



Monthly Card Payment Statistics – March 2024¹

Key Points

- During March 2024, the total value of Card Payments amounted to €8.1 billion, an increase of 8.2 per cent compared to February values. Similarly, the volume of card payments showed a 7.9 per cent month-on-month increase and reached 214 million for the month of March.
- The total cash withdrawal value increased by 7.4 per cent and accounted for €1.14 billion, with the volume of cash withdrawals reaching 7.9 million.
- Both online (remote) and Point of Sale (non-remote) payments contributed to this growth. The value of Point of Sale card payments increased by 10.6 per cent or €392 million since February and reached €4.1 billion, with Domestic Point of Sale card payments increasing by 10.3 per cent and Non-Domestic Point of Sale card payments by 12.9 per cent. Online (remote) card payments value grew by 5.8 per cent or €222 million, and reached €4 billion, with Domestic online card payments showing 5 per cent month-on-month growth and exceeding €3 billion, and Non-Domestic online card payments increasing by 8.1 per cent and exceeding €1 billion.
- In the €8.1 billion Total Card Payments value, Domestic Card Payments amounted to €6.7 billion, an increase of 7.9 per cent or €493 million compared to February 2024. The volume of domestic card transactions showed a similar, 7.7 per cent increase and reached 183.5 million. Based on these values, the country-average of a card payment transaction value was €36.57 per transaction², showing a small variance across the counties, with Leitrim having the highest average (€51.93) and Meath the lowest (€27.18)³. (Chart 1)

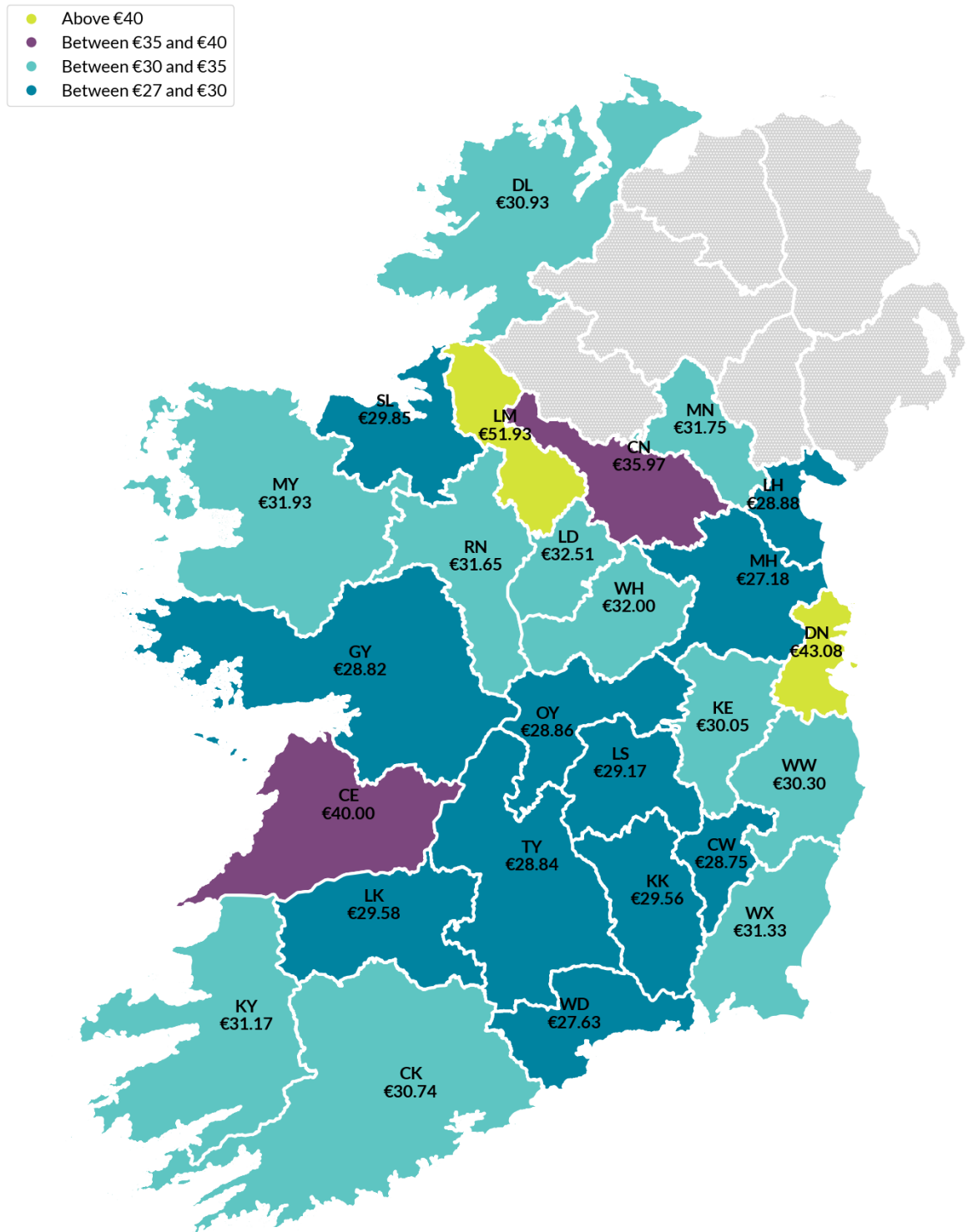
¹ Monthly Card Payments data now available on the [Central Bank of Ireland Open Data portal](#)

