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Cost of Cash: Status quo and development prospects in Germany

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prospects in Germany**

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1 Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction

For more than 2000 years humans around the world used different forms of money as means of exchange as well as store of value. In spite of the huge technological changes cash is even in today's world an omnipresent medium for the human population. Unlike in the past however, cash isn't the only available payment instrument. Card and online payments have gained a growing importance over recent years.¹ Due to the increasing number of payment methods the costs of the different payment instruments are being increasingly discussed. While the costs of card payments as well as online payment services in Germany are generally well understood by the public, there is no awareness of the expense associated with cash. To answer this question, the Center for Payment Studies of the Steinbeis University Berlin carried out the study "Cost of Cash". The aim of the research project is to analyze the costs of cash usage for different market participants in Germany. An overall analysis as well as a comparison with other card based payment means was carried out. In addition, various ways to improve the efficiency of the payment system were explored. The study is based on secondary sources and interviews with experts as well as case studies, which have been carried out within the scope of the research.

Survey to analyze the costs of cash in Germany