



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

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PRESS RELEASE

PAYMENT STATISTICS FOR 2013

The European Central Bank (ECB) has today published the 2013 statistics on non-cash payments, which comprise indicators on access to and use of payment instruments and terminals by the public, as well as volumes and values of transactions processed through payment systems. Statistics are published for each EU Member State, in addition to EU and euro area aggregates and comparative data.

Payment instruments¹

The total number of non-cash payments in the EU, across the different types of instruments, increased by 6.0% to 100.0 billion in 2013 compared with the previous year. Card payments accounted for 44% of all transactions, while credit transfers accounted for 27% and direct debits for 24%.

The number of credit transfers within the EU increased in 2013 by 3.6% to 26.5 billion. The importance of paper-based transactions continued to decrease, with the ratio of paper-based transactions to non-paper-based transactions standing at around one to six.

The number of cards with a payment function in the EU increased in 2013 by 3.0% to 760 million. With a total EU population of approximately 508 million, this represented around 1.5 payment cards per EU inhabitant. The number of card payments rose by 9.6% to 43.6 billion, with a total value of €2.2 trillion. This corresponds to an average value of around €49 per card transaction. Chart 1 below shows the use of the main payment instruments from 2000 to 2013.

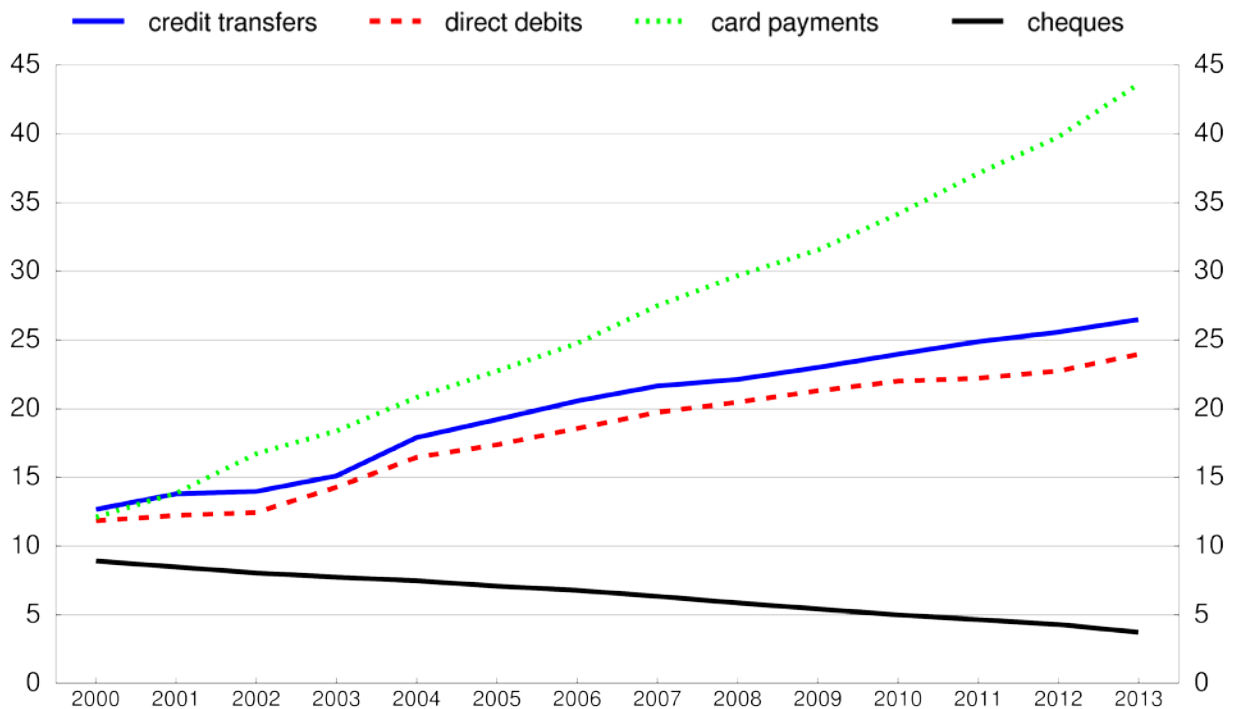
The relative importance of each of the main payment instruments continued to vary widely across EU countries in 2013 (see the Annex).

In 2013, the total number of automatic teller machines (ATMs) in the EU decreased by 0.2% to 0.43 million, while the number of points of sale (POS) terminals decreased by 1.9% to 9.1 million.

