

General Directorate Strategy, People and Data

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Payment transactions data (PAY)

BELab User's Guide

Statistics Department

Available data: 2022Q1 – 2025Q4

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1 Introduction

The data provided in BELab includes the number and value of domestic (within Spain) and cross-border (with other countries) payment transactions involving non-MFIs¹. Data collection began in April 2022, covering information from the first quarter of that year.

Transactions are broken down by type of service or payment method (bank transfers, direct debits, card payments, electronic money payments and checks) and by initiation channel (electronically initiated or not, further distinguishing between remote and non-remote). Card payments are also broken down by Merchant Category Code (MCC).

2 Transfers		
	21	Total
	212	Initiated electronically
	2123	Remote
	2124	Non-remote
3 Direct debits		
	31	Total
4 Card-based payment transactions		
	41	Total
	412	Initiated electronically
	4121	Remote
	41219	MCC
	4122	Non-remote
	41229	MCC
6 E-money payment transactions		
	61	Total
7 Checks		
	71	Total

¹ Specifically, it includes the information from Table 9 of the ECB Regulation (EU) 2020/2011 on payment statistics, reported by payment service providers (PSPs) based in Spain

2 Description of the dataset

This section presents the characteristics of the available dataset.

Identification codes	NIF (anonymized)
Time horizon	From Q1 2022
Frequency	Quarterly
Frequency of data delivery to BELab	Delivered annually (first working day of June), covering the previous year. May include revisions of earlier periods
Type of information	Number and value in euros of payment transactions (accumulated quarterly)
Geographic coverage	Domestic (within Spain) and cross-border transactions, broken down by individual country (around 200, according to ISO 3166)
Data format	CSV format
Universe	Payment service providers (PSPs) resident in Spain, as defined in Article 2, point 9 of Law 16/2009 of November 13 on payment services, which describes them as: 'public bodies, entities, and companies authorized to provide payment services in Spain or in any other Member State of the European Union...'. This law, in Article 1, point 2, details the payment services it regulates.

3 Citation of the information

For any study or other document which is made available to the public and contains information derived from the provided data, the researcher is obliged to properly cite the data source as:

“BELab. Banco de España. Payment transactions data (PAY). DOI: 10.48719/BELab.PAY2225_01

4 Description of the variables

The variables into which the information is broken down are described below. The possible values for each variable are included in the attached Excel.

Nomenclature	Code	Description
Date	date	Date the data refers to
Payment service	payment_service	Payment services offered by PSPs: bank transfers, direct debits, card payments, checks, and electronic money payments
Country	country	<p>For domestic transactions, the country is Spain.</p> <p>For cross-border transactions, the country information depends on the type of service or payment method:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For transfers, money remittances, electronic money payments, and similar operations initiated by the payer, the country is that of the recipient of the funds. - For direct debits, checks, electronic money payments, and similar operations initiated by the payee, the country is that of the sender of the funds. <p>In the case of card payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For remote (distance) transactions, the country is where the point of sale is located. - For non-remote (in-person) transactions, the country is where the physical terminal is located.
NIF	id_number	Actual reporting population formed by PSPs based in Spain
Initiation channel	channel	<p>Applies only to transfer and card data. It distinguishes between electronically initiated and total transactions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For transfers, transactions are considered electronically initiated when the payer initiates them without using a paper form. - For card payments, transactions are considered electronically initiated when they are initiated at an EFTPOS terminal, an ATM, or another physical terminal, as well as when they are initiated remotely through electronic means of information transmission.
	distance	For electronically initiated transactions, a further distinction is made between remote (via the internet or a device that can be used for remote communication) and non-remote (in-person) transactions

Merchant category code	mcc	<p>Applies only to electronically initiated card payments (both remote and non-remote).</p> <p>It is a four-digit code (registered under ISO 18245) for retail financial services. The MCC is used to classify businesses based on the type of goods or services they provide.</p> <p>The value "-" is used as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To indicate the total amount, for card payments - To signify that the field is not applicable, for all other payment methods
Amount	amount	Amount in euros
Transactions	number_ops	Number of transactions