

Article | 26 March 2020

Dutch debit card transactions decline sharply due to Covid-19

Covid-19 is beginning to hit the Dutch economy, and the confinement measures to halt the spread of the virus are affecting the way consumers spend money. An analysis of ING debit card transaction data shows a 24% decline, year-on-year, for last Friday



The largest year-on-year decline in debit card transactions is in recreational venues, such as cinemas, sport clubs, and restaurants (-83%). This is followed by clothing stores and shoe retailers, which show a decline of 72%. Since people are staying home, spending on transport is also taking a big hit (-46%).

In other places we see an increase in debit card transactions. In particular, toy retailers are benefiting from children having to stay home. Parents are likely resorting to toys to keep children busy, with debit card transactions at these retailers showing a 10% year-on-year increase. Other shops where we see a larger number of debit card transactions are supermarkets (+5%) and DIY shops (+2%).

Where we see fewer or greater debit card transactions

Year-on-year difference for Friday, 20 March 2020

Type of pin location	Growth YoY
Total	-24%
'Essentials'	+2%
Supermarkets	+5%
Other food stores	-7%
Health (pharmacy, drugstores)	+2%
Appearance	-68%
Clothing and shoe shops, jeweler	-72%
Personal care (e.g. hairdresser, perfumery)	-59%
Leisure (goods)	-12%
Toy and game shops	+10%
Book and music shops	-4%
Sports shops	-33%
Electronics shops	-3%
Do-It-Yourself (incl. furniture stores)	+2%
Other non-food stores	+11%
'Going out'	-83%
Bars & Restaurants	-81%
Leisure locations (cinema, funfair, hotels, etc.)	-95%
Transport	-46%
Petrol stations & parking	-39%
Public transport	-76%

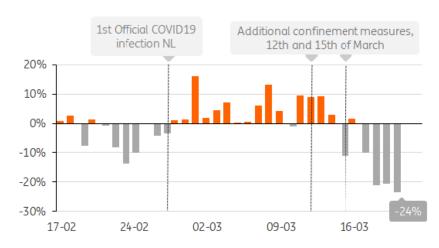
Source: ING

Overall, we see a sharp decline in debit card transactions. Last Friday, they were down 24% from a year before. This is primarily driven by the closure of public places such as restaurants, cafés, cinemas and sport clubs.

Prior to the extra confinement measures, we saw an increase of 10%. This was mostly driven by extra consumer spending in supermarkets.

24% fewer debit card transactions on Friday, 20th March

Percentage change in debit card transactions year-on-year



Source: ING, last observation: Friday 20th of March

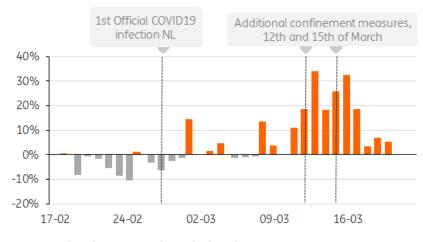
More debit card transactions in supermarkets

We saw a significant increase in debit card transactions in supermarkets in the past two weeks, peaking at 30% YoY.

Over the last week this has been decreasing. Friday 20th of March showed 5% more debit card transactions than a year earlier.

More debit card transactions in supermarkets

Percentage change in debit card transactions year-on-year



Source: ING, last observation: Friday 20th of March

Cafés and restaurants show a decline of c.80%

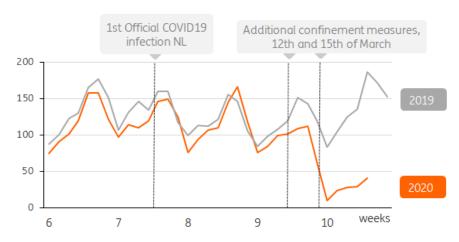
Covid-19 measures have particularly hit businesses in the leisure industry. We observed an 81% decrease YoY for pin transactions in restaurants and cafés last Friday. Currently, it is just the

takeaway and delivery caterers that are keeping debit card transactions above zero.

We observed even larger declines in recreational venues such as cinemas, sport clubs and amusement parks. In particular, last Friday we saw a drop of 95% compared to last year.

Huge decline in debit card transactions in pubs and restaurants

Number of debit card transactions, 2020 week 1 = 100



Source: ING, last observation: Friday 20th of March

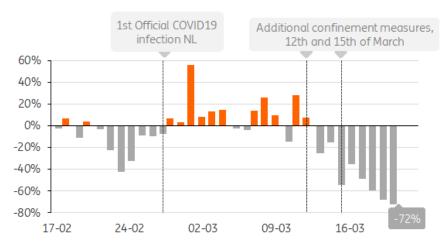
72% fewer transactions in fashion retailers

Since the government rolled out the new Covid-19 measures, the number of transactions has decreased drastically at fashion retailers. Last Friday, these transactions were 72% below the number observed the same day in the previous year.

