

Enhanced payments statistics: new indicators and changes in the methodology applied

1. New regulatory framework for payments statistics

The European System of Central Banks (ESCB) compiles annual payments statistics, starting with a reference year of 2007.¹ Up to the reference year 2013 these statistics were collected on the basis of the reporting framework set out in the ECB Guideline on monetary, financial institutions and markets statistics (ECB/2007/9). The compilation relied on the assumption that most payments to and from residents of one country are carried out by payment service providers (PSPs) resident in the same country. However, this assumption is increasingly no longer valid in the light of the progressive implementation of the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) and other developments in the payments market in Europe. In particular, cross-border payments within SEPA can now be carried out under the same conditions as domestic payments. Consequently, within SEPA euro payments can now be initiated not only through a resident PSP but also through PSPs resident in another country without incurring additional fees, and corporations can advantageously execute both their domestic and their cross-border euro payments via a single institution. These developments have a significant impact on payments statistics, both in terms of the methodology applied and the new indicators required.

Accordingly, new legal obligations have been laid down in Regulation ECB/2013/43 on payments statistics and in the recast Guideline ECB/2014/15 on monetary and financial statistics². The new reporting framework applies as of the reference year 2014.

2. Main enhancements

Compared with the previous reporting framework, several methodological changes have been implemented in the enhanced statistics. In principle, the methodology has been aligned with the definitions given in the relevant EU legislation such as the Payment Services Directive³ and the Electronic Money Directive⁴. In line with the changes brought about by SEPA, the new concept of *residency* has

¹ For most indicators back data are available as of the reference year 2000.

² Amended by Guideline ECB/2014/43.

³ Directive 2007/64/EC, hereinafter PSD.

⁴ Directive 2009/110/EC.

been introduced: there is a shift in the new statistics from using the *location of the payer or the terminal* as the basis for the reporting, as defined in the old Guideline, to using the *residency of the PSP* in the new Regulation and recast Guideline. The only exceptions to this general rule are the indicators referring to the *number of terminals* provided by resident PSPs and to the *number and value of payment transactions per type of terminal*, where the new geographical breakdowns are based on the location of the terminal instead of the residency of the PSP.

Unlike the previous reporting requirements, the new requirements allow payment transactions involving domestic counterparties to be distinguished from those involving counterparties resident outside the reporting country. Moreover, for all main categories of sent payment transactions, a breakdown by counterparty country is required when the counterparty belongs to the EU. Information is also requested on cross-border transactions received.

Furthermore, there is a differentiation between SEPA and non-SEPA payments for credit transfers and direct debits: for the total number of credit transfers and direct debits, a sub-category entitled “of which non-SEPA” is reported in order to gain information on payments with niche products, TARGET2 payments and payments in other currencies than euro, all using non-SEPA standards.

The coverage of the payments statistics compiled by the ECB with the assistance of the NCBs of the EU member states is expected to improve with the implementation of the enhanced reporting framework, as previously the reporting population consisted mainly of credit institutions, and the data could be derived from external data sources. Instead, according to the new Regulation, all PSPs resident in the euro area are obliged to report directly to their NCB.⁵ Thus, PSPs that are not credit institutions (e.g. electronic money institutions and payment institutions) are now covered as well in the whole area. More information is also collected on the number of PSPs resident in each reporting country. In particular, the ESCB maintains and publishes a list of institutions operating in the EU with relevance for payments statistics. This list comprises all PSPs⁶ (including electronic money issuers) and payment system operators resident in EU countries.

As of the reference year 2014, new information will also be available on the number of payment accounts and the number of electronic money accounts held by resident PSPs, as well as on the value of electronic money issued by these institutions. Several other new requirements have also been introduced in relation to electronic money transactions.⁷

Finally, together with the methodology and the reporting requirements, several of the existing definitions have been enhanced as well. In some cases, together with the expansion of the reporting population,

⁵ The Regulation on payments statistics is binding for reporting agents resident in euro area Member States. However, Recommendation ECB/2013/44 on payments statistics also encourages non-euro area NCBs to follow the reporting requirements laid down in the Regulation.

⁶ As per Article 1 of the PSD.

