

Economic Accounting Analysis and its Effects on the Implementation of Digital Wallets in Ecuador Zone 8

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ABSTRACT

The study focuses on the implementation of digital wallets in Ecuador's Zone 8, exploring their economic and accounting impact. The findings reveal that these technologies have significantly improved accounting efficiency and transaction recording, facilitating faster and more accurate financial management. The positive contribution of digital wallets extends to the liquidity and financial management of businesses, providing greater availability of cash and optimizing financial processes. The favorable perception towards the variability of transaction rates highlights its positive influence on the profitability of businesses in the region, while the security of these transactions is considered a prominent aspect, being perceived as more secure compared to other payment methods. The adoption of digital wallets has improved cash flow management and supplier relationships, strengthening operational efficiency. Improvements in supplier relationships and accounts payable management bolster operational efficiencies. Recommendations include ongoing training in accounting efficiency, awareness campaigns, active monitoring of transaction rates, fostering business collaboration, periodic evaluation of tax strategies, and constant exploration of new technologies. In summary, the adoption of digital wallets has generated a positive impact on various economic and

accounting aspects in Zone 8, and the strategic implementation of these technologies is presented as crucial to maximize their benefits.

KEYWORDS: Digital Wallets, Economy, Digitalization, Tax Strategies, Liquidity.

1. Introduction

The incorporation of digital wallets into the global financial environment has led to a radical transformation in traditional methods of monetary transactions. In the Ecuadorian context, its implementation has been remarkable, offering a diverse range of financial services to the population, which has generated continuous growth in recent years. However, this shift towards digitalization has posed a number of challenges both economic and accounting, which require a thorough assessment and in-depth understanding.

The interaction between digital wallets and Ecuador's conventional financial infrastructure, as well as the economic and accounting implications arising from this transition, constitute a critical area of study. This study focuses specifically on the Zone 8 region of Ecuador, encompassing the cities of Guayaquil and Durán, with the purpose of comprehensively understanding the effects of the adoption of digital wallets in a region with its own economic and demographic particularities.

During the period from fiscal years 2023 - 2024, a comprehensive analysis of economic and accounting aspects will be carried out, including the impact on economic growth, financial inclusion, access to financial services, and financial management of institutions and companies in the area. Both quantitative and qualitative research methods, such as financial data analysis, surveys, interviews, and desk review, will be used to provide a comprehensive understanding of the effects of digital wallets on the local economy and accounting.

THE PROBLEM

1.1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In the era of digitalization and technological transformation in the financial realm, digital wallets have emerged as an innovation that is redefining the way financial transactions are conducted around the world. In the Ecuadorian context, the implementation of digital wallets has experienced steady growth in recent years, offering a variety of financial services to the population. However, this transition to digitalization poses a number of economic and accounting challenges that require deeper evaluation and understanding.

(Magazine, 2023) The interaction between digital wallets and Ecuador's traditional financial infrastructure, along with the economic and accounting implications arising from this transition, represents a critical area of study. The implementation of digital wallets is impacting both individuals and financial institutions in terms of efficiency, security, financial inclusion, and accounting. This process is not only transforming the way transactions are conducted, but also raises questions related to financial regulation, taxation, and risk management.

1.1.1 Location of the Problem in a Conflict Situation Context

The present research work is developed in Zone 8 of the territory of Ecuador, this zone includes Guayaquil, Durán, these areas are the ones with the greatest movement of transactions that are carried out, with the use of digital wallets.

1.1.2 Delimitation of the problem

Geographic Area: This study focuses on zone 8 of Ecuador, which includes Guayaquil and Durán. The choice of this geographical area is based on the need to understand the effects of implementing digital wallets in a specific region of the country with its own economic and demographic characteristics.

Time: The study period runs from September 17, 2023, to December 25, which allows an evaluation of the effects of digital wallets during a specific period.

Economic and Accounting Aspects: The economic analysis will consider aspects such as economic growth, financial inclusion, access to financial services, and the impact on the local economy. The accounting analysis will focus on the financial management of institutions and companies operating in the area, as well as the accounting implications related to the adoption of digital wallets. (Encalada, 2018)

Research Methods: The research will be conducted using quantitative and qualitative methods, including financial data analysis, surveys, interviews, and desk review. (Galán, 2020)

1.1.3 Problem statement or formulation

The central problem addressed in this research is related to the lack of understanding and clarity around the processes of carrying out and recording transactions carried out through digital wallets in the Ecuadorian context.

The increasing adoption of these technologies has created a significant challenge in terms of how transactions are carried out and how they are documented, resulting in a knowledge gap that affects individual users, businesses, financial institutions, and the economic system as a whole. This lack of knowledge not only refers to the technical aspects, but also to the understanding of how these transactions impact economic growth, financial inclusion, and financial management in the local financial environment. Consequently, this situation raises the need for an in-depth assessment and adequate solutions that allow for effective integration of digital wallets into the Ecuadorian financial environment, ensuring sustainable economic development and proper financial management in a constantly evolving digital environment.

1.1.4 Assessment of the problem

Adoption of Digital Wallets in Zone 8: The adoption of digital wallets such as DEUNA, PEIGO, ETC., means for companies and users a new form of adaptation, to make payments without the need for cash, this leads to a necessary update of procedures by companies, to record their transactions, new accounting systems; and for users, to verify that this tool that we will use for our money is reliable, and protects users' money. (Perrotta, 2019)

1.1.5 Economic Impact:

Stimulus to Consumption: The ease of transacting through digital wallets can stimulate consumption by offering consumers a fast and convenient way to make payments. This could boost sales for businesses that accept digital payments.

