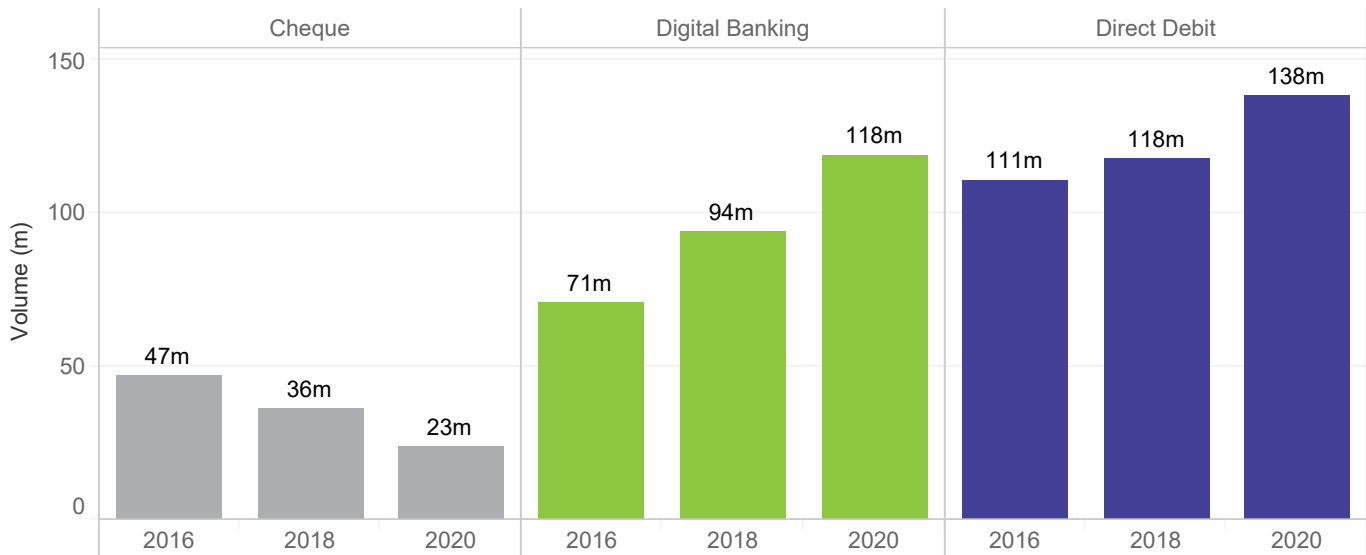




Summary Report

Q4 2020



Source: BPFI

Electronic payments have soared in recent years as consumers and businesses move away from cash and paper-based payments. The restrictions introduced to limit the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic especially contributed to an acceleration of contactless and online/mobile payments.

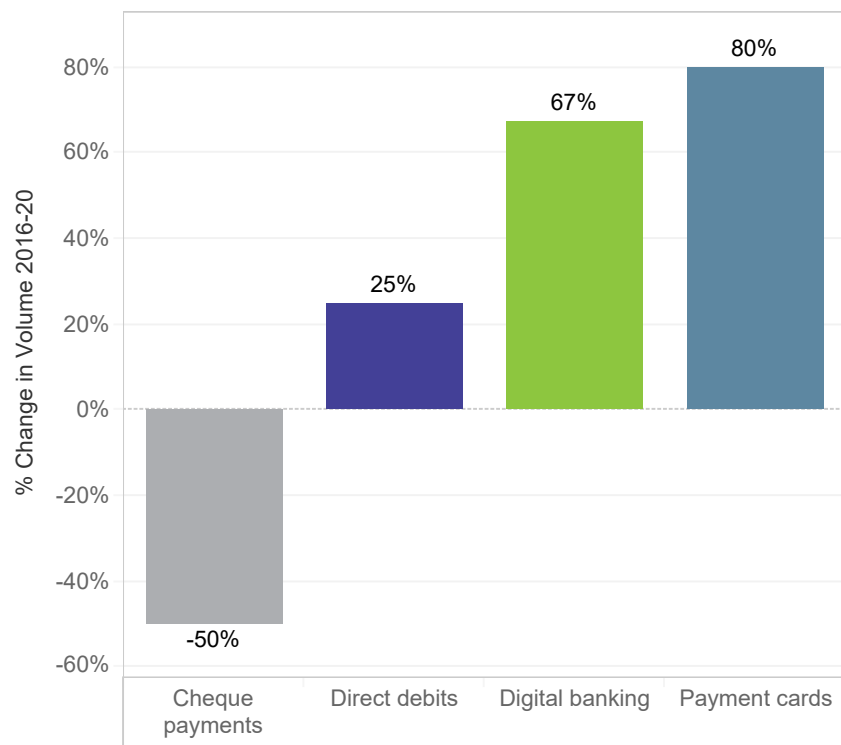
Digital banking transfer (credit transfers initiated via personal online or mobile banking) volumes grew by 67% between 2016 and 2020 to about 118 million payments.

Some 77% of Irish adults used digital banking at least weekly, according to a BPFI survey in April 2020, with most users accessing digital banking via smartphones.

Only card payments grew faster, with volumes jumping by 80% between 2016 and 2020.

