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AN ANALYSIS OF TRENDS IN COST OF REMITTANCE SERVICES

REMITTANCE PRICES WORLDWIDE QUARTERLY



THE WORLD BANK
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This Report reflects the latest trends observed
in the data published in March 2023.

Remittance Prices Worldwide is available at
<http://remittanceprices.worldbank.org>

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Overview

Remittance Prices Worldwide (RPW) monitors remittance prices across all geographic regions of the world. Launched in September 2008, RPW monitors the cost incurred by remitters when sending money along major remittance corridors. RPW is used as a reference for measuring progress towards global cost reduction objectives, including the G20 commitment to reduce the global average to 3 percent, which is being pursued in partnership with governments, service providers, and other stakeholders.

Since Q2 2016, RPW covers 48 remittance sending countries and 105 receiving countries, for a total of 367 country corridors worldwide. RPW tracks the cost of sending remittances for four main RSP types: Banks, MTOs, Mobile Operators, and Post Offices. MTOs include both traditional providers and innovative/fintech players. On average, 21.6 services per corridor are tracked.

This Report uses data from RPW's most recent release to analyze the global, regional, and country specific trends in the average cost of migrant remittances.

FXC Intelligence provides the underlying data used in the RPW.

Key findings

- The **Global Average** remained almost the same: 6.24 percent in Q4 2022 vs. 6.25 percent in Q1 2023.
- The **International MTO Index** experienced a slight increase over the quarter to 6.37 percent in Q1 2023, from 6.34 percent in Q4 2022.
- The **Global Weighted Average** decreased slightly to 4.79 percent in Q1 2023 from 4.81 percent in Q4 2022.
- The **Global SmarT Average** for Q1 2023 was recorded at 3.47 percent (up from 3.31 percent in Q4 2022). Out of the 354 corridors for which data were collected in Q1 2023, 27 did not have any SmarT qualifying services.
- The **Digital remittances index** remained almost the same: 4.71 in Q4 2022 vs. 4.72 percent in Q1 2023.
- The Digital-only MTO index experienced a decrease to 3.90 percent in Q1 2023 from 4.06 in Q2 2022.
- South Asia remains the lowest cost receiving region, with an average cost of 4.58 percent. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the most expensive region to send money to, recorded at 8.35 percent total average cost in Q1 2023.
- Banks remain the most expensive type of service provider, with an average cost of 12.10 percent.
- The proportion of corridors with average costs of less than 5 percent has increased considerably since Q1 2009 (from 17 percent to 39 percent in Q1 2023).

- In Q1 2023, mobile money remains the lowest cost instrument to originate remittances and was also the lowest cost instrument to receive remittances.
- Due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, RPW did not include any data on corridors originating in the Russian Federation in Q1 and Q2 2022. In Q3-Q4 2022 and Q1 2023, only publicly available online data on corridors originating in Russia were collected, i.e., mystery shopping or data collection via APIs were not employed. Due to this deviation in data collection methodology, these services were not included in the main analysis in Q1 2023 (as well as in Q3 and Q4 2022); instead, the data are presented in Annex V.
- In Q1 2023, fifty-one services were moved from the prospects index to the main analysis, after demonstrating consistency, materiality and diversity. In the same quarter, fifty-five new services were added to the prospects index. Majority of these newly added services are offered by banks in collaboration with international MTOs, such as MoneyGram, Western Union and Wise. It is important to note that banks' MTO-linked transfers consistently offer lower fees than their non-MTO-linked counterparts. RPW will continue to monitor and include new services when and where relevant using the prospects index.

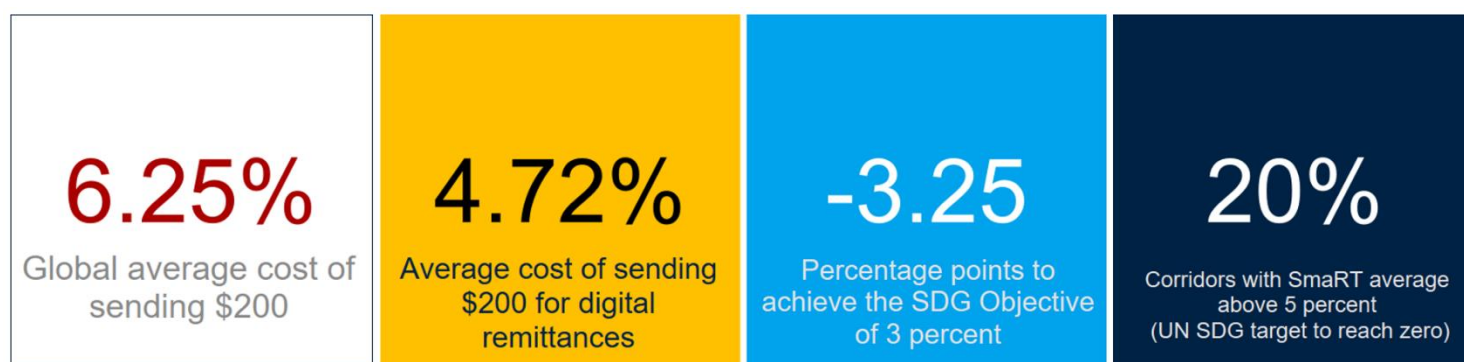
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Progress tracker

RPW indicators are used to measure the progress towards targets of global efforts for the reduction of remittance costs. The UN SDGs and the G20 have indicated a target of 3 percent for the Global Average to be reached by 2030.¹ At the same time, the UN SDGs and the G20 have also committed to ensuring that in all corridors, remittances can be transferred for 5 percent or less.

The figure below summarizes the progress towards these three targets.



Number of corridors in the Q1 2023 dataset

The Q1 2023 dataset includes data from 351 corridors (excluding 13 originating in Russia, and 3 originating in Nigeria). Due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, RPW did not include any data on corridors originating in the Russian Federation. In addition, remittance service providers (RSPs) have still not resumed outgoing remittance operations in Nigeria due to the Central Bank of Nigeria banning all outbound transfers from the country.

Prospects index

Since Q1 2022, RPW data collection would be used to also monitor new services via a **prospects index**. These new services could be candidates for inclusion in the main index in the future subject to them meeting certain requirements. Please see Annex IV for details.

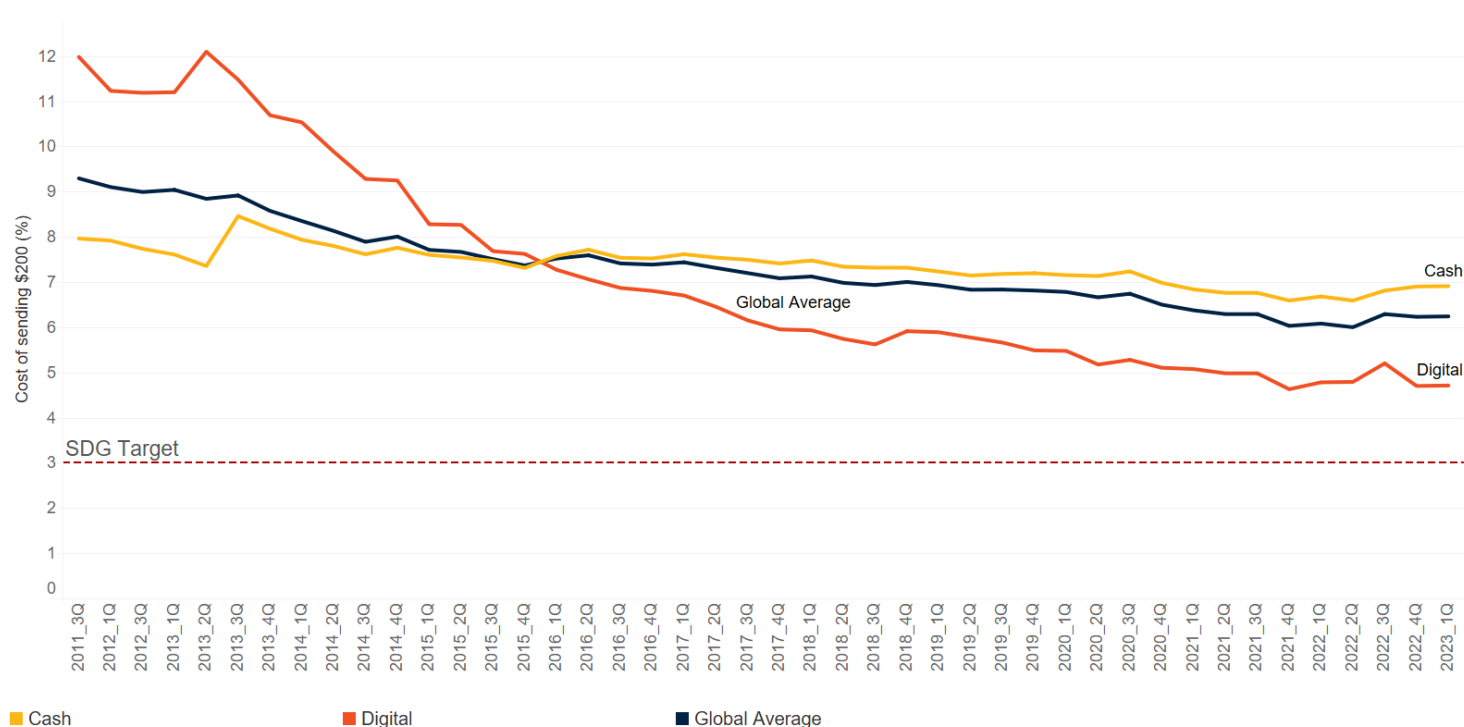
¹ The G8 (L'Aquila, 2010) and the G20 (Cannes, 2011 and Brisbane, 2014) committed to reduce the Global Average Total Cost to 5 percent. The G20 aligned with the UN's 2030 Agenda to include cost reduction targets set under SDG 10.c. In addition, through the G20 Roadmap for Enhancing Cross-Border Payments, the G20 reaffirmed SDG 10.c for remittance costs. World Bank's *Remittance Prices Worldwide* database will be used to monitor several targets on remittances in the Roadmap, including those on cost, speed and transparency. See FSB (2021), *Targets for addressing the four challenges of cross-border payments* (<https://www.fsb.org/wp-content/uploads/P131021-2.pdf>) and FSB (2022), *Developing the Implementation Approach for the Cross-Border Payments Targets* (<https://www.fsb.org/wp-content/uploads/P171122.pdf>). Until now, RPW has been reporting on the G8/G20 remittance target of 5%. In line with the G20 affirmation of the SDG 10.c remittance price targets, with this Q1 2023 edition of the RPW Quarterly Reports, the reporting is being adjusted to keep only SDG 10.c. There has been no change in methodology.

Global trends

Global average remains flat

In Q1 2023, the Global Average cost for sending remittances was 6.25 percent, a minute increase from 6.24 in Q4 2022. The Global Average has remained below 7.00 percent since Q1 2019 (see Figure 1 below and Table 1 in the Annex). Overall, this represents a decline of 3.42 percentage points since Q1 2009, when the figure was recorded at 9.67 percent. In Q1 2023, the global average for digital remittances was recorded at 4.72 percent, while the global average for non-digital remittances was 6.92 percent. Digital services account for 31% of all services RPW collected in Q1 2023.²

Figure 1 Trends in the global cost of sending \$200 in remittances³



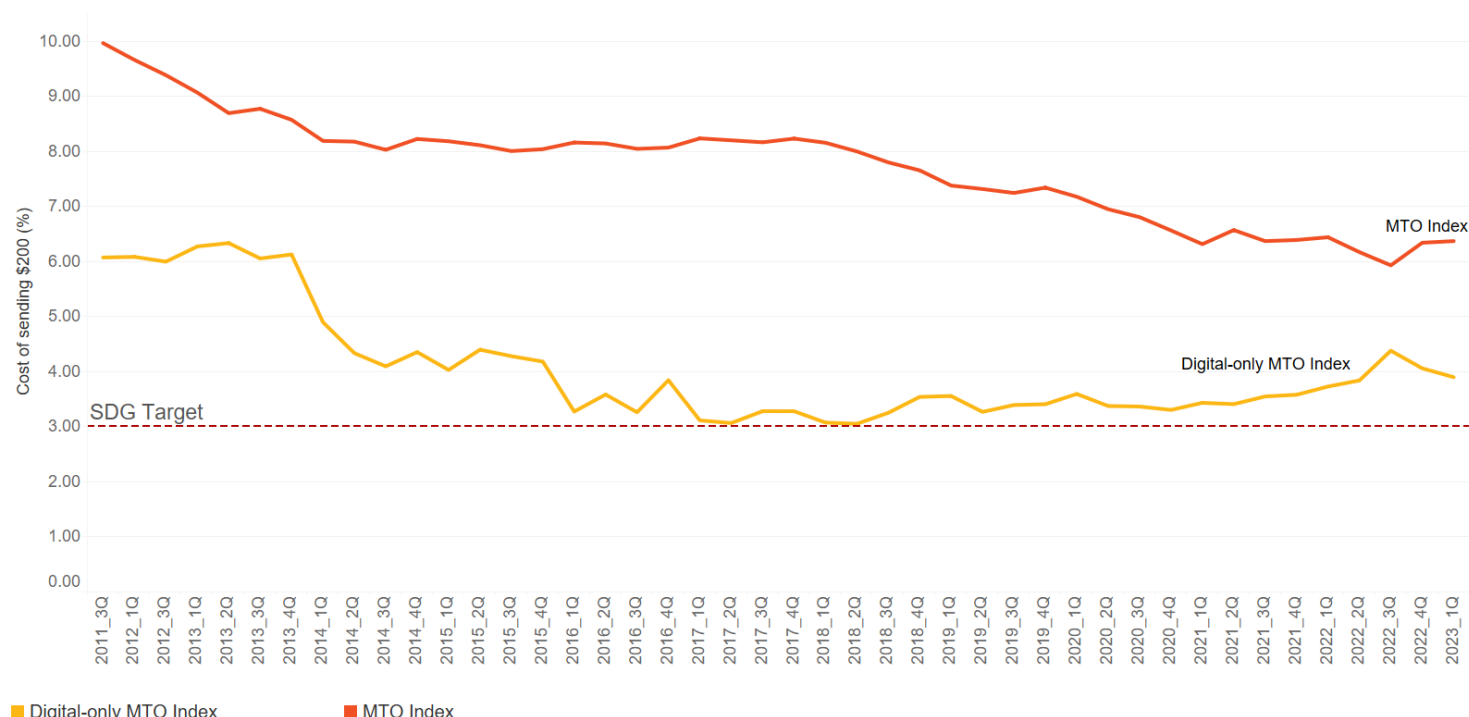
² A digital remittance must be sent via a payment instrument in an online or self-assisted manner, and received into a transaction account, i.e., bank account, transaction account maintained at a non-bank deposit taking institution (say a post office), mobile money or e-money account.

