

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# Same Day ACH: Usage & Strategy

When Same Day ACH launched in 2016, the stated goal was “to move the ACH Network from today’s single, next-day settlement to multiple, same-day settlement options that would be available for virtually any ACH Network transaction.” Today, the modern ACH Network moves 120 million payments per day; settles payments four times per day to any U.S. bank or credit union account; and moves Same Day ACH payments up to \$1 million three times per day.

In 2021, Same Day ACH moved 2.4 million payments per day (604 million transactions for the year) with a daily total value of \$3.7 billion. Volume increased 74% over 2020, with the value of those transactions doubling to almost \$950 billion.

The Center for Payments™, in partnership with Nacha, conducted a market intelligence study to better understand the current and potential future of Same Day ACH. Topics examined included: use of Same Day ACH by banks and credit unions and potential barriers to adoption; operational and risk mitigation practices regarding and leveraging Same Day ACH; and opportunities to enhance Same Day ACH in the future.

Complete findings of this study are available exclusively to members of the ten payments associations that sponsor the Center for Payments, and questions should be directed to your payments association.

## Positioning of Same Day ACH

The ACH Network continues to evolve and provide new opportunities for financial institutions. At the time of the study, more than 60% of institutions responding already adopted and offered Same Day ACH origination services. Of those that did not offer Same Day ACH, nearly 1 out of 4 respondents indicated plans were in place to begin offering it by the end of 2022.

Respondents were asked to estimate the percentage of their clients that use Same Day ACH. Most financial institutions (76%) indicated between 1% and 25% of their origination clients utilize the service. Responding institutions agreed that fostering greater adoption of Same Day ACH will rely heavily on educating corporate users about its benefits.

## Risk Management

Almost half (49%) of financial institutions were not leveraging Same Day ACH windows to return ACH transactions, a missed risk management opportunity. A majority (56%) of respondents felt Same Day ACH had not negatively impacted their level of payments risk.

When respondents were asked about specific practices implemented to mitigate origination risk, restricting access to Same Day ACH was most cited (35%). Other practices included an improved credit evaluation process before access was granted and enhanced operational procedures like dual control (20% and 18%, respectively).

## About the Study

Same Day ACH: Usage & Strategy, compiled and tabulated by Industry Insights, Inc. and designed in cooperation with the Center for Payments and Nacha, is based on findings from online surveys fielded between February 14 and March 11, 2022. The results include responses from 174 financial institutions ranging from under \$10 million to \$25 billion or more.

## Application and Strategy

Responding institutions cited Same Day ACH was most often used for emergency situations related to payroll (70%). Other common use cases included general emergency transactions (57%) and payroll funding (43%). Of those that are currently offering Same Day ACH, 54% have seen an increase in satisfaction among their customers or members. Enhancement of internal origination capabilities and increased revenue are other benefits cited by respondents (29% and 18%, respectively).

**For the full report and more information on ways to leverage Same Day ACH or faster payment options, contact your payments association.**

## About the Center for Payments™

The Center for Payments™ is a joint program sponsored by ten payments associations for the purpose of helping members and staff better prepare for the continued evolution in U.S. payment systems. The mission of the Center for Payments is to advance the payments industry as a united voice through market intelligence and thought leadership. This program further enhances the value of membership in the participating associations. Current participants in the program include: ePayResources, EPCOR, Macha, NEACH, PaymentsFirst, SHAZAM, Southern Financial Exchange, The Clearing House Payments Authority, UMACHA, and Wespay. These associations represent over 10,000 financial institution members, businesses and stakeholders with an interest in U.S. payment systems. Find out more at [centerforpayments.org](https://centerforpayments.org) or contact [info@centerforpayments.org](mailto:info@centerforpayments.org).

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