



Issue 46,
June, 2023

AN ANALYSIS OF TRENDS IN COST OF REMITTANCE SERVICES

REMITTANCE PRICES WORLDWIDE QUARTERLY



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



This Report reflects the latest trends observed
in the data published in June 2023.

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

© The World Bank Group, 2023

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** decreased from 6.25 percent in Q1 2023 to 6.20 percent in Q2 2023.
- The **International MTO Index** experienced an increase over the quarter to 6.46 percent in Q2 2023, from 6.37 percent in Q1 2023.
- The **Global Weighted Average** decreased to 4.53 percent in Q2 2023 from 4.79 percent in Q1 2023.
- The **Global SmART Average** for Q2 2023 was recorded at 3.55 percent (up from 3.47 percent in Q1 2023). Twenty-four corridors did not have any SmART qualifying services.
- The **Digital remittances index** decreased from 4.72 percent in Q1 2023 to 4.60 percent in Q2 2023.
- The Digital-only MTO index experienced a decrease to 3.61 percent in Q2 2023 from 3.90 in Q1 2023.
- South Asia remains the lowest cost receiving region, with an average cost of 4.31 percent. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the most expensive region to send money to, recorded at 7.92 percent total average cost in Q2 2023.
- Banks remain the most expensive type of service provider, with an average cost of 12.09 percent.
- The proportion of corridors with average costs of less than 5 percent has increased considerably since Q1 2009 (from 17 percent to 38 percent in Q2 2023).
- In Q2 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 invasion of Ukraine by Russia, RPW did not include any data on corridors originating in the Russian Federation in Q1 and Q2 2022. In Q3-Q4 2022 and Q1-Q2 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 Q2 2023 (as well as in Q3, Q4 2022 and Q1 2023); instead, the data are presented in Annex V.
- In Q2 2023, two services were moved from the prospects index to the main analysis, after demonstrating consistency, materiality and diversity. In the same quarter, four new services were added to the prospects index. RPW will continue to monitor and include new services when and where relevant using the prospects index.

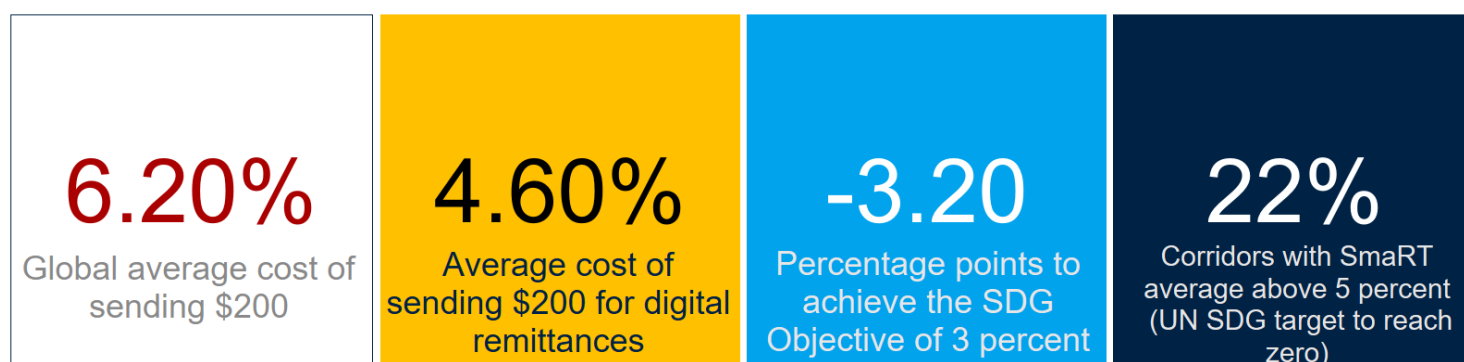
Table of Contents

Overview.....	3
Key findings	3
Progress tracker	6
Number of corridors in the Q2 2023 dataset	6
Prospects index	6
Global trends	7
Global average experiences a decrease	7
International MTO Index	8
Global weighted average	8
Smart Remitter Target (SmaRT)	9
Trends in corridor average total costs	10
G8 and G20 countries	11
Cost of sending remittances from G8 countries	11
Cost of sending remittances from and to G20 countries	12
Regional trends	14
Cost structure	15
Cash vs. Digital Services	15
Costs by RSP Type	16
Costs by Sending and Receiving Method	17
Annex I – Tables (\$200)	19
Annex II - Cost Trends for Sending \$500	21
Global trends for sending \$500	21
Global average total cost	21
International MTO Index	22
G20 Countries	22
Cost of sending remittances from and to G20 countries	22
Annex III – Tables (\$500).....	25
Annex IV – Prospects Index.....	26
Annex V – Corridors from Russia.....	29

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 Q2 2023 dataset

The Q2 2023 dataset includes data from 351 corridors (excluding 13 originating in Russia, and 3 originating in Nigeria). Due to the ongoing invasion of Ukraine by Russia, 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 Q2 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.

