



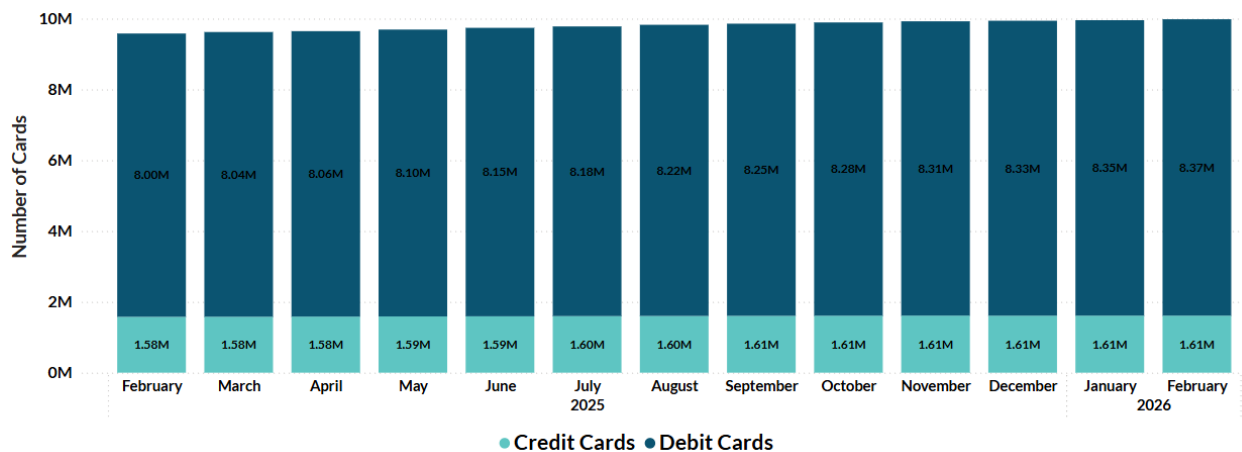
Monthly Card Payment Statistics¹

Table 1: Headline Card Payments (Value €)

Card Transactions	MoM % Change	YoY % Change
Total Card Payments	-6.44	7.84
Domestic	-5.78	8.32
o/w Online Payments	-10.11	13.10
o/w Point of Sale	-0.79	3.74
o/w Contactless	0.32	10.97
o/w NFC	0.51	21.32
Non-Domestic	-9.60	5.49
o/w Online Payments	-12.01	6.06
o/w Point of Sale	-2.57	4.01
Cash Withdrawals	-0.36	-5.00
Domestic	0.23	-4.83
Non-Domestic	-9.84	-7.97

- In February, 9.98 million **physical cards** were in circulation amongst Irish residents, representing a year-on-year increase of 4.20 per cent (402,742 cards). **Debit cards** dominate the market, accounting for 84 per cent of all cards in circulation (8.37 million), up 4.63 per cent since February 2025. **Credit cards** represent the remaining 16 per cent (1.61 million), increasing by 2.07 per cent over the same period (See chart 1 below).

Chart 1: Number of Credit and Debit Cards in Circulation amongst Irish Residents



¹ Monthly Card Payments data are available on the Central Bank of Ireland [Open Data Portal](#).



