



## Monthly Card Payment Statistics<sup>1</sup>

- At the end of December 2024, the **number of Credit and Debit Cards** in circulation in Irish households amounted to 1.58 million and 7.95 million respectively or 2.1 cards per Irish resident. Debit cards have become increasingly popular for Irish residents, growing by 5.77 per cent, or 433,329, in comparison to December 2023. Credit cards increased by 1.81 per cent, or 28,070, when compared to December 2023.

**Table 1: Headline Card Payments and Cash Withdrawals**

Dec-24	(€) Billion	M-on-M % Change	Y-on-Y % Change
<b>Total Card Payments</b>	10.09	10.11	13.80
Domestic	8.47	11.34	13.65
Non-Domestic	1.61	4.09	14.54
<b>Cash Withdrawals</b>	1.23	10.38	-2.81

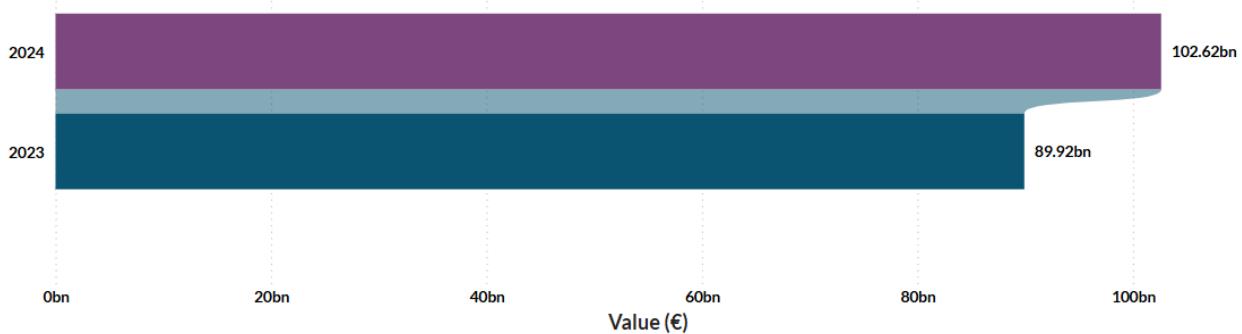
- The value of all **Card Spending during 2024** amounted to €102.62 billion, increasing by 14.12 per cent, or €12.70 billion, in comparison to 2023 values (Chart 1). Correspondingly, the number of transactions (**volume**) followed suit in 2024, amounting to 2.66 billion transactions, increasing by 13.63 per cent, or 318.94 million, when compared to 2023, with the average spend per card transaction during 2024 totalling €38.59, an increase of 0.43 per cent, or 16 cent, when compared to 2023.
- During December 2024, the **total value of Card Spending** amounted to €10.09 billion<sup>2</sup> a seasonal spending increase of 10.11 per cent in comparison to November's value of €9.16 billion. Notably, the value of Card Spending increased by 13.80 per cent, or €1.22 billion, when compared to December 2023 (Table 1).
- Similarly, volume increased by 6.63 per cent in comparison to November 2024. Likewise, volume increased significantly when compared to December 2023, growing by 10.25 per cent, or 22.73 million.

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

<sup>2</sup>All Value (€) and volume figures in the publication are rounded to two decimal places, while percentages are calculated on the actual values (€) and volumes from the Monthly Payment Statistics Tables