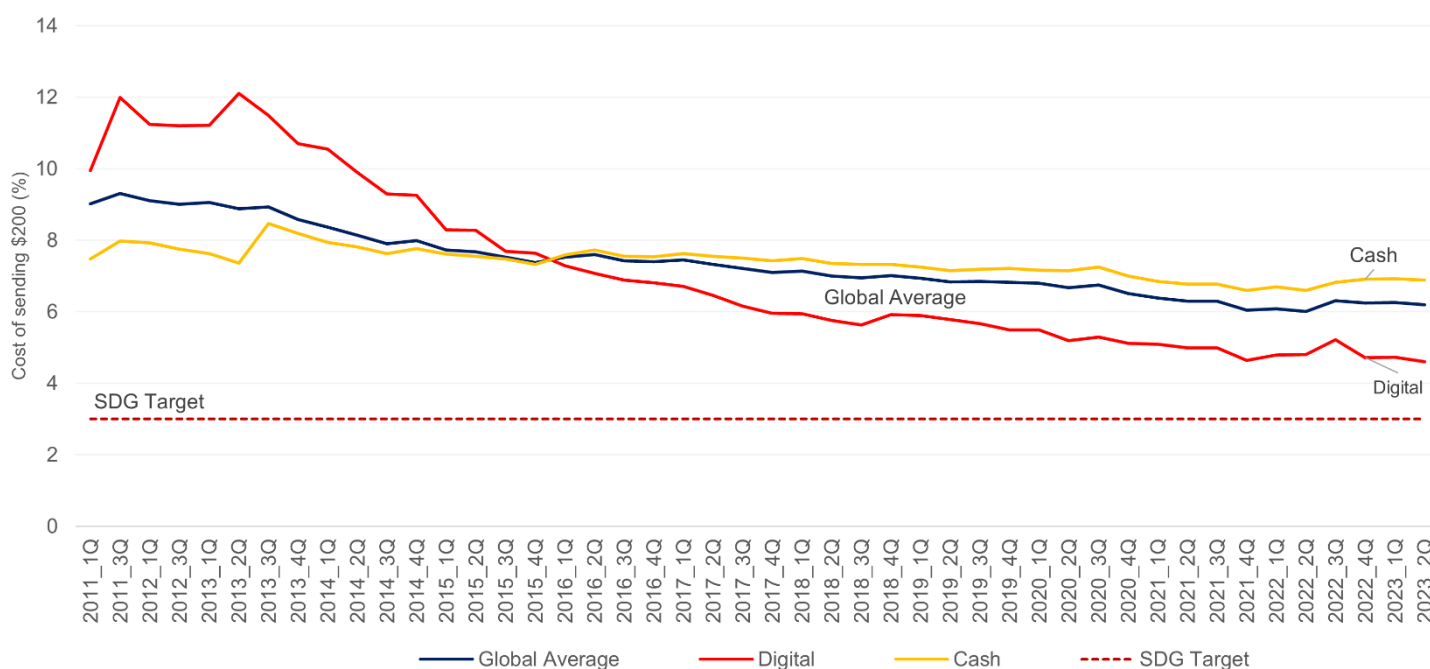
¹ The G8 (L'Aquila, 2010) and the G20 (Cannes, 2011 and Brisbane, 2014) committed to reduce the Global Average Total Cost to 5 percent. The G20 aligned with the UN's 2030 Agenda to include cost reduction targets set under SDG 10.c. In addition, through the G20 Roadmap for Enhancing Cross-Border Payments, 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 Q4 2022, 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, starting with 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 experiences a decrease

In Q2 2023, the Global Average cost for sending remittances was 6.20 percent, a decrease from 6.25 in Q1 2023. 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 3.47 percentage points since Q1 2009, when the figure was recorded at 9.67 percent. In Q2 2023, the global average for digital remittances was recorded at 4.60 percent, while the global average for non-digital remittances was 6.89 percent. Digital services account for 30% of all services RPW collected in Q2 2023.²

