

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 20-F

☐ REGISTRATION STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR (g) OF  
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

OR

☒ ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF  
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009

OR

☐ TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF  
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

OR

☐ SHELL COMPANY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF  
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of event requiring this shell company report.....

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File Number 1-11414

**BANCO LATINOAMERICANO DE COMERCIO EXTERIOR, S.A.**  
*(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)*

**FOREIGN TRADE BANK OF LATIN AMERICA, INC.**  
*(Translation of Registrant’s name into English)*

**REPUBLIC OF PANAMA**  
*(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)*

**Calle 50 y Aquilino de la Guardia  
P.O. Box 0819-08730  
Panama City, Republic of Panama**  
*(Address of principal executive offices)*

**Christopher Schech  
Chief Financial Officer  
(507) 210-8500**  
**Email address: cschech@bladex.com**  
*(Name, Telephone, E-mail and/or Facsimile number and Address of Company Contact Person)*

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act.

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Class E Common Stock	New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act.  
None

Securities for which there is a reporting obligation pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Act.  
None

Indicate the number of outstanding shares of each of the issuer’s classes of capital or common stock as of the close of the period covered by the annual report.

6,342,189	Shares of Class A Common Stock
2,584,882	Shares of Class B Common Stock
27,618,545	Shares of Class E Common Stock
0	Shares of Class F Common Stock
36,545,616	Total Shares of Common Stock

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

☐ Yes ☒ No

If this report is an annual or transition report, indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Note – Checking the box above will not relieve any registrant required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 from their obligations under those Sections.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of “accelerated filer and large accelerated filer” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

☐ Large Accelerated Filer

☒ Accelerated Filer

☐ Non-accelerated Filer

Indicate by check mark which basis of accounting the registrant has used to prepare the financial statements included in this filing:

☒ U.S. GAAP

☐ IFRS

☐ Other

Indicate by check mark which financial statement item the Registrant has elected to follow.

☐ Item 17

☒ Item 18

If this is an annual report, indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

☐ Yes

☒ No

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In this Annual Report on Form 20-F (this “Annual Report”), references to the “Bank” or “Bladex” are to Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S.A., a specialized supranational bank incorporated under the laws of the Republic of Panama (“Panama”) and its consolidated subsidiaries. References to “Bladex Head Office” are to Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S.A. in its individual capacity. References to “U.S. dollars” or “\$” are to United States dollars. The Bank accepts deposits and raises funds principally in United States dollars, grants loans mostly in United States dollars and publishes its consolidated financial statements in United States dollars. The numbers and percentages set out in this Annual Report have been rounded and, accordingly, may not total exactly.

Upon written or oral request, the Bank will provide without charge to each person to whom this Annual Report is delivered, a copy of any or all of the documents listed as exhibits to this Annual Report (other than exhibits to those documents, unless the exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference in the documents). Written requests for copies should be directed to the attention of Christopher Schech, Chief Financial Officer, Bladex, as follows: (1) if by regular mail, to P.O. Box 0819-08730, Panama City, Republic of Panama, and (2) if by courier, to Calle 50 y Aquilino de la Guardia, Panama City, Republic of Panama. Telephone requests may be directed to Mr. Schech at 011 + (507) 210-8630. Written requests may also be faxed to Mr. Schech at 011 + (507) 269-6333 or sent via e-mail to [cschech@bladex.com](mailto:cschech@bladex.com). Information is also available on the Bank’s website at: <http://www.bladex.com>.

Forward-Looking Statements

This Annual Report contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, and actual results may differ materially from those discussed in any such statement. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from these forward-looking statements include the risks described in the section titled “Risk Factors.” Forward-looking statements include statements regarding:

- the anticipated growth of the Bank’s credit portfolio, including its trade finance portfolio;
- the Bank’s ability to increase the number of clients;
- the Bank’s ability to maintain its investment-grade credit ratings and preferred creditor status;
- the effects of changing interest rates, inflation, exchange rates and of an improving macroeconomic environment in Latin America and the Caribbean on the Bank’s financial condition;
- the execution of the Bank’s strategies and initiatives, including its revenue diversification strategy;
- anticipated operating income and return on equity in future periods;
- the Bank’s level of capitalization and debt;
- the implied volatility of the Bank’s Treasury and Asset Management trading revenues;
- levels of defaults by borrowers and the adequacy of the Bank’s allowance and provisions for credit losses;
- the availability and mix of future sources of funding for the Bank’s lending operations;
- the adequacy of the Bank’s sources of liquidity to cover large deposit withdrawals;
- management’s expectations and estimates concerning the Bank’s future financial performance, financing, plans and programs, and the effects of competition;
- existing and future governmental banking and tax regulations;
- credit and other risks of lending and investment activities; and
- the Bank’s ability to sustain or improve its operating performance.

In addition, the statements included under the headings “Strategy in 2010” and “Trend Information” are forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements in this Annual Report are made as of the date hereof, based on information available to the Bank as of the date hereof, and the Bank assumes no obligation to update any forward-looking statement.

PART I

Item 1. Identity of Directors, Senior Management and Advisers

Not required in this Annual Report.

Item 2. Offer Statistics and Expected Timetable

Not required in this Annual Report.

Item 3. Key Information

A. Selected Financial Data

The following table presents consolidated selected financial data for the Bank. The financial data presented below are at and for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, and 2005, and are derived from the Bank’s consolidated financial statements for the years indicated, which were prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“U.S. GAAP”) and are stated in U.S. dollars. The consolidated financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007 were audited by the independent registered public accounting firm Deloitte, Inc., and the consolidated financial statements of the Bank for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005, were audited by the independent registered public accounting firm KPMG. The consolidated financial statements of the Bank for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009 (the “Consolidated Financial Statements”) are included in this Annual Report, together with the report of the independent registered public accounting firm Deloitte, Inc. The information below is qualified in its entirety by the detailed information included elsewhere herein and should be read in conjunction with Item 4, “Information on the Company,” Item 5, “Operating and Financial Review and Prospects,” and the Consolidated Financial Statements and notes thereto included in this Annual Report.

Consolidated Selected Financial Information

	As of and for the Year Ended December 31,				
	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	(In \$ thousand, except per share data and ratios)				
<b>Income Statement Data:</b>					
Net interest income	\$ 64,752	\$ 77,847	\$ 70,570	\$ 58,837	\$ 45,253
Fees and commissions, net	6,733	7,252	5,555	6,393	5,826
Reversal (provision) for credit losses <sup>(1)</sup>	(14,830)	1,544	1,475	13,045	38,374
Derivative financial instruments and hedging	(2,534)	9,956	(989)	(225)	2,338
Recovery (impairment) on assets, net	(120)	(767)	(500)	5,551	10,206
Net gain from investment fund trading	24,997	21,357	23,878	1,091	0
Net gain (loss) from trading securities	13,113	(20,998)	(12)	(212)	0
Net gain on sale on securities available-for-sale	546	67	9,119	2,568	206
Gain (loss) on foreign currency exchange	613	(1,596)	115	(253)	3
Other income (expense), net	912	656	(6)	36	3
Total operating expenses	(38,202)	(39,990)	(37,027)	(28,929)	(24,691)
Cumulative effect of accounting changes	0	0	0	0	2,583
Consolidated Net income	55,980	55,327	72,177	57,902	80,101
Net income attributable to the redeemable noncontrolling interest	(1,118)	(208)	0	0	0
Net income attributable to Bladex	54,862	55,119	72,177	57,902	80,101
<b>Balance Sheet Data:</b>					
Trading assets	50,277	44,939	0	0	0
Investment securities	456,984	636,328	468,360	471,351	208,570
Investment fund	197,575	150,695	81,846	105,199	0
Loans	2,779,262	2,618,643	3,731,838	2,980,772	2,610,019
Allowance for loan losses	73,789	54,648	69,643	51,266	39,448
Total assets	3,878,771	4,362,678	4,698,571	3,922,373	3,159,231
Total deposits	1,256,246	1,169,048	1,462,371	1,056,278	1,046,618
Trading liabilities	3,152	14,157	13	0	0
Securities sold under repurchase agreements and short-term borrowings	399,132	1,212,921	1,504,710	1,595,604	760,699
Borrowings and long-term debt	1,390,387	1,204,952	1,010,316	558,860	533,860
Total liabilities	3,168,234	3,783,665	4,086,320	3,338,477	2,542,449
Total stockholders' equity	675,637	574,324	612,251	583,896	616,782
Average number of shares outstanding	36,493	36,388	36,349	37,065	38,550
Average number of diluted shares outstanding	36,571	36,440	36,414	37,572	38,860
<b>Per Common Share Data:</b>					
Basic earnings per share	1.50	1.51	1.99	1.56	2.01
Diluted earnings per share	1.50	1.51	1.98	1.54	1.99
Book value per share (period end)	18.49	15.77	16.83	16.07	16.19
Regular cash dividends per share	0.60	0.88	0.88	0.75	0.60
Special cash dividends per share	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	2.00
<b>Selected Financial Ratios:</b>					
<i>Performance Ratios:</i>					
Return on average assets	1.38%	1.09%	1.76%	1.70%	3.00%
Return on average stockholders' equity	8.60%	8.99%	11.91%	9.96%	12.85%
Net interest margin <sup>(2)</sup>	1.62%	1.55%	1.73%	1.78%	1.70%
Net interest spread <sup>(2)</sup>	1.12%	0.98%	0.78%	0.69%	0.67%
Total operating expenses to total average assets	0.96%	0.79%	0.90%	0.85%	0.93%
Regular cash dividend payout ratio	39.91%	58.09%	44.32%	48.01%	29.84%
Special cash dividend payout ratio	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	64.01%	99.46%
<i>Liquidity Ratios:</i>					
Liquid assets <sup>(3)</sup> / total assets	10.36%	18.92%	8.43%	10.16%	7.12%
Liquid assets <sup>(3)</sup> / total deposits	32.00%	70.62%	27.08%	37.72%	21.49%
<i>Asset Quality Ratios:</i>					
Non-accrual loans to total loans <sup>(4)</sup>	1.82%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.11%
Impaired loans to total loans <sup>(4)</sup>	1.29%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.11%
Charged-off loans to total loans	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.36%
Allowance for loan losses to total loans, net of unearned income and deferred commission	2.66%	2.09%	1.87%	1.72%	1.51%
Allowance for losses on off-balance sheet credit risk to total contingencies	8.28%	6.95%	2.51%	4.18%	6.56%
<i>Capital Ratios:</i>					
Stockholders' equity to total assets	17.42%	13.16%	13.03%	14.89%	19.52%
Average stockholders' equity to total average assets	16.06%	12.11%	14.75%	17.09%	23.37%
Leverage ratio <sup>(5)</sup>	5.7x	7.6x	7.7x	6.7x	5.1x
Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets <sup>(6)</sup>	25.8%	20.4%	21.2%	23.8%	33.7%
Total capital to risk-weighted assets <sup>(7)</sup>	27.0%	21.6%	22.5%	25.1%	35.0%
Risk-weighted assets	\$ 2,633,482	\$ 3,143,971	\$ 2,917,393	\$ 2,436,812	\$ 1,827,928



- (1) Includes reversal of (provision for) loan losses and for losses on off-balance sheet credit risks. For information regarding reversal of (provision for) credit losses, see Item 5, “Operating and Financial Review and Prospects/Operating Results.”
- (2) For information regarding calculation of the net interest margin and the net interest spread, see Item 5A, “Operating and Financial Review and Prospects/Operating Results/Net Interest Income and Margins.”
- (3) Liquid assets consist of investment-grade ‘A’ securities, and cash and due from banks, excluding pledged deposits. See Item 18, “Financial Statements” Note 3 to the Audited Financial Statements.
- (4) Non-accrual loans amounted \$51 million in 2009 compared to \$29 million in 2005, of which \$36 million corresponded to impaired loans in 2009 and \$29 million in 2005. In determining impairment factors considered by the Bank’s management include collection status, collateral value, the probability of collecting scheduled principal and interest payments when due, and economic conditions in the borrower’s country of residence.
- (5) Leverage ratio is the ratio of total assets to stockholders’ equity.
- (6) Tier 1 capital is calculated according to Basel I capital adequacy guidelines, and is equivalent to stockholders’ equity, excluding the Other Comprehensive Income (“OCI”) account effect of the available-for-sale portfolio. The Tier 1 capital ratio is calculated as a percentage of risk-weighted assets. Risk-weighted assets are, in turn, also calculated based on Basel I capital adequacy guidelines.
- (7) Total capital refers to Tier 1 capital plus Tier 2 capital, based on Basel I capital adequacy guidelines. Total capital refers to the total capital ratio as a percentage of risk-weighted assets.

**B. Capitalization and Indebtedness**

Not required in this Annual Report.

**C. Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds**

Not required in this Annual Report.



D. Risk Factors

Risks Relating to the Bank’s Business

*Bladex faces liquidity risk, and its failure to adequately manage this risk could result in a liquidity shortage, which could adversely affect its financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.*

Bladex, like all financial institutions, faces liquidity risk, or the risk of not being able to maintain adequate cash flow to repay its deposits and borrowings and fund its credit portfolio on a timely basis. Failure to adequately manage its liquidity risk could produce a cash shortage as a result of which the Bank would not be able to repay these obligations as they become due.

As of December 31, 2009, approximately 12% of the Bank’s funding represents short-term borrowings from international banks, the majority of which are European, North American and Asian institutions, which compete with the Bank in its credit extension activity and represent a source of business for the Bank. If these international banks cease to provide funding to the Bank, the Bank would have to seek funding from other sources, which may not be available, or if available, may be at a higher cost.

Financial turmoil in the international markets could negatively impact liquidity in the financial markets, reducing the Bank’s access to credit or increasing its cost of funding, which could lead to tighter lending standards. An example of this situation is the liquidity constraint experienced since the second half of 2007 in the international financial markets, which intensified during the third quarter of 2008, driven first by the subprime crisis in the United States and then followed by the credit crisis. The reoccurrence of such unfavorable market conditions could have a material adverse effect on the Bank’s liquidity.

As of December 31, 2009, approximately 26% of the Bank’s short-term funding represents deposits from Central Banks.

As a U.S. dollar-based economy, Panama does not have a central bank in the traditional sense, and there is no lender of last resort to the banking system in the country. Central Banks in the Region would not be obligated to act as lenders of last resort if Bladex were to face a liquidity shortage and the Bank would have to rely on commercial liquidity sources to cover the shortfall.

*The Bank’s allowances for credit losses could be inadequate to cover credit losses related to its loans and contingencies.*

The Bank determines the appropriate level of allowances for credit losses based on a process that estimates the probable loss inherent in its portfolio, which is the result of a statistical analysis supported by the Bank’s historical portfolio performance and the qualitative judgment of the Bank’s Management. The latter includes assumptions and estimates made in the context of changing political and economic conditions in the Region. The Bank’s allowances could be inadequate to cover losses in its credit portfolio due to exposure concentration or deterioration in certain sectors or countries, which in turn, could have a material adverse effect on the Bank’s financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

*The Bank’s businesses are subject to market risk.*

Market risk generally represents the risk that values of assets and liabilities or revenues will be adversely affected by changes in market conditions. Market risk is inherent in the financial instruments associated with many of the Bank’s operations and activities, including loans, deposits, investment and trading securities, short-term borrowings, long-term debt, derivatives and trading positions. Among many other market conditions that may shift from time to time are fluctuations in interest rates and currency exchange rates, changes in the implied volatility of interest rates and changes in securities prices, due to changes in either market perception or actual credit quality of either the issuer or its country of origin. Accordingly, depending on the instruments or activities impacted, market risks can have wide ranging, complex adverse affects on the Bank’s financial condition, results of operations, cash flows and business.

See Item 11, “Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk.”

***The Bank faces interest rate risk that is caused by the mismatch in maturities of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities. If not properly managed, this mismatch can reduce net interest income as interest rates fluctuate.***

As a bank, Bladex faces interest rate risk because interest-bearing liabilities generally reprice at a different pace than interest-earning assets. Bladex’s exposure to instruments whose values vary with the level or volatility of interest rates contributes to its interest rate risk. Failure to adequately manage eventual mismatches may reduce the Bank’s net interest income during periods of fluctuating interest rates.

***The Bank’s credit portfolio may decrease or may not continue to grow at the present or a similar rate.***

It is difficult to predict that the Bank’s credit portfolio, including the Bank’s foreign trade portfolio, will continue to grow in the future at historical rates. A reversal in the growth rate of the Region’s economy and trade volumes could adversely affect the growth rate of the Bank’s credit portfolio.

***Increased competition and banking industry consolidation could limit the Bank’s ability to grow and may adversely affect results of operations.***

Most of the competition the Bank faces in the trade finance business comes from international banks, the majority of which are European and North American institutions. Many of these international banks have substantially greater resources than the Bank and enjoy access to less expensive funding than the Bank does. It is difficult to predict how increased competition will affect the Bank’s growth prospects and results of operations.

Merger activity in the financial services industry has produced companies that are capable of offering a wide array of financial products and services at competitive prices. Globalization of the capital markets and financial services industries exposes the Bank to further competition. The Bank’s ability to grow its business and therefore, its earnings, is affected by these competitive pressures.

***Operational problems or errors can have a material adverse impact on the Bank’s business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.***

Bladex, like all financial institutions, is exposed to operational risks, including the risk of fraud by employees and outsiders, failure to obtain proper internal authorizations, failure to properly document transactions, equipment failures, and errors by employees. For example, any failure, interruption or breach in the security or operation of the Bank’s information technology systems could result in interruptions in the Bank’s risk management, deposit servicing, loan organization and/or other important activities. Operational problems or errors may occur, and their occurrence may have a material adverse impact on the Bank’s business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

The Bank has an operational risk function that evaluates the operational risk level of every key product or process that could have an impact on its financial statements. Each incident reported, with real or potential loss, is registered in an operational risk database. On a periodic basis, the Bank’s Management is informed of the relevant incidents that occurred (if any), as well as the suggested mitigation plan.

***Any delays or failure to implement business initiatives that the Bank may undertake could prevent the Bank from realizing the anticipated revenues and benefits of the initiatives.***

Part of the Bank’s strategy is to diversify income sources through business initiatives, including targeting new clients and developing new products and services. These initiatives may not be fully implemented within the time frame the Bank expects, or at all. In addition, even if such initiatives are fully implemented, they may not generate revenues as expected. Any delays in implementing these business initiatives could prevent the Bank from realizing the anticipated benefits of the initiatives, which could adversely affect the Bank’s business, results of operations and growth prospects.

*Any failure to remain in compliance with applicable banking laws in the jurisdictions in which the Bank operates could harm its reputation and/or cause it to become subject to fines, sanctions or legal enforcement, which could have an adverse effect on the Bank’s business, financial condition and results of operation.*

Bladex believes that it is in compliance with applicable laws in the jurisdictions in which it operates, including anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing laws and regulations. Bladex has adopted various policies and procedures to ensure compliance with applicable laws, including internal controls and “know-your-customer” procedures aimed at preventing money laundering and terrorist financing. The participation of multiple parties in any given trade finance transaction can make the process of due diligence difficult. Further, because trade finance can be more document-based than other banking activities, it is susceptible to documentary fraud, which can be linked to money laundering, terrorist financing, illicit activities and/or the circumvention of sanctions or other restrictions (such as export prohibitions, licensing requirements, or controls). While the Bank is alert to high-risk transactions, it is also aware that efforts, such as forgery, double invoicing, partial shipments of goods and use of fictitious goods, may be used to evade applicable laws and regulations. If the Bank’s policies and procedures are ineffective in preventing third parties from using it as a conduit for money laundering or terrorist financing without its knowledge, the Bank’s reputation could suffer and/or it could become subject to fines, sanctions or legal enforcement (including being added to any “blacklists” that would prohibit certain parties from engaging in transactions with the Bank), which could have an adverse effect on the Bank’s business, financial condition and results of operations.

**Risk Relating to the Region**

*The Bank’s credit portfolio is concentrated in the Region. The Bank also faces borrower concentration. Adverse economic changes in the Region or in the condition of the Bank’s largest borrowers could adversely affect the Bank’s growth, asset quality, prospects, profitability, financial condition and financial results.*

The Bank’s credit activities are concentrated in the Region, which is a reflection of the Bank’s mission and strategy. Historically, economies of countries in the Region have occasionally experienced significant volatility characterized, in some cases, by political uncertainty, slow growth or recessions, declining investments, government and private sector debt defaults and restructurings, and significant inflation and/or devaluation. Global economic changes, including oil prices, commodities prices, U.S. dollar interest rates, the U.S. dollar exchange rate, and slower economic growth in industrialized countries, could have a significant adverse effect on the economic condition of countries in the Region. In turn, adverse changes affecting the economies of countries in the Region could have a significant adverse impact on the quality of the Bank’s credit portfolio, including increased loan loss provisions, debt restructuring, and loan losses. As a result, this could also have an adverse impact on the Bank’s asset growth, asset quality, prospects, profitability and financial condition.

The Bank’s credit activities are concentrated in a relatively small number of countries, which could have an adverse impact on the Bank’s credit portfolio and, as a result, its financial condition, growth, prospects, results of operations and financial condition, if one or more of those countries encounters economic difficulties. As of December 31, 2009, approximately 75% of the Bank’s credit portfolio was outstanding to borrowers in the following five countries: Brazil (\$1,484 million, or 41%), Mexico (\$418 million, or 12%), Colombia (\$343 million, or 9%), Chile (\$286 million, or 8%), and Peru (\$191 million, or 5%).

In addition, as of December 31, 2009, of the Bank’s total credit portfolio balances, 12% were to five borrowers in Brazil, 5% were to five borrowers in Mexico, 7% were to five borrowers in Colombia, 7% were to five borrowers in Chile, and 5% were to five borrowers in Peru. A significant deterioration of the financial or economic condition of any of these countries or borrowers could have an adverse impact on the Bank’s credit portfolio, requiring the Bank to create additional allowances for credit losses, or suffer credit losses with the effect being accentuated because of this concentration.

*Local country foreign exchange controls or currency devaluation may harm the Bank’s borrowers’ ability to pay U.S. dollar-denominated obligations.*

The Bank makes mostly U.S. dollar-denominated loans and investments. As a result, the Bank faces the risk that local country foreign exchange controls will restrict the ability of the Bank’s borrowers, even if they are exporters, to acquire dollars to repay loans on a timely basis, and/or that significant currency devaluation might occur, which could increase the cost, in local currency terms, to the Bank’s borrowers of acquiring dollars to repay loans.

*Increased risk perception in countries in the Region where the Bank has large credit exposure could have an adverse impact on the Bank’s credit ratings, funding activities and funding costs.*

Increased risk perception in any country in the Region where the Bank has large exposures could trigger downgrades to the Bank’s credit ratings. A credit rating downgrade would likely increase the Bank’s funding costs, and reduce its deposit base and access to the debt capital markets. In that case, the Bank’s ability to obtain the necessary funding to carry on its financing activities in the Region at meaningful levels could be affected in an important way.

**Item 4. Information on the Company**

**A. History and Development of the Company**

The Bank, a corporation (*sociedad anónima*) organized under the laws of Panama and headquartered in Panama City, Panama, is a specialized supranational bank originally established by central banks of Latin American and Caribbean countries to promote trade finance in Latin America and the Caribbean (the “Region”).

The Bank was established pursuant to a May 1975 proposal of the XX Assembly of Governors of central banks in the Region, which recommended the creation of a supranational organization to increase the Region’s foreign trade financing capacity. The Bank was constituted in 1978 as a corporation pursuant to the laws of the Republic of Panama (“Panama”) and commenced operations on January 2, 1979. Panama was selected as the location of the Bank’s headquarters because of the country’s importance as a banking center in the Region, the benefits of a fully U.S. dollar-based economy, the absence of foreign exchange controls, its geographic location, and the quality of its communications facilities. Under the authority granted by Law No. 38 of July 25 of 1978, Panama and Bladex signed Contract No. 103-78, whereby the Bank was granted certain privileges by the government of Panama, including an exemption from payment of income taxes in Panama.

On June 17, 2009, the Bank changed its name from “Banco Latinoamericano de Exportaciones, S.A.” to “Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S.A.,” although it continues to operate under the commercial name of “Bladex.”

Bladex offers its services through its head office and subsidiaries in Panama City, its subsidiaries and offices in New York City, including its agency (the “New York Agency”) and Bladex Asset Management Inc. (“Bladex Asset Management” or “BAM”), its subsidiaries in Brazil and the Cayman Islands, its international administrative office in Miami and its representative offices in Mexico City and Buenos Aires, as well as through a worldwide network of correspondent banks. Bladex’s shares of Class E common stock are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol “BLX.”

Bladex Asset Management serves as investment manager for Bladex Offshore Feeder Fund (the “Feeder”) and Bladex Capital Growth Fund (the “Fund”). On September 8, 2009, Bladex Asset Management registered as a foreign entity in Panama, establishing a branch in Panama that is engaged mainly in providing administrative and operating services to Bladex Asset Management in the United States.

In April 2009, the Fund was registered with Cayman Islands Monetary Authority, under the Mutual Funds Law of the Cayman Islands and began receiving third party investments.

Bladex Head Office owns 50% of the equity shares of BCG PA LLC, a company incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware. BCG PA LLC owns “Class C” shares of the Fund entitling it to receive a performance allocation on third-party investments in the Feeder and in the Fund.

Bladex’s headquarters are located at Calle 50 y Aquilino de la Guardia, Panama City, Panama, and its telephone number is + (507) 210-8500.

Bladex’s financial statements are prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

See Item 18, “Financial Statements,” notes 1 and 2(a).

**B. Business Overview**

*Overview*

The Bank’s mission is to provide seamless support to Latin America’s foreign trade, while creating value for its stockholders. The Bank is principally engaged in providing trade financing to selected commercial banks and corporations in the Region. The Bank’s lending and investing activities are funded by interbank deposits, primarily from central banks and financial institutions in the Region, by borrowings from international commercial banks and, to a lesser extent, by sales of the Bank’s debt securities to financial institutions and investors in Asia, Europe, North America and the Region. The Bank does not provide retail banking services to the general public, such as retail savings accounts or checking accounts, and does not take retail deposits.

Bladex intermediates in the financial and capital markets throughout the Region, through three business units:

The Commercial Division is responsible for the Bank’s core business of financial intermediation and fee generation activities. The division’s portfolio includes loans and contingencies. The majority of the Bank’s loans are extended in connection with specifically identified foreign trade transactions. Through its revenue diversification strategy, the Bank’s Commercial Division has introduced a broader range of products, services and solutions associated with foreign trade, including co-financing arrangements, underwriting of syndicated credit facilities, structured trade financing, asset-based financing in the form of factoring, vendor financing and leasing, and other fee-based services, such as electronic clearing services.

The Treasury Division is responsible for the Bank’s liquidity management and investment securities activities, including management of the Bank’s interest rate, liquidity, price and currency risks.

The Asset Management Division, which is based in New York is responsible for the Bank’s asset management activities, including investment advisory services for funds and managed accounts. The Asset Management Division conducts business through Bladex Asset Management, which serves as investment manager for the Feeder and the Fund, both incorporated in the Cayman Islands. The Feeder invests substantially all of its assets in the Fund.

Historically, trade finance has been afforded favorable treatment under Latin American debt restructurings. This has been, in part, due to the perceived importance that governments and other borrowers in the Region have attributed to maintaining access to trade finance. The Bank believes that, in the past, the combination of its focus on trade finance and the composition of its Class A shareholders has been instrumental in obtaining some exceptions on U.S. dollars convertibility and transfer limitations imposed on the servicing of external obligations ("preferred creditor status"). Although the Bank maintains both its focus on trade finance and its Class A shareholders, it cannot guarantee that such exceptions will be granted in all future debt restructurings.

As of December 31, 2009, the Bank had 46 employees across its offices responsible for marketing the Bank’s financial products and services to existing and potential customers.

***Developments During 2009***

Bladex achieved solid financial results and maintained its strong fundamentals in one of the most difficult years in recent financial history. The Bank’s net income attributable to Bladex amounted to \$54.9 million for 2009, compared to \$55.1 million in 2008. Bladex’s Tier 1 capitalization ratio amounted to 25.8%, and the leverage ratio stood at 5.7 times as of December 31, 2009, compared to 20.4% and 7.6 times, respectively, as of December 31, 2008. The Bank’s commercial portfolio grew by 17% as of December 31, 2009 as compared to December 31, 2008. Bladex maintained a strong liquidity position during 2009, supported by increasingly diversified funding sources, while maintaining reserve coverage at historically high levels for the Bank. This careful management of liquidity and reserve levels protected a portfolio of solid and improving quality while limiting return on equity to 8.6%.

During 2009, the Commercial Division continued to strengthen the portfolio quality and the efficient use of capital, as commercial portfolio balances (which include the loan portfolio, contingencies and other assets) reached \$3,110 million as of December 31, 2009, compared to \$3,062 million as of December 31, 2008. Weighted average lending spreads increased 56% (+94 bps) during the same period, despite lower market interest rates during the year.

During 2009, the Treasury Division’s liquidity balance remained high (\$402 million at year-end), while deposit balances remained at stable levels (\$1,256 million at year-end), and the value of the investment securities portfolio improved during the course of the year. In addition, the Bank took advantage of new opportunities in the Asian interbank funding markets.

The Asset Management Division’s net income attributable to Bladex was \$14.1 million for the year 2009 compared to \$12.3 million in 2008. During the year, the Fund attracted several new third-party investors, representing 17.6% of the Fund’s value as of December 31, 2009, compared to 3.1% as of December 31, 2008.

The Asset Management Division’s investment fund consists of the Bank’s investment in the Fund’s assets and liabilities and is managed by Bladex Asset Management. Currently, Bladex Asset Management follows a macro strategy by trading a combination of products including foreign exchange, interest rate swaps, and derivative products to establish long and short positions mainly in Latin American markets. Capital preservation is one of Bladex Asset Management’s main objectives, and Bladex Asset Management’s trading strategy emphasizes high liquidity, moderate volatility and lower leverage.

See Item 5, “Operating and Financial Review and Prospects/Operating Results/Net Income” and Item 18, “Financial Statements,” note 25.

***Strategies for 2010 and subsequent years***

*Further extend the Bank’s business into politically and economically stable, high-growth markets*

The Bank’s expertise in risk and capital management and extensive knowledge of the Region allows it to identify and strategically focus on stable and growth-oriented markets, including investment grade countries in the Region. Bladex maintains strategically placed representative offices in order to provide focused service and products in markets that the Bank considers key to its continued growth. In addition, the Bank continually considers establishing a presence in other strategic locations throughout the Region in order to respond to stability and growth trends it identifies.

In addition, the Bank explores business opportunities outside of the Region, as evidenced by its entering into a cooperation agreement with China Development Bank in 2007 in order to support foreign trade between Latin America and Asia, particularly in the infrastructure and energy sectors. In 2009, Bladex became the first Latin American bank to place a non-guaranteed syndicated loan in Asia. Also in 2009, the Bank made certain amendments to its Articles of Incorporation, allowing the Bank greater flexibility to expand its exposure and access to markets outside the Region. See Item 10, “Additional Information/Memorandum & Articles of Association and See Item 19, “Exhibits”, Exhibit 1.1.

*Targeted growth in expanding and diversifying the Bank’s client base*

The Bank’s strategy to participate in a broad range of activities and further diversify its client base includes targeting clients that offer the potential for longstanding relationships and a wider presence in the Region, such as financial institutions, large corporations and middle market companies, including through participation in bilateral and co-financed transactions. The Bank intends to continue to cultivate existing and new longstanding client relationships through the quality of the Bank’s services and the Bank’s agile decision-making and credit approval processes.

*Grow current products and services while providing sector-specific solutions in the Region*

The Bank intends to continue its focus on development of expertise in the sectors in which the Bank currently operates while strategically targeting industries with significant growth potential by offering sector-specific products and solutions to clients in these industries. These sectors include some of the most profitable industries in the Region, such as oil & gas, food, mining and agribusiness commodities, as well as growth sectors such as Latin American intra-regional trade. Bladex also intends to continue to explore key regional and local partnerships to bolster its range of services and increase its presence in key economic sectors throughout the Region.

*Increase the range of products and services that the Bank offers*

Due to the Bank’s relationships throughout, and knowledge of, the Region, the Bank is strongly positioned to strategically identify key additional products and services to offer to clients. Following amendments to the Bank’s Articles of Incorporation in 2009, the Bank’s scope of potential activities was broadened to encompass all types of banking, investment, and financial and other businesses that support foreign trade flows and the development of the Region. This reflects the Bank’s ongoing strategy to develop new products and services, such as factoring, debt intermediation in primary and secondary markets, and structure financing, including export insurance programs, that complement the Bank’s expertise in foreign trade finance and risk management.

In furtherance of this strategy, in 2008 the Bank established the Feeder and the Fund, investment funds established by the Bank to operate a proprietary fixed income desk for the Bank and receive third party investments. The Bank has also applied to the U.S. Federal Reserve Board for status as a “financial holding company,” which would allow the Bank to engage in a broader range of non-banking activities in the United States.

*Lending Policies*

The Bank extends credit directly to banks, corporations and state-owned exporting organizations within the Region. The Bank finances import and export transactions for all types of goods and products, with the exception of articles such as weapons, ammunition, military equipment, hallucinogenic drugs or narcotics not utilized for medical purposes. Imports and exports financed by the Bank are destined for buyers/sellers in countries both inside and outside the Region. The Bank analyzes credit requests from eligible borrowers in the light of credit risk criteria, including economic and market conditions. The Bank maintains a consistent lending policy and applies the same credit criteria to all types of potential borrowers in evaluating creditworthiness.

Due to the nature of trade finance, the Bank’s loans generally are unsecured. However, in certain instances, based upon its credit review of the borrower and the economic and political situation and trends in the borrower’s home country, the Bank has determined that the level of risk involved requires that a loan be secured by pledged deposits and other collateral.

***Country Credit Limits***

Bladex has a methodology for capital allocation by country and its risk weights for assets. The Credit Policy and Risk Assessment Committee (the “CPER”) of the Bank’s Board of Directors (the “Board”) approves a level of “allocated capital” for each country, in addition to nominal exposure limits. These country capital limits are reviewed at least annually in the quarterly meetings of the CPER. The methodology helps to establish the capital equivalent of each transaction, based on the internal numeric rating assigned to each country, which is approved by the CPER.

The amounts of capital allocated to a transaction is based on customer type (sovereign, state-owned or private, corporate or financial institution), the type of transaction (trade or non-trade), and the average remaining term of the transaction (from one to 180 days, 181 days to a year, between one and three years, or longer than three years). Capital utilizations by the business units cannot exceed the Bank’s reported stockholders’ equity.

***Borrower Lending Limits***

The Bank generally establishes lines of credit for each borrower according to the results of its risk analysis and potential business prospects; however, the Bank is not required to lend under these lines of credit. Once a line of credit has been established, credit generally is extended after receipt of a request from the borrower for financing, usually related to foreign trade. Loan pricing is determined in accordance with prevailing market conditions and the borrower’s creditworthiness.

For existing borrowers, the Bank’s Management has authority to approve credit lines up to the legal lending limit prescribed by Panamanian law (see “Regulation—Panamanian Law”), provided that the credit lines comply fully with the country credit limits and conditions for the borrower’s country of domicile set by the Board. Approved borrower lending limits are reported to the CPER quarterly. Panamanian Law prescribes certain concentration limits, which are applicable and strictly adhered to by the Bank, including a thirty percent limit as a percentage of capital and reserves for any one borrower and borrower group, in the case of financial institutions, and a twenty-five percent limit as a percentage of capital and reserves for any one borrower and borrower group, in the case of corporate and sovereign borrowers. As of December 31, 2009, the legal lending limit prescribed by Panamanian law for corporations and sovereign borrowers amounted to approximately \$169 million, and for financial institutions and financial groups amounted to approximately \$203 million. On a quarterly basis, the CPER reviews the impaired portfolio, if any, along with certain non-impaired credits. As of December 31, 2009, the Bank was in full compliance with all regulatory limits. See Item 4, “Information on the Company/Business Overview/Regulation/Panamanian Law.”

***Credit Portfolio***

The Bank’s credit portfolio, which consists of the commercial portfolio and investment securities portfolio decreased from \$4,753 million as of December 31, 2007 to \$3,718 million as of December 31, 2008 and further decreased to \$3,621 million as of December 31, 2009, reflecting the Bank’s decision to reduce the average portfolio in response to global economic conditions and tightening of the credit markets.