Reduced Cash Costs: Reducing the use of cash can reduce costs related to cash management, such as printing and transporting money, which benefits financial institutions and the government.

Greater Business Efficiency: Digital transactions are more efficient in terms of time and costs for businesses. Automating financial processes can improve operational efficiency and financial management.

1.2 Research objectives

1.2.1 General objective:

Economic Accounting Analysis and its Effects on the Implementation of Digital Wallets in Ecuador Zone 8

1.2.2 Specific objectives:

- Describe how e-wallets can affect the accounting economy in Ecuador.
- Substantially demonstrate why the use of e-wallets are the future system for managing any investment or income.
- Guide the use of electronic wallets, how they work, their usefulness and their correct management.

1.2.3 Research questions

Will our research work solve any real problems?

Will the content presented in this paper really be useful to solve doubts or concerns regarding the topic being investigated?

Will it have a great impact to obtain more knowledge of how electronic wallets are used and what their benefit would be in the future?

1.3 Justification and Importance

This paper aims to demonstrate the importance of the use of electronic wallets in Ecuador, specifically in zone 8, Guayaquil and Durán area, analyzing their practices, functions, use and advantages that these wallets present for the economic and accounting field in the specific area in which this research work is based.

Digital wallets represent an important technological advance for making payments for companies and customers, and will impact business development by creating a competitive advantage over the rest.

(Comercio, 2023) The use of mobile or virtual wallets has experienced significant growth in recent years, not only in Ecuador but in the region and the world. According to the World Bank, it is estimated that in 2023 e-commerce buyers worldwide will have a greater preference for the use of digital wallets compared to

other payment methods.

According to their analysis, this year, 52.2% of the world's population will use digital wallets, which is basically a means of electronic payment that is accessed through a mobile device. You can pay with QR code, messages, cards, etc.

Technical feasibility:

Analyse quantitatively and qualitatively whether the resources to be used are suitable, as well as the products and services to be obtained, as well as whether the beneficiaries of the project are in a position and capacity to incorporate new procedures and instruments into their activity.

1.4 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

1.4.1 THEORETICAL FOUNDATION

1.4.1.1 Historical background

(Zambrano, 2023) The analysis of the text highlights the significant growth in the use of mobile wallets in Latin America, with an annual increase of 27%, according to The Global Payments Report. Although transactions with digital wallets currently represent 8% of total payments at points of sale in the region, this percentage is expected to double by 2025.

In Ecuador, the competition between two virtual wallets, *peiGo* and *Payphone*, reflects the trend to use less cash, driven first by the use of credit and debit cards, and now by mobile wallets. Rodrigo Andrade, CEO of *peiGo*, highlights this evolution. *PeiGo*, for example, allows payments to people and commercial premises to be made directly from the cell phone.

Payphone's expansion of services, which incorporates payment for basic services, reflects the diversification of functions on these platforms. Juan José Espinoza, General Manager of *Payphone*, highlights the objective of allowing users to use the platform's balance to pay for a variety of public and commercial services. This integration of features into a single application simplifies transactions for users, saving time and eliminating unnecessary paperwork. (Lechuga, 2021)

The current situation in which 75% of payments made by merchants to mass consumption companies in the country are made in cash, despite the advances of banking agents in recent years. This generates insecurity and cash management costs, representing 3-5% of the total cost of companies, especially in the more than 400 thousand independent businesses nationwide. Faced with this scenario, the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and the Center for Financial Studies of the Association of Banks of Peru (ASBANC) have been promoting the use of the mobile wallet, specifically the Peru model, since its official launch on February 16, 2016.

The mobile wallet (*bim*) is presented as a system that allows you to manage money from any type of cell phone, simply by registering to obtain a personal account that facilitates the withdrawal or deposit of money. In addition, it highlights that this system serves as a model that unifies most of the country's financial institutions and telecommunications companies into a common mobile money platform. (Kelly,

2019)

The analysis suggests that the mobile wallet push seeks to address the challenges associated with the extensive use of cash, offering a digital solution that can reduce insecurity and cash handling costs for merchants. The collaboration between financial institutions and telecommunications companies highlights the importance of a joint approach to promote the adoption of this model in the country

1.4.2 Referential background

THEME	Digital wallets grow and expand payment services
AUTHOR	Lina Zambrano
YEAR	2023
SUMMARY	The use of mobile wallets is experiencing significant growth in Latin America, including Ecuador, according to The Global Payments Report. It reveals a sustained annual increase of 27% in the adoption of digital or mobile wallets in the region. Although they currently account for 8% of total payments at points of sale, this percentage is expected to double by 2025. (Aragundi, 2023)
ANALYSIS	In Ecuador, two virtual wallets, peiGo and Payphone, are competing to attract more customers. Rodrigo Andrade, CEO of peiGo, highlights the trend towards the use of less cash, first with credit and debit cards, and now with mobile wallets. PeiGo facilitates payments to individuals and business premises directly from the cell phone. On the other hand, Payphone expands its services, incorporating the payment of basic services such as the bill for electricity, water, telephone, IESS, educational units, among others. This shift in payment preference suggests a transition towards more digital and mobile methods, which may have implications for both consumers and businesses, as the adoption of these technologies continues to grow in the region

Elaborated: By the authors

THEME	Will digital wallets replace credit and debit cards?
AUTHOR	Catalina Arango Bedoya
YEAR	2022
SUMMARY	The pandemic boosted online consumption habits, many people who had never used a digital wallet before began to do so during the atypical 2020. From there, flexible and agile models have been created, offering people the ease of making financial transactions through digital channels no matter where they are, at any time. (Arango, 2022)
ANALYSIS	Digital wallets are applications run on mobile devices, such as cell phones and tablets, designed to improve access to financial products and services; eliminating the need to carry a physical wallet. They allow you to store funds, make transactions, and track payment history. They use the wireless capabilities of such devices to securely transmit payment data to a point of sale. They can also be included in a bank's mobile app or payment apps. Some of the most used companies today worldwide are Apple Pay, PayPal, Alipay, Google Pay and Samsung Pay.

