



# Payment System

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Figure 1

## Cashless payment services and instruments Number of payments (flows; percentage points and millions)

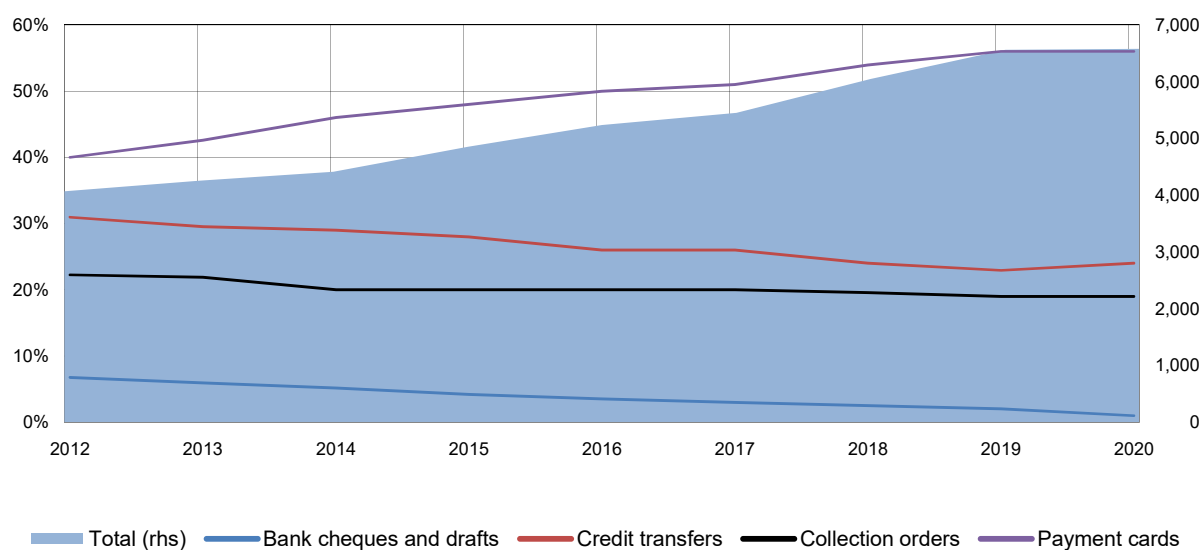
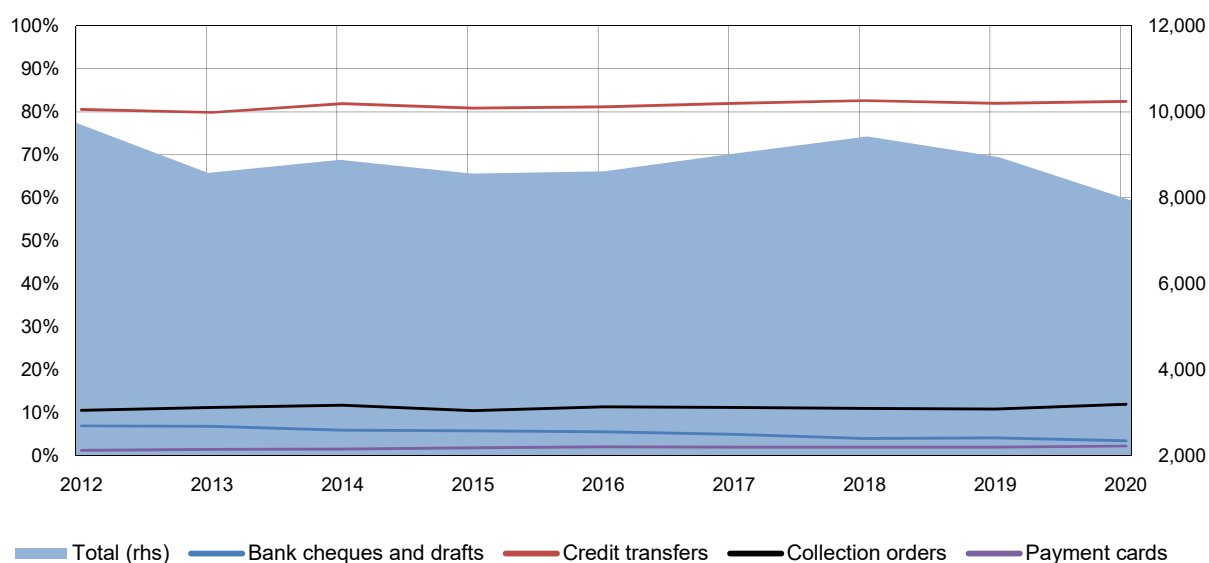


Figure 2

## Cashless payment services and instruments Amounts of payments (flows; percentage points and billions of euros)



Reference period: March 2021

## **General information**

- I Unless indicated otherwise, figures have been computed by the Bank of Italy.
- II Symbols and Conventions:
  - the phenomenon does not occur;
  - .... the phenomenon occurs but its value is not known;
  - .. the value is known but is nil or less than half the final digit shown.

Figures in parentheses in roman type () are provisional. Those in parentheses in italics () are estimated.
- III The tables are identified both by a number and by an alphanumeric code that defines the content of the table in the electronic database holding the information to be released to the public. A similar code identifies the different aggregates shown in each table.

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# **Section 1**

**Methods of payment**

**available to customers**

## Methods of payment available to customers

**Table 1**  
Access to data:  
[TSP00011](#)

### Points of access to the payments system

(stocks; numbers)

	Banks							Post Office	
	Number	Number of branches	Number of ATMs in operation				Number of POS terminals in operation	Number of branches	Number of POS terminals in operation
			Branch ATMs		Other ATMs o in luogo pubblico				
			Cash dispenser	Multi-function	Cash dispenser	Multi-function			
2014 .....	663	30,723	2,213	34,128	248	4,441	1,801,432	12,908	46,029
2015 .....	644	30,259	2,041	35,221	247	5,840	1,945,629	12,903	45,451
2016 .....	604	29,039	3,192	33,562	529	4,740	2,180,028	12,576	46,103
2017 .....	538	27,374	3,196	33,210	530	4,348	2,401,099	12,580	61,879
2018 .....	505	25,409	2,855	32,804	483	4,254	3,090,614	12,750	80,560
2019 .....	488	24,312	2,879	31,807	2,371	4,301	3,453,390	12,562	136,219
2020 .....	474	23,480	2,705	31,499	2,123	4,135	3,421,602	12,521	195,496

