

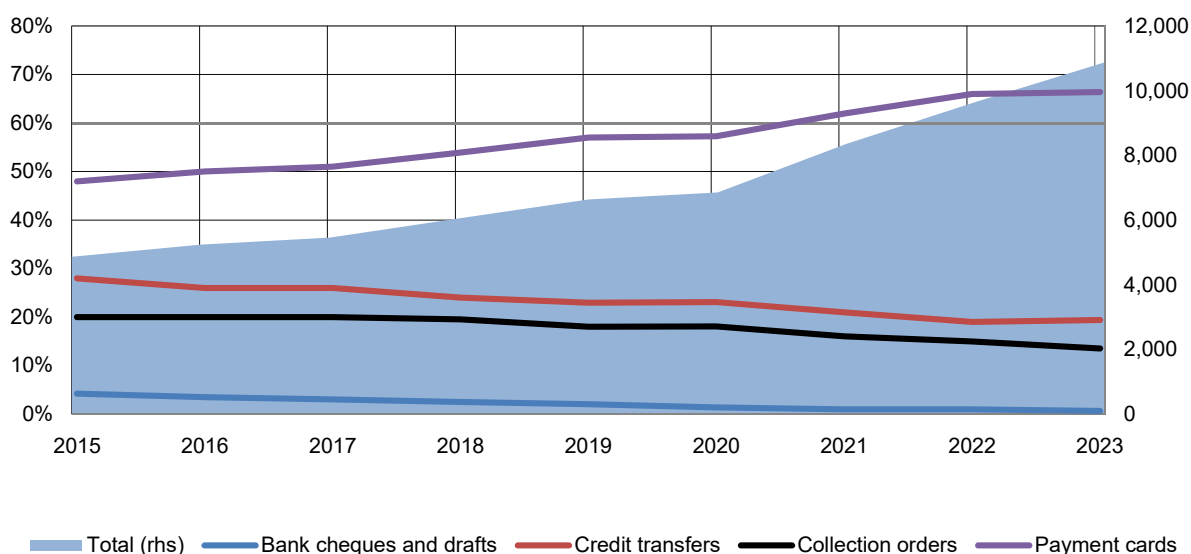
# Payment System

23 May 2024

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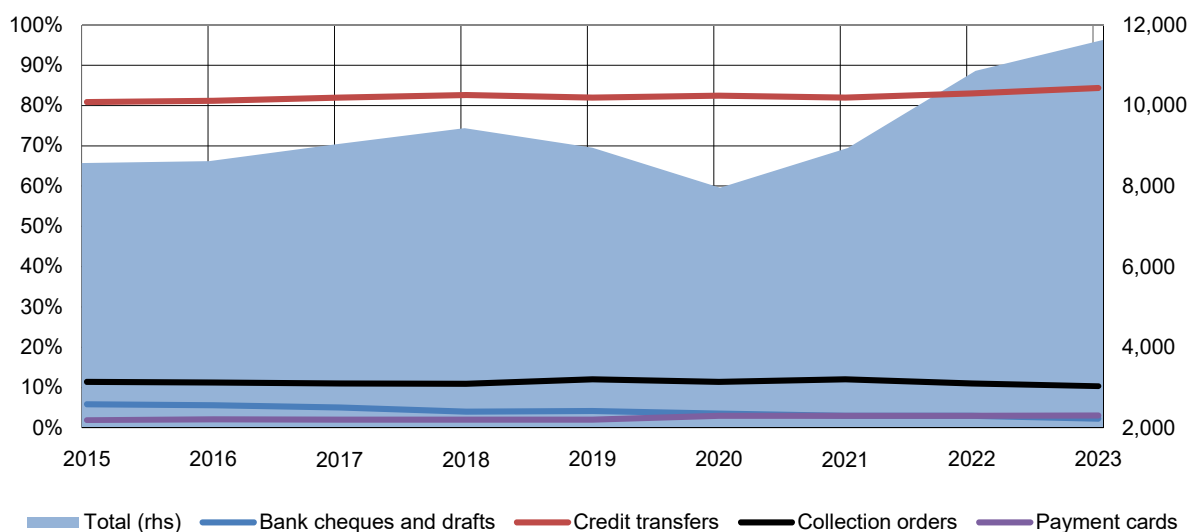
**Figure 1**

