



**Citibank Europe plc,
organizační složka
September 5, 2013**

Czechs use credit cards during holidays abroad increasingly often

PRAGUE – The frequency at which Czechs use credit cards for making payments at retailers and for cash withdrawals from ATMs when travelling abroad significantly increases in the period of the summer holidays. This is also confirmed by the latest data from Citibank Europe plc, which suggests that the number of foreign transactions through Citi credit cards almost doubled (up by 90%) in July 2013 compared to the average number of transactions executed through credit cards per month in the first half of this year. The overall volume of these transactions increased by more than one half (up by 55%). A similar trend was also visible in August this year. Citibank's share of Czech clients' foreign transactions executed through credit cards is about one fifth of the Czech market.

We pay by credit cards abroad more frequently, and also use cards for smaller payments

The popularity of using credit cards abroad is mainly attributable to the convenience of paying by credit cards or contactless payment stickers and also to higher security, because unlike cash, clients do not lose their money when they lose their credit card. *"Compared to previous years, in particular the considerable increase in the number of transactions executed through credit cards outside the Czech Republic over the summer months is very apparent. The volume of such transactions rises more slowly. Czechs also do not think twice about using credit cards for smaller payments, including those at supermarkets and restaurants or admission tickets for sightseeing tours,"* says Milan Rezníček, Credit Card Manager at Citibank. The transactions on Citibank credit cards abroad average at CZK 2,136.

The long grace period is an advantage

When using their credit cards clients profit from the long grace period, which is up to 55 days for Citi credit cards. This makes it possible for them to draw money from the bank within the defined credit limit and, subject to timely repayment of the whole outstanding amount during the grace period, even completely without interest. In addition, Citi credit cards support the use of attractive up to 25% discounts under the City Club program at partners specializing in everything from gastronomy, shopping, sport and travel, to health & body care. The Hotel Privileges program provides Citibank clients with exclusive privileges in a number of hotels throughout the world.

"It is quite normal to pay by credit cards in other countries. There are moments when tourists cannot do without them, for example, when renting a car in many places. Credit cards inspire

confidence because they imply that the cardholder is a creditworthy client well-tested by his bank,” adds Milan Řezníček.

Because of the better rates of exchange, it is generally more advantageous to use credit cards for payments outside the Czech Republic than to exchange cash for holidays at bureau de change offices. At the same time, the risk of credit card holders losing their money due to card loss or theft is significantly reduced. Credit cards can also be immediately disabled from abroad, which prevents their potential abuse. You can also take out optional travel insurance on your credit card, and therefore do not have to take out one-off cover before you travel abroad; travel insurance on the card can already be arranged in the application for a credit card.

###

About Citi

Citi, the leading global bank, has approximately 200 million customer accounts and does business in more than 160 countries and jurisdictions. Citi provides consumers, corporations, governments and institutions with a broad range of financial products and services, including consumer banking and credit, corporate and investment banking, securities brokerage, transaction services, and wealth management.

Additional information may be found at www.citigroup.com | Twitter: @Citi | YouTube: www.youtube.com/citi | Blog: <http://new.citi.com> | Facebook: www.facebook.com/citi | LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/citi.

Citibank Europe plc, a company established and existing under Irish law, having its registered office at Dublin, North Wall Quay 1, Ireland, incorporated in the Register of Companies in the Republic of Ireland under number 132781, conducting its business in the Czech Republic through Citibank Europe plc, organizační složka, having its registered office at Prague 5, Bucharova 2641/14, Postal Code 158 02, Reg. No. 28198131, registered in the Commercial Register with the Municipal Court in Prague, Section A, Insert 59288, is an affiliate of Citigroup Inc.

Media contact:

Eva Chaloupková
Public Affairs Officer for the Czech Republic and Slovakia
Bucharova 2641/14, 158 02 Praha 5, Czech Republic
Tel.: + 420 233 061 661
Mobile: + 420 775 864 444
eva.chaloupkova@citi.com