## Methods of payment available to customers

**Table 2**  
[Access to data:](#)  
[TSP00213](#)

### Bank of Italy bank drafts

(flows; numbers in thousands - amounts in millions of euros)

	Issued						Paid	
	Ordinary		Special		Total		Number	Amount
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount		
2018 - 1st qtr .....	7	135.5	60	176.0	67	311.5	37	214.2
2nd " .....	9	99.0	3	6.1	12	105.1	47	236.3
3rd " .....	8	89.6	21	68.0	29	157.6	24	141.5
4th " .....	13	133.4	45	117.5	58	250.9	58	222.1
2019 - 1st qtr .....	6	118.3	16	47.5	22	165.8	31	189.7
2nd " .....	8	95.3	32	80.3	40	175.6	40	178.0
3rd " .....	6	103.8	26	91.9	32	195.8	29	184.8
4th " .....	13	114.8	22	73.7	35	188.6	37	177.2
2020 - 1st qtr .....	4	107.8	37	105.8	41	213.6	44	228.4
2nd " .....	5	85.0	38	109.5	43	194.5	46	196.9
3rd " .....	6	113.0	0	0.0	6	113.0	10	127.4
4th " .....	9	103.3	0	0.0	9	103.3	24	120.5

## Methods of payment available to customers

**Table 3**  
Access to data:  
[TSP00220](#)

### Payment services and instruments

(flows; numbers and amounts)

	Bank cheques	Bank drafts	Credit transfers		Collection orders			Debit card payments at POS terminals	Total
				of which: paperless	Direct debits	RIBA and MAV	Bills of exchange		

(thousands)

2018 - 1st qtr .....	34,030	4,332	349,209	181,643	220,741	71,043	1,826	508,458	1,189,639
2nd " .....	34,116	4,262	362,402	187,885	225,367	62,692	1,703	537,678	1,228,220
3rd " .....	32,430	3,699	349,635	182,821	230,115	61,153	1,577	558,559	1,237,168
4th " .....	34,999	4,324	389,522	210,132	243,397	60,194	1,571	602,883	1,336,892
2019 - 1st qtr .....	29,740	3,913	358,943	192,005	231,247	67,523	1,529	556,537	1,249,432
2nd " .....	30,311	3,749	376,947	202,396	243,424	62,767	1,484	598,629	1,317,310
3rd " .....	28,879	3,236	367,652	198,396	249,207	60,140	1,439	638,748	1,349,300
4th " .....	30,644	3,655	401,570	222,045	255,316	57,204	1,414	677,037	1,426,839
2020 - 1st qtr .....	23,741	2,864	382,920	211,794	255,915	57,377	1,353	580,581	1,304,751
2nd " .....	16,824	2,373	368,346	209,107	247,337	45,395	1,167	521,496	1,202,938
3rd " .....	22,500	2,923	397,559	219,886	256,315	47,690	1,119	702,820	1,430,927
4th " .....	22,153	3,348	435,977	249,295	273,911	51,861	1,136	693,826	1,482,212

(millions of euros)

2018 - 1st qtr .....	68,082	34,694	1,926,697	1,239,245	111,106	141,026	14,205	28,784	2,324,593
2nd " .....	65,573	38,297	1,990,934	1,262,871	112,151	128,622	13,039	30,428	2,379,044
3rd " .....	62,003	31,834	1,796,783	1,097,919	110,188	134,433	13,446	30,591	2,179,279
4th " .....	69,386	39,910	2,074,249	1,245,337	114,907	124,205	13,050	33,789	2,469,496
2019 - 1st qtr .....	59,836	32,946	1,767,555	1,118,826	108,892	137,164	13,217	29,568	2,149,178
2nd " .....	58,858	35,766	1,847,405	1,173,533	115,516	131,520	12,694	32,208	2,233,967
3rd " .....	56,404	30,730	1,847,530	1,201,405	117,446	136,012	12,508	33,624	2,234,254
4th " .....	62,858	37,838	1,848,583	1,177,700	120,527	121,707	11,779	36,529	2,239,822
2020 - 1st qtr .....	49,097	26,807	1,765,296	1,148,381	119,217	123,990	11,308	30,090	2,125,805
2nd " .....	33,259	21,573	1,475,324	980,433	89,192	100,635	9,106	30,189	1,759,278
3rd " .....	43,375	25,461	1,542,435	1,042,888	104,155	102,439	8,756	37,296	1,863,917
4th " .....	47,125	32,202	1,766,582	1,181,271	115,803	111,966	9,053	37,349	2,120,080

## Methods of payment available to customers

**Table 4**  
Access to data:  
[TSP60100](#)

### Payment cards

(stocks; numbers in thousands)

	Credit cards in use			Debit cards			Multi-purpose prepaid cards
	of which:			of which:			
	Personal	Corporate		Cash withdrawals only	Cash withdrawals and POS payments		
2014 .....	12,275	10,901	1,374	48,046	1,010	47,036	22,596
2015 .....	13,931	12,451	1,480	51,256	939	50,317	25,482
2016 .....	13,627	12,145	1,481	52,373	907	51,466	26,422
2017 .....	13,497	12,520	977	54,142	927	53,214	28,352
2018 .....	14,707	13,598	1,109	55,770	27	55,744	27,511
2019 .....	15,424	14,252	1,172	57,207	29	57,178	28,934
2020 .....	15,342	14,290	1,053	59,418	29	59,389	31,937

## Methods of payment available to customers

**Table 5**

*Access to data:*  
[TSP00224](#)

### Home and corporate banking services

(stocks; number of users)

	Information services		Information and transaction services		Total	Businesses using corporate banking services
	Households	Businesses	Households	Businesses		
2014 .....	4,329,493	404,034	30,929,964	2,780,324	38,443,815	1,785,009
2015 .....	5,172,220	405,297	33,947,228	3,063,141	42,587,886	2,001,346
2016 .....	5,376,782	399,527	36,876,635	3,261,840	45,914,784	1,887,319
2017 .....	5,369,427	277,170	40,687,854	3,476,110	49,810,561	2,117,390
2018 .....	5,483,067	257,494	46,447,402	3,890,801	56,078,764	2,264,351
2019 .....	5,307,659	285,781	46,306,123	4,134,342	56,033,905	2,332,791
2020 .....	5,056,548	297,643	49,997,944	4,168,767	59,520,902	2,288,699

