PYMNTS INTELLIGENCE | The Clearing House®

September 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 examining how countries throughout Asia-Pacific are expanding real-time payments' reach through cross-border initiatives, greater interoperability between systems and new commercial uses.

Mapping Real-Time Payments in **Asia-Pacific**

Asia-Pacific's real-time payment systems are moving beyond domestic transfers as countries build new connections across borders, expand the uses of instant payment networks and prepare for a more automated payment future.

Project Nexus offers a glimpse of what comes next for real-time payments in Asia-Pacific: domestic instant payment systems connected through a common cross-border framework. The Bank for International Settlements-backed initiative is working to tie together the national systems of Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines, creating a model that could simplify payments across the region. Rather than building separate connections with every partner, Nexus is designed as a standardized framework through which participants would connect once to reach the broader network. That approach could cut the delays and costs of routing payments through correspondent banks.

India is pursuing a separate route toward wider cross-border payment connectivity. Government and central bank officials are reportedly in discussions with Ant International about linking Alipay+ with India's Unified Payments Interface, or UPI, for cross-border transactions. An agreement could let Indian travelers use UPI at merchants in markets connected to Alipay+. The potential link would connect one of the world's largest instant payment systems with a platform that spans more than 100 markets, reaching roughly 1.8 billion user accounts and upward of 150 million merchants.

China, meanwhile, is preparing to launch mBridge commercially. The digital currency platform settles cross-border payments directly between the participating central banks of mainland China, Hong Kong, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. The platform could reduce reliance on the U.S. dollar and forge closer ties between China and its trading partners across Belt and Road markets. Sources familiar with the project told the *Financial Times* that fees would run about half what conventional payment systems charge, though they did not say when it would launch.

Singapore is studying a second generation of PayNow, its instant payment infrastructure. The Monetary Authority of Singapore and the Association of Banks in Singapore are examining upgrades that would serve consumers, merchants, businesses and government agencies. One proposal would bridge PayNow and NETS QR, enabling consumers to scan and pay at merchants across different payment schemes. A pilot is targeted for the end of 2026. Other areas under consideration include a smoother checkout for online purchases, a higher ceiling on what people can pay government agencies and a wider set of business uses.

Thailand hints at where the region may be headed. PromptPay, launched in 2017, was clearing more than 74 million transactions a day by mid-2025, with registrations passing 81 million earlier that year, according to Bank of Thailand figures. That depth of use is what makes the next step plausible: payments that run themselves, executing once agreed conditions are met rather than waiting on someone to approve each one. Eight firms have finished initial trials of programmable Thai baht payments. In June, the central bank said it would put rules for a baht-backed stablecoin out for public comment before year-end. If that work holds, much of the paying may eventually happen in the background.

Countries are taking different technical paths, but they are all moving outward: across borders, into new commercial uses and toward transactions that no longer need a person at each step.