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



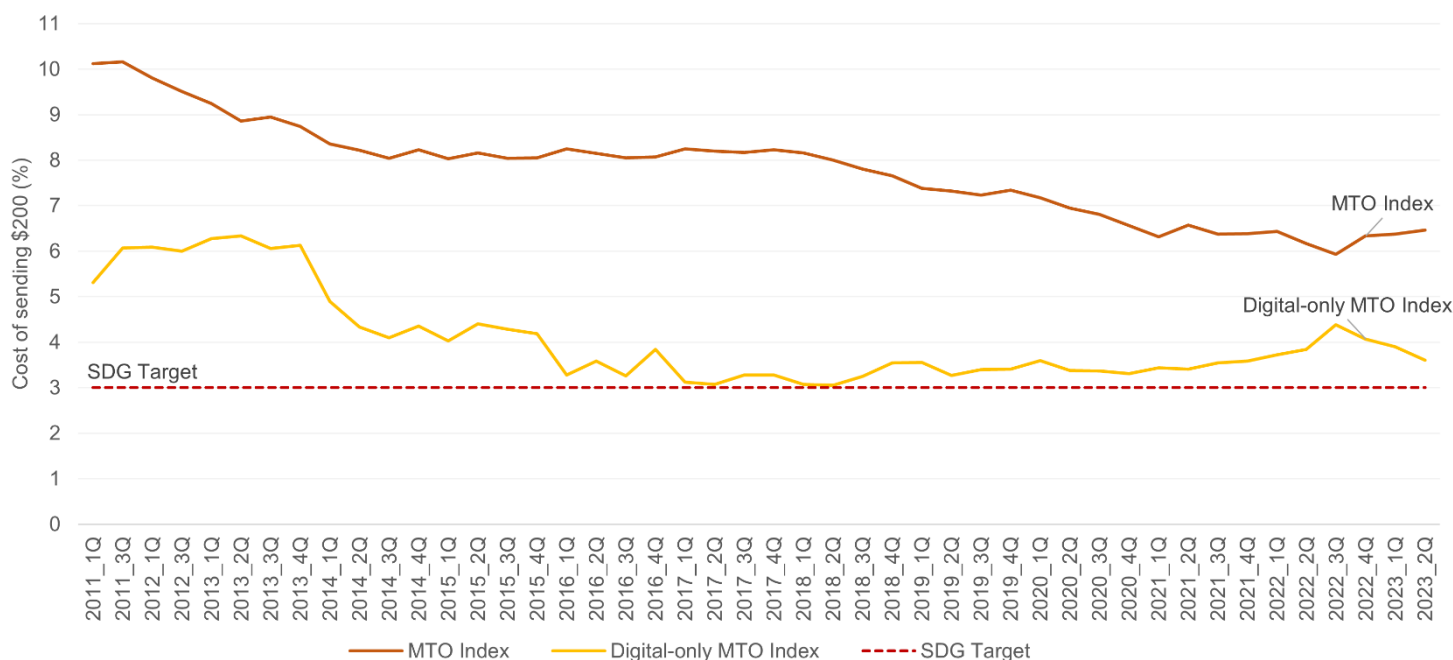
² A digital remittance must be sent via a payment instrument in an online or self-assisted manner, and received into a transaction account, i.e., bank account, transaction account maintained at a non-bank deposit taking institution (say a post office), mobile money or e-money account.

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 Q2 2023, the International MTO Index recorded an increase to 6.46 percent from the previous value of 6.37 percent in Q1 2023. Over the year, this figure was up by 0.29 of a percentage point, recorded at 6.17 percent in Q2 2022. This figure has come down by 3.90 percentage points from its first recorded value of 10.36 percent in Q1 2009. In Q2 2023, the digital-only MTO Index recorded at 3.61 percent, a decrease from 3.90 percent in Q1 2023.⁵ 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.