## Methods of payment available to customers

**Table 6**  
[Access to data:](#)  
[TSP80000](#)

### Payments by credit card

(flows; numbers in thousands - amounts in millions of euros)

	Number		Amount	
	Personal	Corporate	Personal	Corporate
2014 .....	563,402	80,556	44,269	9,646
2015 .....	616,453	90,744	48,054	10,810
2016 .....	684,854	91,583	51,619	10,726
2017 .....	776,708	78,829	55,318	10,516
2018 .....	947,429	104,963	65,264	15,072
2019 .....	1,094,897	121,075	71,235	16,754
2020 .....	1,061,003	95,424	64,003	11,399

## Methods of payment available to customers

**Table 7**  
Access to data:  
[TSP20100](#)

### Rejected cheques by location of issuer - flows

(numbers; millions of euros)

	North-East		North-West		Centre		South and Islands		Italy and Abroad	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount

#### Cheques rejected for lack of funds

2020 - Oct.....	66	0.2	90	0.6	156	0.5	449	1.6	762	2.9
Nov.....	96	0.4	205	0.9	376	1.4	1,143	4.1	1,820	6.8
Dec.....	12	0.0	17	0.1	44	0.2	209	0.7	282	1.0
2021 - Jan.....	3	0.0	5	0.0	12	0.2	65	0.2	85	0.4
Feb.....	289	1.2	742	2.9	641	2.1	1,734	6.3	3,408	12.5
Mar.....	432	1.8	1,065	3.8	1,134	4.8	2,921	10.8	5,554	21.1

#### Cheques rejected for lack of authorization

2020 - Oct.....	51	0.2	80	0.2	127	0.3	420	1.1	679	1.8
Nov.....	19	0.1	21	0.1	30	0.1	78	0.3	148	0.5
Dec.....	7	0.0	27	0.0	62	0.2	153	0.4	249	0.6
2021 - Jan.....	12	0.1	21	0.2	47	0.3	107	0.5	191	1.1
Feb.....	654	2.9	1,360	6.1	1,878	8.8	4,752	17.9	8,650	35.8
Mar.....	78	0.3	268	1.8	292	1.1	601	2.0	1,241	5.2

## Methods of payment available to customers

**Table 8**

[Access to data:](#)

[TSP30100](#)

### Rejected cheques by location and economy sector of issuer

(millions of euros; average in euros; number of cheques; December 2020)

Sector and geographical area		Rejected for lack of funds		Rejected for lack of authorization		Total			
		Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Average amount	Revocations of authorizations
North-East	<i>ITH</i>	<b>4,506</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>5,436</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>4,110</b>	<b>2,452</b>
Households	<i>600</i>	1,675	5.9	434	1.6	2,109	7.5	3,557	1,251
Non-financial enterprises.	<i>SBI25</i>	2,787	12.8	486	1.9	3,273	14.7	4,501	1,174
Other	<i>SBI124</i>	44	0.1	10	0.0	54	0.1	2,050	27
North-West	<i>ITC</i>	<b>9,694</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>2,244</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>11,938</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>3,591</b>	<b>5,372</b>
Households	<i>600</i>	4,622	12.2	1,268	3.6	5,890	15.8	2,690	3,269
Non-financial enterprises	<i>SBI25</i>	4,972	22.3	950	4.3	5,922	26.6	4,493	2,037
Other	<i>SBI124</i>	100	0.3	26	0.1	126	0.4	3,319	66
Centre	<i>ITI</i>	<b>13,269</b>	<b>44.3</b>	<b>2,949</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>16,218</b>	<b>55.3</b>	<b>3,411</b>	<b>6,297</b>
Households	<i>600</i>	4,873	11.9	1,242	5.0	6,115	17.0	2,775	3,240
Non-financial enterprises	<i>SBI25</i>	8,253	31.9	1,673	5.8	9,926	37.7	3,798	2,955
Other	<i>SBI124</i>	143	0.4	34	0.2	177	0.6	3,634	102
South and Islands	<i>ITFGBI1</i>	<b>38,244</b>	<b>121.8</b>	<b>8,633</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>46,877</b>	<b>149.4</b>	<b>3,188</b>	<b>16,074</b>
Households	<i>600</i>	15,790	33.9	3,502	8.0	19,292	41.9	2,173	8,707
Non-financial enterprises	<i>SBI25</i>	22,075	87.0	5,042	19.6	27,117	106.6	3,932	7,136
Other	<i>SBI124</i>	379	0.8	89	0.1	468	0.9	1,949	231
Italy and abroad	<i>WRDBI2</i>	<b>65,753</b>	<b>219.9</b>	<b>14,766</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>80,519</b>	<b>270.3</b>	<b>3,357</b>	<b>30,221</b>
Households	<i>600</i>	26,978	64.0	6,447	18.3	33,425	82.2	2,461	16,475
Non-financial enterprises	<i>SBI25</i>	38,093	154.0	8,154	31.6	46,247	185.7	4,015	13,308
Other	<i>SBI124</i>	682	1.9	165	0.5	847	2.4	2,782	438

## Methods of payment available to customers

**Table 9**  
[Access to data:](#)  
[TSP01100](#)

### Banknotes issued by Bank of Italy

(amounts in billions of euros; numbers in thousands)

	Total		Total						
	Amount	Number	of which:						
			5€	10€	20€	50€	100€	200€	500€
			denomination Number	denomination Number	denomination Number	denomination Number	denomination Number	denomination Number	denomination Number
2018 - 1st qtr .....	19.0	554,570.1	31,052.1	44,871.1	200,241.7	269,558.9	8,837.5	5.4	3.4
2nd " .....	21.7	633,940.2	34,410.7	47,911.8	231,090.7	311,600.0	8,919.9	4.1	3.0
3rd " .....	22.9	658,616.4	34,563.2	45,329.0	237,760.8	332,034.9	8,921.4	4.7	2.3
4th " .....	26.9	774,356.0	41,908.2	60,504.3	271,724.5	388,039.9	12,165.5	9.4	4.3
2019 - 1st qtr .....	19.3	560,225.6	30,926.3	44,137.0	197,924.4	279,153.7	8,077.8	5.0	1.4
2nd " .....	22.0	645,180.6	35,921.5	55,099.7	228,704.1	317,412.4	8,003.9	39.0	0.0
3rd " .....	23.5	681,823.3	34,196.1	59,014.1	238,385.1	342,080.0	8,106.3	41.7	0.0
4th " .....	25.8	753,851.8	38,467.1	77,239.5	252,491.2	375,585.0	10,058.0	11.0	0.0
2020 - 1st qtr .....	17.6	519,961.8	26,469.3	60,502.1	171,661.8	254,741.4	6,575.8	11.5	0.0
2nd " .....	20.7	587,634.2	18,277.3	54,720.8	199,088.4	310,203.9	5,338.8	5.1	0.0
3rd " .....	21.6	636,853.3	28,761.7	70,249.3	212,633.7	321,010.6	4,190.4	7.7	0.0
4th " .....	24.3	709,292.4	29,199.5	77,925.1	234,932.5	361,263.0	5,967.0	5.3	0.0