³ Figures for the global average were adjusted in Q1 2014 following a clean-up of the entire database. Some values slightly vary from figures published prior to Q1 2014.

International MTO index

The International MTO Index tracks the prices of MTOs that are present in at least 85 percent of corridors covered in the RPW database.⁴ In Q1 2023, the International MTO Index recorded an increase to 6.37 percent from the previous value of 6.34 percent in Q4 2022. Over the year, this figure was down by 0.06 of a percentage point, recorded at 6.44 percent in Q1 2022. This figure has come down by 3.99 percentage points from its first recorded value of 10.36 percent in Q1 2009. In Q1 2023, the digital-only MTO Index recorded at 3.90 percent, a decrease from 4.06 percent in Q4 2022.⁵ The digital-only MTO Index has consistently remained below both the International MTO Index and the global average.

Figure 2 Trends in International MTO Index & Digital-only MTO Index



Global weighted average

The global weighted average total cost accounts for the relative size of the flows in each remittance corridor.⁶ This, as illustrated in Figure 3 (see also Table 1 in the Annex), has at times shown a different

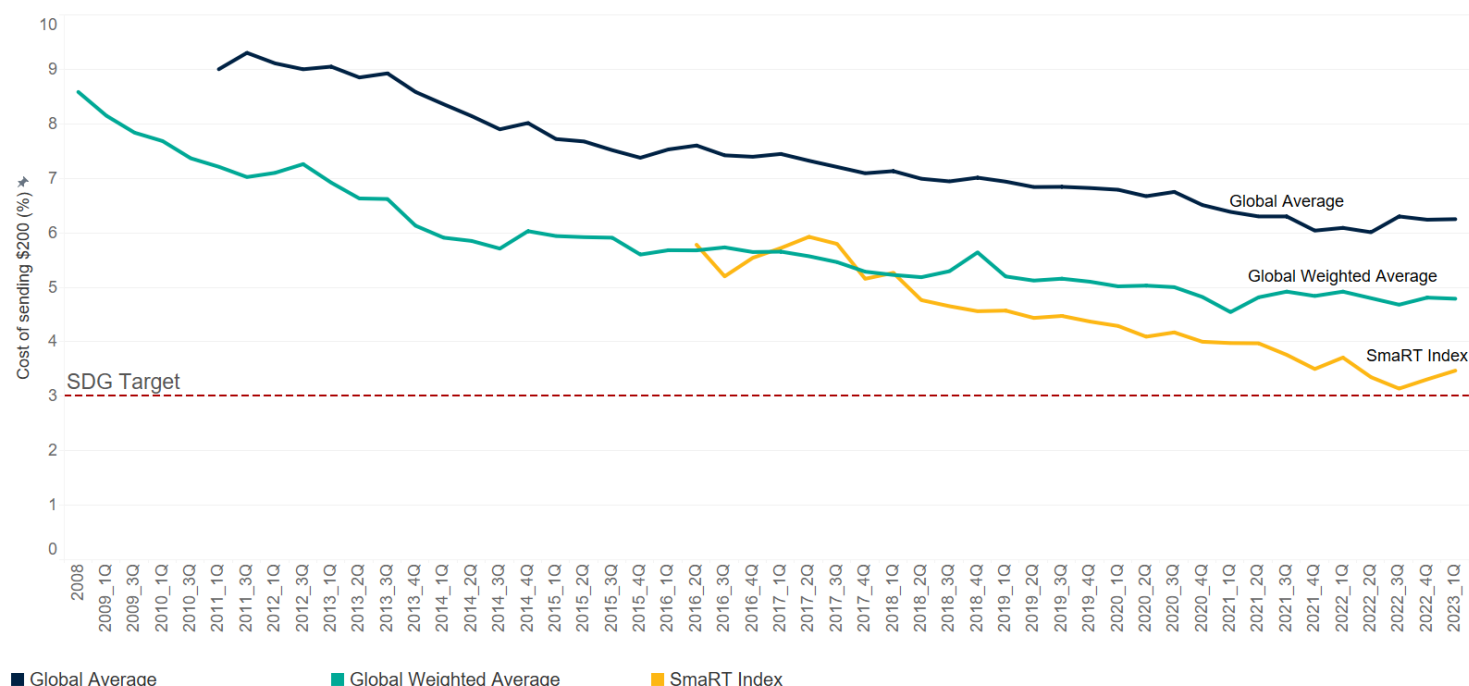
⁴ The International MTOs Index includes all MTOs that are present in over 85 percent of RPW corridors. Thus far, it has included Western Union and MoneyGram, which operate in 95 percent and 90 percent of the country corridors covered in the database, respectively.

⁵ A digital-only MTO refers to money transfer operators that send remittances predominantly through digital channels. The digital-only MTO index includes five digital-only MTOs, Wise, Remitly, WorldRemit, InstaReM and Xoom. Some of these providers also have physical channels.

⁶ It is important to note that, while official data on remittance flows by bilateral corridors are currently not available, estimates (Ratha and Shaw 2007, the 2018 version, available at

pattern from the simple average. In Q1 2023, the Global Weighted Average was recorded at 4.79 percent. This figure has been recorded below 5.00 percent since Q4 2020. Over the last five years, this figure has decreased by approximately 0.43 percentage points – recorded at 5.23 percent in Q1 2018.

Figure 3 Trends in Global weighted average & SmaRT average



Smart Remitter Target (SmaRT)

To complement the Global Average and Global Weighted Averages described above, the World Bank introduced the SmaRT indicator in Q2 2016, which aims to reflect the cost that a savvy consumer with access to sufficiently complete information could pay to transfer remittances in each corridor. SmaRT is calculated as the simple average of the three cheapest qualifying services for sending the equivalent of \$200 in each corridor and is expressed as a percentage of the total amount sent. In addition to transparency, services must meet additional criteria to qualify for being included in the SmaRT calculation, including transaction speed (five days or less), and accessibility, determined by geographic proximity of branches for services that require physical presence, or access to any technology or device necessary to

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/migrationremittancesdiasporaissues/brief/migration-remittances-data>) have been used in this calculation. These estimates are based on the Balance of Payments (BOP) and factor in migrant stocks, destination country incomes, and source country incomes. The methodology for these estimates has been questioned, as well as the accuracy of official data on remittance flows and migrant stocks. However, this still represents the only available comprehensive dataset on bilateral remittance flows. It also seems likely that overall, the dataset is sufficiently accurate to reflect at least the proportion between the different corridors, hence offering a good approximation to weight the relevance of each corridor in terms of flow size.

use the service, such as a bank account, mobile phone, or the Internet.⁷ In Q1 2023, the Global Smart Average was recorded at 3.47 percent.

The potential of Smart can be appreciated even more at the corridor level, where the indicators can inform policy actions by identifying limitations at a more granular level. In Q1 2023, 27 of the 354⁸ corridors did not have any Smart qualifying services, indicating that in these corridors there is an issue with either access or reach of services, or a lower level of competition. Of these 27 corridors, sixteen are destined for Sub-Saharan Africa, six for the Middle East and North Africa, four for South Asia, and one for Latin America and the Caribbean. An overwhelming majority of these corridors have low Internet penetration and/or have low transaction account penetration, which indicate that access to the Internet and accounts should be proactively targeted in these regions as a means of encouraging more diverse payment and remittance services offering. Majority of the receiving countries in this group have a “Green Light” Smart rating for accessibility to Cash, and majority (20 out of 27 – see Box 1) have a “Green Light” rating for Mobile services (measured by availability of cash services and number of cellular subscriptions per 100 persons).

Box 1 - Corridors without Smart qualifying services with “Green Light” rating for mobile services

Angola to Namibia	Qatar to Sudan	Saudi Arabia to Sudan
Italy to Egypt, Arab Rep.	<i>Nigeria to Benin</i>	Saudi Arabia to Syrian Arab Rep.
Ghana to Nigeria	<i>Nigeria to Mali</i>	Jordan to Syrian Arab Rep.
India to Bangladesh	<i>Nigeria to Togo</i>	United Arab Emirates to Yemen, Rep.
India to Pakistan	Netherlands to Suriname	United Arab Emirates to Sudan
India to Sri Lanka	South Africa to Lesotho	United States to Yemen, Rep.
Qatar to Egypt, Arab Rep.	South Africa to Swaziland	

Note: In Q1 2023, RPW continues to experience difficulties in collecting data on all outbound services from Nigeria. In addition, data on services originating in the Russian Federation (13 corridors) were not included. Therefore, for Q1 2023, RPW reports no qualifying services in these 16 corridors, three of which are listed in this Box in italics.

The UN SDGs committed to ensure that, by 2030, it should be possible to send remittances for 5 percent or less in every corridor. The Smart averages are used as a reference for this indicator, reflecting the fact that in any given corridor there are services available to customers that meet the requirements described above, while also on average offering a cost that is in line with the UN SDG. As of Q1 2023, 73 percent of all corridors covered in the RPW database had Smart corridor averages below 5 percent.⁹

Trends in corridor average total costs

Figure 4 shows that compared to Q1 2009, the proportion of corridors with average costs of less than 10

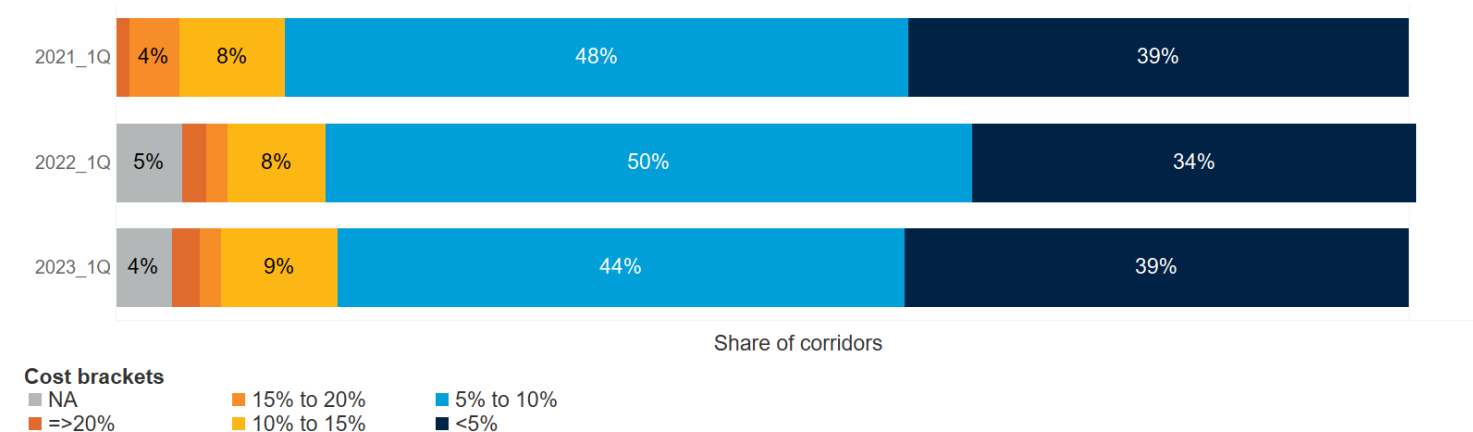
⁷ For additional information on the methodology used to calculate Smart see https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/smart_methodology.pdf

⁸ The number of corridors excludes the 13 corridors originating in Russia.

⁹ Please note that this figure excludes the 13 corridors which originate in Russia.

percent has increased considerably, showing an overall increase of share by 31 percentage points (53 percent of corridors in Q1 2009, compared to 83 percent of corridors in Q1 2023). This shift is naturally accompanied by a decrease of share of corridors exhibiting total costs over 15 percent (18 percent of corridors compared to 4 percent of corridors). In the 10-15 percent total cost category there are 9 percent of corridors in Q1 2023, compared to 29 percent of corridors in Q1 2009. Year over year since Q1 2019, this gradual shift is visible. Of the 8 corridors with costs above 20 percent in Q1 2023, six originate in Sub-Saharan Africa and are destined for Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, corridor average total costs for all outbound services from Nigeria remain unavailable. Corridor average total costs for services originating from Russia are also not included. These 16 corridors are shown as “NA” in Figure 4.

