



GROUPEMENT DES CARTES BANCAIRES "CB"

Monday 20 December 2004

## **France: New Record Hit by CB Bankcards On the last week-end before Christmas**

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For the first time in France, records have been repeatedly broken on three successive Saturdays in December this year.

On 18 December 2004, the last Saturday before Christmas, CB cardholders have made more than 34 million transactions with their CB bankcards.

These figures mean that:

1/ Christmas purchases have began earlier this month than in previous years and have broken all the records: 31 million transactions on Saturday 4 December, 32 million on Saturday 11 and 34 million on Saturday 18 (in comparison, December 2003's busiest Saturdays reached about 25 million transactions).

2/ Christmas purchases do not concentrate on Saturdays anymore, but extend on the 3 last days of the week (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays).

Since 2003, the number of payments made by CB bankcards has exceeded those made by cheques.

### *CB highlight*

In 2004, the total number of transactions made by CB bankcards should amount around 6 billion operations.