Elaborated: By the authors

THEME	Mobile electronic wallet: a payment alternative for the Ecuadorian financial system
AUTHOR	Vicente René Encalada Encarnación
YEAR	2020
SUMMARY	The electronic financial system promoted by Ecuador's banks deploys an important technological advance and that requires (for its innovation) to adapt a practice that facilitates the payment of transfers from electronic uploads via cell phone. The purpose of this research is to analyze the effects of using the new electronic money system. In the research, the dialectical method is recognized, and the phenomena and contradictions that partially limit the liquidity of Ecuadorian banks are presented. It is concluded that the use of electronic money in the commercialization of goods and services prevents rounding, the transfer of physical cash, robberies and violent deaths. In addition, it promotes competitiveness as a differentiator of electronic businesses. (Encarnacion, 2020)
ANALYSIS	Currently, we are experiencing a stage of economic and financial expansion that is associated with the tools provided by the web. Therefore, it is feasible to carry out innovative processes through cellular devices, such as money transfers, or the payment of certain products or services

	purchased. Then, just by sending a message by electronic cell phone, the obligations that have been agreed between the duly informed parties can be canceled.
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Elaborated: By the authors

THEME	Digital Wallet: Financial Inclusion Strategy in Peru's Micro and Small Enterprises
AUTHOR	Roberto Cotrina Llamocca
YEAR	2020
SUMMARY	This research is based on the question: how is the digital wallet used as a financial inclusion strategy in Peruvian MSEs? Therefore, we have analysed reports and publications from different financial institutions in the last three years to find out how this mobile device has been developing in our country. The objectives of this work are: to determine how the digital wallet is used as a financial inclusion strategy in MSEs and to identify how its use has favored business and financial inclusion. As a result, the general hypothesis that assumes that the digital wallet is used as a financial inclusion strategy in MSMEs, improving the performance of the service, is affirmed. (Llamoca, 2020)
ANALYSIS	In recent years, the internet and mobile devices have been key tools to encourage the growth of financial inclusion in our country. Likewise, these digital media have been causing a great disruptive revolution in terms of financial services, this model applicable to this sector is known as "Fintech", which is based on breaking with traditional financial intermediation service and providing a technological service through new platforms, internet services, telephony applications, among others.

Elaborated: By the authors

THEME	Fintech as an alternative for financial inclusion in Ecuador
AUTHOR	Cueva Enriquez, Mayra Alexandra
YEAR	2021
SUMMARY	According to the World Bank, financial inclusion implies that people and companies can easily access financial products and services that are useful to meet their needs, and are provided in a responsible and sustainable way. This becomes the main concern of authorities, development agencies at the global level and those in charge of regulations, since financial inclusion is a fundamental part of meeting more than 40% of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The main objective of this study is to analyze how Fintechs – non-financial entities that leverage digital technology to provide financial services in innovative ways – contribute to the improvement of financial inclusion in Ecuador. (Enriquez, 2021)
ANALYSIS	A descriptive research was carried out to identify the current situation based on qualitative and quantitative variables. Specific information was collected from the opinions of professionals, specialists in the field, and in different bibliographic sources. The quantitative methodology made it possible to understand and establish their current situation, based on numerical and statistical information.

Elaborated: By the authors

1.4.3 LEGAL BASIS

The Monetary Policy and Regulation Board issued a resolution that incorporates the regulations for the operation of electronic wallets in the country.

(PaymentMedia, 2023) The resolution was published on Monday, August 21, 2023 in the Official Register. It states that the electronic wallets will be operated exclusively by Specialized Companies of Electronic Deposits and Payments (Sedpes), by financial institutions for their customers and by auxiliaries of financial services of payments with permission to do so.

(PaymentMedia, 2023) "The entities that provide the electronic wallet service must allow their users to customize their maximum transaction amounts. These entities must inform their users regarding transactional security measures," the document adds.

1.4.5 RESEARCH VARIABLES

Independent Variable

- Implementation of Digital Wallets.

Dependent variable

- Economic and accounting effects.

These variables could form the basis of a study to assess how the implementation of digital wallets is affecting the economy and accounting practices in the specific region of Zone 8 of Ecuador, which includes Guayaquil and Durán, over a given period of time. The study could use quantitative and qualitative methods, such as financial data analysis, surveys, interviews, and desk review, to understand the impact of digital wallets on the local economy and the accounting practices of institutions and companies in the region.

1.4.6 CONCEPTUAL DEFINITIONS

- Billfold

A wallet is an object or tool used to store and manage money and other means of payment. A physical accessory made of synthetic or textile materials which is used to store documents, cards or money.

- Digital

A medium in which today all systems and devices use through information uploaded or stored on the network.