Direct debits grew by 25% over the same period to 138 million, with many consumers and businesses relying on direct debits for regular bill payments. Almost half (49%) of Irish adults who paid energy bills used direct debits in April 2020.

Retail Payments Change since 2016

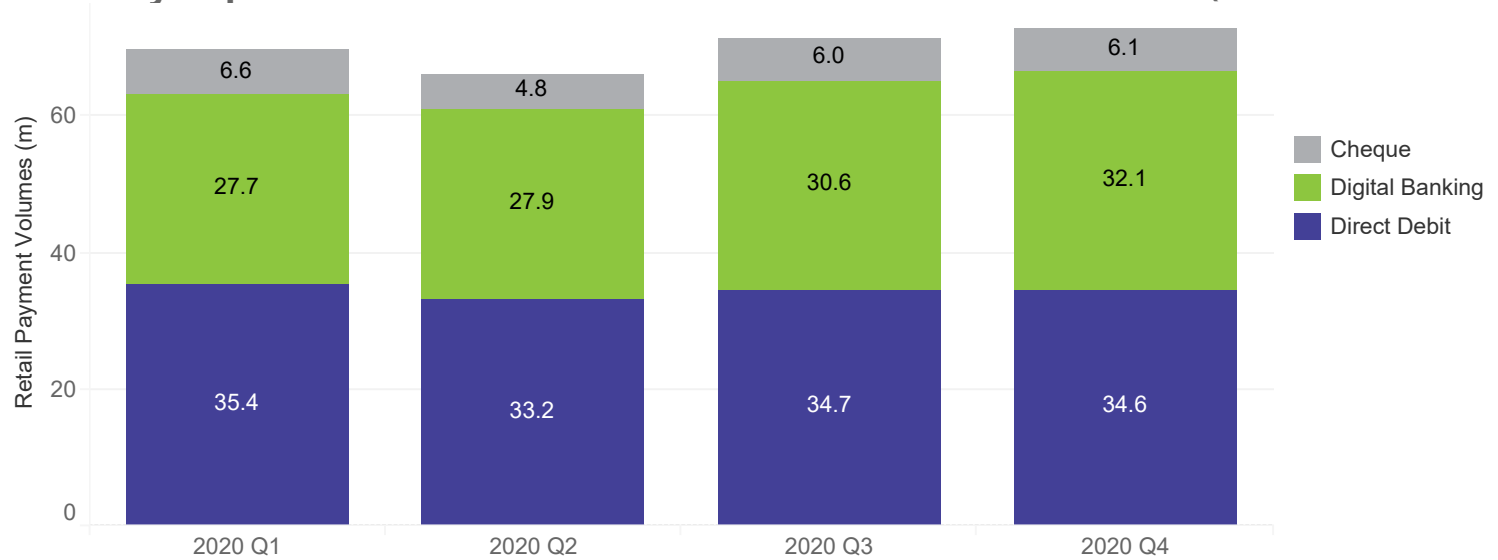


Sources: BPFI, Central Bank of Ireland (cards)



Summary Report

Q4 2020



The growth in electronic payments contrast with the decline in cheques. Cheque volumes halved between 2016 and 2020 to about 23 million.

Cheque usage fell to only 4.8 million in Q2 2020, its lowest quarterly level since BPFI started collecting data in 2008. By contrast, digital banking grew in each quarter.

About the Report

Notes

The information presented here is based on a combination of data reported by member banks to Banking & Payments Federation Ireland (BPFI).

The following data is collected from member banks and produced by BPFI:

Direct debits, credit transfers, cheques: AIB, Bank of Ireland, BNP Paribas Dublin Branch (up to Q4 2019), Danske Bank, KBC Bank Ireland, permanent tsb, Ulster Bank

Digital banking: AIB, Bank of Ireland, KBC Bank Ireland, permanent tsb, Ulster Bank

The data for credit transfers and digital banking has been partially estimated.

Disclaimer

This report is based on statistical information supplied to BPFI by the member institutions listed herein. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information included in this report, BPFI can accept no responsibility for errors contained herein. This report is not to be reproduced in whole or in part without prior permission. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

About Us

Banking & Payments Federation Ireland (BPFI) is the principal voice of the banking, payments and fintech sector in Ireland. For queries, contact Anthony O'Brien, Head of Sector Research & Analysis, BPFI at 01-4748810 or anthony.obrien@bpfi.ie.

Definitions

Direct debits

A direct debit is an instruction from a customer (debtor) to their bank or payment services provider, authorising an organisation (creditor) to collect variable or fixed amounts from their account, as long as the customer (debtor) is given advance notice of the collection amounts and dates. Direct debits are usually used for regular bill payments, including utilities.

Credit transfers

A credit transfer is a payment instruction from a customer (originator/payer) to its bank or payment service provider to transfer an amount of money to another account (beneficiary/ payee). The SEPA Credit Transfer (SCT) scheme facilitates the execution of credit transfers in euro between customer accounts located in SEPA. Online and mobile banking transfers are types of credit transfers, as are large value corporate or interbank payments.

Cheques

A cheque is an instruction in writing from an account holder to their bank to pay a specified sum of money to a designated beneficiary.