# Q3 2025 WALLET™ Index Commentary

## Executive Summary and Performance Commentary

Digital payment companies delivered mixed, but overall negative performance in aggregate in Q3 2025. The Nasdaq CTA Global Digital Payments™ Index (WALLET™) was down 4.5% for the quarter, underperforming the S&P 500 (+7.8%). Of the index's 38 current constituents, 23 names experienced losses, 6 names experienced double-digit gains, and 9 names experienced single digit gains. Top performers included Zip (+45.6%), followed by DLocal (+25.9%), Green Dot (+24.6%), StoneCo (+17.9%), Flywire (15.7%), ACI Worldwide (14.9%).

Investors continue to lack meaningful exposure to digital payments in their core portfolios. The S&P 500 currently tracks only 10 constituents that overlap with WALLET, comprising <3% of its exposure. 28 of WALLET's constituents (~47% of index weight) do not overlap with the S&P 500. With exposure to multiple technological advancements including cryptocurrencies, artificial intelligence and blockchain technology, the theme has evolved in recent years to provide exposure to newer forms of finance. Additionally, the theme provides exposure to the rapid growth in the e-commerce segment. Multiple, long-term tailwinds including growth in cashless transactions, the adoption of machine learning and artificial intelligence, and the evolution of digital payments infrastructure underpin the evolution of the theme. With no country fully cashless, there may be plenty of runway for growth. The emergence of new catalysts may further boost investor sentiment.

## Key Digital Payments News Items

Major digital payment companies are actively adopting agentic commerce and developing the infrastructure to support autonomous AI-driven transactions. This shift will allow AI agents to act on behalf of users, handling tasks like product discovery, price comparison and automated purchasing. Leading companies such as Visa, Mastercard, Stripe, PayPal, Coinbase and Google are integrating agentic AI into their platforms. Stripe, for example, has launched an Agent Toolkit and Agentic Commerce Protocol (ACP) to enable AI agents to access its payment APIs easily. It has also partnered with OpenAI to offer a Stripe-powered Instant Checkout in ChatGPT.

Major players in the digital payments landscape are integrating stablecoins into their platforms, including Card Network providers Visa and Mastercard, pureplay fintech companies, and legacy payment processors like Fiserv. Emerging regulations such as the GENIUS Act in the US and MiCA law in the EU provide clear guidelines. Visa and Mastercard are incorporating stablecoins by integrating them into their existing payment networks, offering crypto-linked cards and facilitating cross-border transactions. Fiserv is piloting stablecoin settlements to speed up merchant payouts, while Stripe has launched tools that let businesses build and manage their own stablecoins[1].

[1] https://www.cnbc.com/2025/10/01/how-stablecoins-could-change-the-way-americans-shop-in-stores.html

## Quarterly Earnings Recap

Overall, WALLET companies that beat revenue and earnings estimates in the most recent quarter did so by an average of 3.2% and 13.1% respectively, while those that missed did so by 3.0% and 16.3% respectively. ~71% of index weight beat top-line estimates while ~74% beat bottom-line estimates. In aggregate, WALLET companies saw revenues surge by 21.5% year-over-year. Aggregate net income grew by 4.5% year-over-year.

| | Beats | | Misses | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. of Firms/Index Weight | Average Beat (%) | No. of Firms/Index Weight | Average Miss (%) |
| Q2 2025 Revenues | 24/70.8% | 3.2% | 11/28.3% | -3.0% |
| Q2 2025 Earnings | 23/73.6% | 13.1% | 12/25.5% | -16.3% |

Source: Nasdaq Global Indexes, FactSet data as of September 30, 2025
Note: Of the 34 companies, one company with an index weight of 0.4% has not reported yet for the quarter. Two companies with a total index weight of 0.6% report on a semi-annual basis and do not have reported data.

## Index Additions & Deletions (September 15, 2025)

- Ibotta, an ecommerce software solutions provider that allows brands to deliver digital promotions and cash rewards to its users for making purchases at brands and retail partners, was added to the index at a weight of 0.33%.
- Pax Global Technology, an electronic fund transfer point-of-sale terminal solutions provider, was added to the index at a weight of 0.26%.’
- Kakao Pay, an online payment, currency and encryption provider, which was removed from the index earlier this year, was added to the index at a weight of 0.62%.
- International Money Express, a provider of wire transfer, telewire, money order, and other money processing services to customers, was removed from the index at a weight of 0.37%.

