



## **LatinFinance selected MERCANTIL as the best bank in Venezuela**

- *LatinFinance magazine highlighted MERCANTIL's large volume of loans to key sectors for the country's development.*

According to a report by the institution's Corporate Communications Unit, in LatinFinance ranked MERCANTIL as "The Best Bank" in Venezuela in 2008

The publication emphasized that Mercantil Banco Universal granted a large volume of loans to sectors that are key to the country's development. Its assets and deposits grew during 2008 along with the expansion of services such as points of sale and the use of electronic banking.

LatinFinance also selected Mercantil as best bank in 2006, 2004, 2003, 2002 and 2001.

Mercantil Banco Universal was also included among the region's largest financial institutions in the fourth annual survey (2008) on ethics and sustainable development in Latin American banks. This survey was conducted by LatinFinance in partnership with Spanish consulting firm Management & Excellence. Only two Venezuelan banks were included in this ranking.

*Mercantil Banco Universal is the main subsidiary of Mercantil Servicios Financieros in Venezuela and actively participates in developing the different markets in which it operates, as well as in financing trade, agriculture, tourism and industry in the country. It has a nationwide network of 322 offices and 1,519 points of sale. For further information, please visit our website: [www.bancomercantil.com](http://www.bancomercantil.com)*

**Corporate Communications Unit  
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