- Digital Wallet

The digital wallet is a software that allows you to store electronic money to carry out online commerce or e-commerce operations.

They are also called e-wallets, e-wallets and digital wallets. These wallets work as a substitute for credit and debit cards. In other cases, it is a digital version of these since the data is stored in the applications. (Páez, 2020)

Non-physical tool for financial use which allows you to store electronic money in an agile and reliable way in order to carry out different financial or monetary operations (purchases, transfers, savings).

- Mobile

That which does not have a fixed place, either in a physical or digital environment.

- Economy

A subject that studies the financial situations of states, entities or any expense arising in any transaction.

- Financial.

Said of that action which carries with it some monetary transaction, whether

personal, business, or the bank statement of a nation.

- **Infrastructure**

Said of some work of architecture or the foundations that are needed for the proper development of any requirement of any kind.

- **Research**

Action carried out to gather all kinds of information on any specific topic.

- **Thesis**

Project carried out by university students to end their careers by collecting data and research on a specific topic to present as a final grade and thus be able to obtain the university degree.

2. METHODOLOGY

Methodology is the discipline in charge of examining the set of techniques and methods used in scientific research to achieve the established objectives. It plays an essential role in the study of science. Each research method must follow a methodology that is based on a theory that covers normative, descriptive and comparative aspects of the method, in addition to considering the performance of the researcher.

In our research, we opted for a quantitative methodology, as we sought to obtain quantifiable or measurable data. Quantitative methodologies were essential in this context, as they allowed the results to be validated using scientific models and principles. However, it is important to recognize that, despite their rigor, these methodologies could sometimes be perceived as inflexible and lacked a warmer dimension. (academy, 2023)

2.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

2.1.1 TYPES OF RESEARCH

In the current era, we explore the influence of digitalization and technological transformation on the financial realm, focusing on digital wallets and their impact on Ecuador's Zone 8, which encompasses Guayaquil, Durán, and Samborondón. Throughout our research, we were able to understand how these innovations are reshaping the way financial transactions are conducted in this specific region.

Based on this, we conclude that our research in the following types:

Inductive research: It begins with observations and theories are proposed towards the end of the research process as a result of the observations.

This approach aims to generate meanings from the collected dataset to identify relationships that help build a theory. In general, it is based on learning from experience. Patterns, similarities and regularities are observed to reach conclusions. (Mugira, 2023)

Motivational research: This type of research is done to explain the reasons why consumers behave, learn about their needs, and their relationship to a product or service. In this way, it is possible to create strategies that influence them.(Muguirra, 2023)

2.2 POPULATION AND SAMPLE

For the delimitation of the population and sample of our research on the accounting and economic analysis of digital wallets in Ecuador Zone 8, we recognize our universe that are professionals specialized in the accounting treatment of this innovation, university professors and students from Ecuador.

Teachers, professionals and university students from all over Ecuador.

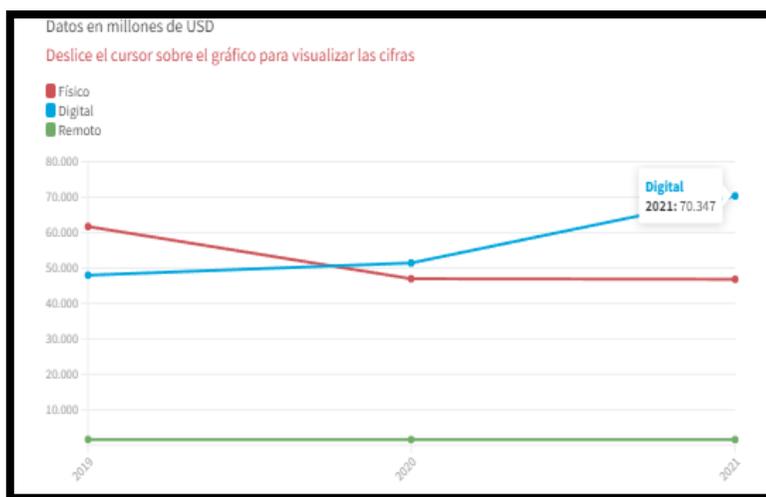


Illustration 1 Population. In original language English

Population

Definition: Accessible elements or unit of analysis that belong to the special field where the study is carried out. (Ojeda, 2020)

We defined the population specifically in Guayas, Zone 8, which includes Guayaquil, Samborondón and Duran, as the population to carry out the study.

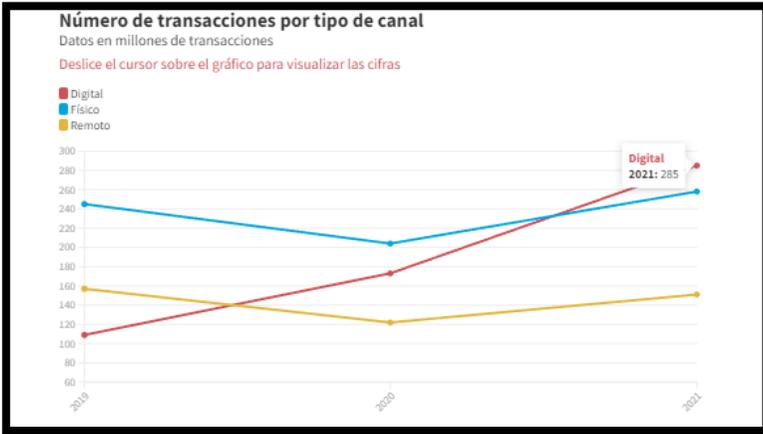


Illustration 2 Population zone 8. In original language English

Source: Ronny Chávez (2023)

Sample Definition: Representative part of the population, with the same general characteristics of the population. (Ojeda, 2020)

The statistical probability formula.