## New Digital Payments Products Announced in Q3 2025 (AI-Related in Bold)

- **In July 2025, Mastercard unveiled the AI Card Design Studio, an AI-powered platform for card issuers, enabling them to create new card designs in minutes instead of weeks. In August 2025, Mastercard partnered with IFZA and Global Tax Assistant to launch a fully digital, AI-driven business registration process for small and medium-sized enterprises. In September 2025, it announced new tools and collaborations to expand its Agent Pay program. Alongside its partner PayOS, Mastercard completed the first live payment using an Agentic Token, demonstrating how AI agents can authorize secure payments. The company unveiled a new AI-driven media network that uses permissioned purchase data to deliver personalized ads and offers to consumers**[2,3,4].

[2] https://www.mastercard.com/us/en/news-and-trends/press/2025/july/mastercard-ai-card-design-studio
[3] https://www.mastercard.com/news/eemea/en/newsroom/press-releases/en/2025-1/august/mastercard-ifza-and-global-tax-assistant-launch-ai-driven-digital-business-registration-process-to-accelerate-sme-growth-in-uae/
[4] https://www.pymnts.com/artificial-intelligence-2/2025/payos-mastercard-complete-first-ai-payment/

- In September 2025, Visa announced general availability of VCS Hub, a breakthrough platform that redefines the future of commercial payments for issuers and fintechs worldwide. The VCS Hub helps streamline workflows with GenAI-driven automation, provides personalized user experiences with AI-powered analytics, and embeds payment functions directly into accounting and ERP applications[5].
- In September 2025, Fiserv, Inc. announced its AI-related product, Content Next. The multi-tenant, cloud-based platform was developed in partnership with OpenText. The new solution was designed to help financial institutions modernize operations by prioritizing efficiency, intelligence, and a better customer experience[6].
- In September 2025, American Express announced the scaling of several successful AI pilots to boost productivity, including Travel Counselor Assist which provides travel planning support and recommendations to service agents and Colleague Help Center Knowledge Assist, an internal chatbot for frontline colleagues that uses approved content to deliver AI-generated answers to customer inquiries[7].
- In September 2025, PayPal announced new AI-driven features for its Honey extension, transforming it from a simple coupon finder into a comprehensive commerce intelligence platform. PayPal and Google announced a strategic partnership to enhance AI-driven shopping and payment experiences across Google's platforms. The deal involves integrating PayPal's services with Google's AI to deliver a more seamless transaction experience for both consumers and merchants[8].
- Block, Inc. released several AI products and initiatives throughout 2025, primarily for its Square and Cash App platforms. It released an AI-powered customer support tool, Cashbot, for Cash App, which uses LLMs to resolve over 60% of customer inquiries without human intervention[9].

## Digital Payments M&A and IPO Activity in Q3 2025

### Inside WALLET Index Activity:

- In late September, Fiserv signed a definitive agreement to acquire StoneCastle Cash Management. The deal is expected to close in early 2026. StoneCastle's platform will give Fiserv access to billions in institutional deposits and support Fiserv's new FIUSD stablecoin[10].
- In July 2025, Euronet Worldwide, a global leader in payments processing and cross-border transactions, announced a stock-for-stock merger to acquire CoreCard Corporation in a deal valued at approximately $248 million, with the transaction expected to close in late 2025 subject to shareholder and regulatory approvals. The proposed transaction marks a pivotal step in accelerating Euronet’s

[5] https://investor.visa.com/news/news-details/2025/Visa-Announces-General-Availability-of-VCS-Hub-Ushers-in-a-New-Era-of-AI-Powered-Commercial-Payments-Innovation/
[6] https://investors.fiserv.com/newsroom/detail/2866/fiserv-launches-content-next-to-accelerate-ai-driven-content-management-and-workflow-optimization-for-financial-institutions/
[7] https://americanexpress.io/how-gen-ai-is-elevating-the-human-connection-at-american-express/
[8] https://newsroom.paypal-corp.com/2025-09-30-PayPal-Continues-to-Shape-Agentic-Commerce-with-Instant-Product-Discovery
[9] https://cash.app/press/cashbot-brings-thoughtful-ai-powered-support-to-millions#:~:text=Share-Share,those%20for%20our%20human%20advocates
[10] https://www.fintechfutures.com/m-a/fiserv-to-acquire-stonecastle-cash-management

