

Arvato Payments Review

# Essential insights for e-commerce success in new markets

arvato BERTELSMANN

Cross-border e-commerce is opening up a world of opportunities for retailers. You can reach out to dozens of new markets, and find millions of new customers. E-commerce also puts a world of choice in the hands of consumers, who think nothing of going abroad to find what they want. They might be looking for a better price, a better selection or better service. Give them what they want, and the world is yours.

But you need to know what you are getting into. The consumers in your new markets can behave completelydifferently to the ones you know from home. You can't rely on experience from your home market when you are trying to win over and keep customers in another country. That's why we have produced the Arvato Payments Review, to provide you with the knowledge and insights you need when you are expanding into new markets.

## How to succeed in cross-border e-commerce

The Arvato Payments Review brings together extensive quantitative research with insights from our experts to provide the big picture when it comes to Payment Methods, Risk and Fraud, and Consumer Behaviour in 14 of the most vibrant e-commerce markets in the world. We examined more than 200 primary sources and compiled the most essential information into a convenient guide to each country. By combining the figures from a wide variety of research, we could provide a holistic view – rather than relying on a single source.

Each country guide looks at key demographics and financials, the top online retailers, legal requirements, and consumer behaviour and expectations when it comes to things like delivery and returns. We also look in detail at how consumers prefer to pay in each market, identifying local payment heroes and the optimal mix of payment methods.

As well as success factors, it is also important to understand the downsides. We take a close look at risks in each country in terms of the types of fraud that can emerge and what you can do to minimise your exposure.

In addition to the country guides, you can also compare markets in terms of key parameters to see how they stack up against each other.

## Your customers are comparing you with your competitors

Comparison is at the heart of cross-border e-commerce. Smart consumers shop around, and with online shopping they know of a better deal with the click of a mouse or tap of their phones. The research in our Arvato Payments Review confirms our observation that some markets are more open to shopping across national borders, while others are more content with their local retailers. Why some and not others? For some markets, consumers are simply happy with what they can get locally: the selection, service and prices match their demands, so there is no need. But there are often other factors that play into this.

# **Arvato Payments Review**

Trust is one of the big ones. Consumers who are reluctant to shop internationally are often concerned about how warranties and returns will work if they buy cross-border. There might even be an inherent bias towards local retailers, who consumers perceive to be more reliable, or faster, when it comes to delivery. Another important factor here is accessibility: markets such as France and Germany express a clear preference for sites in their own languages.

But even in more conservative markets, cross-border shopping is becoming more popular – when it is done well. It comes down to providing consumers with what they are looking for: better prices, more choice, a richer all-round experience. With the most successful cross-border retailers, consumers don't care if they are domestic or international: they get what they want, quickly, cheaply and efficiently.

The key is to remove as much friction as possible, knowing and anticipating consumer demands and wishes. That boils down to knowledge and insight into the market. What are the legal requirements? Do consumers want a site in their own language? Do they expect next-day delivery? How do they want to pay?

## Finding the optimal payment mix

Payments are at the heart of this review. Our research confirms that local payment heroes are essential for successful business. If you don't use Carte Bancaire in France, or iDEAL in the Netherlands, or offer open invoice in Germany, you are not in the game. The insights we are offering go beyond which payment methods to provide: in some markets, you would be well advised to work with a local card acquirer so you don't miss out on conversions. A local partner can help in other ways. This is especially important to retailers entering a new market and not only with payments but also logistics and deliveries, returns and customer service. Many retailers choose to work with a partner who can help in one or more of these areas, especially during launch, to assist with local insights and information, payments, logistics, and even service centres. It's a sure-fire way to hit the ground running and establish a good reputation among your new customers.

All this information is vital for you when entering new markets. And you will find it here. Once you know what to expect, your business will have a real competitive edge – regardless of where your customers are.

### Contact

If you have questions or want to know more about what Arvato can do for you, you are welcome to contact Emma Solman, Marketing Manager:

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# About the Arvato Payments Review



The Arvato Payments Review provides retailers with country-specific information on payments and fraud-related topics in 14 of the most vibrant e-commerce markets in the world – 13 in Europe plus the USA – so they can make the right decisions in their e-commerce payment strategy.

The e-commerce payments landscape is becoming more and more fragmented. Not only do payment methods vary from market to market but consumers are becoming more sophisticated.

Alongside advances in technology, changes in banking regulation are clearing the way for new players to enter with solutions that are designed around convenience, safety and simplicity – all heavily supported by strong mobile adoption and advances in authentication technology such as biometric identification.