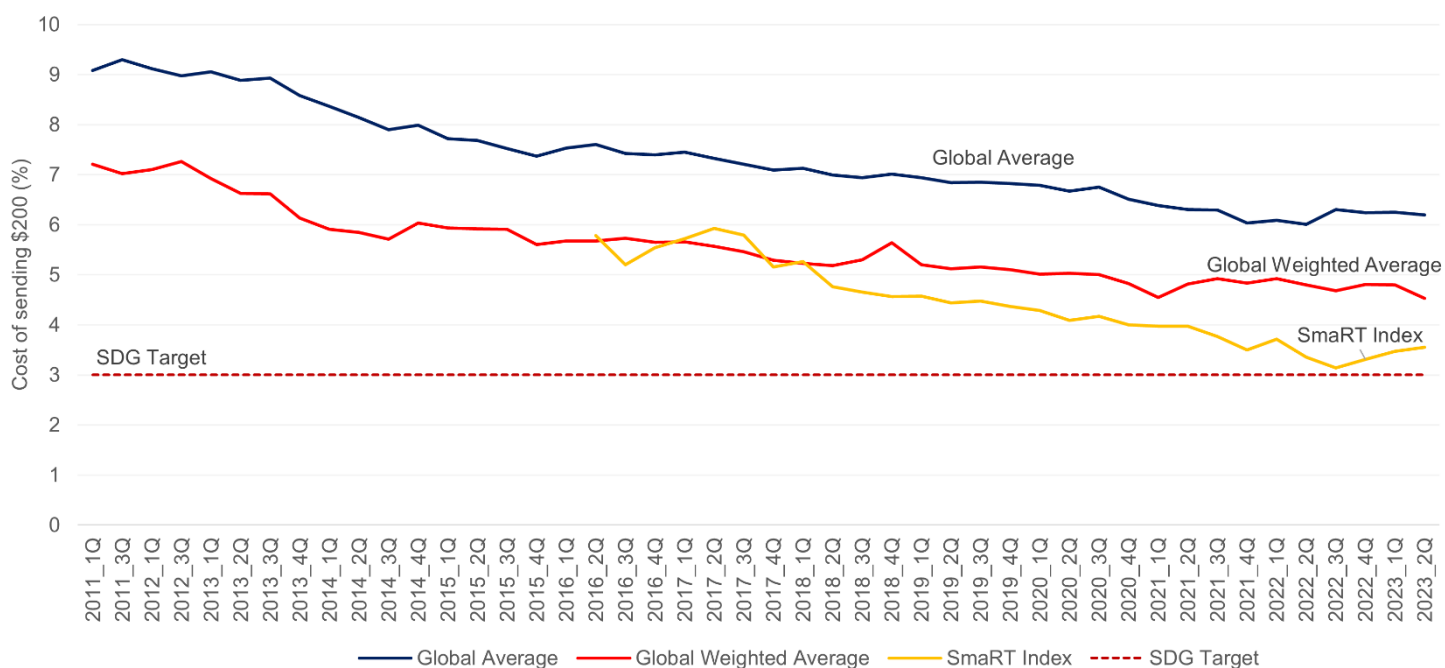
⁶ It is important to note that, while official data on remittance flows by bilateral corridors are currently not available, estimates (Ratha and Shaw 2007, the 2021 version, available at

<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

pattern from the simple average. In Q2 2023, the Global Weighted Average was recorded at 4.53 percent. This figure has been recorded below 5.00 percent since Q4 2020. Over the last five years, this figure has decreased by approximately 0.65 percentage points – recorded at 5.18 percent in Q2 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 use the service, such as a bank account, mobile phone, or the Internet.⁷ In Q2 2023, the Global SmarT Average was recorded at 3.55 percent.

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.

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

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 Q2 2023, 24 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 24 corridors, sixteen are destined for Sub-Saharan Africa, four for the Middle East and North Africa, three 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 (16 out of 24 – see Box) have a “Green Light” rating for Mobile services (measured by availability of cash services and number of cellular subscriptions per 100 persons).

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

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

Note: In Q2 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 Q2 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 Q2 2023, 71 percent of all corridors covered in the RPW database had SmART corridor averages below 5 percent.⁹