**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 2024

## 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.

# Contents

General information

## Section 1: Methods of payment available to customers

*Access to data in BDS:*

Table 1	- Points of access to the payment system ( <i>numbers</i> )	<a href="#">TSPAG010</a>
Table 2	- Bank of Italy bank drafts ( <i>numbers and amounts</i> )	<a href="#">TSPAG020</a>
Table 3	- Payment services and instruments ( <i>numbers and amounts</i> )	<a href="#">TSPAG030</a>
Table 4	- Payment cards ( <i>numbers</i> )	<a href="#">TSPAG040</a>
Table 5	- Home and corporate banking services ( <i>number of users</i> )	<a href="#">TSPAG050</a>
Table 6	- Payments by credit card ( <i>numbers and amounts</i> )	<a href="#">TSPAG060</a>
Table 7	- Rejected cheques by location of issuer - flows ( <i>numbers and amounts</i> )	<a href="#">TSPAG070</a>
Table 8	- Rejected cheques by location and economy sector of issuer ( <i>numbers and amounts</i> )	<a href="#">TSPAG080</a>
Table 9	- Banknotes issued by Bank of Italy	<a href="#">TSPAG090</a>
Table 10	- Banknotes returned to Bank of Italy	<a href="#">TSPAG100</a>

*Tables available only on BDS*

	ATMs and POS terminals distribution by location (province)	<a href="#">TSPAG110</a>
	Telematic customer services distribution by customer location (province)	<a href="#">TSPAG120</a>

## Section 2: Interbank exchange and settlement circuits

Table 11	- The real-time gross settlement system TARGET2-Bank of Italy (BI-REL until May 16th, 2008); number of participants	<a href="#">TREGO010</a>
Table 12	- BI-COMP payment system: number of participants	<a href="#">TREGO020</a>
Table 13	- BI-COMP payment system ( <i>amounts</i> )	<a href="#">TREGO030</a>
Table 14	- Gross settlement (BIREL/TARGET2-Bank of Italy) ( <i>amounts</i> )	<a href="#">TREGO040</a>
Table 15	- Payments channeled through BI-REL and TARGET2-Bank of Italy and intraday liquidity ( <i>numbers and amounts</i> )	<a href="#">TREGO050</a>
Table 16	- Payments channeled through the Local Clearing subsystem ( <i>numbers and amounts</i> )	<a href="#">TREGO060</a>

## Section 3: Clearing and settlement of securities transactions

Table 17	- Central securities depository - Monte Titoli S.p.A.	<a href="#">TDTIT010</a>
Table 18	- Securities deposited with Monte Titoli S.p.A. ( <i>numbers and amounts</i> )	<a href="#">TDTIT020</a>
Table 19	- Government securities deposited ( <i>amounts</i> )	<a href="#">TDTIT030</a>

- Methodological appendix

## Methods of payment available to customers

**Table 1**  
 Access to data:  
[TSPAG010](#)

### 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				
			<i>Cash dispenser</i>	Multi-function	<i>Cash dispenser</i>	Multi-function			
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	3,499,339	12,521	195,496
2021 .....	456	21,650	2,379	30,221	488	4,317	3,644,031	12,514	239,198
2022 .....	438	20,985	3,741	29,611	826	4,419	3,396,844	12,519	276,955
2023 .....	428	20,160	3,314	29,517	984	4,195	3,632,978	12,535	287,737

## Methods of payment available to customers

**Table 2**  
 Access to data:  
[TSPAG020](#)

### 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		
2021 - 1st qtr .....	3	82.5	....	....	3	82.5	5	84.4
2nd " .....	6	97.8	....	....	6	97.8	5	97.9
3rd " .....	6	100.7	....	....	6	100.7	6	91.8
4th " .....	10	103.6	....	....	10	103.6	15	122.6
2022 - 1st qtr .....	3	92.1	....	....	3	92.1	4	93.2
2nd " .....	5	113.3	....	....	5	113.3	4	94.6
3rd " .....	4	83.8	....	....	4	83.8	4	96.6
4th " .....	7	95.7	....	....	7	95.7	13	101.0
2023 - 1st qtr .....	3	68.0	....	....	3	68.0	4	74.0
2nd " .....	3	69.9	....	....	3	69.9	3	73.5
3rd " .....	3	70.1	....	....	3	70.1	3	67.5
4th " .....	5	91.9	....	....	5	91.9	10	94.8