N = Population or Universe, set of elements.

n = Sample size, subset of the population.

P = Proportion of the population in which it is estimated that there is an adequate presence of the variables under study, equivalent to 50%

Q = Proportion of the population in which it is estimated that there is an inadequate presence of the variables, equivalent to the other 50%

E = Error that is accepted for the samples, which has been set at 3%. And 5%.

$$n = \frac{N (P \times Q)}{N (E)^2 + (P \times Q)}$$

Procedure for the calculation of the research sample in zone 8.

$$n = \frac{285(50 \times 50)}{285(5)^2 + (50 \times 50)}$$

$$n = \frac{712500}{7125 + 2500}$$

$$n = 74$$

After applying the formula to determine the size of our sample in zone 8, we obtain a

sample of 74 surveys to be carried out, to collect accurate information for the objective of the research.

2.3 RESEARCH TECHNIQUES

In this research, the technique of quantitative surveys was used aimed at a diverse group of participants, including professionals involved in the implementation of digital wallets, university professors and businesses that have adopted this technology. This quantitative approach was selected for the purpose of obtaining numerical and measurable data that would allow for detailed statistical analysis.

The inclusion of different sectors of society, from implementation experts to end-users and adoptive companies, provides a comprehensive perspective on the adoption and perception of digital wallets.

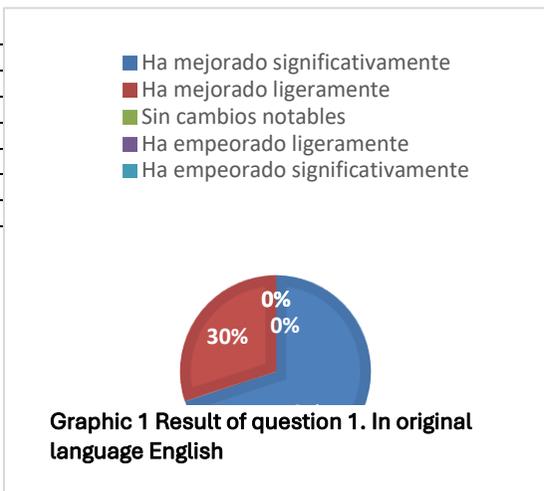
This approach seeks to identify patterns, trends and obtain significant insights that can contribute to a better understanding of the impact and acceptance of these technologies in different areas. The results obtained are anticipated as a valuable resource to inform the implementation and perception of digital wallets in various contexts.

3. RESULTS (ANALYSIS OR PROPOSAL)

1. How has the implementation of transactions with digital wallets affected the efficiency in the accounting record of your sales?

ALTERNATIVES	CONSULTED	PERCENTAGES
It has improved significantly	55	70%
Slightly improved	19	30%
No noticeable changes	0	0
It has worsened slightly	0	0
It has worsened significantly	0	0
TOTAL	74	100%

Board 1 Result of question 1



Analysis:

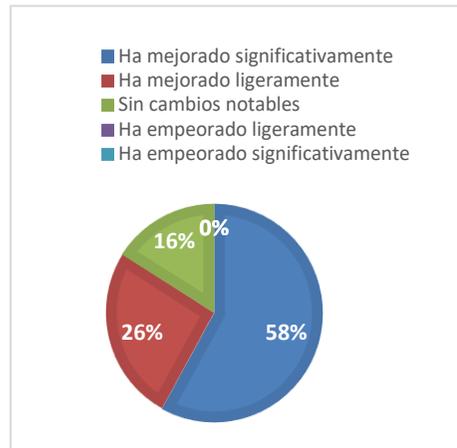
The introduction of transactions through digital wallets has generated a positive impact on the efficiency of the accounting record of sales, according to the results obtained. A significant 70% of respondents reported substantial improvements, highlighting the positive influence of these technologies on transaction management and the accuracy of accounting records. In addition, 30% reported slight

improvements, suggesting additional benefits in terms of efficiency. It is notable that no participant indicated that the implementation resulted in negative changes, as no cases of worsening, either significant or slight, were recorded. This panorama reflects a widespread perception that the adoption of digital wallets has been favorable to optimize the process of accounting for sales, highlighting the possible automation, speed and accuracy that these technologies bring to financial management.

2) In terms of financial management, how do you assess the impact of transactions with digital wallets on the liquidity of your business?

Board 2 Question 2 Result

ALTERNATIVES	CONSULTED	PERCENTAGES
It has improved significantly	39	58%
Slightly improved	23	26%
No noticeable changes	12	16%
It has worsened slightly	0	0
It has worsened significantly	0	0
TOTAL	74	100%



Graphic 2 Result of question 2. In original language English

Analysis:

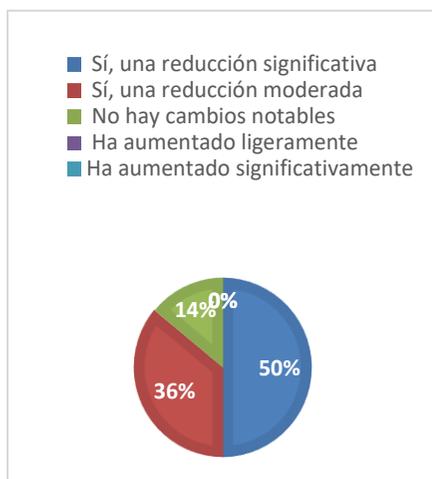
The adoption of transactions with digital wallets has left a mostly positive footprint on the liquidity of businesses, according to the results obtained in question 2. Almost 60% of respondents reported significant improvements, highlighting the positive and substantial impact these technologies have had on cash availability and financial management. In addition, 26% indicated slight improvements, underlining additional benefits in terms of liquidity. Importantly, 16% did not observe notable changes, suggesting that, although not all participants experienced improvements, the implementation of transactions with digital wallets did not generate discernible negative impacts on liquidity. Overall, these results point to a mostly positive perception that the adoption of digital wallets has contributed significantly to optimizing the financial position of the businesses surveyed.

