PYMNTS INTELLIGENCE | The Clearing House

July 2026

The Real-Time Payments World Map

Real-Time Payments Tracker® Series

Real-time payments are reshaping the global financial landscape, advancing from innovation to essential infrastructure. This map tracks worldwide progress and key milestones in real-time payments, with this edition exploring how South America is accelerating adoption through homegrown instant payment systems, cross-border expansion and a new wave of financial inclusion.

Mapping Real-Time Payments in **South America**

A wave of real-time payment systems is transforming South America's financial landscape, with Brazil's instant payment system, Pix, leading the surge while newer networks across the region rapidly gain scale and economic influence. Since its launch in 2020, Pix has become the leading payment method in Brazil, reaching more than 150 million users—roughly 70% of the population—and processing more transactions than Visa and Mastercard combined.

The platform's influence continues to expand. In May, local payments partner Boku announced that it had gone live with Pix, enabling merchants to offer account-to-account (A2A) payments via Brazil's instant-payment rails, with funds settling both domestically and across borders. At the same time, Brazil's central bank has also extended Pix to Argentina, allowing Brazilians living there to make payments and transfers across borders.

Yet Pix's rapid growth has also created new pressures. Cybercriminals are increasingly targeting the system because completed transfers clear in seconds and cannot be reversed. Meanwhile, Brazil's central bank faces growing staffing and budget constraints as it oversees a financial ecosystem that has expanded dramatically alongside Pix and the broader FinTech sector.

The success of Pix has also attracted attention far beyond Brazil. In the United States, the Trump administration has increasingly scrutinized the system, arguing that it creates an uneven competitive environment for U.S.-based card networks. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative opened an investigation into Pix, examining claims that the government-backed platform disadvantages foreign payment providers by offering a low-cost alternative to traditional card rails. Critics of the investigation argue that Pix's popularity stems from its efficiency and affordability rather than preferential treatment. According to analysis from the Peterson Institute for International Economics, the dispute reflects a broader tension between countries seeking greater financial autonomy and established global payment networks determined to preserve market share.

While Brazil remains the region's most prominent success story, Colombia is rapidly emerging as another instant-payments powerhouse. The country's Bre-B platform surpassed 500 million transactions within just five months of operation and registered more than 100 million payment keys during that period, marking one of the fastest rollouts of a national real-time payments network in Latin America. Bre-B's early performance reflects rising regional demand for faster and more accessible digital payments.

Elsewhere in the region, the growth story is equally compelling. According to a recent ACI Worldwide study, Peru, Chile and Argentina are entering a new phase of growth driven by real-time payments adoption. The report projects that by 2028, Argentina alone will generate $19.3 billion in incremental GDP and bring 1.1 million additional consumers into the formal financial system. Peru is projected to add $376 million in GDP and connect 1.4 million more consumers to banking services, while Chile's real-time payments ecosystem could generate $740 million in additional economic output and expand access to financial services for tens of thousands of consumers. Together, these forecasts suggest that real-time payments are evolving from a payments innovation into a broader economic-development tool across South America, helping drive growth, improve financial access and reshape the region's financial infrastructure.

