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Cardtronics Spain/ Hamilton Global Intelligence survey finds

- | *The number of ATMs in Spain has declined 19 percent since the start of the economic crisis while cash withdrawals continue to increase.*
- | *In 2016, cash withdrawals increased 0.58 percent over the previous year to 924 million transactions, and the amount of money withdrawn was 118.275 billion euros, almost 3 percent more than in 2015.*
- | *The future popularity of ATMs will depend on whether they continue to be in locations that consumers consider to be convenient: shopping centers, public transportation hubs, airports, universities/schools and workplaces or supermarkets and convenience stores.*

MADRID, Nov. 29, 2017 – Though multiple studies have shown that cash has withstood the passage of time and banking digitalization and remains an essential payment method, Spaniards find it increasingly difficult to be able to access cash due to a nationwide, year-after-year decrease in ATMs – according to a Cardtronics / Hamilton Global Intelligence survey.

According to Bank of Spain data^[1], in 2016 there were more than 924 million cash withdrawal transactions – 0.58 percent more compared to the previous year – and the amount of money withdrawn was 118.275 billion euros, almost 3 percent more than in 2015. A study by the European Central Bank^[2] on the use of cash by households in the eurozone also confirms an upward trend in the use of cash in Spain, where consumers made the second highest volume of cash payments per day (1.7 transactions per day, i.e., almost 12 per week), surpassing the European average (1.6 payments per day).

However, despite the fact that Spaniards are heavy users of cash, the number of ATMs in the country continues to decline. According to the Bank of Spain, the number of ATMs in operation in Spain declined 19 percent, from 61,714 devices in operation in 2008 to 50,193, in 2017. Spaniards have noticed, too – according to a study by Cardtronics and Hamilton Global Intelligence – with 45 percent believing that there are increasingly fewer available ATMs and that it is harder for them to access cash.

Cardtronics, the world's largest ATM owner / operator, in collaboration with market research consulting company Hamilton Global Intelligence, also found that the number of Spanish consumers who perceive there are not enough cash machines has increased 5 percent compared to the previous year and this is a perception most widely held in the Madrid metropolitan area (52.6 percent), the Canary Islands (51.9 percent) and Northern Spain (49.4 percent).

The Cardtronics-Hamilton study, "Payment Methods and the Use of ATMs in Spain," also revealed that

most Spaniards use ATMs to get cash at least once a week, and say that they withdraw an average of 94 euros – 5.5 percent more than the previous year – for an average of 350 euros a month. Spanish consumers' main reasons for using cash is that it helps control their spending, and that it is an accepted payment method at any establishment. Furthermore, users tend to use cash in shopping centers, convenience stores, kiosks, bars and pubs, supermarkets and urban transportation.

The future of ATMs is in their location.

The Cardtronics-Hamilton study also found that Spanish consumers find ATMs most valuable when they perform transactions quickly, are present in convenient locations, and are in sufficient quantity. In addition, 61 percent of ATM users in Spain say that when they go to an ATM, it is unplanned, and they would therefore prefer to find them in locations that are part of their everyday lives such as shopping centers (64 percent), public transportation stations (35.7 percent), airports (34.8 percent), universities/schools and workplaces (28.9 percent), or supermarkets and convenience stores (27.1 percent).

“The results of our study and the data published by the Bank of Spain confirm that despite the fact that Spaniards continue to use cash for their regular purchases, it is increasingly difficult to access because the number of ATMs in operation has been decreasing in recent years,” says Ramiro Sánchez-Crespo, Managing Director of Cardtronics Spain. “Our goal is to guarantee universal, inclusive and transparent access to cash and basic financial services when and where people need them. For that reason, we help financial entities to expand their ATM networks and businesses to reinforce their customer relationships by offering the value-added service that is convenient cash access.”

Since its arrival in Spain in 2016, Cardtronics has established agreements with the SuperCOR and SuperCOR Expres supermarkets belonging to El Corte Inglés, the EURO 6000 alliance, the Caja de Ingenieros savings and loan association and the Ferrocarriles de la Generalitat de Catalunya railway company (FGC), among others, with the aim of making cash more accessible for all consumers.

About the Cardtronics-Hamilton survey

Independent study conducted by the Hamilton Global Intelligence consultancy based on 1,025 surveys of national scope.

About Cardtronics (Nasdaq: CATM)

Making ATM cash access convenient where people shop, work, and live, Cardtronics is at the convergence of retailers, financial institutions, prepaid card programs, and the customers they share. Cardtronics provides services to approximately 238,000 ATMs in North America, Europe, Asia-Pacific, and Africa. Whether Cardtronics is driving foot traffic for top retailers, enhancing ATM brand presence for card issuers, or expanding card holders' surcharge-free cash access, Cardtronics is convenient access to cash, when and where consumers need it. Cardtronics is where cash meets commerce.

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Source: Bank of Spain, Payment Methods and Market Infrastructures Division

Source: European Central Bank, “The use of cash by households in the euro area”