The Bank acted decisively to reduce its credit portfolio in line with the market’s deterioration, reducing credit risk, loan concentrations, and strengthening liquidity. During 2009, credit risk levels showed signs of gradual improvement, as companies benefited from a generally less challenging economic climate, a trend that will afford Bladex greater flexibility in terms of credit decisions, thus gradually easing the pressure on provision levels in coming years.

*Commercial Portfolio*

The commercial portfolio includes the loan portfolio and contingencies and other assets (including confirmed and stand-by letters of credit and guarantees covering commercial and country risks, credit commitments, reimbursement undertakings, equity investments and customers’ liabilities under acceptances).

The Bank’s commercial portfolio decreased from \$4,281 million as of December 31, 2007 to \$3,062 million as of December 31, 2008 and stabilized to \$3,110 million as of December 31, 2009.

As of December 31, 2009, 62% of the Bank’s commercial portfolio represented trade related credits. The corporate market segment represented 51% of the total commercial portfolio, of which 61% represented trade financing.

The following table sets forth the distribution of the Bank’s commercial portfolio, by product category as of December 31 of each year:

	As of December 31,									
	2009 <sup>(1)</sup>	%	2008	%	2007	%	2006	%	2005 <sup>(2)</sup>	%
	(in \$ million, except percentages)									
Loans	\$ 2,779	89.4	\$ 2,619	85.5	\$ 3,732	87.2	\$ 2,981	82.0	\$ 2,610	76.6
Contingencies and other assets	331	10.6	444	14.5	550	12.8	654	18.0	797	23.4
Total	\$ 3,110	100.0	\$ 3,062	100.0	\$ 4,281	100.0	\$ 3,634	100.0	\$ 3,407	100.0

- (1) Includes non-accrual loans for \$51 million as of December 31, 2009.
- (2) Includes non-accrual loans for \$29 million and non-accrual contingencies for \$13 million as of December 31, 2005.

*Loan Portfolio*

As of December 31, 2009, the Bank’s total loans amounted to \$2,779 million, compared to \$2,619 million as of December 31, 2008, and compared to \$3,732 million as of December 31, 2007. As of December 31, 2009, 66% of the Bank’s loans were scheduled to mature within one year. See Item 5, “Operating and Financial Review and Prospects/Operating Results/Changes in Financial Condition” and Item 18, “Financial Statements,” note 7.

Loans by Country

The following table sets forth the distribution of the Bank’s loans by country at the dates indicated:

	As of December 31,									
	2009	%	2008	%	2007	%	2006	%	2005	%
	(in \$ million, except percentages)									
Argentina <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 73	2.6	\$ 151	5.8	\$ 264	7.1	\$ 203	6.8	\$ 51	2.0
Bolivia	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	0.1	5	0.2	0	0.0
Brazil <sup>(2)</sup>	1,335	48.0	1,289	49.2	1,379	37.0	1,317	44.2	1,095	42.0
Chile	258	9.3	8	0.3	10	0.3	175	5.9	283	10.8
Colombia	200	7.2	285	10.9	400	10.7	163	5.5	249	9.5
Costa Rica	83	3.0	55	2.1	77	2.1	85	2.9	54	2.1
Dominican Republic	31	1.1	48	1.8	29	0.8	9	0.3	1	0.0
Ecuador	23	0.8	36	1.4	61	1.6	43	1.4	25	1.0
El Salvador	41	1.5	76	2.9	47	1.2	82	2.8	81	3.1
Guatemala	74	2.7	61	2.3	96	2.6	89	3.0	41	1.6
Honduras	23	0.8	45	1.7	49	1.3	36	1.2	26	1.0
Jamaica	31	1.1	15	0.6	77	2.1	49	1.6	24	0.9
Mexico <sup>(3)</sup>	302	10.9	380	14.5	410	11.0	168	5.6	161	6.1
Nicaragua	1	0.0	4	0.2	13	0.3	10	0.3	2	0.1
Panama	41	1.5	47	1.8	140	3.7	180	6.1	156	6.0
Peru	161	5.8	50	1.9	454	12.2	262	8.8	180	7.0
Trinidad & Tobago	72	2.6	23	0.9	88	2.3	104	3.5	177	6.8
Uruguay	30	1.1	45	1.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.1
Venezuela	0	0.0	0	0.0	135	3.6	1	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,779</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$ 2,619</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$ 3,732</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$ 2,981</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$ 2,610</b>	<b>100.0</b>

- (1) Includes non-accrual loans in Argentina of \$23 million in 2005.
- (2) Includes non-accrual loans in Brazil of \$7 million in 2009 and \$6 million in 2005.
- (3) Includes non-accrual loans in Mexico of \$44 million in 2009.

### Loans by Type of Borrower

The following table sets forth the amounts of the Bank’s loans by type of borrower at the dates indicated:

	As of December 31,									
	2009	%	2008	%	2007	%	2006	%	2005	%
	(in \$ million, except percentages)									
Private sector commercial banks and financial institutions <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 875	31.5	\$ 577	22.0	\$ 1,491	39.9	\$ 1,167	39.2	\$ 1,583	60.6
State-owned commercial banks <sup>(2)</sup>	334	12.0	322	12.3	241	6.5	273	9.2	118	4.5
Central banks	0	0.0	25	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Sovereign debt	96	3.4	67	2.6	113	3.0	123	4.1	49	1.9
State-owned exporting organizations	193	7.0	50	1.9	282	7.6	138	4.6	402	15.4
Private corporations <sup>(3)</sup>	1,282	46.1	1,577	60.2	1,605	43.0	1,279	42.9	458	17.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,779</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$ 2,619</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$ 3,732</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$ 2,981</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$ 2,610</b>	<b>100.0</b>

- (1) Includes \$15 million in non-accrual loans in 2005.
- (2) Includes \$8 million in non-accrual loans in 2005.
- (3) Includes \$51 million in non-accrual loans in 2009 and \$6 million in non-accrual loans in 2005.

As of December 31, 2009, the Bank’s outstanding loan portfolio amounted to \$2,779 million, an increase of 6% from 2008 year end balances. The increase resulted from the improved condition in the financial markets, as well as the recovery of foreign trade in the Region, resulting in greater demand for the Bank’s lending products. As of December 31, 2009, 21% of the Bank’s \$1,475 million loan exposure to private corporations and state-owned exporting organizations was concentrated in the oil & gas industry in countries such as Peru, Argentina, Chile, Venezuela, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

During 2008, the Bank reduced its loan portfolio by \$1.1 billion, as the Bank focused on strengthening liquidity and exposures to potential vulnerable sectors and/or concentrations were reduced in response to deteriorating macroeconomic conditions.

During 2007, the Bank’s loan portfolio amounted to \$3,732 million an increase of \$751 million from the prior year. The increase was mostly associated with the Bank’s strategy of developing a stronger client base focused on a growing corporate segment.

Maturities and Sensitivities of the Loan Portfolio

The following table sets forth the remaining term of the maturity profile of the Bank’s loan portfolio as of December 31, 2009, by type of rate and type of borrower:

	As of December 31, 2009			
	(in \$ million)			
	Due in one year or less	Due after one year through five years	Due after five years through ten years <sup>(1)</sup>	Total
<b>FIXED RATE</b>				
Private sector commercial banks and financial institutions	\$ 518	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 518
State-owned commercial banks	276	20	0	296
Sovereign debt	43	24	0	68
State-owned exporting organizations	102	0	0	102
Private corporations	299	29	0	328
Sub-total	\$ 1,238	\$ 73	\$ 0	\$ 1,311
<b>FLOATING RATE</b>				
Private sector commercial banks and financial institutions	\$ 144	\$ 214	\$ 0	\$ 357
State-owned commercial banks	29	9	0	38
Sovereign debt	10	18	0	28
State-owned exporting organizations	91	0	0	91
Private corporations	325	606	23	954
Sub-total	599	847	23	1,469
Total	\$ 1,836	\$ 920	\$ 23	\$ 2,779

<sup>(1)</sup> The Bank’s loan portfolio contains no maturities after ten years.

Contingencies and Other Assets

The Bank’s contingencies and other assets included in the commercial portfolio consist of selected financial instruments with off-balance sheet credit risk and customer liabilities under acceptances.

The Bank, on behalf of its client base, advises and confirms letters of credit to facilitate foreign trade transactions. The Bank also provides stand-by letters of credit and guarantees, including country risk guarantees, which cover the country risk arising from the risk of convertibility and transferability of local currency of countries in the Region into hard currency and from political risks, such as expropriation, nationalization, war and/or civil disturbances. The Bank also provides commitments to extend credit, which are a combination of either non-binding or binding legal agreements to lend to a customer.

The Bank applies the same credit policies used in its lending process to its evaluation of these instruments, and, once issued, the commitment is irrevocable and remains valid until its expiration. As of December 31, 2009, total contingencies and other assets in the commercial portfolio amounted to \$331 million (11% of the total commercial portfolio), of which 62% correspond mostly to letters of credit in Ecuador and Venezuela. As of December 31, 2008, total contingencies and other assets in the commercial portfolio amounted to \$444 million (14% of the total commercial portfolio).

The following table presents the amount of contingencies and other assets, as of December 31 of each year:

	As of December 31,					
	2009		2008		2007	
	Amount	% of Total Contingencies and other assets	Amount	% of Total Contingencies and other assets	Amount	% of Total Contingencies and other assets
(in \$ million, except percentages)						
Argentina	\$ 0	0.0	\$ 0	0.0	\$ 4	0.8
Brazil	23	6.8	151	34.1	220	40.1
Chile	0	0.0	83	18.8	1	0.2
Colombia	0	0.0	1	0.3	1	0.2
Costa Rica	24	7.3	20	4.4	72	13.1
Dominican Republic	1	0.4	14	3.1	63	11.5
Ecuador	112	33.9	87	19.7	81	14.8
El Salvador	2	0.5	0	0.1	2	0.3
Guatemala	1	0.3	5	1.0	6	1.1
Honduras	0	0.1	0	0.1	0	0.1
Jamaica	0	0.0	0	0.0	16	2.8
Mexico	60	18.0	4	1.0	14	2.6
Panama	0	0.0	15	3.4	10	1.9
Trinidad & Tobago	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	0.9
United States	0	0.0	0	0.0	19	3.4
Uruguay	16	4.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
Venezuela	92	27.8	62	13.9	34	6.2
Total	\$ 331	100.0	\$ 444	100.0	\$ 550	100.0

See Item 18, “Financial Statements,” note 18.

### Investment Securities Portfolio

The Bank’s investment securities portfolio consists of debt securities available-for-sale, securities held-to maturity and trading assets.

In the normal course of business, the Bank utilizes interest rate swaps for hedging purposes with respect to its assets (mainly its investment securities) and liabilities management activities.

As of December 31, 2009, the Bank’s securities available-for-sale amounted to \$457 million and consisted of investments with issuers in the Region, of which 80% were banks and sovereign borrowers and 20% were corporations. As of December 31, 2008, the Bank’s securities available-for-sale amounted to \$608 million and consisted of investments with issuers in the Region, of which 74% were banks and sovereign borrowers and 26% were corporations. The year-on-year decrease in the securities available-for-sale portfolio reflects the sale of \$147 million in book value of the securities portfolio, which generated net gains of \$0.5 million during 2009.

As of December 31, 2007, the Bank’s securities available-for-sale portfolio amounted \$468 million and consisted of investments with issuers in the Region, of which 67% were banks and sovereign borrowers and 33% were corporations.

The held-to-maturity portfolio amounted to \$28 million as of December 31, 2008. As of December 31, 2009 and as of December 31, 2007, the Bank had no securities held-to-maturity.

See Item 18, “Financial Statements,” notes 2 (i) and 5.

As of December 31, 2009, the Bank’s trading assets amounted to \$50 million, compared to \$45 million as of December 31, 2008, and compared to none as of December 31, 2007. See Item 18, “Financial Statements”, notes 2(h) and 4.

The following table sets forth information regarding the carrying value of the Bank’s investment securities portfolio at the dates indicated.

	As of December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
		(in \$ millions)	
Trading assets	\$ 50	\$ 45	\$ 0
Securities held-to-maturity			
Bonds	\$ 0	\$ 28	\$ 0
Total securities held-to-maturity	\$ 0	\$ 28	\$ 0
Securities available-for-sale			
Bonds	\$ 457	\$ 608	\$ 468
Total securities available for sale	\$ 457	\$ 608	\$ 468
Total investment securities	\$ 507	\$ 681	\$ 468

*Investment Fund*

The investment fund consists of the Bank’s investment in the Fund’s assets and liabilities and is managed by Bladex Asset Management.

Currently, Bladex Asset Management follows a macro strategy by trading a combination of products (foreign exchange, equity indexes, interest rate swaps, and credit derivative products) to establish long and short positions mainly in Latin American markets. Capital preservation is one of Bladex Asset Management’s main objectives, and Bladex Asset Management’s trading strategy emphasizes high liquidity, moderate volatility and lower leverage.

The Board of Directors of the Fund controls the exposure of the Fund to certain risks through a risk matrix, which contains guidelines and parameters that the Fund’s managers must follow. Specific risk management guidelines include limitations regarding capital usage and portfolio concentrations.

The Fund’s balance totaled \$198 million as of December 31, 2009, \$151 million as of December 31, 2008 and \$82 million as of December 31, 2007. The Fund’s growth has resulted from the re-investment from the Fund’s gains and from the increase in inflows from third party investors. Bladex’s ownership of the Feeder was 82.34% as of December 31, 2009, 96.89% as of December 31, 2008 and 100% as of December 31, 2007, with the remaining balances owned by third party investors. See Item 18, “Financial Statements,” notes 1, 2(d), 6, and 22.

*Total Outstandings by Country*

The following table sets forth the aggregate amount of the Bank’s cross-border outstandings, consisting of cash and due from banks, interest-earning deposits in other banks, trading assets, investment securities, loans and investment fund, but not including contingencies (collectively “cross-border outstandings”) as of December 31 of each year:

As of December 31,						
	2009		2008		2007	
	Amount	% of Total Outstandings	Amount	% of Total Outstandings	Amount	% of Total Outstandings
(in \$ million, except percentages)						
Argentina	\$ 73	1.9	\$ 151	3.5	\$ 283	6.0
Austria	0	0.0	0	0.0	45	1.0
Brazil	1,461	37.4	1,424	32.7	1,508	32.2
Chile	296	7.6	59	1.4	52	1.1
Colombia	340	8.7	449	10.3	526	11.2
Costa Rica	83	2.1	66	1.5	77	1.6
Dominican Republic	38	1.0	55	1.3	42	0.9
Ecuador	23	0.6	36	0.8	61	1.3
El Salvador	57	1.4	95	2.2	57	1.2
France	20	0.5	24	0.5	45	1.0
Germany	0	0.0	20	0.5	60	1.3
Guatemala	85	2.2	64	1.5	96	2.0
Honduras	23	0.6	45	1.0	49	1.0
Jamaica	31	0.8	15	0.3	77	1.7
Japan	100	2.6	60	1.4	40	0.9
Mexico	359	9.2	472	10.9	437	9.3
Panama	85	2.2	133	3.1	212	4.5
Peru	191	4.9	77	1.8	484	10.3
Spain	0	0.0	40	0.9	48	1.0
Switzerland	22	0.6	22	0.5	30	0.6
Trinidad & Tobago	72	1.8	23	0.5	88	1.9
United Kingdom	20	0.5	54	1.2	10	0.2
United States	239	6.1	633	14.5	23	0.5
Uruguay	30	0.8	45	1.0	0	0.0
Venezuela	0	0.0	0	0.0	135	2.9
Other countries <sup>(1)</sup>	63	1.6	139	3.2	118	2.5
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>3,711</b>	<b>94.9</b>	<b>4,201</b>	<b>96.5</b>	<b>4,602</b>	<b>98.3</b>
Investment fund <sup>(2)</sup>	198	5.1	151	3.5	82	1.7
<b>Total <sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>\$ 3,909</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$ 4,351</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$ 4,684</b>	<b>100.0</b>

- <sup>(1)</sup> Other consists of cross-border outstandings to countries in which cross-border outstandings did not exceed 1% for any of the periods indicated above and consisted mostly of investment securities portfolio in a multilateral organization.
- <sup>(2)</sup> The balances in the investment fund represent the participation of the Feeder in the net asset value (NAV) of the Fund.
- <sup>(3)</sup> The outstandings by country does not include contingencies. See Item 4, “Business Overview / Contingencies and other assets.”

In allocating country risk limits, the Bank applies a portfolio management approach that takes into consideration several factors, including the Bank’s perception of country risk levels, business opportunities, and economic and political analysis.

The composition of the outstandings per country portfolio has remained fairly stable over 2009 compared to 2008. Some exposures in countries has been adjusted in accordance to the Bank’s risk perception.

Cross-border outstandings in countries outside the Region correspond principally to the Bank’s liquidity placements. See Item 5, “Operating and Financial Review and Prospects/Liquidity and Capital Resources/Liquidity.”

The following table sets forth the amount of the Bank’s cross-border outstandings by type of institution as of December 31 of each year:

	As of December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
	(in \$ million)		
Private sector commercial banks and financial institutions	\$ 1,172	\$ 1,235	\$ 1,868
State-owned commercial banks	354	362	306
Central banks	178	320	0
Sovereign debt	425	506	389
State-owned exporting organizations	245	132	364
Private corporations	1,337	1,645	1,675
Sub-Total	\$ 3,711	\$ 4,201	\$ 4,602
Investment fund	198	151	82
Total	\$ 3,909	\$ 4,351	\$ 4,684

Net Revenues Per Country

The following table sets forth information regarding the Bank’s net revenues by country at the dates indicated, with net revenues calculated as the sum of net interest income, fees and commissions, net, derivative financial instruments and hedging, net gain (loss) from investment fund trading, net gain (loss) from trading securities, net gain on sale of securities available-for-sale, gain (loss) on foreign currency exchange, and other income (expense), net:

	For the year ended December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
	(in \$ million)		
Argentina	\$ 2.0	\$ 6.2	\$ 4.8
Brazil	25.9	24.4	33.2
Chile	1.9	1.0	1.4
Colombia	5.8	10.4	7.8
Costa Rica	4.2	1.6	0.9
Dominican Republic	0.7	1.3	0.9
Ecuador	3.0	2.2	3.2
El Salvador	5.4	(3.8)	0.9
Guatemala	8.8	(2.5)	1.5
Honduras	1.1	1.3	0.9
Jamaica	0.6	1.6	1.5
Mexico	16.8	25.1	12.4
Panama	3.3	(1.7)	3.8
Peru	0.5	9.2	4.5
Trinidad and Tobago	1.0	2.0	2.4
Uruguay	1.2	0.8	0.0
Venezuela	2.5	1.8	3.3
Other countries <sup>(1)</sup>	2.5	(4.5)	0.6
Asset Management Division	22.1	18.1	24.1
Total net revenues	\$ 109.1	\$ 94.5	\$ 108.2
Reversal (provision) for credit losses	(14.8)	1.5	1.5
Impairment of assets, net of recoveries	(0.1)	(0.8)	(0.5)
Operating expenses	(38.2)	(40.0)	(37.0)
Net income	\$ 56.0	\$ 55.3	\$ 72.2
Net income attributable to the redeemable noncontrolling interest	(1.1)	(0.2)	0.0
Net income attributable to Bladex	\$ 54.9	\$ 55.1	\$ 72.2

<sup>(1)</sup> Other consists of net revenues per country in which net revenues did not exceed \$1 million for any of the periods indicated above.

The previous table provides a reconciliation of the net revenues (as defined previously) to the Bank’s net income. Net revenues do not include the effects of reversals (provisions) for credit losses, recoveries on assets, net of impairments and operating expenses. The objective of the aforementioned table is to show net revenues before operating expenses generated from the Bank’s three segments, on a by-country basis. Given that the Bank’s segments generate revenues not only from net interest income, but from other sources including fees and commissions, gains and losses on investments and derivative financial instruments, which form part of other income rather than net interest income, the Bank adds those amounts to net interest income to show net revenues earned before operating expenses. Reversals (provisions) for credit losses and recoveries on assets, net of impairments, are not included as part of net revenues as the Bank believes such amounts, which are based on Management estimates, may distort trend analysis. Thus, the Bank believes excluding such amounts from net revenues provides a more accurate and clear indicator of the Bank’s performance within its three segments for each country, and thus provides a better analysis of the efficiency of the Bank. The Bank also believes the presentation of net revenues helps facilitate comparisons of performance between periods. However, net revenues should not be considered a substitute for, or superior to, financial measures calculated differently on a GAAP basis. Furthermore, net revenues may be calculated differently by other companies in the financial sector.

***Competition***

The Bank operates in a highly competitive environment in most of its markets, and faces competition principally from regional and international banks in making loans and providing fee-generating services. The Bank competes in its lending and deposit taking activities with other banks and international financial institutions, many of which have greater financial resources and offer sophisticated banking services. Whenever economic conditions and risk perception improve in the Region, competition from commercial banks, the securities markets and other new participants generally increases. Competition may have the effect of reducing the spreads of the Bank’s lending rates over its funding costs and constraining the Bank’s profitability.

Increased open account exports and new financing requirements from multinational corporations are changing the way banks intermediate foreign trade financing. Trade finance volumes are also dependent on global economic conditions.

The Bank also faces competition from investment banks and the local and international securities markets, which provide liquidity to the financial systems in certain countries in the Region, as well as non-bank specialized financial institutions. The Bank competes primarily on the basis of agility, pricing, and quality of service. See Item 3, “Key Information/Risk Factors.”

***Regulation***

***General***

The Superintendent of Banks of Panama (the “Superintendency of Banks”) regulates, supervises and examines the Bank. The New York Agency is regulated, supervised and examined by the New York Banking Department and the U.S. Federal Reserve Board, and the Florida International Administrative Office is regulated, supervised and examined by the Florida Office of Financial Regulation and the U.S. Federal Reserve Board. The Bank’s direct and indirect nonbanking subsidiaries doing business in the United States are subject to regulation by the U.S. Federal Reserve Board. The Feeder and the Fund are regulated by government authorities in the Cayman Islands. The regulation of the Bank by relevant Panamanian authorities differs from the regulation generally imposed on banks, including foreign banks, in the United States by U.S. federal and state regulatory authorities.



The Superintendency of Banks has signed and executed agreements or letters of understanding with 24 foreign supervisory authorities for the sharing of supervisory information under the principles of reciprocity, appropriateness, national agreement, and confidentiality. These 24 entities include the U.S. Federal Reserve Board, the Office of the Comptroller of Currency of the Treasury Department (the “OCC”), the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Office of Thrift Supervision. In addition, the Statement of Cooperation between the United States and Panama promotes cooperation between U.S. and Panamanian banking regulators and demonstrates the commitment of the U.S. regulators and the Superintendency of Banks to the principles of comprehensive and consolidated supervision.

**Panamanian Law**

The Bank operates in Panama under a General Banking License issued by the National Banking Commission, predecessor of the Superintendency of Banks. Banks operating under a General Banking License (“General License Banks”) may engage in all aspects of the banking business in Panama, including taking local and offshore deposits, as well as making local and international loans.

On February 22, 2008, the Panamanian cabinet voted to adopt Decree Law No. 2, which is a revision and restatement of Decree Law No. 9 of February 26, 1998 (the “Old Banking Law”). This new legislation came into effect on August 25, 2008. The Executive Branch merged Decree Law No. 9 of 1998 and all its amendments into one text, which was approved by means of Executive Decree 52 of April 30, 2008, hereinafter the “Banking Law.”

Under the Banking Law, a bank’s capital composition includes primary, secondary and tertiary capital. Primary capital is made up of paid-in capital, declared reserves and retained earnings. Secondary capital is made up of undeclared reserves, hybrid instruments of debt and equity, and long-term subordinated debt. Tertiary capital is made up of short-term subordinated debt incurred for the management of market risk. Under the Banking Law, the sum of secondary and tertiary capital cannot exceed primary capital.

General License Banks must have paid-in capital of not less than \$10 million. Additionally, they must maintain a minimum capital of 8% of their total risk-weighted assets, and primary capital must be equal to or greater than 4% of the bank’s assets and off-balance sheet operations that represent a contingency to the bank. The Superintendency of Banks may now take into account market risks, operational risks and country risks, among others, to evaluate capital adequacy standards. The Superintendency of Banks is authorized to increase the minimum capital requirement percentage in Panama in the event that generally accepted international capitalization standards become more stringent.

General License Banks are required to maintain 30% of their global deposits in liquid assets (which include short-term loans to other banks and other liquid assets) of the type prescribed by the Superintendency of Banks. Under the Banking Law, deposits from central banks and other similar depositories of the international reserves of sovereign states are immune from attachment or seizure proceedings.

Under the Old Banking Law, banks could not grant loans or issue guarantees or any other obligation (“Credit Facilities”) to any one person or group of related persons in excess of twenty-five percent (25%) of the Bank’s total capital. The Banking Law has maintained this limitation with respect to banks, and also extended this limitation to Credit Facilities granted to parties related to the ultimate parent of the banking group. However, the Old Banking Law and the Banking Law establish that in the case of Credit Facilities granted by mixed-capital banks with headquarters in Panama whose principal business is the granting of loans to other banks, the limit will be thirty percent (30%) of the bank’s capital funds. As confirmed by the Superintendency of Banks, the Bank currently applies the limit of thirty percent (30%) of the Bank’s total capital with respect to the Bank’s credit facilities in favor of financial institutions and the limit of twenty-five percent (25%) of the Bank’s total capital with respect to the Bank’s credit facilities in favor of corporations and sovereign borrowers.

Under the Banking Law, a bank and the ultimate parent of the banking group may not grant loans or issue guarantees or any other obligation to “related parties” that exceed (1) 5% of its total capital, in the case of unsecured transactions, and (2) 10% of its total capital, in the case of collateralized transactions (other than loans secured by deposits in the bank). For these purposes, a “related party” is (a) any one or more of the bank’s directors, (b) any stockholder of the bank who directly or indirectly owns 5% or more of the issued and outstanding capital stock of the bank, (c) any company of which one or more of the bank’s directors is a director or officer or where one or more of the bank’s directors is a guarantor of the loan or credit facility, (d) any company or entity in which the bank or any one of its directors or officers can exercise a controlling influence, (e) any company or entity in which the bank or any one of its directors or officers owns 20% or more of the issue and outstanding capital stock of the company or entity and (f) managers, officers and employees of the bank, or their respective spouses (other than home mortgage loans or guaranteed personal loans under general programs approved by the bank for employees). The Superintendency of Banks currently limits the total amount of secured and unsecured Credit Facilities (other than Credit Facilities secured by deposits in the bank) granted by a bank or the ultimate parent of a banking group to related parties to 25% of the total capital of the bank.

The Superintendency of Banks may authorize the total or partial exclusion of loans or credits from the computation of these limitations in cases of unsecured loans and other credits granted by mixed-capital banks with headquarters in Panama whose principal business is the granting of loans to other banks, which is the case of the Bank. This authorization is subject to the following conditions: (i) the ownership of shares in the debtor bank—directly or indirectly—by the shared director or shared officer, may not exceed five percent (5%) of the bank’s capital, or may not amount to any sum that would ensure his or her majority control over the decisions of the bank; (ii) the ownership of shares in the creditor bank—directly or indirectly—by the debtor bank represented in any manner by the shared director or shared officer, may not exceed five percent (5%) of the shares outstanding of the creditor bank, or may not amount to any sum that would ensure his or her majority control over the decisions of the bank; (iii) the shared director or shared officer must abstain from participating in the deliberations and in the voting sessions held by the creditor bank regarding the loan or credit request; and (iv) the loan or credit must strictly comply with customary standards of discretion set by the grantor bank’s credit policy. The Superintendency of Banks will determine the amount of the exclusion in the case of each loan or credit submitted for its consideration.

The Banking Law contains additional limitations and restrictions with respect to related party loans and credit facilities. For instance, under the Banking Law, banks may not grant Credit Facilities to any employee in an amount that exceeds the employee’s annual compensation package, and all Credit Facilities to managers, officers, employees or stockholders who are owners of 5% or more of the issued and outstanding capital stock of the lending bank or the ultimate parent of the banking group, will be made on terms and conditions similar to those given by the bank to its clients in arm’s-length transactions and which reflect market conditions for a similar type of operation. Shares of a bank cannot be pledged or offered as security for loans or Credit Facilities issued by the bank.

In addition to the foregoing requirements, there are certain other restrictions applicable to General License Banks, including (1) a requirement that a bank must notify the Superintendency of Banks before opening or closing a branch or office in Panama and obtain approval from the Superintendency of Banks before opening or closing a branch or subsidiary outside Panama, (2) a requirement that a bank obtain approval from the Superintendency of Banks before it liquidates its operations, merges or consolidates with another bank or sells all or substantially all of its assets, (3) a requirement that a bank must notify the Superintendency of Banks, within the first three months of each fiscal term, the name of the certified public accounting firm that it wishes to contract to carry out the duty of external auditing for the new fiscal term, and (4) a requirement that a bank obtain prior approval from the Superintendency of Banks of the risk rating entity it wishes to hire to perform the risk rating. The subsidiaries of Panamanian banks established in foreign jurisdictions must observe the legal and regulatory provisions applicable in Panama regarding the sufficiency of capital, as prescribed under the Banking Law.

The Banking Law regulates banks and now the entire “banking group” to which each bank belongs. Banking groups are defined as the holding company and all direct and indirect subsidiaries of the holding company, including the bank in question. Banking groups must comply with audit standards and various limitations set forth in the Banking Law, in addition to all compliance required of the bank in question. The Banking Law provides that banks, and now banking groups, in Panama are subject to inspection by the Superintendency of Banks, which must take place at least once every two years. The Superintendency of Banks is empowered to request from any bank or any company that belongs to the economic group of which a bank in Panama is a member, the documents and reports pertaining to its operations and activities. Banks are required to file with the Superintendency of Banks monthly, quarterly and annual information, including financial statements, an analysis of their credit facilities and any other information requested by the Superintendency of Banks. In addition, banks are required to make available for inspection any reports or documents that are necessary for the Superintendency of Banks to ensure compliance with Panamanian banking laws and regulations. Banks subject to supervision may be fined by the Superintendency of Banks for violations of Panamanian banking laws and regulations. The Superintendency of Banks last inspected the Bank in February 2010, and the results of this inspection were fully satisfactory.

***Panamanian Anti-Money Laundering laws and regulations***

In Panama, all banks and trust corporations must take necessary measures to prevent their operations and/or transactions from being used to commit the felony of money laundering, terrorism financing or any other illicit activity contemplated in the laws and regulations addressing this matter.

**United States Law**

Bladex operates a New York state-licensed agency in New York, New York and maintains a direct wholly-owned non-banking subsidiary in Delaware, Bladex Holdings Inc. (“Bladex Holdings”), which is not engaged in activities other than owning one wholly owned subsidiary incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware: Bladex Asset Management incorporated on May 24, 2006. In February 2007, another wholly-owned subsidiary Clavex LLC, which was incorporated on June 15, 2006, became non-operative. On October 30, 2006, the Bank established an international administrative office in Miami, Florida (the “Florida International Administrative Office”). On April 16, 2008, Bladex incorporated a direct fifty percent (50%) owned subsidiary in Delaware with the name of BCG PA LLC, which is used as an investment vehicle to receive the performance allocation of Bladex Capital Growth Fund.

***Federal Law***

In addition to being subject to New York and Florida state laws and regulations, the New York Agency and the Florida International Administrative Office are subject to federal regulations, primarily under the IBA, and are subject to examination and supervision by the U.S. Federal Reserve Board. The IBA generally extends federal banking supervision and regulation to the U.S. offices of foreign banks and to the foreign bank itself. Under the IBA, the U.S. branches and agencies of foreign banks, including the New York Agency, are subject to reserve requirements on certain deposits. At present, the New York Agency has no deposits subject to such requirements. The New York Agency also is subject to reporting and examination requirements imposed by the U.S. Federal Reserve Board similar to those imposed on domestic banks that are members of the U.S. Federal Reserve System. The Foreign Bank Supervision Enhancement Act of 1991 (the “FBSEA”) amended the IBA to enhance the authority of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board to supervise the operations of foreign banks in the United States. In particular, the FBSEA expanded the U.S. Federal Reserve Board’s authority to regulate the entry of foreign banks into the United States, supervise their ongoing operations, conduct and coordinate examinations of their U.S. offices with state banking authorities, and terminate their activities in the United States for violations of law or for unsafe or unsound banking practices.

In addition, under the FBSEA, state-licensed branches and agencies of foreign banks may not engage in any activity that is not permissible for a “federal branch” (i.e., a branch of a foreign bank licensed by the federal government through the OCC, rather than by a state), unless the U.S. Federal Reserve Board has determined that such activity is consistent with sound banking practices.

The New York Agency does not engage in retail deposit-taking in the United States, and deposits with the New York Agency are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”). Under the FBSEA, the New York Agency may not obtain FDIC insurance and generally may not accept deposits of less than \$100,000, but may accept limited types of deposits over \$100,000 to the extent authorized by the Superintendent of Banks of the State of New York.

The IBA also restricts the ability of a foreign bank with a branch or agency in the United States to engage in non-banking activities in the United States, to the same extent as a U.S. bank holding company. Bladex is subject to certain provisions of the Federal Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (the “BHCA”) because it maintains an agency in the United States. Generally, any nonbanking activity engaged in by Bladex directly or through a subsidiary in the United States is subject to certain limitations under the BHCA. Under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial Modernization Act of 1999 (the “GLB Act”), a foreign bank with a branch or agency in the United States may engage in a broader range of non-banking financial activities, provided it is qualified and has filed a declaration with the U.S. Federal Reserve Board to be a “financial holding company” (“FHC”). Bladex filed an application with the U.S. Federal Reserve Board to obtain financial holding company status on January 29, 2008. The U.S. Federal Reserve Board is in the process of evaluating Bladex’s application. At present, Bladex has two direct subsidiaries in the United States. The first direct subsidiary is Bladex Holdings, a company incorporated under Delaware law that is not engaged in any activity, other than owning Bladex Asset Management, Inc., and Clavex LLC, both Delaware companies. The other direct subsidiary is BCG PA LLC, a fifty percent (50%) owned subsidiary incorporated under the laws of Delaware.

In addition, pursuant to the Financial Services Regulatory Relief Act of 2006, the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) and the U.S. Federal Reserve Board finalized Regulation R. Regulation R defines the scope of exceptions provided for in the GLB Act for securities activities which banks may conduct without registering with the Commission as securities brokers or moving such activities to a broker-dealer affiliate. The “push out” rules exceptions contained in Regulation R enable banks, subject to certain conditions, to continue to conduct securities transactions for customers as part of the bank’s trust and fiduciary, custodial, and deposit “sweep” functions, and to refer customers to a securities broker-dealer pursuant to a networking arrangement with the broker-dealer. The New York Agency is subject to Regulation R with respect to its securities activities.

***New York State Law***

The New York Agency, established in 1989, is licensed by the Superintendent of Banks of the State of New York (the “Superintendent”) under the New York Banking Law. The New York Agency maintains an international banking facility that also is regulated by the Superintendent and the U.S. Federal Reserve Board. The New York Agency is examined by the New York State Banking Department and is subject to banking laws and regulations applicable to a foreign bank that operates a New York agency. New York agencies of foreign banks are regulated substantially the same as, and have similar powers to, New York state-chartered banks, except with respect to capital requirements and deposit-taking activities.

The Superintendent is empowered by law to require any branch or agency of a foreign bank to maintain in New York specified assets equal to a percentage of the branch’s or agency’s liabilities, as the Superintendent may designate. Under the current requirement, the New York Agency is required to maintain a pledge of a minimum of \$2 million with respect to its total third-party liabilities and such pledge may be up to 1% of the agency’s third party liabilities, or upon meeting eligibility criteria, up to a maximum amount of \$100 million. As of December 31, 2009, the New York Agency maintained a pledge of \$5.5 million, complying with the minimum required amount.

In addition, the Superintendent retains the authority to impose specific asset maintenance requirements upon individual agencies of foreign banks on a case-by-case basis. No special requirement has been prescribed for the New York Agency.

The New York Banking Law generally limits the amount of loans to any one person to 15 percent of the capital, surplus fund and undivided profits of a bank. For foreign bank agencies, the lending limits are based on the capital of the foreign bank and not that of the agency.