THE REAL-TIME PAYMENTS MAP

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SOUTH AMERICA

LIVE

ARGENTINA
2016

BELIZE
2016

BOLIVIA
2019

BRAZIL
2002

CHILE
2008

COLOMBIA
2019

COSTA RICA
1996

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
2006

EL SALVADOR
2021

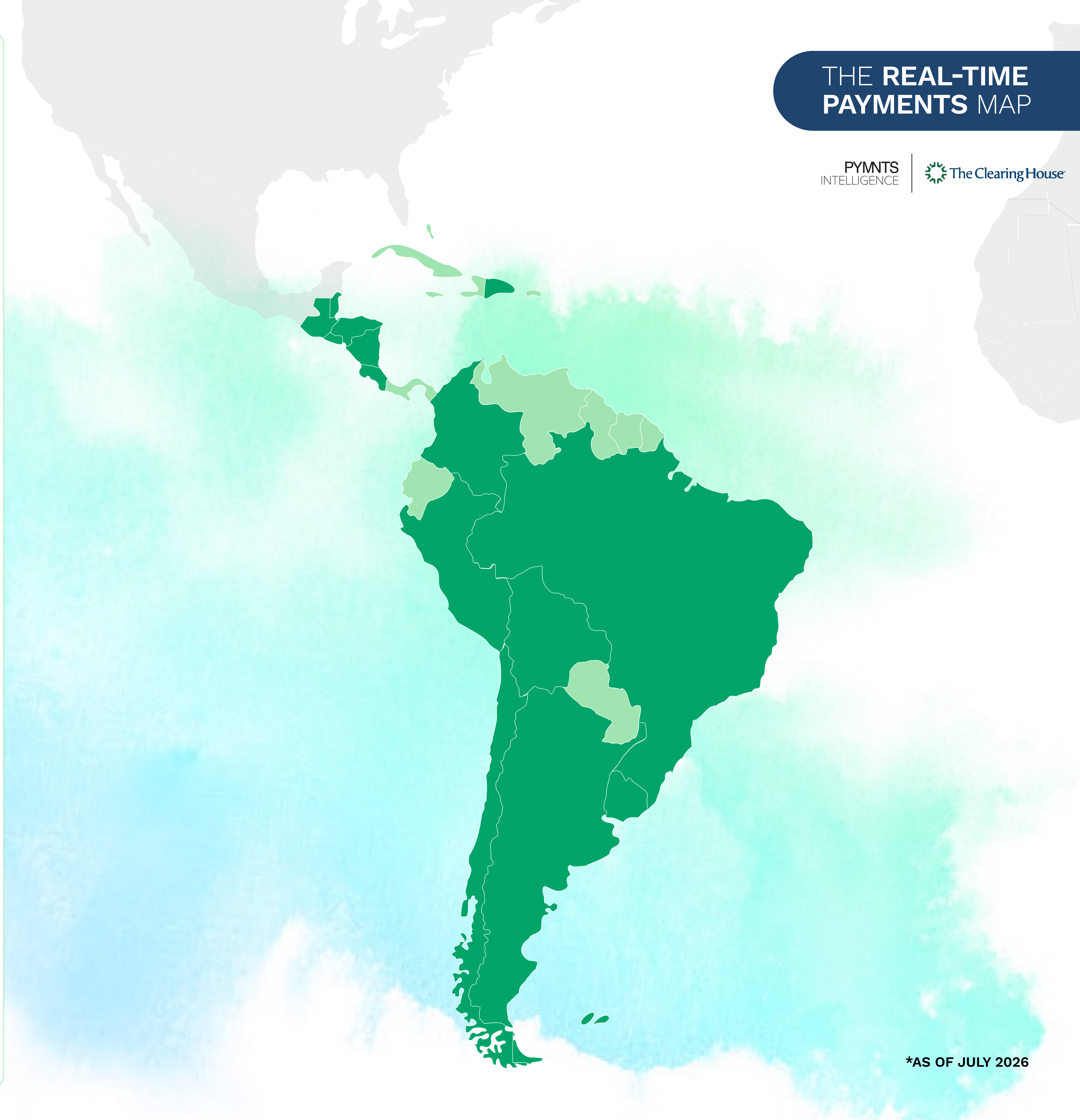
GUATEMALA
2006

HONDURAS
2008

NICARAGUA
2016

PERU
2016

URUGUAY
2021



*AS OF JULY 2026

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Looking Beyond South America: **Real-Time Payments Worldwide**