THE REAL-TIME PAYMENTS MAP

PYMNTS INTELLIGENCE | The Clearing House

ASIA-PACIFIC

LIVE

AUSTRALIA
2018

MALAYSIA
2006

BRUNEI
2014

PHILIPPINES
2018

CAMBODIA
2019

SINGAPORE
2014

CHINA
2010

SOUTH KOREA
1988

HONG KONG
2018

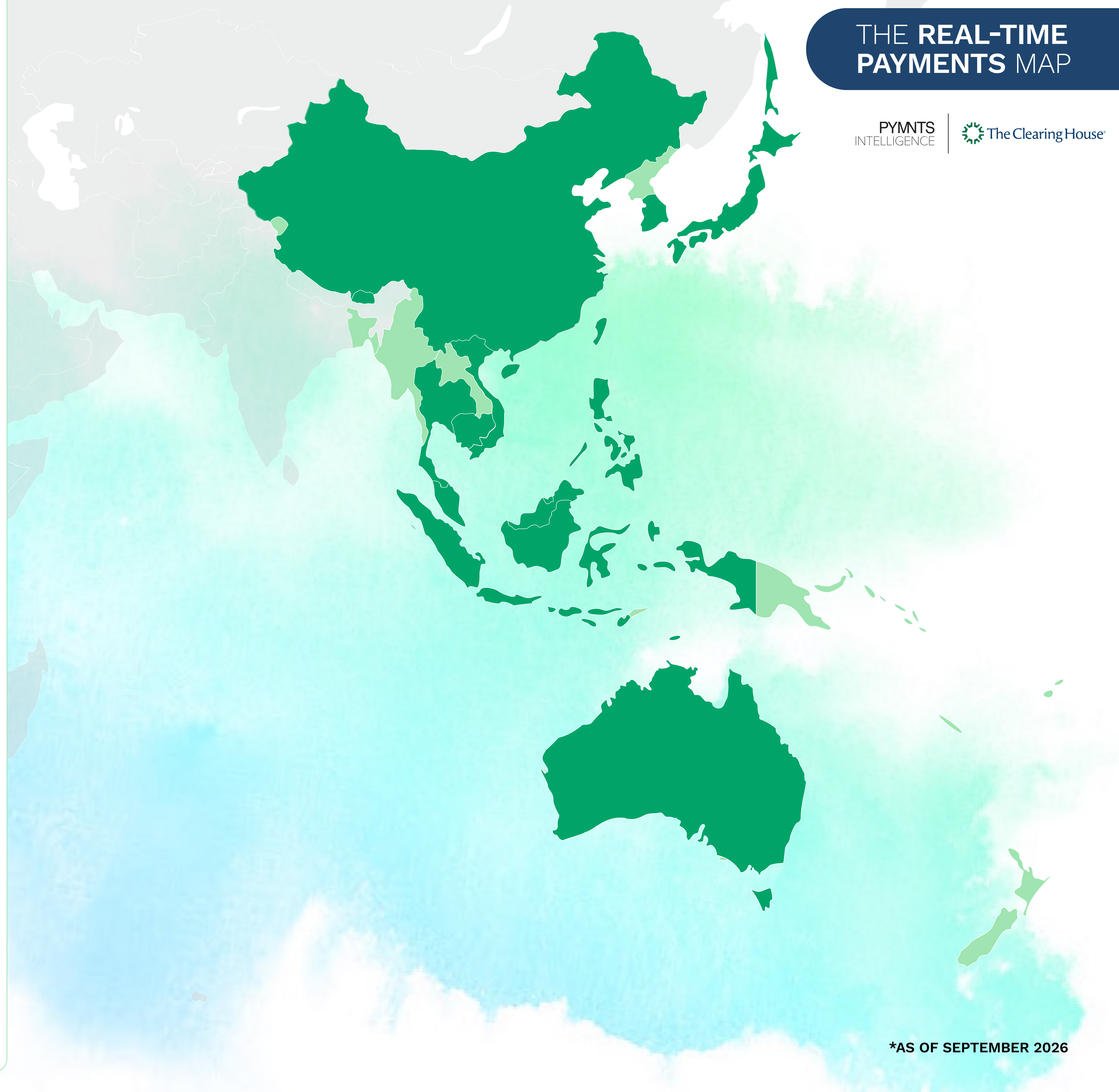
TAIWAN
1987

INDONESIA
2021

THAILAND
2016

JAPAN
1973

VIETNAM
2016



*AS OF SEPTEMBER 2026

THE **REAL-TIME PAYMENTS** MAP

PYMNTS INTELLIGENCE | The Clearing House

