

# Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the use of cash in the Plurinational State of Bolivia\*

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## SUMMARY

There is still no evidence that the Covid-19 pandemic has generated a substantial and permanent reduction in the use of cash worldwide. In Bolivia, although the confinement decreed at the beginning of the pandemic resulted in a lower use of cash and a greater use of electronic means of payment, there was also an increase in the outflow of cash from the vaults of the Central Bank of Bolivia (BCB), which could be evidence of the phenomenon of the “cash paradox”. In order to know how the preferences of the Bolivian population would have changed in terms of the use of different means of payment as a result of the pandemic, a nationwide survey was conducted in 2022, the results of which were contrasted with those of another survey conducted in a pre-pandemic scenario (2018). From the analysis of the results of both surveys, it can be inferred that, although the Bolivian population uses more electronic payment instruments for their daily transactions than in the past, cash continues to predominate.

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