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NORTH AMERICA

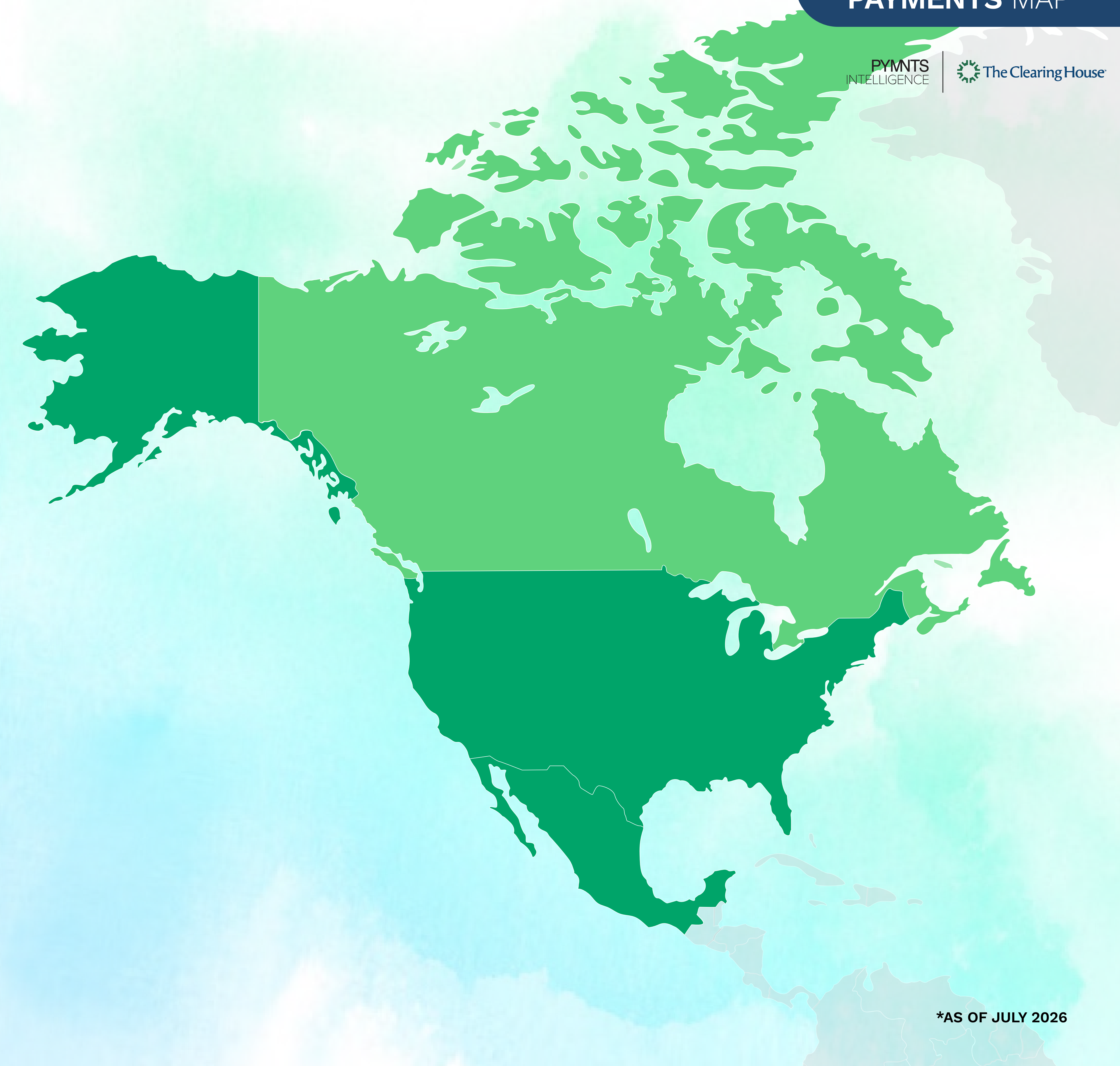
LIVE

UNITED STATES
2017

MEXICO
2004

EXPECTED 2026

CANADA



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EUROPE

LIVE

AUSTRIA 2017

BELGIUM 2019

BULGARIA 2021

CROATIA 2020

CZECH REPUBLIC 1992

DENMARK 2014

ESTONIA 2014

FINLAND 2017

FRANCE 2018

GERMANY 2017

GREECE 2017

HUNGARY 2020

ICELAND 2020

IRELAND 2017

ITALY 2017

LATVIA 2017

LITHUANIA 2017

LUXEMBOURG 2020

MALTA 2007

MOLDOVA 2024