3) Have you experienced a reduction in costs related to handling and processing cash since adopting

transactions with digital wallets?

Board 3 Result of question 3

ALTERNATIVES	CONSULTED	PERCENTAGES
Yes, a significant reduction	35	50%
Yes, a moderate reduction	28	36%
No noticeable changes	11	14%
Increased slightly	0	0
It has increased significantly	0	0
TOTAL	74	100%



Graphic 3 Result of question 3. In original language English

Analysis:

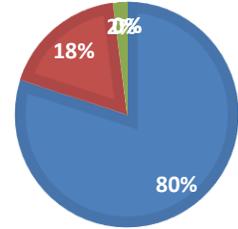
The migration to transactions with digital wallets has resulted in an appreciable reduction in the costs associated with handling and processing cash, according to the results of question 3. A substantial 50% of respondents (35 out of 74) reported a significant reduction in these costs, underscoring the positive and considerable impact of the adoption of digital wallets on operational efficiency. Additionally, 36% indicated a moderate reduction, suggesting that, although they did not experience drastic improvements, they still perceived economic benefits in terms of costs. It is relevant to note that 14% did not observe notable changes, indicating that, although some participants did not experience cost reductions, there were no increases either. Notably, there were no reported cases where costs increased, supporting the notion that the transition to digital wallets has had a mostly positive impact on financial efficiency by reducing the expenses associated with handling and processing cash. Taken together, these findings reflect a widespread perception that the adoption of digital wallets has not only improved operational efficiency, but also led to significant cost savings related to cash management.

4) How does the variability of digital wallet transaction fees affect the profitability of your business?

Board 4 Result of question 4

ALTERNATIVES	CONSULTED	PERCENTAGES
Positively	50	80%
Neutrally	19	18%
No noticeable changes	5	2%
Negatively	0	0
Very negatively	0	0
TOTAL	74	100%

- Positivamente
- Neutralmente
- Sin cambios notables
- Negativamente
- Muy negativamente



Graphic 4 Result of question 4. In original language English

Analysis:

The variability of digital wallet transaction fees appears to have had a mostly positive impact on business profitability, according to the results of question 4. An impressive 80% of participants highlighted that this variability positively affects their financial results, indicating an effective adaptation to fluctuations in transaction rates. This finding suggests that, despite the changing nature of fees, the implementation of digital wallets has contributed constructively to business profitability.

Likewise, 18% indicated that the variability of rates has a neutral impact on profitability, which implies that, for this group, fluctuations have not generated significant changes, either positive or negative, in their financial results. In addition, a small percentage of 2% reported no noticeable changes.

Taken together, these results reflect a widespread positive perception that the variability of digital wallet transaction fees is not only manageable, but can also be leveraged to positively contribute to business profitability. This finding underscores the ability of entrepreneurs to adapt and capitalize on the opportunities presented by the adoption of digital financial technologies.

5) In terms of financial planning, how do you handle the volatility associated with the exchange rates of wallet transactions?

Digital?

ALTERNATIVES	CONSULTED	PERCENTAGES
Hedging strategies	35	50%
Price adjustments	28	36%
No noticeable changes	11	14%
I accept volatility as part of the business	0	0
I am not aware of these fluctuations	0	0
TOTAL	74	100%

Board 5 Survey Question 5

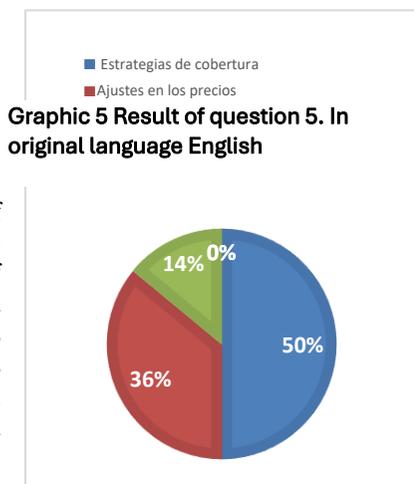
Analysis

In the realm of financial planning, managing the volatility associated with the exchange rates of transactions in digital wallets is revealed as a strategic and diversified practice, according to the results of question 5. 50% of respondents (35 out of 74) indicated that they employ hedging strategies to mitigate risks associated with exchange rate fluctuations. This approach suggests proactivity in risk management, using financial instruments to protect against potential losses. In addition, a significant 36% (28 out of 74) reported that they make adjustments in prices in response to the volatility of exchange rates. This approach involves real-time adaptation, adjusting the prices of products or services to compensate for changes in exchange rates and maintain profitability.