## Methods of payment available to customers

**Table 10**  
[Access to data:](#)  
[TSP01200](#)

### Banknotes returned to Bank of Italy

(amounts in billions of euros; numbers in thousands)

	Total	Total							
	Amount	Number	of which:						
			5€ denomination Number	10€ denomination Number	20€ denomination Number	50€ denomination Number	100€ denomination Number	200€ denomination Number	500€ denomination Number
2018 - 1st qtr.....	23.3	635,751.8	36,071.3	59,207.8	234,139.8	281,530.9	20,510.3	1,586.7	2,705.0
2nd.. " .....	21.7	603,857.7	37,573.3	62,741.3	222,180.1	256,849.2	20,463.7	1,572.7	2,477.5
3rd... " .....	22.4	627,252.2	40,090.6	67,071.7	229,639.9	263,774.2	22,704.5	1,635.6	2,335.7
4th... " .....	19.5	548,276.7	34,045.8	57,770.8	204,612.0	229,125.7	19,194.3	1,457.1	2,071.0
2019 - 1st qtr.....	23.8	657,859.9	37,177.0	62,967.1	245,318.7	286,782.6	21,613.7	1,520.1	2,480.7
2nd.. " .....	20.7	578,015.0	36,252.4	61,590.2	209,658.7	245,406.2	21,467.2	1,602.5	2,037.8
3rd... " .....	22.3	631,638.9	39,434.5	74,684.2	227,928.9	260,945.7	24,814.9	2,048.6	1,782.2
4th... " .....	19.4	541,026.8	33,004.9	65,836.7	189,106.6	227,346.9	22,234.6	1,963.3	1,533.8
2020 - 1st qtr.....	21.1	595,227.8	32,231.6	72,383.4	207,993.5	257,865.3	21,773.9	1,753.1	1,226.9
2nd.. " .....	10.7	325,667.7	18,725.3	46,156.6	123,509.7	126,112.6	9,934.9	737.2	491.3
3rd... " .....	18.1	546,891.6	30,496.0	77,212.9	207,631.3	212,440.7	16,665.6	1,571.8	873.3
4th... " .....	14.2	425,537.3	22,701.4	59,410.5	160,367.6	168,082.1	13,102.2	1,217.2	656.4

## **Section 2**

### **Interbank exchange and settlement circuits**

## Interbank exchange and settlement circuits

**Table 11**

[Access to data:](#)  
[TSP00034](#)

### The real-time gross settlement system TARGET2-Bank of Italy (BI-REL until May 16th, 2008): number of participants

(end of period data)

	Holders of PM accounts			Holders of intraday advance accounts	Holders of HAM accounts	Memorandum items		
	Direct	Indirect				Bank whose compulsory reserves are maintained by another bank	Co-management of accounts	
		of which: active	of which: passive (until May 16th, 2008)					of which: representing banks
2014 .....	100	62	....	88	95	502	70	20
2015 .....	100	56	....	81	92	485	66	20
2016 .....	99	49	....	83	87	449	62	19
2017 .....	89	44	....	78	84	397	67	21
2018 .....	85	41	....	70	81	367	61	23
2019 .....	81	33	....	64	78	346	58	25
2020 .....	80	32	....	62	76	327	54	22

**Table 12**

[Access to data:](#)  
[TSP00032](#)

### BI-COMP payment system: number of participants

(end of period data)

	National Clearing			Securities settlement		
		Retail	Local clearing	Banks	SIM and foreign investment firms	Brokers and dealers
2014 .....	78	78	41	....	....	....
2015 .....	74	74	37	....	....	....
2016 .....	71	71	36	....	....	....
2017 .....	64	64	34	....	....	....
2018 .....	60	60	32	....	....	....
2019 .....	58	58	....	....	....	....
2020 .....	58	58	....	....	....	....

## Interbank exchange and settlement circuits

**Table 13**

Access to data:  
[TSP00341](#)

### BI-COMP payment system

(amounts in billions of euros)

	Gross flows					Multilateral balances
	Local Clearing	Retail	Electronic Memoranda	Wholesale	Total	
2018 .....	64	1,941	....	....	2,005	772
2019 .....	....	2,010	....	....	2,010	792
2020 .....	....	1,884	....	....	1,884	826
2020 - Apr.....	....	133	....	....	133	56
May .....	....	139	....	....	139	57
June .....	....	158	....	....	158	70
July.....	....	170	....	....	170	78
Aug.....	....	132	....	....	132	59
Sept.....	....	154	....	....	154	69
Oct. ....	....	164	....	....	164	72
Nov.....	....	161	....	....	161	76
Dec.....	....	202	....	....	202	101
2021 - Jan. ....	....	151	....	....	151	69
Feb.....	....	159	....	....	159	72
Mar.....	....	174	....	....	174	84

# Interbank exchange and settlement circuits

**Table 14**

Access to data:  
[TSP00343](#)

## Gross settlement (BI-REL/TARGET2-Bank of Italy)

(amounts in billions of euros)

