Where’s your money?

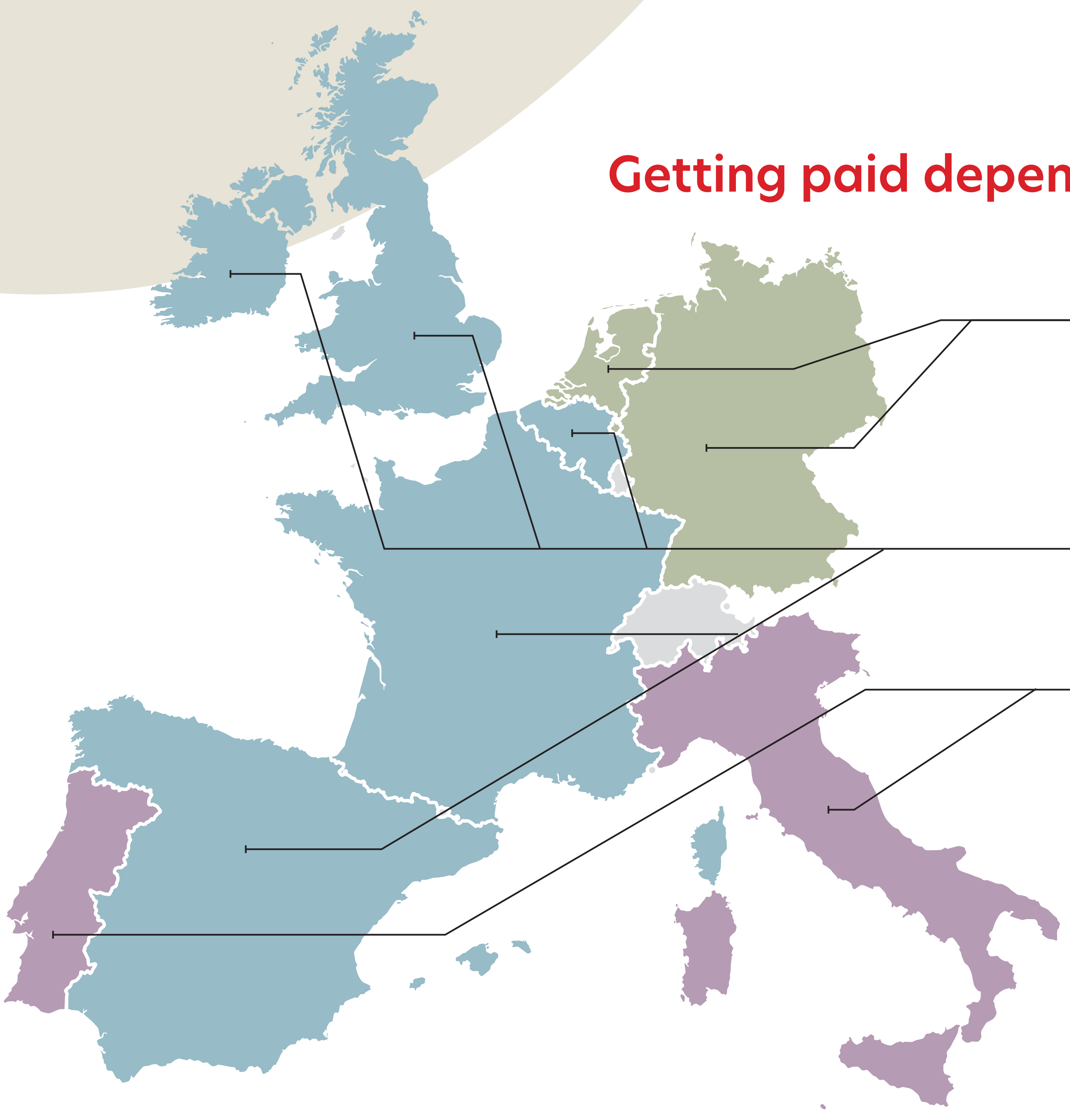
A look at payment terms in Europe.

Payment terms continued to deteriorate across Europe in the first half of 2025:

14-day average delay—the highest level in four years.

9.3% of European companies are now **more than a month late.**

Getting paid depends on where you are.