⁷ See the annex to this note for a list of new indicators.

changes in the underlying definitions have resulted in visible shifts in the existing time series. Where possible, these breaks, as well as any deviations from the common methodology, are explained in the country-specific notes published together with the statistical data in the ECB's Statistical Data Warehouse (SDW).⁸

⁸ <http://sdw.ecb.europa.eu/>

Annex – New indicators introduced in Regulation ECB/2013/43 and Guideline ECB/2014/15

Geographical breakdowns:

Geo 0	Geo 1	Geo 2	Geo 3	Geo 4
Domestic	Domestic and cross-border combined	Cross-border	Domestic + single country breakdown for EU countries + rest of the world	Domestic + cross-border

Indicator	Geographical breakdown
Institutions offering payment services to non-MFIs	
Credit institutions	
Number of payment accounts	N/A
Number of e-money accounts	N/A
Electronic money institutions	
Number of payment accounts	N/A
Number of e-money accounts	N/A
Payment institutions	
Number of payment accounts	N/A
Other PSPs and e-money issuers	
Number of payment accounts	N/A
Number of e-money accounts	N/A
Outstanding value on e-money storages issued	N/A
Payment institutions operating in the country on a cross-border basis (memo)	
<i>of which:</i>	
Institutions providing services through an established branch (memo)	N/A
Institutions providing services through an agent (memo)	N/A
Institutions providing services neither establishing a branch nor through an agent (memo)	N/A
Cards issued by resident PSPs	
Cards on which e-money can be stored directly	N/A
Cards which give access to e-money stored on e-money accounts	N/A
Terminals provided by resident PSPs	
POS terminals	
<i>of which:</i>	
E-money card terminals	Geo 3

Indicator	Geographical breakdown
Transactions per type of payment service (number and volume of transactions)	
Credit transfers sent	
Initiated in a file/batch	Geo 1
Initiated on a single payment basis	Geo 1
<i>of which:</i>	
Online banking based e-payments (memo)	Geo 1
Non-SEPA credit transfers	Geo 1
Received credit transfers	Geo 2
Direct debits	
Initiated in a file/batch	Geo 1
Initiated on a single payment basis	Geo 1
Non-SEPA direct debits	Geo 1
Received direct debits	Geo 2
Card payments initiated at physical EFTPOS	Geo 1
Card payments initiated remotely	Geo 1
E-money payment transactions with e-money accounts accessed through a card	Geo 1
Received e-money payment transactions	Geo 2
Received cheques	Geo 2
Other payment services received	Geo 2
Money remittances (memo)	Geo 3
Money remittances received (memo)	Geo 2
Transactions via telecommunication, digital or IT device (memo)	Geo 1
Transactions via telecommunication, digital or IT device received (memo)	Geo 2
Other services (not included in the Payment Services Directive, memo)	Geo 4
Transactions per type of terminal (number and volume of transactions)	
a) At terminals provided by resident PSPs with cards issued by resident PSPs	
E-money payment transactions with cards with an e-money function	Geo 3
b) At terminals provided by resident PSPs with cards issued by non-resident PSPs	
E-money payment transactions with cards with an e-money function	Geo 3
c) At terminals provided by non-resident PSPs with cards issued by resident PSPs	
E-money payment transactions with cards with an e-money function	Geo 3
Activities of PSPs per type of payment service (number and volume of transactions)	
Credit transfers	

Indicator	Geographical breakdown
Credit institutions	Geo 1
E-money institutions	Geo 1
Post office giro institutions	Geo 1
Payment institutions	Geo 1
Public authorities: i) ECB and NCBs and ii) Members States or local authorities	Geo 1
Direct debits	
Credit institutions	Geo 1
E-money institutions	Geo 1
Post office giro institutions	Geo 1
Payment institutions	Geo 1
Public authorities: i) ECB and NCBs and ii) Members States or local authorities	Geo 1
Card payments	
Credit institutions	Geo 1
E-money institutions	Geo 1
Post office giro institutions	Geo 1
Payment institutions	Geo 1
Public authorities: i) ECB and NCBs and ii) Members States or local authorities	Geo 1
OTC cash deposits (memo)	
Credit institutions	Geo 1
E-money institutions	Geo 1
Post office giro institutions	Geo 1
Payment institutions	Geo 1
Public authorities: i) ECB and NCBs and ii) Members States or local authorities	Geo 1
OTC cash withdrawals (memo)	
Credit institutions	Geo 1
E-money institutions	Geo 1
Post office giro institutions	Geo 1
Payment institutions	Geo 1
Public authorities: i) ECB and NCBs and ii) Members States or local authorities	Geo 1
Money remittances (memo)	
Credit institutions	Geo 1
E-money institutions	Geo 1
Post office giro institutions	Geo 1

Indicator	Geographical breakdown
Payment institutions	Geo 1
Public authorities: i) ECB and NCBs and ii) Members States or local authorities	Geo 1
Transactions via telecommunication, digital or IT device (memo)	
Credit institutions	Geo 1
E-money institutions	Geo 1
Post office giro institutions	Geo 1
Payment institutions	Geo 1
Public authorities: i) ECB and NCBs and ii) Members States or local authorities	Geo 1

Memo items are transmitted by countries for which the information is currently available.