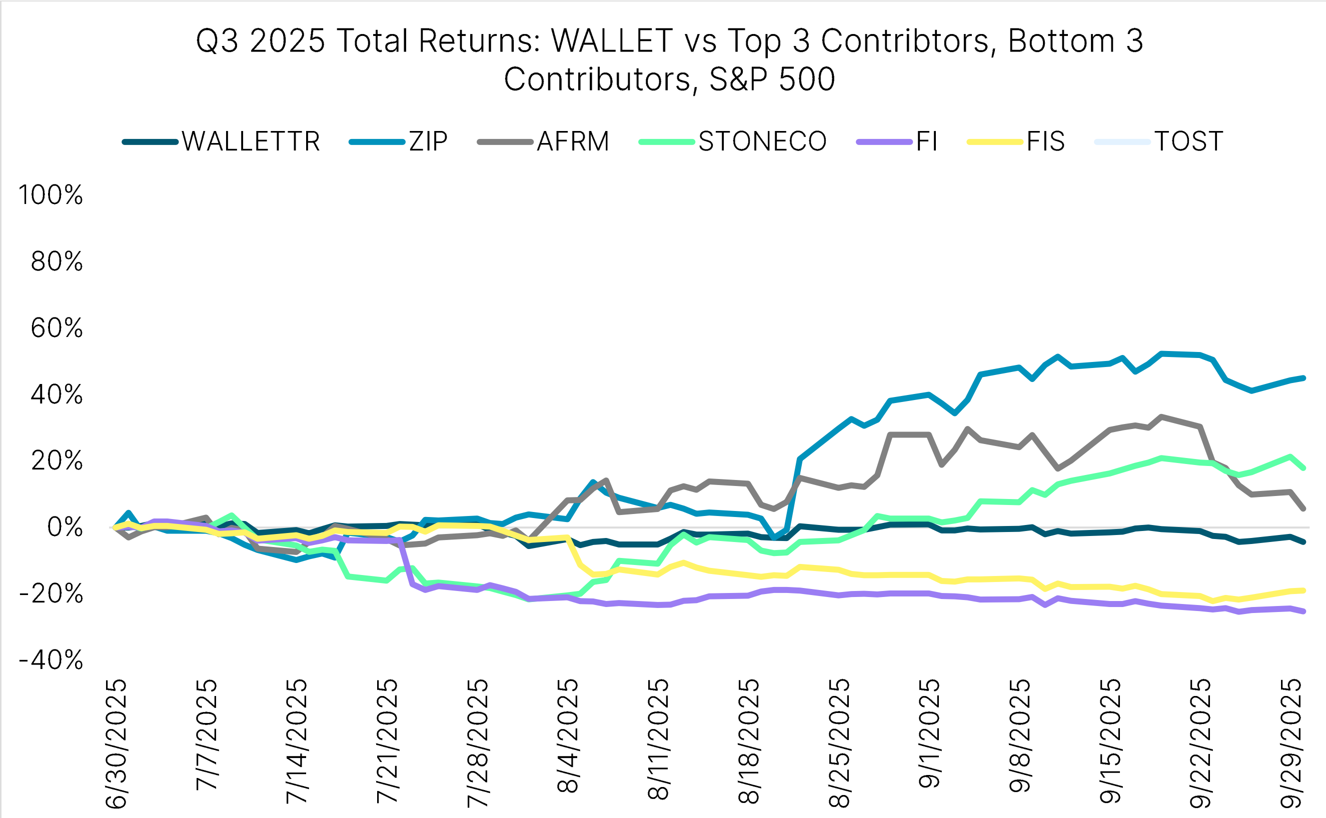
strategic goal of a more diversified, future-ready revenue mix that is anchored in scalable, modern platforms designed for the next generation of digital financial services across the globe[11].

- In August 2025, Evertec, a Puerto Rican financial payment processing company, acquired Tecnobank, a Brazilian firm specializing in digital registration of vehicle financing contracts. The deal, valued at $145 million, gives Evertec a 75% stake in Tecnobank. The transaction is subject to approval and is expected to close in Q4 2025[12].
- In August 2025, Marqeta, the global modern card issuing platform that enables embedded finance solutions for the world's innovators, announced the successful completion of its acquisition of TransactPay, a BIN Sponsorship provider that is licensed as an E-Money Institution (EMI) to issue e-money and undertake payment services in the UK and European Economic Area[13].
- In September 2025, Nexi Group, one of Europe's leading Paytech providers, announced it had acquired a 30 percent stake in the German Payment Service Provider Computop Paygate GmbH, retroactively effective from January 1, 2023[14].
- In July 2025, US corporate payments company Corpay is continuing its acquisition streak with a $2.2 billion agreement to buy Alpha Group International, a London-headquartered provider of B2B cross-border payment and foreign exchange (FX) solutions. The acquisition is expected to close in Q4 2025, pending regulatory and shareholder approvals.