NETHERLANDS 2017

NORWAY 2013

POLAND 2012

PORTUGAL 2018

ROMANIA 2005

SERBIA 2018

SLOVAKIA 2022

SLOVENIA 2020

SPAIN 2016

SWEDEN 2012

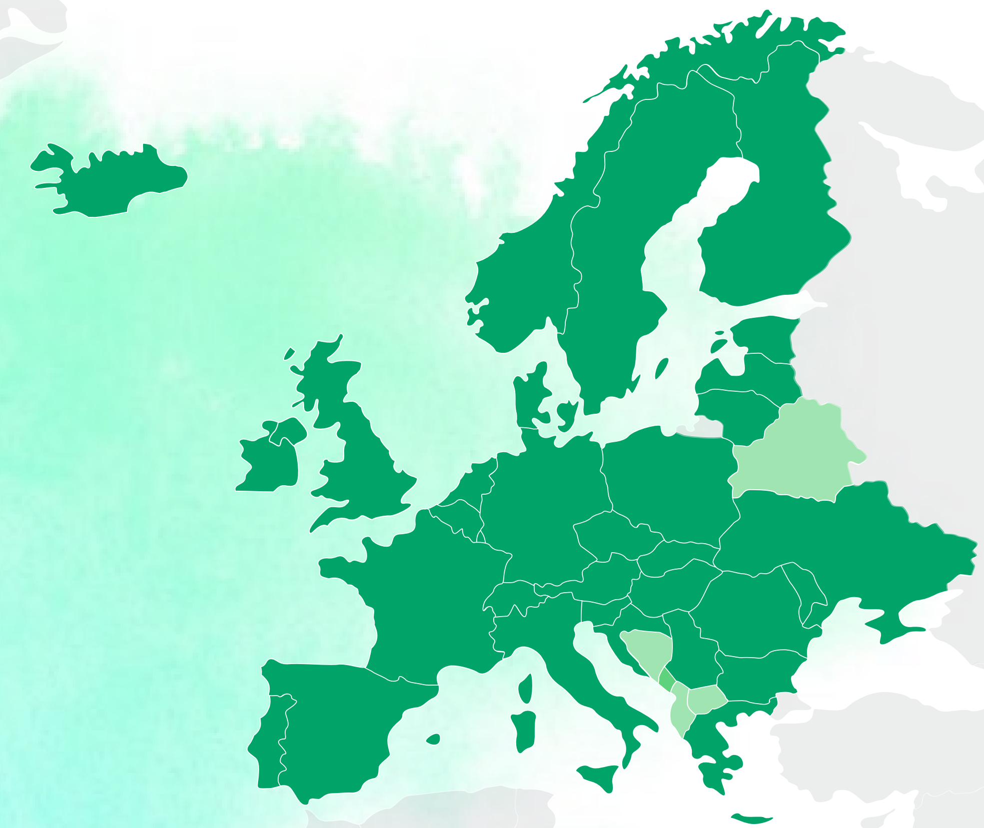
SWITZERLAND 2016

UKRAINE 2024

UNITED KINGDOM 2008

EXPECTED 2026

MONTENEGRO



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AFRICA

LIVE

ALGERIA 2024

ANGOLA 2023

BENIN 2024

BURKINA FASO 2024

BURUNDI 2026

CAMEROON 2020

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC 2020

CHAD 2020

CÔTE D'IVOIRE 2024