The Superintendent is authorized to take possession of the business and property of a New York agency of a foreign bank whenever an event occurs that would permit the Superintendent to take possession of the business and property of a state-chartered bank. These events include the violation of any law, unsafe business practices, an impairment of capital, and the suspension of payments of obligations. In liquidating or dealing with an agency’s business after taking possession of the agency, the New York Banking Law provides that the claims of creditors which arose out of transactions with the agency may be granted a priority with respect to the agency’s assets over other creditors of the foreign bank.

***Florida Law***

The Florida International Administrative Office, established in October 2006, is licensed and supervised by the Florida Office of Financial Regulation under the Florida Financial Institutions Codes. The activities of the Florida International Administrative Office are subject to the restrictions described below as well as to Florida banking laws and regulations that are applicable generally to foreign banks that operate offices in Florida. The Florida International Administrative Office is also subject to regulation by the U.S. Federal Reserve Board under the International Banking Act of 1978 (the “IBA”).

Pursuant to Florida law, the Florida International Administrative Office is authorized to conduct certain “back office” functions on behalf of the Bank, including administration of the Bank’s personnel and operations, data processing and record keeping activities, and negotiating and servicing loans or extensions of credit and investments. Under the provisions the Florida Financial Institutions Codes, as well as the IBA and the regulations of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board, the Florida International Administrative Office is also permitted to function as a representative office of the Bank. In this capacity it may solicit new business for the Bank and conduct research. It may also act in a liaison capacity between the Bank and its customers.

***Anti-Money Laundering Laws***

U.S. anti-money laundering laws, as amended by the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, impose significant compliance and due diligence obligations, on financial institutions doing business in the United States. Both the New York Agency and the Florida International Administrative Office are “financial institutions” for these purposes. Failure of a financial institution to comply with the requirements of these laws and regulations could have serious legal and reputational consequences for an institution. The New York Agency and the Florida International Administrative Office have adopted comprehensive policies and procedures to address these requirements.

***Cayman Islands Law***

Bladex Offshore Feeder Fund and Bladex Capital Growth Fund are exempted companies that were incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability on February 21, 2006 under the Companies Law of the Cayman Islands. The registered office of these companies is at PO Box 309, Ugland House, Grand Cayman, KY1-1104, Cayman Islands.

The Companies Law (2009 Revision) of the Cayman Islands (the "Companies Law") is derived, to a large extent, from the older Companies Acts of England, although there are significant differences between the Companies Law and the current Companies Act of England. Section 174 of the Companies Law does not permit the Bladex Offshore Feeder Fund and the Bladex Capital Growth Fund to trade in the Cayman Islands with any person, firm or corporation except in furtherance of the business of these companies carried on outside the Cayman Islands. This does not prevent the Bladex Offshore Feeder Fund and the Bladex Capital Growth Fund from executing contracts in the Cayman Islands and exercising in the Cayman Islands all of their powers necessary for the carrying on of their business outside the Cayman Islands.

The Proceeds of Crime Law, 2008 of the Cayman Islands and the Terrorism Law (2009 Revision) of the Cayman Islands impose reporting obligations on residents of the Cayman Islands who know or suspect, or have reasonable grounds for knowing or suspecting, the involvement of another person in criminal conduct or with terrorism or terrorist property and the information for that knowledge or suspicion came to their attention in the course of business in the regulated sector.

The Bank is subject to banking regulations in each jurisdiction in which the Bank has a physical presence.

**C. Organizational Structure**

For information regarding the Bank’s organizational structure, see Item 18, “Financial Statements,” note 1.

**D. Property, Plant and Equipment**

The Bank owns its headquarters office, with 6,161 square meters of office space, located at Calle 50 and Aquilino de la Guardia in Panama City, Panama. The Bank leases 11.2 square meters of computer equipment hosting, located at Gavilan Street Balboa in Panama City, Panama and 21.2 square meters of office space and internet access in case of a contingency, located at 75E Street San Francisco, in Panama City, Panama. In addition, the Bank leases office space for its representative offices in Mexico and Argentina, Bladex Representação Ltda. in Brazil, its New York Agency and Bladex Asset Management in New York City, New York and the Florida International Administrative Office in Miami, Florida. See Item 18, “Financial Statements,” notes 2(q) and 19.

**Item 4A. Unresolved Staff Comments**

None.

**Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects**

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the Bank’s Consolidated Financial Statements and the notes thereto included elsewhere in this Annual Report. See Item 18, “Financial Statements.”

**Nature of Earnings**

The Bank derives income from net interest income, fees and commissions, derivative financial instruments and hedging, recoveries on assets, net of impairments, net gain (loss) from investment fund trading, net gain (loss) from trading securities, net gain on sale of securities available-for-sale, and net gain (loss) on foreign currency exchange. Net interest income, or the difference between the interest income the Bank receives on its interest-earning assets and the interest it pays on interest-bearing liabilities, is generated principally by the Bank’s lending activities. The Bank generates fees and commissions mainly through the issuance, confirmation and negotiation of letters of credit and guarantees covering commercial and country risk, and through loan origination and sales.

A. Operating Results

The following table summarizes changes in components of the Bank’s net income and performance for the periods indicated:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
	(in \$ thousand, except per share amounts and percentages)		
Total interest income	\$ 141,964	\$ 244,243	\$ 264,869
Total interest expense	77,212	166,396	194,299
Net interest income	64,752	77,847	70,570
Reversal (provision) for loan losses	(18,293)	18,540	(11,994)
Net interest income after reversal (provision ) for loan losses	46,459	96,387	58,576
Other income (expense):			
Reversal (provision) for losses on off-balance sheet credit risk	3,463	(16,997)	13,468
Fees and commissions, net	6,733	7,252	5,555
Derivative financial instruments and hedging	(2,534)	9,956	(989)
Impairment of assets, net of recoveries	(120)	(767)	(500)
Net gain from investment fund trading	24,997	21,357	23,878
Net gain (loss) from trading securities	13,113	(20,998)	(12)
Net gain on sale of securities available-for-sale	546	67	9,119
Gain (loss) on foreign currency exchange	613	(1,596)	115
Other income (expense), net	912	656	(6)
Net other income (expense)	47,723	(1,070)	50,628
Total operating expenses	(38,202)	(39,990)	(37,027)
Net income	55,980	55,327	72,177
Net income attributable to the redeemable noncontrolling interest	(1,118)	(208)	0
Net income attributable to Bladex	\$ 54,862	\$ 55,119	\$ 72,177
Basic earnings per share	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.51	\$ 1.99
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.51	\$ 1.98
Return on average assets	1.38%	1.09%	1.76%
Return on average stockholders’ equity	8.60%	8.99%	11.91%

Business Segment Analysis

For further information on net income by business segment, see Item 18, “Financial Statements,” note 25.

The Commercial Division

The Commercial Division is responsible for the Bank’s core business of financial intermediation and fee generation activities. The division’s portfolio includes loan portfolio and contingencies and other assets. The Commercial Division’s net income, which includes net interest income from loans, fees and commissions, allocated operating expenses, the reversal (provision) for credit losses, and any impairment on assets, net of recoveries, amounted to \$35 million for the year ended December 31, 2009, compared to \$59 million for the year ended December 31, 2008. This \$24 million decrease was due to a \$1.1 billion, or a 30%, decrease in the average loan portfolio and a 188 bps decrease in this portfolio’s average LIBOR rate, partially offset by a 94 bps increase in average lending spreads. The lower average volumes in the commercial portfolio resulted from the Bank’s decision, in late 2008, to slow its lending activities in line with the adverse economic environment, collecting maturities in vulnerable sectors, building liquidity balances, and responding to a decrease in funding sources.

The Commercial Division’s net income was \$59 million in 2008, compared to a net income of \$44 million in 2007. The \$15 million increase during 2008 compared to 2007 was primarily due to higher average loan balances of \$352 million, or 10% during the year, as well as higher weighted average lending spreads, which increased 59 bps, or 54%, during the year.

The Treasury Division

The Treasury Division is responsible for the Bank’s liquidity management and investment securities activities. The Treasury Division’s net income includes net interest income on treasury assets (interest-bearing deposits with banks, investment securities, and trading assets); non-interest operating income (expense), such as net gain (loss) from trading securities, the sale of securities available-for-sale, foreign currency exchange, and derivative financial instruments and hedging; and allocated operating expenses.

The Treasury Division recorded net income of \$6 million for the year ended December 31, 2009, compared to a net loss of \$16 million for the year ended December 31, 2008. This \$22 million, or 137%, increase was mainly attributable to \$13 million in gains from trading securities, compared to \$21 million in losses from trading in 2008.

The Treasury Division reported a net loss of \$16 million in 2008 and a net income of \$10 million for 2007. The Treasury Division’s 2008 results were affected by the accounting treatment related to certain securities-based financing transactions (repos), which were recorded as sales based on the application of ASC Topic 860. Due to unfavorable market conditions affecting the terms of these repos, the Bank recognized these repo transactions as securities sales, rather than as secured borrowings (financing). This accounting treatment resulted in a non-cash charge to earnings of \$25 million, partially offset by a \$12 million gain related to the application of ASC Topic 820 to the Bank’s local funding cross currency swaps during the particularly volatile fourth quarter of 2008.

The Asset Management Division

The Asset Management Division is responsible for the Bank’s asset management activities. The Asset Management Division’s net income attributable to Bladex, which includes net interest income from the investment fund, gains from investment fund trading, related other income (loss), allocated operating expenses, net of net income attributable to the redeemable non-controlling interest totaled \$14 million for the year ended December 31, 2009, compared to \$12 million for the year ended December 31, 2008. This \$2 million, or 15% increase in net income attributable to Bladex was mainly due to the combined effect of a \$4 million increase in non-interest operating income attributed to increased gains from investment fund trading, partially offset by a \$1 million increase in operating expenses, mainly related to an increase in performance-based expenses and by a \$1 million increase in net income attributable to the redeemable noncontrolling interest.

The Asset Management Division’s net income attributable to Bladex amounted to \$12 million in 2008, compared to \$18 million in 2007. This \$6 million decrease was attributable principally to lower net gains from investment fund trading and lower net interest income, resulting mainly from decreased market interest rates in 2008.

*Net Income attributable to Bladex*

For the year ended December 31, 2009, net income attributable to Bladex was \$54.9 million, decreasing from \$55.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2008. The 2009 results were driven by \$35 million in net income in the Commercial Division, \$14 million in net income attributable to Bladex in the Asset Management Division, and \$6 million in net income in the Treasury Division. The 2009 results, when compared to 2008, reflect lower average credit volumes and lower average market interest rates during an extremely difficult global market environment, partially offset by higher lending spreads.



Net income attributable to Bladex for 2008 was \$55.1 million compared to \$72.2 million for 2007. The Bank’s 2008 results were mainly driven by the Commercial Division’s net income of \$59 million and the Asset Management Division’s net income attributable to Bladex of \$12 million, partially offset by the Treasury Division’s net loss of \$16 million. The Bank’s 2008 results also include the impact of classifying certain securities financings (repos) as outright sales, mostly recorded by the Treasury Division, required by the application of Financial Accounting Standards Board (the “FASB”) Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) Topic 860 – Transfers and Servicing, as well as the positive impact of ASC Topic 820 - Fair Value Measurements and Disclosure. The application of these two accounting standards amounted to a loss of \$13 million during the second half of 2008.

Net Interest Income and Margins

The following table sets forth information regarding net interest income, the Bank’s net interest margin (net interest income divided by the average balance of interest-earning assets), and the net interest spread (the average yield earned on interest-earning assets, less the average yield paid on interest-bearing liabilities) for the periods indicated:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
(in \$ million, except percentages)			
Net interest income			
Commercial Division	\$ 66.2	\$ 78.1	\$ 64.5
Treasury Division	2.0	3.0	5.9
Asset Management Division	(3.4)	(3.2)	0.1
Consolidated	<u>\$ 64.8</u>	<u>\$ 77.9</u>	<u>\$ 70.5</u>
Net interest margin	1.62%	1.55%	1.73%
Net interest spread	<u>1.12%</u>	<u>0.98%</u>	<u>0.78%</u>

Distribution of Assets, Liabilities and Stockholders’ Equity; Interest Rates and Differentials

The following table presents the distribution of consolidated average assets, liabilities and stockholders’ equity, as well as the total dollar amounts of interest income from average interest-earning assets and the resulting yields, the dollar amounts of interest expense and average interest-bearing liabilities, and corresponding information regarding rates. Average balances have been computed on the basis of consolidated daily average balances:

Description	Year ended December 31,								
	2009			2008			2007		
	Average balance	Interest	Average yield/rate	Average balance	Interest	Average yield/rate	Average balance	Interest	Average yield/rate
(in \$ million, except percentages)									
Interest-Earning Assets									
Interest-earning deposits with banks	\$ 592	\$ 1	0.21%	\$ 414	\$ 8	1.80%	\$ 248	\$ 13	5.06%
Loans, net of unearned income & deferred loan fees	2,569	113	4.36%	3,718	200	5.29%	3,366	222	6.49%
Non-accrual loans	17	1	4.92%	0	0	n.m.(*)	0	0	n.m.(*)
Trading assets	102	7	6.95%	0	1	n.m.(*)	0	0	n.m.(*)
Investment securities <sup>(1)</sup>	546	17	3.15%	756	32	4.23%	345	21	5.99%
Investment fund	172	2	1.01%	138	3	2.49%	113	10	8.40%
Total interest-earning assets	<u>\$ 3,998</u>	<u>\$ 142</u>	<u>3.50%</u>	<u>\$ 5,025</u>	<u>\$ 244</u>	<u>4.78%</u>	<u>\$ 4,072</u>	<u>\$ 265</u>	<u>6.42%</u>
Non-interest-earning assets	46			93			88		
Allowance for loan losses	(79)			(70)			(62)		
Other assets	9			15			11		
Total Assets	<u>\$ 3,975</u>			<u>\$ 5,064</u>			<u>\$ 4,108</u>		
Interest-Bearing Liabilities									

Description	Year ended December 31,								
	2009			2008			2007		
	Average balance	Interest	Average yield/rate	Average balance	Interest	Average yield/rate	Average balance	Interest	Average yield/rate
	(in \$ million, except percentages)								
Deposits	\$ 1,218	\$ 11	0.93%	\$ 1,500	\$ 44	2.91%	\$ 1,321	\$ 70	5.26%
Trading liabilities	9	0	n.m.(*)	0	0	n.m.(*)	0	0	n.m.(*)
Investment fund	0	2	n.m.(*)	0	2	n.m.(*)	0	4	n.m.(*)
Securities sold under repurchase agreements	263	6	2.24%	540	17	3.09%	253	14	5.36%
Short-term borrowings	501	18	3.50%	1,089	46	4.18%	1,019	57	5.47%
Borrowings and long-term debt	1,208	40	3.24%	1,182	56	4.70%	809	49	6.02%
<b>Total interest-bearing liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 3,199</b>	<b>\$ 77</b>	<b>2.38%</b>	<b>\$ 4,310</b>	<b>\$ 166</b>	<b>3.80%</b>	<b>\$ 3,402</b>	<b>\$ 194</b>	<b>5.63%</b>
Non-interest bearing liabilities and other liabilities	\$ 122			\$ 137			\$ 100		
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 3,321</b>			<b>\$ 4,448</b>			<b>\$ 3,502</b>		
Redeemable noncontrolling interest in the investment fund	16			3			0		
Stockholders' equity	<b>638</b>			<b>613</b>			<b>606</b>		
<b>Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>	<b>\$ 3,975</b>			<b>\$ 5,064</b>			<b>\$ 4,108</b>		
Net interest spread			1.12%			0.98%			0.78%
Net interest income and net interest margin		<b>\$ 65</b>	1.62%		<b>\$ 78</b>	1.55%		<b>\$ 71</b>	1.73%

(\*) “n.m.” means not meaningful

(1) The average yield of the investment securities portfolio using cost-based average balances, would have been 3.46%, 4.55%, and 6.60% for 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Changes in Net Interest Income — Volume and Rate Analysis

Net interest income is affected by changes in volume and changes in interest rates. Volume changes are caused by differences in the level of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities. Rate changes result from differences in yields earned on interest-earning assets and rates paid on interest-bearing liabilities. The following table sets forth a summary of the changes in net interest income of the Bank resulting from changes in average interest-earning asset and interest-bearing liability volume and changes in average interest rates for 2009 compared to 2008 and for 2008 compared to 2007. Volume and rate variances have been calculated based on movements in average balances over the period and changes in interest rates on average interest-earning assets and average interest-bearing liabilities.

	2009 vs. 2008			2008 vs. 2007		
	Volume <sup>(*)</sup>	Rate <sup>(*)</sup>	Net Change	Volume <sup>(*)</sup>	Rate <sup>(*)</sup>	Net Change
	(in \$ thousand)					
<b>Increase (decrease) in interest income</b>						
Interest-bearing deposits with banks	\$ 378	\$ (6,691)	\$ (6,313)	\$ 3,036	\$ (8,192)	\$ (5,155)
Loans, net	(50,719)	(35,846)	(86,565)	19,135	(40,712)	(21,576)
Non-accrual loans	847	0	847	0	0	0
Trading assets	7,158	(648)	6,510	0	648	648
Investment securities	(6,688)	(8,346)	(15,034)	17,659	(6,101)	11,559
Investment fund	356	(2,078)	(1,723)	637	(6,739)	(6,102)
<b>Total increase (decrease)</b>	<b>\$ (48,669)</b>	<b>\$ (53,609)</b>	<b>\$ (102,279)</b>	<b>\$ 40,468</b>	<b>\$ (61,094)</b>	<b>\$ (20,627)</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in interest expense</b>						
Deposits	\$ (2,663)	\$ (30,208)	\$ (32,871)	\$ 5,325	\$ (31,403)	\$ (26,078)
Trading liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Investment fund	0	29	29	0	(1,900)	(1,900)
Securities sold under repurchase agreements	(6,294)	(4,701)	(10,995)	9,019	(5,805)	3,214
Short-term borrowings	(20,863)	(7,652)	(28,515)	2,998	(13,269)	(10,271)
Borrowings and long-term debt	878	(17,710)	(16,831)	17,853	(10,720)	7,133
<b>Total increase (decrease)</b>	<b>\$ (28,941)</b>	<b>\$ (60,243)</b>	<b>\$ (89,184)</b>	<b>\$ 35,195</b>	<b>\$ (63,098)</b>	<b>\$ (27,903)</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in net interest income</b>	<b>\$ (19,728)</b>	<b>\$ 6,633</b>	<b>\$ (13,095)</b>	<b>\$ 5,273</b>	<b>\$ 2,004</b>	<b>\$ 7,276</b>

(\*) Volume variation effect in net interest income is calculated by multiplying the difference in average volumes by the current year’s average yield. Rate variation effect in net interest income is calculated by multiplying the difference in average yield by the prior year’s average volume.

2009 vs. 2008

The \$13 million, or 17% decrease in net interest income for the year ended December 31, 2009 compared to the year ended December 31, 2008 primarily reflects:

- i. Lower average volumes in the loan and investment securities portfolio, which decreased by \$1.2 billion, or 28%, from \$4.4 billion in 2008 to \$3.2 billion in 2009, and resulted in a \$49 million decrease in interest income, partly offset by a \$29 million decrease in interest expense due to an overall decrease of \$1.1 billion, or 37%, in average short-term liabilities (deposits, securities sold under repurchase agreements and short-term borrowings), from \$3.1 billion in 2008 to \$2.0 billion in 2009. The net effect of lower average volumes in interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities was a \$20 million decrease in net interest income, and was the result of the deteriorating global economic environment, which led the Bank to collect loans in vulnerable sectors, allowing it to build levels of liquidity and respond to tighter funding sources in anticipation of worsening economic conditions. Through this course of action, the Bank was able to largely offset the negative effect of decline in client deposits and decreases in interbank funding lines; and
- ii. Lower average interbank market rates for the Bank’s assets and liabilities, which resulted in a \$7 million increase in net interest income due to rate variances, as the rates for liabilities decreased at a higher pace than the rates for assets. The average yield paid on interest-bearing liabilities decreased by 142 bps to 2.38% in 2009 (from 3.80% in 2008), mainly due to lower interbank market rates, while the average yield on interest-earning assets decreased by 128 bps, to 3.50% in 2009 (from 4.78% in 2008), also attributable to lower interbank market rates, the effects of which were partially offset by higher lending credit spreads in the Bank’s loan portfolio.

Net interest margin stood at 1.62% in 2009 compared to 1.55% in 2008. The 7 bps increase in net interest margin during 2009, compared to 2008, was mainly attributable to higher average lending spreads (net interest spread in the loan portfolio increased by 48 basis points), given the disproportionate decreases in interest rates for assets versus liabilities, partially offset by the cost of maintaining a higher average liquidity balance throughout the year at a minimal yield.

2008 vs. 2007

The \$7 million, or 10%, increase in net interest income in 2008 compared to 2007 primarily reflected:

- i. Higher average volumes of interest-earning assets, particularly the loan and investment securities portfolio, which increased by \$0.7 billion, or 21%, and the average interest-earning deposits with banks, which increased by \$0.2 billion. The interest-earning assets’ average volume increase resulted in a \$40 million increase in interest income for the year 2008. This increase in assets was mainly funded by a \$0.9 billion increase in average interest-bearing liabilities, which resulted in a \$35 million increase in interest expense. The net result of higher asset and liability average volumes was an increase of \$5 million in net interest income. The increase in average loan and investment securities portfolio’s average balances was attributable to the Bank’s strategy to improve client and geographic portfolio diversification, by increasing its exposure to the corporate client segment in several countries in the Region. The increase in average interest-earning deposits with banks relates to the Bank’s focus on maintaining high liquidity levels towards the last months of the year, following the global financial crisis; and
- ii. Lower average interbank market rates in the Bank’s assets and liabilities, which resulted in a \$2 million net increase in net interest income due to rate variances, as the liabilities’ rates decreased at a higher pace, thereby increasing the overall net interest spread. The average yield paid on interest-bearing liabilities decreased by 183 bps to 3.80% in 2008 (from 5.63% in 2007), mainly due to lower interbank market rates, while the average yield on interest-earning assets decreased by 164 bps, to 4.78% in 2008 (from 6.42% in 2007), also attributable to lower interbank market rates, the effects of which were partially offset by higher lending credit spreads in the Bank’s loan portfolio.

Net interest margin for the year 2008 was 1.55%, compared to 1.73% in 2007. The 18 bps decrease in net interest margin in 2008 compared to 2007 was mainly due to a lower proportion of higher-yield loan portfolio as a percentage of total interest-earning assets, replaced by minimal-yielding interest-earning deposits with banks in a lowering interbank market rate scenario. Even though net interest spread in the loan portfolio increased by 63 basis points, it could not compensate for the decrease in net interest spread in deposits with banks.

*Reversal (Provision) for Loan Losses*

	For the year ended December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
		(in \$ million)	
Brazil Specific Reserve Reversals (Provisions)	(2.4)	0.0	0.0
Mexico Specific Reserve Reversals (Provisions)	(12.0)	0.0	0.0
<b>Total Specific Reserve Reversals (Provisions)</b>	<b>(14.4)</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Generic Reserve Reversals (Provisions) - due to changes in credit portfolio composition and risk levels	(3.9)	18.5	(12.0)
<b>Total Generic Reserve Reversals (Provisions)</b>	<b>(3.9)</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>(12.0)</b>
<b>Total Reversals (Provisions) of Allowance for Loan Losses</b>	<b>\$ (18.3)</b>	<b>\$ 18.5</b>	<b>\$ (12.0)</b>

As of December 31, 2009, the Bank had \$51 million in non-accruing loans. Based on analysis of these loans, the Bank has identified impaired loans of \$36 million for which specific reserves of \$14 million have been allocated. The remaining of the non-accrual portfolio, of \$15 million, does not present impairment; therefore, no additional specific reserves have been recorded. During 2008 and 2007, the Bank did not have any impaired or non-accrual loans outstanding.

During 2009, 2008 and 2007, there were no reversals of specific provisions for loan losses related to the impaired and restructured portfolio.

The \$18 million provision for loan losses in 2009 was the result of: (i) a \$14 million specific reserves provision assigned to non-accruing loans, and (ii) a \$4 million increase in generic provision for loan losses, as a reflection of higher loan balances.

The Bank’s \$19 million reversal of provision for loan losses in 2008 was due to lower generic provisions as a result of decreased loan balances. The Bank’s \$12 million provision for loan losses in 2007 was mainly due to generic provision charge, resulting from increased loan exposure.

The Bank’s loan loss reserve coverage was 2.7% as of December 31, 2009, an increase from 2.1% as of December 31, 2008 and from 1.9% as of December 31, 2007. The increase in the loan loss reserve coverage reflects the impact on the Bank’s reserve model of prudent portfolio management considering increased risk levels in the Region in 2009 given continuing adverse economic conditions affecting certain borrowers.

For more detailed information, see Item 5, “Operating and Financial Review and Prospects/Operating Results/Asset Quality and Allowance for Credit Losses,” and Item 18, “Financial Statements,” note 8.

For more detailed information about Non-Accrual Loans, see Item 18 “Financial Statements,” note 7.

Reversal (Provision) for Losses on Off-Balance Sheet Credit Risk

The \$3 million reversal of provision for losses on off-balance sheet credit risk in 2009 was primarily due to lower off-balance sheet balances in the commercial portfolio (acceptances and contingencies), and the impact on the Bank’s reserve model of prudent off-balance sheet portfolio management considering risk levels in the Region.

The \$17 million provision for losses on off-balance sheet credit risk in 2008 was due to the impact of increased risk levels in the Region on the Bank’s generic reserve model.

The \$13 million reversal of provision for losses on off-balance sheet credit risk in 2007 was mainly due to decreased off-balance sheet portfolio exposure.

The off-balance sheet reserve coverage increased to 8.2% as of December 31, 2009, compared to 6.9% as of December 31, 2008, and compared to 2.5% as of December 31, 2007. The off-balance sheet reserve coverage increase in 2009 was attributable to a shift in the risk composition of the off-balance sheet portfolio, despite an overall decrease in end of period balances.

For more detailed information, see Item 5, “Operating and Financial Review and Prospects/Operating Results/Asset Quality and Allowance for Credit Losses,” and Item 18, “Financial Statements,” note 8.

Fees and Commissions, net

The Bank generates fee and commission income primarily from originating letters of credit confirmation, guarantees (including commercial and country risk coverage), loan origination and distribution, and service activities. The following table shows the components of the Bank’s fees and commissions, net, for the periods indicated:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
	(in \$ thousand)		
Letters of credit	\$ 4,973	\$ 4,725	\$ 2,842
Guarantees	1,017	1,108	1,088
Loans	224	584	836
Third party investors (Bladex Asset Management)	281	(8)	0
Other <sup>(1)</sup>	239	844	789
Fees and commissions, net	<u>\$ 6,733</u>	<u>\$ 7,252</u>	<u>\$ 5,555</u>

<sup>(1)</sup> Net of commission expense.

The \$0.5 million decrease in fees and commissions during 2009 compared to 2008 mostly reflects lower loan commissions from reduced average loan and letter of credit balances, reflecting credit risk and demand considerations in the first half of 2009.

The \$2 million increase in net fees and commissions for 2008 compared to 2007 mainly reflected higher letter of credit activity from the Commercial Division.

For detailed information, see Item 18, “Financial Statements,” notes 2(p).

*Derivative Financial Instruments and Hedging*

In 2009 and 2008, the Bank recorded a net loss of \$3 million and a gain of \$10 million, respectively, in derivative financial instruments and hedging. These results reflect the effect of recording the effectiveness (ineffectiveness) on hedging relationships and the discount of the Bank’s own credit risk when calculating the fair value of its cross currency swap portfolio that it contracts for hedging purposes, which had a liability balance at the measurement date. The fair value of these cross currency swaps improved during 2009 and, as a consequence, the credit risk discount decreased when valuing these derivative instruments.

The Bank recorded a loss of \$1 million in 2007 related to hedging derivative instruments. The 2007 loss related mainly to the fair value at their inception of interest rate swaps contracted for fair value hedge relationships. The Bank maintains a policy of recognizing these price differences at the inception of a hedge relationship.

For additional information, see Item 11, “Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure about Market Risk,” and Item 18, “Financial Statements,” notes 2(t) and 20.

*Net Gain (Loss) from Investment Fund Trading*

The Bank recorded net gains of \$25 million from investment fund trading in 2009, compared to net gains of \$21 million in 2008 and \$24 million in 2007. The \$25 million gain in 2009 was due to the realization of gains on securities of \$19 million and realized gain on derivatives of \$6 million.

During 2008 the Bank achieved \$21 million in net gain from investment fund trading, compared to \$24 million in 2007. The \$21 million net gain in 2008 was due to the net effect of a net realized gain on investments and foreign currency transactions of \$20.9 million and net change in unrealized appreciation on investments and foreign currency of \$0.4 million. The \$24 million net gain in 2007 was due to the net effect of a net realized gain on investments and foreign currency transactions of \$32.8 million and net change in unrealized depreciation on investments and foreign currency of \$8.9 million in 2007.

For additional information, see Item 18, “Financial Statements,” notes 6 and 22.

*Net Gain (Loss) from Trading Securities*

The Bank recorded a \$13 million gain from trading securities in 2009, compared to a \$21 million loss in 2008, and compared to \$12 thousand loss in 2007. The \$13 million gain in 2009 was due to the appreciation in mark-to-market of the trading securities portfolio in 2009, which is composed of all the securities that were sold in 2008 under repo agreements accounted for as sales. The \$21 million loss in 2008 was mainly due to the effect of mark-to-market on such securities and the impact of classifying certain securities financings (repos) as outright sales in 2008, as required by U.S. GAAP, and changes in the fair value of financial instruments transferred under repurchase agreements.

For additional information, see Item 18, “Financial Statements,” notes 4 and 12.

*Net Gain on Sale of Securities Available-for-Sale*

The Bank purchases debt instruments as part of its Treasury activity with the intention of selling them prior to maturity. These debt instruments are classified as securities available-for-sale and are included as part of the Bank’s credit portfolio.

The Bank’s net gain on the sale of securities available-for-sale in 2009 was \$0.5 million compared to \$0.1 million in 2008 and \$9.1 million in 2007. Detail of the net gains is as follows:

	For the year ended December 31,		
	2009	2008 <sup>(1)</sup>	2007
		(in \$ millions)	
Nominal amount	\$ 137.0	\$ 249.2	\$ 509.0
Amortized cost	\$ (146.5)	\$ (271.0)	\$ (568.1)
Proceeds	150.6	229.9	578.7
Net effect of unwinding hedging derivatives of the available for-sale securities portfolio	(3.6)	(2.4)	(1.5)
Forward repurchase agreements	0.0	43.6	0.0
<b>Total net gain on sale of securities available-for-sale</b>	<b>\$ 0.5</b>	<b>\$ 0.1</b>	<b>\$ 9.1</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> The 2008 amount included a net gain of \$2.1 million related to the sale of securities for a nominal amount of \$74 million, partially offset by a loss of \$2 million resulting mainly from the sale of securities under repurchase agreements (nominal amount of \$175.2 million) accounted for as sales at the transfer of those securities.

For additional information, see Item 18, “Financial Statements,” notes 5 and 12.

*Operating Expenses*

The following table shows a breakdown of the components of the Bank’s total operating expenses for the periods indicated:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
		(in \$ thousand)	
Salaries and other employee expenses	\$ 20,201	\$ 20,227	\$ 22,049
Depreciation, amortization and impairment of premises and equipment	2,671	3,720	2,555
Professional services	3,262	3,765	3,181
Maintenance and repairs	1,125	1,357	1,188
Expenses from the investment fund	3,520	2,065	381
Other operating expenses	7,423	8,856	7,673
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>\$ 38,202</b>	<b>\$ 39,990</b>	<b>\$ 37,027</b>

The \$2 million, or 4%, decrease in operating expenses for the year ended December 31, 2009 compared to the year ended December 31, 2008 was mainly due to:

- the effect of cost-cutting measures that resulted in lower overall operating expenses as average business volumes declined during 2009; and
- a \$1 million write-off of an information technology application in 2008.

These reductions were offset by the \$1 million increase in expenses attributable to general growth and better results in the Fund, mainly related to increased performance-based expenses.

The \$3 million, or 8%, increase in operating expenses in 2008 compared to 2007 was mainly due to:

- a \$2 million cost of general growth and structure in the investment fund;
- a \$1 million cost for the write-off of an information technology application;
- a \$1 million increase in other operating expenses; and
- a \$1 million increase in professional services.

Offsetting these increases was a \$2 million decrease in salaries and other employee expenses mainly related to a 33% decrease in employee variable compensation.

Changes in Financial Condition

The following table presents components of the Bank’s balance sheet at the dates indicated:

	As of December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
	(in \$ thousand)		
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and due from banks	\$ 2,961	\$ 11,474	\$ 596
Interest-bearing deposits in banks	421,595	889,119	400,932
Trading assets	50,277	44,939	0
Securities available-for-sale	456,984	607,918	468,360
Securities held-to-maturity	0	28,410	0
Investment fund	197,575	150,695	81,846
Loans	2,779,262	2,618,643	3,731,838
Less:			
Allowance for loan losses	(73,789)	(54,648)	(69,643)
Unearned income and deferred fees	(3,989)	(4,689)	(5,961)
Loans, net	2,701,484	2,559,306	3,656,234
Customers' liabilities under acceptances	1,551	1,375	9,104
Premises and equipment, net	7,749	7,970	10,176
Accrued interest receivable	25,561	46,319	62,375
Derivative financial instruments used for hedging - receivable	828	7,777	122
Other assets	12,206	7,376	8,826
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 3,878,771</b>	<b>\$ 4,362,678</b>	<b>\$ 4,698,571</b>
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>			
Deposits	\$ 1,256,246	\$ 1,169,048	\$ 1,462,371
Trading liabilities	3,152	14,157	13
Securities sold under repurchase agreements	71,332	474,174	283,210
Short-term borrowings	327,800	738,747	1,221,500
Borrowings and long-term debt	1,390,387	1,204,952	1,010,316
Acceptances outstanding	1,551	1,375	9,104
Accrued interest payable	11,291	32,956	38,627
Derivative financial instruments used for hedging - payable	65,137	91,897	16,899
Reserve for losses on off-balance sheet credit risk	27,261	30,724	13,727
Other liabilities	14,077	25,635	30,553
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>3,168,234</b>	<b>3,783,665</b>	<b>4,086,320</b>
Redeemable noncontrolling interest in the investment fund	34,900	4,689	0
<b>Stockholders' Equity</b>			
Common stock, no par value	279,980	279,980	279,980
Additional paid-in capital in excess of assigned value of common stock	134,820	135,577	135,142
Capital reserves	95,210	95,210	95,210
Retained earnings	301,389	268,435	245,348
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(6,160)	(72,115)	(9,641)
Treasury stock	(129,602)	(132,763)	(133,788)
<b>Total Stockholders' Equity</b>	<b>675,637</b>	<b>574,324</b>	<b>612,251</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>	<b>\$ 3,878,771</b>	<b>\$ 4,362,678</b>	<b>\$ 4,698,571</b>

2009 vs. 2008

During 2009, total assets decreased by \$484 million, mainly as a result of a \$476 million decrease in interest-bearing deposit in banks, as the Bank gradually returned to historical liquidity levels as funding markets improved during the year 2009, and a \$151 million decrease in the securities available-for-sale portfolio, mainly resulting from the sale of securities for a nominal amount of \$137 million (or \$147 million in carrying value). These decreases were partially offset by a \$161 million increase in the loan portfolio due to improving market conditions in the Region in the second half of 2009. As of December 31, 2009, the loan portfolio amounted to \$2,779 million, with an average maturity term of 389 days, with 66% of the portfolio scheduled to mature within one year. A majority, or 59%, of the loan portfolio was trade related in nature and 41% constituted non-trade loans mainly extended to banks, sovereigns or exporting corporations. The corporate segment, which includes state-owned exporting organizations and private corporations, represented 53% of the loan portfolio, and within this corporate segment, 62% was trade related.



As of December 31, 2009, the Bank’s liquidity amounted to \$402 million, compared to \$826 million as of December 31, 2008 and \$396 million as of December 31, 2007.

The 2009 decrease in assets was accompanied by a \$615 million decrease in liabilities, especially in securities sold under repurchase agreements and short-term borrowings, offset by an increase of \$185 million in borrowings and long-term debt associated with two two-year loan syndications in the second half of 2009 for a total of \$213 million.