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- **Total value of card spending** totalled €8.75 billion, representing a month-to-month decline of 6.44 per cent (€0.60 billion). **Transaction volumes** totalled 219.82 million, down 2.15 per cent from January. On an **annual basis**, however, both value and volume demonstrated robust growth, rising by 7.84 per cent and 6.78 per cent respectively.
- **Domestic card spending** declined in February. In **value terms**, spending stood at €7.30 billion, down 5.81 per cent (€0.45 billion) from January. In **volume terms**, transactions totalled 186.29 million, a decrease of 1.42 per cent. Despite this monthly contraction, **year-on-year** performance remained strong, with value and volume increasing by 8.32 per cent and 6.43 per cent respectively. The **average domestic transaction** fell to €39.81, down 2.95 per cent from January (€41.02). When compared to February 2025, the average domestic transaction increased by 0.99 per cent (€0.39 cent). For context, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as reported by the Central Statistics Office² (CSO), increased by 2.7 per cent year-on-year.
- Domestic card spending can be disaggregated into **point of sale (POS)** and **online payments**. In February, **the value of POS payments** stood at €3.57 billion, declining by 0.79 per cent from January. Two sectors contributed to the decline: Retail experienced the steepest decline of €57.05 million (2.30 per cent), followed by Miscellaneous standing at €4.23 million (7.64 per cent). Social, registered an expansion of €24.32 million (4.45 per cent) and Services experienced a modest increase of €8.41 million (1.62 per cent). **The value of online payments** totalled €3.73 billion, declining by 10.11 per cent month on month. Such decline likely reflects post New Year seasonality, as consumers curb their spending on goods purchased online. The contraction is considerably more pronounced in e-commerce compared to POS spending, suggesting that online activity is less resilient to seasonal fluctuation. The decline was driven by all sectors: Retail, which fell by 9.39 per cent (€56.30 million), Services, which declined by 10.33 per cent (€316.54 million), Social, which fell by 5.20 per cent (€15.86 million), and Miscellaneous, which contracted by 17.03 per cent (€31.00 million). On an **annual basis**, both channels recorded consistent growth, with POS payments rising by 3.74 per cent and online payments increasing sharply by 13.10 per cent.
- Domestic POS spending can be further disaggregated into **contactless and within that mobile wallet (NFC) payments**. In February, **contactless payments** reached €2.33 billion, increase of 0.32 per cent from the prior month. **NFC payments**, a subset of contactless payments, amounted to €1.63 billion, which presents a monthly increasing of 0.51 per cent. Both segments exhibited strong annual growth, with contactless increasing by 10.97 per cent and NFC payments rising by a notable 21.32 per cent.
- In February, **non-domestic spending** amounted to €1.45 billion, down by 9.60 per cent from January. **Transaction volumes** reached 33.54 million, declining by 6.04 per cent. Year-on-year, both value and volume recorded solid growth, increasing by 5.49 per cent and 8.78 per cent respectively.

² CSO data can be found [here](#)