¹ SEPA instruments are included in the respective categories. Information on the SEPA instruments can be found on the ECB's website (<http://www.ecb.europa.eu/paym/sepa/html/index.en.html>).

Chart 1: Use of the main payment instruments in the EU (2000-2013)

(number of transactions per year in billions, estimated)



Source: ECB.

Notes: Data have been partially estimated for periods prior to 2010, as methodological changes were implemented in previous years and some corresponding data are not available. The historical estimation done by the ECB ensures comparability of figures over the entire period. Statistics are also collected on e-money transactions and other payment instruments, which accounted for 2.2% of the total number of EU transactions in 2013.

Retail payment systems

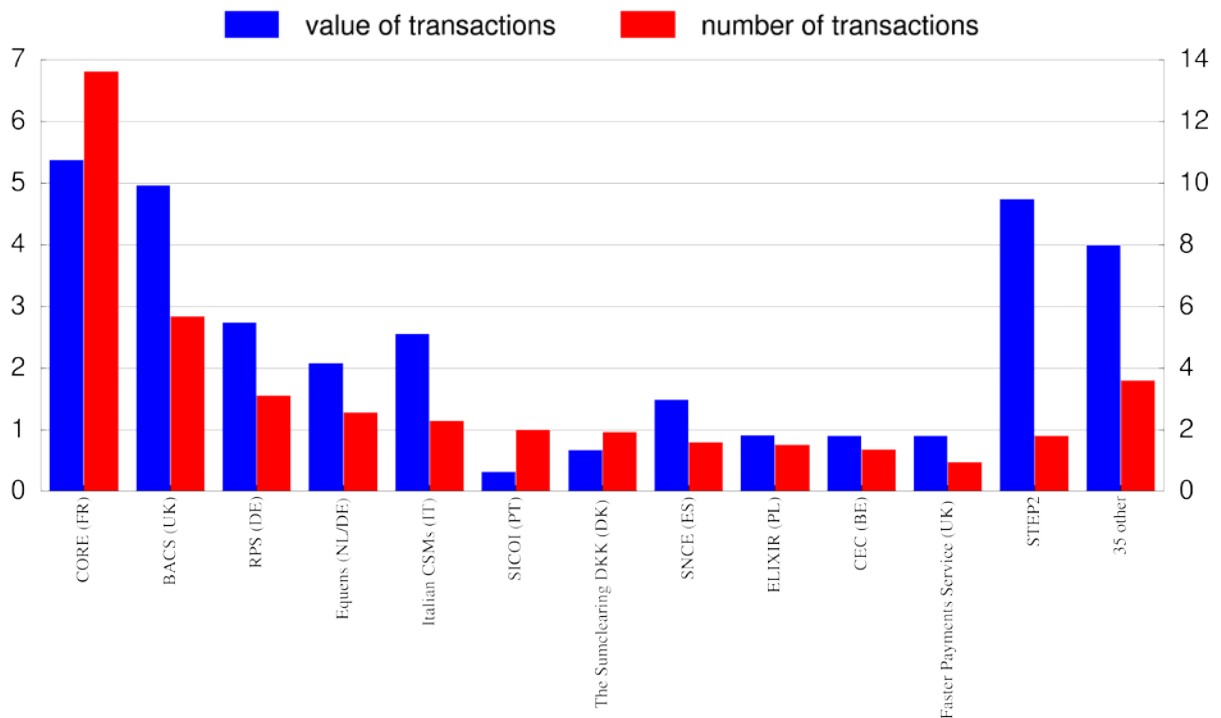
Retail payment systems in the EU handle mainly payments that are made by the public, with a relatively low value and limited time-criticality.

In 2013, 47 retail payment systems existed within the EU as a whole. During the year, over 42 billion transactions were processed by those systems with an amount of €31.7 trillion. 25 of these systems were located in the euro area, where they processed nearly 30 billion transactions in 2013 (i.e. 70% of the EU total) with a value amounting to €21.5 trillion (i.e. 68% of the EU total).

There continued to be a notable degree of concentration in EU retail payment systems in 2013. The five largest systems in terms of number of transactions (SIT/CORE in France, BACS in the United Kingdom, RPS in Germany, Equens in the Netherlands and Germany and Italian CSMs) processed 65% of the volume and 56% of the value of all transactions processed by EU retail payment systems. Chart 2 shows the number and value of transactions processed by EU retail payment systems in 2013.