Trends in corridor average total costs

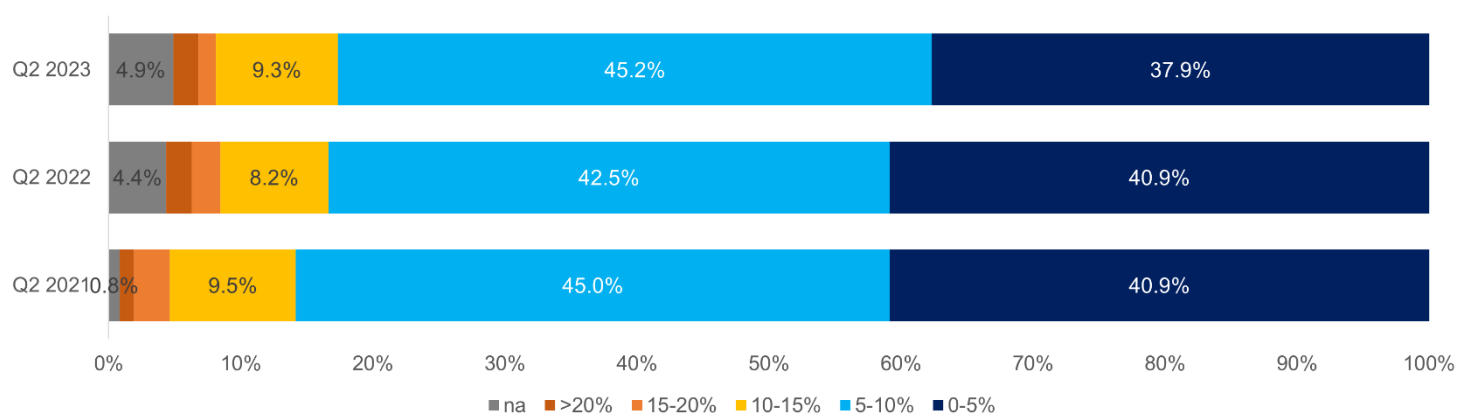
Figure 4 shows that compared to Q1 2009, the proportion of corridors with average costs of less than 10 percent has increased considerably, showing an overall increase of share by 31 percentage points (53 percent of corridors in Q1 2009, compared to 83 percent of corridors in Q2 2023). This shift is naturally accompanied by a decrease of share of corridors exhibiting total costs over 15 percent (18 percent of corridors compared to 3 percent of corridors). In the 10-15 percent total cost category there are 9 percent of corridors in Q2 2023, compared to 29 percent of corridors in Q1 2009. Year over year since Q1 2019, this gradual shift is visible. Of the 7 corridors with costs above 20 percent in Q2 2023, six originate in Sub-

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

⁹ This figure excludes the 13 corridors originating in Russia.

Saharan Africa and are destined for Sub-Saharan Africa. In the figure below, 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



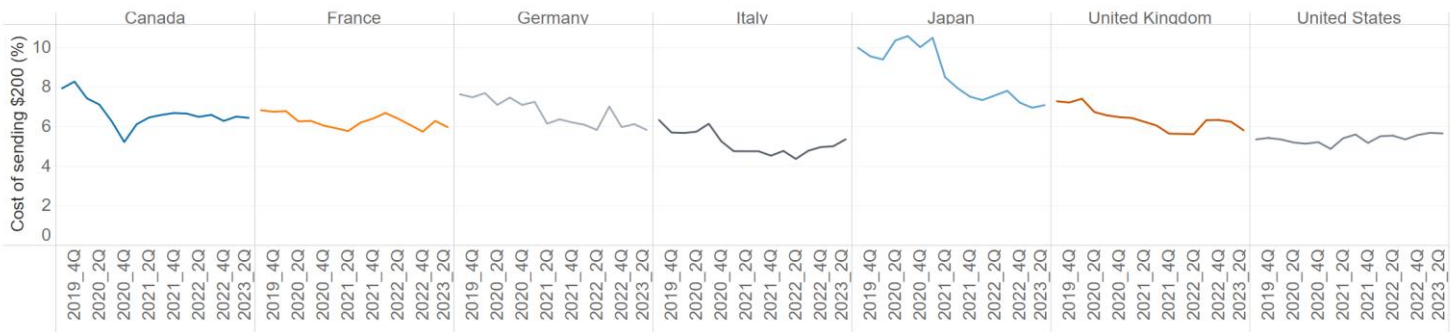
G8 and G20 countries

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 decreased from 5.97 percent in Q1 2023 to 5.83 percent in Q2 2023. Over the year, this figure increased by 0.15 of a percentage point (from 5.68 percent in Q2 2022). The largest increase in total average cost to send remittances is seen in Italy (5.01 percent to 5.36 percent), followed by Japan (6.96 percent to 7.09 percent). The largest decrease is seen in United Kingdom (6.25 percent to 5.82 percent), followed by France (6.29 percent to 5.98 percent), Germany (6.13 percent to 5.84 percent), Canada (6.51 percent to 6.45 percent), and the United States (5.69 percent to 5.66 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.