Looking Beyond Asia-Pacific: **Real-Time Payments Worldwide**

THE REAL-TIME PAYMENTS MAP

PYMNTS INTELLIGENCE | The Clearing House

NORTH AMERICA

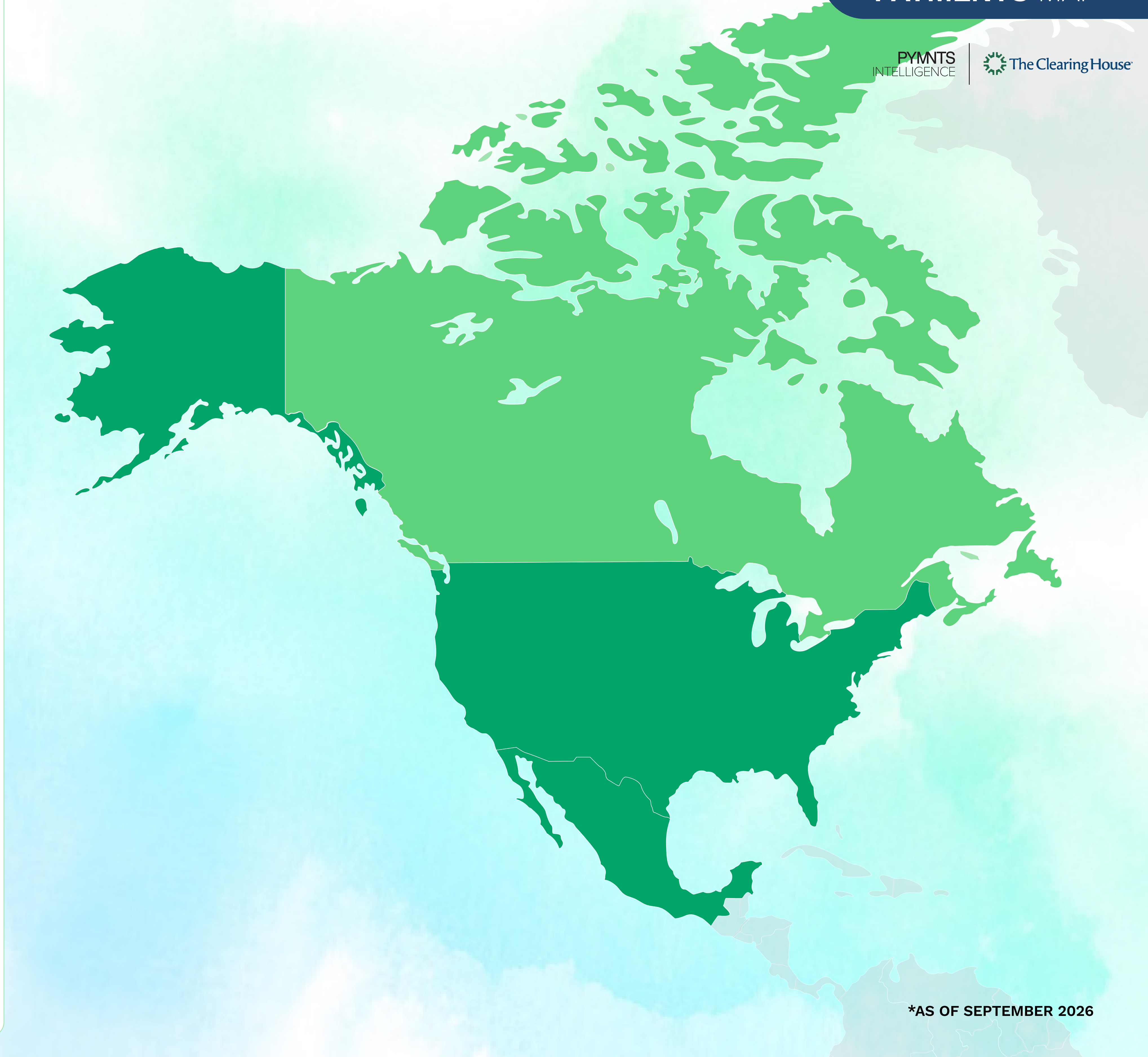
LIVE

UNITED STATES
2017

MEXICO
2004

EXPECTED 2026

CANADA



*AS OF SEPTEMBER 2026

THE REAL-TIME PAYMENTS MAP

PYMNTS INTELLIGENCE | The Clearing House

SOUTH AMERICA

LIVE

ARGENTINA
2016

BARBADOS
2026

BELIZE
2016

BOLIVIA
2019

BRAZIL
2002