Businesses in the personal care and wellness sectors such as hairdressers, beauty salons, and pedicure studios saw a 60% decline in the number of pin transactions in comparison to last year. Since then, the government has forbidden professions that require physical contact to be open until 6 April. As such, we expect to see a further decline in debit card transactions for these types of businesses this week.

72% fewer debit card transactions in fashion stores

Percentage change in debit card transactions year-on-year



Source: ING, last obsercation: Friday, 20th of March

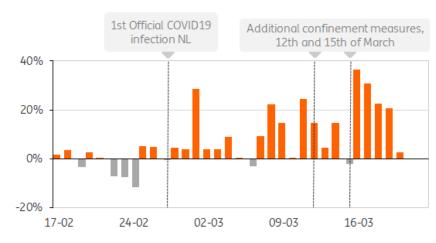
DIY shops peak with 40% more debit card transactions

DIY shops, furniture stores, and gardening centres show a strong increase in debit card transactions, peaking at almost 40% higher than a year ago. The spring-like weather conditions and the limited possibilities for leisure activities have seemingly fuelled an increase in gardening and house chores.

In the last couple of days, we have observed a smaller increase in debit card transactions in these types of shops. On Friday, 20 March we saw just 2% more transactions than in the year before. This does fit with the declining short-term trend. However, this number may also be biased downwards due to extra demand last year as the weather was even better back then.

Debit card transactions at DIY shops up by almost 40%

Percentage change in debit card transactions year-on-year



Source: ING, last observation: Friday 20th of March

Author

Amrita Naik Nimbalkar

Junior Economist, Global Macro amrita.naik.nimbalkar@ing.com

Mateusz Sutowicz

Senior Economist, Poland mateusz.sutowicz@ing.pl

Alissa Lefebre

Economist <u>alissa.lefebre@ing.com</u>

Deepali Bhargava

Regional Head of Research, Asia-Pacific <u>Deepali.Bhargava@ing.com</u>

Ruben Dewitte

Economist +32495364780 ruben.dewitte@ing.com

Kinga Havasi

Economic research trainee kinga.havasi@ing.com

Marten van Garderen

Consumer Economist, Netherlands marten.van.garderen@ing.com

David Havrlant

Chief Economist, Czech Republic 420 770 321 486 david.havrlant@ing.com

Sander Burgers

Senior Economist, Dutch Housing sander.burgers@ing.com

Lynn Song

Chief Economist, Greater China lynn.song@asia.ing.com

Michiel Tukker

Senior European Rates Strategist michiel.tukker@ing.com

Michal Rubaszek

Senior Economist, Poland michal.rubaszek@ing.pl

This is a test author

Stefan Posea

Economist, Romania tiberiu-stefan.posea@ing.com

Marine Leleux

Sector Strategist, Financials marine.leleux2@ing.com

Jesse Norcross

Senior Sector Strategist, Real Estate jesse.norcross@ing.com

Teise Stellema

Research Assistant, Energy Transition teise.stellema@ing.com

Diederik Stadig

Sector Economist, TMT & Healthcare diederik.stadig@ing.com

Diogo Gouveia

Sector Economist diogo.duarte.vieira.de.gouveia@ing.com

Marine Leleux

Sector Strategist, Financials marine.leleux2@ing.com

Ewa Manthey

Commodities Strategist ewa.manthey@ing.com

ING Analysts

James Wilson

EM Sovereign Strategist James.wilson@ing.com

Sophie Smith

Digital Editor

sophie.smith@ing.com

Frantisek Taborsky

EMEA FX & FI Strategist frantisek.taborsky@ing.com

Adam Antoniak

Senior Economist, Poland adam.antoniak@ing.pl

Min Joo Kang

Senior Economist, South Korea and Japan min.joo.kang@asia.ing.com

Coco Zhang

ESG Research coco.zhang@ing.com

Jan Frederik Slijkerman

Senior Sector Strategist, TMT jan.frederik.slijkerman@ing.com

Katinka Jongkind

Senior Economist, Services and Leisure <u>Katinka.Jongkind@ing.com</u>

Marina Le Blanc

Sector Strategist, Financials Marina.Le.Blanc@inq.com

Samuel Abettan

Junior Economist samuel.abettan@ing.com

Franziska Biehl

Senior Economist, Germany <u>Franziska.Marie.Biehl@ing.de</u>

Rebecca Byrne

Senior Editor and Supervisory Analyst rebecca.byrne@ing.com

Mirjam Bani

Sector Economist, Commercial Real Estate & Public Sector (Netherlands) mirjam.bani@ing.com