## Outside WALLET Index Activity[15,16]

- In September 2025, US-based crypto payments company MoonPay acquired fintech start-up Meso for an undisclosed sum. This acquisition represents a major milestone in its evolution to a global payments network connecting banks, card networks, stablecoins and blockchains under a unified regulatory framework, including MTLs, BitLicenses and MiCA approval[17].
- In August 2025, Ripple agreed to acquire Canadian payment infrastructure fintech Rail for $200 million, as part of an effort to "drive the next phase of innovation and adoption of stablecoins and blockchain in global payments", according to President Monica Long. The deal is expected to close in Q4 2025, subject to regulatory approval and other customary closing conditions.
- In July 2025, Orum, a payments orchestration platform connecting businesses to instant payment capabilities via API, is being acquired by US fintech giant Stripe for an undisclosed sum. Orum provides API-based solutions for instant payments and account verification across various U.S. payment rails, including FedNow, FedACH, and RTP. This acquisition strengthens Stripe's ability to offer fast, reliable, and seamless bank-based payment services to its global network of merchants, particularly for use cases like payroll and instant payouts[18].

[11] https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2025/07/30/3124556/23467/en/Euronet-and-CoreCard-Announce-Merger-Agreement-to-Unlock-Global-Opportunities-in-Credit-Card-Issuing-and-Processing.html
[12] https://latamlist.com/evertec-acquires-tecnobank-for-145m/
[13] https://investors.marqeta.com/news-releases/news-release-details/marqeta-announces-completion-transactpay-acquisition/
[14] https://www.nexi.de/en/insights/press/pr-2023/nexi-schliesst-strategische-partnerschaft-mit-computop
[15] https://www.fintechfutures.com/m-a/july-2025-top-five-fintech-m-a-deals-of-the-month
[16] https://www.fintechfutures.com/m-a/august-2025-top-five-fintech-m-a-deals-of-the-month
[17] https://www.moonpay.com/newsroom/meso-acquisition?from=%2Fnewsroom
[18] https://www.fintechfutures.com/m-a/stripe-acquires-orum




Source: Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

### Top 3 Index Performance Contributors in Q3 2025

| Company | Symbol | WALLET Contribution Percentage | Average WALLET Weight (%) | Q3 Total Returns (6/30-9/30) | YTD 2025 Total Returns |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Zip Co | ZIP | 0.66% | 2.19% | 45.6% | 59.8% |
| Affirm Holdings | AFRM | 0.58% | 4.29% | 5.7% | 20.0% |
| Stone Co | STNE | 0.33% | 2.43% | 17.9% | 137.3% |

Source: Bloomberg

## Zip (ZIP)[19]

- The stock was up 45.6% for the period June 30, 2025 – September 30, 2025
- The stock received a boost due to the company's record performance in FY 2025, which included an increase in earnings, total income and transaction volume, as well as plans for a dual listing. The earnings growth came on the heels of strong performance of its U.S. business which delivered 41.6%

[19]https://ctfassets.zip.co/1u65qlkmktuw/3z8MvyE5NUgpTfF1ZSDdWE/604698f879226bd2586646754c5c6186/FY25_Investor_Presentation.pdf

growth in total transaction volume (TTV), driven primarily by spend on non-discretionary items. Its operating margin more than doubled to 15.8% compared to the previous year.

- The company reported revenues of A$413.7 million in FY 2025, a change of (0.9%) over the previous year. It reported transactions of 47.7 million, a 12.6% increase over the previous year. TTV growth was driven by momentum in Zip Plus and increased customer engagement. It launched two products, including Zip Plus and Zip Personal Loan.