Figure 4 Distribution of Average Total Costs

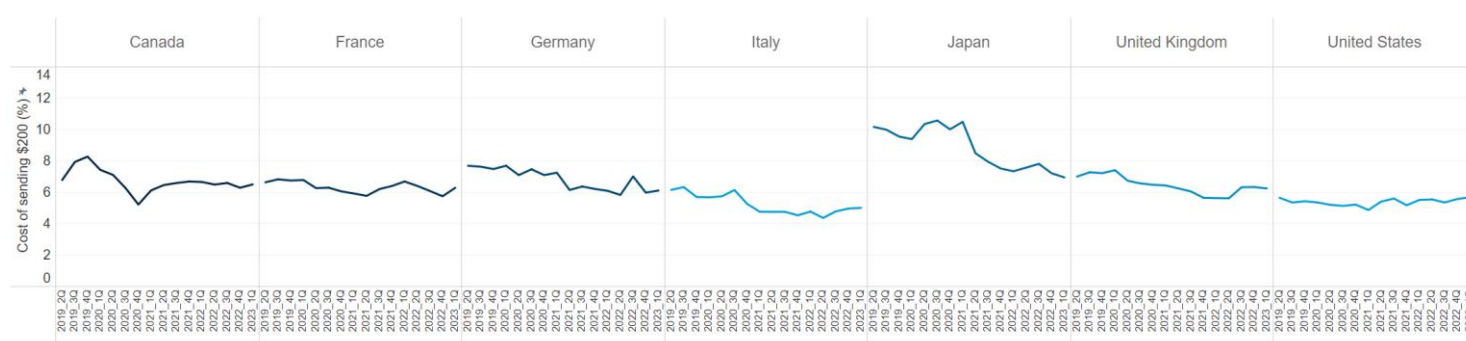


G8 and G20 countries

Cost of sending remittances from G8 countries

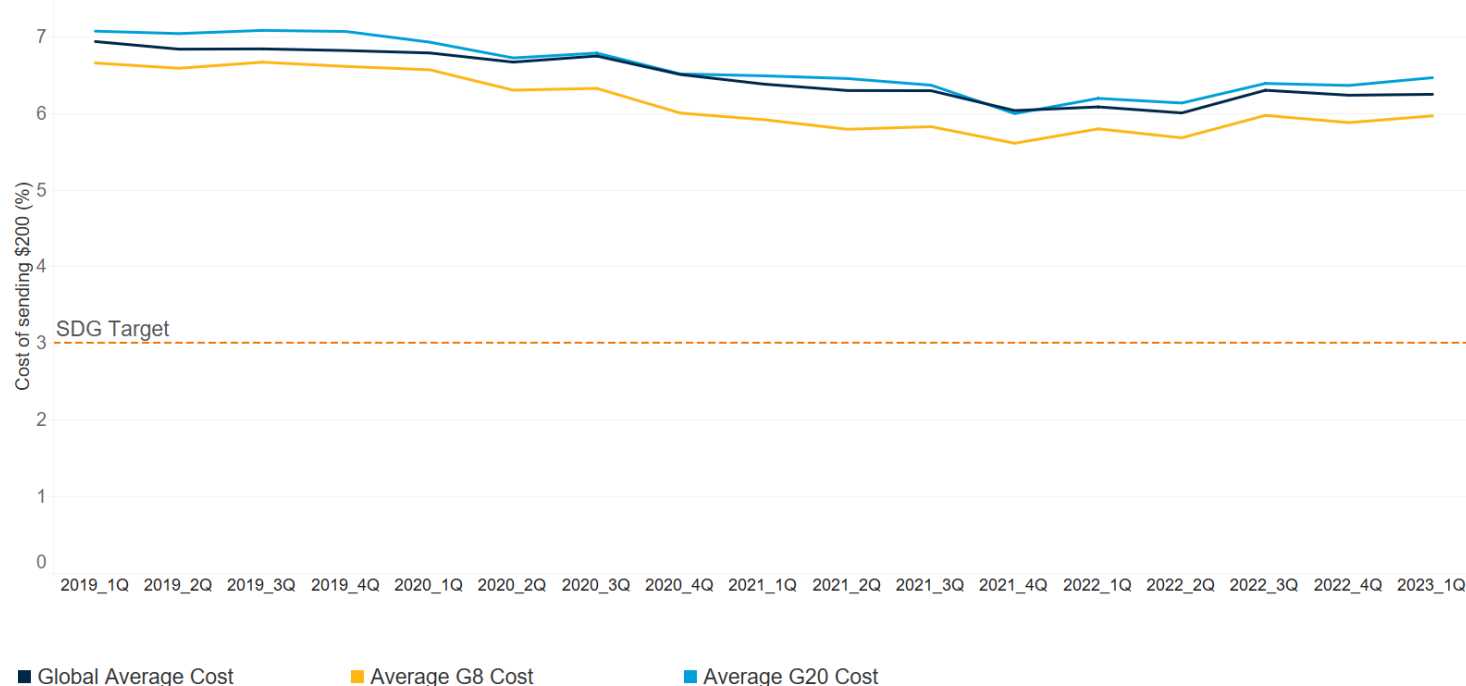
The G8 countries include several of the major remittance sending countries in the world.¹⁰ The average cost for sending remittances from the G8 countries increased from 5.88 percent in Q4 2022 to 5.97 percent in Q1 2023. Over the year, this figure increased by 0.17 of a percentage point (from 5.80 percent in Q1 2022). The largest increase in total average cost to send remittances is seen in France (5.75 percent to 6.29 percent), Canada (6.29 percent to 6.51 percent), Germany (5.98 percent to 6.13 percent), the United States (5.58 percent to 5.69 percent), and Italy (4.97 percent to 5.01 percent). The largest decrease is seen in Japan (7.22 percent to 6.96 percent), followed by the United Kingdom (6.34 percent to 6.25 percent).

¹⁰ As the dataset did not include data on corridors originating from Russia collected in the same way as from other sending countries, the G8 and G20 figures reported do not include data on these corridors from Russia.

Figure 5 Total average over time in G8 countries

Cost of sending remittances from and to G20 countries

The cost of remitting from G20 countries experienced a small increase to 6.47 percent in Q1 2023, as shown in Figure 6 (also see Table 3 in the Annex).

Figure 6 Average cost of sending \$200 from G8 and G20 countries

South Africa remains the costliest G20 country to send remittances from (see Figure 7). This is despite an overall decrease from its peak in Q1 2013, when the cost of sending from South Africa was more than 20 percent. In Q1 2023, remitting from South Africa incurred an average cost of 13.40 percent, an increase from its recorded value of 13.19 percent in Q4 2022. The cost of sending from the second most expensive G20 sending country – Brazil – was recorded at 8.10 percent in Q1 2023. The Republic of Korea is the

least expensive G20 sending country, recorded at 3.30 percent, followed by Saudi Arabia (4.54 percent), Italy (5.01 percent), the United States (5.69 percent), Australia (5.77 percent), and Germany (6.13 percent).

Figure 7 Average cost of remitting from G20 countries

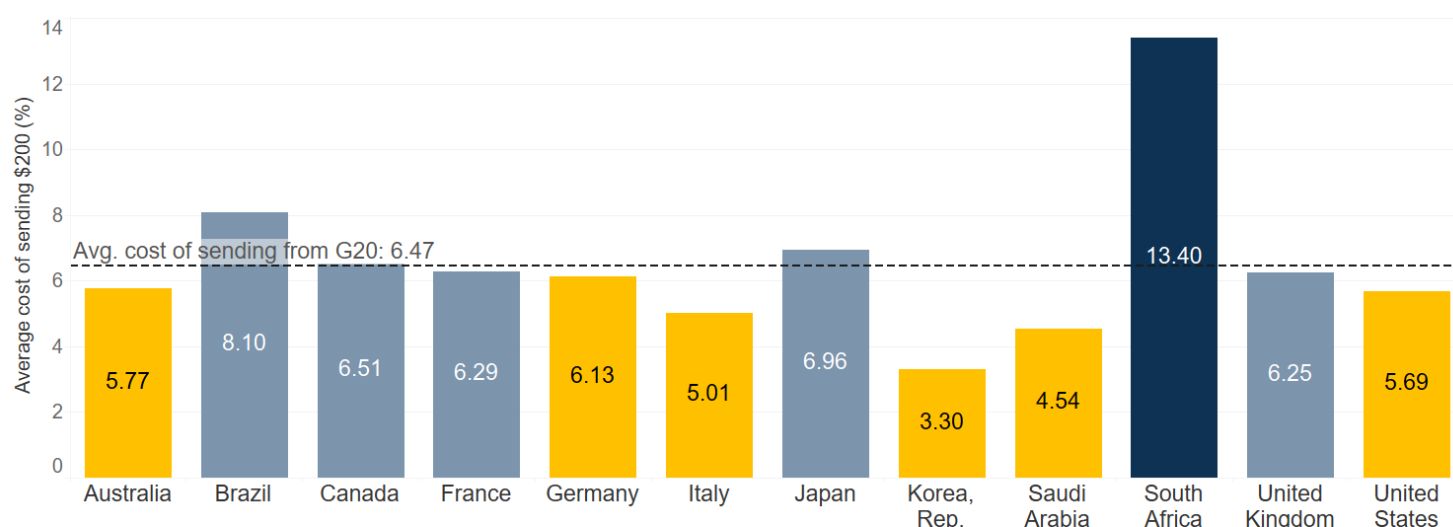
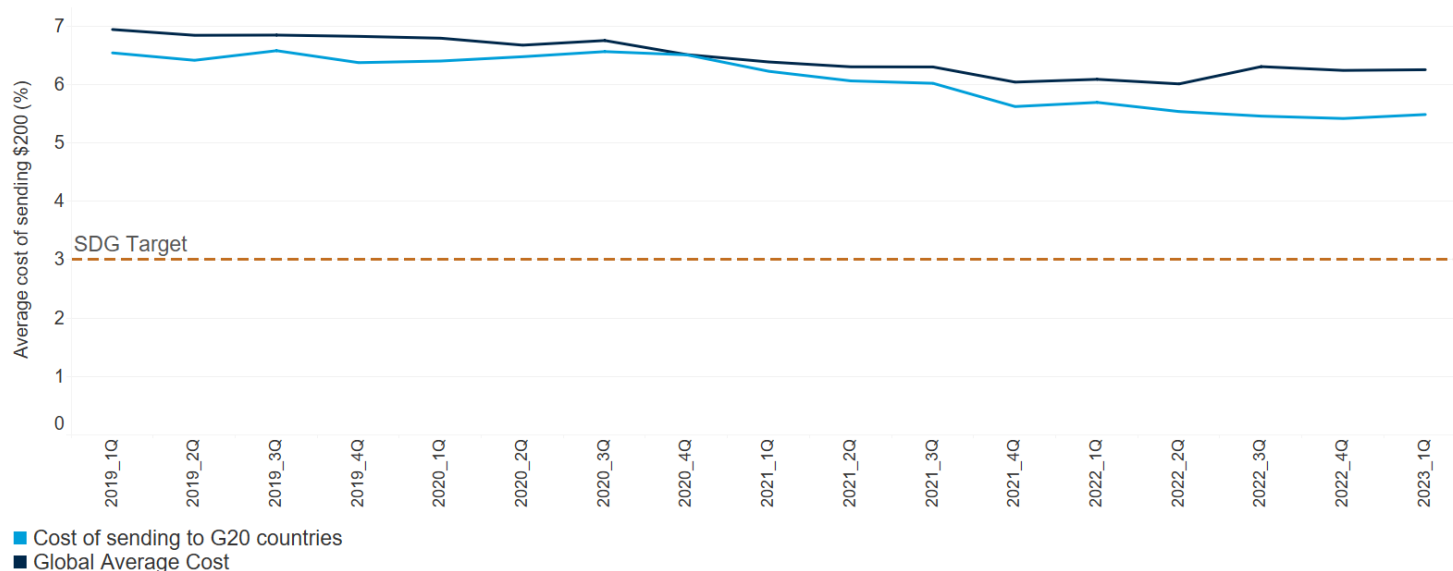