DJIBOUTI 2021

EGYPT 2022

EQUATORIAL GUINEA 2020

ESWATINI 2021

ETHIOPIA 2011

GABON 2020

GAMBIA 2020

GHANA 2007

GUINEA-BISSAU 2024

KENYA 2017

LESOTHO 2024

LIBERIA 2022

LIBYA 2024

MADAGASCAR 2016

MALAWI 2015

MALI 2024

MAURITIUS 2019

MOROCCO 2023

MOZAMBIQUE 2012

NAMIBIA 2021

NIGER 2024

NIGERIA 2011

REPUBLIC OF CONGO 2020

RWANDA 2022

SENEGAL 2024

SIERRA LEONE 2021

SOMALIA 2021

SOUTH AFRICA 2006

SOUTH SUDAN 2024

TANZANIA 2019

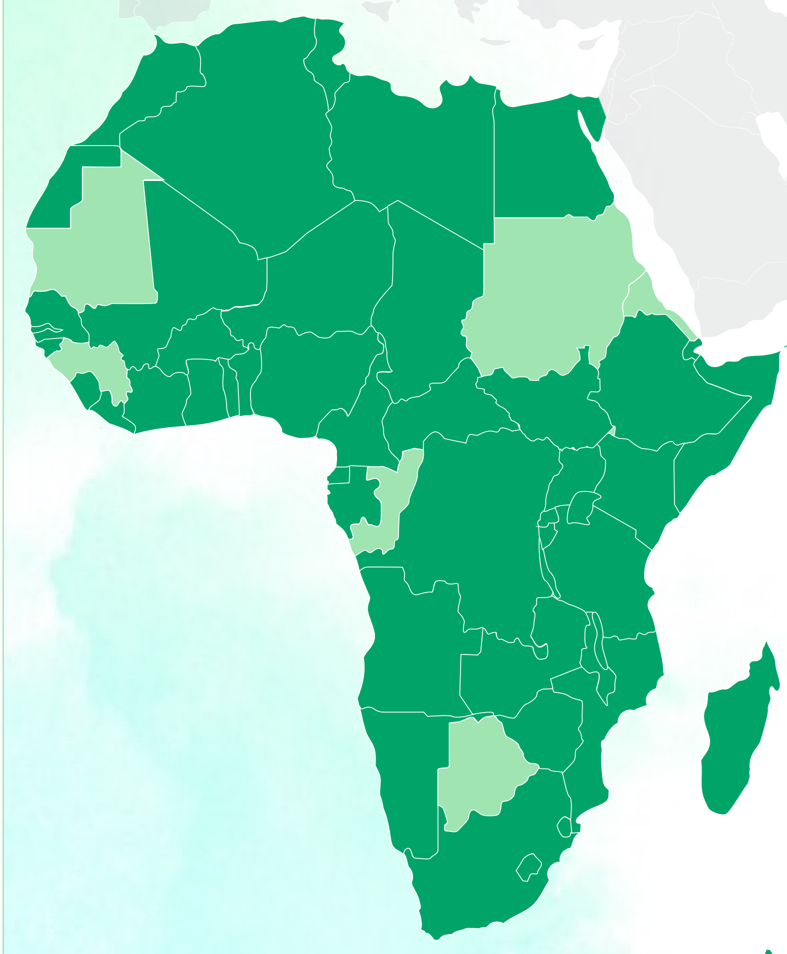
TOGO 2024

TUNISIA 2018

UGANDA 2017