## Affirm Holdings (AFRM)[20]

- The stock was up 5.7% for the period June 30, 2025 – September 30, 2025
- The stock rose on the heels of a strong quarter, with revenue and earnings beating expectations. The company's Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) saw substantial growth. The successful expansion of Apple Pay Later into in-store purchases prompted analyst upgrades. The company highlighted Affirm Card as a promising growth lever, with significant GMV and attach rate.
- The company reported Q4 2025 revenue of $876.4 million and diluted EPS of $0.20, beating estimates of $837 million and EPS of $0.11. This quarter marked the first quarter of operating income profitability as a public company for Affirm.

## StoneCo (STNE)[21]

- The stock was up 17.9% for the period June 30, 2025 – September 30, 2025
- The stock rose on the heels of a strong quarter, including net income growth that beat expectations. Its high-margin financial services arm for SMEs, strategic divestitures of non-core assets like its software segment, and positive earnings estimate revisions buoyed investor sentiment.
- The company reported revenues of $684.3 million, missing analyst expectations, but recording a year-over-year increase from Q2 2024's revenue of $615.1 million. It reported adjusted EPS of $0.39 per share, beating estimates of $0.36 per share.

### Bottom 3 Index Performance Contributors in Q3 2025

| Bottom 3 Contributors | Symbol | WALLET Contribution Percentage | Average WALLET Weight (%) | Q3 Total Returns (6/30-9/30) | YTD 2025 Total Returns |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fiserv | FI | -1.51% | 5.82% | -25.2% | -37.2% |
| Fidelity National Information Services | FIS | -0.82% | 4.31% | -18.5% | -16.9% |
| Toast | TOST | -0.79% | 3.91% | -17.6% | 0.16% |

Source: Bloomberg

[20] https://investors.affirm.com/financial-information/quarterly-results
[21] https://finance.yahoo.com/news/stoneco-ltd-stne-beats-q2

## Fiserv (FI)[22]

- The stock was down 25.2% for the period June 30, 2025 – September 30, 2025
- The stock came under pressure due to slower than expected growth in its merchant services division, particularly the Clover point-of-sale system, as well as heightened competition from companies like Toast and Stripe. Additionally, management's reduced annual revenue guidance dampened investor sentiment.
- Revenues came in at $5.6 billion and adjusted EPS of $2.74 for Q2 2025. The company has projected organic revenue growth of approximately 10%.

## Fidelity National Information Services (FIS)[23]

- The stock was down 18.5% for the period June 30, 2025 – September 30, 2025
- The stock came under pressure due to disappointing second quarter 2025 earnings results and a weaker than expected outlook for the future. Following the weak quarter, a number of analysts downgraded the company.
- The company reported revenues of $2.6 billion for Q2 2025, beating estimates. It reported adjusted EPS of $1.36, in line with estimates.

## Toast (TOST)[24]

- The stock was down 17.6% for the period June 30, 2025 – September 30, 2025
- The stock came under pressure due to several factors including competitive challenges, macroeconomic pressures, and concerns surrounding profitability of the company. Specifically, analysts have raised concerns that margins could be lower than Street expectations, as the company invests in new growth areas such as retail and international.
- The company reported revenues of $1.6 billion, beating estimates, while it reported EPS of $0.13, missing estimates.

# Industry Trends in 2025

## Rise of mobile payments[25]

- Mobile wallets (like Apple Pay and Google Pay) and other contactless payment methods are expected to further gain in popularity. The adoption of smartphones and internet is expected to be a primary driver for mobile payment growth. Governments are also promoting cashless transactions, further encouraging mobile payment adoption.

[22]https://d1io3yog0oux5.cloudfront.net/_3f1a08bd921e8685bb9c0e9b9906b811/fiserv/db/2288/21800/presentation/Q2+2025+Earnings+Presentation+vFinal.pdf
[23] https://www.investor.fisglobal.com/static-files/19a90b73-786d-4eb8-b968-3e4519aa1cae
[24] https://investors.toasttab.com/news/news-details/2025/Toast-Announces-Second-Quarter-2025-Financial-Results/
[25] https://thepaymentsassociation.org/article/the-future-of-payments-key-trends-that-will-shape-2025/

## Rise of AI technologies[26]

- As with other industries that are transformed by AI, so is the payments industry. Most AI efforts are focused on enhancing productivity in areas such as transaction optimization, software engineering, fraud detection and risk management. In risk and fraud management, AI applications are now used to enhance risk scoring and fraud prevention, as well as to address emerging issues such as deep fakes and synthetic fraud.
- Agentic commerce is also starting to gain traction with major players, including Visa, Mastercard, PayPal and Stripe, launching enabling solutions, in collaboration with AI-native companies such as OpenAI.

