



At year-end 2009, loan portfolio increased Bs 4,919

Mercantil Servicios Financieros' loan portfolio grew 22.1% to Bs 27,138 million

- *Mercantil Servicios Financieros' assets increased 13.3% to Bs 53,075 million*
- *In 2009, the Mercantil Banco Universal's loans under the managed portfolios earmarked for the agricultural, mortgage, manufacturing, tourism and microcredit sectors totaled Bs 9,547.6 million. The amount complies with the percentages established for these areas and accounts for 47.1% of its total net loans as of December 31, 2009.*

Today Mercantil Servicios Financieros, Venezuela's top financial services corporation in the banking, insurance and investment services business announced its year-end 2009 results. It recorded Bs 27,138 million in total loans, up 22.1% compared to December 31, 2008. It also reported net earnings of Bs 796 million, reflecting a 17% reduction in relation to December 31, 2008, according to the Company's Corporate Communications Unit.

The results of Mercantil, whose main subsidiaries are Mercantil Banco Universal, Mercantil Seguros and Mercantil Merinvest in Venezuela, Mercantil Commercebank in the United States and Mercantil Bank (Schweiz) in Suiza, reflect 13.3% year-on-year growth to Bs 53,075 million.

Mercantil's deposits totaled Bs 42,848 million, reflecting 18.3% year-on-year growth. **Shareholders' equity increased Bs 791 million to Bs 4,880 million over the same period.**

The ratio of Past-due and Nonperforming Loans to Gross Loans ratio was 3.3%. At Mercantil Banco Universal this indicator is 0.9%, compared with 2.4% for the Venezuelan financial system as a whole.

The report stated that in the results presented, Bs 759 million were recorded for Loan Portfolio allowances, which are mainly related to Mercantil's adequate loan portfolio policy; loan portfolio growth during the year and also to the allowances for the commercial and construction sectors in Venezuela and the commercial, construction and housing mortgage sectors in the United States. Mercantil Servicios Financieros' accumulated provision accounts for 3.2% of Total Loans. In the area of Investment services which comprises trust fund services, securities brokerage, mutual fund management and portfolio management services, the results reflect total net assets of Bs 12,294 at the close of 2009 and 14.7% year-on-year growth.

Performance of the subsidiaries

The results of Mercantil's subsidiaries are presented according to the accounting standards applicable to each of them in their corresponding jurisdiction.

Mercantil Banco Universal registered the following year-on-year variations: 21.3% growth of Total Assets to Bs 36,610 million; 32.3% increase in Loan Portfolio to Bs 20,287 million; 29.1% rise in Deposits to Bs 32,013 million; and recorded Bs 3,300 million in Shareholders' Equity. Net earnings registered a 12.1% year-on-year decline to Bs 722 million,.

Mercantil Blanco Universal is the leading institution in the Venezuelan financial system in terms of loans to the tourism, manufacturing and mortgage sectors, with 16.3%, 20.3% and 16.9% respectively.

Mercantil Banco Universal complied with the regulatory percentages set for loan portfolios in the agricultural, mortgage, microcredit, tourism and manufacturing sectors in 2009. Mercantil Blanco Universal registered a total Bs 9,547.6 million in loans to the managed portfolios, accounting for 47.1% of total net loans at December 31, 2009.

The results achieved at December 31, 2009 reveal that Mercantil Banco Universal in Venezuela tops the list of financial institutions in terms of Savings Deposits, with 19.6% of that market.

At December 31, 2009, Mercantil Commercebank N.A.'s subsidiary in the United States, achieved Total Assets of US\$ 5,991 million, similar to the figure recorded at the close of 2009. Over the same period its loan portfolio grew 7% to US\$ 3,247.9 million; Deposits reached US\$ 4,399.7 million, similar to the results recorded in 2008, and Equity was US\$ 654.5 million.

Net profits in 2009 registered a negative US\$ 25.7 million, with a positive fourth quarter profit of US\$ 6.2 million. This annual result is attributed to a US\$ 132.1 million increase in loan portfolio provisions made to comply with adequate minimum reserves and, mainly, associated with mortgage loans and construction loans as a result of the loss in the value of commercial and residential property in the United States in general and in South Florida in particular. Mercantil Commercebank also posted US\$ 93.1 million in operating profits before allowances and taxes, compared with an operating profit of US\$ 79.3 million obtained during the same period of 2008.

At December 31, 2009 Mercantil Seguros registered Bs 2,802 million in Net Collected Premiums, 38% compared to the same period last year. Total Assets were Bs 2,264 million, reflecting a 33.4% increase, and Bs 201 million in profits which represents 55.9% growth compared to the close of 2008.

Mercantil is a financial services provider of banking, insurance and investment services in Venezuela that operates in 10 countries in the Americas, Europe and Asia. Its shares are listed on the Caracas stock exchange and its ADRs are traded over the counter in the United States. Its main subsidiaries are Mercantil Banco Universal, Mercantil Seguros and Mercantil Merinvest in Venezuela; Mercantil Commercebank in the USA and Mercantil Bank (Schweiz) AG in Switzerland. Mercantil is one of the world's 2,000 leading companies according to a survey by Forbes magazine (April 2009). For further information, please visit our website www.bancomercantil.com

Corporate Communications Unit
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