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### Why Germans are finally choosing cards over cash

Card payments will surpass cash transactions for the first time in Germany in 2020 as the pandemic changes shoppers' behaviour, a study said Thursday.



"As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, German consumers showed an abrupt shift in payment behaviours, increasingly using card payments over physical cash for hygiene reasons," said Ratna Sita, head of DACH research at Euromonitor International.

In a country where cash is king, Germans have stubbornly kept up a tradition of using cash, even as consumers in other countries switched to the ease and speed of cashless payments in recent years.

But with the spread of Covid-19 came the desire to avoid touching notes and coins.

The German government further sped up the shift by doubling the transaction limit on contactless payments to €50.

Card payments will "exceed cash payments in Germany for the first time in history" in 2020, the Euromonitor study said.