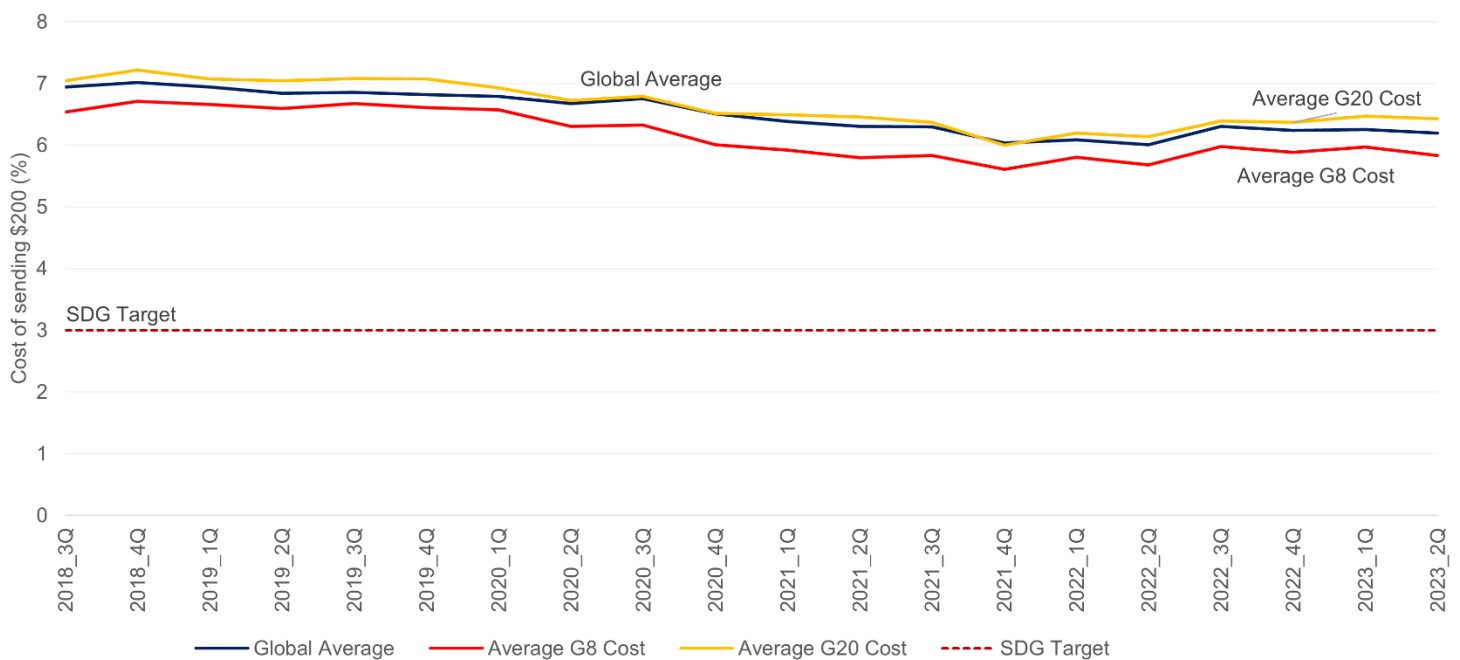
Figure 5 Total average over time in G8 countries



Cost of sending remittances from and to G20 countries

The cost of remitting from G20 countries experienced a small increase to 6.43 percent in Q2 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 Q2 2023, remitting from South Africa incurred an average cost of 13.90 percent, an increase from its recorded value of 13.40 percent in Q1 2023. The cost of sending from the second most expensive G20 sending country – Brazil – was recorded at 9.41 percent in Q2 2023. The Republic of Korea is the least expensive G20 sending country, recorded at 3.55 percent, followed by Saudi Arabia (4.69 percent), Italy (5.36 percent), the United States (5.66 percent), the United Kingdom (5.82 percent), Germany (5.84

percent), Australia (5.98 percent), and France (5.98 percent).