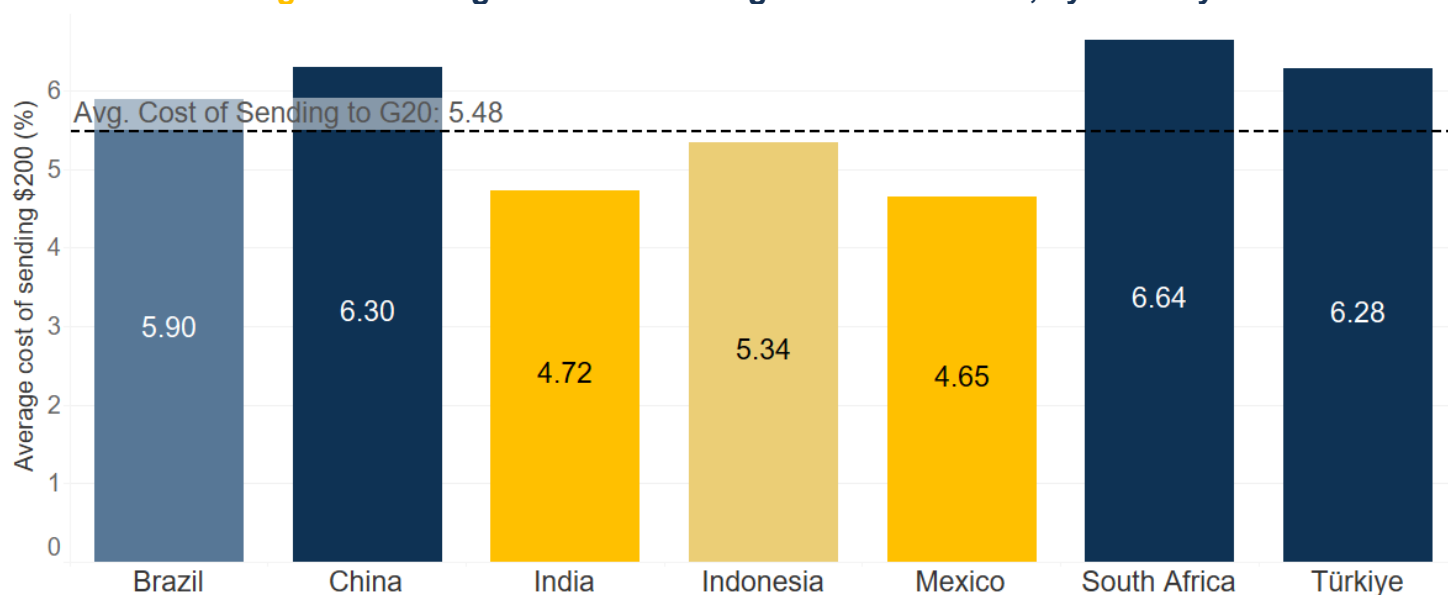
Figure 8 Average cost of sending \$200 to G20 countries



Figures 8 and 9 display the total average cost of sending \$200 to G20 countries over time and in Q1 2023, respectively (see also Table 4 in the Annex). The average cost of sending money to the G20 countries that are included in RPW as receiving markets was recorded at 5.48 percent in Q1 2023.

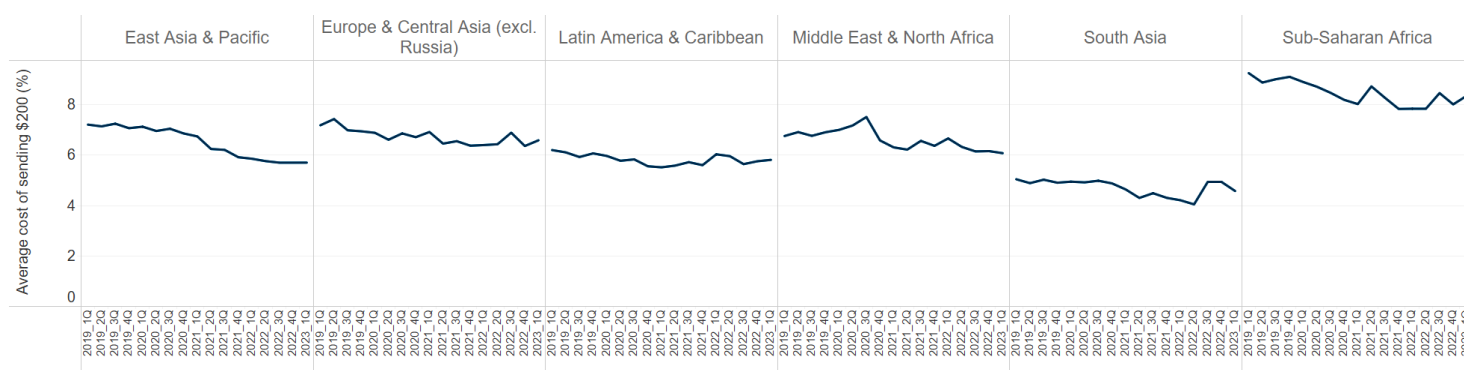
Apart from a few quarters, the average cost of sending money to the G20 countries has followed the pattern of the Global Average. Since Q2 2017, the cost of remitting to G20 countries is recorded below the Global Average. In Q1 2023, South Africa (6.64 percent) is the most expensive country in this group to remit to, followed by China (6.30 percent), and Türkiye (6.28 percent). Costs for sending remittances to Brazil, Indonesia, India, and Mexico were recorded below 6 percent. Mexico remained the cheapest receiving market in the G20 group, recorded at 4.65 percent.

Figure 9 Average cost of remitting to G20 countries, by Country



Regional trends

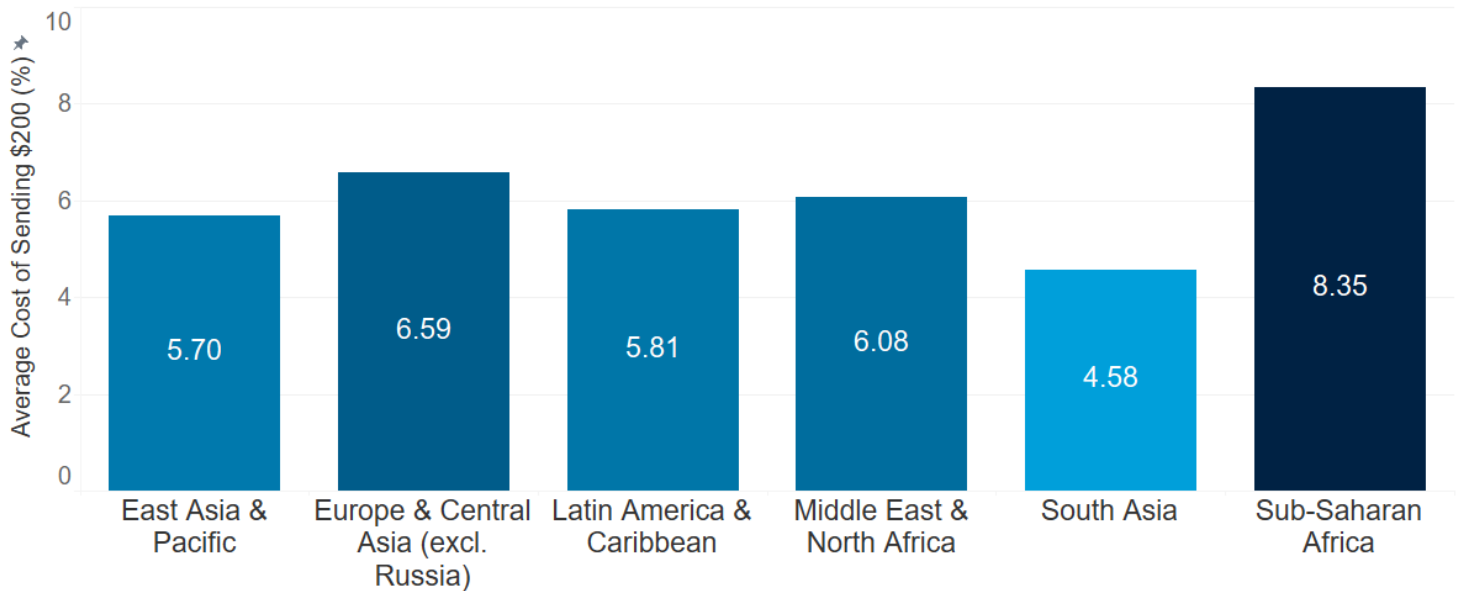
Figure 10 Average costs over time by region of the world



The cost for remittance services varies significantly depending on the region where the money is being sent to (see Figures 10 & 11 below and Table 5 in the Annex). Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) experienced the largest increase from 8.01 percent to 8.35 percent, followed by Europe & Central Asia (ECA) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). South Asia (SA) experienced the largest decrease from 4.94 percent

to 4.58 percent, followed by Middle East and North Africa (MNA). East Asia and Pacific (EAP) remained the same at 5.70 percent.

Figure 11 Average costs by region of the world



Cost structure

Cash vs. digital services

Figure 12 Average costs by region: cash vs digital services

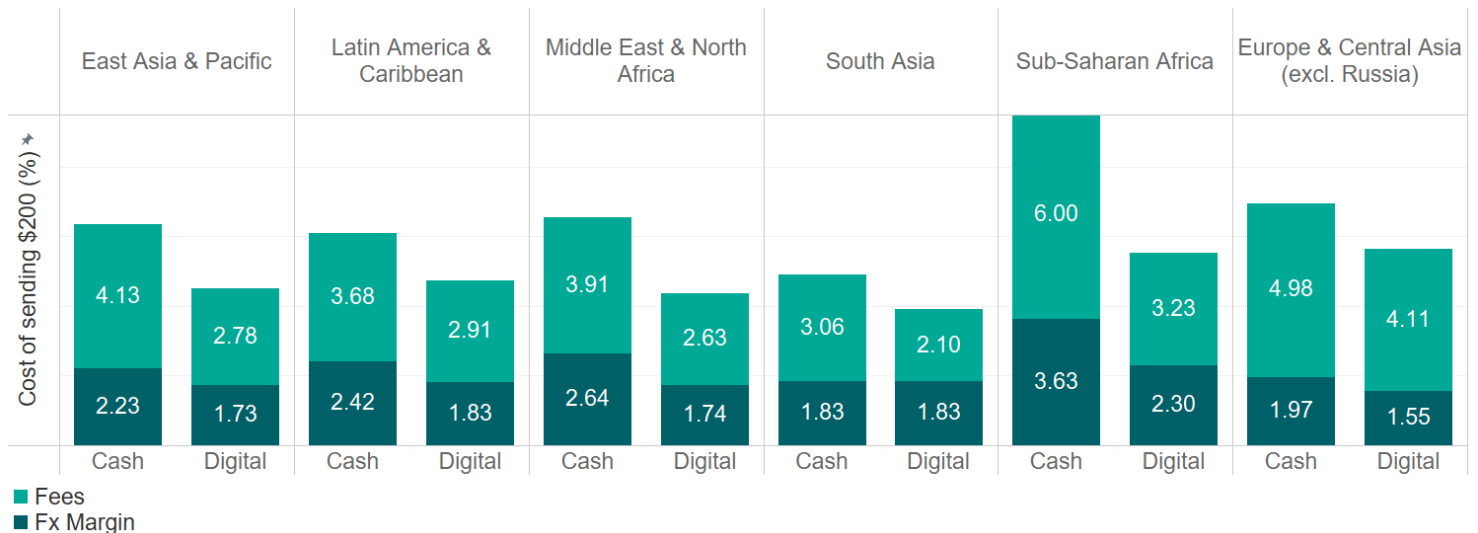


Figure 12 further compares the costs for remittance services among different regions, by breaking down the cost into two components: fee and foreign exchange (FX) margin. Within each region, Figure 12

differentiates between digital and non-digital remittances. It shows fees account for a large portion of the costs for remittance services. Moreover, costs for non-digital services are consistently higher than those for digital services regardless of the region where the money is being sent to.

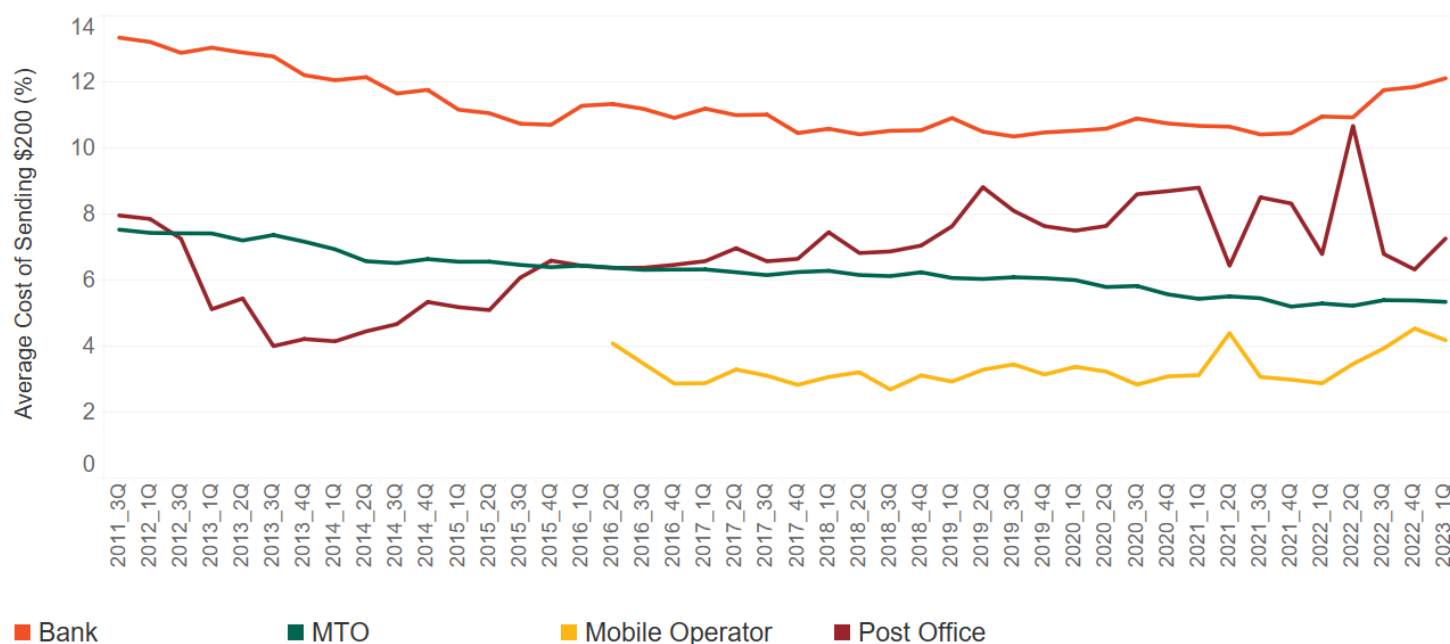
Costs by RSP type

RPW tracks the cost of sending remittances for four main RSP types: banks, MTOs, mobile operators, and post offices. Figure 13 provides a time series visual of all the RSP types included in the RPW dataset.