In this rapidly evolving world, retailers looking to expand their business internationally often lack objective insight into local market conditions as well as relevant advice on payments and risk management. The Arvato Payments Review provides that insight and advice.

#### Methodology

The Arvato Payments Review has been compiled by Arvato Financial Solutions, a division of Arvato Bertelsmann, and business consultancy mm1. The findings are based on secondary research and analysis by consulting firms such as McKinsey, BCG, and AT Kearney, as well as reports from payments and e-commerce associations such as the Merchant Risk Council, facts and figures on e-wallets and other payment schemes and providers, and news articles. The Arvato Payments Review also features recommendations and advice from Arvato experts in the areas of payment methods, fraud and risk, and consumer behaviour.

#### **Arvato Financial Solutions**

Arvato Financial Solutions delivers a complete suite of financial services that improve business processes while delivering a better overall customer experience. Cutting-edge solutions covering everything from risk assessment, payments and invoicing to debt collection and management ensure conveniencein every transaction. Part of Arvato Bertelsmann, Arvato Financial Solutions is Europe's third-largest integrated financial service provider specialising in the retail/e-commerce, telecommunications, insurance, banking and healthcare industries.

finance.arvato.com

#### MM1

mm1 supports large companies in digital transformation and designing products and processes for an increasingly digital world. Some 50 consultants provide services ranging from developing connected business strategies and business models to ensuring efficient operational implementation. mm1's customers include companies in the telecommunications, media, consumer electronics, financial services and automotive industries.

mm1.com

# How to read this report



## Important definitions

**Cross border sales:** the percentage of domestic and cross-border e-commerce in a country.

**Ease of Doing Business Index:** The higher a country's ranking in the World Bank Group's Ease of Doing Business Index, the more business-friendly local regulations are when establishing a presence there.

**E-commerce turnover** is defined by the Global Online Measurement Standard for B2C E-Commerce. Accordingly, business-to-consumer e-commerce turnover includes all online transactions between businesses and consumers on desktop computers, laptops, tablets, smartphones, and other devices both offline and online. B2C e-commerce turnover includes value-added tax or other sales taxes, delivery costs and apps, but excludes returns.

**eGDP:** the proportion of goods and services bought online in comparison to GDP. The rankings stated come from e-commerce association Ecommerce Europe.

Fraud rate: the percentage of total sales lost because of fraud each year.

**Logistics Performance Index:** The World Bank's benchmarking tool *Logistics Performance Index* is a measure of a country's logistical friendliness with around 160 countries ranked on their trade logistics performance.

Mobile adoption: smartphone use as a percentage of the total population.

**Mobile commerce:** the ability to conduct commerce using a mobile device, for example mobile phone, smartphone, tablet or other mobile equipment.

**Manual order review rate:** the percentage of e-commerce transactions manually reviewed by retailers.

## Explanatory notes

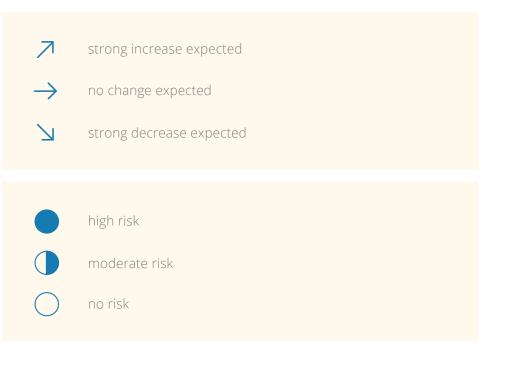
**Issuer landscape:** the percentage of traditional 3D Secure and risk-based authentication programs by market.

**Market demographics:** the local population over 15 years of age and the corresponding percentage of internet users and online shoppers.

## Relevant payment methods

The term 'cards' includes both credit and debit cards. The number of consumers using a payment method is indicated by blue dots (one blue dot is equal to 10%).

'Trend' points to the future popularity of a payment method, whereas 'risk' indicates the level of threat associated with a payment method. Arvato uses the following symbols to give its assessment:



# France

# Executive Summary

France is a mature e-commerce market with modest growth rates. French payment methods are strongly geared towards the use of Carte Bancaire



# **Market overview**



# France is the second-largest e-commerce market in Europe, with strong purchasing power and high e-commerce imports.



## Market demographics

Population > 15 years	53.5m
Internet users	87%
Online shoppers	66%
GDP per capita	32,900€
Spending per shopper & anno:	1,780 €

# Top 10 retailers1. Amazon2. cdiscount7. e.leclerc

8.