*2008 vs. 2007*

During 2008, total assets decreased \$336 million compared to 2007, principally driven by a \$1.1 billion decrease in the loan portfolio, as the Bank built liquidity, reduced vulnerable exposures and concentrations, and preserved its capitalization in response to deteriorating global macroeconomic conditions in the last quarter of 2008. As of December 31, 2008, the loan portfolio amounted to \$2,619 million, with an average maturity term of 480 days, with 61% of the portfolio scheduled to mature within one year. 61% of the loan portfolio was trade related in nature and 39% constituted non-trade loans mainly extended to banks or sovereign or exporting corporations. The corporate segment, which includes state-owned exporting organizations and private corporations, represented 62% of the loan portfolio, and of this corporate segment, 60% was trade related.

The decrease in assets during 2008 was accompanied by a \$303 million decrease in liabilities, principally driven by a \$293 million decrease in deposits and a \$483 million decrease in short-term borrowings, as a result of the global financial crisis during the last quarter of 2008. These decreases were partly offset by a \$191 million increase in long-term borrowings, as the Bank finalized a \$200 million five-year bilateral term loan facility with the China Development Bank at the end of the first quarter 2008, and contracted a two-year syndicated term loan facility, jointly lead-arranged by Santander Investment Securities and Standard Chartered Bank.

*Asset Quality*

The Bank believes that its asset quality is a function of its strong client base, the importance that governments and borrowers alike attribute to maintaining continued access to trade financing, its preferred creditor status, and its strict adherence to commercial criteria in its credit activities. The Bank’s Management and the CPER review periodically a report of all loan delinquencies. The Bank’s collection policies include rapid internal notification of any delinquency and prompt initiation of collection efforts, usually involving senior Management.

*Impaired Assets and Contingencies*

The Bank’s assets that are subject to impairment consist mainly of loans and securities. For more information on impaired loans, see Item 18, “Financial Statements”, Notes 2(l) and 7. For information on impaired securities, see Item 18, “Financial Statements,” notes 2(i) and 5.

Loans and contingencies are identified as past-due and placed on a cash basis (non-accrual) when any interest or principal is past due for 90 days or more, or before if the Bank’s Management deems the ultimate collection of principal or interest to be uncertain. For more information on contingencies, see Item 18, “Financial Statements”, note 18, and see Item 5, “Operating and Financial Review and Prospects/Operating Results/Reversal (Provision) for Loan Losses.”

The following table sets forth information regarding the Bank’s impaired assets and contingencies at the dates indicated:

	As of December 31,				
	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	(in \$ million, except percentages)				
Impaired loans	\$ 36	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 29
Allocation from the allowance for loan losses	14	0	0	0	11
Impaired loans as a percentage of total loans, net of unearned income and deferred commission	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
Impaired contingencies	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 13
Allocation from the reserve for losses on off balance-sheet credit risks	0	0	0	0	9
Impaired contingencies as a percentage of total contingencies	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%
Impaired securities (par value)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Estimated fair value adjustments on options and impaired securities <sup>(1)</sup>	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated fair value of impaired securities	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Impaired securities as a percentage of total securities <sup>(2)</sup>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Impaired assets and contingencies as a percentage of total credit portfolio <sup>(3)</sup>	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%

- (1) Includes impairment losses on securities, estimated unrealized gain (loss) on impaired securities, premiums and discounts.
- (2) Total securities consist of investment securities considered part of the Bank’s credit portfolio.
- (3) The total credit portfolio consists of loans net of unearned income, fair value of investment securities, securities purchased under agreements to resell and contingencies.

Allowance for Credit Losses

The allowance for credit losses, which includes the allowance for loan losses and the reserve for losses on off-balance sheet credit risk, covers the credit risk on loans and contingencies. The allowance for credit losses includes an asset-specific component and a formula-based component. The asset-specific component relates to provision for losses on credits considered impaired and measured on a case-by-case basis. For additional information regarding allowance for credit losses, see Item 18, “Financial Statements,” notes 2(n) and 8.

- The reserve balances for estimating generic allowances, for both on- and off-balance sheet credit exposures, are calculated applying the following formula:
- Reserves = Σ(E x PD x LGD)
- where:
- a) Exposure (E) = the total accounting balance (on- and off-balance sheet) at the end of the period under review.
- b) Probabilities of Default (PD) = one-year probability of default applied to the portfolio. Default rates are based on the Bank’s historical portfolio performance per rating category, complemented by Standard & Poor’s (“S&P”) probabilities of default data for high risk cases, in view of the greater robustness of S&P data for such cases.
- c) Loss Given Default (LGD) is based on historical information, which is based on best practices in the banking industry. Management applies judgment and historical loss experience. The LGD factor is reviewed quarterly.

The following table sets forth information regarding the Bank’s allowance for credit losses with respect to the total commercial portfolio outstanding as of December 31 of each year:

	As of December 31,				
	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	(in \$ million, except percentages)				
<b>Components of the allowance for credit losses</b>					
<b>Allowance for loan losses</b>					
Balance at beginning of the year	\$ 55	\$ 70	\$ 51	\$ 39	\$ 106
Provision (reversal)	18	(19)	12	12	(54)
Cumulative effect on prior years (2004) of a change in credit loss reserve methodology	0	0	0	0	(6)
Recoveries	1	4	6	0	3
Loans charged-off	(0)	0	0	0	(9)
Balance at the end of the year	74	55	70	51	39
<b>Reserve for losses on off-balance sheet credit risk:</b>					
Balance at beginning of the year	31	14	27	52	33
Provision (reversal)	(3)	17	(13)	(25)	16
Cumulative effect on prior years (2004) of a change in credit loss reserve methodology	0	0	0	0	3
Balance at end of the year	27	31	14	27	52
<b>Total allowance for credit losses</b>	<b>\$ 101</b>	<b>\$ 85</b>	<b>\$ 83</b>	<b>\$ 78</b>	<b>\$ 92</b>
Allowance for credit losses to total commercial portfolio	3.2%	2.8%	1.9%	2.2%	2.7%
Net charge offs to average loans outstanding	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%

The following table sets forth information regarding the Bank’s allowance for credit losses allocated by country of exposure as of December 31 of each year:

	As of December 31,					
	2009		2008		2007	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
	(in \$ million, except percentages)					
Allowance for loan losses						
Argentina	\$ 14	18.4	\$ 25	46.3	\$ 32	45.3
Brazil	17	23.5	5	8.8	9	13.6
Chile	2	2.2	0	0.1	0	0.0
Colombia	3	4.0	2	4.2	2	3.2
Costa Rica	4	4.8	0	0.6	0	0.5
Dominican Republic	2	2.7	0	0.4	0	0.1
Ecuador	4	5.1	11	20.3	7	10.3
El Salvador	2	2.3	1	1.1	0	0.1
Guatemala	1	1.9	1	0.9	0	0.4
Honduras	1	2.0	3	5.3	0	0.3
Jamaica	2	2.6	1	1.7	4	5.1
Mexico	19	25.1	4	6.8	3	4.1
Peru	2	2.5	0	0.2	2	3.4
Uruguay	1	1.7	0	0.9	0	0.0
Venezuela	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	8.9
Other	1	1.1	1	2.5	3	4.5
Total Allowance for loan losses	\$ 74	100.0	\$ 55	100.0	\$ 70	100.0
Reserve for losses on off-balance sheet credit risk						
Brazil	\$ 0	0.3	\$ 1	1.8	\$ 2	11.0
Chile	0	0.0	0	0.1	0	0.0
Colombia	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.1
Costa Rica	1	3.8	0	0.3	0	1.6
Dominican Republic	0	0.3	0	0.2	0	1.4

As of December 31,						
2009		2008		2007		
Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	
(in \$ million, except percentages)						
Ecuador	21	75.8	26	85.5	10	70.3
El Salvador	0	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Guatemala	0	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Honduras	0	0.1	0	0.1	0	0.0
Jamaica	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.7
Mexico	0	1.6	0	0.1	0	0.6
Uruguay	1	2.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Venezuela	4	15.3	4	11.6	1	5.4
Other	0	0.0	0	0.4	0	1.4
<b>Total Reserve for losses on off-balance sheet credit risk</b>	<b>\$ 27</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$ 31</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$ 14</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Allowance for credit losses</b>						
Argentina	\$ 14	13.4	\$ 25	29.7	\$ 32	38.4
Brazil	17	17.3	5	6.2	11	13.2
Chile	2	1.6	0	0.1	0	0.0
Colombia	3	2.9	2	2.7	2	2.7
Costa Rica	5	4.5	0	0.5	1	0.7
Dominican Republic	2	2.1	0	0.3	0	0.3
Ecuador	24	24.2	37	43.8	17	20.2
El Salvador	2	1.8	1	0.7	0	0.1
Guatemala	1	1.4	1	0.6	0	0.4
Honduras	2	1.5	3	3.4	0	0.2
Jamaica	2	1.9	1	1.1	4	5.0
Mexico	19	18.8	4	4.3	3	3.5
Peru	2	1.8	0	0.1	2	2.9
Uruguay	2	1.9	0	0.5	0	0.0
Venezuela	4	4.1	4	4.2	7	8.3
Other <sup>(1)</sup>	1	0.8	1	1.7	3	4.0
<b>Total Allowance for credit losses</b>	<b>\$ 101</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$ 85</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$ 83</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Other consists of allowance for credit losses allocated to countries in which allowance for credit losses outstanding did not exceed \$1 million as of December 31, 2009.

The following table sets forth information regarding the Bank’s allowance for credit losses by type of borrower as of December 31 of each year:

As of December 31,						
2009		2008		2007		
Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	
(in \$ million, except percentages)						
Private sector commercial banks and Financial Institutions	\$ 14	13.7	\$ 11	12.3	\$ 22	26.4
State-owned commercial banks	10	10.0	3	3.7	2	2.7
Central banks	20	20.3	27	32.0	9	10.4
Sovereign debt	1	1.1	1	0.8	1	1.1
State-owned exporting organization	5	5.0	1	1.0	10	12.3
Private corporations	50	49.9	43	50.1	39	47.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 101</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$ 85</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$ 83</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The following table sets forth the distribution of the Bank’s loans charged-off against the allowance for loan losses by country as of December 31 of each year:

	As of December 31,									
	2009	%	2008	%	2007	%	2006	%	2005	%
	(in \$ million, except percentages)									
Argentina	\$ 0	0.0	\$ 0	0.0	\$ 0	0.0	\$ 0	0.0	\$ 5	53.7
Brazil	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	46.3
Total	\$ 0	0.0	\$ 0	0.0	\$ 0	0.0	\$ 0	0.0	\$ 9	100.0

Reversals (Provisions) for Loan Losses

The following table sets forth information regarding the Bank’s reversals (provisions) of allowance for loan losses during the periods indicated:

The \$18.3 million provision of allowance for loan losses in 2009 was the result of: (i) \$14.4 million in specific reserve provisions assigned to \$36 million in non-accruing loans in the corporate sector in Brazil and Mexico and (ii) a \$3.9 million increase in generic provisions for loan losses.

The Bank’s \$18.5 million reversal of provisions for loan losses in 2008 was mainly due to lower generic provisions as a result of decreased loan balances.

The Bank’s \$12.0 million provision of allowance for loan losses in 2007 was mostly due to higher generic provisions as a result of increased loan portfolio exposures.

Critical Accounting Policies

General

The Bank prepares its consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP. As a result, the Bank is required to make estimates, judgments and assumptions in applying its accounting policies that have a significant impact on the results it reports in its consolidated financial statements. Some of the Bank’s accounting policies require Management to use subjective judgment, often as a result of the need to make estimates of matters that are inherently uncertain. The Bank’s Management bases its estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that it believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from the estimates.

The Bank’s critical accounting estimates include assessments of allowances for credit losses, impairments on the value of securities that are “other than temporary,” and the fair value of certain financial instruments. For information regarding the Bank’s significant accounting policies, see Item 18, “Financial Statements,” note 2.

*Allowance for Credit Losses*

The classification of the Bank’s credit portfolio for allowances for credit losses under U.S. GAAP is determined by risk management and approved by the Credit Policy and Risk Assessment Committee (“CPR”) of the Bank’s board of directors through statistical modeling, internal risk ratings and estimates. Informed judgments must be made when identifying impaired loans, the probability of default, the expected loss, the value of collateral and current economic conditions. Even though the Bank’s Management considers its allowances for credit losses to be adequate, the use of different estimates and assumptions could produce different allowances for credit losses, and amendments to the allowances may be required in the future due to changes in the value of collateral, the amount of cash expected to be received or other economic events. In addition, risk management has established and maintains reserves for the potential credit losses related to the Bank’s off-balance sheet exposures. See Item 18, “Financial Statements,” note 2(n).

The estimates of the inherent risks of the Bank’s portfolio and overall recovery vary with changes in the economy, individual industries or sectors, and countries and individual borrowers’ or counterparties’ concentrations, ability, capacity and willingness to repay their obligations. The degree to which any particular assumption affects the allowance for credit losses depends on the severity of the change and its relationship to the other assumptions. See Item 5, “Operating and Financial Review and Prospects/Operating Results/Allowance for Credit Losses.”

*Fair Value of Financial Instruments*

The Bank determines the fair value of its financial instruments using the fair value hierarchy established in U.S. GAAP, which requires the Bank to maximize the use of observable inputs (those that reflect the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on market information obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity) and to minimize the use of unobservable inputs (those that reflect the reporting entity’s own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on the best information available in the circumstances) when measuring fair value. Fair value is used on a recurring basis to measure assets and liabilities in which fair value is the primary basis of accounting. Additionally, fair value is used on a nonrecurring basis to evaluate assets and liabilities for impairment or for disclosure purposes. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Depending on the nature of the asset or liability, the Bank uses various valuation techniques and assumptions when estimating fair value.

The Bank applied the following fair value hierarchy:

- Level 1 – Assets or liabilities for which an identical instrument is traded in an active market, such as publicly-traded instruments or futures contracts.
- Level 2 – Assets or liabilities valued based on observable market data for similar instruments, quoted prices in markets that are not active, or other observable inputs that can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.
- Level 3 – Assets or liabilities for which significant valuation assumptions are not readily observable in the market. Instruments are measured based on the best available information, which might include some internally-developed data and considers risk premiums that a market participant would require.

When determining the fair value measurements for assets and liabilities that are required or permitted to be recorded at fair value, the Bank considers the principal or most advantageous market in which it would transact and considers the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability. When possible, the Bank uses active and observable markets to price identical assets or liabilities. When identical assets and liabilities are not traded in active markets, the Bank uses observable market information for similar assets and liabilities. However, certain assets and liabilities are not actively traded in observable markets and the Bank must use alternative valuation techniques to determine the fair value measurement. When there has been a significant decrease in the volume or level of activity for a financial asset or liability, the Bank uses the present value technique which considers market information to determine a representative fair value in usual market conditions.

Additionally, as of December 31, 2009, 18% of the Bank’s assets are accounted for at fair value, and 6% of total assets are not actively traded in observable markets for which the Bank must use alternative valuation techniques to determine the fair value measurements.

The Bank’s Management uses its best judgment in estimating the fair value of the Bank’s financial instruments; however, there are limitations in any estimation technique. The estimated fair value amounts have been measured as of their respective year-ends. As a result, the estimated fair values of these financial instruments subsequent to the respective reporting dates may be different than the amounts reported at each year-end.

The Bank holds fixed income, securities, derivative instruments, and investments in private equity. In addition, the Bank sells securities under agreements to repurchase. The Bank holds its investments, trading assets and liabilities, and repurchase agreements on the balance sheet to manage liquidity needs and interest rate risks, and for proprietary trading.

Fair value calculations are only provided for a limited portion of the Bank’s financial assets and liabilities. Due to a wide range of valuation techniques and the degree of subjectivity used in making the estimates, comparison of fair value information of the Bank and other companies may not be meaningful for comparative analysis.

A description of the valuation methodologies used for assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis, including the general classification of such assets and liabilities under the fair value hierarchy is presented below:

Trading assets and liabilities and securities available-for-sale

When quoted prices are available in an active market, available-for-sale securities and trading assets and liabilities are classified in level 1 of the fair value hierarchy. If quoted market prices are not available or they are available in markets that are not active, then fair values are estimated based upon quoted prices of similar instruments, or where these are not available, by using internal valuation techniques, principally discounted cash flows models. Such securities are classified within level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

*Impairment of Investment Securities*

The Bank conducts periodic reviews of all securities with unrealized losses to evaluate whether the impairment is other-than-temporary. Impairment of securities is evaluated considering numerous factors, and their relative significance varies case-by-case. Factors considered in determining whether a loss is temporary include: (1) the length of time and extent to which the market value has been less than cost, (2) the severity of the impairment, (3) the cause of the impairment and the financial condition of the issuer, (4) activity in the market of the issuer which may indicate adverse credit conditions, and (5) the intent and ability of the Bank to retain the security for a sufficient period of time to allow for an anticipated recovery in market value (with respect to equity securities) and the intent and probability of the Bank to sell the security before the recovery of its amortized cost (with respect to debt securities). If, based on the analysis, it is determined that the impairment is other-than-temporary, the security is written down to its fair value, and a loss is recognized through earnings as impairment loss on assets.

In cases where the Bank does not intend to sell a debt security and estimates that it will not be required to sell the security before the recovery of its amortized cost basis, the Bank periodically estimates if it will recover the amortized cost of the security through the present value of expected cash flows. If the present value of expected cash flows is less than the amortized cost of the security, it is determined that an other-than-temporary impairment has occurred. The amount of this impairment representing credit loss is recognized through earnings and the residual of the other-than-temporary impairment related to non-credit factors is recognized in other comprehensive income (loss).

In periods subsequent to the recognition of the other-than-temporary impairment, the difference between the new amortized cost and the expected cash flows to be collected is accreted as interest income. The present value of the expected cash flows is estimated over the life of the debt security. The other-than-temporary impairment of securities held-to maturity that has been recognized in other comprehensive income is accreted to the amortized cost of the debt security prospectively over its remaining life.

See Item 18, “Financial Statements,” note 2(i).

Investment fund

The Fund is not traded in an active market and, therefore, representative market quotes are not readily available. Its fair value is adjusted on a monthly basis based on its financial results, its operating performance, its liquidity and the fair value of its long and short investment portfolio that are quoted and traded in active markets. Such investment is classified within level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

*Securities sold under repurchase agreements*

The Bank enters into financing transactions under repurchase agreements in order to keep its liquidity at adequate levels required to finance its operations. Through these transactions, the Bank receives cash and transfers securities to and/or places cash with counterparties as a guarantee for those financing transactions. Repurchase agreements should be accounted for in the financial statements either as sales of securities or as secured financings. U.S. GAAP and related supporting literature emphasizes accounting for the form, rather than the substance of these transactions, which causes the application of U.S. GAAP to become especially complex in periods of high volatility.

Despite the transfer of assets in repurchase agreements, they qualify as secured financings if and only if the following conditions are met: (1) the assets to be repurchased are the same or substantially the same as those transferred; (2) the transferor is able to repurchase them with the collateral received, keeping substantially the agreed terms, even in the event of default of the transferee; (3) the agreement is to repurchase or redeem them before maturity, at a fixed and determinable price; and (4) the agreement is entered into concurrently at the transfer date. In order to be able to repurchase assets on substantially the agreed terms, even in the case of default from the counterparty, the transferor must at all times, during the contract term, have obtained cash or other collateral sufficient to fund substantially all the cost of purchasing the transferred assets from the counterparties. The Bank uses its judgment to establish the “substantially all” criteria, which is regularly assessed. See Item 18, “Financial Statements,” note 12.

Derivative financial instruments

Derivative instruments are recorded at their nominal amount ("notional amount") in memorandum accounts. Interest rate swaps are made either in a single currency or cross currency for a prescribed period to exchange a series of interest rate flows, which involve fixed for floating interest payments. The Bank also engages in some foreign exchange trades to serve customers’ transaction needs and to manage the foreign currency risk. All such positions are hedged with an offsetting contract for the same currency. The Bank manages and controls the risks on these foreign exchange trades by establishing counterparty credit limits by customer and by adopting policies that do not allow for open positions in the credit and investment portfolio. Derivative and foreign exchange instruments negotiated by the Bank are executed mainly over-the-counter (“OTC”). These contracts are executed between two counterparties that negotiate specific agreement terms, including notional amount, exercise price and maturity.



Types of Derivative and Foreign Exchange Instruments

Interest rate swaps are contracts in which a series of interest rate flows in a single currency are exchanged over a prescribed period. The Bank designated a portion of these derivative instruments as fair value hedges and a portion as cash flow hedges. Cross currency interest rate swaps are contracts that generally involve the exchange of both interest and principal amounts in two different currencies. The Bank designated a portion of these derivative instruments as fair value hedges and a portion as cash flow hedges. Forward foreign exchange contracts represent an agreement to purchase or sell foreign currency at a future date at agreed-upon terms. The Bank designates these derivative financial instruments as fair value hedges. The fair value adjustments applied by the Bank to its derivative carrying values include credit valuation adjustments (“CVA”), which are applied to over-the-counter derivative instruments, in which the base valuation generally discounts expected cash flows using the LIBOR interest rate curves. Because not all counterparties have the same credit risk as that implied by the relevant LIBOR curve, a CVA is necessary to incorporate the market view of both counterparty credit risk and the Company’s own credit risk in the valuation.

The Bank’s CVA methodology comprises two steps. First, the exposure profile for each counterparty is determined using the terms of all individual derivative positions and a quantitative analysis to generate a series of expected cash flows at future points in time. This process identifies specific, point in time future cash flows that are subject to nonperformance risk. Second, market-based views of default probabilities derived from observed credit spreads in the credit default swap (“CDS”) market are applied to the expected future cash flows determined in step one. Own-credit CVA is determined using a fair value curve consistent with the Bank’s credit rating. Generally, counterparty CVA is determined using CDS spread indices for each credit rating and tenor. For certain identified facilities where individual analysis is practicable, counterparty-specific CDS spreads are used. The CVA adjustment is designed to incorporate a market view of the credit risk inherent in the derivative portfolio. However, most derivative instruments are negotiated bilateral contracts and are not commonly transferred to third parties. Derivative instruments are normally settled contractually, or if terminated early, are terminated at a value negotiated bilaterally between the counterparties. Therefore, the CVA (both counterparty and own-credit) may not be realized upon a settlement or termination in the normal course of business. In addition, all or a portion of the credit valuation adjustments may be reversed or otherwise adjusted in future periods in the event of changes in the credit risk of Bladex or its counterparties, or changes in credit mitigants (collateral and netting agreements) associated with the derivative instruments or due to the anticipated termination of the transactions. See Item 18, “Financial Statements,” note 20.

The valuation techniques and inputs depend on the type of derivative and the nature of the underlying instrument. Exchange traded derivatives that are valued using quoted prices are classified within level 1 of the fair value hierarchy.

For those derivative contracts without quoted market prices, fair value is based on internal valuation techniques using inputs that are readily observable and that can be validated by information available in the market. The principal technique used to value these instruments is the discounted cash flows model and the key inputs considered in this technique include interest rate yield curves and foreign exchange rates. These derivatives are classified within level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

Adjustments for credit risk of the counterparty are applied to those derivative financial instruments where the internal credit risk rating of said counterparties deviates substantially from the credit risk implied by the London Interbank Offered rate (“LIBOR”). Not all counterparties have the same credit rating that is implicit in the LIBOR curve; therefore, it is necessary to take into account the current credit rating of the counterparty for the purpose of obtaining the true fair value of a particular instrument. In addition, adjustments to bilateral or own risk are adjusted to reflect the bank’s credit risk when measuring all liabilities at fair value. The methodology is consistent with the adjustments applied to generate the counterparty credit risk. See further discussion below.

Under U.S. GAAP the Bank is required to take into account its own credit risk when measuring the fair value of derivative positions as well as other liabilities for which it has elected fair value accounting. This is recognized on the balance sheet as a reduction in the associated liability to arrive at the fair value of the liability.

Notwithstanding the level of subjectivity inherent in determining fair value, the Bank’s Management believes that its estimates of fair value are adequate. The use of different models or assumptions could lead to changes in the Bank’s reported results. See Item 18, “Financial Statements,” note 22.

**B. Liquidity and Capital Resources**

*Liquidity*

Liquidity refers to the Bank’s ability to maintain adequate cash flows to fund operations and meet obligations and other commitments on a timely basis. The Bank maintains its liquid assets mainly in demand deposits, overnight funds and time deposits with well-known international banks, as well as highly rated marketable securities. These liquid assets are adequate to cover 24-hour deposits from customers, which theoretically could be withdrawn on the same day. As of December 31, 2009, the Bank’s 24-hour deposits from customers (overnight deposits, demand deposit accounts and call deposits) amounted to \$51 million, representing 4% of the Bank’s total deposits. The liquidity requirement resulting from these maturities is satisfied by (1) the Bank’s liquid assets, which as of December 31, 2009 were \$402 million (representing 32% of total deposits) of which \$220 million corresponds to time deposits, and (2) average monthly maturities of the loan portfolio in 2009 of approximately \$272 million.

As established by the Bank’s liquidity policy, the Bank’s liquid assets are held in the form of interbank deposits with reputable international banks that have A1, P1, or F1 ratings from two of the major rating agencies and are located outside of the Region. These banks must have a correspondent relationship with the Bank. In addition, the Bank’s liquidity policy allows for investing in negotiable money market instruments, including Euro certificates of deposit, commercial paper, bankers’ acceptances and other liquid instruments with maturities of up to three years. These instruments must be of investment grade quality A or better and must have a liquid secondary market.

The Bank performs daily reviews and controls on its liquidity position, including the application of a series of limits to restrict its overall liquidity risk. Specific limits have been established to control (1) cumulative maturity “gaps” between assets and liabilities, for each maturity classification presented in the Bank’s internal liquidity reports, and (2) concentrations of deposits taken from any client or economic group maturing in one day and total maximum deposits maturing in one day. The Bank has also established a minimum amount of liquidity to be maintained at the end of each day, as a percentage of total assets. As a precautionary measure, since the onset of the global financial crisis in September 2008, the Bank has consistently maintained a cash position in excess of the minimum required.

The Bank follows a Contingent Liquidity Plan, which provides for regular stress-testing of its liquidity position. The plan contemplates the regular monitoring of several quantified internal and external reference points (such as deposit level, quality of assets, Emerging Markets Bonds Index Plus (“EMBI+”), cost of funds and market interest rates), which in cases of high volatility would trigger implementation of a series of precautionary measures to reinforce the Bank’s liquidity position. In the Bank’s opinion, its working capital is sufficient for the Bank present requirements.

The following table shows the Bank’s liquid assets, which consist of short-term funds deposited with other banks, by principal geographic area as of December 31 of each year:

	As of December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
	(in \$ million)		
Europe	\$ 60	\$ 135	\$ 298
United States	219	548	17
Other O.E.C.D.	123	142	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 402</b>	<b>\$ 826</b>	<b>\$ 396</b>

While the Bank’s liabilities generally mature over somewhat shorter periods than its assets, the associated liquidity risk is diminished by the short-term nature of the loan portfolio, as the Bank is engaged primarily in the financing of foreign trade. As of December 31, 2009, the average original term to maturity of the Bank’s short-term loan portfolio was approximately 202 days.

Medium-term assets (maturing beyond one year) totaled \$1.4 billion as of December 31, 2009. Of that amount, \$476 million was comprised of liquid bonds held primarily in the Bank’s trading assets (\$50 million) and securities available-for-sale portfolio (\$426 million). The remaining \$0.9 billion in medium-term assets represented commercial loans. These medium-term loans are funded by medium-term borrowings (67%) and the Bank’s equity (33%).

*Funding Sources*

The Bank’s principal sources of funds are deposits, borrowed funds and floating and fixed rate placements. While these sources are expected to continue providing the majority of the funds required by the Bank in the future, the exact composition of the Bank’s funding sources, as well as the possible use of other sources of funds, will depend upon future economic and market conditions. The following table shows the Bank’s funding distribution as of December 31 of each year:

	As of December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
	(in percentages)		
Interbank deposits	39.7%	30.9%	35.8%
Securities sold under repurchase agreements	2.3%	12.5%	6.9%
Borrowings and debts	54.2%	51.4%	54.6%
Other liabilities.	3.9%	5.2%	2.7%
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Short- and medium-term borrowings and placements are important funding sources for the Bank’s loan portfolio because they permit the Bank to diversify its funding sources outside the Region, and because the Bank uses these borrowings and placements, which generally have longer maturities than deposits, to manage its asset and liability positions. See Item 5 “Asset/Liability Management”.

*Deposits*

The Bank obtains deposits principally from central and commercial banks in the Region. As of December 31, 2009, approximately 64% of the deposits held by the Bank were deposits made by central banks of countries in the Region. Many of these banks deposit a portion of their dollar reserves with the Bank. The average term remaining to maturity of deposits from central banks of countries in the Region as of December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007 was 57 days, 31 days and 36 days, respectively. The bulk of the Bank’s other deposits is obtained primarily from commercial banks located in the Region. As of December 31, 2009, deposits from the Bank’s five largest depositors, of which four were central banks in the Region, represented 56% of the Bank’s total deposits. See Item 18, “Financial Statements,” note 11.

The following table analyzes the Bank’s deposits by country as of December 31 of each year:

	As of December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
	(in \$ million)		
Argentina	\$ 87	\$ 90	\$ 75
Barbados	21	14	28
Brazil	266	277	322
Cayman Island	105	14	33
Colombia	55	38	154
Costa Rica	9	0	10
Dominican Republic	10	5	21
Ecuador	234	205	70
El Salvador	28	28	26
Finland	0	0	10
Haiti	3	3	3
Honduras	151	56	27
Jamaica	1	2	2
Japan	1	0	0
Mexico	0	3	332
The Netherlands	0	26	21
Nicaragua	50	30	11
Panama	50	36	80
Peru	2	103	41
Trinidad and Tobago	20	20	20
Uruguay	0	1	0
United Kingdom	0	0	40
United States	0	0	20
Venezuela	162	219	117
Total	\$ 1,256	\$ 1,169	\$ 1,462

Securities Sold Under Repurchase Agreements and Short-Term Borrowings

The Bank enters into repurchase agreements (“repos”) with international banks, utilizing its investment securities portfolio as collateral to secure cost-effective funding. Repurchase agreements are accounted for in the financial statements either as sales of securities or as secured financings. As of December 31, 2009, repos amounted to \$71 million, a decrease of \$403 million from \$474 million as of December 31, 2008. See Item 18, “Financial Statements,” note 12.

The Bank’s short-term borrowings consist of borrowings from banks that have maturities of up to 365 days. These borrowings are made available to the Bank on an uncommitted basis for the financing of trade-related loans. Approximately 35 European and North American and five Asian banks provide these short-term borrowings to the Bank. As of December 31, 2009, short-term borrowings amounted to \$328 million, a decrease of \$411 million from the amount as of December 31, 2008. The decrease in short-term borrowings was the result of the overall decrease in the Bank’s total assets, reduced levels of liquidity in international markets, and generally reduced availability of credit. The average term remaining to maturity of short-term borrowings as of December 31, 2009 was approximately 112 days. See Item 18, “Financial Statements,” note 13.

The following table presents information regarding the amounts outstanding under, and interest rates on, the Bank’s short-term borrowings and securities sold under repurchase agreements at the dates and during the periods indicated.

	As of and for the Year Ended December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
	(in \$ million, except percentages)		
<b>Short-term borrowings and securities sold under repurchase agreements</b>			
Advances from banks	\$ 328	\$ 739	\$ 1,222
Securities sold under repurchase agreements	71	474	283
Total short-term borrowings and securities sold under repurchase agreements	<b>\$ 399</b>	<b>\$ 1,213</b>	<b>\$ 1,505</b>
Maximum amount outstanding at any month-end	\$ 1,094	\$ 1,783	\$ 1,505
Amount outstanding at year-end	\$ 399	\$ 1,213	\$ 1,505
Average amount outstanding	\$ 764	\$ 1,629	\$ 1,272
Weighted average interest rate on average amount outstanding	2.77%	3.82%	5.45%
Weighted average interest rate on amount outstanding at year end	1.61%	3.77%	5.34%

*Borrowings and Long-Term Debt*

Borrowings consist of long-term and syndicated loans obtained from international banks. Debt instruments consist of notes issued under the EMTN Program and a bond issuance in Latin America.

The interest rates on long-term borrowings are adjusted quarterly or semi-annually based on short-term LIBOR rates plus a credit spread, which is based on several factors, including credit ratings, risk perception, and the remaining term to maturity. The Bank uses these funds to finance its medium-term and long-term loan portfolio. As of December 31, 2009, the average term remaining to maturity of the Bank’s medium and long-term debt was 1.8 years.

The Bank’s EMTN Program has a maximum aggregate limit of \$2.25 billion. Notes issued under the Program are placed in the Euro (Regulation S) or Rule 144A markets, and are general obligations of the Bank. The EMTN Program may be used to issue notes with maturities ranging from 7 days up to a maximum of 30 years, at fixed or floating interest rates and in various currencies. As of December 31, 2009, the total amount outstanding under the Program with medium-term maturities was \$5 million.

During 2009, the Bank entered into two syndicated loans with Asian lenders. The first syndicated loan, in the amount of \$100 million, has a two-year term and was structured and placed by Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd. and China Development Bank Corporation. The second syndicated loan, in the amount of \$113 million, has a two-year term and was structured by Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd. These loans were Bladex’s first syndicated loans placed in Asia and are intended to diversify the Bank’s funding sources and strengthen its presence in the Asian markets.

During 2008, the Bank finalized a \$200 million five-year bilateral term loan facility with the China Development Bank and contracted a \$150 million two-year syndicated term loan facility, jointly lead-arranged by Santander Investment Securities and Standard Chartered Bank.

During the third quarter of 2007, the Bank established a program for bond issuances in Peru. The program has a maximum aggregate limit of the equivalent of \$300 million. Bonds issued under the program are denominated in Peruvian Nuevo Soles (“PEN”), may be issued in several series with different maturities and interest rate structures, will be offered exclusively to institutional investors domiciled in the Republic of Peru, and will rank *pari passu* with other debt obligations of the Bank. The funds raised from the program will be used to finance the Bank’s credit portfolio and to cover its general long-term financial needs. The first placement of bonds under the program consisted of bonds with a maturity of seven years and a fixed rate of interest, and was subsequently swapped into U.S. dollars through a cross-currency swap. As of December 31, 2009, the total amount outstanding under the program was PEN \$123 million (equivalent to \$43 million).

As part of its interest rate and currency risk management, the Bank may from time to time enter into foreign exchange forwards, cross-currency contracts and interest rate swaps to hedge the risk associated with a portion of the notes issued under its various programs.

The following table presents information regarding the amounts outstanding under, and interest rates on, the Bank’s borrowings and long-term debt at the dates and during the periods indicated. See Item 18, “Financial Statements,” notes 14, 20 and Item 11, “Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk.” See Item 18, Consolidated Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2009 and 2008.