² Country average calculated as total domestic card payments value divided by total domestic card payments volume

³ County average for each county is calculated as county card payment transaction value divided by county card payment transaction volume



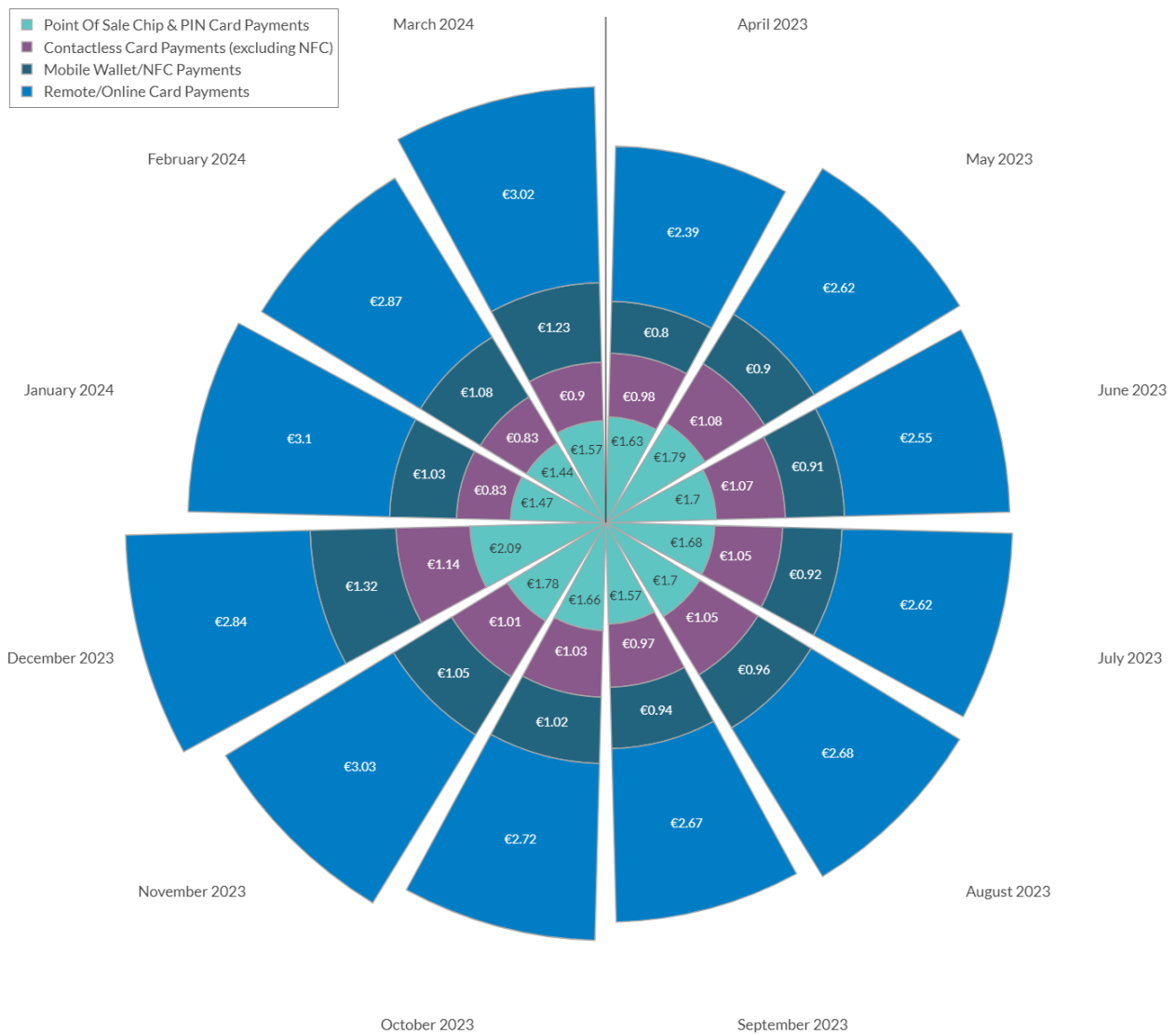
Chart 1: Average amount of a Domestic Card Payment transaction in Irish counties as of March 2024