		Total								
		of which:								
		Interbank			Customers		Multilateral balances of ancillary systems	Operations with the Bank of Italy		
								of which:		
								cross-border	e-MID	of which: cross-border
2018 .....	27,730.1	20,840.9	17,685.9	278.3	2,949.0	1,696.8	1,420.6	2,519.9	....	....
2019 .....	26,406.7	19,468.1	17,408.4	86.9	2,990.2	1,753.9	1,463.3	2,485.3	....	....
2020 .....	25,541.5	18,667.3	17,142.7	....	2,745.9	1,625.0	1,503.7	2,624.9	....	....
2020 - Apr. ....	1,968.5	1,438.2	1,326.5	....	228.1	140.6	100.1	202.1	....	....
May .....	1,842.6	1,386.3	1,258.2	....	173.9	96.5	103.4	179.1	....	....
June .....	2,416.6	1,777.6	1,623.6	....	232.7	133.4	127.2	279.1	....	....
July .....	2,381.1	1,787.6	1,627.8	....	245.7	148.2	141.8	206.0	....	....
Aug. ....	1,848.0	1,405.2	1,314.4	....	159.3	90.5	107.9	175.6	....	....
Sept.....	2,113.1	1,581.8	1,453.6	....	217.0	132.0	127.4	187.0	....	....
Oct. ....	2,084.7	1,533.9	1,434.3	....	216.9	128.4	129.2	204.7	....	....
Nov. ....	2,015.9	1,429.1	1,325.9	....	219.7	126.9	137.2	229.9	....	....
Dec. ....	2,198.0	1,429.5	1,319.5	....	291.5	171.7	179.6	297.3	....	....
2021 - Jan. ....	1,829.5	1,265.6	1,132.4	....	226.5	137.1	128.9	208.4	....	....
Feb. ....	1,855.4	1,282.4	1,144.7	....	219.2	128.9	134.0	219.8	....	....
Mar. ....	2,160.1	1,429.5	1,303.5	....	259.5	157.6	157.0	314.1	....	....

**Payments channeled through BI-REL and TARGET2-Bank of Italy and intraday liquidity***(flows; numbers and amounts in billions of euros; average time in minutes)*

	Total				queued payments		Credit line available to participants	Average use
	Value	Volume	of which: debit		Average value	Average queuing time		
			Value	Volume				
2018 .....	27,730.1	12,342,505	....	....	....	....	62.3	2.7
2019 .....	26,406.7	12,391,328	....	....	....	....	61.2	3.3
2020 .....	25,541.5	11,579,237	....	....	....	....	60.9	2.4
2020 - Apr. ....	1,968.5	810,870	....	....	....	....	60.9	3.1
May .....	1,842.6	824,421	....	....	....	....	60.9	2.8
June .....	2,416.6	974,770	....	....	....	....	60.9	2.5
July.....	2,381.1	1,028,694	....	....	....	....	60.9	2.3
Aug.....	1,848.0	796,027	....	....	....	....	60.9	2.2
Sept.....	2,113.1	963,811	....	....	....	....	60.8	2.2
Oct. ....	2,084.7	964,735	....	....	....	....	60.8	2.3
Nov.....	2,015.9	984,583	....	....	....	....	60.8	2.3
Dec.....	2,198.0	1,118,205	....	....	....	....	60.8	1.3
2021 - Jan. ....	1,829.5	913,898	....	....	....	....	60.8	1.5
Feb.....	1,855.4	996,742	....	....	....	....	60.8	1.5
Mar.....	2,160.1	1,192,972	....	....	....	....	60.8	1.2

## Interbank exchange and settlement circuits

**Table 16**

[Access to data:](#)

[TSP00038](#)

### Payments channeled through the Retail subsystem

(gross flows)

	Bancomat: ATM withdrawals and POS transactions	Cheque truncation	Collection orders	Credit transfers	Transactions with Monte Titoli	Electronic notification of unpaid cheques	Total
(thousands)							
2018 .....	1,507,843	115,996	204,356	327,798	....	....	2,156,519
2019 .....	1,485,660	108,708	194,662	349,816	....	....	2,138,846
2020 .....	1,394,334	78,033	175,584	377,811	....	....	2,025,762
2020 - Apr. ....	63,376	3,459	15,730	28,182	....	....	110,746
May .....	88,499	5,096	14,674	30,141	....	....	138,410
June .....	127,202	6,998	13,404	33,664	....	....	181,268
July .....	134,784	7,934	12,708	36,198	....	....	191,624
Aug. ....	134,782	5,745	12,875	26,900	....	....	180,301
Sept. ....	131,291	6,781	14,770	31,464	....	....	184,305
Oct. ....	126,711	7,054	14,605	32,796	....	....	181,166
Nov. ....	112,764	6,169	13,707	32,450	....	....	165,090
Dec. ....	145,331	7,110	15,653	41,314	....	....	209,409
2021 - Jan. ....	114,573	5,297	14,623	29,897	....	....	164,389
Feb. ....	130,765	5,497	14,689	31,386	....	....	182,336
Mar. ....	149,003	6,079	14,894	36,604	....	....	206,580
(billions of euros)							
2018 .....	108.4	295.1	424.4	1,109.9	....	....	1,939.3
2019 .....	106.1	327.4	420.8	1,157.2	....	....	2,011.7
2020 .....	96.6	238.7	377.4	1,171.4	....	....	1,883.9
2020 - Apr. ....	4.9	9.4	34.1	84.1	....	....	132.5
May .....	6.6	15.5	32.4	84.7	....	....	139.3
June .....	9.1	20.7	29.6	98.9	....	....	158.2
July .....	9.5	24.1	26.6	109.4	....	....	169.6
Aug. ....	9.3	15.5	25.1	82.3	....	....	132.1
Sept. ....	8.9	19.6	31.1	94.8	....	....	154.5
Oct. ....	8.5	22.4	32.2	101.2	....	....	164.3
Nov. ....	7.6	20.5	29.9	102.9	....	....	160.8
Dec. ....	9.8	25.1	32.6	134.2	....	....	201.7
2021 - Jan. ....	7.0	17.2	32.5	93.9	....	....	150.7
Feb. ....	7.7	19.3	33.6	98.5	....	....	159.0
Mar. ....	8.7	22.2	32.3	110.7	....	....	174.0

## Clearing and settlement of securities transactions

**Table 17**  
 Access to data:  
[TSP00042](#)

### Central securities depository - Monte Titoli S.p.A.

(stocks; numbers of participants)

	Banks	Italian and foreign investment firms	Broker and dealers	Foreign CSDs	Issues	Other	Total
2014 .....	100	15	1	15	2,173	110	2,414
2015 .....	61	13	1	15	2,248	110	2,448
2016 .....	58	12	1	15	2,298	115	2,499
2017 .....	55	11	1	13	2,426	119	2,625
2018 .....	51	10	1	13	2,460	126	2,661
2019 .....	47	10	1	13	2,629	132	2,832
2020 .....	47	10	1	13	2,744	141	2,956