Chart 2: Retail payment systems in the EU in 2013

(value of transactions in EUR trillions (left-hand scale) and number of transactions in billions (right-hand scale))



Source: ECB.

Large-value payment systems

Large-value payment systems (LVPSs) are designed primarily to process time-critical or large-value interbank payments. During 2013, 15 LVPSs settled 761 million payments with a total value of €745 trillion in the EU.² The two main LVPSs in the euro area (TARGET2 and EURO1/STEP1)³ settled 155 million transactions amounting to €608 trillion in 2013, i.e. 82% of the total value. In the non-euro area EU countries, CHAPS Sterling⁴ in the United Kingdom is the largest LVPS in terms of value and number of transactions.

Outside the EU, Continuous Linked Settlement⁵ (CLS) is the most important LVPS to process, inter alia, euro and other EU currencies. CLS (all currencies) settled 205 million transactions with a value of €897 trillion in 2013. Chart 3 below shows the number and value of transactions processed by LVPSs in 2013.

² Among the LVPSs that also process retail payments, CERTIS - a Czech Republic system - is the main contributor in terms of number of transactions to the EU aggregate figure, with 528 million. In terms of value, CERTIS settled €7.2 trillion during 2013.

³ TARGET2 is the second-generation Trans-European Automated Real-time Gross settlement Express Transfer system. It is operated by the Eurosystem and settles payments in euro in central bank money.

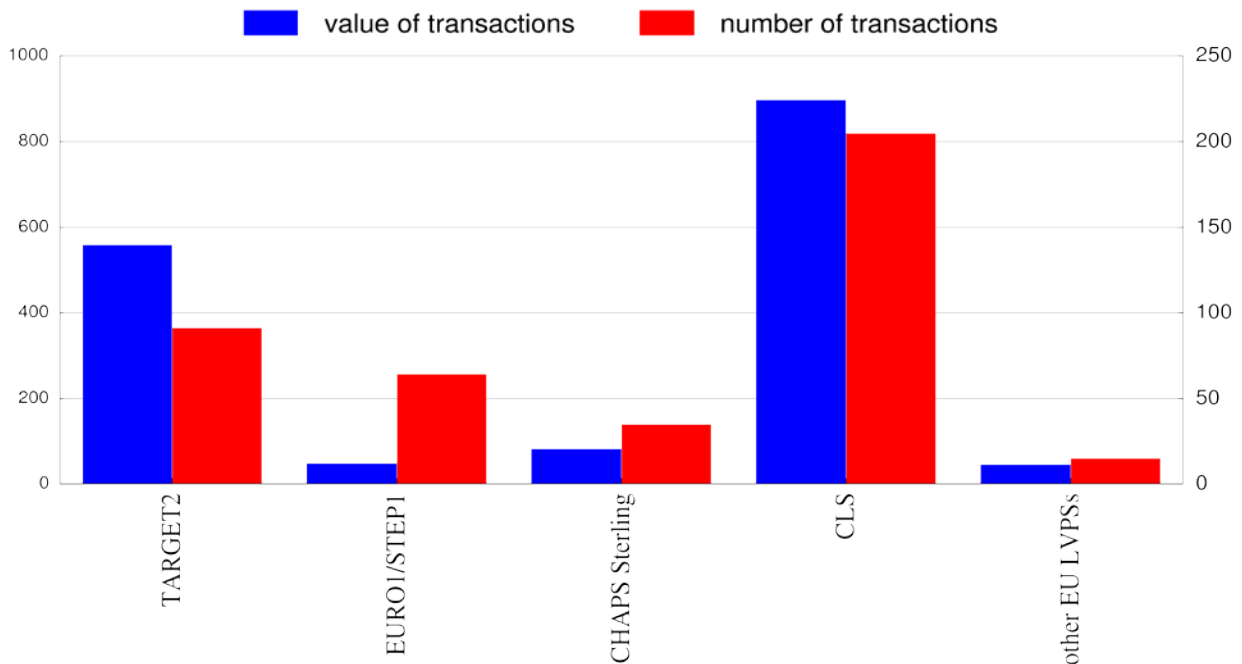
EURO1/STEP1 is an EU-wide multilateral net large-value payment system for euro payments operated by EBA CLEARING. Payments are processed in EURO1 throughout the day and final balances are settled at the end of the day in TARGET2.