	As of and for the Year Ended December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
(in \$ million, except percentages)			
<b>Borrowings and long-term debt</b>			
Amount outstanding at year-end	\$ 1,390	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,010
Maximum amount outstanding at any month-end	\$ 1,390	\$ 1,330	\$ 1,010
Average amount outstanding	\$ 1,208	\$ 1,182	\$ 809
Weighted average interest rate on average amount outstanding	3.07%	4.65%	6.02%
Weighted average interest rate on amount outstanding at year end	2.07%	4.58%	5.76%

Cost and Maturity Profile of Borrowed Funds and Floating- and Fixed-Rate Placements

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the weighted average cost and the remaining maturities of the Bank’s borrowed funds and floating and fixed-rate placements (including securities sold under repurchase agreements) as of December 31, 2009:

	Amount	Weighted Average Cost
	(in \$ million)	
Short-term borrowings and Securities sold under repurchase agreements at fixed interest rate		
Due in 0 to 30 days	\$ 145	2.15%
Due in 31 to 90 days	37	1.45%
Due in 91 to 180 days	188	1.14%
Due in 181 to 365 days	20	1.80%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 389</b>	<b>1.58%</b>
Short-term borrowings at floating interest rate		
Due in 31 to 90 days	10	2.66%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 10</b>	<b>2.66%</b>
Medium and long-term borrowings at fixed interest rate		
Due in 0 to 30 days	2	8.34%
Due in 31 to 90 days	10	5.60%
Due in 91 to 180 days	7	8.38%
Due in 181 to 365 days	25	6.80%
Due in 1 through 6 years	39	4.65%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 83</b>	<b>5.83%</b>
Medium and long-term borrowings at floating interest rate		
Due in 31 to 90 days	20	0.92%
Due in 91 to 180 days	48	1.07%
Due in 181 to 365 days	412	1.15%
Due in 1 through 6 years	779	2.01%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,259</b>	<b>1.68%</b>
Medium and long-term fixed-rate placements		
Due in 1 through 6 years	43	6.50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 43</b>	<b>6.50%</b>
Medium and long-term floating-rate placements		
Due in 181 to 365 days	5	1.17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5</b>	<b>1.17%</b>

Asset/Liability Management

The Bank seeks to manage its assets and liabilities to reduce the potential adverse impact on net interest income that could result from interest rate changes. The Bank controls interest rate risk through systematic monitoring of maturity mismatches. The Bank’s investment decision-making takes into account not only the rates of return and the respective underlying degrees of risk, but also liquidity requirements, including minimum cash reserves, withdrawal and maturity of deposits and additional demand for funds. For any given period, a matched pricing structure exists when an equal amount of assets and liabilities are repriced. An excess of assets or liabilities over these matched items results in a “gap” or “mismatch,” as shown in the table under “Interest Rate Sensitivity” below. A negative gap denotes liability sensitivity and normally means that a decline in interest rates would have a positive effect on net interest income, while an increase in interest rates would have a negative effect on net interest income. Substantially all of the Bank’s assets and most of its liabilities are denominated in U.S. dollars and, therefore, the Bank has no material foreign exchange risk. Non-dollar liabilities are generally converted to U.S. dollars through the use of derivatives, which, though economically perfectly hedged, might give rise to some accounting volatility.

Interest Rate Sensitivity

The following table presents the projected maturities and interest rate adjustment periods of the Bank’s assets, liabilities and stockholders’ equity based upon the contractual maturities and adjustment dates as of December 31, 2009. The Bank’s interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities and the related interest rate sensitivity gap shown in the following table may not reflect positions in subsequent periods.

The Bank actively uses interest rate swaps as part of its interest rate risk management. Interest rate swaps are contracted either in a single currency or cross-currency for a prescribed period in order to exchange a series of interest cut flows, which involve swapping fixed for floating-rate interest payments or vice versa.

See Item 11, “Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk”.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>0-30 Days</u>	<u>31-90 Days</u>	<u>91-180 Days</u>	<u>181-365 Days</u>	<u>More than 365 Days</u>	<u>Non-Interest Sensitive</u>
	(in \$ million, except percentages)						
<b>Interest-earning assets</b>							
Cash, due from banks & interest-bearing deposits with banks	\$ 425	\$ 425	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Trading assets	50	0	0	0	0	50	0
Securities available-for-sale	457	0	49	0	31	377	0
Investment fund	198	0	0	0	0	0	198
Loans, net	2,701	477	1,158	700	265	180	(78)
<b>Total interest-earning assets</b>	<b>3,831</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>1,206</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>120</b>
Non-interest earning assets	36	0	0	0	0	0	36
Other assets	12	0	0	0	0	0	12
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 3,879</b>	<b>\$ 902</b>	<b>\$ 1,206</b>	<b>\$ 700</b>	<b>\$ 296</b>	<b>\$ 606</b>	<b>\$ 168</b>
<b>Interest-bearing liabilities</b>							
Deposits							
Demand	\$ 51	\$ 51	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Time	1,205	587	325	273	20	0	0
Trading liabilities	3	0	0	0	0	3	0
Securities sold under repurchase agreements	71	61	10	0	0	0	0
Short-term borrowings	328	84	37	188	20	0	0
Borrowings and long-term debt	1,390	175	958	120	22	116	0
<b>Total interest-bearing liabilities</b>	<b>3,049</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>1,329</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>0</b>
Non-interest-bearing liabilities	119	0	0	0	0	0	119
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>3,168</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>1,329</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>119</b>
Redeemable noncontrolling interest in the investment fund	35	0	0	0	0	0	35
Stockholders' equity	676	0	0	0	0	0	676
<b>Total liabilities and stockholders' equity</b>	<b>\$ 3,879</b>	<b>\$ 958</b>	<b>\$ 1,329</b>	<b>\$ 581</b>	<b>\$ 62</b>	<b>\$ 119</b>	<b>\$ 830</b>
Interest rate sensitivity gap		(56)	(123)	119	234	487	(662)
Cumulative interest rate sensitivity gap		(56)	(179)	(60)	175	662	
Cumulative gap as a % of total interest-earning assets		(1)%	(5)%	(2)%	5%	17%	

The Bank’s interest rate risk is the exposure of earnings (current and potential) and capital to adverse changes in interest rates and is managed by attempting to match the term and repricing characteristics of the Bank’s interest rate sensitive assets and liabilities. The Bank’s interest rate risk typically arises from the Bank’s liability sensitive short-term position, which means that the Bank’s interest-bearing liabilities reprice more quickly than the Bank’s interest-earning assets. As a result, there is a potential adverse impact on the Bank’s net interest income from interest rate increases. The Bank’s policy with respect to interest rate risk provides that the Bank establishes limits with regards to: (1) changes in net interest income due to a potential impact, given certain movements in interest rates, (2) changes in the amount of available equity funds of the Bank, given a one basis point movement in interest rates, and (3) changes in value-at-risk (“VaR”) of the Bank’s portfolio, based on statistical analysis of the historical volatility of the Bank’s portfolio.

Stockholders' Equity

The following table presents information concerning the Bank’s capital position at the dates indicated:

	As of December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
		(in \$ thousand)	
Common stock	\$ 279,980	\$ 279,980	\$ 279,980
Additional paid-in capital in excess of assigned value of common stock	134,820	135,577	135,142
Capital reserves	95,210	95,210	95,210
Retained earnings	301,389	268,435	245,348
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(6,160)	(72,115)	(9,641)
Treasury stock	(129,602)	(132,763)	(133,788)
Total stockholders' equity	\$ 675,637	\$ 574,324	\$ 612,251

The \$101 million increase in stockholders’ equity during 2009 was mainly the net result of:

- Reduction of accumulated other comprehensive loss by \$66 million, mostly related to net unrealized gains from the investment securities portfolio (available-for-sale) due to mark-to-market adjustments; and
- Increased retained earnings due to net income attributable to Bladex of \$55 million, partially offset by \$22 million declared and paid in cash dividends.

The \$38 million decrease in stockholder’s equity during 2008 was mainly the net result of:

- Deterioration in accumulated other comprehensive loss by \$62 million, mostly related to net unrealized losses from the investment securities portfolio due to mark-to-market adjustments; offset by
- Increased retained earnings due to net income attributable to Bladex of \$55 million, partially offset by a total of \$32 million in dividends declared and paid.

Capital reserves are established by the Bank from retained earnings. Capital reserves are intended to strengthen the Bank’s capital position. Reductions of these reserves, for purposes such as the payment of dividends, require the approval of the Board and Panamanian banking authorities. Panamanian banking regulations do not require the Bank to maintain any particular level of capital reserves.

As of December 31, 2009, the capital ratio of total stockholders’ equity to total assets was 17.4% and the Bank’s Tier 1 and total capital ratios calculated according to Basel I capital adequacy guidelines were 25.8% and 27.0%, respectively. The Banking Law (as defined under Item 4, “Information on the Company/Business Overview/Regulation”), which became effective on August 25, 2008, requires the Bank to maintain a minimum total capital to risk-weighted asset ratio of 8%. As of December 31, 2009, the Bank’s total capital to risk-weighted asset ratio, calculated according to the guidelines of the Banking Law, was 22.3%. See Item 4, “Information on the Company / Business Overview / Regulation.”

C. Research and Development, Patents and Licenses, etc.

Not applicable.



**D. Trend Information**

The following are the most important trends, uncertainties and events that are likely to materially affect the Bank or that would cause the financial information disclosed herein to not be indicative of the Bank’s future operating results or financial condition:

- The effect of changes in global economic conditions, including prices of oil and other commodities, the U.S. dollar exchange rate, interest rates, and slower economic growth in developed countries and trading partners, and the effect that these changes may have on the economic condition of countries in the Region, including the Region’s foreign trade growth, and, therefore, the growth of the Bank’s trade financing business;
- The effect that an economic slowdown or political events in the Region may have on the Bank’s asset quality, results of operations and growth prospects;
- Risk perception in the markets in which the Bank operates, increased competition, and U.S. dollar liquidity, which could affect spreads over the cost of funds on the Bank’s loan portfolio, and in turn impact the Bank’s net interest spreads; and
- A continued downturn in the capital markets, or a continued downturn in investor confidence, which could affect the Bank’s access to funding or increase its cost of funding.

Specific trends that affected the Bank’s performance during 2009 included the pronounced decrease in market rates such as 6M LIBOR which saw a decrease from an average 306 bps in 2008 to an average of 112 bps in 2009, leading to a compression of lending spreads. An increase in funding margins from an average of 35 bps in 2008 to an average of 70 bps in 2009 as liquidity and access to capital markets became limited due to the repercussions of the financial crisis, also affected the Bank’s lending spreads, particularly during the first half of 2009. During this period, the Bank maintained higher than normal levels of liquidity with adverse effect on margins. These effects were partially offset by an increase in lending margins from an average of 168 bps in 2008 to an average of 262 bps in 2009, as the Bank was able to pass on higher funding costs. The Bank also benefited from an improvement in market valuations in 2009 compared to the previous year which impacted favorably the results of the Bank’s Asset Management and Treasury Divisions. The Bank’s efficiency ratio improved from 42% in 2008 to 35% in 2009, mainly as the result of prudent cost management.

In addition, see Item 3, “Key Information/Risk Factors,” for a discussion of the risks the Bank faces, which could affect the Bank’s business, results of operations and/or financial condition.

**E. Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

In the ordinary course of business, in order to meet the financing needs of its customers, the Bank enters into arrangements that are not recognized on its balance sheet. As of December 31, 2009, the Bank’s off-balance sheet arrangements included stand-by letters of credit, guarantees (commercial risk and country risk), credit derivatives and credit commitments (including unused commitments and other commitments). These arrangements are kept off-balance sheet as long as the Bank does not incur an obligation relating to them or itself become entitled to an asset. Such off-balance sheet arrangements are exposed to credit risk. Therefore, a reserve for losses on off-balance sheet credit risk is recognized on the balance sheet, with the resulting provision recorded in the income statement. As of December 31, 2009, total reserves for losses on off-balance sheet amounted to \$27 million, compared to \$31 million as of December 31, 2008. See Item 18, “Financial Statements,” note 8 and 18.

For the year ended December 31, 2009, fees and commission income from off-balance sheet arrangements amounted to \$7 million. For additional information, see “Item 5, “Operating and Financial Review and Prospects/ Operating Results/ Fees and Commissions, net.”

No obligations have arisen from variable interest entities as defined in U.S. GAAP, including indemnification agreements with the Bank’s executive officers and directors. The Bank provides indemnity insurance pursuant to which directors and officers are indemnified or insured against liability or loss under certain circumstances, including liabilities or related losses arising under the Securities Act and the Exchange Act.

F. Contractual Obligations and Commercial Commitments

The following tables set forth information regarding the Bank’s contractual obligations and commercial commitments as of December 31, 2009.

Contractual Obligations	Payments Due by Period				
	Total	Less than 1 year	1 – 3 years	3 – 5 years	More than 5 years
			(in \$ million)		
Deposits	\$ 1,256	\$ 1,256	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Trading liabilities	3	0	3	0	0
Securities sold under repurchase agreement	71	71	0	0	0
Short-term borrowings	328	328	0	0	0
Borrowings and long-term debt <sup>(1)</sup>	1,390	529	819	43	0
Accrued interest payable	11	11	0	0	0
Lease obligations	2	1	1	0	0
Total contractual obligations	<u>\$ 3,062</u>	<u>\$ 2,196</u>	<u>\$ 823</u>	<u>\$ 43</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

Other Commercial Commitments	Amount of Commitment Expiration by Period				
	Total	Less than 1 year	1 – 3 years	3 – 5 years	More than 5 years
			(in \$ million)		
Letters of credit	\$ 207	\$ 202	\$ 5	\$ 0	\$ 0
Stand-by letters of credit	36	36	0	0	0
Guarantees	15	15	0	0	0
Credit derivative	3	3	0	0	0
Other commercial commitments	70	68	1	0	1
Total Commercial Commitments	<u>\$ 331</u>	<u>\$ 324</u>	<u>\$ 6</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 1</u>

<sup>(1)</sup> Certain debt obligations are subject to covenants that could accelerate the payment of these obligations.

Item 6. Directors, Executive Officers and Employees

A. Directors and Executive Officers

*Directors*

The following table sets forth certain information concerning the Directors of the Bank as of the date of this annual report.

Name	Country of Citizenship	Position Held with The Bank	Year Term Expires	Director Since	Age
<b>CLASS A</b>					
João Carlos Nobrega Pecego Regional General Manager – Head of Latin America Banco do Brasil, Argentina	Brazil	Director	2013	2010	46
Guillermo Güémez García Deputy Governor Banco de Mexico, Mexico	Mexico	Director	2011	1997	69
Esteban Alejandro Acerbo Director Banco de la Nación Argentina, Argentina	Argentina	Director	2011	2010	48
<b>CLASS E</b>					
Mario Covo Chief Executive Officer Finaccess International, Inc., U.S.A.	U.S.A.	Director	2011	1999	52
Will C. Wood Principal Kentwood Associates, U.S.A.	U.S.A.	Director	2012	1999	70
Herminio Blanco Chief Executive Officer Soluciones Estratégicas Consultoría, Mexico	Mexico	Director	2013	2004	59
William D. Hayes President Wellstone Global Finance, LLC, U.S.A.	U.S.A.	Director	2013	2004	67
Maria da Graça França Brazil	Brazil	Director	2013	2004	61

**ALL CLASSES OF COMMON STOCK**

Gonzalo Menéndez Duque Director Banco de Chile, Chile	Chile	Chairman of the Board of Directors	2012	1990	61
Jaime Rivera Chief Executive Officer Bladex, Panama	Guatemala	Director	2012	2004	57

**João Carlos Nobrega Pecego** has served as Regional General Manager – Head of Latin America of Banco do Brasil based in Argentina since 2009. He has been employed by Banco do Brasil in various capacities since 1978, holding the positions of Executive Regional Manager of the South Region of Brazil (Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina and Parana) from 2006 to 2009, Executive Manager responsible for Corporate and Project Finance from 2003 to 2006, Executive Manager of the Corporate Area of Banco do Brasil in Sao Paulo from 2000 to 2003, Regional Superintendent of the Sao Paulo Unit from 1995 to 2000, General Manager of the main agencies of Banco do Brasil in Sao Paulo from 1990 to 1995 and in various other positions at Banco do Brasil from 1978 to 1990.

**Guillermo Güémez García** has served as Deputy Governor of Banco de Mexico since 1995 and served as a Board Member of the National Insurance Commission and Casa de Moneda de Mexico since 1995. He served as President of the Executive Committee of Grupo Azucarero Mexico and Vice Chairman of Grupo de Embotelladoras Unidas, S.A. de C.V. from 1993 to 1994. Mr. Güémez served as Co-Chairman of the North American Committee, Board Member of Home Mart, S.A. de C.V. and Vice Chairman of the Board of Grupo Embotelladoras Unidas, S.A. de C.V. from 1986 to 1994. He served on the Mexican Business Coordinating Council for the North American Free Trade Agreement (“NAFTA”) in the capacity of Executive Director from 1991 to 1993. He was employed by Banco Nacional de Mexico (Banamex) in various capacities from 1974 to 1991, including Manager for Foreign Currency Funding and International Credits from 1974 to 1978, Representative in London from 1979 to 1981, Executive Vice President of International Treasury and Foreign Exchange, Exchange Controls and Ficorca from 1982 to 1986, and Executive Vice President for International Products from 1986 to 1990. Mr. Güémez founded and was President of Euromex Casa de Cambio and Euroamerican Capital Corporation from 1986 to 1990. He also has served as a Board Member of the Institute of International Finance and as a Board Member and Chairman of the Executive Committee of International Mexican Bank Ltd. Prior to that Mr. Güémez was employed by Bank of America Corporation in Mexico as Assistant Representative.

**Esteban Alejandro Acerbo** has served as Director of Banco de la Nación Argentina since 2006 and President of Nación Leasing since 2006. Mr. Acerbo is President of the following Commissions of Banco de la Nación Argentina: Commercial and Individual Banking since 2010 and from 2006 until 2008, Risk and Collection from 2008 to 2010 and Planning and Control from 2009 until 2010. He also has served as Vice President of the International Relations and Foreign Trade Commission of Banco de la Nación Argentina since 2008 and was Vice President of the Finance and Credit Policy Commission from 2006 to 2008. Mr. Acerbo was an Associate of the Treasury Division of the Ministry of Economy of Argentina in 2005, Advisor and associate in accounting, taxes and finance to the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Production from 1991 to 2001. Prior to that, Mr. Acerbo was Principal of Estudio Acerbo y Asociados from 1989 to 2005, Principal of the Development Commission of the Production Office of the Daireaux Municipality, Argentina from 2001 to 2004 and Associate in tax policy for the creation of industrial parks in different districts of the Buenos Aires Province in Argentina from 1999 to 2001.

**Will C. Wood** has served as the founding principal of Kentwood Associates of Menlo Park, California since 1993. He is a trustee of Dodge & Cox mutual funds. He was employed by Wells Fargo in the International Banking Group and served as an Executive Vice President from 1986 to 1989. While at Wells Fargo, Mr. Wood was also a Director of the Bankers’ Association for Foreign Trade and PEFCO, a privately owned export finance company. He was employed by Crocker Bank and served as Executive Vice President in charge of the International Division and Manager of the Latin America Area from 1975 to 1986. Mr. Wood previously worked for Citibank in La Paz, Bolivia, Lima, Peru and Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, Brazil, and began his career with Citibank’s Overseas Division in New York in 1964.

**Mario Covo** has served as a Director of Bladex Asset Management since 2008. Dr. Covo is the Managing Partner of Helios Advisors in New York. He was a founding partner of Finaccess International, Inc. in 2000 and of Columbus Advisors in 1995. Dr. Covo worked at Merrill Lynch from 1989 to 1995, where he was Head of Emerging Markets-Capital Markets. Prior to working for Merrill Lynch, Dr. Covo worked at Bankers Trust Company of New York from 1985 to 1989 as Vice President in the Latin American Merchant Banking Group, focusing on corporate finance and debt-for-equity swaps. Prior to that Dr. Covo was an International Economist for Chase Econometrics from 1984 to 1985, focusing primarily on Venezuela and Colombia.

**Hermínio A. Blanco** is the founder and since 2002 has served as Chief Executive Officer of Soluciones Estratégicas Consultoría, Mexico City, and is a founding partner and since 2005 has served as Chairman of IQOM. He has been a member of the Advisory Board of SSA Mexico since 2008. Mr. Blanco has served as a board member of Banco Mercantil del Norte-Banorte and CYDSA since 2006, the United States Chamber of Commerce Foundation since 2005 and Arcelor Mittal Steel U.S. since 2004. He has been a member of the International Advisory Committee of Mitsubishi Corporation and the Trilateral Commission since 2000. He was a senior member of the economic cabinet for President Ernesto Zedillo and the Secretary of Trade and Industry of Mexico from 1994 to 2000. He was Undersecretary for International Trade and Negotiations of the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Mexico from 1993 to 1994 and from 1988 to 1990, and was Mexico’s Chief Negotiator of NAFTA from 1990 to 1993. Mr. Blanco was one of the three members of the Council of Economic Advisors to the President of Mexico from 1985 to 1988. He was responsible for the negotiation of the Mexico-European Union free trade agreement and various other free trade agreements with Latin American countries and with Israel. Mr. Blanco also contributed to the launching of negotiations for a free trade agreement with Japan. He was Assistant Professor of Economics at Rice University, Houston, Texas from 1980 to 1985. Mr. Blanco was senior advisor to the Finance Minister of Mexico from 1978 to 1980.

**William Dick Hayes** has served as a Director of Bladex Asset Management since 2008. Mr. Hayes has served as President of Whaleco, Inc., New York, President of Wellstone Global Finance, LLC, San Francisco, California and Connecticut, and Chairman and charter member of the Board of Directors and the Investment Committee of Tricon Forfaiting Fund Limited, Bermuda since 1999. He served as Managing Director-Emerging Markets and in various other capacities for West Merchant Bank and Chartered WestLB from 1987 to 1999. Mr. Hayes served as Senior Vice President- Trading for Libra Bank Limited, New York Agency from 1986 to 1987, Principal of W.D. Hayes and Associates, California from 1984 to 1986, and in various capacities for Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., San Francisco, California from 1969 to 1984.

**Maria da Graça França** served as Director of Internal Control of Banco do Brasil from 2006 to 2007. She also served in various other capacities during her tenure with Banco do Brasil, starting in 1971, including Head of North America and General Manager of Banco do Brasil, New York Branch from 2004 to 2005, Executive General Manager of the International Division in Brasilia, Brazil from 2002 to 2003, Regional Manager for the operations of the Bank in South America based in Argentina in 2002, General Manager of Banco do Brasil, Paris Branch from 1999 to 2002, Deputy General Manager of Banco do Brasil, Miami Branch from 1993 to 1999, General Manager of the department responsible for Banco do Brasil’s foreign network from 1992 to 1993, Deputy General Manager for foreign exchange from 1989 to 1992, Assistant Manager within the Risk Management Area from 1988 to 1989, Assistant Manager for foreign exchange internal controls from 1984 to 1987 and employee in the Foreign Exchange Department from 1971 to 1984.

**Gonzalo Menéndez Duque** is a senior director of the Luksic companies in Chile and serves as Director of the following Luksic group holding companies: Banco de Chile since 2001, Holdings Quiñenco since 1996, and Antofagasta PLC since 1985. In addition, he has served as President of Inversiones Vita since 2000, a Luksic group company. He also serves as Vice Chairman of Fundación Andrónico Luksic A. and Fundación Pascual Baburizza since 2005. Previously, Mr. Menéndez Duque served as Director and President of several companies related to Grupo Luksic since 1985, including the following: Banco de A. Edwards and related companies, Banco Santiago, Empresas Lucchetti, S.A., Banco O’Higgins, Antofagasta Group, and Banchile Administradora General de Fondos.

**Jaime Rivera** has served as a director of the Bank since 2004, when he was appointed Chief Executive Officer. He joined the Bank in 2002 as Chief Operating Officer. Previously, Mr. Rivera served in various capacities for Bank of America Corporation including positions in the United States as Managing Director of the Latin America Financial Institutions Group and the Latin America Corporate Finance team and on-site as General Manager in Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Guatemala, Marketing Manager in Chile, and in Venezuela as Manager of Latin America Information Systems. He has held Board positions with the Council of the Americas, the Florida International Bankers’ Association, and the Latin American Agribusiness Development Corporation. Mr. Rivera is a member of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) to the Board of Directors of the New York Stock Exchange Euronext. He has an MBA degree from Cornell University, a Master of Science degree from Northwestern University, and a Bachelor of Science degree from Northrop University.

*Executive Officers*

The following table and information sets forth the names of the executive officers of Bladex, their respective positions at the date hereof and positions held by them with the Bank and other entities in prior years:

Name	Position Held with The Bank	Country of Citizenship	Age
Jaime Rivera	Chief Executive Officer	Guatemala	57
Rubens V. Amaral Jr.	Executive Vice President - Chief Commercial Officer	Brazil	51
Gregory D. Testerman	Executive Vice President - Senior Managing Director, Treasury & Capital Markets	U.S.A.	47
Miguel Moreno	Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer	Colombia	57
Miguel A. Kerbes	Senior Vice President, Chief Risk Officer	Uruguay	50
Christopher Schech	Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer	Germany	45
Gustavo Díaz	Senior Vice President, Controller	Colombia	47
Manuel Mejía-Aoun	Chief Investment Officer Bladex Asset Management	Panama	51

Presented below is a brief biographical description of each executive officer that is not a member of the Bank’s Board of Directors:

**Rubens V. Amaral Jr.** has served as Executive Vice President, Chief Commercial Officer of the Bank since March 2004. He previously served as General Manager and Managing Director for North America of Banco do Brasil, New York Branch, since 2000. Mr. Amaral served in various capacities with Banco do Brasil since 1975, holding the positions of Managing Director of the International Division and alternate member of the board of directors in 1998, Executive General Manager of the International Division in Sao Paulo from 1998 to 2000, Deputy General Manager in the New York Branch in charge of the Trade Finance and Correspondent Banking Department from 1994 to 1998, Head of Staff of the International Division from 1993 to 1994 and Advisor, Head of Department and General Manager in the Trade Finance Area at the International Department Division – Head Office from 1989 to 1993. Mr. Amaral also served as a representative in banking supervision for the Central Bank of Brazil from 1982 to 1988.

**Gregory D. Testerman** has served as Executive Vice President, Senior Managing Director, Treasury & Capital Markets of the Bank since 2007. Mr. Testerman has served as a Director of Bladex Asset Management since 2006. Mr. Testerman previously served as Senior Vice President and Treasurer of the Bank from 2005 to 2006. Mr. Testerman served in various capacities with Banco Santander Central Hispano, S.A. from 1986 to 2003, including General Manager, Miami Agency, from 1999 to 2003, General Manager, Tokyo Branch and Country Manager in Japan from 1995 to 1999, Vice President, Head of Financial Control, Benelux and Asia Pacific, from 1991 to 1995, Second Vice President, Special Credit Valuation Assignment, London Branch, in 1991, Second Vice President, Treasury Operations Manager, Belgium, from 1989 to 1991, and Second Vice President, Management Reporting, Belgium, from 1986 to 1989. Mr. Testerman began his career with The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A. as Assistant Treasurer in Belgium in 1986, and participated in the Corporate Controllers Development Program in New York from 1984 to 1986.

**Miguel Moreno** has served as Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer since July 2007. He previously served as Senior Vice President and Controller of the Bank since September 2001. He was a Management Consulting Partner for PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Bogotá, Colombia from 1988 to 2001, and served as Vice President of Information Technology and Operations for Banco de Crédito, Bogotá, Colombia from 1987 to 1988. Mr. Moreno served as Chief Executive Officer of TM Ingeniería, Bogotá, Colombia, from 1983 to 1987, and as Head of Industrial Engineering Department, Los Andes University, Colombia, from 1982 to 1984. Mr. Moreno was employed by SENA, Colombia, as Chief of the Organization and Systems Office, from 1977 to 1981, and served as Advisor to the Minister for the Finance and Public Credit Ministry of Colombia from 1976 to 1977.

**Miguel A. Kerbes** has served as Senior Vice President, Chief Risk Officer for the Bank since July 2002. Mr. Kerbes previously served as Vice President, Risk Management from 2000 to 2002. He served as the Risk Officer, Southern Cone Area for Banco Santander, with domicile in Chile, from 1995 to 2000, overseeing the Country Risk Managers for the area. From 1992 to 1995 he served with Bank of Boston, Chile as the Risk Director for credit and treasury risks and as Senior Risk Officer. From 1989 to 1992, Mr. Kerbes participated in the start-up of ING Bank in Chile, continuing as its Risk Officer, with domicile in Chile. He had previously served with ING Bank in Uruguay and participated in the start-up of ING Bank in Argentina from 1982 to 1992.

**Christopher Schech** has served as Chief Financial Officer of the Bank since September 2009. Previously, Mr. Schech served as Chief Financial Officer in the Region International division at Volvo Financial Services, part of AB Volvo Group based in Gothenburg, Sweden, covering operations in Latin America, Eastern Europe, Asia and Australia. Prior to that, Mr. Schech served in various capacities in Audit, Finance, and Business Development at General Electric Company (GE), from 1996 to 2008, including an assignment as Regional Manager, Financial Planning and Analysis at BAC Credomatic Network, a GE Capital Services joint venture based in Costa Rica, from 2005 to 2008. Mr. Schech’s background also includes serving in various positions in the Financial Services Audit Division at Coopers & Lybrand Deutsche Revision in Frankfurt, Germany, from 1990 to 1996. Mr. Schech holds a masters degree in Economic Studies from the University of Konstanz, Germany.

**Gustavo Díaz** was appointed Controller of the Bank in September 2009. Mr. Díaz has over 15 years of auditing experience in the financial industry. Prior to joining the Bank, he served as Internal Auditing Manager for Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, from 2000 to 2009. Prior to that, he served as Internal Auditing Director and Compliance Officer for Corporación Financiera del Valle (Corfivalle) in Cali, Colombia, from 1994 to 2000, and as External Auditing Manager for KPMG Peat Marwick in Colombia and Chile, from 1985 to 1994. Mr. Díaz holds a masters degree in Professional Management from the University of Miami, Florida, and a masters degree in Finance with Major in International Business from the Universidad ICESI, Cali, Colombia. Mr. Díaz also has CIA, CFSA, and CCSA certifications, granted by The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA).

**Manuel Mejía-Aoun** has served as Chief Investment Officer of Bladex Asset Management, Inc. since November 2005 and as a Director of Bladex Asset Management since 2008. Mr. Mejía-Aoun has over 24 years of investment experience in emerging markets. Prior to joining the Bank, he was Chief Executive Officer of Maxblue, Deutsche Bank’s first personal financial consultancy business, focusing on high net worth investors in Latin America. Prior to that, he headed the Latin American Foreign Exchange and Local Money Markets Sales and Trading Group at Deutsche Bank. In 1995, Mr. Mejía-Aoun served as Chief Emerging Markets Strategist at Merrill Lynch, covering fixed income securities in Latin America, Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia. From 1987 to 1995, he established and headed the Emerging Markets Trading Group at Merrill Lynch.

**B. Compensation**

*Cash and Stock-Based Compensation*

*Executive Officers Compensation*

The aggregate amount of cash compensation paid by the Bank during the year ended December 31, 2009, to the executive officers employed in the Bank’s Head Office as a group for services in all capacities was \$2,082,054. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009, the Bank accrued, and paid on February 26, 2010, performance-based bonuses to the Bank’s executive officers in the aggregate amount of \$685,000. As of December 31, 2009, the total amount set aside or accrued by the Bank in 2009 to provide pension, retirement or similar benefits for executive officers was approximately \$354,524.

In addition, the aggregate amount of revenue sharing earned by the executive and non-executive employees of Bladex Asset Management during the year ended December 31, 2009, as a group, for services in all capacities, was \$2,972,152.

In February 2008, the Board approved the 2008 Stock Incentive Plan (the “2008 Plan”), which allows the Bank to grant restricted shares, restricted stock units, stock options and/or other similar compensation instruments to the directors, executive officers and other non-executive employees of the Bank.

On February 10, 2009, the Bank granted 86,482 restricted stock units and 394,318 stock options to executive officers of the Bank. The Bank granted an additional of 45,538 restricted stock units and 207,667 stock options to other non-executive employees of the Bank. These stock options have an exercise price of \$10.15 and an expiration date of February 10, 2016. The restricted stock units vest at a rate of 25% per year, measured from the award date, with vesting occurring on each anniversary of the award date. The options vest at a rate of 25% per year, measured from the award date, with vesting occurring on each anniversary of the award date. As of December 31, 2009, the compensation cost charged against the Bank’s 2009 income in connection with these restricted stock units and stock options was \$247,570 and \$247,589, respectively. The total remaining compensation cost of \$1,736,112 will be charged over a period of 3.11 years.

The Bank sponsors a defined contribution plan for its expatriate officers. The Bank’s contributions are determined as a percentage of the eligible officer’s annual salary, with each officer contributing an additional amount withheld from his or her salary. All contributions are administered by a trust through an independent third party. During 2009, the Bank charged to salaries expense \$116,008 with respect to the contribution plan. As of December 31, 2009, the accumulated liability payable under the contribution plan amounted to \$385,567.

***2009 Chief Executive Officer Compensation***

The 2009 compensation of the Bank's Chief Executive Officer included a base salary of \$300,000, a performance-based cash bonus of \$200,000, a performance-based stock option and a restricted stock units grant with a value of \$400,000, a retirement plan that included a contribution from the Bank of \$23,504 during 2009, and other benefits amounting to \$10,310. In addition, the Chief Executive Officer has a contractual severance payment of \$300,000 in the event of his termination without cause.

***Board of Directors Compensation***

Each non-employee director of the Bank receives an annual cash retainer of \$40,000 for his or her services as a director and the Chairman of the Board receives an annual cash retainer in the amount of \$85,000. This annual retainer covers seven Board and/or shareholders meetings. If the Board meets more than seven times, the Bank will pay each director an attendance fee of \$1,500 for each additional Board and/or shareholders meeting. The Chairman of the Board is eligible to receive an attendance fee of \$2,250 for each such additional Board, shareholders or committee meeting attended.

The Chairman of the Audit and Compliance Committee receives an annual retainer of \$20,000 and the Chairmen of the Assets and Liabilities Committee, Nomination and Compensation Committee, Credit Policy and Risk Assessment Committee, and Business Committee each receive an annual retainer of \$15,000. The non-Chairman members of the Audit Committee each receive an annual retainer of \$10,000 and the non-Chairman members of the Assets and Liabilities Committee, Nomination and Compensation Committee, Credit Policy and Risk Assessment Committee, and Business Committee, each receive an annual retainer of \$7,500. These annual retainers cover seven meetings of the Audit Committee and six meetings each of the Assets and Liabilities Committee, Nomination and Compensation Committee, Credit Policy and Risk Assessment Committee, and Business Committee. When the Audit Committee has met more than seven times and the Assets and Liabilities Committee, Nomination and Compensation Committee, Credit Policy and Risk Assessment Committee, and Business Committee have met more than six times, the Bank will pay non-Chairman members an attendance fee of \$1,000 for each additional committee meeting. The Chairman of each committee of the Board is eligible to receive an attendance fee of \$1,500 for each additional committee meeting attended.

The aggregate amount of cash compensation paid by the Bank during the year ended December 31, 2009, to the directors of the Bank as a group for their services as directors was \$791,216.

The aggregate number of shares of restricted stock awarded during the year ended December 31, 2009, to non-employee directors of the Bank as a group under the 2008 Plan was 37,934 class E shares, equal to \$50,000 for each non-employee director of the Bank and \$75,000 for the Chairman of the Board. As of December 31, 2009, the total cost for these shares of restricted stock amounted to \$474,934, of which \$44,240 was charged against income in 2009, and the remaining compensation cost of \$430,694 for these shares of restricted stock will be charged against income over a period of 4.53 years.



Beneficial Ownership

As of December 31, 2009, the Bank’s executive officers and directors as a group owned an aggregate of 140,424 class E shares, which was approximately 0.51% of all issued and outstanding class E shares.

The following tables set forth information regarding the number of shares, stock options, deferred equity units, restricted stock units, and indexed stock options owned by the Bank’s executive officers as of December 31, 2009, as well as the restricted stock units and stock options granted in February 2010 under the 2008 Plan.

Name and Position of Executive Officer	Number of Shares Beneficially Owned as of Dec. 31, 2009 <sup>(1)</sup>	Number of Shares that may be acquired within 60 days of Dec. 31, 2009 <sup>(2)</sup>	Stock Options <sup>(3)</sup>	Restricted Stock Units (2008 Stock Incentive Plan) <sup>(4)</sup>	Deferred Equity Units <sup>(5)</sup>
Jaime Rivera Chief Executive Officer	1,400	189,739	195,185	41,879	0
Rubens V. Amaral Jr. Executive Vice President Chief Commercial Officer	1,000	174,349	176,404	38,993	0
Gregory D. Testerman Executive Vice President Senior Managing Director Treasury and Capital Markets	2,349	91,900	177,923	39,641	0
Miguel Moreno Executive Vice President Chief Operating Officer	0	56,887	73,104	16,154	0
Miguel A. Kerbes Senior Vice President, Chief Risk Officer	0	49,967	44,315	9,248	621
Christopher Schech Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer	0	0	0	0	0
Gustavo Díaz Senior Vice President, Controller	0	0	0	0	0
Manuel Mejía-Aoun <sup>(6)</sup> Chief Investment Officer Bladex Asset Management	5,000	0	0	0	0
Total	9,749	562,842	666,931	145,915	621

(1) Includes shares purchased by the executive or restricted stock units transferred to the executive.

(2) Includes vested indexed and traditional stock options, as well as options and restricted stock units that will vest within 60 days of December 31, 2009.