## Rise of adoption of stablecoins and tokenized money[27]

- Stablecoins and tokenized money are gaining broad acceptance and are becoming an increasingly important part of the financial system. Stablecoin issuance has doubled since early 2024. With daily transaction volumes around $30 billion, stablecoins represent only a fraction of total transaction volume.
- The technical infrastructure and regulatory framework of stablecoins is advancing rapidly. The recently passed GENIUS Act and frameworks addressing key areas such as licensing rules, reserve management, anti-money laundering and know-your-customer requirements are likely to lower barriers to entry for adoption.

## Rise of cross-border payments[28]

- Cross-border payments are expected to experience massive growth, driven by increased international trade, e-commerce and digital payment solutions. The market is expected to expand to over $250 trillion by 2027, according to the Bank of England.
- Additionally, the rise of digital platforms and technologies like blockchain and AI are expected to play a significant role in shaping the future of cross-border payments.

## Increased adoption of digital payments infrastructure[29]

- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) has transformed markets like India, Brazil and Estonia and is expected to transform other emerging economies including Indonesia, Nigeria and Peru.
- DPI offers streamlined payment systems with lower transaction fees and fewer barriers to entry. Businesses that adopt DPI will have to make sure they comply with new regulatory frameworks.

## Implementation of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs)[30]

- Over 90% of central banks are implementing or considering implementation of CBDC projects. They are expected to provide an alternative to commercial stablecoins, ensuring that the digital currency landscape remains transparent.

[26] https://risk.lexisnexis.com/insights-resources/infographic/payments-trends
[27] https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/financial-services/our-insights/global-payments-report
[28] https://aps.money/blog/5-payment-predictions-for-2025/
[29] https://aps.money/blog/5-payment-predictions-for-2025/
[30] https://aps.money/blog/5-payment-predictions-for-2025/

- Central bank digital currencies can streamline payments, reduce costs and promote innovation in the financial sector. Additionally, it could potentially influence monetary policy transmission and financial stability.

### Rise in payment orchestration platforms

- Payment orchestration platforms are poised to become more important. They provide a way to manage multiple payment providers, methods and channels through a single interface. They allow businesses to optimize their payments stack, routing transactions through the most cost-effective and reliable providers[31].
- As the payment landscape becomes more complex, these platforms are likely to become more essential to simplify operations[32].

### Rise of Embedded Payments[33]

- The global market for embedded payments is expected to surpass $138 billion in the five-year period ending 2026, a more than threefold increase. Consumers can make a purchase without leaving their website, social media channel or mobile app.
- Embedded payments are expected to gain more momentum in 2025 and beyond. It is expected to drive repeat sales, promote better cash management, enable seamless reconciliation and reduce payment error.

## Digital Payments Industry Outlook and Top Headlines from Q3 2025

- The total transaction value in the global digital payments market is expected to reach $20.1 trillion in 2025. During the period 2025-2030, the total transaction value is expected to show an annual growth (CAGR) of 13.6%, resulting in a projected total amount of $38.1 trillion by 2030. This growth is predicted to be spearheaded by the Mobile POS Payments market segment, with an expected contribution of $24.6 trillion in 2030. When looking at the industry through a global lens, the country with the largest market for digital payments is China with a cumulative transaction value of $5.8 trillion in 2025. The United States is ranked second with a transaction value of $3.1 trillion[34].
- In Q2 2025, retail e-commerce sales in the United States reached $304.2 billion, an increase of 1.4% from the first quarter of 2025. According to U.S Census data, by the end of the second quarter of 2025, e-commerce sales accounted for 16.3% of total retail sales in the country[35]. The industry is on track to continue to dominate the digital payments landscape, estimated to generate $1.17 trillion by the end of 2025 and $1.54 trillion by the end of 2029[36].
- According to a study conducted by WorldPay, global ecommerce fraud is increasing, with losses expected to exceed $343 billion in the five-year period ending 2027. The US has trailed other countries in Europe and Asia in advanced identity authentication, with the market more fragmented and slower to

[31] https://www.globalpayments.com/commerce-payment-trends
[32] https://www.globalpayments.com/commerce-payment-trends
[33] https://www.globalpayments.com/commerce-payment-trends
[34] https://www.statista.com/outlook/fmo/payments/worldwide?srsltid=AfmBOoo5WT_2RgtIz0eRhL87F4iyKGhsULSdGHx4RisALlmUDAFrCVrX
[35] https://www.census.gov/retail/mrts/www/data/pdf/ec_current.pdf
[36] https://www.statista.com/outlook/emo/ecommerce/united-states

upgrade to new standards. An increase in AI-enabled fraud has resulted in higher investments in security solutions. Payment providers are working to make passkey technology more seamless[37].