⁴ CHAPS Sterling handles sterling-denominated interbank payments.

⁵ CLS is a worldwide clearing and settlement system that settles FX transactions on a payment-versus-payment basis.

Chart 3: Large-value payment systems in 2013

(value of transactions in EUR trillions (left-hand scale) and number of transactions in millions (right-hand scale))



Source: ECB.

Note: Other EU LVPSs exclude CERTIS and ESTA, which act as both LVPSs and retail systems.

The full set of payment statistics can be downloaded from the Statistical Data Warehouse (SDW) on the ECB's website (<http://sdw.ecb.europa.eu/browse.do?node=2746>). The "Reports" section of the SDW also contains pre-formatted tables with payment statistics for the last five years. The data are presented in the same format as in the former "Blue Book Addendum", which is available in the "Statistics" section of the ECB's website (<http://sdw.ecb.europa.eu/reports.do?node=100000760>). For detailed methodological information, including a list of all data definitions, please refer to the "Statistics" section of the ECB's website (<http://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/payments/paym/html/index.en.html>).

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Annex

Table 1: Relative importance of the main payment instruments in the EU (2013)

(percentages of total number of transactions¹⁾)

	Credit transfers		Direct debits		Cards		Cheques	
	2013	Change from 2012 (p.p.)	2013	Change from 2012 (p.p.)	2013	Change from 2012 (p.p.)	2013	Change from 2012 (p.p.)
Belgium	37.86	0.15	11.59	0.21	49.31	0.45	0.16	-0.06
Bulgaria	80.07	-2.42	2.18	-0.88	17.70	3.26	–	–
Czech Republic	50.49	-5.15	13.47	0.18	35.13	4.91	0.05	0.00
Denmark	16.67	-0.33	11.37	-0.59	71.80	0.99	0.16	-0.08
Germany	31.47	-2.31	49.82	1.45	18.39	0.92	0.16	-0.03
Estonia	31.64	1.08	1.49	-4.35	66.87	3.27	0.00	0.00
Ireland	20.03	-0.41	14.15	-0.46	56.86	2.04	8.97	-1.17
Greece	45.83	2.09	7.19	-1.15	39.05	1.28	5.58	-2.32
Spain	14.99	0.39	41.14	-0.81	42.25	0.67	1.29	-0.15
France	17.12	-0.02	19.01	-0.61	49.54	2.64	13.58	-1.95
Croatia	55.84	–	3.62	–	40.34	–	0.03	–
Italy	28.10	-1.48	13.91	-0.21	40.41	2.20	5.63	-0.84
Cyprus	31.19	0.38	6.39	-0.67	44.74	3.70	16.38	-3.74
Latvia	46.93	-2.42	1.49	-0.13	50.93	2.46	0.00	0.00
Lithuania	50.36	-3.37	4.06	-0.17	45.55	3.55	0.03	-0.01
Luxembourg ²⁾	4.85	-0.96	1.09	-0.24	6.32	-0.80	0.02	-0.01
Hungary	57.51	-3.95	7.07	-0.10	34.23	4.12	0.00	0.00
Malta	19.54	-2.50	6.49	2.09	47.59	-2.00	26.28	2.45
Netherlands	28.68	0.60	22.34	-1.32	46.98	1.29	–	–
Austria	39.38	-1.66	36.21	-0.59	22.38	2.24	0.06	-0.01
Poland	55.59	-2.77	0.70	-0.08	43.71	2.86	0.00	0.00
Portugal	12.05	0.43	14.78	0.52	67.63	-1.07	4.17	-0.84
Romania	46.83	-6.16	2.08	0.15	49.53	6.31	1.54	-0.32
Slovenia	45.58	-1.54	12.41	-0.58	41.94	2.09	0.03	0.00
Slovakia	49.47	-0.27	14.19	-1.71	36.32	1.98	0.01	0.00
Finland	47.20	-1.86	2.93	-0.41	49.86	2.27	0.01	0.00
Sweden	24.81	-0.87	8.66	-0.22	66.54	1.09	0.00	0.00
United Kingdom	19.63	-0.33	17.87	-0.59	58.86	1.86	3.64	-0.94

Source: ECB.

Notes:

1) Percentages may not add up to 100% as e-money transactions and other payment instruments are not shown. A dash (–) indicates data are not applicable.

2) 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 the 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 2013 is as follows: credit transfers (39.5%), direct debits (8.9%), cards (51.4%) and cheques (0.2%).