



[Press release](#)

09.02.2021

Annual figures 2020:

## girocard used more than ever before. Increase of almost one billion transactions.

Frankfurt am Main, 09.02.2021: The girocard remained on course for success in a year dominated by the Corona pandemic: It reached a new milestone with almost 5.5 billion transactions in 2020. Compared to the previous year, it was used approximately one billion times more often (2019: 4.5 billion). This corresponds to a growth of 21.7 per cent. As the most recent statistics of the German Banking Industry Committee (GBIC) further show, turnover was 236 billion euros, an increase of 12 per cent (2019: 211 billion euros). The ongoing shift towards card payment at the point of sale thus continued in these exceptional times. Contactless payment in particular meets the wishes of customers and retailers regarding distance and hygiene.

### Contactless payments grew rapidly over the course of the year

Whereas only around four out of ten transactions were carried out contactless in January 2020, this increased to 60.4 per cent by the end of the year (end of 2019: 35.7 per cent) and is thus clearly above the 2020 annual average of 50.1 per cent (annual average 2019: 26.6 per cent). Contactless payment turnover grew by more than double in the same period to 97 billion euros (2019: 41 billion euros). Another contactless payment method is the digital girocard, which can be used, for example, with a smartphone. This payment method has become increasingly widespread and will probably be used more frequently at checkouts in bricks and mortar retailers in the future. Since payment is approved exclusively via the user's own smartphone, e.g. via fingerprint or facial recognition (i.e., without entering a PIN), the payment process is particularly fast, convenient and hygienic, currently so important to many.

### More popular than ever - for large as well as for small amounts

Not only do customers use their girocard to pay for larger amounts, such as weekend shopping, but also for increasingly smaller amounts. As a whole, the average transaction amount fell from 46.86 euros in 2019 to 43.14 euros in 2020. During the same time, the average amount of contactless payments with the girocard rose to 35.31 euros (2019: 33.93 euros). These figures show that (contactless) card payments are now used routinely – irrespective of the purchase amount. In spring 2020, contactless payment became even more

convenient for customers: Due to popular demand, GBIC raised the limit for PIN-free contactless payments from 25 euros to 50 euros.

“With card, please”: Retailers increasingly rely on the girocard system

Many retailers are facing considerable challenges as a result of the pandemic. In order to make transactions safe and quick for customers and employees, retailers are actively asking their customers to go cashless. Even businesses that previously relied heavily on cash, such as smaller owner-operated shops, bakeries or kiosks, now offer card payments. As a result, the number of active girocard terminals increased by more than 30,000 to up to 904,000 in 2020.

These difficult times can be weathered together with mutual respect. Customers and retailers can always rely on the secure, stable and trusted payment procedure of the GBIC. As a result, the enormous increase in transactions by over one billion could be reliably processed during the pandemic year. The girocard payment system thus proves once again that it is an important part of everyday life in Germany - even after 30 years of existence. In addition, the GBIC remains active in its efforts to offer the best possible payment options, but not only in the retail sector. As part of the #DK (Digital Banking Industry) initiative, extensive work is being done on integrating credit payment methods into an overall system for all banks and savings banks clients in Germany. In merging paydirekt and giropay, an important first step has been taken, and more will follow. The objective is to combine the benefits of the different services into a single solution that can be used for all applications - whether in a local shop, online or when sending and receiving money.

Graphics and pictures regarding girocard can be found here: <https://www.girocard.eu/presse-mediathek/mediathek/>.

About girocard:

Banks and savings banks in Germany have issued around 100 million of girocards. The brand “girocard” represents the superior frame of the German Banking Industry Committee for its two reliable debit card payment schemes: the girocard procedure (formerly: “electronic cash”) as a debit card payment procedure and the “German ATM System“. With the usage of the PIN (Personal Identification Number) the German Banking Industry Committee guarantees a safe and simple deployment of the girocard. The name and the logo of the girocard were introduced by the German Banking Industry Committee in 2007.

About EURO Kartensysteme:

As a joint venture of the German Banking Industry Committee, EURO Kartensysteme GmbH undertakes tasks that belong to the common interest of German banks and savings banks in the realm of secure card-based payment transactions. EURO Kartensysteme GmbH focuses on central functions and services, such as marketing and PR for the girocard and its prepaid payment functions cash card (contact) and girogo (contactless). Moreover, these central tasks also imply further functions on the chip, Business Development girocard, the development of operational safety standards, methods for anti-abuse measures and the Mastercard license management.



girocard

[www.girocard.eu](http://www.girocard.eu)

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