(3) Includes 271,081, 285,882, and 78,170 unvested stock options granted to executives officers on February 9, 2010, February 10, 2009, and February 12, 2008 respectively, under the 2008 Plan. Also includes 31,798 unvested stock options granted to executives of the Bank on February 13, 2007, under the 2006 Stock Option Plan. Also, an aggregate amount of 149,696; 154,062; and 30,230 stock options were granted to other non-executive employees under the 2008 Plan on February 9, 2010, February 10, 2009, and February 12, 2008 respectively; and an aggregate amount of 11,133 stock options were granted to other non-executive employees on February 13, 2007, under the 2006 Stock Option Plan. The exercise price and expiration date of these stock options are as follows: Grant of February 9, 2010, exercise price of \$13.52 and expiration date of February 9, 2017; Grant of February 10, 2009, exercise price of \$10.15 and expiration date of February 10, 2016; Grant of February 12, 2008, exercise price of \$15.43 and expiration date of February 12, 2015; Grant of February 13, 2007, exercise price of \$16.34 and expiration date of February 13, 2014.

(4) Includes 65,390, 62,702, and 17,823 unvested restricted stock units granted to executive officers on February 9, 2010, February 10, 2009, and February 12, 2008, respectively, under the 2008 Plan. Also, an aggregate amount of 36,106, 33,791, and 6,898 restricted stock units were granted to other non-executive officers under the 2008 Plan on February 9, 2010, February 10, 2009, and February 12, 2008 respectively.

(5) Deferred Equity Units under the Bank's Deferred Compensation Plan.

(6) The executive and non-executives of Bladex Asset Management are not eligible to receive grants under any of the equity compensation plans.

The following table sets forth information regarding ownership of the Bank’s shares by members of its Board, including restricted shares, indexed stock options, and stock options, as of December 31, 2009:

Name of Director	Number of Shares Beneficially Owned as of Dec. 31, 2009 <sup>(1)</sup>	Number of Shares that may be acquired within 60 days of Dec. 31, 2009 <sup>(2)</sup>	Stock Options <sup>(3)</sup>	Restricted Shares <sup>(4)</sup>
Guillermo Güémez García <sup>(5)</sup>	0	0	0	0
Carlos Weitz <sup>(6) (*)</sup>	0	0	0	0
José Maria Rabelo <sup>(*)</sup>	3,993	0	0	3,993
Will C. Wood	14,473	7,547	532	8,394
Mario Covo	12,473	7,547	532	8,394
Herminio Blanco	31,998	7,547	532	8,394
William Dick Hayes	11,168	7,547	532	8,394
Maria da Graça França	9,623	0	0	8,030
Gonzalo Menéndez Duque	18,712	11,324	797	12,592
Total	<u>102,440</u>	<u>41,512</u>	<u>2,925</u>	<u>58,191</u>

- (1) Includes class E shares held under the 2003 Restricted Stock Plan and the 2008 Plan.
- (2) Includes vested indexed and traditional stock options that will vest within 60 days of December 31, 2009.
- (3) Includes unvested stock options granted to directors on February 13, 2007 under the 2006 Stock Option Plan.
- (4) Includes unvested restricted class E shares granted under the 2003 Restricted Stock Plan and the 2008 Plan.
- (5) 12,473 class E shares corresponding to Mr. Güémez's entitlement under the 2003 Restricted Stock Plan and the 2008 Plan have been issued to his employer, Banco de Mexico. In addition, an aggregate number of 2,119 stock options to which Mr. Güémez was entitled under the 2006 Stock Option Plan have been granted to Banco de Mexico.
- (6) 3,993 class E shares corresponding to Mr. Weitz's entitlement under the 2008 Plan have been issued to his employer, Banco de la Nación Argentina.
- (\*) No longer part of the Bank’s Board of Directors.

For additional information regarding stock options granted to executive officers and directors, see Item 18, “Financial Statements,” note 16.

C. Board Practices

*Non-Executive Officers of the Board (“Dignatarios”)*

The following table sets forth the names, countries of citizenship, and ages of the Bank’s non-executive officers of the Board of Directors (“Dignatarios”), and their current office or position with other institutions. Dignatarios are elected annually by the members of the Board. Dignatarios attend meetings of the Board, participate in discussions and offer advice and counsel to the Board, but do not have the power to vote, unless they also are directors of the Bank.

Name	Country of Citizenship	Position held by Dignatario with the Bank	Age
Gonzalo Menéndez Duque Director Banco de Chile, Chile	Chile	Chairman of the Board	61
Maria da Graça França	Brazil	Treasurer	61
Ricardo Manuel Arango Partner Arias, Fábrega & Fábrega	Panama	Secretary	49

**Committees of the Board**

The Board conducts its business through meetings of the Board and through its committees. During the year ended December 31, 2009, the Board held fourteen meetings. Each director attended an average of 90% of the total number of Board meetings held during the year ended December 31, 2009. Each director also attended the prior year’s annual shareholders’ meeting.

The following table sets forth the five committees established by the Board, the current number of members of each committee and the total number of meetings held by each committee during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009:

Committee	Number of members	Total number of meetings held
Audit and Compliance Committee	4	7
Credit Policy and Risk Assessment Committee	5	4
Assets and Liabilities Committee	5	6
Business Committee	5	4
Nomination and Compensation Committee	4	7

*Corporate Governance Committee*

The Board has decided not to establish a corporate governance committee. Instead, given the importance of corporate governance to the Bank, the Board addresses all matters related to corporate governance at the Board level. Further, the Audit and Compliance Committee is responsible for promoting continued improvement in the Bank’s corporate governance and verifying compliance with all applicable policies.

The Bank has included the information regarding its corporate governance practices necessary to comply with Section 303A of the NYSE’s Listed Company Manual/Corporate Governance Rules (the “NYSE Rules”) on its website at <http://www.bladex.com>. See Item 16G, “Corporate Governance.”

Stockholders, employees of the Bank, and other interested parties may communicate directly with the Board by corresponding to the address below:

Attn: Board of Directors of Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S.A.  
c/o Mr. Gonzalo Menéndez Duque  
Director & Chairman of the Board of Directors  
Calle 50 and Aquilino de la Guardia  
P.O. Box 0819-08730  
Panama City, Republic of Panama

In addition, the Bank has selected EthicsPoint, an on-line reporting system, to provide stockholders, employees of the Bank, and other interested parties with an alternative channel to report anonymously actual or possible violations of the Bank’s Code of Ethics, as well as other work-related situations or irregular or suspicious transactions, accounting matters, internal audit or accounting controls. In order to file a report, a link is provided on the Bank’s website at <http://www.bladex.com/Investors Center/Corporate Governance>, under “Corporate Governance – Private Filing of Reports.”

*Audit and Compliance Committee*

The Audit and Compliance Committee is a standing committee of the Board. According to its Charter, the Audit and Compliance Committee must be comprised of at least three directors. The current members of the Audit and Compliance Committee are Will C. Wood (Chairman), Gonzalo Menéndez Duque, Maria da Graça França and Esteban Alejandro Acerbo.

The Board has determined that all members of the Audit and Compliance Committee are independent directors as defined by applicable laws and regulations, including rules promulgated by the Commission under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, Section 303A of the rules of the NYSE, and Agreement No. 04-2001 of the Superintendency of Banks. In addition, at least one of the members of the Audit and Compliance Committee is a “financial expert,” as defined in the rules enacted by the Commission under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. The Audit and Compliance Committee’s financial expert is Gonzalo Menéndez Duque.

The purpose of the Audit and Compliance Committee is to provide assistance to the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities regarding the processing of the Bank’s financial information, the integrity of the Bank’s financial statements, the Bank’s system of internal controls over financial reporting, the performance of both the internal audit and the registered independent public accounting firm, the Bank’s corporate governance, compliance with legal and regulatory requirements and the Bank’s Code of Ethics. The Audit and Compliance Committee meets with each of the internal and independent auditors, and Bank’s Management to discuss the Bank’s audited consolidated financial statements and management’s discussion and analysis (“MD&A”).

The Audit and Compliance Committee meets at least six times a year, as required by the Superintendency of Banks, or more often if the circumstances so require. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009, the committee met seven times.

See Item 16A, “Audit and Compliance Committee Financial Expert” and Item 16C, “Principal Accountant Fees and Services.”

The Audit and Compliance Committee Charter may be found on the Bank’s website.

*Credit Policy and Risk Assessment Committee*

The Credit Policy and Risk Assessment Committee is a standing committee of the Board. No member of the Credit Policy and Risk Assessment Committee may be an employee of the Bank. The Board has determined that, except for Guillermo Güémez García, all members of the Credit Policy and Risk Assessment Committee are independent as defined by applicable laws and regulations. The current members of the Credit Policy and Risk Assessment Committee are Guillermo Güémez García (Chairman), Gonzalo Menéndez Duque, Herminio Blanco, Mario Covo and João Carlos Nobrega Pecego.

The Credit Policy and Risk Assessment Committee is in charge of reviewing and recommending to the Board all credit policies and procedures related to the management of the Bank’s risks. The committee also reviews the quality and profile of the Bank’s credit facilities and the risk levels that the Bank is willing to assume. The committee’s responsibilities also include, among other things, the review of operational and legal risks, the presentation for Board approval of country limits and limits exceeding delegated authority, and the approval of exemptions to credit policies.

The Credit Policy and Risk Assessment Committee performs its duties through the review of periodic reports from Risk Management, and by way of its interaction with the Chief Risk Officer and other members of the Bank’s Management. The committee meets at least four times per year. During the fiscal period ended December 31, 2009, the committee held four meetings.

The Credit Policy and Risk Assessment Committee Charter may be found on the Bank’s website.

*Assets and Liabilities Committee*

The Assets and Liabilities Committee is a standing committee of the Board. No member of the Assets and Liabilities Committee may be an employee of the Bank. The Board has determined that except for Guillermo Güémez García, all members of the Assets and Liabilities Committee are independent directors as defined by applicable laws and regulations. The current members of the Assets and Liabilities Committee are Mario Covo (Chairman), Herminio Blanco, Guillermo Güémez García, William Dick Hayes and João Carlos Nobrega Pecego.

The Assets and Liabilities Committee is responsible for reviewing and recommending to the Board all policies and procedures related to the Bank’s management of assets and liabilities to meet profitability, liquidity, and market risk control objectives. As part of its responsibilities, the committee reviews and recommends to the Board, among other things, policies related to the Bank’s funding, interest rate and liquidity gaps, liquidity investments, securities investments, derivative positions, funding strategies, and market risk.

The Assets and Liabilities Committee carries out its duties by reviewing periodic reports that it receives from the Bank’s Management, and by way of its interaction with the Executive Vice President-Senior Managing Director, Treasury & Capital Markets and other members of the Bank’s Management. The committee meets at least four times per year. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009, the committee held six meetings.

The Assets and Liabilities Committee Charter may be found on the Bank’s website.

*Business Committee*

The Business Committee is a standing committee of the Board and was established in February 2008. The Board has determined that all members of the Business Committee are independent directors as defined by applicable laws and regulations. The current members of the Business Committee are William Dick Hayes (Chairman), Gonzalo Menéndez Duque, Mario Covo, Herminio Blanco and João Carlos Nobrega Pecego.

The Business Committee’s primary responsibility is to support the Bank’s Management with business ideas and strategies and to provide follow-up on the business directives of the Board. The committee’s main objective is to improve the Bank’s efficiency in the management of the Bank’s various business units.

The Business Committee meets at least four times per year. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009, the committee held four meetings.

*Nomination and Compensation Committee*

The Nomination and Compensation Committee is a standing committee of the Board. No member of the Nomination and Compensation Committee may be an employee of the Bank. The Board has determined that all members of the Nomination and Compensation Committee are independent as defined by applicable laws and regulations. The current members of the Nomination and Compensation Committee are Maria da Graça França (Chairman), William Dick Hayes, Will C. Wood and Esteban Alejandro Acerbo.

The Nomination and Compensation Committee meets at least five times per year. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009, the committee held seven meetings.

The Nomination and Compensation Committee’s primary responsibilities are to assist the Board by (1) identifying candidates to become Board members and recommending nominees for the annual meetings of shareholders; (2) making recommendations to the Board concerning candidates for Chief Executive Officer and other executive officers and counseling on succession planning for executive officers; (3) recommending compensation for Board members and committee members, including cash and equity compensation; (4) recommending compensation for executive officers and employees of the Bank, including cash and equity compensation, policies for senior Management and employee benefit programs and plans; (5) reviewing and recommending changes to the Bank’s Code of Ethics; and (6) advising executive officers on issues related to the Bank’s personnel.

The Nomination and Compensation Committee will consider qualified director candidates recommended by shareholders. All director candidates will be evaluated in the same manner regardless of how they are recommended, including recommendations by shareholders. The committee considers candidate qualifications and other factors, including, but not limited to, diversity in background and experience, industry knowledge, educational level and the needs of the Bank. Shareholders can mail any recommendations and an explanation of the qualifications of the candidates to the Secretary of the Bank at Calle 50 and Aquilino de la Guardia, P.O. Box 0819-08730, Panama City, Republic of Panama.

The Charter of the Nomination and Compensation Committee requires an annual self-evaluation of the committee’s performance.

The Nomination and Compensation Committee Charter may be found on the Bank’s website. Mr. Jaime Rivera is the only executive officer that serves as a member of the Board. None of the Bank’s executive officers serve as a director or a member of the Nomination and Compensation Committee, or any other committee serving an equivalent function or any other entity that has one or more of its executive officers serving as a member of such entity’s Board or Nomination and Compensation Committee. None of the members of the Nomination and Compensation Committee has ever been an employee of the Bank.

*Advisory Council*

The Advisory Council was created by the Board in April 2000 pursuant to the powers granted to the Board under the Bank’s Articles of Incorporation. The primary duty of Advisory Council members is to provide advice to the Board with respect to the business of the Bank in their areas of expertise. Each member of the Advisory Council receives \$5,000 for each Advisory Council meeting attended. The aggregate amount of fees for services rendered by the Advisory Council during 2009 amounted to \$15,000. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009, the Advisory Council met once. The Advisory Council meets when convened by the Board.

The following table sets forth the names, positions, countries of citizenship and ages of the members of the Advisory Council of the Bank:

Name	Position	Country of Citizenship	Age
Roberto Feletti	Secretary of Economy Ministry of Economy and Public Finance	Argentina	51
Roberto Teixeira da Costa	Board Member Sul America, S.A.	Brazil	75
Carlos Martabit	General Manager, Finance Division Banco del Estado de Chile	Chile	56
Santiago Perdomo	President Banco Colpatría – Red Multibanca Colpatría	Colombia	52
Alberto Motta, Jr	President Inversiones Bahía Ltd.	Panama	63
Enrique Cornejo	Minister of Transportation and Communications, Peru	Peru	53

**D. Employees**

The following table presents the total number of permanent employees, geographically distributed, at the dates indicated:

	As of December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
Bladex Head Office in Panama	127	155	157
New York Agency	7	7	8
Bladex Asset Management	5	5	3
Representative Office in Argentina	3	5	3
Representative Office in Brazil	12	13	10
Representative Office in Mexico	6	5	4
Florida International Administrative Office	4	4	3
<b>Total Number of Permanent Employees</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>188</b>

In February 2009, the Bank conducted a reduction in workforce mainly at its headquarters for the purpose of reducing headcount and associated personnel expenses.

**E. Share Ownership**

See Item 6.B, “Directors, Executive Officers and Employees/Compensation/Beneficial Ownership.”

**Item 7. Major Stockholders and Related Party Transactions**

**A. Major Stockholders**

As of December 31, 2009, the Bank was not directly or indirectly owned or controlled by another corporation or any foreign government, and no person was the registered owner of more than 6.7% of the total outstanding of voting capital stock of the Bank.

The following table sets forth information regarding the Bank’s stockholders that are the beneficial owners of 5% or more of any one class of the Bank’s voting stock as of December 31, 2009:

	As of December 31, 2009		
	Number of Shares	% of Class	% of Total
<b>Class A</b>			
Banco de la Nación Argentina <sup>(1)</sup> Bartolomé Mitre 326 1036 Buenos Aires, Argentina	1,045,348.00	16.5	2.9
Banco do Brasil <sup>(2)</sup> SBS Quadra 1-Bloco A CEP 70.0070-100 Brasilia, Brazil	974,551.00	15.4	2.7
Banco de Comercio Exterior de Colombia Edif. Centro de Comercio Internacional Calle 28 No. 13A-15 Bogotá, Colombia	488,547.00	7.7	1.3
Banco de la Nación (Perú) Ave. Republica de Panamá 3664 San Isidro, Lima, Perú	446,556.00	7.0	1.2
Banco Central del Paraguay Federación Rusa y Sargento Marecos Asunción, Paraguay	434,658.00	6.9	1.2
Banco Central del Ecuador Ave. Amazonas entre Juan Pablo Sanz y Atahualpa Quito, Ecuador	431,217.00	6.8	1.2
Banco del Estado de Chile Ave. Libertador Bernardo O’Higgins 1111 Santiago, Chile	323,412.75	5.1	0.9
Sub-total shares of Class A Common Stock	4,144,289.75	65.3	11.3
<b>Total Shares of Class A Common Stock</b>	<b>6,342,189.16</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>17.4</b>
<b>Class B</b>			
Banco de la Provincia de Buenos Aires. San Martin 137 C1004AAC Buenos Aires, Argentina	884,460.98	34.2	2.4
Banco de la Nación Argentina Bartolomé Mitre 326 1036 Buenos Aires, Argentina	295,944.50	11.4	0.8
The Korea Exchange Bank 181, Euljiro 2GA Jungu, Seoul, Korea	147,172.50	5.7	0.4
Sub-total shares of Class B Common Stock	1,327,577.98	51.4	3.6
<b>Total Shares of Class B Common Stock</b>	<b>2,584,881.93</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7.1</b>
<b>Class E <sup>(3)</sup></b>			
Brandes Investment Partners, LP 11988 El Camino Real, Suite 500 San Diego, California 92130	2,462,034.00	8.9	6.7
First Eagle Investment Management, LLC 1345 Avenue of the Americas New York, New York 10105-4300	1,670,816.00	6.0	4.6
LSV Asset Management 1 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 4000 Chicago, Illinois 60606	1,511,347.00	5.5	4.1
Sub-total shares of Class E Common Stock	5,644,197.00	20.4	15.4
<b>Total Shares of Class E Common Stock</b>	<b>27,618,545.00</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>75.6</b>
<b>Class F</b>			
<b>Total Shares of Class F Common Stock</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total Shares of Common Stock</b>	<b>36,545,616.09</b>		<b>100.0</b>

(1) Does not include an aggregate of 7,282 class E shares corresponding to former Director’s entitlements under the 2008 Stock Incentive Plan, that were issued to their employer, Banco de la Nación Argentina.

(2) Does not include an aggregate of 8,480 class E shares corresponding to former Directors’ entitlements under the 2003 Restricted Stock Plan and the 2008 Stock Incentive Plan that were issued to their employer, Banco do Brasil.

(3) Source: Schedule 13Gs filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission dated December 31, 2009.

All common shares have the same rights and privileges regardless of their class, except that:

- The affirmative vote of three-quarters (3/4) of the issued and outstanding Class A shares is required (1) to dissolve and liquidate the Bank, (2) to amend certain material provisions of the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, (3) to merge or consolidate the Bank with another entity and (4) to authorize the Bank to engage in activities other than those described in its Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation;



- The Class E shares are freely transferable without restriction to any person, while the Class A shares, Class B shares and Class F shares can only be transferred to qualified holders of each class;
- The Class B shares and Class F shares may be converted into Class E shares;
- The holders of Class A shares, Class B shares and Class F shares benefit from pre-emptive rights in respect of shares of the same class of shares owned by them that may be issued by virtue of a capital increase, in proportion to the shares of the class owned by them, but the holders of Class E shares do not; and
- All classes vote separately for their respective directors. The holders of the class A common shares have the right to elect three (3) Directors; the holders of the class E common shares can elect five (5) Directors; and the holders of the class F common shares have the right to elect one (1) Director, so long as the number of issued and outstanding class F common shares is equal to or greater than fifteen per cent (15%) of the total number of issued and outstanding common shares of the corporation.

Set forth below are the number of shares of each class of the Bank’s stock issued and outstanding as of December 31, 2009:

Class of Shares	Number of Shares Outstanding as of December 31, 2009
Class A Common Shares	6,342,189.16
Class B Common Shares	2,584,881.93
Class E Common Shares	27,618,545.00
Class F Common Shares	0.00
Total Common Shares	36,545,616.09

The Bank had no preferred stock issued and outstanding as of December 31, 2009.

**B. Related Party Transactions**

Certain directors of the Bank are executive officers of banks and/or other institutions located in Latin America, the Caribbean and elsewhere. Some of these banks and/or other institutions own shares of the Bank’s common stock and have entered into loan transactions with the Bank in the ordinary course of business. The terms and conditions of the loan transactions, including interest rates and collateral requirements, are substantially the same as the terms and conditions of comparable loan transactions entered into with other persons under similar market conditions, and did not involve more than the normal risk of collectability or present other unfavorable features. As a matter of policy, directors of the Bank do not participate in the approval process for credit facilities extended to institutions of which they are executive officers or directors, nor do they participate with respect to decisions regarding country exposure limits in countries in which such institutions are domiciled.

As of December 31, 2009, the Bank did not have any outstanding credit facility with any related parties as defined by the Superintendency of Banks.

**C. Interests of Experts and Counsel**

Not required in this Annual Report.

Item 8. Financial Information

A. Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information

The information included in Item 18 of this Annual Report is referred to and incorporated by reference into this Item 8.A.

Dividends

The Board’s policy is to declare and distribute quarterly cash dividends on the Bank’s common stock. During 2009, Bladex declared \$21.9 million in quarterly dividends, compared to \$32.0 million in 2008 and \$32.0 million in 2007. Dividends are declared at the Board’s discretion and, from time to time, the Bank has declared special dividends. No special dividends were declared during 2009 and 2008.

The following table presents information about common dividends paid on the dates indicated:

Payment date	Record date	Dividend per share
February 8, 2010	January 29, 2010	\$ 0.15
November 2, 2009	October 23, 2009	\$ 0.15
August 3, 2009	July 23, 2009	\$ 0.15
May 7, 2009	April 27, 2009	\$ 0.15
February 9, 2009	January 29, 2009	\$ 0.22
October 31, 2008	October 22, 2008	\$ 0.22
July 31, 2008	July 21, 2008	\$ 0.22
April 4, 2008	March 25, 2008	\$ 0.22
January 17, 2008	January 7, 2008	\$ 0.22

The following table presents information about preferred dividends paid on the dates indicated:

Payment date	Record date	Dividend per share
May 15, 2006	April 28, 2006	\$ 2.22
November 15, 2005	October 31, 2005	\$ 2.18
May 16, 2005	April 29, 2005	\$ 2.15
November 15, 2004	November 8, 2004	\$ 1.90
May 17, 2004	April 30, 2004	\$ 0.40

B. Significant Changes

No significant change has occurred since the date of the annual financial statements (December 31, 2009).

Item 9. The Offer and Listing

A. Offer and Listing Details

The Bank’s Class E shares are listed on the NYSE under the symbol “BLX.” The following table shows the high and low sales prices of the Class E shares on the NYSE for the periods indicated:

	Price per Class E Share (in \$)	
	High	Low
2009	15.09	6.83
2008	20.74	8.17
2007	23.17	15.52
2006	18.70	14.59
2005	25.50	15.34
2010:		
May	14.78	12.80
April	16.48	14.16
March	15.14	14.11
February	14.57	13.33
January	15.08	13.67
2009:		
December	14.68	13.47
November	15.00	13.72
2009:		
First Quarter	14.99	6.83
Second Quarter	13.89	9.26
Third Quarter	15.09	11.80
Fourth Quarter	15.00	13.10
2008:		
First Quarter	16.53	13.33
Second Quarter	19.46	15.50
Third Quarter	20.74	13.25
Fourth Quarter	14.89	8.17

**B. Plan of Distribution**

Not required in this Annual Report.

**C. Markets**

The Bank’s Class A shares and Class B shares were sold in private placements or sold in connection with the Bank’s 2003 rights offering, are not listed on any exchange and are not publicly traded. The Bank’s Class E shares, which constitute the only class of shares publicly traded (listed on the NYSE), represent approximately 75.6% of the total shares of the Bank’s common stock issued and outstanding as of December 31, 2009. The Bank’s Class B shares are convertible into Class E shares on a one-to-one basis.

**D. Selling Stockholders**

Not required in this Annual Report.

**E. Dilution**

Not required in this Annual Report.

**F. Expenses of the Issue**

Not required in this Annual Report.

**Item 10. Additional Information**

**A. Share Capital**

Not required in this Annual Report.

**B. Memorandum and Articles of Association**

*Articles of Incorporation*

Bladex is a bank organized under the laws of the Republic of Panama, and its articles of incorporation are recorded in the Public Registry Office of Panama, Republic of Panama, Section of Mercantile Persons, at microjacket 021666, roll 1050 and frame 0002.

Article 2 of Bladex’s Articles of Incorporation states that the purpose of the Bank is to promote the economic development and foreign trade of Latin American countries. To achieve this purpose, the Bank may engage in any banking or financial business, investment or other activity intended to promote the foreign trade and economic development of countries in Latin America. The Articles of Incorporation provide that Bladex may engage in activities beyond those described above provided that it has obtained stockholder approval in a resolution adopted upon the affirmative majority vote of the common shares, either present or represented, in a meeting of stockholders called to obtain such authorization, including the affirmative vote of the holders of three-fourths (3/4) of the Class A shares issued and outstanding.

Bladex’s Articles of Incorporation provide that the Board of Directors shall direct and control the business and assets of the Bank, except for those matters specifically reserved to stockholders by law or the Articles of Incorporation. The Board of Directors, however, may grant general and special powers of attorney authorizing directors, officers and employees of the Bank or other persons to transact such business and affairs within the competence of the Board of Directors, as the Board of Directors may deem convenient to entrust to such persons.

The Articles of Incorporation of Bladex do not contain a provision limiting the ability of the Board of Directors to approve a proposal, arrangement or contract in which a Director is materially interested, a provision limiting the ability of the Board of Directors to fix the compensation of its members, a provision requiring the mandatory retirement of a Director at any prescribed age, or a provision requiring a person to own a certain number of shares to qualify as a Director.

The Board of Directors consists of ten members: three Directors elected by the holders of the Class A common shares; five Directors elected by the holders of the Class E common shares; and two Directors elected by the holders of all common shares. For so long as the number of Class F common shares issued and outstanding is equal to or greater than fifteen percent (15%) of the total number of common shares issued and outstanding, the holders of the Class F common shares will have the right to elect one director and the Board of Directors will consist of eleven members. As of December 31, 2009, no Class F shares or preferred shares were issued and outstanding.

The number of Class F shares issued and outstanding is measured annually as provided in the Articles of Incorporation to determine whether the holders of Class F shares have a right to elect a Director or, if the holders of Class F shares have previously elected a Director whose term is not scheduled to expire, to determine whether to retain or replace such Director on the Board of Directors at the following annual ordinary shareholders’ meeting.

The Directors are elected by stockholders for periods of three (3) years and they may be re-elected. The holders of the Class A, Class E and Class F shares vote separately as a class in the election of Directors representing their respective class. In the election of Directors, each stockholder of each class electing a Director has a number of votes equal to the number of shares of such class held by such stockholder multiplied by the number of Directors to be elected by such class. The stockholder may cast all votes in favor of one candidate or distribute them among two or more of the Directors to be elected, as the shareholder may decide.

All common shares have the same rights and privileges regardless of their class, except that:

- the affirmative vote of three-quarters (3/4) of the issued and outstanding Class A shares is required (A) to dissolve and liquidate the Bank, (B) to amend certain material provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, (C) to merge or consolidate the Bank with another entity and (D) to authorize the Bank to engage in activities other than those described as the purposes of the Bank in its Articles of Incorporation;
- the Class E shares are freely transferable, but the Class A shares, Class B shares and Class F shares may only be transferred to qualified holders;
- the Class B shares and Class F shares may be converted into Class E shares;
- the holders of Class A shares, Class B shares and Class F shares benefit from pre-emptive rights, but the holders of Class E shares do not;
- the classes vote separately for their representative directors; and
- the rights, preferences, privileges and obligations of the preferred shares will be determined by the Board of Directors at the time of their issuance in a certificate of designation.

Preferred shares have no voting rights, except in accordance with their certificate of designation mentioned above. Holders of preferred shares will have the right to elect one Director only upon a default in the terms of such preferred shares and only if contemplated in the certificate of designation. In the event the holders of the preferred shares are entitled to elect a Director, the total number of Directors in the Board of Directors will be increased by one. The rights of the holders of the common shares may be changed by an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Bank.

Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation may be adopted by the affirmative majority vote of the common shares represented at the respective meeting, except for the following amendments which require, in addition, the affirmative vote of three-quarters (3/4) of all issued and outstanding Class A shares: (i) any amendment to the Bank’s purposes or powers, (ii) any amendment to the capital structure of the Bank and the qualifications to become a holder of any particular class of shares, (iii) any amendment to the provisions relating to the notice, quorum and voting at stockholders’ meetings, (iv) any amendment to the composition and election of the Board of Directors, as well as notices, quorum and voting at meetings of Directors, (v) any amendments to the powers of the Chief Executive Officer of the Bank and (vi) any amendments to the fundamental financial policies of the Bank.

The Articles of Incorporation of Bladex provide that there will be a general meeting of holders of the common shares every year, on such date and in such place as may be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors, to elect Directors and transact any other business duly submitted to the meeting by the Board of Directors. In addition, extraordinary meetings of holders of the common shares may be called by the Board of Directors, as it deems necessary. The Board of Directors or the Chairman of the Board must call an extraordinary meeting of holders of the common shares when requested in writing by one or more holders of common shares representing at least one-twentieth (1/20) of the issued and outstanding capital.

Notice of meetings of stockholders, whether ordinary or extraordinary, are personally delivered to each registered shareholder or sent by fax, telex, courier, air mail or any other means authorized by the Board of the Directors, at least 30 days before the date of the meeting, counted from the date that the notice is sent. The notice of the meeting must include the agenda of the meeting. At any meeting of stockholders, stockholders with a right to vote may be represented by a proxy, who need not be a shareholder and who may be appointed by public or private document, with or without power of substitution.

Upon request to the Board of Directors or the Chairman of the Board of Directors, stockholders representing at least one-twentieth (1/20) of the issued and outstanding shares of any given class may hold a meeting separately as a class for the purpose of considering any matter which, in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and the By-laws, is within their competence. In order to have a quorum at any meeting of stockholders, a majority of the common shares issued and outstanding must be represented at the meeting. Whenever a quorum is not obtained at a meeting of stockholders, the meeting shall be held on the second date set forth in the notice of the meeting. All resolutions of stockholders shall be adopted by the affirmative majority vote of the common shares represented at the meeting where the resolution was adopted, except where a super-majority vote of the Class A shareholders is required, as described above.

Class A shares may be issued only as registered shares in the name of the following entities in Latin American countries: (i) central banks, (ii) banks in which the State is the majority shareholder or (iii) other government agencies. Class B shares may be issued only in the name of banks or financial institutions. Class E shares and preferred shares may be issued in the name of any person, whether a natural person or a legal entity. Class F shares may be issued only (i) in the name of state entities or agencies of countries that are not Latin American countries, including central banks and banks in which the State is the majority shareholder or (ii) in the name of multilateral financial institutions, whether international or regional.

Neither Bladex’s Articles of Incorporation nor its By-laws contain any provision requiring disclosure with respect to a shareholder’s ownership above a certain threshold. There are no conditions imposed by the Articles of Incorporation regarding changes in capital that are more stringent than conditions imposed by Panamanian law.

The Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation were filed as an exhibit to the Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 filed with the Commission on June 26, 2009.

**C. Material Contracts**

The Bank has not entered into any material contract outside the ordinary course of business during the two-year period immediately preceding the date of this Annual Report.

**D. Exchange Controls**

Currently, there are no restrictions or limitations under Panamanian law on the export or import of capital, including foreign exchange controls, the payment of dividends or interest, or the rights of foreign stockholders to hold or vote stock.

**E. Taxation**

The following is a summary of certain U.S. federal and Panamanian tax matters that may be relevant with respect to the acquisition, ownership and disposition of the Bank’s Class E shares. Prospective purchasers of Class E shares should consult their own tax advisors as to the United States, Panamanian or other tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of Class E shares.

This summary does not address the consequences of the acquisition, ownership or disposition of the Bank’s Class A or Class B shares.

*United States Taxes*

This summary describes the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of the Class E shares, but does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all of the tax considerations that may be relevant to holders of Class E shares. This summary applies only to current holders that hold Class E shares as capital assets and does not address classes of holders that are subject to special treatment under the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), such as dealers in securities or currencies, financial institutions, tax-exempt entities, regulated investment companies, insurance companies, securities traders that elect mark-to-market tax accounting, persons subject to the alternative minimum tax, certain U.S. expatriates, persons holding Class E shares as part of a hedging, constructive ownership or conversion transaction or a straddle, holders whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar, or a holder that owns 10% or more (directly, indirectly or constructively) of the voting shares of the Bank.

This summary is based upon the Code, existing, temporary and proposed regulations promulgated there under, judicial decisions and administrative pronouncements, as all in effect on the date of this Annual Report and which are subject to change (possibly on a retroactive basis) and to differing interpretations. Purchasers or holders of Class E shares should consult their own tax advisors as to the U.S. federal, state and local, and foreign tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of Class E shares in their particular circumstances.

As used herein, a “U.S. Holder” refers to a beneficial holder of Class E shares that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, (1) an individual citizen or resident of the United States, (2) a corporation, or an entity treated as a corporation, organized or created in or under the laws of the U.S. or any political subdivision thereof, (3) an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation without regard to the source of its income, (4) a trust, if both (A) a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and (B) one or more U.S. persons (as defined in the Code) have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust, or a trust that has made a valid election under U.S. Treasury Regulations to be treated as a domestic trust, and (5) any holder otherwise subject to U.S. federal income taxation on a net income basis with respect to Class E shares (including a non-resident alien individual or foreign corporation that holds, or is deemed to hold, any Class E share in connection with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business). If a partnership (including for this purpose any entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) is a beneficial owner of Class E shares, the U.S. federal income tax consequences to a partner in the partnership will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. A holder of Class E shares that is a partnership and the partners in such partnership should consult their own tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of Class E shares.

*Taxation of Distributions*

Subject to the “Passive Foreign Investment Company Status” discussion below, to the extent paid out of current or accumulated earnings and profits of the Bank as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles (“earnings and profits”), distributions made with respect to Class E shares (other than certain pro rata distributions of capital stock of the Bank or rights to subscribe for shares of capital stock of the Bank) will be includable in income of a U.S. Holder as ordinary dividend income in accordance with the U.S. Holder’s regular method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes whether paid in cash or Class E shares. To the extent that a distribution exceeds the Bank’s earnings and profits, such distribution will be treated, first, as a nontaxable return of capital to the extent of the U.S. Holder’s tax basis in the Class E shares and will reduce the U.S. Holder’s tax basis in such shares, and thereafter as a capital gain from the sale or disposition of Class E shares. See Item 10, “Additional Information/Taxation/United States Taxes-Taxation of Capital Gains.” The amount of the distribution will equal the gross amount of the distribution received by the U.S. Holder, including any Panamanian taxes withheld from such distribution.

Distributions made with respect to Class E shares out of earnings and profits generally will be treated as dividend income from sources outside the United States. U.S. Holders that are corporations will not be entitled to the “dividends received deduction” under Section 243 of the Code with respect to such dividends. Dividends may be eligible for the special 15% rate applicable to “qualified dividend income” received by an individual, provided, that (1) the Bank is not a “passive foreign investment company” in the year in which the dividend is paid nor in the immediately preceding year, (2) the class of stock with respect to which the dividend is paid is readily tradable on an established securities market in the U.S., and (3) the U.S. Holder held his shares for more than 60 days during the 121-day period beginning 60 days prior to the ex-dividend date and meets other holding period requirements. Subject to certain conditions and limitations, Panamanian tax withheld from dividends will be treated as a foreign income tax eligible for deduction from taxable income or as a credit against a U.S. Holder’s U.S. federal income tax liability. Distributions of dividend income made with respect to Class E shares generally will be treated as “passive” income or, in the case of certain U.S. Holders, “general category income,” for purposes of computing a U.S. Holder’s U.S. foreign tax credit.