**Chart 1: 14.1 per cent increase in the value of card spending between 2023 and 2024**

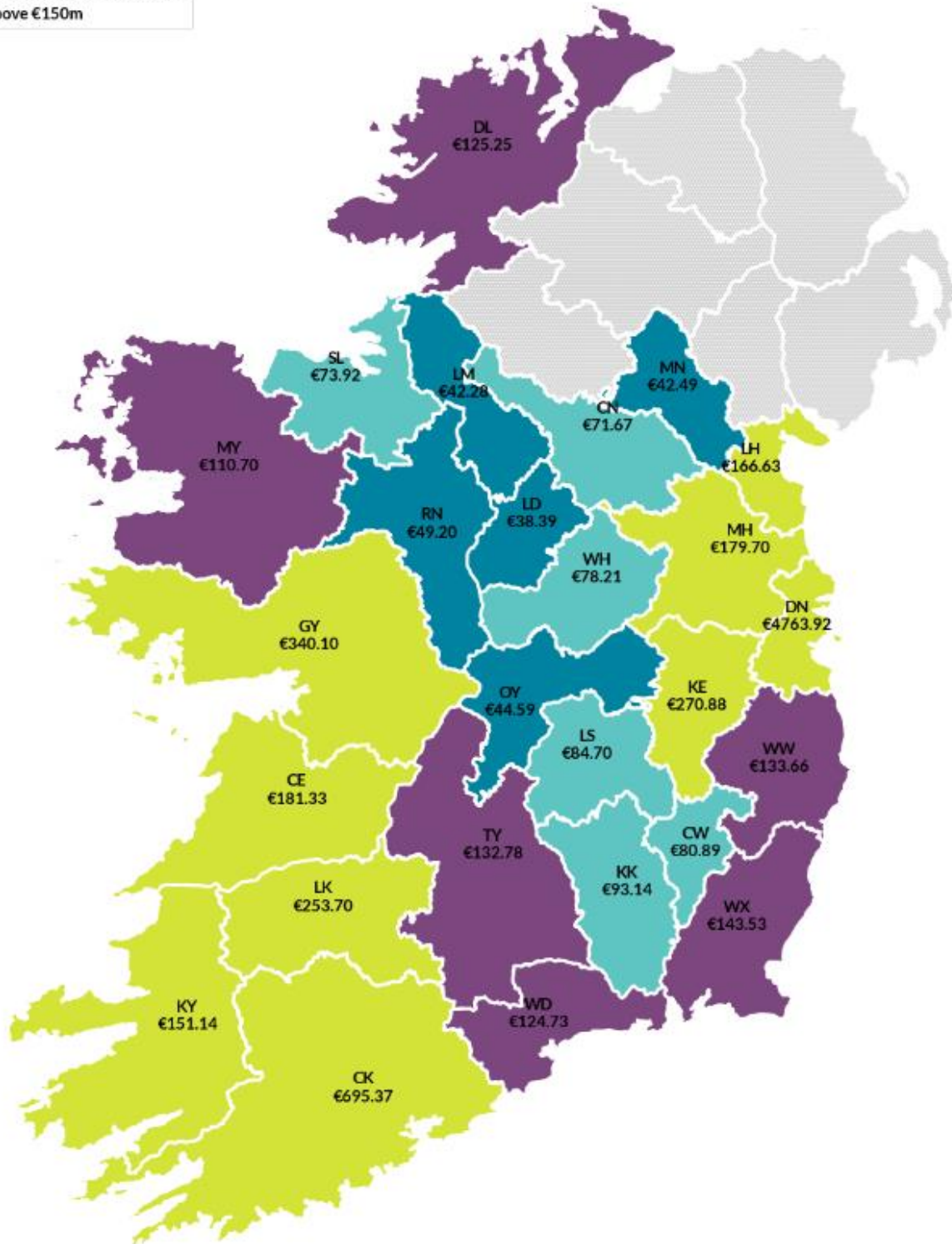


- During December 2024, the increase in Card Spending is predominately driven by **Domestic Spending**, with value increasing by 11.34 per cent, or €862.90 million, from €7.61 billion in November to €8.47 billion in December (Table 1). This increase in Domestic Card Spending is attributable to **seasonal spending over the Christmas period**.
- In comparison to December 2023, the value of Domestic transactions increased substantially, rising by 13.65 per cent, or €1.02 billion. Likewise, volume increased by 9.56 per cent, or 18.28 million.
- Notably, in value and volume terms, Domestic spending in 2024 as a whole increased significantly, amounting to €84.57 billion and 2.25 billion, up 14.20 per cent and 12.87 per cent respectively in comparison to 2023.
- Domestic Card Spending can be further broken down by **spend per county** (Chart 2). Expectedly, Dublin had the highest Card Spend, amounting to €4.76 billion, up a significant 16.71 per cent, or €682 million, from December 2023, Dublin made up 56 per cent of total Domestic Card Spend in Ireland. Additionally, the average Card Spend in Dublin totalled €47.33, up 6.28 per cent, or €2.80, when compared to the same period last year. Longford had the lowest spend, amounting to €38.39 million, an increase of 8.32 per cent, or €8.32 million, from this time last year. The average spend in Longford amounted to €33.90, down 0.61 per cent, or €21 cent, from December 2023. Notably, counties with the highest spend (>€150million) are located in the commuter belt (Kildare, Meath and Louth) and in the mid & southwest part of Ireland.