Over time, banks, mobile operators, and MTOs have seen a general decline of total average costs, while post office services, due to the small number of services, have led a volatile trend and overall recorded periodic increases since the historic low recorded in Q3 2013. Banks have been firmly above the Global Average, whereas MTOs and mobile operators have remained below.

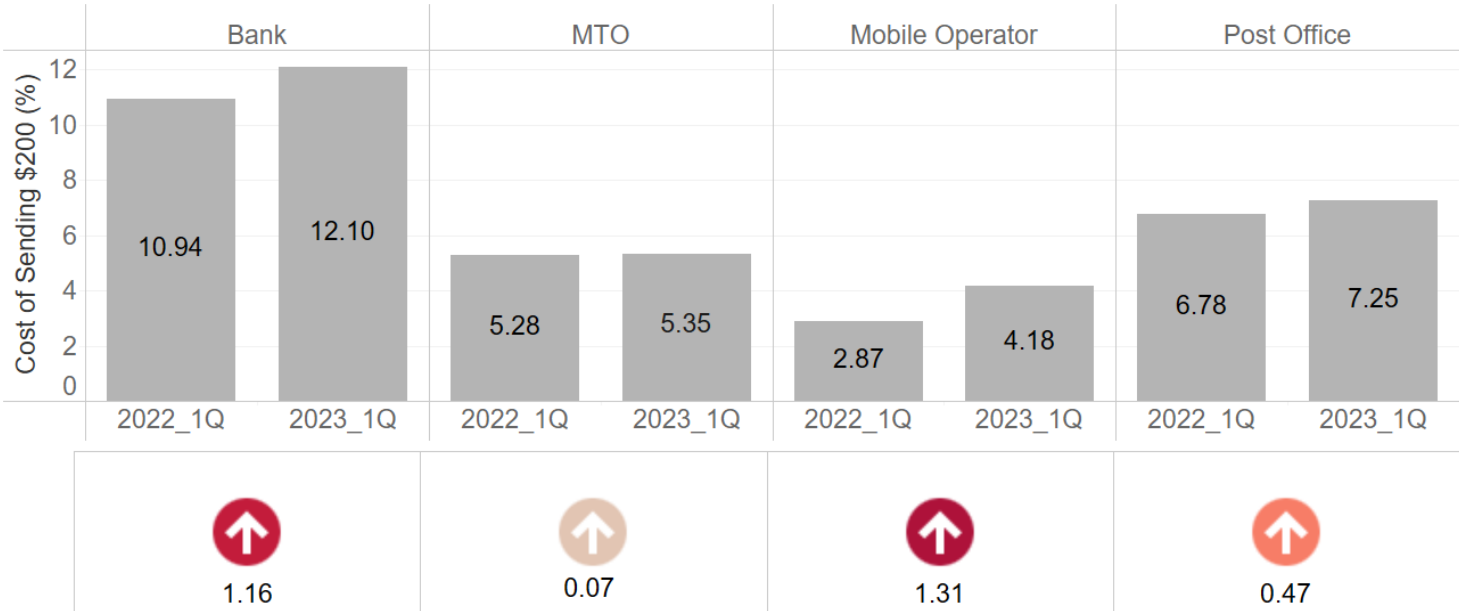
Figure 14 provides an overview for each RSP type in Q1 2022 and Q1 2023. Banks continue to be the costliest RSP type, with an average cost of 12.10 percent in Q1 2023. Post offices' costs are recorded at 7.25 percent in Q1 2023.¹¹ MTOs' costs are recorded at 5.35 percent, while mobile operators are the cheapest RSP type with costs recorded at 4.18 percent. However, mobile operators only account for a very small share (less than 1%) of the sample size. Box 2 provides additional details on the average cost of sending \$200 via mobile operators.

Figure 13 Total averages over time by RSP type



¹¹ Several services originating in France via "La Poste" are provided by "La Banque Postale" which is a subsidiary of La Poste and is licensed as a bank. This recategorization seems to have impacted the average cost of sending via post offices in Q1 2022.

Figure 14 Total average by RSP type

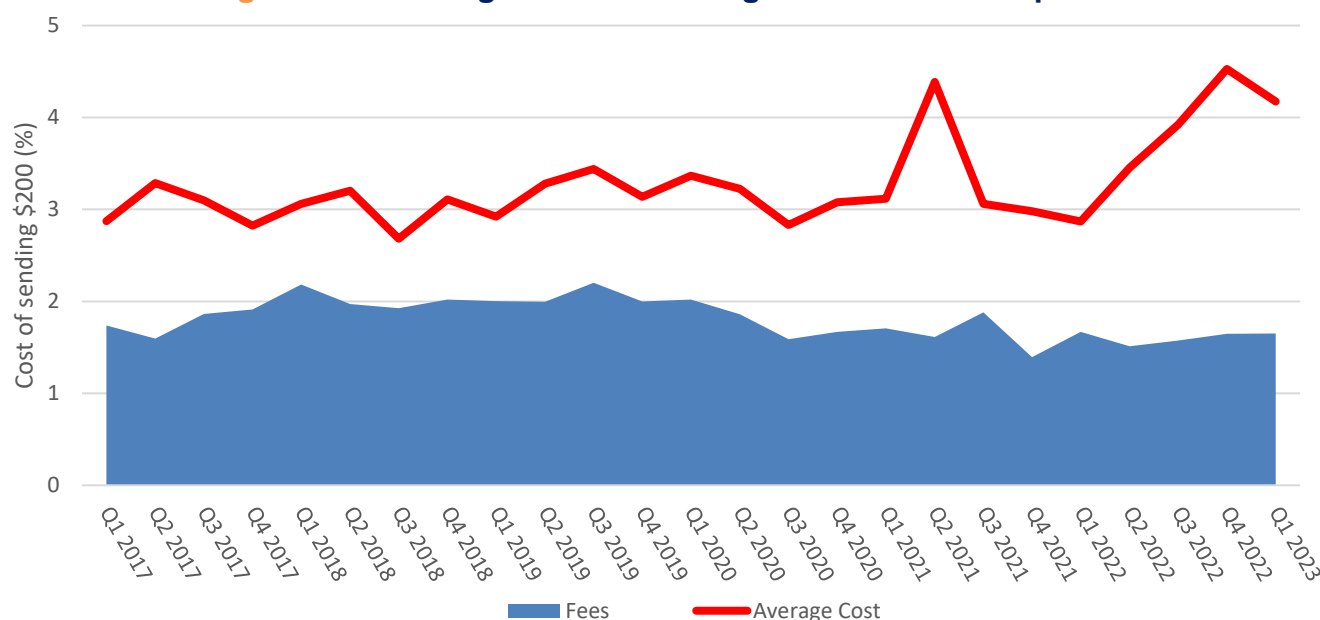


Box 2 - Average cost of sending \$200 via mobile operators

Average cost of sending \$200 via mobile operators has been fluctuating around 3 percent over time, until recently. At the same time, transfer fees charged by mobile operators have been around 1.5 – 2.0 percent on average (Figure B2.1 – the blue shaded portion in the chart shows share of fees in the average cost).

RPW collects the total cost of services split into two components: transfer fee and foreign exchange margin. As shown in the figure, the fluctuations in the average cost of sending via mobile operators since 2021 have largely been due to the fluctuations in the average foreign exchange margin.

Figure B2.1 Average cost of sending \$200 via mobile operators



A similar pattern is also observed for mobile money as the payment instrument.

Costs by sending and receiving method

RPW captures separately the payment instrument used to fund the transaction and the one used to disburse the funds to the receiver. This approach is reflected in the charts below. This approach allows for further refinement of the analysis and increases its adaptability to new products that might emerge and has proven particularly useful in monitoring innovative products and players.

In Q1 2023, the cheapest method for funding a remittance transaction was Mobile Money at 4.36 percent (55 services recorded in RPW) (Figure 15). The average cost when using Cash (1,724 services) was 6.60 percent. Sending money using credit or debit card (3,536 services) cost 5.34 percent. Using a bank

account incurred an average cost of 7.45 percent (2,266 services).

Figure 15 Average Cost by Instrument Used to Fund the Transaction

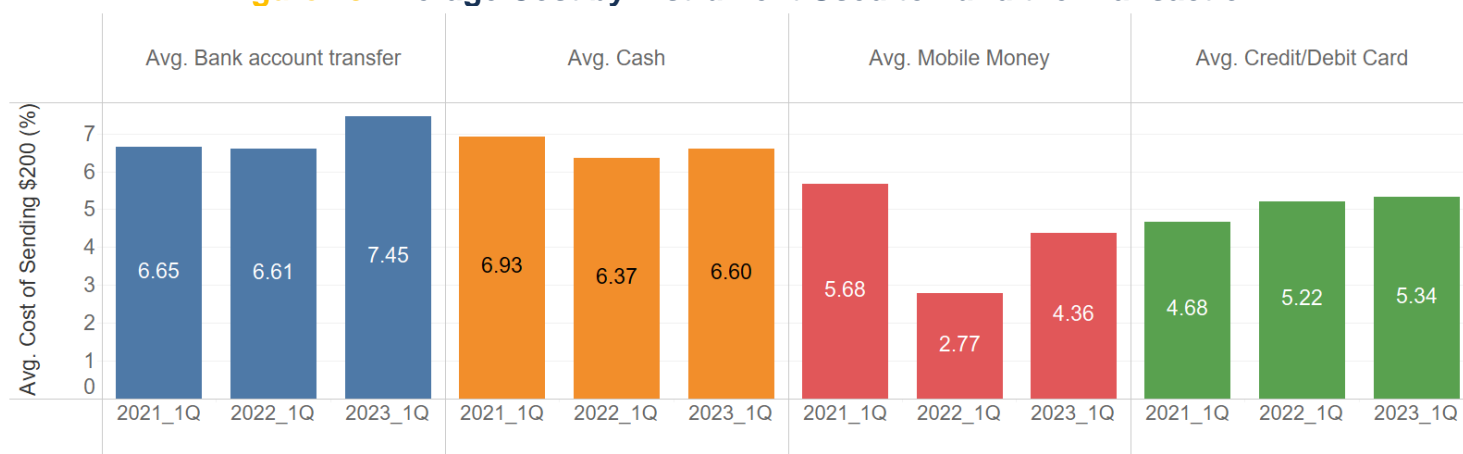
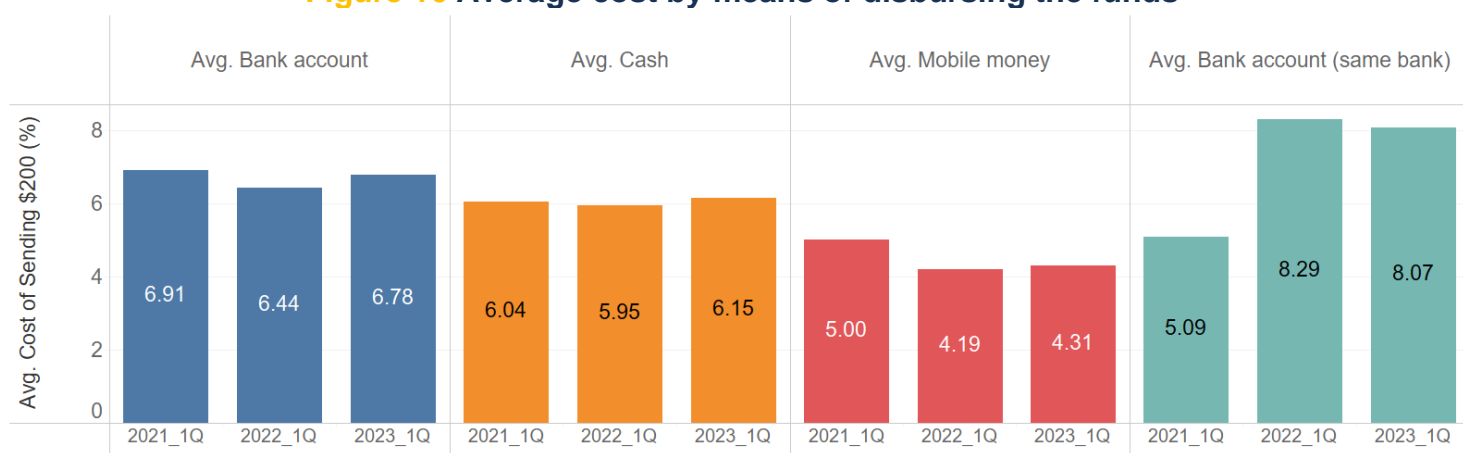


Figure 16 Average cost by means of disbursing the funds



The cost of sending remittances to a bank account within the same bank or to a partner of the originating bank (89 services) was recorded at 8.07 percent in Q1 2023 (Figure 16). In contrast, sending money to a bank account regardless of originating bank (2,798 services), was 6.78 percent. When funds are sent to a mobile wallet (551 services) the average cost in Q1 2023 was 4.31 percent. Services where money is disbursed in cash (4,229 services) cost on average 6.15 percent.

