

Payment System Report (2022)

According to payment statistics in 2022¹, the payment systems functioned smoothly across the country. Statistics including the number of bank accounts, the volume of non-cash payments and the transaction volume in payment systems maintained growth in general.

I. Bank Accounts

The number of bank accounts edged up. As of end-2022, a total of 14.167 billion bank accounts² had been opened nationwide, increasing by 3.68 percent year on year (y-o-y).

The number of bank accounts opened by institutions increased. At end-2022, bank accounts opened by institutions nationwide registered 92.4626 million, increasing by 10.91 percent y-o-y, down 0.53 percentage points from end-2021. Specifically, 65.1284 million were basic deposit accounts, 22.3858 million were general deposit accounts, 4.7507 million were special deposit accounts, and 197,600 were temporary deposit accounts, increasing by 9.77 percent, 14.87 percent, 8.87 percent and 4.69 percent y-o-y, respectively. They account for 70.44 percent, 24.21 percent, 5.14 percent and 0.21 percent, respectively, of the total number of bank accounts held by institutions.

The growth of individual bank accounts slowed down. At end-2022, bank accounts opened by individuals totaled 14.074 billion nationwide, increasing by 3.64 percent y-o-y.

¹ Since 2015, the payment system has disclosed payment transaction data according to the financial industry standards of *Statistical Indicators of Payment Operations*.

² Bank accounts refer to RMB bank settlement accounts.

II. Non-cash Payment Instruments

In 2022, a total of 462.649 billion non-cash payment transactions³ with an amount of RMB4805.77 trillion were processed by banks across the country, increasing by 5.27 percent and 8.84 percent y-o-y, respectively.

(I) Bank Cards

The number of bank cards edged up. At end-2022, the number of bankcards opened increased by 2.50 percent y-o-y to 9.478 billion nationwide. Specifically, debit cards rose 2.76 percent y-o-y to 8.680 billion; credit cards and debit-credit integrated cards dropped by 0.28 percent y-o-y to 798 million. The number of bankcards per capita⁴ reached 6.71, among which the per capita number of credit cards and debit-credit integrated cards recorded 0.57.

The number of merchants connected to the UnionPay inter-bank payment system and terminals connected to the system decreased. At end-2022, merchants connected to the UnionPay inter-bank payment system (UnionPay system), POS⁵ terminals connected to the UnionPay system, and ATM⁶ terminals recorded 27.2285 million, 35.5607 million and 895,900, down 754,300, 3.3754 million and 51,900 from end-2021, respectively. The number of POS terminals connected to the UnionPay system per 10,000 persons recorded 251.89, decreasing by 8.61 percent y-o-y, and the number of

³ Non-cash payment transactions of banks include commercial papers, bankcards and other settlement transactions. Specifically, other settlement transactions include credit transfer, direct debit, collection with acceptance and domestic L/C.

⁴ With respect to per capita indicators, the population refers to 1.41175 billion people on the Chinese mainland at end-2022, as released by the National Bureau of Statistics. The same applies hereinafter.

⁵ The data of merchants and POS terminals connected to the UnionPay inter-bank payment system are from China UnionPay Co., Ltd, and they cover the merchants and POS terminals that had at least one successful transaction in Q4 2022. Since Q1 2020, the UnionPay has expanded its statistics to cover such equipments and merchants as QR code scanners, white boxes for payments and merchant-presented QR code, as well as the corresponding merchants offline.

⁶ In Q1 2018, the statistical standard for ATMs was changed. In addition to traditional self-service equipments in use such as self-service deposit machines, self-service withdrawal machines, cash recycling system (CRS), self-service payment terminals placed by banking depository financial institutions, the statistics began to cover new terminals and equipments such as self-service terminals, visual teller machine (VTM), and smart counters.

ATMs per 10,000 persons recorded 6.35, decreasing by 5.42 percent y-o-y.