CHILE
2008

COLOMBIA
2019

COSTA RICA
1996

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
2006

EL SALVADOR
2021

GUATEMALA
2006

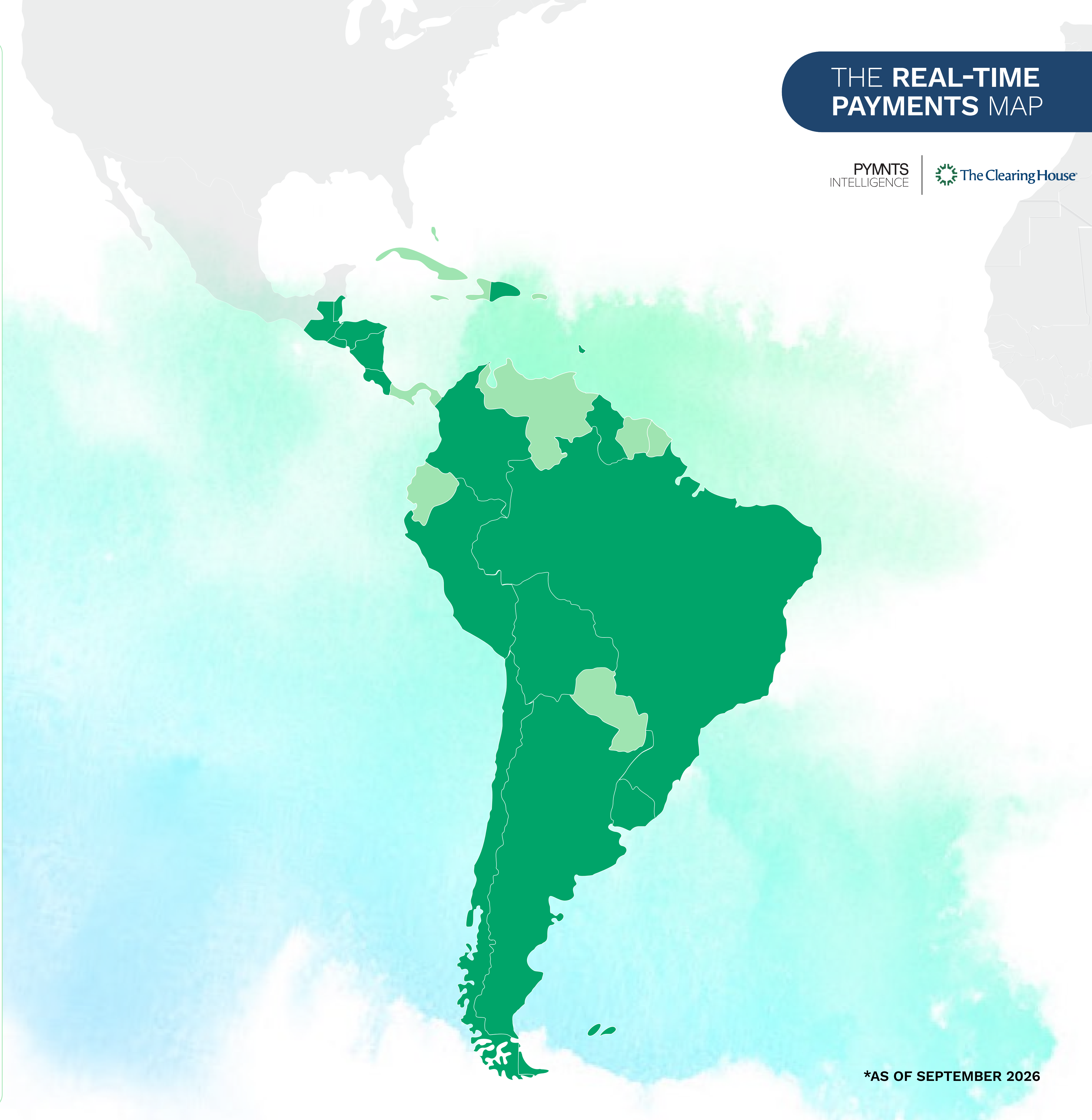
GUYANA
2026

HONDURAS
2008

NICARAGUA
2016

PERU
2016

URUGUAY
2021



*AS OF SEPTEMBER 2026

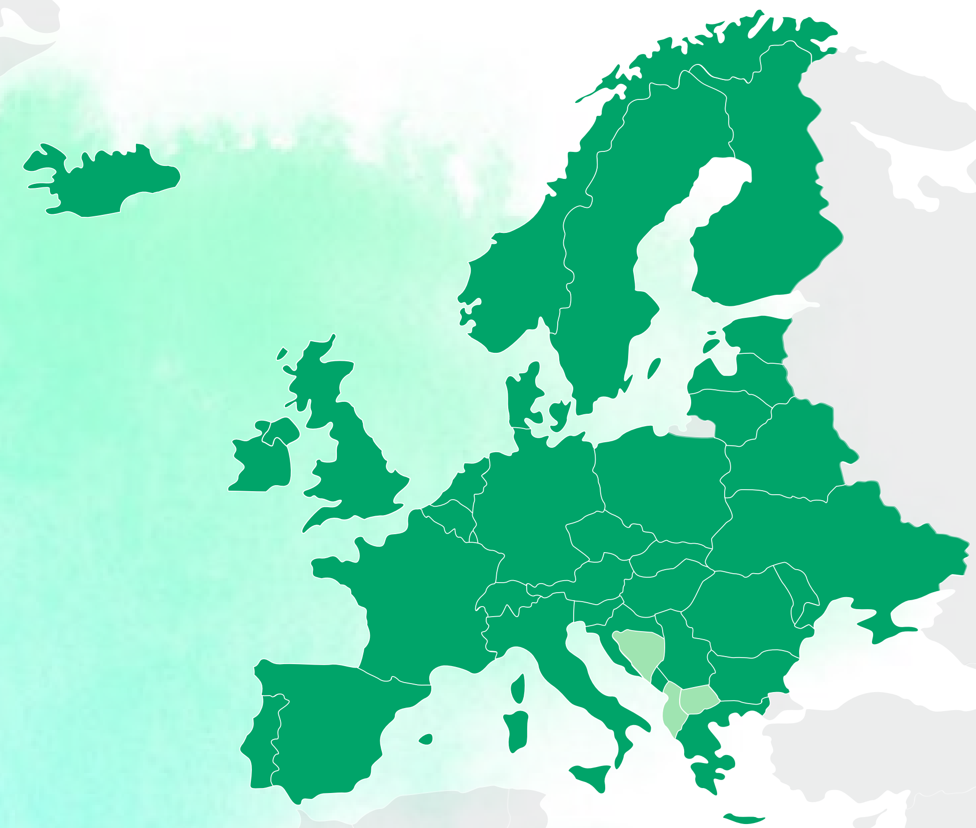
THE REAL-TIME PAYMENTS MAP

PYMNTS INTELLIGENCE | The Clearing House

EUROPE

LIVE

AUSTRIA 2017	FRANCE 2018	LUXEMBOURG 2020	SERBIA 2018
BELARUS 2026	GERMANY 2017	MALTA 2007	SLOVAKIA 2022
BELGIUM 2019	GREECE 2017	MOLDOVA 2024	SLOVENIA 2020
BULGARIA 2021	HUNGARY 2020	MONTENEGRO 2026	SPAIN 2016
CROATIA 2020	ICELAND 2020	NETHERLANDS 2017	SWEDEN 2012
CZECH REPUBLIC 1992	IRELAND 2017	NORWAY 2013	SWITZERLAND 2016
DENMARK 2014	ITALY 2017	POLAND 2012	UKRAINE 2024
ESTONIA 2014	LATVIA 2017	PORTUGAL 2018	UNITED KINGDOM 2008
FINLAND 2017	LITHUANIA 2017	ROMANIA 2005	