## Methods of payment available to customers

**Table 3**  
Access to data:  
[TSPAG030](#)

### Payment services and instruments

(flows; numbers and amounts)

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

(thousands)

2021 - 1st qtr .....	18,067	2,501	428,058	232,580	272,650	49,776	1,136	789,700	1,561,888
2nd " .....	18,846	2,826	422,748	245,729	277,745	52,440	1,112	956,892	1,732,609
3rd " .....	19,103	2,244	421,871	245,541	286,231	50,340	1,097	1,019,557	1,800,443
4th " .....	20,135	3,488	449,947	281,070	300,907	49,460	1,114	1,068,374	1,893,425
2022 - 1st qtr .....	16,821	2,378	456,458	268,618	291,115	51,910	1,061	1,000,271	1,820,014
2nd " .....	17,321	2,792	491,507	288,297	295,560	48,778	1,041	1,138,402	1,995,401
3rd " .....	16,530	2,367	503,927	307,997	305,150	48,321	984	1,248,341	2,125,620
4th " .....	17,132	3,954	546,058	326,281	310,659	46,227	1,000	1,307,049	2,232,079
2023 - 1st qtr .....	15,182	2,520	507,486	316,820	315,900	51,512	1,037	1,275,072	2,168,709
2nd " .....	14,840	3,203	528,515	326,173	316,177	46,672	1,029	1,368,342	2,278,778
3rd " .....	13,845	2,563	507,293	316,805	312,056	47,358	984	1,476,006	2,360,104
4th " .....	14,407	3,172	571,718	352,857	333,785	45,319	979	1,509,109	2,478,488

(millions of euros)

2021 - 1st qtr .....	40,009	28,199	1,722,580	1,159,445	123,601	112,621	8,999	37,962	2,073,970
2nd " .....	41,167	33,631	1,772,201	1,188,277	120,392	121,054	8,863	44,544	2,141,852
3rd " .....	40,857	28,000	1,750,409	1,210,016	127,275	131,883	8,261	48,878	2,135,563
4th " .....	46,219	36,049	2,093,022	1,426,862	144,639	126,261	9,420	52,219	2,507,829
2022 - 1st qtr .....	39,541	30,220	2,219,491	1,630,847	145,845	143,988	8,518	47,037	2,634,639
2nd " .....	39,618	35,358	2,412,941	1,770,483	138,765	142,924	8,812	54,165	2,832,584
3rd " .....	38,826	28,169	2,386,977	1,762,203	140,994	151,450	8,443	57,617	2,812,476
4th " .....	42,751	34,476	2,573,559	1,952,897	144,421	132,955	9,731	61,451	2,999,344
2023 - 1st qtr .....	38,858	28,524	2,415,532	1,893,165	149,175	151,560	10,106	57,463	2,851,218
2nd " .....	36,563	31,123	2,440,259	1,882,176	148,200	138,863	10,318	60,948	2,866,273
3rd " .....	34,236	25,032	2,315,314	1,788,190	141,713	144,645	9,981	63,966	2,734,887
4th " .....	38,136	32,134	2,644,099	2,015,644	157,219	127,997	10,592	66,835	3,077,011

## Methods of payment available to customers

**Table 4**  
 Access to data:  
[TSPAG040](#)

### 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		
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	29,673
2021 .....	13,717	12,637	1,080	60,940	36	60,904	30,059
2022 .....	13,344	12,136	1,208	64,696	33	64,662	31,007
2023 .....	13,498	12,274	1,224	67,415	33	67,382	33,201

## Methods of payment available to customers

**Table 5**

*Access to data:*  
[TSPAG050](#)

### 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		
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 .....	5,382,168	282,328	47,946,174	4,240,769	57,851,439	2,332,791
2020 .....	5,056,548	297,643	49,997,944	4,168,767	59,520,902	2,288,699
2021 .....	4,392,957	367,003	52,300,263	4,530,108	61,590,331	2,569,046
2022 .....	4,175,394	312,971	54,271,902	4,929,218	63,689,485	1,470,959
2023 .....	3,541,404	210,495	58,582,198	4,485,237	66,819,334	1,318,024



## Methods of payment available to customers

**Table 6**  
Access to data:  
[TSPAG060](#)

### Payments by credit card

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

	Number		Amount	
	Personal	Corporate	Personal	Corporate
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
2021 .....	1,262,034	104,583	72,180	12,465
2022 .....	1,327,818	139,684	78,941	18,546
2023 .....	1,447,558	155,407	84,019	20,836

