

2020 NMLS Money Services Businesses Report

This report contains data concerning companies and branches that are licensed or registered in NMLS to conduct money services activities.¹

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1. Money Services Businesses Activities

The Money Services Businesses (MSB) Call Report collects quarterly activity and financial data from MSB companies. The report includes national and state-specific information that is submitted on a quarterly and annual basis. Reporting started in the first quarter of 2017².

Activities reported in the MSB Call Report include the following:

Money Transmission	Transmitting money, domestically and/or internationally
Payment Instrument	Instrument for the transmission or payment of money or monetary value, such as money orders
Stored Value	Monetary value that is evidenced by an electronic record, such as a prepaid card or mobile wallet
Check Cashing	Cashing checks, drafts, money orders, or other commercial paper
Currency Exchange	Exchanging one fiat currency for another fiat currency
Virtual Currency	Transmitting, exchanging, holding, or otherwise controlling virtual currency

In 2020, 31 states and Puerto Rico required their licensed companies to file the MSB Call Report, an increase of three states during the year. The report collects both state-specific and company-wide transaction information. The company-wide transaction totals include transactions in states that do not require the MSB call report, which gives visibility to the majority of MSB activity nationwide.

¹ Unless otherwise noted, all figures cover activity from 2020, or statuses as of December 31, 2020.

²MSB Call Report data in this report reflect data submitted by companies in NMLS. Data are subject to revision for two years after the reporting period.

Nationwide MSB Market Totals

Activity	2020	
	Volume	Companies Reporting
Money Transmission	\$1,821,769,932,387	306
Payment Instruments	\$165,341,757,164	99
Stored Value	\$563,179,505,577	75
Check Cashing	\$17,874,842,839	156
Currency Exchange	\$1,911,282,861	23
Virtual Currency Exchange & Transmission	\$195,111,564,883	53
Total	\$2,765,188,885,711	489

2. State-licensed MSB Companies

As of December 31, 2020, 47 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico managed MSB licenses on NMLS.

There were 2,850 MSB companies in NMLS that held a total of 9,026 approved MSB licenses in 2020, up from 2,521 companies and 7,954 licenses in 2019. These companies conducted activity covered by different license types managed in NMLS.

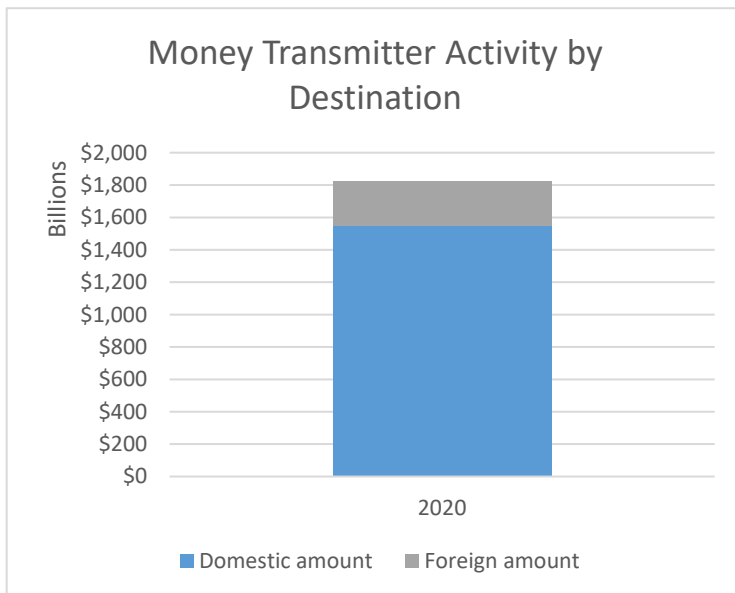
The table below describes the interstate nature of the MSB industry. For example, the average money transmitter conducted business in 11 states, and the average stored value company conducted business in 22 states. Check cashing was the most notable exception, where the average company tended to operate in just one state.

MSB Activity	Companies in NMLS	Average number of states in which they conduct business
Bill paying	531	4
Check cashing	2,062	1
Electronic money transmitting	719	11
Foreign currency dealing or exchanging	59	20
Issuing and/or selling drafts	27	23
Issuing money orders	180	3
Issuing prepaid access/stored value	93	22
Issuing traveler's checks	5	11
Other - Money Services	252	10
Selling money orders	716	2
Selling prepaid access/stored value	221	7
Selling traveler's checks	12	11
Transporting Currency	18	3
Virtual currency exchanging and trading services	47	26

3. Money Transmitters and Uniform Authorized Agent Reporting

Of the companies in NMLS conducting MSB activity, 498 were licensed as money transmitters. They held a total of 6,524 approved money transmitter licenses. Of these companies, 288 reported money transmission on the MSB Call Report.

Foreign and Domestic Money Transmission Transactions



Foreign transfers, also known as “international wires,” or “international money transfers,” are transmissions from the United States to recipients abroad.

In 2020, foreign transfers comprised 15% of all money transmissions in the United States.

The average transmission amount for each foreign transaction was \$303 in 2020.

Agents in NMLS

NMLS provides functionality to allow money transmitters to upload lists of their authorized agents to state regulators. As of December 31, 2020, 43 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have instructed their money transmitters to use the Uniform Authorized Agent Reporting (UAAR) functionality.

As of the end of 2020, 224 companies reported 481,141 active authorized agent relationships, and 272 companies reported no agents used.

Number of Agents	Companies
10,000 or more	9
5,000 – 9,999	4
1,000 – 4,999	14
500 – 999	12
100 – 499	30
50 – 99	19
10 – 49	56
Less than 10	82
0 (No Agents Used by Principal)	272