*AS OF SEPTEMBER 2026

THE REAL-TIME PAYMENTS MAP

PYMNTS INTELLIGENCE | The Clearing House

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 2026

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

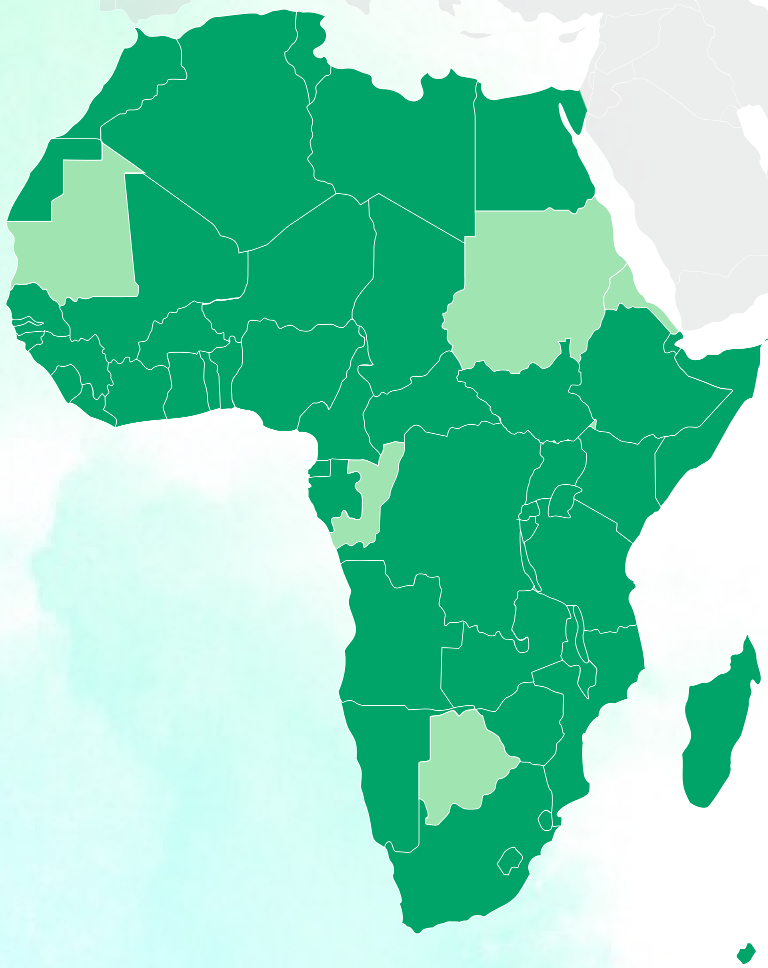
TOGO 2024

TUNISIA 2018

UGANDA 2017

ZAMBIA 2019

ZIMBABWE 2011



*AS OF SEPTEMBER 2026

THE REAL-TIME PAYMENTS MAP

PYMNTS INTELLIGENCE | The Clearing House