Figure 7 Average cost of remitting from G20 countries

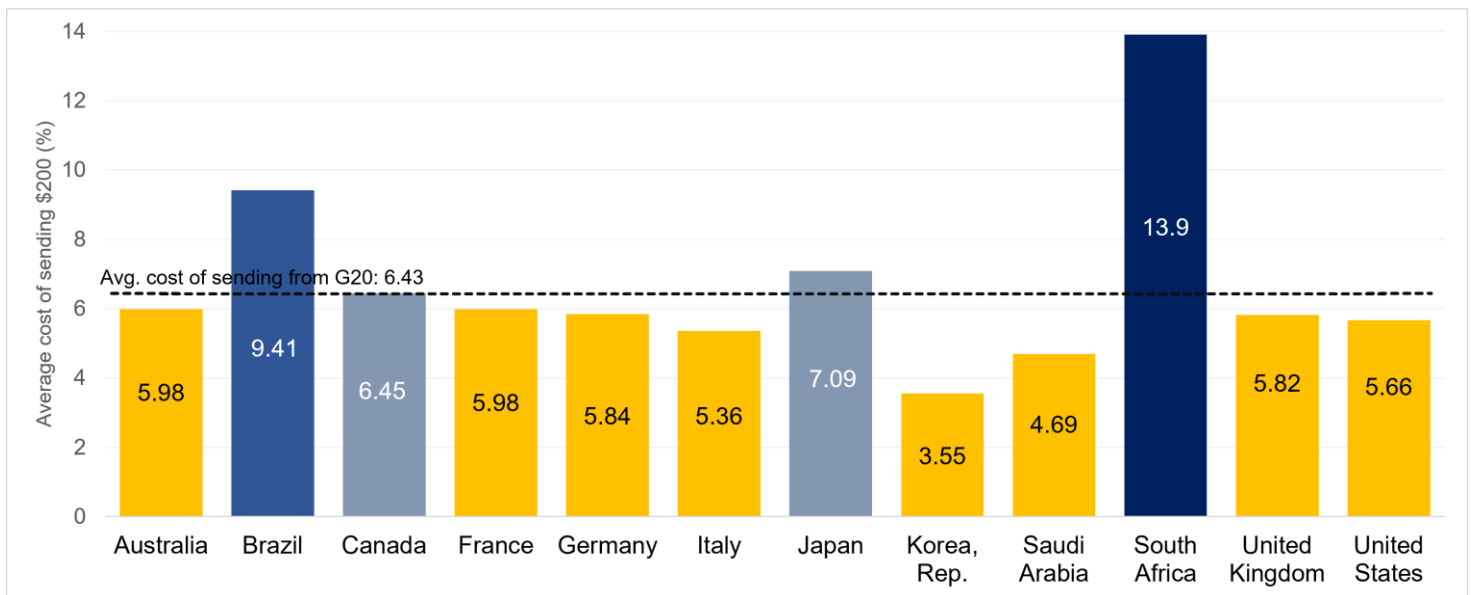
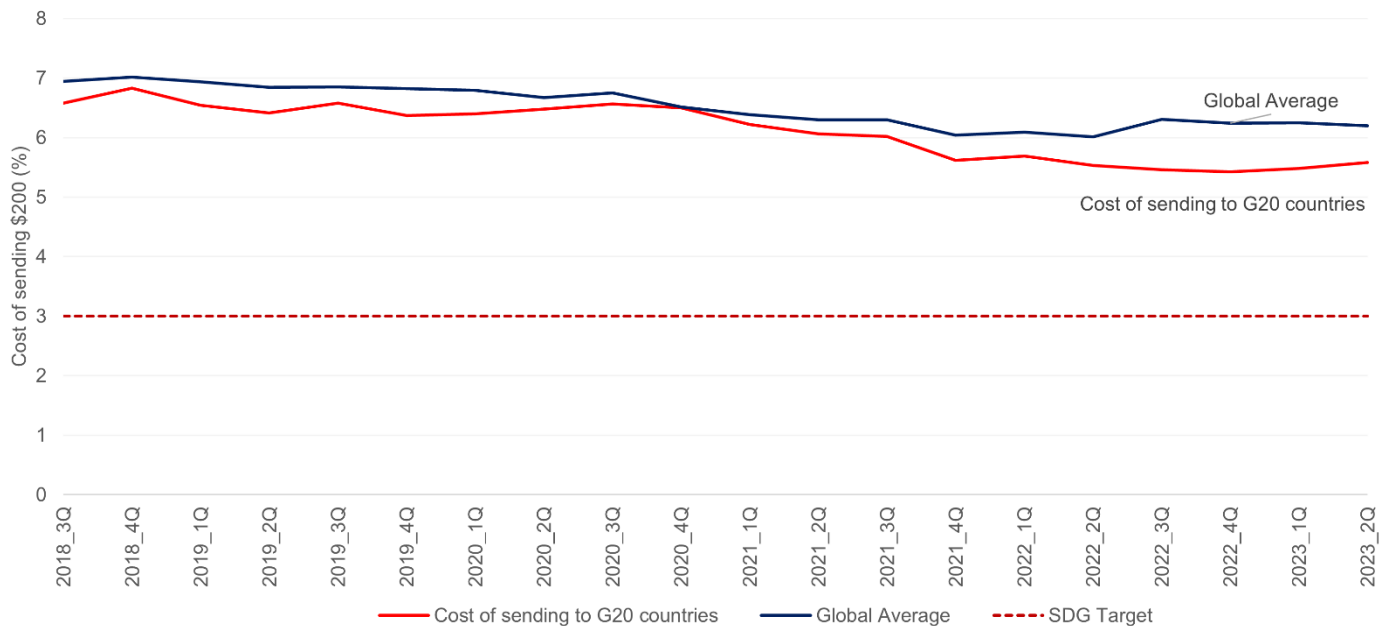