Annex I – Tables (\$200)

Table 1 – Global Average (%), International MTO Index

	2019_1Q	2019_2Q	2019_3Q	2019_4Q	2020_1Q	2020_2Q	2020_3Q	2020_4Q	2021_1Q	2021_2Q	2021_3Q	2021_4Q	2022_1Q	2022_2Q	2022_3Q	2022_4Q	2023_1Q
Global Average Cost	6.94	6.84	6.84	6.82	6.79	6.67	6.75	6.51	6.38	6.30	6.30	6.04	6.09	6.01	6.30	6.24	6.25
MTO Index	7.38	7.32	7.24	7.34	7.18	6.95	6.81	6.56	6.31	6.57	6.37	6.39	6.44	6.17	5.93	6.34	6.37

Table 2 – Total average in G8 Countries (%)

	2019_1Q	2019_2Q	2019_3Q	2019_4Q	2020_1Q	2020_2Q	2020_3Q	2020_4Q	2021_1Q	2021_2Q	2021_3Q	2021_4Q	2022_1Q	2022_2Q	2022_3Q	2022_4Q	2023_1Q
Canada	7.83	6.79	7.94	8.28	7.44	7.12	6.27	5.23	6.13	6.47	6.60	6.69	6.66	6.50	6.60	6.29	6.51
France	6.43	6.64	6.83	6.76	6.79	6.27	6.30	6.06	5.93	5.78	6.21	6.41	6.69	6.41	6.09	5.75	6.29
Germany	7.59	7.70	7.64	7.49	7.70	7.10	7.47	7.10	7.26	6.15	6.37	6.22	6.10	5.83	7.02	5.98	6.13
Italy	6.04	6.16	6.33	5.71	5.68	5.75	6.15	5.27	4.76	4.76	4.76	4.54	4.78	4.37	4.79	4.97	5.01
Japan	10.35	10.18	9.99	9.56	9.40	10.36	10.58	10.02	10.50	8.50	7.95	7.52	7.35	7.58	7.82	7.22	6.96
Russian Federation	1.90	1.91	1.59	2.11	1.83	1.90	1.94	1.00	1.00	2.40	2.93	3.13					
United Kingdom	6.97	7.01	7.28	7.23	7.42	6.74	6.57	6.48	6.44	6.25	6.06	5.65	5.64	5.62	6.33	6.34	6.25
United States	5.74	5.66	5.36	5.43	5.36	5.21	5.14	5.22	4.88	5.41	5.61	5.18	5.52	5.55	5.36	5.58	5.69
G8	6.66	6.59	6.67	6.61	6.57	6.31	6.33	6.01	5.92	5.79	5.83	5.61	5.80	5.68	5.98	5.88	5.97

Table 3 – Total average in G20 sending countries (%)

	2019_1Q	2019_2Q	2019_3Q	2019_4Q	2020_1Q	2020_2Q	2020_3Q	2020_4Q	2021_1Q	2021_2Q	2021_3Q	2021_4Q	2022_1Q	2022_2Q	2022_3Q	2022_4Q	2023_1Q
Australia	7.58	7.68	7.42	7.61	7.59	7.31	7.21	7.31	7.23	6.56	7.25	6.40	6.23	5.76	5.82	5.88	5.77
Brazil	7.66	7.39	6.57	6.83	5.09	9.57	9.77	7.00	7.17	7.74	4.81	4.19	5.93	7.71	9.01	8.08	8.10
Canada	7.83	6.79	7.94	8.28	7.44	7.12	6.27	5.23	6.13	6.47	6.60	6.69	6.66	6.50	6.60	6.29	6.51
France	6.43	6.64	6.83	6.76	6.79	6.27	6.30	6.06	5.93	5.78	6.21	6.41	6.69	6.41	6.09	5.75	6.29
Germany	7.59	7.70	7.64	7.49	7.70	7.10	7.47	7.10	7.26	6.15	6.37	6.22	6.10	5.83	7.02	5.98	6.13
Italy	6.04	6.16	6.33	5.71	5.68	5.75	6.15	5.27	4.76	4.76	4.76	4.54	4.78	4.37	4.79	4.97	5.01
Japan	10.35	10.18	9.99	9.56	9.40	10.36	10.58	10.02	10.50	8.50	7.95	7.52	7.35	7.58	7.82	7.22	6.96
Korea, Rep.	5.05	4.92	4.87	4.50	4.77	4.72	4.74	4.74	4.61	4.15	4.18	3.46	2.98	2.93	2.07	2.28	3.30
Russian Federation	1.90	1.91	1.59	2.11	1.83	1.90	1.94	1.00	1.00	2.40	2.93	3.13					
Saudi Arabia	4.88	5.18	4.99	4.75	4.53	4.79	4.80	4.42	3.55	4.82	4.87	4.20	4.43	4.87	4.22	4.83	4.54
South Africa	14.85	15.27	15.96	17.18	15.34	14.56	15.05	14.41	14.91	15.86	14.81	13.02	13.93	14.73	15.01	13.19	13.40
United Kingdom	6.97	7.01	7.28	7.23	7.42	6.74	6.57	6.48	6.44	6.25	6.06	5.65	5.64	5.62	6.33	6.34	6.25
United States	5.74	5.66	5.36	5.43	5.36	5.21	5.14	5.22	4.88	5.41	5.61	5.18	5.52	5.55	5.36	5.58	5.69
From G20	7.07	7.04	7.08	7.07	6.93	6.73	6.79	6.52	6.49	6.46	6.37	6.00	6.20	6.14	6.39	6.37	6.47

Table 4 – Total average in G20 receiving countries (cost to send money to select countries %)

	2019_1Q	2019_2Q	2019_3Q	2019_4Q	2020_1Q	2020_2Q	2020_3Q	2020_4Q	2021_1Q	2021_2Q	2021_3Q	2021_4Q	2022_1Q	2022_2Q	2022_3Q	2022_4Q	2023_1Q
Brazil	7.32	7.54	7.63	7.18	7.78	7.30	6.90	7.07	6.69	6.10	6.43	6.35	6.56	6.27	6.17	5.87	5.90
China	8.45	8.13	9.04	8.32	8.10	8.23	8.43	8.07	7.71	7.14	6.78	6.35	6.52	6.28	6.37	6.12	6.30
India	5.47	5.24	5.38	5.30	5.31	5.30	5.41	5.51	5.17	5.18	5.31	4.94	4.98	4.70	4.65	4.57	4.72
Indonesia	6.51	6.57	6.08	6.15	6.12	6.68	6.57	6.53	6.29	6.16	6.15	5.62	5.61	5.57	5.26	5.51	5.34
Mexico	4.53	4.64	4.61	4.39	4.04	4.22	4.18	3.87	3.65	4.59	4.39	4.28	4.81	4.53	4.45	4.57	4.65
South Africa	7.23	7.88	7.54	7.80	7.82	7.41	8.14	8.03	8.08	7.16	8.21	6.20	6.36	6.56	6.68	6.43	6.64
Türkiye	6.71	6.98	6.62	6.62	6.72	6.67	7.26	6.75	6.91	7.54	6.93	6.54	6.08	6.55	6.20	6.40	6.28
to G20	6.54	6.41	6.58	6.37	6.40	6.47	6.56	6.50	6.22	6.06	6.02	5.62	5.69	5.53	5.46	5.42	5.48

Table 5 – Total average by regions of the world (%)

	2019_1Q	2019_2Q	2019_3Q	2019_4Q	2020_1Q	2020_2Q	2020_3Q	2020_4Q	2021_1Q	2021_2Q	2021_3Q	2021_4Q	2022_1Q	2022_2Q	2022_3Q	2022_4Q	2023_1Q
East Asia & Pacific	7.21	7.14	7.24	7.07	7.13	6.96	7.05	6.86	6.74	6.24	6.21	5.91	5.85	5.76	5.70	5.70	5.70
Europe & Central Asia (excl. Russia)	6.67	6.94	6.59	6.55	6.48	6.27	6.51	6.42	6.61	6.25	6.15	6.05	6.40	6.43	6.89	6.36	6.59
Latin America & Caribbean	6.20	6.11	5.92	6.07	5.97	5.77	5.83	5.56	5.51	5.58	5.72	5.60	6.03	5.96	5.64	5.75	5.81
Middle East & North Africa	6.76	6.91	6.76	6.91	7.00	7.17	7.51	6.58	6.31	6.22	6.56	6.37	6.66	6.33	6.15	6.16	6.08
South Asia	5.04	4.89	5.02	4.90	4.95	4.92	4.98	4.88	4.64	4.30	4.49	4.30	4.21	4.05	4.94	4.94	4.58
Sub-Saharan Africa	9.25	8.88	9.01	9.10	8.90	8.71	8.47	8.19	8.02	8.72	8.27	7.83	7.84	7.84	8.46	8.01	8.35

Annex II - Cost Trends for Sending \$500

This Annex is a continued supplement to the ongoing Global Cost Reduction monitoring efforts established with the main RPW Quarterly Report. Global targets for reduction of remittances cost have focused on the \$200 (or local currency equivalent) as the amount sent, which is believed to be an accurate representation of a typical remittance transaction size. However, data for \$500 (or equivalent) have also been collected alongside the data for \$200 and have been analyzed since Q4 2017 to complement the \$200 analysis.

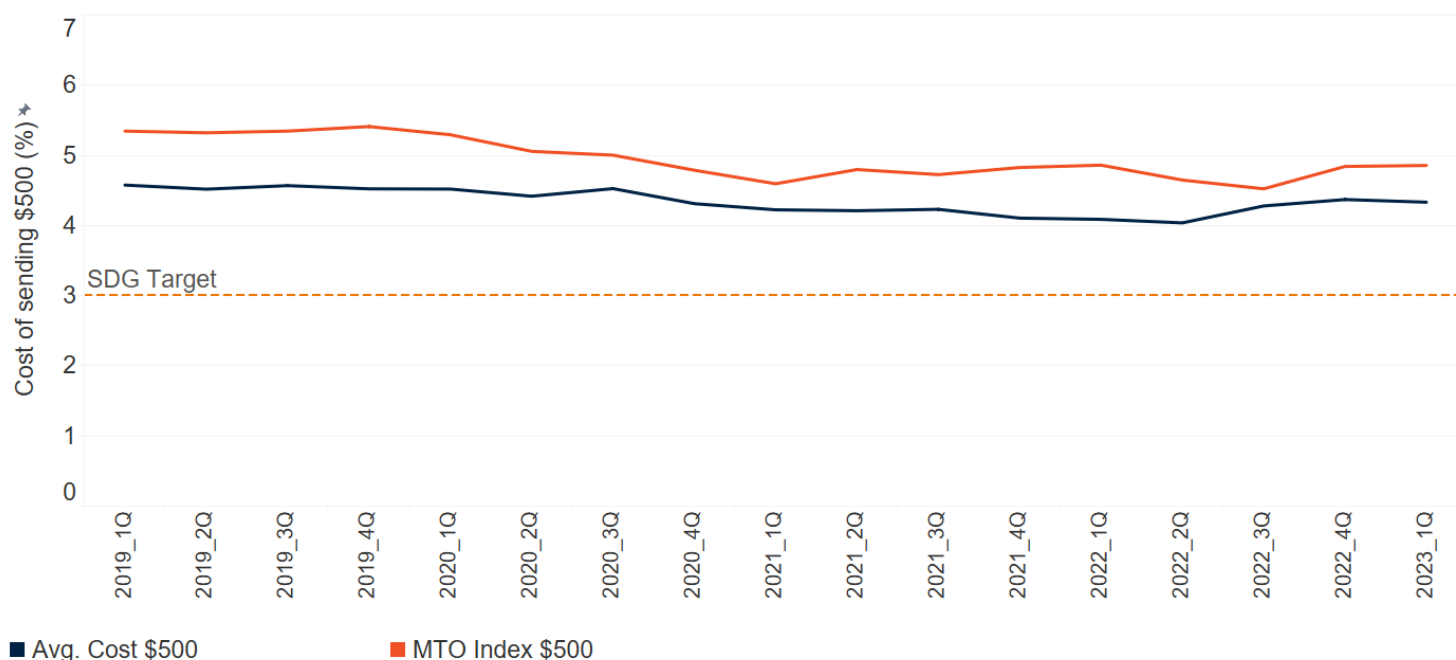
The analysis in this annex shows again that, as expected, the average cost of sending \$500 is lower as a percentage of amount sent compared to the average cost of sending \$200. The analysis additionally confirms that the average cost of sending \$500 has followed a similar trend to the one observed over the years for \$200.

Global trends for sending \$500

Global average total cost

In Q1 2023, the Global Average cost for sending \$500 was 4.33 percent. The average cost of sending \$500 has remained below the 5.00 percent since Q2 2014 and has never exhibited a value above 6 percent (the costliest period was in Q3 2011, where the total average cost of sending \$500 was recorded at 5.59 percent) (Figure 17). This represents a decline of 0.98 percentage point since Q1 2011, when the figure was first recorded at 5.32 percent. Over the preceding 5-year period (Q1 2018 – Q1 2023), the total cost of sending \$500 has decreased by 0.31 percentage point.