- Within Domestic Card Payments, the Domestic Point of Sale Contactless Card Payments value grew by 11.1 per cent and reached €2.1 billion, of which €1.2 billion was due to Mobile Wallet/NFC payments.
- In terms of year-on-year change of domestic values, Mobile Wallet/NFC payments shows the most significant change within the Point of Sale card payments, with 52.7 per cent increase since March 2023. Domestic point of sale card payments show a 7.3 per cent year-on-year increase, while domestic online payments increased by 17.5 per cent. (Chart 2)

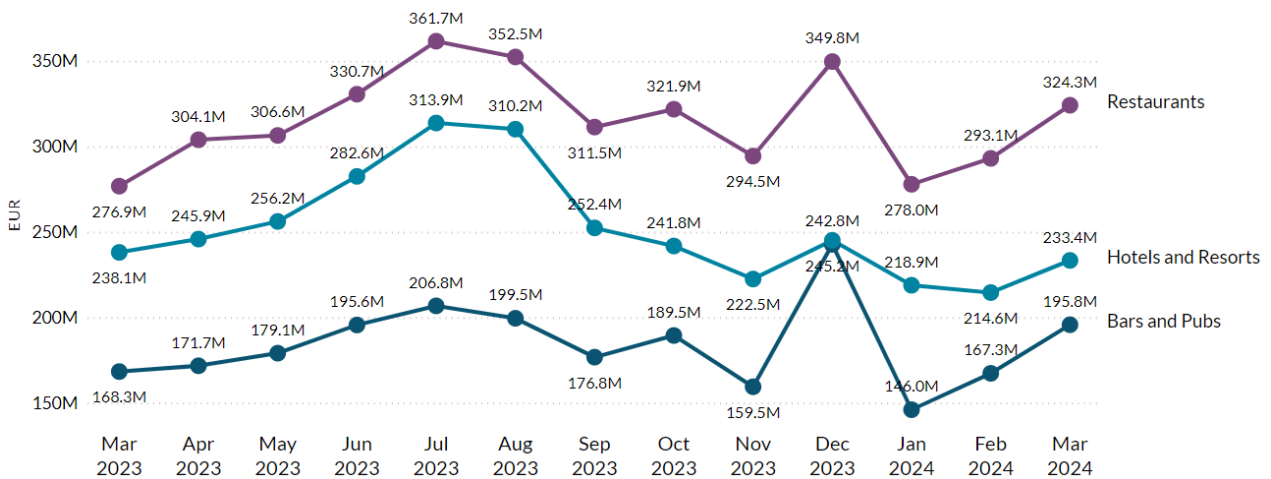
Chart 2: Monthly Domestic Card Payment values from April 2023 to March 2024 (values in billion €)





- During March 2024, domestic cash withdrawals had a monthly increase in value by 7.26 per cent to €1.07 billion. This trend is reflected across all the counties, with county Westmeath and Clare showing highest increase of 12.4 per cent and 10 per cent in value, and Kilkenny showing the lowest increase of 4.8 per cent. The value of non-domestic cash withdrawals increased by 10.8 per cent and accounted for €63 million.
- Within Sectoral spending, Retail card spending increased by 9.9 per cent from February 2024 and amounted to €3.5 billion, with spending on Clothing showing the biggest increase with 15 per cent and reaching €365.8 million. In spite of this increase, Retail spending values are still 22.7 per cent down from their December 2023 peak.
- Services spending showed a 6.4 per cent month-on-month increase and reached a new peak with its close to €3.3 billion value. The biggest contributors of the growth were Accommodation and Financial Services, with 9.3 and 8.9 per cent increase, respectively.
- Regarding Social spending, with spending on Restaurants/Dining showing a 12.1 per cent value increase and Entertainment a 10 per cent growth, Social spending increased by 9.6 per cent and amounted to €1.1 billion. Card spending on Eating Places were up by 10.6 per cent, and spending on Drinking places grew by 17 per cent compared to February 2024 values. Similarly, Hotels spending grew by 8.8 per cent. (Chart 3)

Chart 3: Spending on Social and Accommodations increase around St. Patrick’s Day but far from December peaks⁴



⁴ Detailed Merchant Category Breakdowns are available at the [Central Bank of Ireland Open Data Portal](#)



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 (POS) 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](#)