## Methods of payment available to customers

**Table 7**  
 Access to data:  
[TSPAG070](#)

### 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

2023 - Oct.....	557	3.2	753	3.3	978	4.4	2,896	10.8	5,184	21.7
Nov.....	337	1.5	703	3.5	898	3.1	2,557	9.5	4,496	17.5
Dec.....	312	2.3	643	3.2	862	3.4	2,423	11.2	4,244	20.1
2024 - Jan.....	419	2.1	864	3.9	1,075	4.0	3,158	12.6	5,516	22.5
Feb.....	374	1.7	913	4.0	1,019	3.7	3,184	13.3	5,492	22.7
Mar.....	393	1.5	799	3.1	1,038	4.0	2,890	12.2	5,124	20.9

#### Cheques rejected for lack of authorization

2023 - Oct.....	201	0.8	421	1.7	522	2.0	1,675	5.3	2,819	9.8
Nov.....	183	0.9	355	1.2	423	1.5	1,513	5.4	2,474	9.0
Dec.....	133	0.6	316	1.3	341	1.0	1,193	4.6	1,985	7.5
2024 - Jan.....	189	0.9	477	2.5	480	1.9	1,852	7.1	3,000	12.4
Feb.....	166	0.9	395	1.2	346	1.4	1,557	5.6	2,465	9.0
Mar.....	178	1.7	363	1.8	425	1.9	1,348	5.0	2,315	10.5

## Methods of payment available to customers

**Table 8**

[Access to data:](#)

[TSPAG080](#)

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

(millions of euros; average in euros; number of cheques; December 2023)

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	ITH	2,243	13.0	1,101	5.4	3,344	18.3	5,480	1,621
Households	600	858	5.3	523	2.8	1,381	8.2	5,910	815
Non-financial enterprises.	SBI25	1,373	7.6	570	2.5	1,943	10.1	5,209	791
Other	SBI124	12	0.0	8	0.0	20	0.0	2,190	15
North-West	ITC	4,445	20.2	2,253	7.7	6,698	27.9	4,163	3,147
Households	600	1,983	8.4	1,137	3.7	3,120	12.1	3,889	1,723
Non-financial enterprises	SBI25	2,443	11.7	1,094	3.7	3,537	15.4	4,368	1,395
Other	SBI124	19	0.1	22	0.2	41	0.3	7,418	29
Centre	ITI	5,530	21.3	2,642	10.1	8,172	31.4	3,842	3,302
Households	600	1,956	5.6	988	2.9	2,944	8.5	2,888	1,655
Non-financial enterprises	SBI25	3,498	15.3	1,624	7.1	5,122	22.4	4,367	1,597
Other	SBI124	76	0.4	30	0.1	106	0.5	4,963	50
South and Islands	ITFGBI1	16,874	64.9	9,109	31.5	25,983	96.4	3,708	9,353
Households	600	6,409	16.9	3,682	9.5	10,091	26.4	2,618	4,592
Non-financial enterprises	SBI25	10,352	47.8	5,368	21.8	15,720	69.6	4,428	4,657
Other	SBI124	113	0.2	59	0.1	172	0.3	1,900	104
Italy and abroad	WRDBI2	29,103	119.5	15,109	54.6	44,212	174.1	3,938	17,436
Households	600	11,209	36.2	6,331	19.0	17,540	55.3	3,151	8,789
Non-financial enterprises	SBI25	17,666	82.4	8,656	35.2	26,322	117.5	4,466	8,440
Other	SBI124	228	0.8	122	0.4	350	1.3	3,639	207