On the other hand, 14% indicated that they have not observed notable changes in their financial planning strategies in relation to exchange rate volatility. This group may be taking a more conservative approach or relying on the stability of exchange rates. It is relevant to note that none of the participants indicated that they accepted volatility as an inherent part of the business, nor did they express ignorance of exchange rate fluctuations. This suggests that respondents are aware of the challenges associated with volatility and have implemented active strategies to address these risks.

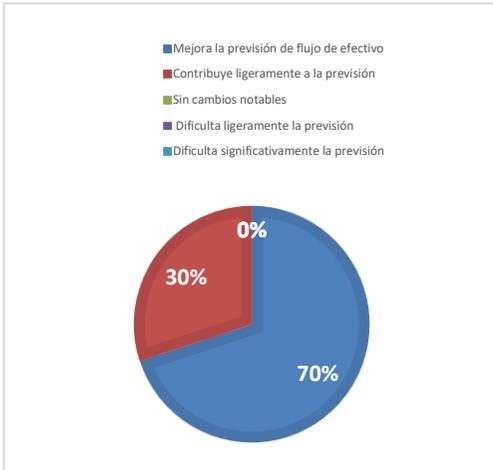
6) How do digital wallet transactions influence cash flow management in your establishment?

ALTERNATIVES	CONSULTED	PERCENTAGES
Improves cash flow forecasting	45	70%
Contributes slightly to forecasting	29	30%
No noticeable changes	0	0
Slightly hinders forecasting	0	0
Significantly hinders forecasting	0	0



TOTAL	74	100%
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Board 6 Survey Question 6



Graphic 6 Result of question 6. In original language English

Analysis

Transactions with digital wallets have proven to have a mostly positive impact on the management of cash flow in establishments, according to the results of the question. A significant 70% of those consulted (45 out of 74) expressed that these transactions significantly improve the cash flow forecast. This result suggests that the implementation of digital wallets has contributed to a more efficient and accurate management of income and expenses, facilitating more effective financial planning. Additionally, 30% indicated that transactions with digital wallets contribute slightly to the cash flow forecast. Although this group did not experience significant improvements, they still perceived benefits in terms of overall cash flow management. Notably, no participant reported that digital wallet transactions have generated negative changes in cash flow forecasting, either slightly or significantly. This suggests that, at least among respondents, the adoption of digital wallets has not created any discernible obstacles in the ability to forecast cash flow.

7) Have you implemented any specific strategies to maximize tax efficiency when accepting transactions with digital wallets?

ALTERNATIVES	CONSULTED	PERCENTAGES
Yes, specific tax strategies	39	58%
Some tweaks, but not specific strategies	23	26%
No notable changes in tax strategy	12	14%
I'm not sure	0	0

No, no specific strategy	0	0
TOTAL	74	100%

Board 7 Survey question 7

Graphic 7 Result of question 7. In original language English



Analysis

Most respondents have implemented specific strategies to maximize tax efficiency when accepting transactions with digital wallets, according to the results of question 7. A significant 58% (39 out of 74) indicated that they have adopted specific tax strategies to optimize their tax benefits in the context of transactions with digital wallets. This approach suggests awareness and proactive action on the part of respondents to capitalize on the tax incentives associated with these transactions. In addition, 26% indicated that they have made some adjustments, although they have not implemented specific tax strategies. This group could be adapting their accounting practices, but without taking specific measures aimed at maximizing tax benefits. In contrast, 14% indicated that they have not made notable changes in their tax strategy by accepting transactions with digital wallets. This could be due to the perception that existing tax practices are adequate or a lack of significant adjustments required by the introduction of these digital transactions. It is notable that no participant expressed ignorance about the fiscal strategies implemented, nor was it reported that specific strategies had not been adopted. This suggests that respondents are aware of the importance of optimizing tax efficiency in the context of digital wallet transactions.

8) How do you evaluate the financial security of digital wallet transactions compared to other payment methods?

ALTERNATIVES	CONSULTED	PERCENTAGES
Safer	45	70%

Just as safe	29	30%
No noticeable changes in safety	0	0%
Less secure	0	0
Much less secure	0	0
TOTAL	74	100%

Board 8 Survey Question 8



Graphic 8 Result of question 8. In original language English

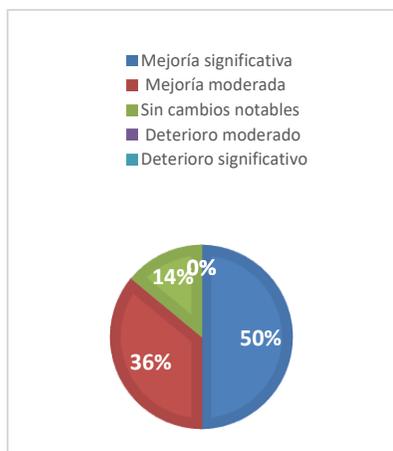
Analysis

The comparison of transactions with digital wallets with other payment methods reveals a mostly positive perception in terms of security, according to the results of question 8. A considerable 70% of those consulted (45 out of 74) indicated that they consider transactions with digital wallets to be more secure compared to other payment methods. This result suggests significant confidence in the security of digital transactions, possibly attributable to the security measures built into digital wallet platforms and multi-factor authentication. On the other hand, the remaining 30% said that they perceive transactions with digital wallets as as secure as other existing payment methods. This group might consider security to be a comparable aspect between different payment options, without noticing a substantial difference. It is relevant to note that none of the participants reported that transactions with digital wallets are less secure or much less secure compared to other payment methods. This suggests a widespread perception that digital transactions are at least as secure, if not more secure, than traditional payment methods.

