

General notes: Belgium

Source for Table 1: Eurostat.

Source for all other tables: Nationale Bank van België/Banque Nationale de Belgique, unless otherwise indicated.

Table 1: Basic statistical data

Population

Annual average.

Table 2: Settlement media used by non-MFIs

Currency in circulation outside MFIs

Since the introduction of the euro banknotes and coins on 1 January 2002 these figures have been provided solely at an aggregated euro area level.

Value of overnight deposits held at MFIs

Overnight deposits held at MFIs (excluding the ECB). The counterpart sector “non-MFIs” includes the component sectors “central government” and “rest of the world”. Thus this indicator is not synonymous with the same term as used in the ECB concept of narrow money supply (M1).

Narrow money supply (M1)

Since the introduction of the euro banknotes and coins on 1 January 2002 these figures have been provided solely at an aggregated euro area level.

Memo item: Outstanding value on e-money storages issued by MFIs, of which: software-based electronic money

Not applicable.

Table 3: Settlement media used by credit institutions

Overnight deposits held at other credit institutions

Value for the last quarter of the period.

Table 4: Banknotes and coins

Refer to Table 3 in the “Euro area aggregate data” section.

Table 5: Institutions offering payment services to non-MFIs

Credit institutions: number of offices

From 2014 on, includes all places of business (also offices of independent agents).
Revised figure for 2014.

Credit institutions: number of payment accounts

Revised figure for 2014: number of payment accounts is the sum of the number of transferable overnight deposits and the number of e-money accounts.

Other payment service providers: number of institutions

Includes only the postal institution up to 2013. Figure for 2016 revised, to encompass the postal institution and 16 payment institutions

Other payment service providers: number of payment accounts

Revised figure for 2014: contains now only the payment accounts of the postal institution.

Institutions offering payment services to non-MFIs: number of payment accounts

Figure for 2014 revised to correct double counting.

Institutions offering payment services to non-MFIs: number of e-money accounts

Revised figure for 2014.

Memo item: Number of payment institutions providing services neither establishing a branch nor through an agent

Revised figure for 2014.

Table 6: Payment card functions and accepting devices

Cards issued by resident PSPs

Cards with a delayed debit function

Data for 2014 were reported in the wrong category, i.e. “cards with a debit and/or delayed debit function”, and were moved to “cards with a delayed debit function”. After the 2014 data collection, it was further clarified to the reporting agents that card functions should not be reported twice in the different subcategories of Table 6. This clarification helped to improve the data quality as from 2015.

Cards with an e-money function

Data for 2015 show the deactivation by the end of 2014 of the Belgian e-money purse Proton.

Since 2016 certain ELMIs have started to offer back-office services to credit institutions for their prepaid cards. Therefore, a part of the number of e-money cards has shifted from the credit institutions to the ELMIs.

Since 2016 one reporting agent has migrated card programmes from two other countries to Belgium, creating a very large increase in the number of cards with an e-money function.

Terminals provided by resident PSPs

ATM's domestic

Revised figures for 2016.

ATMs with a cash withdrawal function and ATMs with a credit transfer function located in the reporting country

Revised figure for 2014 (late reporting by one of the major banks).

E-money card terminals

Data for 2012 and 2013 not available. Data for 2015 show the deactivation by the end of 2014 of the Belgian e-money purse Proton and its effect on the related terminals.

Table 7a: Payments per type of payment service involving non-MFIs (number of transactions)

Memo item - Credit transfers (sent) – initiated electronically – on-line banking based e-payments

Revised figures for 2016.

Card payments initiated at physical EFTPOS or initiated remotely

2014 data remain incomplete because of the unavailability of the data from the reporting agents. For 2015 the reporting agents were obliged to report mathematically correct data, but many of them cannot distinguish between the two categories.

Domestic cheques

Revised figure for 2014.

Domestic e-money payments with e-money issued by resident PSPs

Data for 2015 show the deactivation by the end of 2014 of the Belgian e-money purse Proton.

Memo items: Credits to and debits from the accounts by simple book entry

Revised figure for 2014. 2015 data show increasing numbers as more and more reporting agents start to include operations linked to granting and reimbursing loans.

Table 7b: Payments per type of terminal involving non-MFIs (number of transactions)

b) At terminals provided by resident PSPs with cards issued by non-resident PSPs

ATM cash withdrawals

Revised figure for 2014: All transactions took place at Belgian ATMs in the country.

c) At terminals provided by non-resident PSPs with cards issued by resident PSPs

Terminals located in the reporting country vs. abroad

The location of the terminal determines the reporting category, but a significant proportion of the Belgian reporting agents cannot distinguish the country in which the Belgian card has been used. These undefinable transactions are often reported under “transactions at terminals located in the reporting country” in order to comply with the logical checks in the table.

Table 8a: Payments per type of payment service involving non-MFIs (value of transactions)

Memo item - Credit transfers (sent) – initiated electronically – on-line banking based e-payments

Revised figures for 2016.

Cross-border direct debits sent

Revised figures for 2016.

Cross-border direct debits received

Revised figure for 2014. 2015 data contain exceptionally high one-off data from one cross-border-receiving reporting agent. 2016 data should fall back to 2014 levels.

Card payments with cards issued by resident PSP – cross-border transactions

Revised figures for 2016.

Card payments initiated at physical EFTPOS or initiated remotely

2014 data remain incomplete because of the unavailability of the data from the reporting agents. For 2015 the reporting agents were obliged to report mathematically correct data, but many of them cannot distinguish between the two categories.

E-money payment transactions with e-money issued by resident PSP – with e-money accounts accessed through a card

Revised figures for 2016.

Memo items: Credits to and debits from the accounts by simple book entry

2015 data show increasing numbers as more and more reporting agents start to include operations linked to granting and reimbursing loans.

Revised figures for 2016.

Table 8b: Payments per type of terminal involving non-MFIs (value of transactions)

a) At terminals provided by resident PSPs with cards issued by resident PSPs

POS transactions and totals

Revised figures for 2014.

b) At terminals provided by resident PSPs with cards issued by non-resident PSPs

ATM cash withdrawals, POS transactions and totals

Revised figures for 2014: All transactions took place at Belgian terminals in the country.

c) At terminals provided by non-resident PSPs with cards issued by resident PSPs

Terminals located in the reporting country vs. abroad

The location of the terminal determines the reporting category, but a significant proportion of the Belgian reporting agents cannot distinguish the country in which the Belgian card has been used. These undefinable transactions are often reported under “Terminals located in the reporting country” in order to comply with the logical checks in the table.

Table 9: Participation in selected payment systems

Target/Target2 Component

2017: Following closure of PHA (Proprietary Home Accounting), participants had to open an account in Target2.

Tables 10 and 11: Payments processed by selected payment systems

Retail system CEC, credit transfers

As from 2015, the distinction between “initiated in a paper-based form” and “initiated electronically” is no longer possible.