Timothy Rahill

Credit Strategist

timothy.rahill@ing.com

Leszek Kasek

Senior Economist, Poland leszek.kasek@ing.pl

Oleksiy Soroka, CFA

Senior High Yield Credit Strategist oleksiy.soroka@ing.com

Antoine Bouvet

Head of European Rates Strategy antoine.bouvet@ing.com

Jeroen van den Broek

Global Head of Sector Research jeroen.van.den.broek@ing.com

Edse Dantuma

Senior Sector Economist, Industry and Healthcare edse.dantuma@ing.com

Francesco Pesole

FX Strategist francesco.pesole@ing.com

Rico Luman

Senior Sector Economist, Transport and Logistics Rico.Luman@ing.com

Jurjen Witteveen

Sector Economist jurjen.witteveen@ing.com

Dmitry Dolgin

Chief Economist, CIS dmitry.dolgin@ing.de

Nicholas Mapa

Senior Economist, Philippines nicholas.antonio.mapa@asia.ing.com

Egor Fedorov

Senior Credit Analyst egor.fedorov@ing.com

Sebastian Franke

Consumer Economist

sebastian.franke@ing.de

Gerben Hieminga

Senior Sector Economist, Energy gerben.hieminga@ing.com

Nadège Tillier

Head of Corporates Sector Strategy nadege.tillier@ing.com

Charlotte de Montpellier

Senior Economist, France and Switzerland charlotte.de.montpellier@ing.com

Laura Straeter

Behavioural Scientist +31(0)611172684 laura.Straeter@ing.com

Valentin Tataru

Chief Economist, Romania valentin.tataru@ing.com

James Smith

Developed Markets Economist, UK <u>james.smith@ing.com</u>

Suvi Platerink Kosonen

Senior Sector Strategist, Financials suvi.platerink-kosonen@ing.com

Thijs Geijer

Senior Sector Economist, Food & Agri thijs.geijer@ing.com

Maurice van Sante

Senior Economist Construction & Team Lead Sectors <u>maurice.van.sante@ing.com</u>

Marcel Klok

Senior Economist, Netherlands marcel.klok@ing.com

Piotr Poplawski

Senior Economist, Poland piotr.poplawski@ing.pl

Paolo Pizzoli

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Senior Economist, Italy, Greece paolo.pizzoli@ing.com

Marieke Blom

Chief Economist and Global Head of Research marieke.blom@ing.com

Raoul Leering

Senior Macro Economist raoul.leering@ing.com

Maarten Leen

Head of Global IFRS9 ME Scenarios maarten.leen@ing.com

Maureen Schuller

Head of Financials Sector Strategy <u>Maureen.Schuller@ing.com</u>

Warren Patterson

Head of Commodities Strategy Warren.Patterson@asia.ing.com

Rafal Benecki

Chief Economist, Poland rafal.benecki@ing.pl

Philippe Ledent

Senior Economist, Belgium, Luxembourg philippe.ledent@ing.com

Peter Virovacz

Senior Economist, Hungary peter.virovacz@ing.com

Inga Fechner

Senior Economist, Germany, Global Trade inqa.fechner@inq.de

Dimitry Fleming

Senior Data Analyst, Netherlands <u>Dimitry.Fleming@ing.com</u>

Ciprian Dascalu

Chief Economist, Romania +40 31 406 8990 ciprian.dascalu@ing.com

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Muhammet Mercan

Chief Economist, Turkey muhammet.mercan@ingbank.com.tr

Iris Pang

Chief Economist, Greater China iris.pang@asia.ing.com

Sophie Freeman

Writer, Group Research +44 20 7767 6209 Sophie.Freeman@uk.ing.com

Padhraic Garvey, CFA

Regional Head of Research, Americas padhraic.garvey@ing.com

James Knightley

Chief International Economist, US <u>james.knightley@ing.com</u>

Tim Condon

Asia Chief Economist +65 6232-6020

Martin van Vliet

Senior Interest Rate Strategist +31 20 563 8801 martin.van.vliet@ing.com

Karol Pogorzelski

Senior Economist, Poland Karol.Pogorzelski@ing.pl

Carsten Brzeski

Global Head of Macro carsten.brzeski@ing.de

Viraj Patel

Foreign Exchange Strategist +44 20 7767 6405 viraj.patel@ing.com

Owen Thomas

Global Head of Editorial Content +44 (0) 207 767 5331 owen.thomas@ing.com

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Bert Colijn

Chief Economist, Netherlands bert.colijn@ing.com

Peter Vanden Houte

Chief Economist, Belgium, Luxembourg, Eurozone peter.vandenhoute@ing.com

Benjamin Schroeder

Senior Rates Strategist benjamin.schroder@ing.com

Chris Turner

Global Head of Markets and Regional Head of Research for UK & CEE chris.turner@ing.com

Gustavo Rangel

Chief Economist, LATAM +1 646 424 6464 gustavo.rangel@ing.com

Carlo Cocuzzo

Economist, Digital Finance +44 20 7767 5306 carlo.cocuzzo@ing.com