## **Section 3**

### **Clearing and settlement of securities transactions**

## Clearing and settlement of securities transactions

**Table 18**

[Access to data:](#)  
[TSP00044](#)

### Central securities depository - Monte Titoli S.p.A.

(stocks; amounts in billions of euros)

	Shares and units of open-end investment	Warrants	Government securities	Convertible bonds	Bonds issued by banks	Bonds issued by non-banks	Foreign securities	Sub-deposited securities		Total
									of which: foreign securities	
2018 - 2nd qtr.....	124.3	3.4	1,934.8	1.4	367.0	182.9	8.4	90.0	90.0	2,712.2
3rd " .....	123.1	3.6	1,944.7	1.4	368.7	187.6	7.9	91.1	91.1	2,728.1
4th " .....	122.5	3.5	1,933.7	1.4	374.2	219.9	8.4	88.6	88.6	2,752.1
2019 - 1st qtr .....	122.3	3.2	1,963.4	1.4	367.2	217.8	6.5	85.2	85.2	2,767.1
2nd " .....	114.6	3.6	1,991.6	1.4	366.8	230.2	7.1	84.1	84.1	2,799.3
3rd " .....	113.6	3.0	1,986.6	1.5	364.4	218.2	7.2	84.3	84.3	2,778.8
4th " .....	118.2	4.6	1,967.9	1.5	363.5	244.8	7.5	87.1	87.1	2,795.0
2020 - 1st qtr .....	120.3	4.9	1,980.9	1.5	348.8	239.0	7.5	91.1	91.1	2,794.2
2nd " .....	123.2	5.2	2,079.2	1.5	342.4	242.5	9.0	109.9	109.9	2,912.8
3rd " .....	128.2	5.6	2,135.5	1.5	331.8	235.8	8.3	108.2	108.2	2,954.8
4th " .....	126.7	4.6	2,103.4	1.2	318.4	242.2	6.2	99.2	99.2	2,901.8
2021 - 1st qtr .....	127.1	4.3	2,172.7	1.2	306.4	236.3	7.2	106.1	106.1	2,961.3

**Table 19**

[Access to data:](#)  
[TSP00043](#)

### Government securities deposited

(stocks; amounts in billions of euros)

	BOTs	CTZs	BTPs	CCTs	CTEs	Total
2018 - 2nd qtr.....	113.5	45.6	1,640.7	134.8	....	1,934.6
3rd " .....	112.9	51.7	1,642.0	138.1	....	1,944.7
4th " .....	114.6	45.6	1,644.6	128.9	....	1,933.7
2019 - 1st qtr .....	115.5	55.5	1,659.1	133.3	....	1,963.4
2nd " .....	116.6	55.0	1,684.1	135.9	....	1,991.6
3rd " .....	119.4	61.2	1,666.5	139.5	....	1,986.6
4th " .....	114.0	51.1	1,677.2	125.6	....	1,967.9
2020 - 1st qtr .....	118.5	45.9	1,686.3	130.2	....	1,980.9
2nd " .....	136.8	58.5	1,750.8	133.1	....	2,079.2
3rd " .....	135.7	69.0	1,794.2	136.6	....	2,135.5
4th " .....	121.3	54.5	1,801.0	126.6	....	2,103.4
2021 - 1st qtr .....	122.7	59.7	1,860.7	129.6	....	2,172.7

## Methodological appendix

### General indications

This supplement is prepared by the Market and Payment System Oversight Department and contains: 10 tables on how households and firms use the retail payment services and instruments provided or issued by banks and non-banks; 6 tables on the Bank of Italy's BI-COMP, BI-REL up to 16th May 2008 and afterwards TARGET2 interbank payment clearing and settlement systems, with data on the number of bank and non-bank participants and the volume of transactions; 3 tables on the securities sector, with data on central securities depositories. Table 1 contains time series on the physical points of access - banks and post offices - to the supply of payment services and instruments. Table 2 gives information on the issue and payment of Bank of Italy bank drafts. Tables 3 to 6 contain data, some estimated, on the use of retail payment services and instruments. Tables 7 and 8 include data on the CAI (Interbank Database on Irregular Cheques and Payment Cards). The information regards the flows and stock of rejected cheques for lack of funds or authorization, broken down by geographical area and sector of economic activity. From the issue of October 2016 onwards the tables 9 and 10, containing data on the circulation of euro banknotes in Italy, are published. Tables 11 to 16 cover the Bank of Italy's BI-COMP and, until the 16th of May 2008, BIREL interbank clearing and settlement systems, with information on the participation of banks and non-banks and on the volumes handled and settled. Tables 14 and 15 contain the available information regarding the activity on TARGET2-Bank of Italy of Italian participants. Tables 17 to 19 give information on the securities sector. In particular, the series cover securities deposited in Italy. For a more detailed definition of the items involved, see the Glossary section in the Appendix to the Bank of Italy's Annual Report in Italian. Stocks are end-of-period data. Unless otherwise indicated, the series include transactions involving residents and non-residents in lire and foreign currency. Discrepancies in totals are caused by rounding; the most recent data in Table 1 and Tables 3 to 6 may also reflect revisions in the reports sent by banks and by Ente Poste S.p.A..

### Notes to the tables

*This section describes the methods and sources of the statistics published in the report. The notes are ordered according to the code of the tables and are organized according to their content.*

#### **TSP00011 - Point of access to the payment system**

The points of access to the payment system are the physical places where it is possible to use payment services. The table refers to ATMs (Automated Teller Machines) and POS terminals (Points of sale) pertaining to reporting institutions. ATMs and POS terminals are considered active if they are used at least once a year. ATMs permit a variety of banking transactions to be carried out: cash dispensers only permit cash withdrawals, whereas multi-function ATMs allow customers to deposit cash and cheques, obtain information on their accounts, make credit transfers and pay utility bills. Branch ATMs are located inside or outside bank branches. Bank POS terminals are installed at retail and service outlets and allow cardholders to pay for goods and services automatically. Post office POS terminals allow transactions to be carried out with Bancomat cards issued by banks. Data do not include ATM offered in Italy by providers authorised abroad under the freedom to provide services. Data for POS (since 2018) and ATM (since 2019) include relevant foreign payment providers authorised in Italy.

