions)					Value of transactions (EUR trillions)				
	2024-H1	2024-H2	2025-H1	Percentage change vs 2024-H1	Share of 2025-H1*	2024-H1	2024-H2	2025-H1	Percentage change vs 2024-H1	Share of 2025-H1*
Total payment transactions involving non-MFIs, excluding cash withdrawals	72.15	77.72	77.71	+7.7%	-	112.82	116.58	116.04	+2.9%	-
Card payments	40.17	44.23	44.02	+9.6%	56.6%	1.56	1.72	1.69	+8.7%	1.5%
Initiated via remote payment channel	7.19	8.05	8.17	+13.7%	18.6%	0.43	0.49	0.50	+16.4%	29.7%
Initiated via non-remote payment channel	32.98	36.18	35.85	+8.7%	81.4%	1.12	1.23	1.19	+5.7%	70.3%
Electronic contactless payments	26.25	29.40	29.60	+12.8%	82.6%	0.70	0.80	0.80	+13.9%	67.1%
Credit transfers**	15.73	16.38	16.76	+6.5%	21.6%	104.56	108.00	107.33	+2.6%	92.5%
Initiated in paper-based form	0.89	0.91	0.87	-2.4%	5.2%	7.26	7.42	7.15	-1.5%	6.7%
Initiated electronically	14.52	15.15	15.80	+8.8%	94.2%	93.92	97.05	99.25	+5.7%	92.5%
Direct debits	11.00	11.44	11.26	+2.3%	14.5%	5.31	5.42	5.63	+6.2%	4.9%
Consent given via electronic mandate	1.31	1.32	1.36	+3.7%	12.1%	0.70	0.76	0.73	+5.4%	13.0%
Consent given in other forms	9.69	10.11	9.89	+2.1%	87.9%	4.61	4.66	4.90	+6.3%	87.0%
E-money payments	4.23	4.65	4.68	+10.7%	6.0%	0.25	0.29	0.28	+13.2%	0.2%
With cards on which e-money can be stored directly	0.29	0.17	0.09	-68.4%	2.0%	0.02	0.01	0.01	-61.2%	3.2%
With e-money accounts	3.93	4.48	4.58	+16.5%	98.0%	0.23	0.28	0.27	+20.7%	96.8%
Remaining payment services***	1.01	1.03	0.99	-1.7%	1.3%	1.15	1.14	1.11	-3.6%	1.0%

Source: ECB

* For card payments, credit transfers; direct debits; e-money and remaining payments services, shares are calculated over the total payment transactions. For their subcomponents, shares are calculated over the corresponding direct aggregate, as displayed in the table. For credit transfers, there is an insignificant residual third subcomponent "Other" which is not displayed in the table and which covers all cases of credit transfers which are initiated non-electronically but not in paper-based form, e.g. mail order or telephone order (MOTO) transactions.

** Credit transfers also include SEPA instant credit transfers.

*** Remaining payment services include: cheques, money remittances and other payment services as defined in Regulation ECB/2020/59 amending Regulation ECB/2013/43 on payments statistics.

Table 2: Relative importance of the main payment instruments in the euro area countries in the first half of 2025
(percentages of total number of transactions*)

		Card payments		Credit transfers		Direct debits		E-money payments	
		2025-H1	Change from 2024-H1 (pp)	2025-H1	Change from 2024-H1 (pp)	2025-H1	Change from 2024-H1 (pp)	2025-H1	Change from 2024-H1 (pp)
Belgium	BE	58.0	-0.4	31.9	0.6	7.7	-0.4	0.7	0.1
Germany	DE	45.3	3.5	23.9	-1.4	30.5	-2.1	0.1	0.0
Estonia	EE	64.2	0.1	35.8	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-	-
Ireland	IE	64.0	0.7	20.2	0.3	4.1	0.0	8.0	-1.5
Greece	GR	73.0	-1.1	22.4	0.3	1.2	-0.1	2.4	0.9
Spain	ES	67.3	0.6	17.3	0.4	12.5	-1.0	1.7	0.1
France	FR	63.9	0.4	18.6	-0.1	14.9	0.2	0.3	0.0
Croatia	HR	59.2	-0.3	31.4	-1.3	1.3	-0.1	6.8	2.0
Italy	IT	56.6	0.7	14.9	-0.7	9.3	-0.2	16.7	0.5
Cyprus	CY	74.5	1.4	16.1	0.3	4.0	-0.1	3.2	-0.6
Latvia	LV	60.0	-0.5	36.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.3
Lithuania	LT	72.8	1.0	22.9	-0.6	0.0	0.0	3.1	-0.3
Luxembourg**	LU	8.2	0.5	2.1	-0.1	0.4	-0.3	89.0	-0.3
Malta	MT	51.9	1.9	8.1	0.1	2.5	0.0	31.9	-5.1
Netherlands	NL	48.5	-0.2	34.4	1.7	16.9	-1.4	0.2	0.1
Austria	AT	57.7	1.9	25.3	-0.9	15.8	-0.9	0.1	0.0
Portugal	PT	75.7	-1.5	11.6	1.6	8.3	-0.1	2.7	0.3
Slovenia	SI	62.8	1.9	28.3	-0.9	5.8	-0.5	0.7	-0.1
Slovakia	SK	66.7	0.9	31.1	-0.7	1.9	-0.2	0.1	0.0
Finland	FI	66.1	0.7	33.7	-0.6	0.0	.	0.3	.

Source: ECB.

* Percentages may not add up to 100% as remaining payment services, being cheques, money remittances and other payment services, are not shown. A dash (-) indicates data are not available or not applicable, a dot (.) indicates that data are confidential.

** In the special case of Luxembourg, a very high number of e-money payments are executed on accounts held in their vast majority by non-residents but recorded in the Luxembourg data due to the methodology applied.

Therefore, the relative importance of all the other payment instruments in Luxembourg, as presented in the table, appears to be lower than their actual domestic importance.

When disregarding e-money, the relative importance of the main payment instruments in the first half of 2025 is as follows: card payments (73.9%), credit transfers (19.3%), direct debits (3.3%).