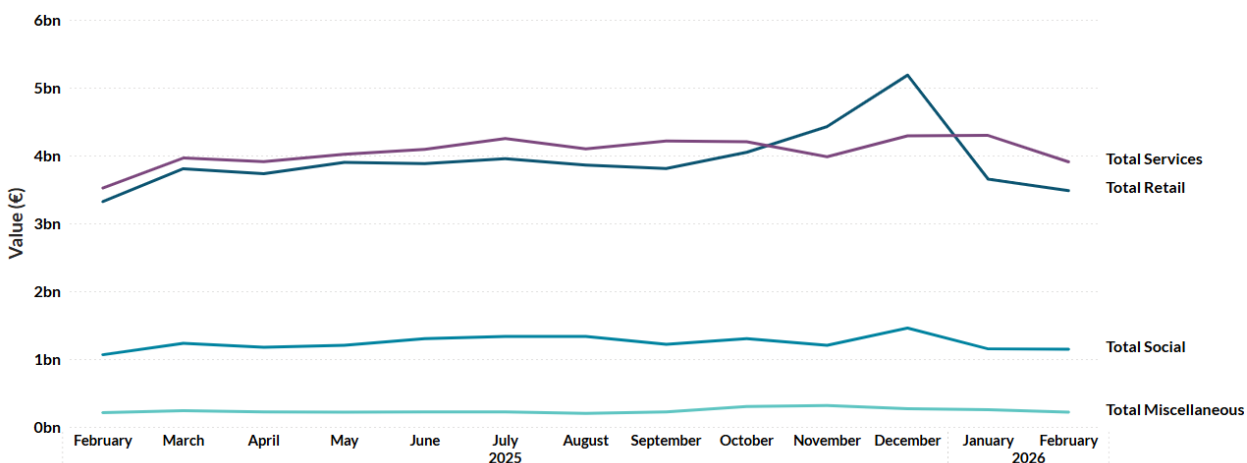


- Non-domestic spending can be further categorised into **POS** and **online payments**. In February, **POS payments amounted** to €397.97 million, down 2.57 per cent from January. The fall in this category was primarily driven by a decrease in the Retail sector, which declined by 5.17 per cent (€9.33 million) from January. **Online payments** stood at €1.05 billion, dropping by 12.01 per cent month on month. This decline was driven by all sectors: Retail fell by 12.01 per cent (€47.03 million), Services declined by 13.08 per cent (€79.96 million), Social contracted by 8.14 per cent (€14.36 million), and Miscellaneous fell by 13.78 per cent (€1.93 million). **Year-on-year**, both categories displayed modest annual growth, with POS rising by 4.01 per cent and online payments increasing by 6.06 per cent.
- Total cash withdrawals** in February amounted to €918.09 million, a marginal decline of 0.36 per cent from January. **Transaction volumes** totalled 6.14 million, increasing slightly by 0.91 per cent. When **compared to January 2025**, both value and volume fell, dropping by 5.00 per cent and 8.12 per cent respectively.

Merchant Section

In February, **overall card spending** (POS + Online Payments) declined month-on-month, with decreases recorded across all sectors. Total spending fell in Retail (-4.65 per cent), Services (-9.06 per cent), Social (-0.52 per cent) and Miscellaneous (-14.63 per cent) (See chart 2 below). These declines were driven by specific sub-sectors and individual merchants within them.

Chart 2: The value (€) of Total Card Spending by Irish Consumers in all Sectors



Quasi Cash Spending: Cryptocurrency Purchasing trends by Irish Residents

Financial Services spending amounted to €2.14 billion in February, falling by 9.62 per cent from January. When compared to February 2025, Financial Services spending increased significantly, rising by 15.48 per cent.

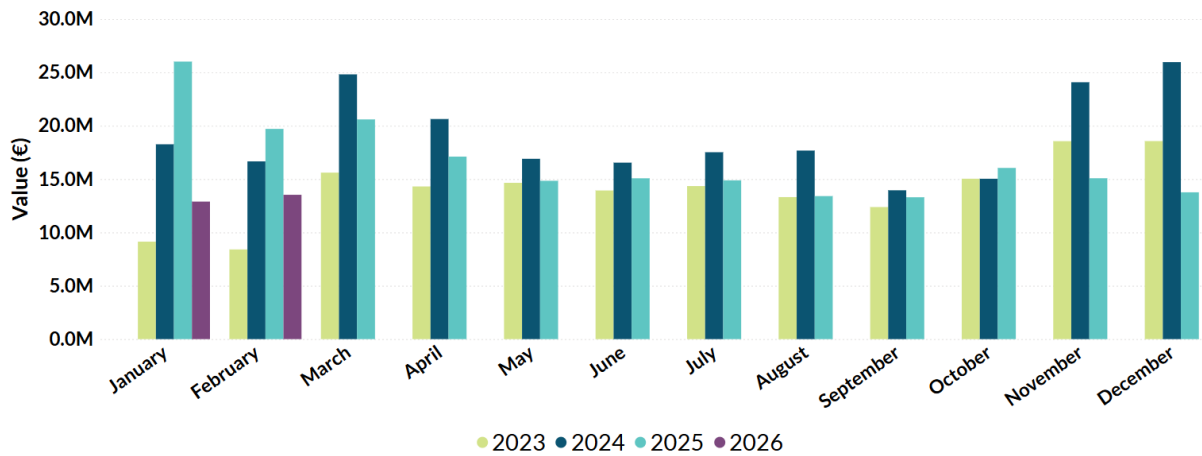


A key driver of the Financial Services sector is 'Quasi Cash—Customer Financial Institution', which categorises spending at non-bank entities such as crypto exchanges, currency exchanges, and independent money transfer services. Cryptocurrency purchases via crypto-specific exchanges and "fiat-to-crypto" ramps³ are a key contributor to this category.