## Methods of payment available to customers

**Table 9**  
 Access to data:  
[TSPAG090](#)

### Banknotes issued by 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
2021 - 1st qtr .....	15.3	456,751.6	19,472.5	60,433.0	147,166.6	226,267.5	3,407.9	4.2	0.0
2nd " .....	18.6	559,230.4	26,205.3	72,340.1	183,078.2	273,981.4	3,620.6	4.9	0.0
3rd " .....	19.6	596,096.3	28,266.7	79,923.8	197,804.9	286,276.8	3,820.7	3.3	0.0
4th " .....	21.8	663,261.0	31,858.5	92,199.0	216,196.1	317,877.6	5,123.5	6.4	0.0
2022 - 1st qtr .....	16.4	503,874.6	21,292.9	76,327.5	164,076.8	238,877.0	3,298.7	1.7	0.0
2nd " .....	18.4	567,384.1	26,802.3	82,306.0	188,665.3	266,193.2	3,415.3	2.1	0.0
3rd " .....	18.2	562,212.8	25,341.3	82,884.5	187,380.5	263,160.8	3,442.5	3.1	0.0
4th " .....	21.0	643,189.9	30,001.5	93,609.9	211,741.5	302,763.3	5,070.9	2.8	0.0
2023 - 1st qtr .....	15.2	472,817.6	22,023.3	77,440.2	152,566.1	216,674.5	4,111.4	2.1	0.0
2nd " .....	17.2	539,870.9	25,607.5	84,553.9	181,239.2	244,704.9	3,761.5	4.0	0.0
3rd " .....	17.7	549,247.6	23,748.3	83,622.1	184,742.9	252,318.9	4,812.6	2.8	0.0
4th " .....	20.0	623,213.0	27,601.2	98,430.8	207,338.6	284,125.0	5,714.8	2.6	0.0

## Methods of payment available to customers

**Table 10**  
 Access to data:  
[TSPAG100](#)

### 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
2021 - 1st qtr.....	15.7	479,208.4	24,502.6	68,850.6	182,018.9	189,515.5	12,618.7	1,080.9	621.2
2nd.. " .....	13.7	420,549.6	23,248.6	67,581.6	153,887.1	161,658.6	12,420.2	1,159.5	594.0
3rd... " .....	16.7	509,638.1	28,732.2	87,084.6	181,257.6	193,231.6	16,845.7	1,803.9	682.5
4th... " .....	15.7	474,226.2	24,684.3	80,871.4	167,797.6	183,278.6	15,244.4	1,666.2	683.7
2022 - 1st qtr.....	17.3	528,993.8	26,572.2	89,598.7	188,459.0	207,154.0	15,044.4	1,527.3	638.2
2nd.. " .....	16.2	490,395.4	23,688.8	85,847.2	171,187.3	190,925.9	16,321.0	1,814.4	610.8
3rd... " .....	17.6	531,093.4	28,555.0	96,024.3	182,115.1	200,873.5	20,547.2	2,325.7	652.6
4th... " .....	16.1	485,040.4	25,036.2	86,739.5	166,126.5	186,949.6	17,538.7	2,062.5	587.3
2023 - 1st qtr.....	19.1	569,520.3	26,364.1	94,778.7	196,161.8	231,716.0	17,846.8	2,046.4	606.4
2nd.. " .....	17.0	506,271.7	24,741.2	91,864.3	167,813.4	200,601.0	18,508.9	2,166.6	576.3
3rd... " .....	18.1	545,714.2	29,163.6	101,145.5	182,129.6	209,075.4	21,188.7	2,448.3	563.2
4th... " .....	16.0	480,159.5	24,300.2	88,861.7	159,322.4	186,922.4	18,083.7	2,138.0	531.0

## Interbank exchange and settlement circuits

**Table 11**  
 Access to data:  
[TREGO010](#)

### 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
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
2021 .....	80	32	....	62	76	327	54	22
2022 .....	81	29	....	62	62	302	51	....

## Table 12

Access to data:  
[TREGO020](#)

### 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
2017 .....	64	64	34	....	....
2018 .....	60	60	32	....	....
2019 .....	58	58	....	....	....
2020 .....	58	58	....	....	....
2021 .....	55	55	....	....	....
2022 .....	50	50	....	....	....
2023 .....	48	48	....	....	....

## Interbank exchange and settlement circuits

**Table 13**  
 Access to data:  
[TREGO030](#)

### BI-COMP payment system

(amounts in billions of euros)

	Gross flows					Multilateral balances
	Local Clearing	Retail	Electronic Memoranda	Wholesale	Total	
2021 .....	....	1,997	....	....	1,997	953
2022 .....	....	2,280	....	....	2,280	1,020
2023 .....	....	2,443	....	....	2,443	990
2023 - Apr.....	....	180	....	....	180	72
May .....	....	211	....	....	211	85
June .....	....	211	....	....	211	85
July.....	....	212	....	....	212	85
Aug.....	....	184	....	....	184	74
Sept.....	....	193	....	....	193	76
Oct. ....	....	213	....	....	213	85
Nov.....	....	201	....	....	201	83
Dec.....	....	232	....	....	232	101
2024 - Jan.....	....	207	....	....	207	84
Feb.....	....	199	....	....	199	80
Mar.....	....	132	....	....	132	45