Bankcard transactions edged up. In 2022, a total of 451.945 billion bankcard transactions⁷ with an amount of RMB1011.94 trillion were processed across the country, increasing by 5.34 percent and 0.98 percent y-o-y, respectively. Specifically, cash deposits recorded 4.538 billion, or RMB33.50 trillion, decreasing by 10.09 percent and 12.79 percent y-o-y, respectively; cash withdrawals recorded 6.508 billion, or RMB32.97 trillion, decreasing by 13.87 percent and 11.99 percent y-o-y, respectively; transfers recorded 189.554 billion, or RMB815.33 trillion, increasing by 2.68 percent and 3.17 percent y-o-y, respectively; and consumer payments recorded 251.344 billion, or RMB130.15 trillion, with the former increasing by 8.42 percent y-o-y and the latter decreasing by 4.28 percent y-o-y, respectively. The consumer payment per bankcard registered RMB13,700 and that per transaction recorded RMB517.80.

The total bankcard credit line increased. At end-2022, the total bankcard credit line⁸ increased by 5.34 percent from end-2021 to RMB22.14 trillion. The outstanding balance of bankcard credit marked RMB8.69 trillion, increasing by 0.85 percent y-o-y. The credit line per bankcard was RMB27,800, with the credit utilization rate⁹ standing at 39.25 percent. The credit card payment overdue by half a year or more¹⁰ totaled RMB86.580 billion, accounting for 1.00 percent of the total

⁷ The volume of bankcard transactions refers to the sum of transactions denominated in the RMB and in foreign currencies.

⁸ Total bankcard credit line refers to the sum of credit lines of credit cards and debit-credit integrated cards.

⁹ The credit line utilization rate is the ratio of outstanding bankcard credit balance to total credit line.

¹⁰ The credit card payment overdue by half a year or more refers to the outstanding balance of the principal of a credit card whose minimum payment is overdue by more than 181 days (inclusive), excluding the written-off amount.

outstanding balance.

(II) Commercial Papers

The transaction volume of commercial papers stayed on a downward trend in general, while the transaction volume of commercial drafts maintained growth. In 2022, transactions of commercial papers totaled 101 million or RMB98.14 trillion nationwide, decreasing by 26.34 percent and 12.88 percent y-o-y, respectively. Specifically, there were 72.3282 million transactions or RMB73.55 trillion of checks, decreasing by 34.10 percent and 18.18 percent y-o-y, respectively; 28.1242 million actual settlements or RMB24.23 trillion of commercial drafts, increasing by 5.54 percent and 8.82 percent y-o-y, respectively; 130,400 transactions or RMB110.612 billion of bank drafts, decreasing by 4.84 percent and 20.62 percent y-o-y, respectively; 165,900 transactions or RMB253.688 billion of bank promissory notes, decreasing by 31.52 percent and 28.64 percent y-o-y, respectively.

Transactions processed by the electronic commercial draft system¹¹ kept rising. The year 2022 saw the following transactions processed by the electronic commercial draft system: 26.8064 million or RMB26.76 trillion issues, with the former decreasing by 0.28 percent y-o-y and the latter increasing by 13.79 percent y-o-y, respectively; 27.2819 million or RMB27.29 trillion acceptances, with the former decreasing by 0.37 percent y-o-y and the latter increasing by 13.76 percent y-o-y, respectively; 11.1007 million or RMB19.45 trillion discounts, increasing by 14.81 percent and 29.74 percent y-o-y, respectively; 19.0802 million or RMB58.20 trillion interbank discounts, increasing by 31.02 percent and 24.03 percent y-o-y, respectively; 3.8328 million or RMB27.77 trillion pledged repos, increasing by 39.28 percent and

¹¹ The data of the electronic commercial draft system are from the Shanghai Commercial Paper Exchange.

27.97 percent y-o-y, respectively; and 442,900 or RMB2.13 trillion outright repos, increasing by 99.00 percent and 66.98 percent y-o-y, respectively.

(III) Credit Transfers and Other Settlement Transactions

The volume of credit transfers and other settlement transactions maintained growth. In 2022, the number of other settlement transactions including credit transfer, direct debit, collection with acceptance, and domestic L/C totaled 10.604 billion with an amount of RMB3695.69 trillion, increasing by 2.47 percent and 11.96 percent y-o-y, respectively. In particular, the credit transfer transactions recorded 10.207 billion, totaling RMB3621.22 trillion.