In February, Quasi Cash spending stood at €13.54 million, representing a month-on-month increase of 4.95 per cent from January. However, year-on-year, spending declined sharply by 31.35 per cent (€6.18 million). The average transaction amounted to €129.71 in February, down 18.17 per cent (€158.52) year-on-year.

Chart 3 below reveals that Irish consumer spending on cryptocurrencies closely tracks global events. Following the American presidential election in 2024, spending increased to €24.08 million in November, €25.97 million in December, and peaked at €26.02 million in January 2025. Spending subsequently declined gradually throughout the remainder of 2025 and remains low in 2026 in comparison to year-on-year spending.

Chart 3: Quasi Cash spending by Irish consumers from 2023 to February 2026



Membership Spending amounted to €78.63 million in February

Irish consumers spent €78.63 million on 'Memberships' in February, representing a decline of 12.28 per cent from January. Year-on-year, spending increased by 12.81 per cent (€8.93 million).

Membership clubs accounted for the largest share of this category at €52.24 million, down 11.62 per cent month-on-month. This high spending value is typical early in the year, as consumers pay annual membership fees for activities such as golf, tennis, and rowing clubs.

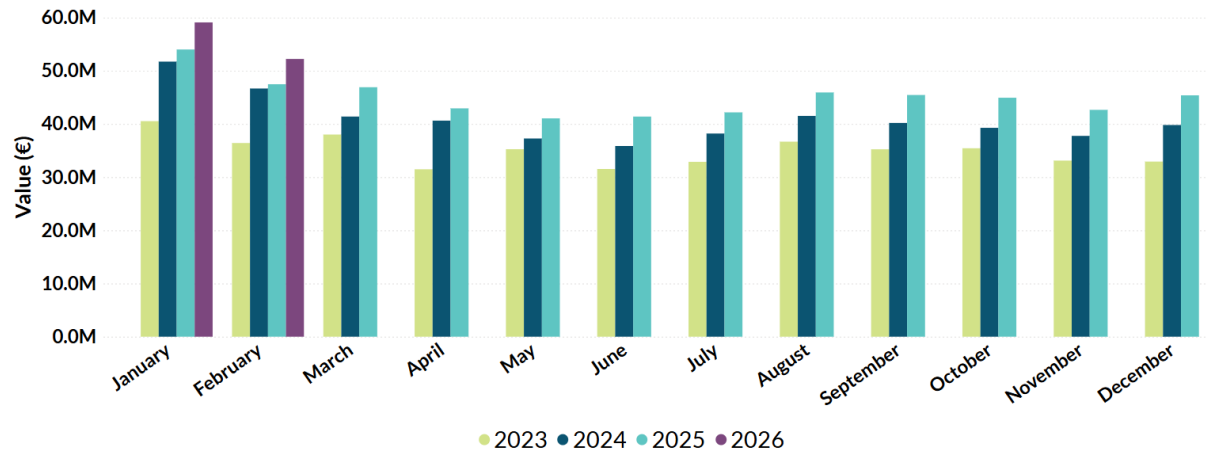
³ Crypto-specific exchanges are platforms dedicated solely to cryptocurrency trading, whilst "fiat-to-crypto" ramps are services that allow consumers to convert traditional currency (fiat) directly into cryptocurrency.



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When compared to February 2025, spending in this category has shown strong growth, rising by 10.01 per cent.

Chart 4: Irish Consumer Spending on Memberships Clubs: February 2026 Analysis



Explanatory notes

- The collected data relates to cards issued to Irish resident households' only
- No breakout between credit and debit card activity is collected
- Within Cash withdrawals, this includes both ATM cash withdrawals and "cashback" transactions at Point of Sale terminals
- The data collection includes some changes in the reporting population that arises following the entry and exit of resident reporting agents in the market
- [Full reporting requirements for this dataset](#)