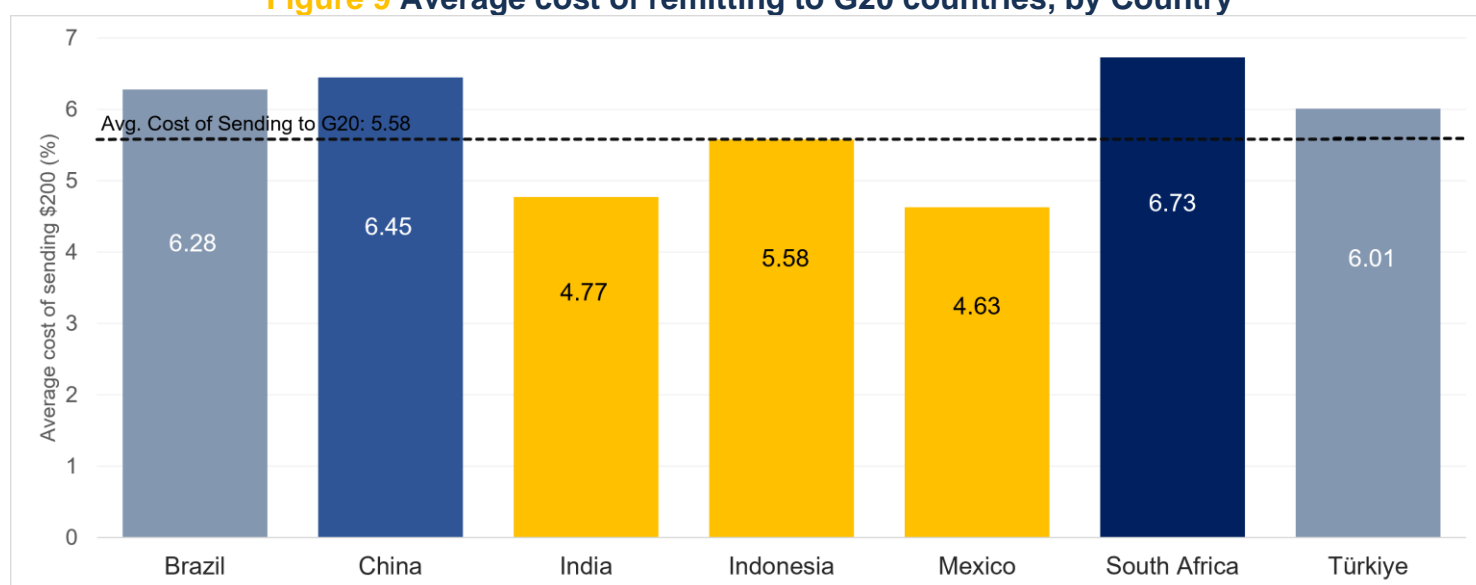
Figure 8 Average cost of sending \$200 to G20 countries



Figures 8 and 9 display the total average cost of sending \$200 to G20 countries over time and in Q2 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 5.58 percent in Q2 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 Q2 2023, South Africa (6.73 percent) is the most expensive country in this group to remit to, followed by China (6.45 percent), Brazil (6.28 percent), and Türkiye (6.01 percent). Costs for sending remittances to Indonesia, India, and Mexico were recorded below 6 percent. Mexico remained the cheapest receiving market in the G20 group, recorded at 4.63 percent.

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



Regional trends

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). Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) experienced the largest increase from 5.81 percent to 6.13 percent, followed by Europe & Central Asia (ECA), and East Asia and Pacific (EAP). Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) experienced the largest decrease from 8.35 percent to 7.92 percent, followed by South Asia (SA) and Middle East and North Africa (MNA).

以上内容仅为本文档的试下载部分，为可阅读页数的一半内容。如要下载或阅读全文，请访问：<https://d.book118.com/128061065047006023>