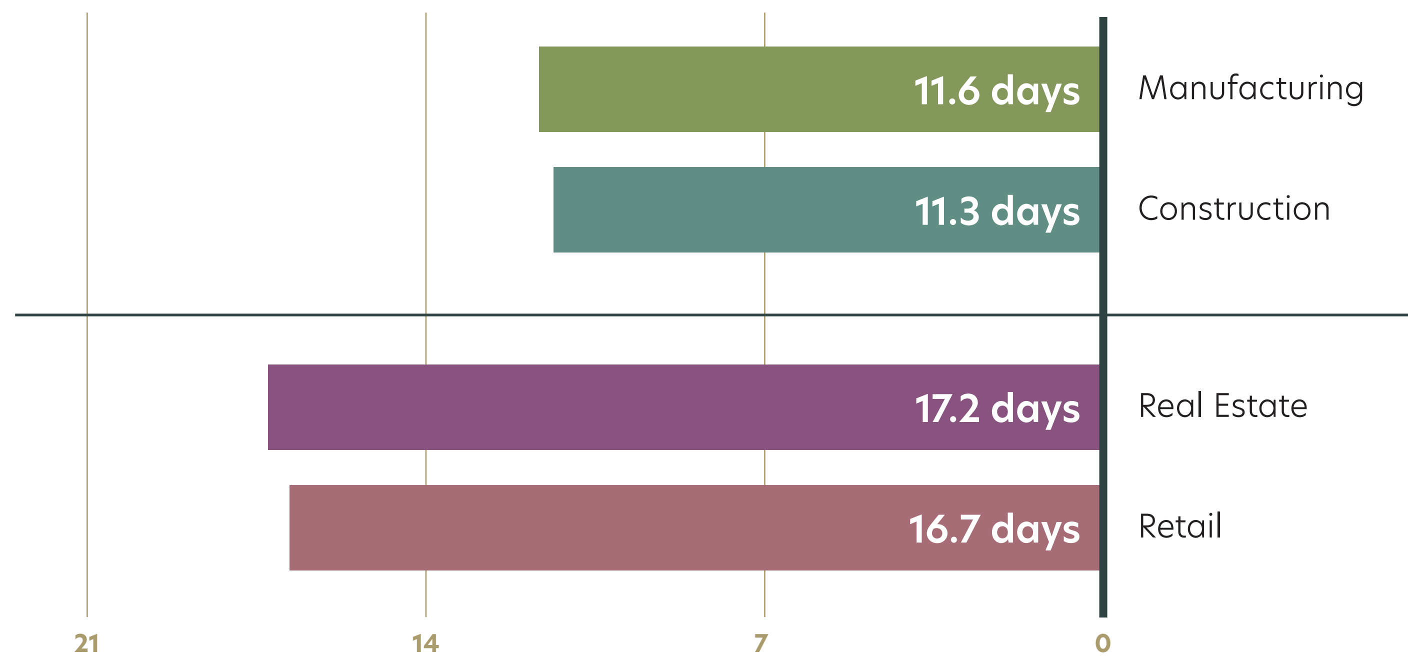


3.1-days (Netherlands) and **6.6 days** (Germany) remain European benchmarks, as punctuality is structural in these countries and is rooted in commercial practices.

14 days (European average) in Belgium, Ireland, the United Kingdom, France, and Spain.

17 days (Italy) and **24.5 days** (Portugal) are the highest delays. Here, cash-flow tensions are structural, a phenomenon reinforced by historically entrenched long-payment practices.

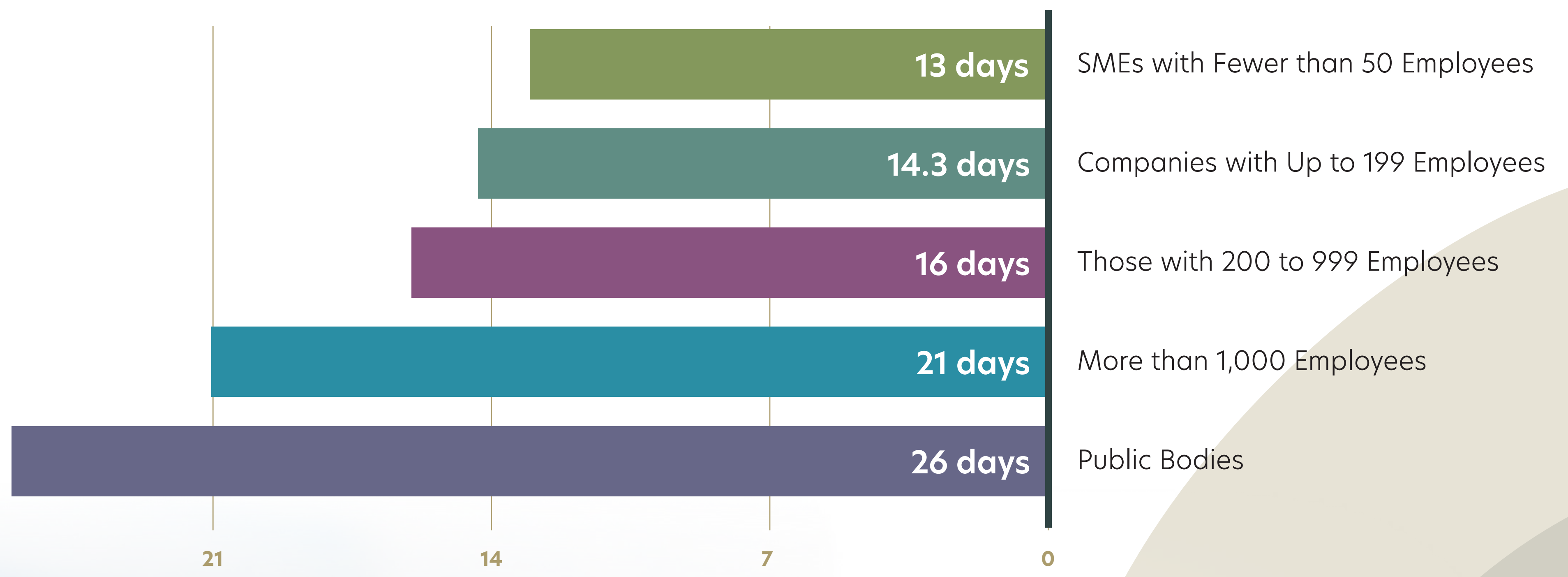
Payment timing also depends on your industry.



These are among the most resilient sectors, benefiting from structured supply chains and regulated contractual relationships.

Security, audiovisual, and consulting services, as well as transport and logistics, remain the most exposed, due to long cycles, compressed margins, and increased dependence on short-term cash flow.

The larger the company, the longer the delays.



Source: Altares, September 2025

The supplier-credit crutch.

Moderate growth and persistent economic uncertainty mean these long delays are becoming more common, so supplier credit is once again becoming the cash management tool for many companies.

Changing the payment culture.

Meeting payment deadlines doesn’t just take technology: It relies on clear processes, appropriate organisation, and the commitment of senior management.

Medius makes it possible. Get the guide.

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