9.

darty

**10.** la redoute

voyages-sncf

## Assessment/Recommendations

#### Opportunities

**E-commerce size:** France is the second largest e-commerce market in Europe, with good purchasing power.

**Carte Bancaire:** If exploited, could provide strong approval rates.

#### Threats

#### **Regulatory compliance and reporting:**

Before doing business in France assess all the CIT, VAT, declarative and invoicing impacts first.

**Market:** France is one of the more difficult markets for retailers.

#### Recommendations

- Ensure use of the **Carte Bancaire** channel as a payment offering to gain stronger approval rates.
- **Delivery methods** are becoming an important aspect of retail competition. The click-and-collect system is a key part of a multi-channel retailer strategy.

## Market characteristics

3. fnac

ebay

5. carrefour

4.

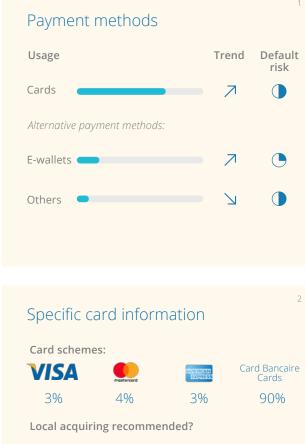
Logistics performance index	13th
Ease of doing business index	27th
eGDP ranking	4th
Unemployment rate	10%
Inflation rate	0.1%



# **Payment Methods**



The Carte Bancaire card is by far the most popular payment method – 95% of French consumers have one. Alternative payment methods have been very slow in gaining traction among both consumers and institutions.



Yes.

#### Further information

Carte Bancaire cards dominate the payments landscape.

## Arvato's take on this market

- Cards from Carte Bancaire, an interbank scheme that requires a connection to a local acquirer, dominate the payments landscape. 63 millions cards have been issued and 95% of French consumers own one.
- Alternative payment methods have been very slow in gaining traction among both consumers and institutions.
- Paylibis, a French bank-owned e-wallet that contains cards supported by Carte Bancaire in France, has three times as many users as PayPal.
- We see low authorisation rates in France for PayPal (77%) for physical goods.
- Merchants processing via the local CB network are likely to enjoy higher approval rates.

## Specific information on APMs

- 95% of consumers own a Carte Bancaire card; 63 million cards have been issued. The vast majority (approx. 95%) are co-branded cards and bear the Carte Bancaire and MasterCard or Visa logo.
- These cards can be processed on the local Carte Bancaire network.
- Merchants processing over the local CB network benefit from slightly better approval rates

Local payment hero:



## Required payment methods



## Watchlist





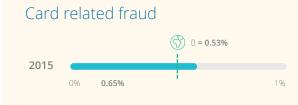
# **Risk and Fraud**





#### Expert tip

Paylib could be an interesting alternative to risky credit cards, especially in mobile environments.



## Relevance of typical fraud scams

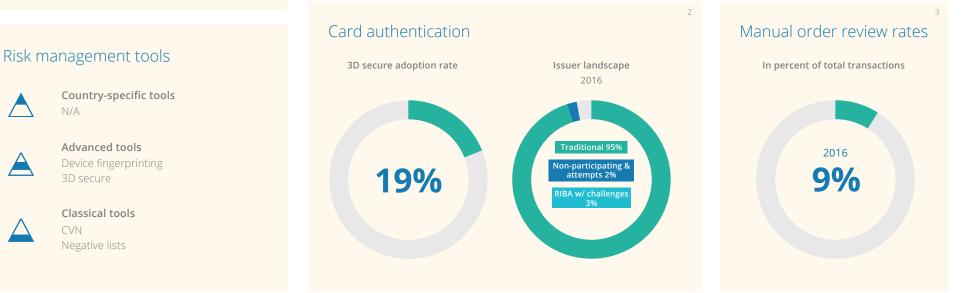
Identy Theft	
Account Takeover	

N/A

CVN

## Arvato's take on this market

- Adoption of 3D Secure is significantly lower than in other European nations.
- New fraud prevention tools require long and complex processes to obtain approval from local data privacy agencies.
- The issuer landscape is strongly skewed towards "traditional", with only 3% using RIBA with challenges.
- 2.35% of sales are rejected due to the suspicion of fraud (2014).
- We observe that fraud strongholds are situated in large cities such as Paris.





# **Consumer Behaviour**



# French consumers prefer free shipping over quick delivery, with click-and-collect the preferred method.



# Sources

The data contained in this report comes from a wide variety of sources, including financial reports, industry publications, blogs and news stories. During the course of our research we have consulted more than 200 national and international studies. You will find them here under the headings E-Commerce and Payment & Fraud. While every effort has been made to make sure the information presented in the report is reliable, we cannot be held responsible for its veracity. We do, however, stand by the opinions expressed in the report unreservedly.

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