#### **TSP00032 - Clearing systems: number of direct participants**

The item "National Clearing" comprises the operators that participate in at least one of the subsystems of this procedure and settle their multilateral balances on their centralized accounts. In 1997 four subsystems were involved in the procedure ("Local Clearing", "Retail", "Electronic Memoranda", and "Wholesale"). The "Electronic Memoranda" subsystem was discontinued in November 1998. The applications of the "Wholesale" subsystem were gradually transferred to the BI-REL gross settlement system; this process was completed in January 1998.

#### **TSP00034 - The Bi-Rel/Target2 - Bank of Italy real time gross settlement system: number of participants**

Direct participants in the system TARGET2-Bank of Italy are holders of settlement accounts (PM accounts), they access to all facilities of the settlement system and they can enter their own transactions on indirect participants' behalf. Indirect participants do not hold a settlement account, they settle their transactions via a direct participant. Intraday overdraft account

holders can draw on the Bank of Italy's intraday liquidity facility to facilitate the real-time settlement of transactions on centralized accounts; intraday credit requires collateral in the form of securities. Indirect participants and other agents not participating in the system are eligible to hold centralised settlement accounts (HAM accounts), external to the gross settlement system. Banks with indirect reserves are banks whose compulsory reserves are maintained by other banks; indirect reserves were introduced at the start of the third stage of the Economic and Monetary Union. co&minusmanagement is the situation whereby the HAM account holder confers to another party (the co&minusmanager) the power to manage the account. The co-manager needs to hold a settlement account while the co-managed needs to hold a HAM account. Before the 19th of May 2008, date on which TARGET2 went live and BI-REL was supplanted by the Italian component of the new system (TARGET2-Bank of Italy), indirect participants were classified as "active" - indirect participants which, pursuant to a bilateral agreement with a direct participant, were entitled to send and receive payments in the system and access to a limited number of the system's facilities - or "passive".

#### **TSP00035 - Payments channeled through BI-Rel and Target2-Bank of Italy and intraday liquidity: numbers and amounts**

Total payments comprise all the transactions settled on banks' centralized accounts (PM accounts), net of clearing credit balances. Compared with the total, the debit component does not include transactions credited by the Bank of Italy. As from 31 August 2015, the statistical aggregates do not include the cash side of the securities transactions, settled through the Target2-Banca d'Italia Dedicated Cash Accounts (DCA) following the migration of the Italian central securities depository Monte Titoli to the Eurosystem's platform for securities settlement Target2 Securities. Average queuing time is the simple average of the queuing times (in minutes) of all debit payments. The credit line available to participants is equal to the average availability on overdraft accounts ;this is the same as the value of the collateral given in securities, reduced by a suitable percentage.

#### **TSP00038 - Payments channeled through the Retail subsystem: numbers and amounts**

Gross flows of payments settled through the "Retail" subsystem. Credit or debit items of participants by type of transaction. Each transaction, which is recorded in the clearing accounts of both the creditor and the debtor, is considered only once. Since November 2009 the item "Collection orders" includes also SEPA direct debits. Since November 2017 the item "Credit tranfers" includes SEPA Instant Credit Transfers, besides SEPA Credit Transfers.

Since January 2018 the item "Cheque truncation" includes the interbank cheque clearing procedure, "Check Image Truncation" (C.I.T.) involving the digitalisation of physical paper cheques into a substitute electronic form for the presentation to the paying bank.

#### **TSP00042 - Monte Titoli securities depository: number of participants**

Number of holders of one or more securities accounts with Monte Titoli S.p.A. The item "Issuers" comprises those that are not included elsewhere in the table, exclusively as regards financial instruments they themselves issued and those issued by companies they controlled. The item "Other" comprises Cassa di compensazione e garanzia S.p.A., Borsa Italiana S.p.A., and international organizations.

#### **TSP00043 - Government securities on deposit: amounts**

Face value of the stock of government securities deposited with centra securities depositories. In a decree issued on 23 August 2000 the Minister of the Treasury provided for the transfer of the running of t central government securities depository from the Bank of Italy to Monte Titoli S.p.A. The handover took place on 11 December 2000.The figures for BTP include the amount of coupon stripping.

#### **TSP00044 - Securities deposited with 'Monte Titoli SpA': numbers and amounts**

Face value of the stock of securities deposited with the central securities depository run by Monte Titoli S.p.A. The figures for shares include the units of closed-end real-estate investment funds. On the occasion of the publication on 16 May 2006 of this edition of the "Supplements to the statistical bulletin - Payment System", Monte Titoli S.p.A. has updated the time series of warrants, as of the first quarter of 1998. The updated figures are evaluated by multiplying the number of securities deposited and subdeposited times the conventional value of 0.30 euro. Foreign securities are securities issued

by non-residents. As of the fourth quarter 2003 they also include shares and warrants. Subdeposited securities are securities subdeposited with foreign central securities depositories with which Monte Titoli S.p.A. has established bilateral operating links and, until the third quarter of 2000, Italian government securities subdeposited with the central government securities depository run by the Bank of Italy. During the fourth quarter of 2000, on 11 December, the running of this central securities depository was handed over to Monte Titoli S.p.A. in accordance with the decree issued on 23 August 2000 by the Minister of the Treasury. The data for 1998 are partly estimated.

#### **TSP00213 - Bank of Italy bank draft**

Special drafts comprise those issued for personal income tax (IRPEF) and INPDAl (formerly ENPAS) severance payments to public-sector employees. Payments do not correspond to issues because they may refer to drafts issued in the preceding quarter and because some drafts may not generate a payment for a variety of reasons (returned to the tax authorities, lost, beneficiary not found, etc.).

#### **TSP00220 - Bank payment services and instruments: numbers and amounts**

Starting from March 2009 the data are drawn from the latest version of the accounting supervisory reports; as usual some components of the data are estimated. Bank cheques and ordinary postal cheques refer only to those used to make payments and thus do not include those used by account holders to withdraw cash. Credit transfers also include account deposits through postal (or bank) pre-printed bills, post office giros and international postal money orders. As of March 2017 postal account deposits are reported separately in the on-line version of this publication. Pre-printed bills transactions executed through third parties are reported only through the post operator; the accounting methodology led to a revision in credit transfers starting from March 2014. The instructions for paperless credit transfers are transmitted electronically or inputted via ATMs. From March 2009 paperless credit transfers include the pension payments made by Poste SpA. In the case of direct debits, clients authorize their bank to accept debit orders from named sources; they include direct debits for instalments and those for regular payments. The RIBA (Ricevuta bancaria elettronica) procedure serves for the collection of credits deriving from commercial transactions; the creditor delivers collection orders to its own bank which sends the information in electronic form to the banks indicated by the debtors. Under the MAV (Pagamento mediante avviso) electronic collection procedure customers receive a notice to pay that they can use to make payment at any bank participating in the procedure or at a post office. Debit card payments at POS terminals comprise payments for the purchase of goods and services by means of automated equipment located on the premises of the commercial outlet that can be activated by the entry of the payer's PIN. Data on credit transfers in 2019 are affected by reclassification and adjustment of some categories of fund transfer transactions that do not fall into the category of retail payment services.