9) What impact has the acceptance of digital wallets had on the relationship with suppliers and on the management of accounts payable?

ALTERNATIVES	CONSULTED	PERCENTAGES
Significant improvement	35	50%
Moderate improvement	28	36%
No noticeable changes	11	14%
Moderate impairment	0	0
Significant impairment	0	0
TOTAL	74	100%

Board 9 Survey question 9



Graphic 9 Result of question 9. In original language English

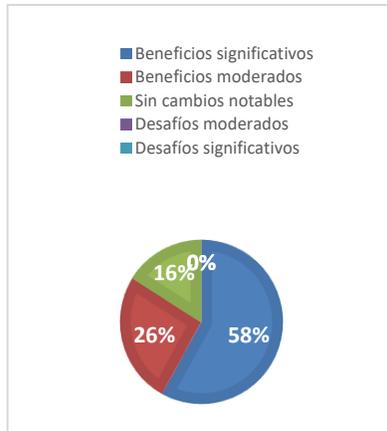
Analysis

The acceptance of digital wallets has generated a mostly positive impact on the relationship with suppliers and on the management of accounts payable, according to the results of question 9. A significant 50% of respondents (35 out of 74) reported significant improvement in this area, highlighting a substantial positive impact on supplier relations and the efficiency of accounts payable management. This result suggests that the adoption of digital wallets has facilitated more efficient transactions and seamless communication with suppliers. Additionally, 36% indicated a moderate improvement, which implies that, although they did not experience significant improvements, they still perceived benefits in terms of efficiency in the management of accounts payable and in the relationship with suppliers. It is relevant to note that no participant reported deterioration in the relationship with suppliers or in the management of accounts payable, either moderately or significantly. This suggests that, at least among respondents, the acceptance of digital wallets has not generated notable negative impacts in these areas.

10) In terms of tax and accounting benefits, how do you consider the adoption of transactions with digital wallets in your business?

ALTERNATIVES	CONSULTED	PERCENTAGES
Significant Benefits	39	58%
Moderate benefits	23	26%
No noticeable changes	12	16%
Moderate challenges	0	0
Significant challenges	0	0
TOTAL	74	100%

Board 10 Survey Question 10



Graphic 10 Result of question 10. In original language English

Analysis

The adoption of transactions with digital wallets has been mostly perceived as a benefit in both tax and accounting terms, according to the results of the question. A considerable 58% of those consulted (39 out of 74) highlighted significant benefits, suggesting that the implementation of these transactions has generated substantial positive impacts on the fiscal and accounting management of their businesses. Additionally, 26% indicated moderate benefits, which implies that, although they did not experience significant improvements, they still perceived benefits in terms of tax and accounting efficiency. It is relevant to note that no participant reported moderate or significant challenges in the adoption of transactions with digital wallets in tax and accounting terms. This result suggests that, at least among respondents, the implementation of these transactions has not generated notable obstacles in these areas, but rather benefits or, in some cases, has not generated notable changes.

Overview

The overall analysis of the responses to the above questions reveals a positive outlook regarding the adoption of transactions with digital wallets in the businesses surveyed. In terms of accounting and sales recording efficiency, most participants experienced significant or slight improvements, suggesting that the implementation of digital wallets has had a positive impact on transaction management and accounting record efficiency.

In terms of liquidity, most reported significant or moderate improvements, highlighting that transactions with digital wallets have contributed positively to cash availability and financial management. The variability of transaction fees of digital wallets was mostly perceived positively in terms of profitability, with a high percentage indicating positive or neutral impacts.

In relation to cash flow management, transactions with digital wallets were mostly seen as a significant improvement, indicating that these technologies facilitate a

more efficient and accurate forecast of cash flow. In terms of security, transactions with digital wallets were mostly considered to be more secure compared to other payment methods, reflecting a widespread confidence in the security of these digital transactions.

In the relationship with suppliers and the management of accounts payable, the acceptance of digital wallets generated significant or moderate improvements, evidencing a positive perception in operational efficiency and communication with suppliers. In tax and accounting terms, most respondents experienced significant or moderate benefits, highlighting the positive contribution of transactions with digital wallets in the fiscal and accounting management of businesses.

In summary, the results indicate that the adoption of transactions with digital wallets has had a widespread positive impact on various operational, financial, and strategic aspects of the businesses surveyed, supporting the efficiency, security, and tax benefits associated with these technologies.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- The implementation of digital wallets in Ecuador's Zone 8 has been a positive catalyst for accounting efficiency and transaction recording. Financial management has become more agile and accurate, allowing companies to maintain comprehensive control over their operations and improve their decision-making capabilities.
- The acceptance of digital wallets has significantly transformed cash flow management and supplier relationships in Zone 8 companies. More efficient transactions and improved communication have contributed to the building of strong business relationships and more effective financial management.
- The security of transactions with digital wallets has become a prominent and reliable factor for entrepreneurs and users. The widespread perception that these transactions are more secure than other payment methods reinforces confidence in the continued adoption and use of these platforms.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is suggested to constantly explore opportunities for the integration of new technologies that can complement and further improve the efficiency of transactions with digital wallets, ensuring continuous adaptation to an ever-evolving digital environment.
- The need for regular evaluation and adjustment of tax strategies in response to changes in the regulatory and tax environment related to digital transactions is emphasized.
- The importance of active monitoring of fluctuations in digital wallet transaction fees is emphasized, with strategic adjustments to mitigate risks and maximize benefits.

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