Results of the Survey on Perceptions of the Use of Payment Instruments for everyday Payments in Colombia – 2026

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Cash is losing share as the main payment instrument for everyday payments.

The 2026 National Survey on the Provision of Banknotes and Coins and Payment Instruments (EPBMIP in Spanish) examines the population's preferences regarding the use of payment instruments for everyday purchases of goods and services, such as food and transportation.

View the results of the survey (only in Spanish)

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- Although cash remains the main payment instrument, its share has been declining steadily.
- The decline in the use of cash has been driven mainly by the growing use of electronic transfers.



- Having a financial product does not necessarily mean abandoning cash. A total of 77.7% of the population has at least one financial product. However, more than half of the population uses cash as their main payment instrument for everyday payments.



- Merchants accept transfers more widely than customers use them. While 74% of merchants accept transfers, only 14% identify them as the payment instrument most frequently used by their customers.
- The continued use of cash by both the public and merchants appears to be associated with its advantages in terms of speed, ease of use, and liquidity management.



- The transition to electronic payments reveals different patterns. Lower-income segments rely more heavily on cash, while middle-income segments are shifting toward the use of electronic transfers, and the pace of this transition varies across cities.



Fuente: https://www.banrep.gov.co/en/publications-research/survey-perceptions-use-payment-instruments/2026