ZAMBIA 2019

ZIMBABWE 2011



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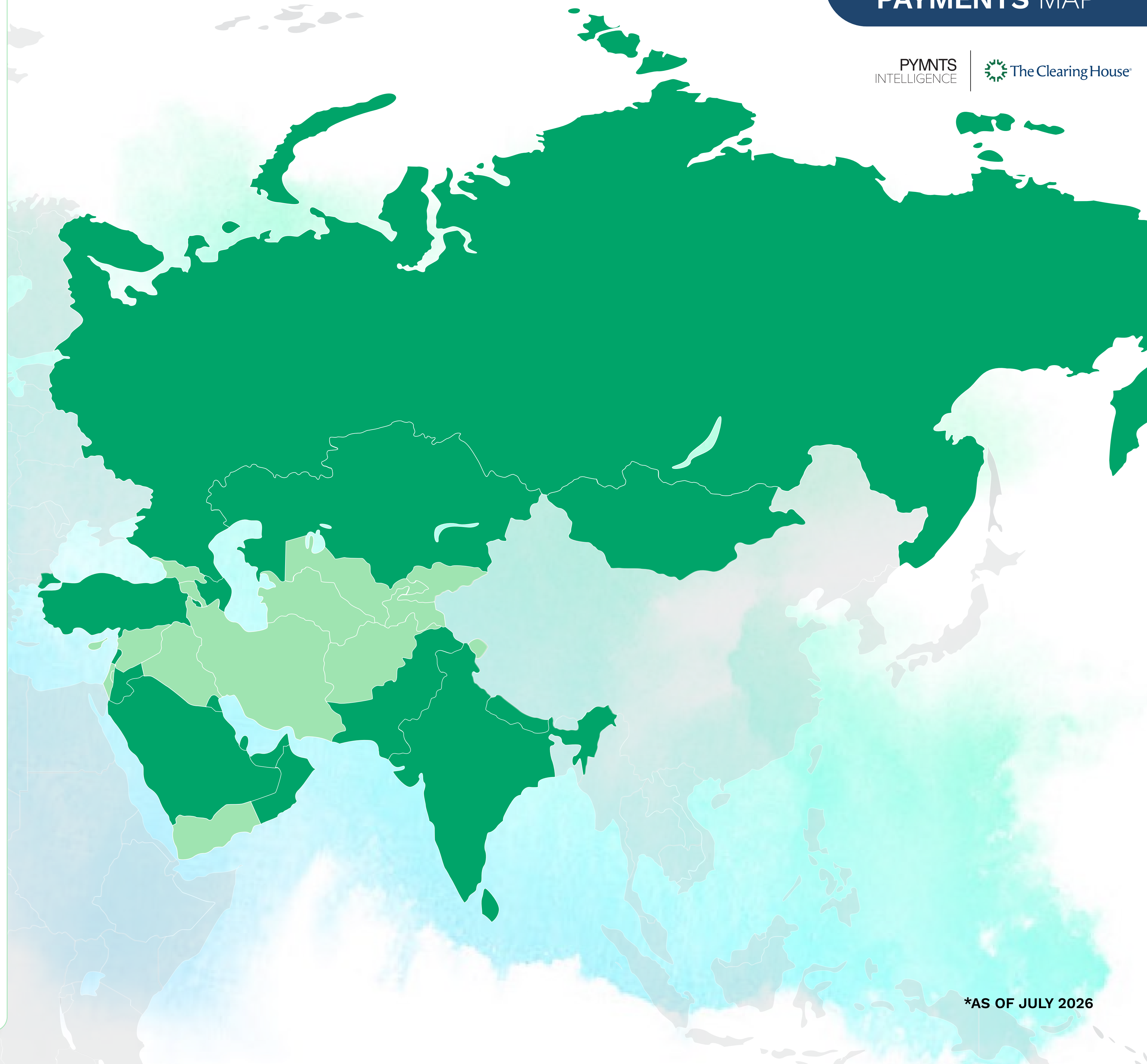
MIDDLE EAST

LIVE

- **AZERBAIJAN** 2020
- **BAHRAIN** 2015
- **INDIA** 2010
- **JORDAN** 2020
- **KAZAKHSTAN** 2022
- **KUWAIT** 2018
- **LEBANON** 2020
- **MONGOLIA** 2016
- **NEPAL** 2021
- **OMAN** 2017
- **PAKISTAN** 2021
- **QATAR** 2020
- **RUSSIA** 2019
- **SAUDI ARABIA** 2021
- **SRI LANKA** 2015
- **TURKEY** 2000
- **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** 2019