## Interbank exchange and settlement circuits

**Table 14**  
 Access to data:  
[TREG0040](#)

### 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:		of which: cross-border			of which:			
cross-border	e-MID	Monetary policy	Treasury							
2020	25,541.5	18,667.3	17,142.7	....	2,745.9	1,625.0	1,503.7	2,624.9	....	....
2021	23,380.2	15,624.1	14,323.3	....	2,960.9	1,795.8	1,742.4	3,052.8	....	....
2022	30,642.9	17,726.1	16,479.2	....	3,831.5	2,497.4	1,916.5	7,168.8	....	....
2022 - Apr.	1,901.3	1,262.1	1,163.2	....	279.3	174.6	139.1	220.9	....	....
May	2,132.9	1,438.8	1,328.7	....	343.3	207.3	146.5	204.3	....	....
June	2,346.1	1,585.9	1,476.7	....	327.8	207.7	206.3	226.0	....	....
July	2,906.5	1,645.5	1,530.0	....	346.1	231.7	179.5	735.4	....	....
Aug.	3,048.1	1,540.2	1,458.4	....	300.3	200.7	140.5	1,067.2	....	....
Sept.	3,120.4	1,618.6	1,514.9	....	369.0	248.4	147.5	985.3	....	....
Oct.	3,050.4	1,578.0	1,477.6	....	328.8	228.8	146.2	997.4	....	....
Nov.	3,092.9	1,560.3	1,442.9	....	312.0	210.3	155.2	1,065.3	....	....
Dec.	3,148.7	1,605.1	1,493.1	....	364.0	236.9	199.1	980.5	....	....
2023 - Jan.	2,379.9	1,598.2	1,470.2	....	325.4	225.8	156.0	300.2	....	....
Feb.	2,112.6	1,457.7	1,371.1	....	261.1	171.8	148.8	245.1	....	....
Mar.	1,331.6	947.7	894.6	....	151.0	98.5	96.1	136.8	....	....



**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				
2020 .....	25,541.5	11,579,237	....	....	....	....	60.9	2.4
2021 .....	23,380.2	12,995,394	....	....	....	....	56.1	0.5
2022 .....	30,642.9	13,654,179	....	....	....	....	54.1	0.3
2022 - Apr. ....	1,901.3	1,071,296	....	....	....	....	54.2	0.3
May .....	2,132.9	1,165,542	....	....	....	....	54.1	0.3
June .....	2,346.1	1,187,358	....	....	....	....	54.1	0.2
July.....	2,906.5	1,173,972	....	....	....	....	54.1	0.2
Aug.....	3,048.1	1,051,641	....	....	....	....	54.1	0.3
Sept.....	3,120.4	1,157,785	....	....	....	....	54.1	0.6
Oct. ....	3,050.4	1,145,721	....	....	....	....	54.1	0.2
Nov.....	3,092.9	1,156,240	....	....	....	....	54.0	0.2
Dec.....	3,148.7	1,222,902	....	....	....	....	53.5	0.2
2023 - Jan. ....	2,379.9	1,087,906	....	....	....	....	53.5	0.2
Feb.....	2,112.6	1,093,806	....	....	....	....	53.5	0.9
Mar.....	1,331.6	729,135	....	....	....	....	53.5	1.5