- Open AI has teamed up with Stripe to let people make purchases from within ChatGPT. Users of ChatGPT can now buy goods from US-based Etsy businesses directly in the chat. This feature will also be made available to over a million Shopify merchants. While the service initially covered single-item purchases, it is expected to cover multi-item purchases. The addition of the new feature called Checkout in ChatGPT is powered by Agentic Commerce Protocol (ACP), a new open standard codeveloped by Stripe and Open AI[38].
- Leading incumbent Visa is expected to launch a pilot on its real-time payments platform Visa Direct. This platform will integrate stablecoins as a new funding source of capital, unlocking access to liquidity[39].
- Robinhood launched tokenized US stocks for its EU customers in June 2025, offering 200+ tokenized US stocks and ETFs on the Arbitrum Ethereum Layer 2 network, allowing 24/5 trading with zero commissions and dividend support. The launch was part of Robinhood's broader push into the crypto and tokenization space, aiming to democratize access to these assets for a wider range of investors[40].
- PayOS and Mastercard have completed an autonomous agentic payment transaction using a Mastercard Agentic Token. The transaction was executed using Mastercard Agent Pay, utilizing the same tokenization framework that powers mobile contactless payments, card-on-file storage and Mastercard Payment Passkeys. This technology is game-changing as it secures user consent, authentication and authorization, as well as fraud protection for each transaction[41].
- The Indian digital payments giant PhonePe is preparing for a $1.5 billion IPO through a confidential process, indicating a significant financial milestone for the company. The shares are expected to be listed on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), with Kotak Mahindra Capital Co. Ltd. serving as the book running lead manager. PhonePe's IPO plan comes against the backdrop of buoyant Indian primary markets, where fundraising is expected to surpass the record $20 billion achieved in 2024[42].
- dLocal is expanding its collaboration with XanderPay to enhance cross-border payout systems for hotels and online travel agencies in emerging markets. By combining dLocal's global payment infrastructure with XanderPay's hospitality expertise, hotels and OTAs can centralize and simplify bank transfer payouts. This alliance eliminates the need for local entities or complicated banking arrangements, cutting transaction costs while ensuring fast, transparent payments to vendors and partners[43].
- Funding for the US Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) was significantly cut in July 2025 by legislation that halved the budget from 12% to 6.5% of the Federal Reserve's 2009 operating expenses. Following the 2025 budget cut, the acting director Russell Vought, a Trump appointee, halted most

[37] https://cdn.bfldr.com/ZGS6MXDP/at/bnpb326vktcgh75f8fpxkf/2025-PaymentTrends-Report_Final
[38] https://www.finextra.com/newsarticle/46677/openai-and-stripe-team-on-chatgpt-payments
[39] https://www.finextra.com/newsarticle/46680/visa-direct-to-pilot-pre-funded-stablecoins
[40] https://newsroom.aboutrobinhood.com/robinhood-launches-stock-tokens-reveals-layer-2-blockchain-and-expands-crypto-suite-in-eu-and-us-with-perpetual-futures-and-staking
[41] https://www.finextra.com/newsarticle/46682/payos-and-mastercard-complete-milestone-agentic-payment-transaction
[42] https://www.reuters.com/world/india/walmart-backed-phonepe-files-india-ipo-via-confidential-route-2025-09-24/
[43] https://www.dlocal.com/press-releases/dlocal-and-xanderpay-partner-to-simplify-and-modernize-cross-border-hotel-payments-across-africa-asia-and-latin-america/

work and warned of mass layoffs. In October 2025, he indicated that it will likely close down within two to three months[44,45]

Sources: Nasdaq Global Indexes, Bloomberg, FactSet

The Nasdaq CTA Global Digital Payments™ Index (WALLET™) is tracked by the Amplify – Mobile Payments ETF (IPAY).



[44] https://www.reuters.com/business/world-at-work/white-house-budget-director-vought-says-over-10000-federal-workers-could-be-laid-2025-10-15/
[45] https://www.americascreditunions.org/blogs/compliance/whats-going-cfpb#