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ASIA-PACIFIC

LIVE

AUSTRALIA
2018

BRUNEI
2014

CAMBODIA
2019

CHINA
2010

HONG KONG
2018

INDONESIA
2021

JAPAN
1973

MALAYSIA
2006

PHILIPPINES
2018

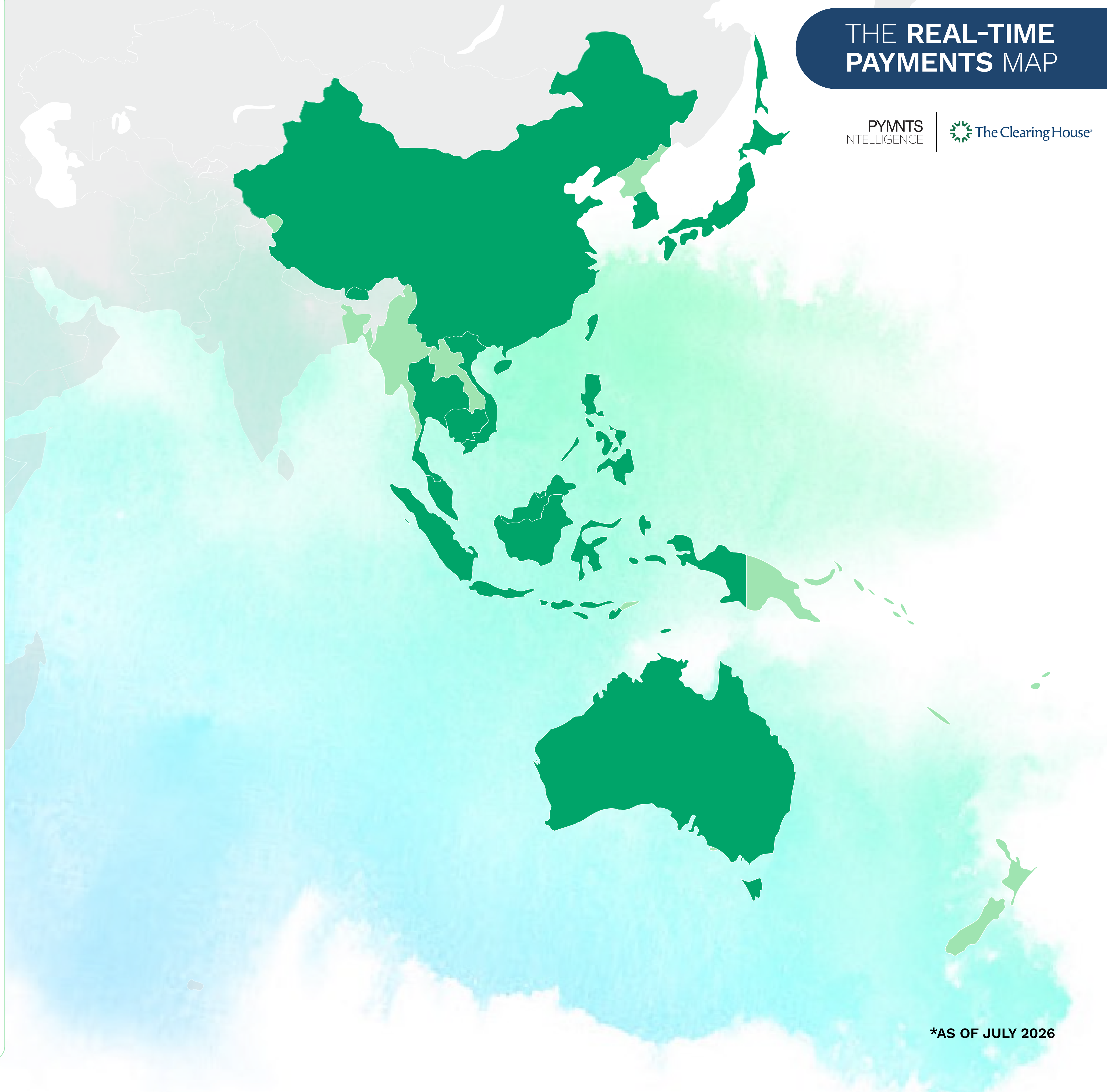
SINGAPORE
2014

SOUTH KOREA
1988

TAIWAN
1987

THAILAND
2016

VIETNAM
2016



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