**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
<b>(thousands)</b>							
2021 .....	1,848,112	69,964	175,061	395,653	....	....	2,488,790
2022 .....	2,092,687	62,735	206,758	491,586	....	....	2,853,763
2023 .....	2,294,649	54,715	246,730	591,896	....	....	3,187,989
2023 - Apr. ....	173,033	4,112	20,065	44,595	....	....	241,805
May .....	206,739	5,022	22,442	51,262	....	....	285,465
June .....	196,683	4,714	21,124	50,896	....	....	273,417
July .....	208,928	4,878	20,505	50,258	....	....	284,569
Aug .....	196,622	4,028	20,434	44,762	....	....	265,846
Sept .....	186,058	4,083	20,273	46,448	....	....	256,861
Oct .....	200,216	4,687	20,257	51,965	....	....	277,125
Nov .....	186,494	4,219	18,741	50,183	....	....	259,637
Dec .....	199,984	4,571	19,843	55,607	....	....	280,005
2024 - Jan. ....	191,127	4,456	21,311	50,784	....	....	267,678
Feb .....	169,280	4,007	20,643	48,872	....	....	242,801
Mar .....	164,758	3,691	19,920	26,398	....	....	214,768
<b>(billions of euros)</b>							
2021 .....	112.1	252.9	416.6	1,215.8	....	....	1,997.3
2022 .....	121.6	257.9	501.6	1,398.2	....	....	2,279.1
2023 .....	126.1	235.8	500.9	1,578.3	....	....	2,441.5
2023 - Apr. ....	9.6	17.4	39.0	114.1	....	....	180.1
May .....	11.4	21.4	43.4	134.8	....	....	211.0
June .....	10.9	21.6	43.7	134.5	....	....	210.7
July .....	11.5	21.1	42.9	136.8	....	....	212.4
Aug .....	10.6	14.4	42.0	116.7	....	....	183.8
Sept .....	10.1	17.0	43.3	122.6	....	....	193.0
Oct .....	10.6	21.2	42.4	138.3	....	....	212.5
Nov .....	10.0	19.5	36.2	134.9	....	....	200.5
Dec .....	11.4	22.5	37.6	160.0	....	....	231.6
2024 - Jan. ....	10.1	18.8	42.0	136.6	....	....	207.5
Feb .....	8.7	18.5	42.7	129.5	....	....	199.4
Mar .....	8.5	17.4	38.0	67.7	....	....	131.6

## Clearing and settlement of securities transactions

**Table 17**  
 Access to data:  
[IDTIT010](#)

### 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
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
2021 .....	46	10	1	12	2,966	154	3,189
2022 .....	42	9	1	10	3,174	171	3,405
2023 .....	41	9	1	10	3,312	179	3,552

## Clearing and settlement of securities transactions

**Table 18**

Access to data:  
[TDTIT020](#)

### 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	
2021 - 2nd qtr .....	123.9	4.5	2,226.8	1.2	282.7	209.0	7.4	103.3	103.3	2,958.7
3rd " .....	121.8	4.5	2,226.8	1.2	284.7	204.6	8.3	108.5	108.5	2,960.3
4th " .....	125.3	4.6	2,204.5	1.3	280.7	212.6	7.7	114.4	114.4	2,951.1
2022 - 1st qtr .....	124.1	2.4	2,273.6	1.3	269.1	212.0	7.2	115.5	115.5	3,005.3
2nd " .....	125.8	1.7	2,266.9	1.3	292.5	236.3	10.2	116.8	116.8	3,051.5
3rd " .....	123.8	2.4	2,241.2	1.3	290.6	233.3	10.4	117.0	117.0	3,020.0
4th " .....	94.1	2.0	2,266.6	1.7	287.8	254.9	9.6	101.7	101.7	3,018.4
2023 - 1st qtr .....	124.2	1.9	2,310.5	0.0	275.5	248.4	12.1	115.5	115.5	3,088.1
2nd " .....	124.0	1.7	2,368.9	2.1	279.7	248.0	10.3	95.7	95.7	3,130.4
3rd " .....	123.3	1.5	2,372.6	2.1	272.6	249.5	11.2	91.4	91.4	3,124.2
4th " .....	122.1	1.5	2,382.2	2.1	280.6	242.1	10.3	87.0	87.0	3,127.9
2024 - 1st qtr .....	120.1	2.7	2,425.4	2.1	253.8	248.4	11.7	86.2	86.2	3,150.4

**Table 19**

Access to data:  
[TDTIT030](#)

### Government securities deposited

(stocks; amounts in billions of euros)