Figure 17 Global average total cost for sending \$500



International MTO Index

The International MTO Index tracks the prices of MTOs that are present in at least 85 percent of corridors covered in the RPW database.¹² In Q1 2023, the International MTO Index for \$500 experienced a minute increase to 4.86 percent from 4.84 percent in Q4 2022. As seen in Figure 17, the International MTO Index exhibits an overall downwards trend. Over the preceding 5-year period (Q1 2018 – Q1 2023), the total cost of sending \$500 has decreased by 0.92 percentage point.

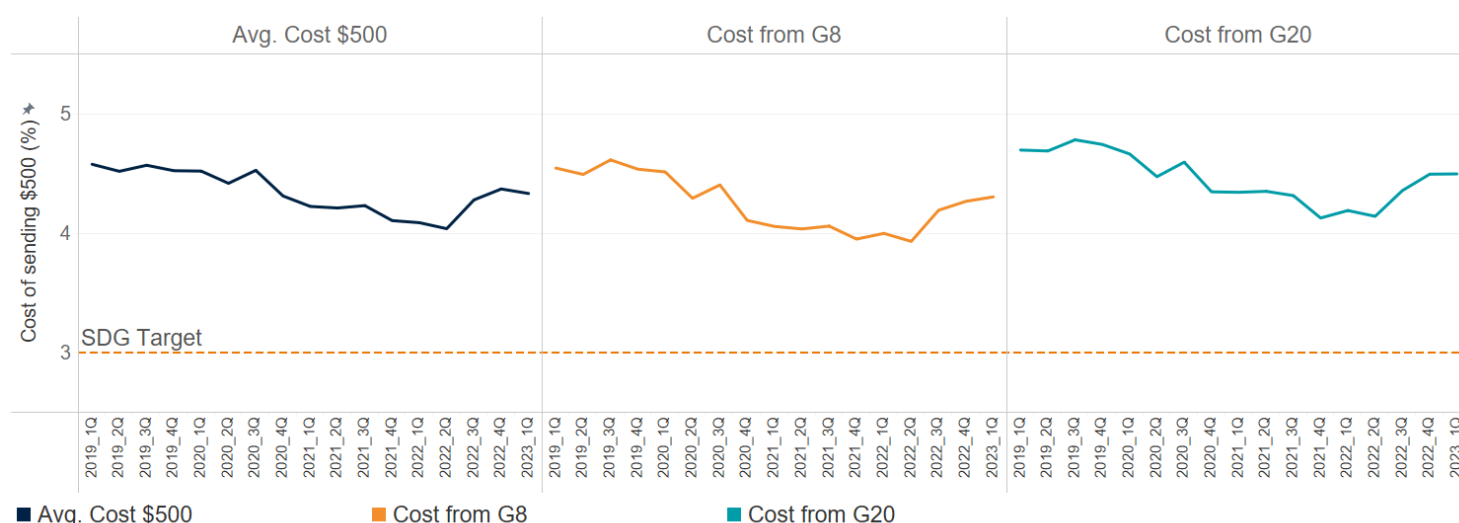
G20 Countries

Cost of sending remittances from and to G20 countries

The cost of remitting \$500 from G20 countries has remained below 5.00 percent since Q1 2014, when this figure was recorded at 5.10 percent. The total cost of remitting \$500 from G20 countries has closely followed a similar trend as the Global Average of sending \$500, as seen in Figure 18. The cost of remitting \$500 from G20 countries in Q1 2023 remained largely the same, recorded at 4.50 percent.

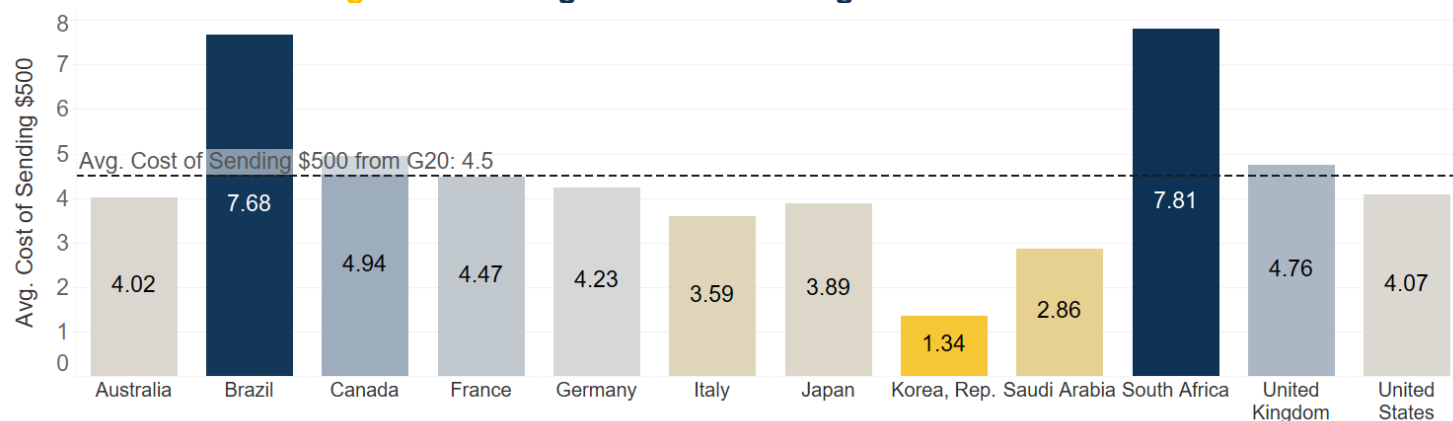
Figure 18 Average cost of sending \$500 from G20 countries

¹² The International MTOs Index includes all MTOs that are present in over 85 percent of RPW corridors. Thus far, it has included Western Union and MoneyGram, which operate in 95 percent and 90 percent of the country corridors covered in the database, respectively.



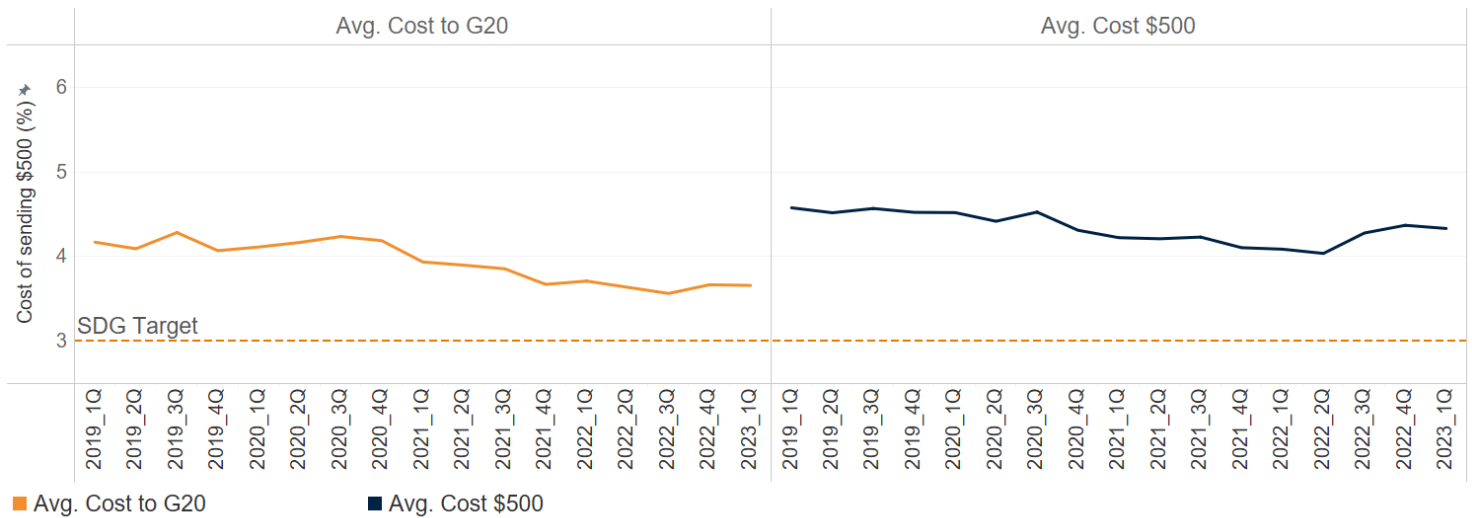
In Q1 2023, South Africa is the most expensive G20 country to send \$500 from (see Figure 19) at 7.81 percent, followed by Brazil recorded at 7.68 percent. The Republic of Korea remains the least expensive sending country in this grouping, exhibiting a total average cost of sending \$500 of 1.34 percent, followed by Saudi Arabia (2.86 percent), Italy (3.59 percent), Japan (3.89 percent), Australia (4.02 percent), the United States (4.07 percent), Germany (4.23 percent), and France (4.47 percent). Of this group Brazil, Canada, the United Kingdom, and South Africa exhibit costs higher than the Global Average in Q4 2022.

Figure 19 Average cost of remitting from G20 countries



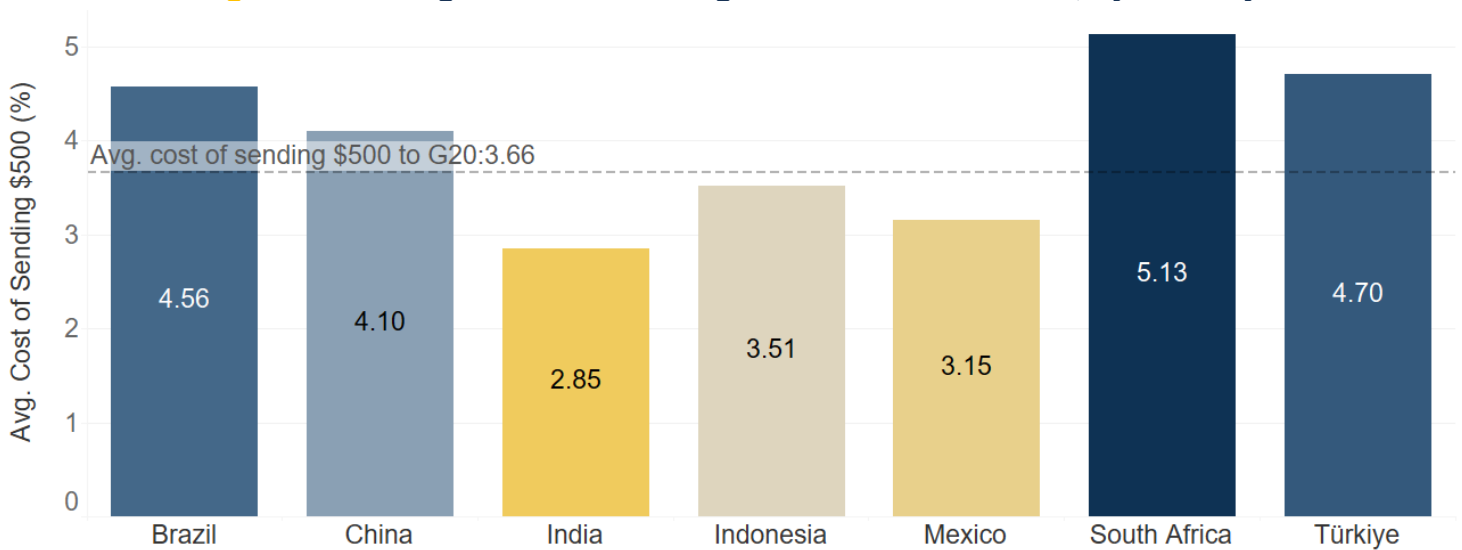
Figures 20 and 21 display the total average cost of sending \$500 to G20 countries over time and in Q1 2023, respectively. The average cost of sending \$500 to the G20 countries that are included in RPW as receiving markets stayed largely the same between Q4 2022 and Q1 2023, recorded at 3.66 percent in Q1 2023.

Figure 20 Average cost of remitting to G20 countries



For the past 5 consecutive years, the cost of remitting \$500 to G20 countries is recorded below the Global Average cost of sending \$500. In Q1 2023, South Africa (5.13 percent) remains the most expensive country in this grouping to remit to, followed by Türkiye (4.70 percent), Brazil (4.56 percent), and China (4.10 percent). Over the last 5 years, the total average cost of sending to G20 countries has decreased by 0.52 of a percentage point (in Q1 2018, this figure was recorded at 4.18 percent).