(IV) Electronic Payment

The volume of electronic transactions processed by commercial banks edged up. In 2022, banks processed a total of 278.965 billion electronic payment transactions¹² in RMB3110.13 trillion, increasing by 1.45 percent and 4.50 percent y-o-y, respectively. Specifically, the transaction volume of online payments dropped 0.15 percent y-o-y to 102.126 billion and the total value rose 7.39 percent y-o-y to RMB2527.95 trillion; the transaction volume of mobile payments rose 4.81 percent y-o-y to 158.507 billion and the total value dropped 5.19 percent y-o-y to RMB499.62 trillion; the transaction volume of phone payment dropped 10.53 percent y-o-y to 245 million and the total value dropped 11.21 percent y-o-y to RMB10.35 trillion.

In 2022, non-bank payment institutions processed a total of 1024.181 billion

¹² Electronic payment refers to the transaction volume and value that cause changes in the balance of settlement account initiated by customers through such channels as online banking, telephone banking, mobile banking, ATM, POS, and other electronic payments. Specifically, online payment refers to the number and amount of payments initiated through bank settlement accounts by customers using electronic devices such as computers. Mobile payment refers to the number and amount of payments initiated by customers through bank settlement accounts using mobile devices such as mobile phones.

online payment transactions¹³ with an amount of RMB337.87 trillion, decreasing by 0.40 percent y-o-y and down 4.95 percent y-o-y, respectively.

III. Payment Systems

In 2022, the payment systems¹⁴ processed a total of 1.06 trillion transactions in payments of RMB10,877.24 trillion, increasing by 13.85 percent and 15.09 percent y-o-y, respectively.

(I) PBC CNCC Systems

In 2022, the PBC CNCC systems processed 21.131 billion transactions in payments of RMB7,889.26 trillion, with the former decreasing by 3.33 percent y-o-y and the latter increasing by 19.13 percent y-o-y, respectively. The daily processed transactions averaged 58.4221 million in volume and RMB30.99 trillion in value¹⁵.

The transaction value of the HVPS kept rising. In 2022, the HVPS processed 416 million transactions in payments of RMB7,425.74 trillion, with the former decreasing by 13.72 percent y-o-y and the latter increasing by 20.32 percent y-o-y, respectively. The daily processed transactions averaged 1.6632 million in volume and RMB29.70 trillion in value.

¹³ The online payment transaction volume processed by non-bank payment institutions includes the volume of online payment involving bank accounts initiated by payment institutions and online payment of payment accounts, but does not include the transaction volume of Red Packets and similar entertainment products. On April 1st 2018, the *Provisions on Barcode Payment Standards (Interim)* came into effect. Starting from Q2 2018, the statistics of merchants' barcode transaction payments have been shifted from the category of online payment to that of bankcard acquiring services.

¹⁴ The payment systems include the four PBC CNCC (China National Clearing Center) systems, namely, HVPS (high-value real-time payment system), BEPS (bulk electronic payment system), IBPS (internet banking payment system), and CFXPS (China foreign exchange payment system), as well as intra-bank business systems of commercial banks, UnionPay interbank payment system, the payment & clearing system of City Commercial Bank Clearing, rural credit bank payment & clearing system, CIPS (Cross-border Interbank Payment System) and NetsUnion Clearing platform.

¹⁵ In 2022, HVPS operated for 250 business days, and CFXPS and CIPS operated for 249 business days, while other payment systems operated for 365 business days. The actual operation business days are used for calculation of daily averages, and the same hereinafter.

The transaction volume of BEPS increased. In 2022, the BEPS processed 4.158 billion transactions in payments of RMB167.72 trillion, increasing by 7.16 percent and 3.18 percent y-o-y, respectively. The daily processed transactions averaged 11.3930 million in volume and RMB459.504 billion in value.

The transaction value of IBPS edged up. In 2022, the IBPS processed 16.552 billion transactions in payments of RMB278.65 trillion, with the former decreasing by 5.37 percent y-o-y and the latter increasing by 1.79 percent y-o-y, respectively. The daily processed transactions averaged 45.3468 million in volume and RMB763.420 billion in value.