	BOTs	CTZs	BTPs	CCTs	CTEs	Total
2021 - 2nd qtr .....	123.1	45.8	1,923.1	134.8	....	2,226.7
3rd " .....	124.1	45.8	1,912.8	144.0	....	2,226.8
4th " .....	113.6	29.3	1,912.0	149.6	....	2,204.5
2022 - 1st qtr .....	112.2	28.2	1,976.0	157.2	....	2,273.6
2nd " .....	110.3	12.5	1,998.1	146.1	....	2,267.0
3rd " .....	109.7	0.0	1,982.5	149.0	....	2,241.2
4th " .....	111.3	0.0	2,018.7	136.6	....	2,266.6
2023 - 1st qtr .....	112.0	0.0	2,055.6	142.9	....	2,310.5
2nd " .....	120.6	0.0	2,099.1	149.1	....	2,368.9
3rd " .....	121.6	0.0	2,107.5	143.5	....	2,372.6
4th " .....	122.1	0.0	2,120.7	139.3	....	2,382.2
2024 - 1st qtr .....	125.7	0.0	2,170.2	129.5	....	2,425.4

## Methodological appendix

### General indications

This supplement 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.*

#### **TDIT010 - 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.

#### **TDIT020 - 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 also include the units of closed-end real-estate investment funds. Values of the time series of warrants, are evaluated by multiplying the number of securities deposited and subdeposited times the conventional value of 0.30 euro. Foreign securities (shares, bonds and warrants) are securities issued by non-residents. Subdeposited securities are securities subdeposited with foreign central securities depositories with which Monte Titoli S.p.A. has established bilateral operating links.

#### **TDIT030 - Government securities on deposit: amounts**

Face value of the stock of government securities deposited with central securities depositories. In a decree issued on 23 August 2000 the Minister of the Treasury provided for the transfer of the running of 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.

#### **TREG010 - 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". The table does not include the 2023 figure: with the migration of T2-T2S Consolidation statistical data are currently available until 17/03/2023.

### **TREGO020 - 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.

### **TREGO030 - 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. As of March 2024, the SEPA components of BI-COMP have been discontinued.

### **TREGO040 - 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 Target2 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.

Partial monthly figure in March 2023: with the migration of T2-T2S Consolidation statistical data are currently available until 17/03/2023.

#### **TREGO050 - 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. Partial monthly figure in March 2023: with the migration of T2-T2S Consolidation statistical data are currently available until 17/03/2023.

#### **TREGO060 - Payments channeled through the Retail subsystem.**

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 transfers" 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. As of March 2024, the SEPA components of BI-COMP have been discontinued.

#### **TREGO070 - 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 transfers" 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.

#### **TSPAG010 - Point of access to the payment system**

The points of access to the payment system are the 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 (for the POS, until 2021). Starting from 2022, following a review of the reporting instructions, the data on the number of ATMs includes the machines available to customers that allow cash withdrawals without the presence of an operator (for example the so-called "Totems"); the data on POS considers the equipment owned by the reporting parties or managed by the latter in the event that the POS belongs to non-supervised agents (in previous years the criteria was that of "pertinence" of the reporting agents regardless of ownership). 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. The number of POS (from 2018) and ATMs (from 2019) includes new payment services providers authorised in Italy and branches of European payment services

providers in Italy; starting in 2021, the reporting perimeter takes Brexit into account. Starting from 2022, data are affected by the new legislation on payment statistics pursuant from ECB Regulation (ECB/2020/59) and may be subject to revisions due to the consolidation of the new reporting procedures.

#### **TSPAG020 - 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.).

#### **TSPAG030 - 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. Starting from 2022, data are affected by the new legislation on payment statistics pursuant from ECB Regulation (ECB/2020/59) and may be subject to revisions due to the consolidation of the new reporting procedures. Starting from 2022, following the review of the reporting instructions, data on debit card transactions also includes payments made at ATMs and remotely.

#### **TSPAG040 - 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. Starting from 2022, data are affected by the new legislation on payment statistics pursuant from ECB Regulation (ECB/2020/59) and may be subject to revisions due to the consolidation of the new reporting procedures.

#### **TSPAG050 - 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. Starting from 2022, following the review of the reporting instructions, data on Businesses using corporate banking services refer only to customers who have used the service at least once a year.

#### **TSPAG060 - 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. Starting from 2022, following the review of the reporting instructions, data on credit card transactions also includes payments made at ATMs.

#### **TSPAG070 - 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.

#### **TSPAG080 - 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.

#### **TSPAG090 - 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.

#### **TSPAG100 - 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.

'Statistics' series publications are available on the Bank of Italy's site:

<http://www.bancaditalia.it/statistiche/>

Requests for clarifications concerning data contained in this publication can be sent by e-mail to [statistiche@bancaditalia.it](mailto:statistiche@bancaditalia.it)

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