Figure 21 Average cost of remitting \$500 to G20 countries, by Country



Annex III – Tables (\$500)

Table 6 – Global Average, International MTO Index (\$500)

	2019_1Q	2019_2Q	2019_3Q	2019_4Q	2020_1Q	2020_2Q	2020_3Q	2020_4Q	2021_1Q	2021_2Q	2021_3Q	2021_4Q	2022_1Q	2022_2Q	2022_3Q	2022_4Q	2023_1Q
Avg. Cost \$500	4.58	4.52	4.57	4.52	4.52	4.42	4.53	4.31	4.22	4.21	4.23	4.10	4.09	4.04	4.28	4.37	4.33
MTO Index \$500	5.34	5.32	5.35	5.41	5.29	5.06	5.00	4.79	4.59	4.80	4.73	4.83	4.86	4.65	4.52	4.84	4.86

Table 7 – Cost of sending \$500 from G20 countries

	2019_1Q	2019_2Q	2019_3Q	2019_4Q	2020_1Q	2020_2Q	2020_3Q	2020_4Q	2021_1Q	2021_2Q	2021_3Q	2021_4Q	2022_1Q	2022_2Q	2022_3Q	2022_4Q	2023_1Q
Australia	4.91	5.00	4.82	4.94	4.91	4.71	4.68	4.73	4.71	4.38	4.63	4.44	4.24	3.76	3.90	4.05	4.02
Brazil	5.87	5.85	4.38	5.65	4.15	9.19	9.46	6.79	6.82	7.65	4.50	3.96	6.01	7.20	9.26	7.88	7.68
Canada	5.27	4.34	5.48	5.68	4.84	4.74	4.22	3.32	4.23	4.58	4.70	4.54	4.55	4.43	4.59	4.74	4.94
France	5.15	5.32	5.46	5.33	5.36	4.86	5.00	4.67	4.52	4.28	4.63	4.68	4.54	4.42	4.10	4.15	4.47
Germany	5.40	5.52	5.34	5.23	5.44	4.82	5.22	4.89	5.04	4.08	3.97	4.11	3.93	3.94	4.63	4.09	4.23
Italy	3.98	4.13	4.35	3.74	3.82	3.99	4.43	3.59	3.13	3.20	3.25	3.12	3.31	3.00	3.40	3.62	3.59
Japan	5.40	5.38	5.17	5.02	4.83	5.32	5.89	5.19	5.42	4.60	4.36	4.30	4.16	4.13	4.39	4.19	3.89
Korea, Rep.	2.69	2.65	2.60	2.18	2.46	2.38	2.40	2.54	2.41	2.24	2.40	2.14	1.87	1.87	1.05	1.28	1.34
Russian Federation	1.61	1.62	1.48	1.94	1.50	1.55	1.61	1.00	1.00	2.40	2.66	2.83					
Saudi Arabia	2.92	3.22	3.11	2.87	2.65	2.94	2.66	2.52	2.01	2.88	2.91	2.64	2.88	3.13	2.54	3.18	2.86
South Africa	9.24	8.93	10.11	10.93	9.74	8.58	9.09	8.75	8.99	9.38	9.11	7.75	8.18	8.68	8.64	8.22	7.81
United Kingdom	4.91	4.87	5.17	5.09	5.26	4.76	4.74	4.68	4.69	4.62	4.54	4.21	4.09	3.99	4.80	4.86	4.76
United States	3.90	3.84	3.67	3.75	3.73	3.58	3.50	3.62	3.33	3.78	3.88	3.71	3.89	3.95	3.77	4.00	4.07
From G20	4.70	4.69	4.78	4.74	4.66	4.47	4.59	4.35	4.34	4.35	4.31	4.13	4.19	4.14	4.36	4.49	4.50

Table 8 – Cost of receiving \$500 in G20 countries

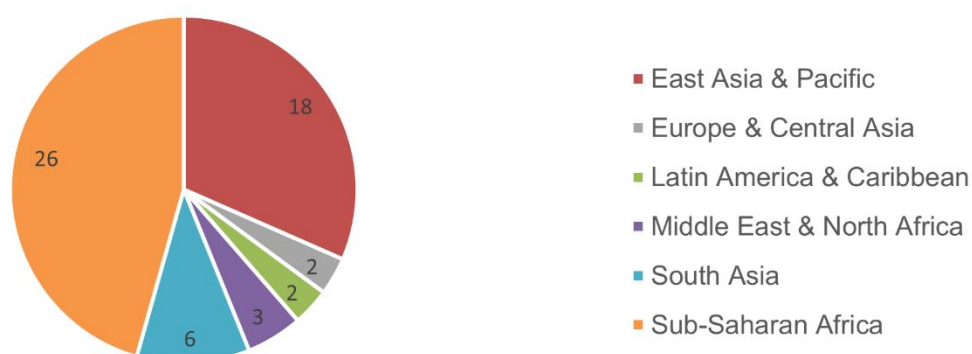
	2019_1Q	2019_2Q	2019_3Q	2019_4Q	2020_1Q	2020_2Q	2020_3Q	2020_4Q	2021_1Q	2021_2Q	2021_3Q	2021_4Q	2022_1Q	2022_2Q	2022_3Q	2022_4Q	2023_1Q
Brazil	5.16	5.37	5.56	5.20	5.78	5.42	5.00	5.17	4.77	4.64	4.87	4.91	5.04	4.67	4.72	4.57	4.56
China	5.29	5.01	5.83	5.06	4.91	5.02	5.25	4.93	4.72	4.44	4.25	4.02	4.11	3.98	4.01	4.01	4.10
India	3.27	3.10	3.31	3.20	3.24	3.20	3.29	3.38	3.05	3.13	3.14	2.99	3.03	2.88	2.78	2.85	2.85
Indonesia	4.10	4.20	3.75	3.84	3.84	4.32	4.17	4.18	3.89	3.90	3.82	3.62	3.61	3.60	3.34	3.73	3.51
Mexico	3.00	3.04	3.16	2.94	2.57	2.81	2.69	2.36	2.13	2.83	2.76	2.86	3.21	3.09	2.94	3.12	3.15
South Africa	5.60	6.16	5.78	6.20	6.06	5.72	6.29	6.23	6.28	5.47	6.28	4.62	4.75	5.03	5.24	4.91	5.13
Türkiye	4.96	5.30	4.82	4.94	5.01	4.90	5.45	4.94	5.18	5.24	4.81	4.64	4.18	4.76	4.58	4.67	4.70
To G20	4.17	4.09	4.28	4.07	4.11	4.17	4.24	4.19	3.94	3.90	3.86	3.67	3.71	3.64	3.56	3.67	3.66

Annex IV – Prospects Index

Since Q1 2023, RPW data collection would be used to also monitor new services via a **prospects index**. These new services could be candidates for inclusion in the main index in the future subject to them meeting certain requirements. In Q1 2023, fifty-five new services originating from twelve sending country were added to the prospects index, covering twenty-seven destination countries. Thirty-one out of all newly added services are collaborations between Banks and major MTOs, such as MoneyGram, Western Union and Wise. These MTO-linked services consistently offer lower fees than their non-MTO-linked counterparts. The objective of this index is to keep track of the new entrants and new services, to get a sense of the market developments. In the past while we identified new entrants, the price and other data was not captured because these services did not meet the criteria for inclusion in the main index.

In Q1 2023, fifty-one services were moved from the Prospects Index and added to the main analysis. Taken together, the Prospects Index now includes 57 services. Figure 22 shows the distribution of these services by receiving region. Services destined for Sub-Saharan Africa and East Asia and Pacific make up majority of the prospects index.

Figure 22 Number of Prospects Index services by receiving region



Average cost for sending \$200 for the prospects index was 8.62 percent, higher than the global average of 6.25 percent. Sixteen services were digital services, accounting for 28 percent of all services in the prospects index. Average cost for digital remittances was 5.76 percent, also higher than the global digital remittances index of 4.72 percent. Figure 23 plots the average cost by receiving regions. The high average cost is caused by two reasons. On one hand, services destined for Sub-Saharan Africa, traditionally a high-cost region, account for close to half of all services in the Prospects Index. On the other hand, as mentioned in the previous section, collaboration between Bank and MTO services account for a large share of the Prospects Index. Although their costs (11.32 percent) are much lower than their non-MTO

counterparts (21.04 percent), they are still high compared to services offered by MTOs directly (7.54 percent).

In Q1 2023, cheapest method to fund a remittance transaction among the services in the prospects index was debit/credit card at 3.17 percent. According to Table 9, average costs of sending \$200 via various payment instrument are lower than their main dataset counterparts, with the exception of services sent via bank account transfers, consistent with the sizable presence of bank/MTO services destined for Sub-Saharan Africa.

Figure 23 Average cost of Prospects Index services by region, sending \$200 (%)

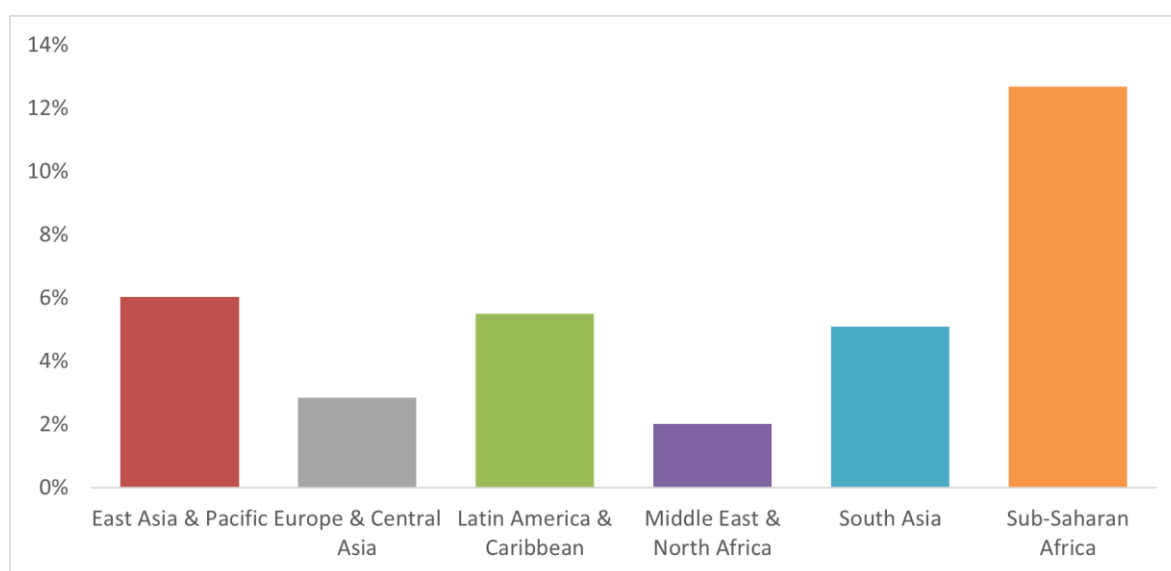


Table 9 Average Cost by Instrument Used to Fund the Transaction, sending \$200

Sending method	Cash	Bank Account	Debit/Credit Card	Mobile Money
Prospects Index	4.83	11.63	3.17	na
Number of services	14	34	9	0

Table 10 Average cost by means of disbursing the funds, sending \$200

Receiving method	Cash	Bank Account	Bank Account (same bank)	Mobile Wallet
Prospects Index	10.79	5.64	2.61	na
Number of services	33	24	1	0

Table 11 provides additional information for comparison, including the average costs using the services included in the prospects index only, the average costs without these services as shown elsewhere in this report, and the average costs if these services would instead be included in the main analysis.

RPW will continue to monitor new services in the coming quarters as part of the prospects index. Over time, these services will be added to the main analysis and indices, based on a combination of materiality and diversity criteria.

Table 11 A comparison of cost of sending \$200 with/without the services in the prospects index

	Prospects Index	# of services	Q1 2023 averages (Reported in the main section)	Would-be Q1 2023 averages including prospects
East Asia & Pacific	6.03	18	5.70	5.70
Europe & Central Asia	2.85	2	6.59	6.58
Latin America & Caribbean	5.50	2	5.81	5.81
Middle East & North Africa	2.02	3	6.08	6.06
South Asia	5.10	6	4.58	4.58
Sub-Saharan Africa	12.68	26	8.35	8.41
Average total cost	8.62	57	6.25	6.27
Digital remittances index	5.76	16	4.72	4.73

Annex V – Corridors from Russia

RSPs in a few Russian corridors have resumed services. Out of the 13 corridors in the RPW database, data collection has resumed in 9 corridors, with a total of 44 services. The number of services per corridor resumed to 4.9 services per corridor in Q1 2023. The countries to which services remain unavailable are Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Ukraine. Table 12 presents a comparison of corridor averages in Q4 2021, Q3 2022, Q4 2022, and Q1 2023. Due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, these services have been excluded from the main analysis.

Table 12 Cost of sending \$200 in Russian corridors in Q4 2021, Q3 2022, and Q4 2022

	Q4 2021	# of services	Q3 2022	# of services	Q4 2022	# of services ¹³	Q1 2023	# of services ¹⁴
Russian Federation to Armenia	1.78	2	2.50	1	1.70	1	2.50	1
Russian Federation to Azerbaijan	1.77	4	1.00	2	1.0	6	1.00	6
Russian Federation to Belarus	1.15	5	0.96	3	0.93	7	0.99	7
Russian Federation to Estonia	6.27	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Russian Federation to Georgia	1.91	6	1.00	1	0.99	7	1.00	6
Russian Federation to Kazakhstan	1.47	5	0.96	3	0.93	7	0.99	7
Russian Federation to Kyrgyz Republic	0.90	6	4.14	4	0.93	7	0.96	7
Russian Federation to Latvia	6.90	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Russian Federation to Lithuania	6.57	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Russian Federation to Moldova	1.56	5	0.98	2	0.93	7	0.99	7
Russian Federation to Tajikistan	2.13	4	2.10	3	1.41	2	1.17	2
Russian Federation to Ukraine	4.30	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Russian Federation to Uzbekistan	2.65	7	3.60	5	3.10	3	1.38	1

¹³ Please note that this column is based on the new data categorization.

¹⁴ Please note that this column is based on the new data categorization.



REMITTANCE PRICES WORLDWIDE

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