The transaction volume of CFXPS maintained growth. In 2022, the CFXPS processed 4.7543 million transactions in payments of USD2.53 trillion (equivalent to about RMB17.15 trillion¹⁶), increasing by 14.17 percent and 13.10 percent, respectively. The daily processed transactions averaged 19,100 in volume and USD10.167 billion (equivalent to about RMB68.892 billion) in value.

(II) Other Payment Systems¹⁷

The volume of transactions processed by the intra-bank business systems increased. In 2022, these systems processed 18.860 billion transactions, totaling RMB2183.00 trillion, increasing by 2.22 percent and 6.21 percent

¹⁶ The transaction value of CFXPS was calculated and then converted into the RMB using the exchange rate on the last trading day of the statistical period.

¹⁷ According to the PBC requirement of “breaking direct connection between the third party payment institutions and commercial banks”, all third-party payment institutions should join the system of UnionPay or NetsUnion, and the business between payment institutions and commercial banks, as well as the business between members of City Commercial Banks Clearing Co., Ltd. or Rural Credit Banks Funds Clearing Center and third-party payment institutions will not be included in transaction calculation for the intra-bank business systems of commercial banks, the payment & clearing system of City Commercial Banks Clearing, and rural credit banks payment & clearing system.

y-o-y. On a daily basis, the systems processed 51.6704 million transactions, totaling RMB5.98 trillion.

The volume of transactions processed by the UnionPay interbank payment system¹⁸ maintained growth. In 2022, the system processed 247.490 billion transactions, totaling RMB251.95 trillion, increasing by 18.98 percent and 11.01 percent y-o-y, respectively. On a daily basis, the system processed 678 million transactions, totaling RMB690.263 billion.

The volume of transactions processed by the payment and clearing systems of City Commercial Banks Clearing¹⁹ rose rapidly. In 2022, the systems processed 26.9717 million transactions, totaling RMB2.60 trillion, increasing by 65.79 percent and 38.69 percent y-o-y, respectively. On a daily basis, the system processed 73,900 transactions, totaling RMB7.120 billion.

The number of transactions processed by rural credit bank payment & clearing system²⁰ rose rapidly. In 2022, the system processed 4.057 billion transactions, totaling RMB3.24 trillion, with the former increasing by 60.35 percent y-o-y and the latter decreasing by 1.00 percent y-o-y, respectively. On a daily basis, the system processed 11.1147 million transactions, totaling RMB8.883 billion.

¹⁸ The data of the UnionPay interbank payment system are from China UnionPay Co., Ltd. Starting from Q2 2018, the volume of transactions processed by the UnionPay interbank payment system only includes transactions of capital settlement; inquiries, account verification and other non-capital settlement transactions are excluded. Starting from Q1 2019, the volume of transactions processed by the UnionPay interbank payment system includes online payment involving bank accounts initiated by payment institutions and processed by the UnionPay interbank payment system.

¹⁹ The data of the payment & clearing system of City Commercial Banks Clearing include the previous city commercial bank draft processing system and payment & clearing system. The data are from the City Commercial Banks Clearing Co., Ltd. Starting from 2017, in addition to the statistics of bank drafts, remittance as well as deposit and withdrawal, the payment & clearing system of City Commercial Banks Clearing also includes real-time statistics of the collection and payment agent services.

²⁰ The data of rural credit banks payment & clearing system are from the Rural Credit Banks Funds Clearing Center.

The volume of transactions processed by CIPS²¹ continued to grow. In 2022, the CIPS processed 4.4004 million transactions, totaling RMB96.70 trillion, increasing by 31.68 percent and 21.48 percent y-o-y, respectively. On a daily basis, the system processed 17,700 transactions, totaling RMB388.338 billion.

The number of transactions processed by NetsUnion Clearing platform²² maintained growth. In 2022, the platform processed 771.349 billion transactions, totaling RMB450.50 trillion, with the former increasing by 12.98 percent y-o-y and the latter decreasing by 2.37 percent y-o-y. On a daily basis, the platform processed 2.113 billion transactions, totaling RMB1.23 trillion.

²¹ The data of CIPS are from Cross-border Interbank Payment System Co., Ltd.

²² The data of the NetsUnion Clearing platform are from NetsUnion Clearing Co., Ltd. The data refer to the volume of online payment transactions initiated by payment institutions and processed by the NetsUnion Clearing platform via bank accounts.