Chart 2: Domestic Card Spending per County in December (Values (€) Millions)

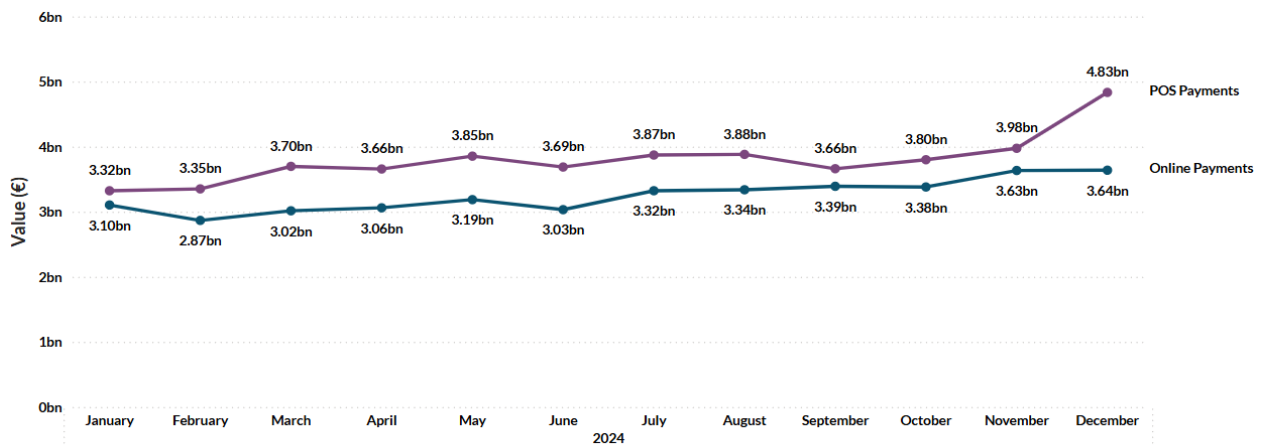
- Between €0m and €50m
- Between €50m and €100m
- Between €100m and €150m
- Above €150m





- The growth in Domestic Card Spending can primarily be linked to an **increase in Point of Sale (POS) Payments**. The value of POS payments amounted to €4.83 billion, increasing by 21.60 per cent, or €858.63 million, in comparison to November's value of €3.98 billion (Chart 3). Interestingly, in 2024 as a whole POS Payments amounted to €45.60 billion, increasing by 8.07 per cent, or €3.68 billion, when compared to 2023 values.
- The value of **Online Payments increased**, rising by 0.12 per cent, or €4.27 million, when compared to November (Chart 3). Notably, in 2024 as a whole, Online Payments amounted to €38.98 billion, increasing by 21.27 per cent, or €6.83 billion, in comparison to 2023 values.

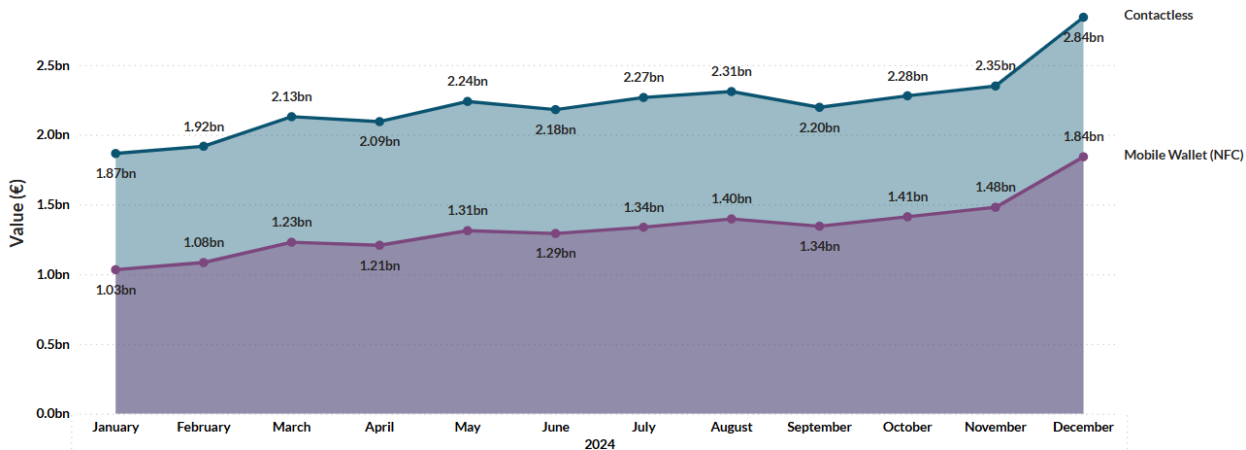
**Chart 3: Seasonal in person spending experienced an increase of 21.6 per cent**



- Domestic POS payments can be further broken down into **Contactless and Mobile Wallet (NFC) Payments**. In value terms, Contactless payments spiked in December 2024, increasing by 20.99 per cent, or €493.22 million, totalling €2.84 billion when compared to November. Similarly, NFC payments, increased by 24.48 per cent, or €362.32 million, totalling €1.84 billion in comparison to the month previous (Chart 4).
- The generally increasing month on month trend in use of Contactless and NFC as a method of payment throughout 2024 indicates their growing popularity with Irish households (Chart 4).