#### **TSP00224 - Home and corporate banking services: number of users**

Services provided electronically using direct links and bank and non-bank networks. Information services are those that only allow customers to receive information on their positions vis-à-vis the bank (account statements, the outcome of bill collections, etc.). Phonebanking services are included. Information and transaction services are those that allow customers both to receive information and to make payments. Corporate banking services allow firms not only to send payment and collection orders but also to receive information on their accounts with a number of banks. The figure for 2012 was affected by the processes of merger and reorganization that resulted in a redefinition of home banking services to the households.

#### **TSP00341 - The Bi-Comp clearing system: amounts**

Gross flows comprise the total credit (or debit) items presented by participants in the clearing system, with each transaction considered only once. The "Electronic memoranda" subsystem was discontinued in November 1998. The applications of the "Wholesale" subsystem were gradually transferred to the BI-REL gross settlement system; this process was completed in January 1998. The multilateral balances represent the imbalance of each member vis-à-vis all the other taken together. The balances of the Bank of Italy, the Provincial State Treasury and Ente Poste S.p.A. are included.

#### **TSP00343 - The Bi-Rel and Target2-Bank of Italy real time gross settlement system: amounts**

Until the 16 May 2008 data relate to the payments settled through the BIREL system. Afterwards data refer to the payments settled through TARGET2-Bank of Italy. As from 31 August 2015: 1) the statistical aggregates do not include the cash side of the securities transactions, settled through the Target2-Banca d'Italia Dedicated Cash Accounts (DCA)

following the migration of the Italian central securities depository Monte Titoli to the Eurosystem's platform for securities settlement Traget2 Securities; 2) the statistical aggregate of multilateral balances of ancillary systems includes the balance of the settlement cycle of the BI-COMP ancillary system night-time operations. Domestic transactions -both interbank and customer payments – are calculated only once. Cross-border flows are calculated net of transactions concluded with Banca d'Italia. Interbank transactions include -in addition to the items shown -interbank transfers, the transfers executed by Monte Titoli SpA to the gross settlement system participants to credit the amounts of coupons on government securities and government securities falling due, transactions executed through Express (the gross settlement system for securities transactions handled by Monte Titoli SpA) and the other interbank transfers among the gross settlement system participants. Cross-border border interbank flows include the payments associated to the transactions carried out through the foreign-exchange settlement system CLS and those stemming from the multilateral clearing balances of the EURO1 system, managed by the Euro Banking Association (EBA) Clearing Company. Multilateral balances stemming from ancillary systems include the debit balances of the Local Clearing procedure and the net securities settlement system. As of July 2003 also credit balances are considered. The operations with Banca d'Italia include - in addition to the items shown - cash withdrawals/deposits by intermediaries at the Bank's branches, charges and fees debited to participants' accounts by the Bank, the repayment of coupons on government securities and government securities falling due pledged as collateral against central bank credit. Monetary policy operations include credit and debit payments associated with the settlement of open market operations and standing facilities. Until the 31 August 2015 DVP Express transactions are also included. Government payments include electronic collection of taxes and contributions and electronic orders of payments, the other payments made on behalf of the State Treasury through automated procedures or through the Bank's branches.

#### **TSP01100 - Banknotes issued by Bank of Italy**

Number of euro banknotes withdrawn at Banca d'Italia branches by banks, Postal system or other subjects, broken down by denomination. For total withdrawals also the value in euro is provided.

#### **TSP01200 - Banknotes returned to Bank of Italy**

Number of euro banknotes lodged at Banca d'Italia branches by banks, Postal system or other subjects, broken down by denomination. For total lodgments also the value in euro is provided.

#### **TSP20100 - Rejected cheques by location of issuer - flows**

The data are taken from the Interbank Database on Irregular Cheques and Payment Cards. The amounts refer to the unpaid portion of the face value of cheques. Reporting of cheques rejected for lack of authorization began on June 2002 and of those rejected for lack of funds in August of that year. To ensure comparability of the two series, the published data for both begin in August 2002. Geographical area is defined as the province in which the revoked issuer is located. The sums of the figures relating to the geographical areas do not generally match the totals reported in the table, because the latter ones also include the data concerning the revoked issuers located abroad.

#### **TSP30100 - Rejected cheques and revoked authorizations by location and economic sector of issuer**

The data are taken from the Interbank Database on Irregular Cheques and Payment Cards. The amounts refer to the unpaid portion of the face value of cheques. Geographical area is defined as the province in which the revoked issuer is located. The sums of the figures relating to the geographical areas do not generally match the totals reported in the table, because the latter ones also include the data concerning the revoked issuers located abroad.

#### **TSP60100 - Payment cards: numbers**

The data refer to the universe of bank and non-bank issuers. Credit cards in use (i.e. used at least once during the year) include those that can be used for other purposes (as debit and cheque guarantee cards). The number of debit cards refers to those outstanding at the end of the year issued by each declaring bank. Debit cards for cash withdrawals can only be used at ATMs. Prepaid cards ("electronic purses", i.e. sums loaded onto microchip cards) are those that can be used at different commercial outlets, so that single-purpose cards (such as prepaid telephone cards) are excluded, as are

"limitedpurpose" cards that can only be used at a limited range of commercial outlets. The number of prepaid cards refers to the cards issued by the issuers that are outstanding at the end of the year. It includes those that can be used for other purposes (as debit, credit and cheque guarantee cards). Data include relevant foreign payment providers authorised in Italy since 2018.

#### **TSP80000 - Payment by credit cards**

The numbers and amounts of transactions carried out in Italy and abroad by holders of credit cards. Transactions carried out using corporate cards are settled on companies' bank accounts. The information refers to the universe of bank and non-bank issuers. Data include relevant foreign payment providers authorised in Italy since 2018.

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