MIDDLE EAST

LIVE

AZERBAIJAN
2020

NEPAL
2021

BAHRAIN
2015

OMAN
2017

GEORGIA
2026

PAKISTAN
2021

INDIA
2010

QATAR
2020

JORDAN
2020

RUSSIA
2019

KAZAKHSTAN
2022

SAUDI ARABIA
2021

KUWAIT
2018

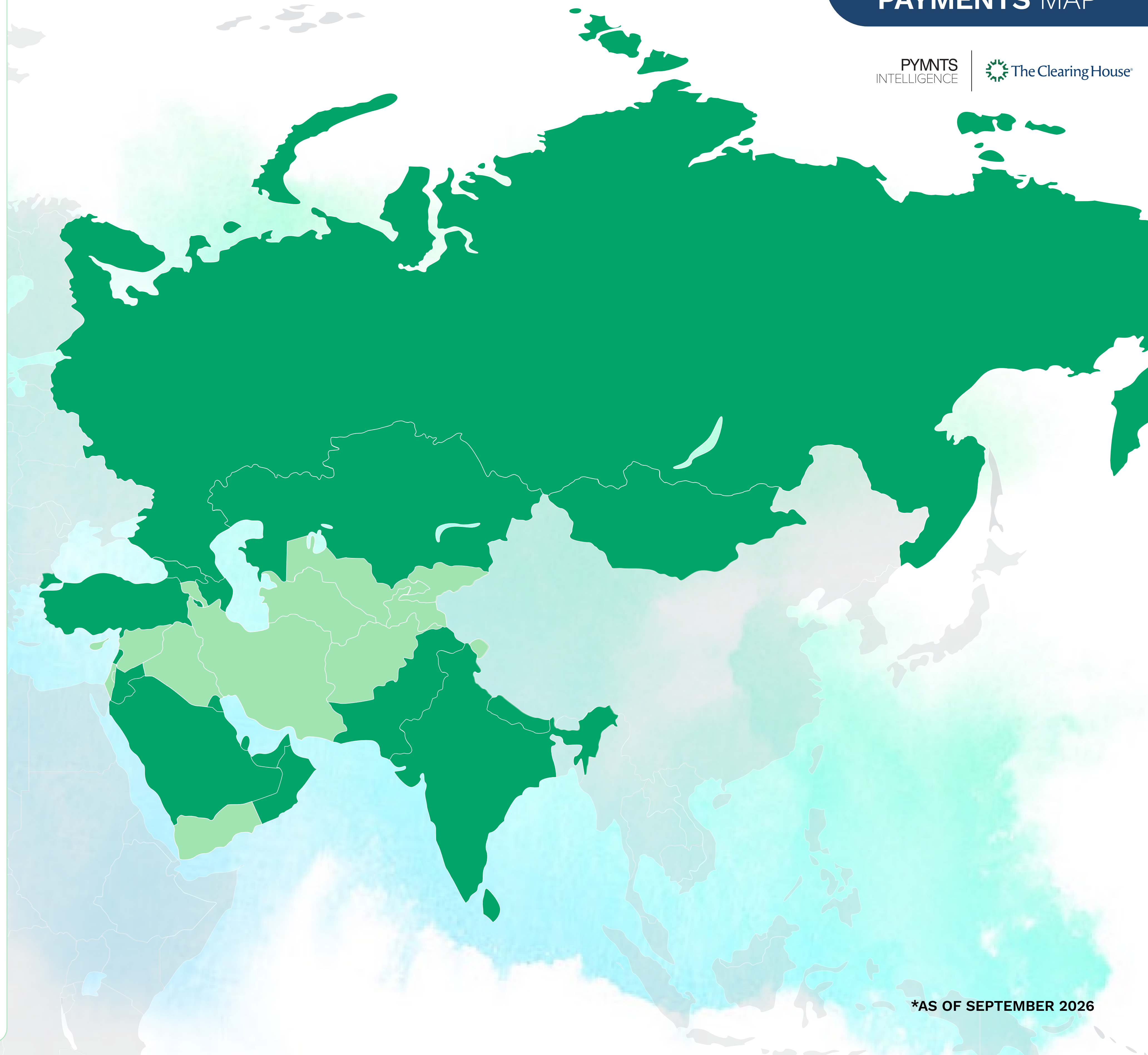
SRI LANKA
2015

LEBANON
2020

TURKEY
2000

MONGOLIA
2016

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
2019



*AS OF SEPTEMBER 2026