**Chart 4: 20.99 per cent increase in the value of Contactless payments during December 2024**



- **Non-Domestic spending** increased in December, with value totalling €1.61 billion, a 4.09 per cent, or €63.53 million, increase in comparison to November.
- Interestingly, in contrast to December 2023, value and volume have increased by 14.54 per cent, or €205.15 million, and 14.53 per cent, or 4.44 million respectively.
- The value of Non-Domestic spending increased significantly year on year in 2024, amounting to €18.44 billion, up 16.25 per cent, or €2.58 billion, in contrast to 2023 spend. Equally, volume amounted to 419.14 million in 2024, up 21.51 per cent, or 74.20 million, when compared to 2023 transactions.
- The growth in Non-Domestic Card spending is driven by an **increase in both Online and POS Payments**. The value of Online Payments increased by 2.95 per cent, or €34.09 million, in comparison to November. Similarly, POS Payments grew by 7.45 per cent, or €29.44 million, when compared to the prior period.
- During 2024, the value of total Online Payments amounted to €12.43 billion, up 13.82 per cent, or €1.51 billion, when compared to 2023 values. Likewise, overall in 2024, value of POS Payments amounted to €5.62 billion, an increase of 13.67 per cent, or €675.55 million, in comparison to 2023 values.
- During December, **Cash Withdrawals** jumped in value, totalling €1.23 billion, an increase of 10.38 per cent, or €115.52 million, in comparison to November values.
- This increase is as a result of both **Domestic and Non-Domestic withdrawals increasing** in value. Domestic Cash Withdrawals amounted to €1.17 billion, increasing by 10.61 per cent, or €111.99 million, in contrast to November. Likewise, the value of Non-Domestic

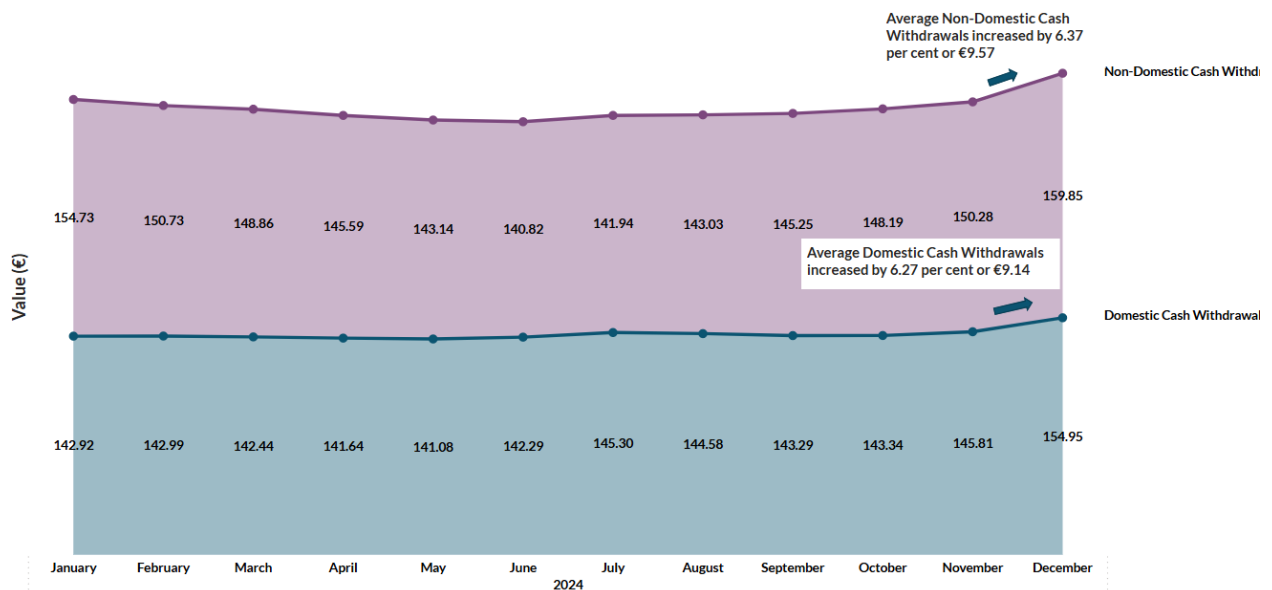


withdrawals increased by 6.12 per cent, or €3.53 million, totalling €61.15 million when compared to the previous month.

Notably, the average Domestic Cash Withdrawal, increased in December, rising from €145.81 in November to €154.95 in December. Similarly, the average Withdrawal increased Non-Domestically (outside of Ireland), rising from €150.28 in November to €159.85 in December (Chart 5). This increase in the average Cash Withdrawal by Irish households is expected in December due to seasonal spending over the Christmas period.

- In comparison to December 2023, value and volume of withdrawals has declined, dropping by 2.81 per cent, or €35.57 million, and 4.47 per cent or 370,104 respectively. Overall, in 2024, the value of Cash Withdrawals amounted to €13.63 billion, a decline of 2.03 per cent, or €281.74 million, from 2023 values. Similarly, volume declined in 2024, amounting to 94.37 million withdrawals, declining 3.14 per cent, or 3.06 million, in comparison to the previous year.

**Chart 5: December's average Domestic and Non-Domestic cash withdrawal by Irish households**



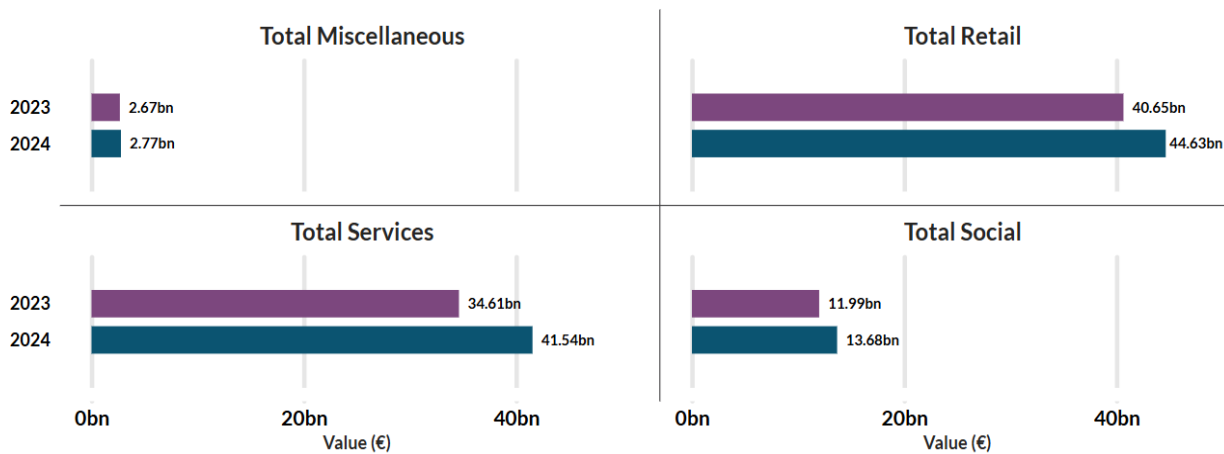
- During 2024, Irish household spending increased in comparison to 2023 (Chart 6). The sectors that saw the largest increase are the **Retail and Services sectors**. In value terms, Retail spending amounted to €44.63 billion, up 9.80 per cent, or €3.98 billion, from €40.65 billion in 2023. Similarly, Services amounted to €41.54 billion, an increase of 20.01 per cent, or €6.93 billion, from €34.61 billion in 2023.
- Interestingly, there are specific sub sectors that largely drive the Retail and Services sector growth. Within the Retail sector, **Groceries/Perishables** hold the largest weight, making up 43 per cent, or €19.31 billion, of value spent. The average transaction on Groceries/Perishables have declined in 2024, amounting to €23.42, down 1.06 per cent, or



25 cent, from €23.67 in 2023. However, according to [CSO](#) data in 2024 food prices increased by 2.6 per cent (Base=Dec2023) when compared to 2023.

- Within the Services sector, Financial Services hold the largest weight, making up 51 per cent, or €21.11 billion, of value spent. The average transaction on Financial Services amounted to €138.31, up 1.85 per cent, or €1.36, from 136.46 during 2023.

Chart 6: The Value of Card Spending per Sector – 2023 vs 2024



## 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
- Inflation data can be found [here](#)
- 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](#)