Less than 25 percent of the Bank’s gross income is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States, and the Bank expects this to remain true. If this remains the case, a holder of Class E shares that is not a U.S. Holder (a “non-U.S. Holder”) generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax or withholding tax on distributions received on Class E shares that are treated as dividend income for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Special rules may apply in the case of non-U.S. Holders (1) that are engaged in a U.S. trade or business, (2) that are former citizens or long-term residents of the United States, “controlled foreign corporations,” corporations that accumulate earnings to avoid U.S. federal income tax, and certain foreign charitable organizations, each within the meaning of the Code, or (3) certain non-resident alien individuals who are present in the United States for 183 days or more during a taxable year. Such persons should consult their own tax advisors as to the U.S. federal income or other tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of Class E shares.

*Taxation of Capital Gains*

Subject to the “Passive Foreign Investment Company Status” discussion below, gain or loss realized by a U.S. Holder on the sale or other disposition of Class E shares will generally be subject to U.S. federal income tax as capital gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the U.S. Holder’s tax basis in the Class E shares and the amount realized on the disposition. Such gain will be treated as long-term capital gain if the Class E shares are held by the U.S. Holder for more than one year at the time of the sale or other disposition. Otherwise, the gain will be treated as a short-term capital gain. Gain realized by a U.S. Holder on the sale or other disposition of Class E shares generally will be treated as U.S. source income for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes, unless the gain is attributable to an office or fixed place of business maintained by the U.S. Holder outside the United States or is recognized by an individual whose tax home is outside the United States, and certain other conditions are met. For U.S. federal income tax purposes, capital losses are subject to limitations on deductibility. As a general rule, U.S. Holders that are corporations can use capital losses for a taxable year only to offset capital gains in that year. A corporation may be entitled to carry back unused capital losses to the three preceding tax years and to carry over losses to the five following tax years. In the case of non-corporate U.S. Holders, capital losses in a taxable year are deductible to the extent of any capital gains plus ordinary income of up to \$3,000. Unused capital losses of non-corporate U.S. Holders may be carried over indefinitely.

A non-U.S. Holder of Class E shares will generally not be subject to U.S. federal income tax or withholding tax on gain realized on the sale or other disposition of Class E shares. However, special rules may apply in the case of non-U.S. Holders (1) that are engaged in a U.S. trade or business, (2) that are former citizens or long-term residents of the United States, “controlled foreign corporations,” corporations which accumulate earnings to avoid U.S. federal income tax, and certain foreign charitable organizations, each within the meaning of the Code, or (3) certain non-resident alien individuals who are present in the United States for 183 days or more during a taxable year. Such persons should consult their own tax advisors as to the United States or other tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the Class E shares.



Under the Code, certain rules apply to an entity classified as a “passive foreign investment company” (“PFIC”). A PFIC is defined as any foreign (i.e., non-U.S.) corporation if either (1) 75% or more of its gross income for the taxable year is passive income (generally including, among other types of income, dividends, interest and gains from the sale of stock and securities) or (2) 50% or more of its assets (by value) produce, or are held for the production of, passive income. The Code provides an exception for foreign institutions in the active conduct of a banking business, provided the institution is licensed to do business in the United States. Under proposed regulations, the exception is extended to a foreign corporation that is not licensed to do business as a bank in the United States so long as such foreign corporation is an “active foreign bank.” Based on its current and intended method of operations as described herein, the Bank believes that it is not a PFIC under current U.S. federal income tax law because it is eligible for the exception available to active foreign banks in the Code and the proposed regulations. The Bank intends to continue to operate in a manner that will entitle the Bank to rely upon that exception to avoid classification as a PFIC.

If the Bank were to become a PFIC for purposes of the Code, unless a U.S. Holder makes the election described below, a U.S. Holder generally will be subject to a special tax charge with respect to (a) any gain realized on the sale or other disposition of Class E shares and (b) any “excess distribution” by the Bank to the U.S. Holder (generally, any distributions including return of capital distributions, received by the U.S. Holder on the Class E shares in a taxable year that are greater than 125 percent of the average annual distributions received by the U.S. Holder in the three preceding taxable years, or, if shorter, the U.S. Holder’s holding period). Under these rules (1) the gain or excess distribution would be allocated ratably over the U.S. Holder’s holding period for the Class E shares, (2) the amount allocated to the current taxable year would be treated as ordinary income, (3) the amount allocated to each prior year generally would be subject to tax at the highest rate in effect for that year; and (4) an interest charge at the rate generally applicable to underpayments of tax would be imposed with respect to the resulting tax attributable to each such prior year. For purposes of the foregoing rules, a U.S. Holder of Class E shares that uses such stock as security for a loan will be treated as having disposed of such stock.

If the Bank were a PFIC, U.S. Holders of interests in a holder of Class E shares may be treated as indirect holders of their proportionate share of the Class E shares and may be taxed on their proportionate share of any excess distributions or gain attributable to the Class E shares. An indirect holder also must treat an appropriate portion of its gain on the sale or disposition of its interest in the actual holder as gain on the sale of Class E shares.

If the Bank were to become a PFIC, a U.S. Holder could make an election, provided the Bank complies with certain reporting requirements, to have the Bank treated, with respect to such U.S. Holder, as a “qualified electing fund” (hereinafter referred to as a “QEF election”), in which case, the electing U.S. Holder would be required to include annually in gross income the U.S. Holder’s proportionate share of the Bank’s ordinary earnings and net capital gains, whether or not such amounts are actually distributed. If the Bank were to become a PFIC, the Bank intends to so notify each U.S. Holder and to comply with all reporting requirements necessary for a U.S. Holder to make a QEF election and will provide to record U.S. Holders of Class E shares such information as may be required to make such QEF election.

If the Bank is a PFIC in any year, a U.S. Holder that beneficially owns Class E shares during such year must make an annual return on Internal Revenue Service Form 8621, which describes the income received (or deemed to be received if a QEF election is in effect) from the Bank. The Bank will, if applicable, provide all information necessary for a U.S. Holder of record to make an annual return on Form 8621.

Additionally, recently enacted legislation creates an additional annual filing requirement for U.S. persons who are shareholders of a PFIC. The legislation does not describe what information will be required to be included in the additional annual filing, but rather grants the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury authority to decide what information must be included in such annual filing. If the Bank were a PFIC for a given taxable year, then U.S. Holders should consult their tax adviser concerning their annual filing requirements.

A U.S. Holder that owns certain “marketable stock” in a PFIC may elect to mark-to-market such stock and, subject to certain exceptions, include in income any gain (increases in market value) or loss (decreases in market value to the extent of prior gains recognized) realized as ordinary income or loss to avoid the adverse consequences described above. U.S. Holders of Class E shares are urged to consult their own tax advisors as to the consequences of owning stock in a PFIC and whether such U.S. Holder would be eligible to make either of the aforementioned elections to mitigate the adverse effects of such consequences.

*Information Reporting and Backup Withholding*

Each U.S. payor making payments in respect of Class E shares will generally be required to provide the Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”) with certain information, including the name, address and taxpayer identification number of the beneficial owner of Class E shares, and the aggregate amount of dividends paid to such beneficial owner during the calendar year. Under the backup withholding rules, a holder may be subject to backup withholding at a current rate of 28% with respect to proceeds received on the sale or exchange of Class E shares within the United States by non-corporate U.S. Holders and to dividends paid, unless such holder (1) is a corporation or comes within certain other exempt categories (including securities broker-dealers, other financial institutions, tax-exempt organizations, qualified pension and profit sharing trusts and individual retirement accounts), and, when required, demonstrates this fact or (2) provides a taxpayer identification number, certifies as to no loss of exemption and otherwise complies with the applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules. However, U.S. Holders should be aware that under recently passed legislation, the information reporting requirement is extended to all holders, including corporations (other than tax-exempt corporations), for payments made after December 31, 2011. Non-U.S. Holders are generally exempt from information reporting and backup withholding, but may be required to provide a properly completed Form W-8BEN (or other similar form) or otherwise comply with applicable certification and identification procedures in order to prove their exemption. This backup withholding tax is not an additional tax and any amounts withheld from a payment to a holder of Class E shares will be refunded (or credited against such holder’s U.S. federal income tax liability, if any) provided that the required information is furnished to the IRS.

There is no income tax treaty between Panama and the United States.

*Panamanian Taxes*

The following is a summary of the principal Panamanian tax consequences arising in connection with the ownership and disposition of the Bank’s Class E shares. This summary is based upon the laws and regulations of Panama, as well as court precedents and interpretative rulings, in effect as of the date of this Annual Report, all of which are subject to prospective and retroactive change.

*General Principle*

The Bank is exempt from income tax in Panama under a special exemption granted to the Bank pursuant to Contract 103-78 of July 25, 1978 between the Nation and Bladex. In addition, under general rules of income tax in Panama, only income that is deemed to be Panamanian source income is subject to taxation in Panama. Accordingly, since the Bank’s income is derived primarily from sources outside of Panama and is not deemed to be Panamanian source income, even in the absence of the special exemption, the Bank would have limited income tax liability in Panama.

*Taxation of Distributions*

Dividends, whether cash or in kind, paid by the Bank in respect of its shares are also exempt from dividend tax or other withholding under the special exemption described above. In the absence of this special exemption, there would be a 10% withholding tax on dividends or distributions paid in respect of the Bank’s registered shares to the extent the dividends were paid from income derived by the Bank from Panamanian sources.

*Taxation of Capital Gains*

Since the Class E shares are listed on the NYSE, any capital gains realized by an individual or a corporation, regardless of its nationality or residency, on the sale or other disposition of such shares outside of Panama, would be exempted from capital gains taxes or any other taxes in Panama.

**F. Dividends and Paying Agents**

Not required in this Annual Report.

**G. Statement by Experts**

Not required in this Annual Report.

**H. Documents on Display**

Upon written or oral request, the Bank will provide without charge to each person to whom this Annual Report is delivered, a copy of any or all of the documents listed as exhibits to this Annual Report (other than exhibits to those documents, unless the exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference in the documents). Written requests for copies should be directed to the attention of Mr. Christopher Schech, Chief Financial Officer, Bladex, as follows: (1) if by regular mail, to P.O. Box 0819-08730, Panama City, Republic of Panama, and (2) if by courier, to Calle 50 y Aquilino de la Guardia, Panama City, Republic of Panama. Telephone requests may be directed to Mr. Schech at + (507) 210-8630. Written requests may also be faxed to Mr. Schech at + (507) 269-6333 or sent via e-mail to cschech@bladex.com. Information is also available on the Bank’s website at: <http://www.bladex.com>.

**I. Subsidiary Information**

Not applicable.

**Item 11. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk**

The Bank’s risk management policies, as approved by the Board from time to time, are designed to identify and control the Bank’s credit and market risks by establishing and monitoring appropriate limits on the Bank’s credit and market exposures. Certain members of the Board constitute the Assets and Liabilities Committee, which meets on a regular basis and monitors and controls the risks in each specific area. At the Management level, the Bank has a Risk Management Department that measures and controls the credit and market exposure of the Bank.

The Bank’s businesses are subject to market risk. The components of this market risk are interest rate risk inherent in the Bank’s balance sheet, foreign exchange risk, and the price risk in the Bank’s investment portfolio and in the Bank’s trading portfolios.

For quantitative information relating to the Bank’s interest rate risk and information relating to the Bank’s management of interest rate risk, see Item 5, “Operating and Financial Review and Prospects/Liquidity and Capital Resources.”

For information regarding derivative financial instruments, see Item 18, “Financial Statements,” notes 2(t) and 20.

For information regarding investment securities, see Item 4, “Information on the Company/Business Overview/Investment Securities,” and Item 18, “Financial Statements,” note 5.

The table below lists for each of the years from 2010 to 2014 the notional amounts and weighted interest rates, as of December 31, 2009, for derivative financial instruments and other financial instruments that are sensitive to changes in interest rates, including the Bank’s investment securities, loans, borrowings and placements, interest rate swaps, cross currency swaps, forward currency exchange agreements, and trading assets and liabilities. Amounts presented below excludes the Bank’s participation in the Investment Fund. The Bank consolidates the Feeder retaining the specialized accounting for investment companies applied by the Feeder in the Fund, reporting it within the “Investment Fund” line in the consolidated balance sheet; see Item 18, “Financial Statements”, notes 2 (d) and 6.

Interest Rate Risk Management and Sensitivity

As of December 31, 2009

	Expected maturity date						Without maturity	Total 2009	Fair value 2009
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	There-after			
	(\$ Equivalent in thousand)								
NON-TRADING ASSETS									
Investment Securities									
Fixed rate									
U.S. Dollars	30,000	21,175	5,000	90,000	73,000	135,000	-	354,175	408,127
Average fixed rate	7.46%	8.79%	10%	9.83%	9%	7.69%	-	8.58%	
Floating rate									
U.S. Dollars	-	-	25,000	-	-	25,000	-	50,000	48,857
Average floating rate	-	-	0.86%	-	-	2.08%	-	1.47%	
Loans									
Fixed rate									
U.S. Dollars	1,195,586	39,545	6,988	1,479	-	-	-	1,243,598	1,243,022
Average fixed rate	2.97%	5.19%	6.07%	6.83%	-	-	-	3.06%	
Mexican Peso	41,944	19,037	3,606	1,980	590	-	-	67,157	71,294
Average fixed rate	10.50%	10.20%	11.59%	12.15%	12.50%	-	-	10.54%	
Floating rate									
U.S. Dollars <sup>(1)</sup>	595,873	369,933	297,207	112,341	59,782	28,335	-	1,463,471	1,426,741
Average floating rate	3.04%	2.65%	2.90%	3.42%	4.51%	3.42%	-	3.01%	
Mexican Peso	1,375	1,051	-	-	-	-	-	2,426	2,523
Average floating rate	11.17%	11.17%	-	-	-	-	-	11.17%	
Euro	1,623	807	180	-	-	-	-	2,610	2,595
Average floating rate	2.30%	2.28%	2.25%	-	-	-	-	2.29%	
LIABILITIES									
Borrowings and Placements <sup>(2)</sup>									
Fixed rate									
U.S. Dollars	404,051	24,852	-	-	-	-	-	428,903	428,841
Average fixed rate	1.67%	2.35%						1.71%	

Expected maturity date									
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	There-after	Without maturity	Total 2009	Fair value 2009
(\$ Equivalent in thousand)									
Mexican Peso	29,196	11,278	1,944	1,145	-	-	-	43,563	46,226
Average fixed rate	8.38%	8.42%	9.36%	9.59%	-	-	-	8.46%	
Peruvian Soles	-	-	-	-	42,575	-	-	42,575	48,966
Average fixed rate	-	-	-	-	6.50%	-	-	6.50%	
Floating rate									
U.S. Dollars	494,995	281,264	189,280	200,000	-	-	-	1,165,539	1,147,296
Average floating rate	1.16%	1.80%	0.61%	1.49%	-	-	-	1.28%	
Mexican Peso	-	-	-	108,939	-	-	-	108,939	108,902
Average floating rate	-	-	-	5.95%	-	-	-	5.95%	
Interest Rate Swaps									
U.S. Dollars fixed to floating	30,000	20,600	5,000	90,000	73,000	135,000		353,600	(30,756)
Average pay rate	7.46%	8.77%	10.00%	9.83%	9.00%	7.69%		8.58%	
Average receive rate	2.87%	5.39%	6.94%	5.51%	4.66%	3.57%		4.39%	
U.S. Dollars floating to fixed			20,000					20,000	(1,956)
Average pay rate			5.94%					5.94%	
Average receive rate			0.63%					0.63%	
Cross Currency Swaps									
Receive U.S. Dollars	6,126	1,154	656	564	497	-	-	8,997	(294)
U.S. Dollars fixed rate	5.62%	7.04%	7.04%	7.04%	7.04%	-	-	5.98%	
U.S. Dollars floating rate	2.15%	2.27%	2.88%	3.82%		-	-	2.36%	
Pay US Dollars	-	-	-	147,242	41,020	-	-	188,262	(32,131)
U.S. Dollars fixed rate	-	-	-	-	5.35%	-	-	5.35%	
U.S. Dollars floating rate	-	-	-	2.57%	-	-	-	2.57%	
Receive Mexican Peso	-	-	-	147,242	-	-	-	147,242	
Mexican Peso floating rate	-	-	-	5.94%				5.94%	
Pay Mexican Peso	4,694	438	494	564	497			6,687	
Mexican Peso fixed rate	11.15%	12.50%	12.50%	12.50%	12.50%			11.55%	
Receive Peruvian Soles	-	-	-	-	41,020	-	-	41,020	
Peruvian Soles fixed rate	-	-	-	-	6.50%			6.50%	
Pay Euro	1,432	716	162	-	-	-	-	2,310	
Euro floating rate	2.30%	2.27%	2.25%	-	-	-	-	2.29%	
Forward Currency Exchange Agreements									
Receive U.S. Dollars/Pay Mexican Pesos	4,820	1,237	436	350	-	-	-	6,843	829
Average exchange rate	11.83	11.96	12.51	13.13	-	-	-	11.96	
Pay U.S. Dollars/Receive Mexican Pesos	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	(1)
Average exchange rate	11.75	-	-	-	-	-	-	11.75	
TRADING									
Trading Assets									
Debt securities:									
Fixed rate									

Expected maturity date								
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	There-after	Without maturity	Total 2009
	(\$ Equivalent in thousand)							
U.S. Dollars	-	10,000	-	36,800	-	-	-	46,800
Average fixed rate	-	10.25%	-	5.73%	-	-	-	6.69%
<b>Credit derivative:</b>								
U.S. Dollars	3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000
Average fixed rate	0.50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.50%
<b>Trading Liabilities</b>								
<b>Interest rate swaps:</b>								
U.S. Dollars fixed to floating	-	10,000	-	36,800	-	-	-	46,800
Average pay rate	-	10.25%	-	5.73%	-	-	-	6.69%
Average receive rate		7.52%	-	2.11%	-	-	-	3.27%
<b>Cross currency swap:</b>								
Receive US Dollars	7,317	7,296	883	-	-	-	-	15,496
U.S. Dollars floating rate	4.77%	4.77%	4.77%	-	-	-	-	4.77%
Pay Mexican Peso	7,317	7,296	883	-	-	-	-	15,496
Mexican Peso fixed rate	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	-	-	-	-	11.00%

(1) U.S. Dollars floating rate loans include \$35,750 of impaired loans.

(2) Borrowings and placements include securities sold under repurchase agreements and short and long-term borrowings and debt.

Although certain assets and liabilities may have similar maturities or periods of re-pricing, they may be impacted in varying degrees to changes in market interest rates. The maturity of certain types of assets and liabilities may fluctuate in advance of changes in market rates, while the maturity of other types of assets and liabilities may lag behind changes in market rates. In the event of a change in interest rates, prepayment and early withdrawal levels could deviate significantly from the maturities assumed in calculating the table above.

For information regarding the fair value disclosure of financial instruments, see Item 18, “Financial Statements,” note 22. For information regarding the fair value of trading assets and liabilities of the Fund, See Item 18, “Financial Statements,” notes 2(d) and 6.

**Foreign Exchange Risk Management and Sensitivity**

The Bank accepts deposits and raises funds principally in U.S. dollars, and makes loans mostly in U.S. dollars. Currency exchange risk arises when the Bank accepts deposits or raises funds in one currency and lends or invests the proceeds in another. In general, foreign currency-denominated assets are funded with liability instruments denominated in the same currency. In those cases where assets are funded in different currencies, forward foreign exchange or cross-currency swap contracts are used to fully hedge the risk resulting from this cross currency funding. During 2009, the Bank did not hold significant open foreign exchange positions. The Fund invests in securities denominated in foreign currency, as well as forward foreign currency exchange contracts and cross currency swap contracts, all for trading purposes. As of December 31, 2009, the Bank had an equivalent of \$72 million in non-U.S. dollar financial assets and \$195 million of non-U.S. dollar financial liabilities which are fully hedged.

*Price Risk Management and Sensitivity*

Price risk corresponds to the risk that arises from the volatility in the price of the financial instruments held by the Bank, which may result from observed transaction prices that fluctuate freely according to supply and demand or from changes in the risk factors used for determining prices (interest rates, exchange rates, credit risk spreads, etc.). The table below lists the carrying amount and fair value of the investment securities portfolio and the interest rate swaps associated with this portfolio as of December 31, 2009.

	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
NON-TRADING ASSETS		
Investment Securities		
Investment available for sale	456,984	456,984
LIABILITIES		
Interest rate swaps	(30,756)	(30,756)
TRADING ASSETS		
Trading Assets	50,275	50,275
TRADING LIABILITIES		
Interest rate swaps	(2,514)	(2,514)

**Item 12. Description of Securities Other than Equity Securities**

Not applicable.

**PART II**

**Item 13. Defaults, Dividend Arrearages and Delinquencies**

None.

**Item 14. Material Modifications to the Rights of Security Holders and Use of Proceeds**

None.

**Item 15. Controls and Procedures**

**a) Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

The Bank maintains disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports it files under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Commission’s rules and forms. Such controls include those designed to ensure that information for disclosure is accumulated and communicated to the members of the Board and Management, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

The Chief Executive Officer (the “CEO”) and the Chief Financial Officer (the “CFO”) evaluated the effectiveness of the Bank’s disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2009, and concluded that they were effective as of December 31, 2009.

**b) Management’s Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting (“ICFR”)**

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, such as is defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15 (f) or 15d-15(f). Mangement, with the participation and supervision of the Bank’s CEO and CFO, has evaluated the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009.

The evaluation included the documentation and understanding of the Bank’s internal control over financial reporting. Management evaluated the effectiveness of the design and tested the operating effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting on which to base its conclusion.

Management’s evaluation was based on the criteria set forth by the Internal Control-Integrated Framework of the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) .

Internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The Bank’s internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that:

- (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the Bank’s transactions and dispositions of its assets;
- (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that the Bank’s receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with authorizations of the Bank’s Management and the Board; and
- (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the Bank’s assets that could have a material effect on its financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and may not prevent or detect all misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Based on this assessment, the Bank’s Management concluded that, as of December 31, 2009, our internal control over financial reporting was effective based on those criteria.

The Company’s independent registered public accounting firm, Deloitte Inc, has issued an attestation report on the effectiveness of the Bank’s internal control over financial reporting.

c) Attestation Report of the Registered Public Accounting Firm

**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of  
Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S.A. and Subsidiaries

We have audited the internal control over financial reporting of Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S.A. and Subsidiaries (the "Bank") as of December 31, 2009, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Bank's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in Management’s Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Bank's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.



We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed by, or under the supervision of, the company's principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, and effected by the company's board of directors, management, and other personnel to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, the Bank maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009, based on the criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009 of Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S.A. and Subsidiaries and our report dated March 15, 2010 expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

/s/ Deloitte, Inc.

March 15, 2010  
Panama, Republic of Panama

**d) Changes in Internal Controls**

There has been no change in the Bank’s internal control over financial reporting during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, its internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act, except for the situations identified as material weaknesses reported for the fiscal year 2008 relating to the accounting of certain repurchase agreements (repos) and the measurement of fair value for financial instruments, which were remedied through the implementation of the following measures:

- Approval of the policies and procedures to establish the necessary controls to properly record asset transfer transactions that qualify as sales or secured financing based on Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) Accounting Standard Codification (“ASC”) 860 – *Transfer and Servicing*, and the terms used by the Bank to value financial instruments based on ASC 820 – *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*.
- Periodic testing was carried out to verify compliance with the controls established in the policies and procedures mentioned in the previous point.
- A time period was established to timely analyze the effect of different accounting standards on the range of the Bank’s products and services.
- Training was provided to the staff in charge of managing repos and valuation of financial instruments in order to timely detect if any transactions fall outside the established parameters.

**Item 16. [Reserved]**

**Item 16A. Audit and Compliance Committee Financial Expert**

The Board has determined that at least one member of the Audit and Compliance Committee is a “financial expert,” as defined in the rules enacted by the Commission under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. The Audit and Compliance Committee’s financial expert is Mr. Gonzalo Menéndez Duque. Mr. Gonzalo Menéndez Duque is independent as defined by NYSE rules.

**Item 16B. Code of Ethics**

The Bank has adopted a Code of Ethics that applies to the Bank’s principal executive officers, principal financial and principal accounting officers. The Bank’s Code of Ethics includes the information regarding its corporate governance practices necessary to comply with Section 303A of the NYSE Rules. A copy of the Bank’s Code of Ethics is filed as Exhibit 14.1 to this Annual Report on Form 20-F.

**Item 16C. Principal Accountant Fees and Services**

The following table summarizes the fees paid or accrued by the Bank for audit and other services provided by Deloitte, Inc., the Bank’s independent accounting firm, for each of the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008:

	2009	2008
Audit fees	\$ 565,000	\$ 482,000
Audit-Related fees	\$ 93,500	0
All other fees	0	\$ 71,000
Total	\$ 658,500	\$ 553,000

The following is a description of the type of services included within the categories listed above:

- Audit fees include aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered by Deloitte, Inc. for the audit of the Bank’s annual financial statements and services that are normally provided in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements.
- Audit – related fees include, in 2009, aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered by Deloitte, Inc. related to the application of FASB ASC Topic 860. During 2008 no audit-related fees were paid by the Bank.
- All other fees include aggregate fees billed for services provided by Deloitte, Inc. to the Bank, other than the services described in the two preceding paragraphs. Other fees in 2008 included fees billed in connection with the application of the AICPA Investment Guide and reimbursements of travel expenses to Deloitte, Inc.

*Audit and Compliance Committee Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures*

The Audit and Compliance Committee pre-approves all audit and non-audit services to be provided to the Bank by the Bank’s independent accounting firm. All of the services related to the audit fees, audit-related fees, tax fees and all other fees described above were approved by the Audit and Compliance Committee.

**Item 16D. Exemptions from the Listing Standards for Audit Committees**

Not applicable.

**Item 16E. Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers**

Not applicable.

**Item 16F. Change in Registrant’s Certifying Accountant**

Not applicable.

**Item 16G. Corporate Governance**

There are two significant differences between the corporate governance practices of the Bank and those required by the NYSE for domestic companies in the United States.

First, under Section 303A.04 of the NYSE Rules, a listed company must have a nomination/corporate governance committee comprised entirely of independent directors. However, it is common practice among public companies in Panama not to have a corporate governance committee. The Bank addresses all corporate governance matters in plenary meetings of the Board, and the Audit and Compliance Committee has been given the responsibility of improving the Bank’s corporate governance practices and monitoring compliance with such practices.

Second, under Section 303A.08 of the NYSE Rules, stockholders must approve all equity compensation plans and material revisions to such plans, subject to limited exceptions. However, under Panamanian law, any contracts, agreements and transactions between the Bank and one or more of its directors or officers, or companies in which they have an interest, only need to be approved by the Board, including equity compensation plans. The Board must inform stockholders of the equity compensation plans and/or material revisions to such plans at the next stockholders’ meeting. In addition, stockholders may revoke the Board’s approval of the equity compensation plans and/or material revisions to such plans at a meeting, if there is adequate justification and whenever convenient, by invoking the fiduciary duty of the directors that approved such plans and/or revisions.

**PART III**

**Item 17. Financial Statements**

The Bank is providing the financial statements and related information specified in Item 18.

**Item 18. Financial Statements**

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**Banco Latinoamericano  
de Comercio Exterior, S. A.  
and Subsidiaries**

**With Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and Related Consolidated Statements of Income, Stockholders' Equity, Comprehensive  
Income (Loss) and Cash Flows for Each of the Three Years in the Period Ended December 31, 2009

**Consolidated Financial Statements 2009, 2008 and 2007**

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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of  
Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S.A. and Subsidiaries

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S.A. and Subsidiaries (the “Bank”) as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the related consolidated statements of income, changes in stockholders’ equity and redeemable noncontrolling interest in the investment fund, comprehensive income (loss) and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Bank’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S.A. and Subsidiaries as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the consolidated results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the Bank’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009, based on the criteria established in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated March 15, 2010 expressed an unqualified opinion on the Bank’s internal control over financial reporting.

The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been translated into English for the convenience of readers outside of Panama.

/s/ *Deloitte*

March 15, 2010

**Auditoria. Impuestos. Consultoria. Asesoría Financiera.**

**A member firm of  
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu**

Consolidated balance sheets  
December 31, 2009 and 2008

(in US\$ thousand, except share amounts)

	Notes	2009	2008
Assets			
Cash and due from banks	3,22	2,961	11,474
Interest-bearing deposits in banks (including pledged deposits of \$22,582 in 2009 and \$75,004 in 2008)	3,22	421,595	889,119
Trading assets (including pledged securities of \$10,250 in 2008)	4,22	50,277	44,939
Securities available-for-sale (including pledged securities of \$78,512 in 2009 and \$479,724 in 2008)	5,22	456,984	607,918
Securities held-to-maturity (fully pledged, market value of \$28,144 in 2008)	5,22	-	28,410
Investment fund	6,22	197,575	150,695
Loans	7,22	2,779,262	2,618,643
Less:			
Allowance for loan losses	8,22	73,789	54,648
Unearned income and deferred fees		3,989	4,689
Loans, net		2,701,484	2,559,306
Customers' liabilities under acceptances	22	1,551	1,375
Premises and equipment (net of accumulated depreciation and amortization of \$14,290 in 2009 and \$11,594 in 2008)	9	7,749	7,970
Accrued interest receivable	22	25,561	46,319
Derivative financial instruments used for hedging - receivable	20,22	828	7,777
Other assets	10	12,206	7,376
Total assets		3,878,771	4,362,678
Liabilities and stockholders' equity			
Deposits:	11,22		
Noninterest-bearing - Demand		788	718
Interest-bearing - Demand		50,587	112,304
Time		1,204,871	1,056,026
Total deposits		1,256,246	1,169,048
Trading liabilities	4,22	3,152	14,157
Securities sold under repurchase agreement	3,4,5,12,22	71,332	474,174
Short-term borrowings	13,22	327,800	738,747
Borrowings and long-term debt (including \$529,110 in 2009 and \$210,280 in 2008 with remaining maturity within a year)	14,22	1,390,387	1,204,952
Acceptances outstanding	22	1,551	1,375
Accrued interest payable	22	11,291	32,956
Derivative financial instruments used for hedging - payable	20,22	65,137	91,897
Reserve for losses on off-balance sheet credit risk	8	27,261	30,724
Other liabilities		14,077	25,635
Total liabilities		3,168,234	3,783,665
Commitments and contingencies	18,19,20,23		
Redeemable noncontrolling interest in the investment fund		34,900	4,689
Stockholders' equity:	15,16,17,21,24		
"Class A" common stock, no par value, assigned value of \$6.67 (Authorized 40,000,000; outstanding 6,342,189)		44,407	44,407
"Class B" common stock, no par value, assigned value of \$6.67 (Authorized 40,000,000; outstanding 2,584,882 in 2009 and 2,617,784 in 2008)		21,099	21,241
"Class E" common stock, no par value, assigned value of \$6.67 (Authorized 100,000,000; outstanding 27,618,545 in 2009 and 27,453,115 in 2008)		214,474	214,332
Additional paid-in capital in excess of assigned value of common stock		134,820	135,577
Capital reserves		95,210	95,210
Retained earnings		301,389	268,435
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	5,20,21	(6,160)	(72,115)
Treasury stock	15	(129,602)	(132,763)
Total stockholders' equity		675,637	574,324
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity		3,878,771	4,362,678

The accompanying notes are part of these consolidated financial statements.

Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S. A. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated statements of income  
Years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007  
(in US\$ thousand, except per share amounts)

	Notes	2009	2008	2007
Interest income:	20			
Deposits with banks		1,260	7,574	12,729
Trading assets		7,158	648	-
Investment securities:				
Available-for-sale		17,267	31,745	19,595
Held-to-maturity		190	746	1,337
Investment fund		1,763	3,485	9,587
Loans		114,326	200,045	221,621
Total interest income		141,964	244,243	264,869
Interest expense:	20			
Deposits		11,493	44,364	70,443
Investment fund		2,325	2,296	4,197
Short-term borrowings		23,729	63,239	70,244
Borrowings and long-term debt		39,665	56,497	49,415
Total interest expense		77,212	166,396	194,299
Net interest income		64,752	77,847	70,570
Reversal (provision) for loan losses	8	(18,293)	18,540	(11,994)
Net interest income, after reversal (provision) for loan losses		46,459	96,387	58,576
Other income (expense):				
Reversal (provision) for losses on off-balance sheet credit risk	8	3,463	(16,997)	13,468
Fees and commissions, net		6,733	7,252	5,555
Derivative financial instruments and hedging	20	(2,534)	9,956	(989)
Impairment of assets, net of recoveries		(120)	(767)	(500)
Net gain from investment fund trading		24,997	21,357	23,878
Net gain (loss) from trading securities	12	13,113	(20,998)	(12)
Net gain on sale of securities available-for-sale	5	546	67	9,119
Gain (loss) on foreign currency exchange		613	(1,596)	115
Other income (expense), net		912	656	(6)
Net other income (expense)		47,723	(1,070)	50,628
Operating expenses:				
Salaries and other employee expenses		20,201	20,227	22,049
Depreciation, amortization and impairment of premises and equipment		2,671	3,720	2,555
Professional services		3,262	3,765	3,181
Maintenance and repairs		1,125	1,357	1,188
Expenses from the investment fund		3,520	2,065	381
Other operating expenses		7,423	8,856	7,673
Total operating expenses		38,202	39,990	37,027
Net income		55,980	55,327	72,177
Net income attributable to the redeemable noncontrolling interest		1,118	208	-
Net income attributable to Bladex		54,862	55,119	72,177
Basic earnings per share	17	1.50	1.51	1.99
Diluted earnings per share	17	1.50	1.51	1.98
Weighted average basic shares	17	36,493	36,388	36,349
Weighted average diluted shares	17	36,571	36,440	36,414

The accompanying notes are part of these consolidated financial statements.



Consolidated statements of changes in stockholders' equity and redeemable noncontrolling interest in the investment fund  
Years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007  
(in US\$ thousand)

	Stockholders' equity							
	Common stock	Additional paid-in capital in excess of assigned value of common stock	Capital reserves	Retained earnings	Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	Treasury stock	Total stockholders' equity	Redeemable noncontrolling interest in the investment fund
Balances at January 1, 2007	279,980	134,945	95,210	205,200	3,328	(134,768)	583,895	-
Net income	-	-	-	72,177	-	-	72,177	-
Other comprehensive loss	-	-	-	-	(12,969)	-	(12,969)	-
Compensation cost - stock options plans	-	1,130	-	-	-	-	1,130	-
Issuance of restricted stock	-	(644)	-	-	-	531	(113)	-
Exercised options	-	(289)	-	-	-	449	160	-
Dividends declared	-	-	-	(32,029)	-	-	(32,029)	-
Balances at December 31, 2007	279,980	135,142	95,210	245,348	(9,641)	(133,788)	612,251	-
Net income	-	-	-	55,119	-	-	55,119	208
Redeemable noncontrolling interest - subscriptions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,000
Redeemable noncontrolling interest - redemptions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,519)
Other comprehensive loss	-	-	-	-	(62,474)	-	(62,474)	-
Compensation cost - stock options and stock units plans	-	1,033	-	-	-	-	1,033	-
Issuance of restricted stock	-	(484)	-	-	-	745	261	-
Exercised options	-	(114)	-	-	-	280	166	-
Dividends declared	-	-	-	(32,032)	-	-	(32,032)	-
Balances at December 31, 2008	279,980	135,577	95,210	268,435	(72,115)	(132,763)	574,324	4,689
Net income	-	-	-	54,862	-	-	54,862	1,118
Redeemable noncontrolling interest - subscriptions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,090
Redeemable noncontrolling interest - redemptions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,997)
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	65,955	-	65,955	-
Compensation cost - stock options and stock units plans	-	1,596	-	-	-	-	1,596	-
Issuance of restricted stock	-	(905)	-	-	-	905	-	-
Exercised options and stock units vested	-	(1,448)	-	-	-	2,256	808	-
Dividends declared	-	-	-	(21,908)	-	-	(21,908)	-
Balances at December 31, 2009	279,980	134,820	95,210	301,389	(6,160)	(129,602)	675,637	34,900

The accompanying notes are part of these consolidated financial statements.

Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S. A. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss)  
Years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007  
(in US\$ thousand)

	Notes	2009	2008	2007
Net income		55,980	55,327	72,177
Other comprehensive income (loss)				
Unrealized gains (losses) on securities available-for-sale:				
Unrealized gains (losses) arising from the year	21	63,556	(58,453)	(1,912)
Less: reclassification adjustments for net gains included in net income	21	(649)	(67)	(9,119)
Net change in unrealized gains (losses) on securities available-for-sale		62,907	(58,520)	(11,031)
Unrealized gains (losses) on derivative financial instruments:				
Unrealized gains (losses) arising from the year	21	1,971	(2,433)	(2,081)
Less: reclassification adjustments for net (gains) losses included in net income	21	1,077	(1,521)	143
Net change in unrealized gains (losses) on derivative financial instruments		3,048	(3,954)	(1,938)
Other comprehensive income (loss)		65,955	(62,474)	(12,969)
Comprehensive income (loss)		121,935	(7,147)	59,208
Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to the redeemable noncontrolling interest		1,118	208	-
Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to Bladex		120,817	(7,355)	59,208

The accompanying notes are part of these consolidated financial statements.

Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S. A. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated statements of cash flows  
Years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007  
(in US\$ thousand)

	2009	2008	2007
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net income	55,980	55,327	72,177
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Activities of derivative financial instruments and hedging	1,391	30,198	1,258
Depreciation, amortization and impairment of premises and equipment	2,671	3,720	2,555
Provision (reversal) for loan losses	18,293	(18,540)	11,994
Provision (reversal) for losses on off-balance sheet credit risk	(3,463)	16,997	(13,468)
Impairment loss on assets	120	767	500
Net gain on sale of securities available-for-sale	(546)	(67)	(9,119)
Compensation cost - compensation plans	1,596	1,033	1,130
Issuance of restricted stock	-	261	(113)
Exercised deferred compensation units	-	15	-
Amortization of premium and discounts on investments	9,382	12,115	6,268
Net decrease (increase) in operating assets:			
Trading assets	(5,338)	(1,355)	-
Investment fund	(46,880)	(68,849)	23,353
Accrued interest receivable	20,758	16,056	(9,887)
Other assets	(5,126)	683	(2,583)
Net increase (decrease) in operating liabilities:			
Trading liabilities	(11,005)	14,144	13
Accrued interest payable	(21,665)	(5,671)	11,332
Other liabilities	1,303	(6,088)	3,631
Net cash provided by operating activities	17,471	50,746	99,041
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Net decrease (increase) in pledged deposits	52,422	(69,504)	-
Net decrease (increase) in loans	(160,471)	1,089,851	(864,971)
Proceeds from the sale of loans	-	25,617	121,824
Acquisition of premises and equipment	(2,450)	(1,514)	(1,595)
Proceeds from the redemption of securities available-for-sale	-	58,074	19,074
Proceeds from the maturity of securities held-to-maturity	28,275	-	125,000
Proceeds from the sale of securities available-for-sale	196,980	229,877	578,697
Purchases of investment securities	(9,994)	(536,880)	(716,472)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	104,762	795,521	(738,443)
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Net increase (decrease) in due to depositors	87,198	(293,323)	406,094
Net decrease in short-term borrowings and securities sold under repurchase agreements	(813,789)	(291,789)	(90,894)
Proceeds from borrowings and long-term debt	335,598	631,099	613,126
Repayments of borrowings and long-term debt	(150,163)	(436,463)	(161,670)
Dividends paid	(34,593)	(30,862)	(29,713)
Subscriptions of redeemable noncontrolling interest in the investment fund	32,090	6,000	-
Redemptions of redeemable noncontrolling interest in the investment fund	(2,997)	(1,519)	-
Exercised stock options	808	151	160
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(545,848)	(416,706)	737,103
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(423,615)	429,561	97,701
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	825,589	396,028	298,327
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	401,974	825,589	396,028
Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information:			
Cash paid during the year for interest	98,877	172,067	183,521

The accompanying notes are part of these consolidated financial statements.

**1. Organization**

Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S. A. (“Bladex Head Office” and together with its subsidiaries “Bladex” or the “Bank”), headquartered in Panama City, Republic of Panama, is a specialized supranational bank established to finance trade in Latin America and the Caribbean (the “Region”). The Bank was established pursuant to a May 1975 proposal presented to the Assembly of Governors of Central Banks in the Region, which recommended the creation of a multinational organization to increase the foreign trade financing capacity of the Region. The Bank was organized in 1977, incorporated in 1978 as a corporation pursuant to the laws of the Republic of Panama, and officially initiated operations on January 2, 1979. Under a contract signed in 1978 between the Republic of Panama and Bladex, the Bank was granted certain privileges by the government of Panama, including an exemption from payment of income taxes in Panama.

On April 15, 2009, the Bank’s shareholders approved at its Annual Shareholders’ Meeting some amendments to the Bank’s Articles of Incorporation. The amendments, that were effective on June 17, 2009, include, among others:

- A change in the legal name of the Bank from Banco Latinoamericano de Exportaciones, S. A. to Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S. A.
- An extension of the scope of the Bank’s activities to encompass all types of banking, investment, and financial or other businesses that support foreign trade and the development of Latin American countries.
- Authorization of: (1) an increase in the total share capital of the Bank to two hundred ninety million (290,000,000) shares, including up to ten million of new preferred stock, with a par value US\$10 each, to be issued in one or more series from time to time at the discretion of the Bank’s Board of Directors; and (2) the establishment of a new class of common shares (Class F) that will only be issued to (a) state entities and agencies of non-Latin American countries, including, among others, central banks and majority state-owned banks in those countries, and (b) multilateral financial institutions either international or regional institutions. When the number of issued and outstanding Class F common shares is equal to or greater than 15% of the total number of issued and outstanding common shares, the Class F shareholders shall have the right to elect one director of the Bank.

The Bank operates under a general banking license issued by the National Banking Commission of Panama, predecessor of the Superintendency of Banks of Panama (the “SBP”).

In the Republic of Panama, banks are regulated by the SBP through Law Decree No. 9 of February 1998, modified by Law Decree No. 2 of February 22, 2008. Banks are also regulated by the resolutions and agreements issued by this entity. The main aspects of this law and its regulations include: the authorization of banking licenses, minimum capital and liquidity requirements, consolidated supervision, procedures for management of credit and market risks, measures to prevent money laundering, the financing of terrorism and related illicit activities, and procedures for banking intervention and liquidation, among others.

Bladex Head Office’s subsidiaries are the following:

- Bladex Holdings Inc., is a wholly owned subsidiary, incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware, United States of America (USA), on May 30, 2000. Bladex Holdings Inc. exercises control over the following subsidiary companies:
  - Bladex Asset Management Inc., incorporated on May 24, 2006, under the laws of the State of Delaware, USA, serves as investment manager for Bladex Offshore Feeder Fund (the “Feeder”) and Bladex Capital Growth Fund (the “Fund”). On September 8, 2009, Bladex Asset Management Inc. was registered as a foreign entity in the Republic of Panama, to establish a branch in Panama, which will be mainly engaged in providing administrative and operating services to Bladex Asset Management Inc. in USA.
  - Clavex, LLC incorporated on June 15, 2006, under the laws of the State of Delaware, USA, ceased operations in February 2007.
- The Feeder is an entity in which Bladex Head office owns 82.34% at December 31, 2009, and 96.89% at December 31, 2008. The Feeder was incorporated on February 21, 2006 under the laws of the Cayman Islands, and invests substantially all its assets in the Fund, which is also incorporated under the laws of the Cayman Islands. The objective of the Fund is to achieve capital appreciation by investing in Latin American debt securities, stock indexes, currencies, and trading derivative instruments.

In April 2008, the Feeder was registered with the Cayman Island Monetary Authority (CIMA), under the Mutual Funds Law of the Cayman Islands. Until April 30, 2008, the Feeder was a wholly owned subsidiary of Bladex Head Office. On May 1, 2008, the Feeder began receiving third party investments.

In April 2009, the Fund was registered with CIMA, under the Mutual Funds Law of the Cayman Islands and began receiving third party investments.

- Bladex Representacao Ltda., incorporated under the laws of Brazil on January 7, 2000, acts as the Bank’s representative office in Brazil. Bladex Representacao Ltda. is 99.999% owned by Bladex Head Office and 0.001% owned by Bladex Holdings Inc.
- Clavex, S. A., is a wholly owned subsidiary, incorporated on May 18, 2006, under the laws of the Republic of Panama, to mainly provide specialized training.

Bladex Head Office has an agency in New York City, USA (the “New York Agency”), which began operations on March 27, 1989. The New York Agency is principally engaged in financing transactions related to international trade, mostly the confirmation and financing of letters of credit for customers of the Region. The New York Agency is also licensed by the State of New York Banking Department, USA, to operate an International Banking Facility (“IBF”). The Bank also has representative offices in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and in Mexico City, D.F., Mexico, and an international administrative office in Miami, Florida, USA.

Bladex Head Office owns 50% of the equity shares of BCG PA LLC, a company incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware, USA. This company owns “Class C” shares of the Fund that entitle it to receive a performance allocation on third-party investments in the Feeder and in the Fund.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

a) Basis of presentation

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“U.S. GAAP”). All amounts presented in the consolidated financial statements and notes are expressed in dollars of the United States of America (“US\$”), which is the Bank’s functional currency. The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been translated from Spanish to English for users outside of the Republic of Panama.

Effective July 1, 2009, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the “FASB”) issued the FASB Accounting Standards Codification (the “ASC”) under ASC Topic 105-10, under which the historical GAAP hierarchy was eliminated and the ASC became the single official source of authoritative, non-governmental GAAP, other than guidance issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”). All other literature became non-authoritative. ASC Topic 105-10 became effective for financial statements issued for interim and annual periods ending after September 15, 2009.

b) Principles of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Bladex Head Office and its subsidiaries. Bladex Head Office consolidates its subsidiaries in which it holds a controlling financial interest. All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated for consolidation purposes.

When Bladex holds an interest in investment companies under the Feeder-Master structure where the Feeder’s shareholding has not been diluted and it has not been registered as a mutual fund with any regulatory body, the Feeder, and thereby Bladex indirectly, fully consolidates the Master on line-by-line basis. In other cases where the participation in the Feeder is diluted and such entity is registered as a mutual fund with a regulatory body, it is considered an investment company. In those cases, the Feeder, and thereby Bladex indirectly, consolidates its participation in the Master in one line item in the balance sheet, as required by the specialized accounting in the ASC Topic 946 - Financial Services – Investment Companies.

c) Equity method

Investments in companies in which Bladex Head Office exercises significant influence, but not control over its financial and operating policies, and holds an equity participation of at least 20% but not more than 50%, are initially accounted for at cost, which is subsequently adjusted to record the participation of the investment in gains (losses) of the investee after the acquisition date.

*d) Specialized accounting for investment companies*

The Feeder and the Fund are organized under a “Feeder-Master” structure. Under this structure, the Feeder invests all its assets in the Fund which in turn invests in various assets on behalf of its investor. Specialized accounting for investment companies requires the Feeder to reflect its investment in the Fund in a single line item equal to its proportionate share of the net assets of the Fund, regardless of the level of Feeder’s interest in the Fund. The Feeder records the Fund’s results by accounting for its participation in the net interest income and expenses of the Fund, as well as its participation in the realized and unrealized gains or losses of the Fund.

As permitted by ASC Topic 810-10-25-15 – Consolidation, when Bladex consolidates its investment in the Feeder, it retains the specialized accounting for investment companies applied by the Feeder in the Fund, reporting it within the “Investment fund” line item in the consolidated balance sheet, and presenting the third party investments in the Feeder in the “Redeemable noncontrolling interest in the investment fund” line item between liabilities and stockholders’ equity. The Bank reports interest income and expense from the Fund in the Investment fund line item within interest income and expense, realized and unrealized gains and losses in the “Net gain from investment fund trading” line item, and expenses from the Fund are reported in “Expenses from the investment fund” line item in the consolidated statements of income.

*e) Use of estimates*

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements requires management to make estimates and use assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Material estimates that are particularly susceptible to significant changes relate to the determination of the allowances for credit losses, impairment of securities available-for-sale and held-to-maturity, and the fair value of financial instruments. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Management believes these estimates are adequate.

*f) Cash equivalents*

Cash equivalents consist of demand deposits in banks and interest-bearing deposits in banks with original maturities of three months or less, excluding pledged deposits.

*g) Repurchase agreements*

Repurchase agreements represent collateralized financing transactions used to increase liquidity. When the criteria set forth in the following paragraph are met to account for the transaction as secured financing, the transaction is recorded at the amounts at which the securities will be subsequently reacquired including accrued interest, as specified in the respective agreements. The market value of securities to be repurchased is continuously monitored, and additional collateral is obtained or provided where appropriate, to protect against credit exposure.

The Bank’s policy is to relinquish possession of the securities sold under agreements to repurchase. Despite such relinquishment of possession, repurchase agreements qualify as secured financings if and only if all of the following conditions are met: the assets to be repurchased are the same or substantially the same as those transferred; the transferor is able to repurchase them with the collateral received, keeping substantially the agreed terms, even in the event of default of the transferee; the agreement is to repurchase or redeem them before maturity, at a fixed and determinable price; and the agreement is entered into concurrently at the transfer date. In order to be able to repurchase assets on substantially the agreed terms, even in the case of default from the counterparty, the transferor must at all times, during the contract term, have obtained cash or other collateral sufficient to fund substantially all the cost of purchasing the transferred assets from the counterparties.

When repurchase agreements do not meet the above-noted conditions, they qualify as sales of securities, for which the related security is removed from the balance sheet and a forward purchase agreement is recognized for the obligation to repurchase the security. Changes in fair value of the forward purchase agreement as well as any gain or loss resulting from the sale of securities under repurchase agreements are reported in earnings of the period within net gain (loss) from trading securities.

At the date of the repurchase agreement, the Bank recognizes as income the retained interest in the repurchase agreements accounted for as sales. The fair value of the retained interest is based upon quoted market prices when available, or if the quoted market prices are not available, on the present value of future expected cash flows using the information related to credit losses, prepayment speeds, forward yield curves, and discount rates commensurate with the risks involved.

***h) Trading assets and liabilities***

Trading assets and liabilities include bonds acquired for trading purposes, and receivables (unrealized gains) and payables (unrealized losses) related to derivative financial instruments which are not designated as hedges or which do not qualify for hedge accounting. These amounts include the derivative assets and liabilities net of cash received or paid, respectively, under legally enforceable master netting agreements. Trading assets and liabilities are carried at fair value, which is based upon quoted prices when available, or if quoted market prices are not available, on discounted expected cash flows using market rates commensurate with the credit quality and maturity of the security.

Unrealized and realized gains and losses on trading assets and liabilities are recorded in earnings as net gain (loss) from trading securities.

***i) Investment securities***

Securities are classified at the date of purchase based on the ability and intent to sell or hold them as investments. These securities consist of debt securities such as: negotiable commercial paper, bonds and floating rate notes.



Securities available-for-sale

These securities consist of debt instruments that the Bank buys with the intention of selling them prior to maturity and are subject to the same approval criteria as the rest of the credit portfolio. These securities are carried at fair value, based on quoted market prices when available, or if quoted market prices are not available, based on discounted expected cash flows using market rates commensurate with the credit quality and maturity of the security. Unrealized gains and losses are reported as net increases or decreases to other comprehensive income (loss) (OCI) in stockholders' equity until they are realized. Realized gains and losses from the sale of securities which are included in net gain on sale of securities are determined using the specific identification method.

Securities held-to-maturity

Securities classified as held-to-maturity represent securities that the Bank has the ability and the intent to hold until maturity. These securities are carried at amortized cost and are subject to the same approval criteria as the rest of the credit portfolio.

Interest on securities is recognized based on the interest method. Amortization of premiums and discounts are included in interest income as an adjustment to the yield.

Impairment

The Bank conducts periodic reviews of all securities with unrealized losses to evaluate whether the impairment is other-than-temporary. Impairment of securities is evaluated considering numerous factors, and their relative significance varies case by case. Factors considered in determining whether unrealized losses are temporary include: the length of time and extent to which the market value has been less than cost, the severity of the impairment, the cause of the impairment and the financial condition of the issuer, activity in the market of the issuer which may indicate adverse credit conditions, the intent and ability of the Bank to retain the security for a sufficient period of time to allow of an anticipated recovery in the market value (with respect to equity securities) and the intent and probability of the Bank to sell the security before the recovery of its amortized cost (with respect to debt securities). If, based on the analysis, it is determined that the impairment is other-than-temporary, the security is written down to its fair value, and a loss is recognized through earnings as impairment loss on assets.

In cases where the Bank does not intend to sell a debt security and estimates that it will not be required to sell the security before the recovery of its amortized cost basis, the Bank periodically estimates if it will recover the amortized cost of the security through the present value of expected cash flows. If the present value of expected cash flows is less than the amortized cost of the security, it is determined that an other-than-temporary impairment has occurred. The amount of this impairment representing credit loss is recognized through earnings and the residual of the other-than-temporary impairment related to non-credit factors is recognized in other comprehensive income (loss).

In periods subsequent to the recognition of the other-than-temporary impairment, the difference between the new amortized cost and the expected cash flows to be collected is accreted as interest income. The present value of the expected cash flows is estimated over the life of the debt security. The other-than-temporary impairment of securities held-to maturity that has been recognized in other comprehensive income is accreted to the amortized cost of the debt security prospectively over its remaining life.

Interest accrual is suspended on securities that are in default, or on which it is likely that future interest payments will not be received as scheduled.

j) *Investment Fund*

The Feeder records its investment in the Fund at fair value, which is the Feeder’s proportionate interest in the net assets of the Fund.

The Fund invests in trading assets and liabilities that are carried at fair value, which is based upon quoted market prices when available. For financial instruments for which quoted prices are not available, the Fund uses independent valuations from pricing providers that use their own proprietary valuation models that take into consideration discounted expected cash flows, using market rates commensurate with the credit quality and maturity of the security. These prices are compared to independent valuations from counterparties. The Fund reports trading gains and losses from negotiation of these instruments as realized and unrealized gains and losses on investments.

k) *Other investments*

Other investments that mainly consist of unlisted stock are recorded at cost and are included in other assets. The Bank determined that it is not practicable to obtain the market value of these investments, as these shares are not traded in a secondary market. Performance of these investments is evaluated periodically and declines that are determined to be other-than-temporary are charged to earnings as impairment on assets.

l) *Loans*

Loans are reported at their principal outstanding amounts net of unearned income, deferred fees and allowance for loan losses. Interest income is recognized using the interest method. The amortization of net unearned income and deferred fees are recognized as an adjustment to the related loan yield using the effective interest method.

Purchased loans are recorded at acquisition cost. The difference between the principal and the acquisition cost of loans, the premiums and discounts, is amortized over the life of the loan as an adjustment to the yield. All other costs related to acquisition of loans are expensed when incurred.

Loans are identified as past-due and placed on a cash basis (non-accrual) when interest or principal is past due for 90 days or more, or before if the Bank’s management believes there is an uncertainty with respect to the ultimate collection of principal or interest. Factors considered by the Bank’s management in determining impairment include collection status, collateral value, the probability of collecting scheduled principal and interest payments when due, and economic conditions in the borrower’s country of residence. Any interest receivable on non-accruing loans is reversed and charged-off against earnings. Interest on these loans is only recorded as earned when collected. Non-accruing loans are returned to an accrual status when (1) all contractual principal and interest amounts are current; (2) there is a sustained period of repayment performance in accordance with the contractual terms of at least six months; and (3) if in the Bank management’s opinion the loan is fully collectible. When current events or available information confirm that specific impaired loans or portions thereof are uncollectible, such impaired loans are charged-off against the allowance for loan losses.

A loan is classified as a troubled debt restructuring if a significant concession is granted to the borrower due to the deterioration in its financial condition. Marketable securities received in exchange for loans under debt restructurings are initially recorded at fair value, with any gain or loss recorded as a recovery or charge to the allowance, and are subsequently accounted for as securities available-for-sale.

*m) Transfer of financial assets*

Transfers of financial assets, primarily loans, are accounted for as sales when control over the assets has been surrendered. Control over transferred assets is deemed to be surrendered when: (1) the assets have been isolated from the Bank even in bankruptcy or other receivership; (2) the transferee obtains the right (free of conditions that constrain it from taking advantage of that right) to pledge or exchange the transferred assets; and (3) the Bank does not maintain effective control over the transferred assets through an agreement to repurchase them before their maturity or does not have the right to cause the assets to be returned. Upon completion of a transfer of assets that satisfies the conditions described above to be accounted for as a sale, the Bank recognizes the assets as sold and records in earnings any gain or loss on the sale. The Bank may retain interest in loans sold in the form of servicing rights. Gains or losses on sale of loans depend in part on the carrying amount of the financial assets involved in the transfer, and its fair value at the date of transfer. The fair value of instruments is determined based upon quoted market prices when available, or are based on the present value of future expected cash flows using information related to credit losses, prepayment speeds, forward yield curves, and discounted rates commensurate with the risk involved.

*n) Allowance for credit losses*

The allowance for credit losses is provided for losses derived from the credit extension process, inherent in the loan portfolio and off-balance sheet financial instruments, using the reserve method of providing for credit losses. Additions to the allowance for credit losses are made by accreting earnings. Credit losses are deducted from the allowance, and subsequent recoveries are added. The allowance is also decreased by reversals of the allowance back to earnings. The allowance attributable to loans is reported as a deduction of loans and the allowance for off-balance sheet credit risk, such as, letters of credit and guarantees, is reported as a liability.

The allowance for possible credit losses includes an asset-specific component and a formula-based component. The asset-specific component relates to provision for losses on credits considered impaired and measured on a case-by-case basis. An allowance is established when the discounted cash flows (or observable market price of collateral) of the credit is lower than the carrying value of that credit. The formula-based component covers the Bank’s performing credit portfolio and is established based in a process that estimates the probable loss inherent in the portfolio, based on statistical analysis and management’s qualitative judgment. The statistical calculation is a product of internal risk classifications, probabilities of default and loss given default. The probability of default is supported by Bladex’s historical portfolio performance complemented by probabilities of default provided by external sources for higher risk cases, in view of the greater robustness of this external data for such cases. The loss given default is based on Bladex’s historical losses experience and best practices. The reserve balances, for both on and off-balance sheet credit exposures, are calculated applying the following formula:

Reserves =  $\sum (E \times PD \times LGD)$ ; where:

- Exposure (E) = the total accounting balance (on and off-balance sheet) at the end of the period under review.
- Probabilities of Default (PD) = one-year probability of default applied to the portfolio. Default rates are based on Bladex’s historical portfolio performance per rating category, complemented by Standard & Poor’s (“S&P”) probabilities of default for high risk cases, in view of the greater robustness of S&P data for such cases.
- Loss Given Default (LGD) = a factor is utilized, based on historical information, same as based on best practices in the banking industry. Management applies judgment and historical loss experience.

***o) Fair value of guarantees including indirect indebtedness of others***

The Bank recognizes at inception a liability for the fair value of obligations undertaken such as stand-by letters of credit and guarantees. Fair value is calculated based on the present value of the premium to be received or a specific allowance for off-balance sheet credit contingencies, whichever is greater.

***p) Fees and commissions***

Loan origination fees, net of direct loan origination costs, are deferred, and the net amount is recognized as revenue over the contractual term of the loans as an adjustment to the yield. These net fees are not recognized as revenue during periods in which interest income on loans is suspended because of concerns about the realization of loan principal or interest. Underwriting fees are recognized as revenue when the Bank has rendered all services to the issuer and is entitled to collect the fee from the issuer, when there are no contingencies related to the fee. Underwriting fees are recognized net of syndicate expenses. In addition, the Bank recognizes credit arrangement and syndication fees as revenue after satisfying certain retention, timing and yield criteria. Fees received in connection with a modification of terms of a troubled debt restructuring are applied as a reduction of the recorded investment in the loan. Fees earned on letters of credit, guarantees and other commitments are amortized using the straight-line method over the life of such instruments.

*q) Premises and equipment*

Premises and equipment, including the electronic data processing equipment, are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and amortization, except land, which is carried at cost. Depreciation and amortization are charged to operations using the straight-line method, over the estimated useful life of the related asset. The estimated original useful life for building is 40 years and for furniture and equipment is three to five years.

The Bank defers the cost of internal-use software that has a useful life in excess of one year in accordance with ASC Topic 350-40 - Intangibles – Goodwill and Other – Internal-Use Software. These costs consist of payments made to third parties related to the use of licenses and installation of both, software and hardware. Subsequent additions, modifications or upgrades to internal-use software are capitalized only to the extent that they allow the software to perform a task it previously did not perform. Software maintenance and training costs are expensed in the period in which they are incurred. Capitalized internal use software costs are amortized using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives, generally consisting of five years.

*r) Capital reserves*

Capital reserves are established as a segregation of retained earnings and are, as such, a form of retained earnings. Even though the constitution of capital reserves is not required by the SBP, their reductions require the approval of the Bank’s Board of Directors and the SBP.

*s) Stock-based compensation and stock options plans*

The Bank applies ASC Topic 718 – Compensation - Stock Compensation to account for compensation costs on restricted stock and stock option plans. Compensation cost is based on the grant date fair value of both stock and options and is recognized over the requisite service period of the employee. The fair value of each option is estimated at the grant date using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. When options and stock are exercised, the Bank’s policy is to reissue shares from treasury stock.

*t) Derivative financial instruments and hedge accounting*

The Bank uses derivative financial instruments for its management of interest rate and foreign exchange risks. Interest rate swap contracts and cross-currency swap contracts have been used to manage interest rate and foreign exchange risks associated with debt securities and borrowings with fixed rates, and loans and borrowings in foreign currency. The accounting for changes in value of a derivative depends on whether the contract is for trading purposes or has been designated and qualifies for hedge accounting.

Derivatives held for trading purposes include interest rate swap, credit default swap and cross-currency swap contracts used for risk management purposes that do not qualify for hedge accounting. The fair value of trading derivatives is reported as trading assets or trading liabilities, as applicable. Changes in realized and unrealized gains and losses and interest from these trading instruments are included in net gain (loss) from trading securities.

Derivatives for hedging purposes primarily include forward foreign exchange contracts and interest rate swap contracts in U.S. dollars and cross-currency swaps. Derivative contracts designated and qualifying for hedge accounting are reported in the balance sheet as derivative financial instruments used for hedging - receivable and payable and hedge accounting is applied. In order to qualify for hedge accounting, a derivative must be considered highly effective at reducing the risk associated with the exposure being hedged. Each derivative must be designated as a hedge, with documentation of the risk management objective and strategy, including identification of the hedging instrument, the hedged item and the risk exposure, as well as how effectiveness will be assessed prospectively and retrospectively. The extent to which a hedging instrument is effective at achieving offsetting changes in fair value or cash flows must be assessed at least quarterly. Any ineffectiveness must be reported in current-period earnings. The Bank discontinues hedge accounting prospectively in the following situations:

1. It is determined that the derivative is no longer effective in offsetting changes in the fair value or cash flows of a hedged item.
2. The derivative expires or is sold, terminated or exercised.
3. The Bank otherwise determines that designation of the derivative as a hedging instrument is no longer appropriate.

The Bank carries all derivative financial instruments in the consolidated balance sheet at fair value. For qualifying fair value hedges, all changes in the fair value of the derivative and the fair value of the item for the risk being hedged are recognized in earnings. If the hedge relationship is terminated, then the fair value adjustment to the hedge item continues to be reported as part of the basis of the item and is amortized to earnings as a yield adjustment. For qualifying cash flow hedges, the effective portion of the change in the fair value of the derivative is recorded in OCI and recognized in the income statement when the hedged cash flows affect earnings. The ineffective portion is recognized in the income statement as activities of derivative instruments and hedging. If the cash flow hedge relationship is terminated, related amounts in OCI are reclassified into earnings when hedged cash flows occur.

**u) Foreign currency transactions**

Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into U.S. dollar equivalents using period-end spot foreign exchange rates. The effects of translation of monetary assets and liabilities into the U.S. dollar are included in earnings.

**v) Income taxes**

- Bladex Head Office is exempted from payment of income taxes in Panama in accordance with the contract signed between the Republic of Panama and Bladex.
- The Feeder and the Fund are not subject to income taxes in accordance with the laws of the Cayman Islands. The Feeder and the Fund received an undertaking exempting them from taxation of all future profits until March 7, 2026.
- Clavex, S. A. is subject to income taxes in Panama on profits from local operations.
- Bladex Representacao Ltda. is subject to income taxes in Brazil.
- The New York Agency and Bladex’s subsidiaries incorporated in USA are subject to federal and local taxation in USA based on the portion of income that is effectively connected with its operations in that country.

Such amounts of income taxes have been immaterial to date.

w) *Redeemable noncontrolling interest in the investment fund*

The redeemable noncontrolling interest in the Feeder represents the participation of other investors in the net assets of the Feeder.

Effective January 1, 2009, the Bank adopted ASC 810, *Noncontrolling Interest in Consolidated Financial Statements*. This new accounting guidance requires that a noncontrolling interest, previously referred to as a minority interest, in a consolidated subsidiary be reported as a separate component of equity and the amount of consolidated net income specifically attributable to the noncontrolling interest be presented separately, below net income in the consolidated statement of income.

Furthermore, in accordance with ASC 480-10-S99, equity securities that are redeemable at the option of the holder and not solely within the control of the issuer must be classified outside of equity. The terms of third party investments in the Feeder contain a redemption clause which allows the holders the option to redeem their investment at fair value. Accordingly, the Bank retains its presentation of the noncontrolling interest in the investment fund between liabilities and stockholders' equity in the consolidated balance sheets. Additionally, net assets of the Feeder are measured and presented at fair value, given the nature of its net assets (i.e. represented mainly by cash and investments in securities). Therefore, when calculating the value of the redeemable noncontrolling interest under ASC Topic 810, such amount is already recorded at its fair value and no further adjustments under ASC 480-10-S99 are necessary. Therefore, adoption of this new guidance did not have a material effect on the Bank's consolidated financial position, results of operations, or on financial statement presentation.

x) *Earnings per share*

Basic earnings per share is computed by dividing the net income attributable to Bladex Head Office (the numerator) by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding (the denominator) during the year. Diluted earnings per share measure performance incorporating the effect that potential common shares, such as stock options and restricted stock units outstanding during the same period, would have on net earnings per share. The computation of diluted earnings per share is similar to the computation of basic earnings per share, except for the denominator, which is increased to include the number of additional common shares that would have been issued if the beneficiaries of stock purchase options and other stock plans could exercise their options. The number of potential common shares that would be issued is determined using the treasury stock method.

y) *Recently issued accounting standards*

During 2009, new accounting standards, modifications and interpretations to standards, applicable to the Bank, have been issued and are not in effect as of the date of the consolidated balance sheet, and thus have not been applied in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements. These standards establish the following:

Notes to consolidated financial statements

ASC 860-10 (FAS 166 – Accounting for Transfers of Financial Assets – an amendment of FASB 140)

The objective of this statement is to improve the relevance, representational faithfulness and comparability of the information that a reporting entity provides in its financial statements about a transfer of financial assets, the effects of a transfer on its financial position, financial performance, and cash flows, and a transferor’s continuing involvement, if any, in transferred financial assets.

This statement is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2009 and for interim periods within that first annual reporting period. Early application is prohibited. The Bank is currently evaluating the potential impact on its consolidated financial statements of adopting this standard.

ASC 810-10 (FAS 167 – Amendments to FIN 46 (R))

This statement amends guidance related to variable interest entities. The objective of this statement is to require enterprises to carefully reconsider its previous conclusions including (1) whether an entity is a variable interest entity (“VIE”), (2) whether the enterprise is the VIE’s primary beneficiary, and (3) what type of financial statement disclosures are required.

This statement is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2009 and for interim periods within that first annual reporting period, and for interim and annual reporting periods thereafter. Early application is prohibited. The Bank is currently evaluating the potential impact on its consolidated financial statements of adopting this standard.

3. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are as follows:

	December 31,	
	2009	2008
(In thousands of US\$)		
Cash and due from banks	2,961	11,474
Interest-bearing deposits in banks	421,595	889,119
Total	424,556	900,593
Less:		
Pledged deposits	22,582	75,004
	401,974	825,589

On December 31, 2009 and 2008, the Agency of New York had a pledged deposit with a carrying value of \$5.5 million, with the New York State Banking Department, as required by law since March 1994. As of December 31, 2009, the Bank has pledged deposits of \$17.1 million to secure derivative financial instruments.

As of December 31, 2008 the Bank had pledged deposits of \$69.5 million to secure securities sold under repurchase agreements and derivative financial instruments.



4. Trading assets and liabilities

The fair value of trading assets and liabilities is as follows:

	December 31,	
	2009	2008
(In thousands of US\$)		
Trading assets:		
Sovereign bonds	11,150	21,965
Corporate bonds	39,125	-
Credit default swap	2	-
Forward repurchase agreements	-	16,088
Retained interest on repurchase agreements	-	6,886
Total	50,277	44,939
Trading liabilities:		
Interest rate swaps	2,514	14,066
Cross-currency interest rate swaps	638	-
Credit default swap	-	91
Total	3,152	14,157

Sovereign and corporate bonds outstanding as of December 31, 2009, have generated gains of \$3.3 million during period 2009, which have been recorded in earnings.

During 2009, the Bank recognized the following gains and losses related to trading derivative financial instruments:

	2009
	Gain (loss) recognized in the income statement <sup>(1)</sup>
Trading derivatives	
Forward repurchase agreements	2,570
Interest rate swaps	(551)
Cross-currency interest rate swaps	(638)
Credit default swap	110
Total	1,491

<sup>(1)</sup> Gains (losses) are reported within the net gain (loss) from trading securities line in the consolidated statements of income.

In addition to the trading derivative financial instruments, the Bank has hedging derivative financial instruments that are disclosed in Note 20.

At December 31, 2009 and 2008, trading derivative liabilities include interest rate swap and cross-currency interest rate swap contracts that were previously designated as fair value hedges of securities available-for-sale and foreign-currency loans, respectively, that no longer qualify for hedge accounting.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

At December 31, 2009 and 2008, information on the nominal amounts of derivative financial instruments held for trading purposes is as follows:

(In thousands of US\$)	2009			2008		
	Nominal Amount	Fair Value		Nominal Amount	Fair Value	
		Asset	Liability		Asset	Liability
Interest rate swaps	46,800	-	2,514	175,227	-	14,066
Cross-currency interest rate swaps	15,496	-	638	-	-	-
Credit default swap	3,000	2	-	3,000	-	91
Total	65,296	2	3,152	178,227	-	14,157

As of December 31, 2008, forward repurchase agreements corresponded to derivative financial instruments from transactions of securities sold under repurchase agreements accounted for as sales based on ASC Topic 860 – Transfer and Servicing (see Notes 2(g) and 12).

During 2008, the Bank transferred sovereign and corporate bonds through repurchase agreements accounted for as sales. The Bank reacquired those bonds at the maturity date of those agreements and included them in the trading assets portfolio. As of December 31, 2008, sovereign bonds with a fair value of \$10.3 million secured securities under repurchase agreements that qualify as secured financings.

5. Investment securities

Securities available-for-sale

The amortized cost, related unrealized gross gain (loss) and fair value of securities available-for-sale, are as follows:

(In thousands of US\$)	December 31, 2009			
	Amortized Cost	Unrealized Gross Gain	Unrealized Gross Loss	Fair Value
Corporate debt:				
Brazil	26,428	1,044	-	27,472
Chile	26,763	1,308	-	28,071
Panama	20,008	912	-	20,920
Venezuela	14,979	830	-	15,809
	88,178	4,094	-	92,272
Sovereign debt:				
Brazil	86,583	6,817	-	93,400
Colombia	131,852	8,210	892	139,170
Dominican Republic	6,347	93	-	6,440
El Salvador	15,755	174	-	15,929
Mexico	56,194	1,236	550	56,880
Panama	21,057	1,649	-	22,706
Peru	28,441	1,746	-	30,187
	346,229	19,925	1,442	364,712
Total	434,407	24,019	1,442	456,984

(In thousands of US\$)	December 31, 2008			
	Amortized Cost	Unrealized Gross Gain	Unrealized Gross Loss	Fair Value
Corporate debt:				
Brazil	27,245	-	4,644	22,601
Chile	42,140	64	1,397	40,807
Panama	20,015	885	-	20,900
United States of America	9,725	-	17	9,708
Venezuela	14,973	252	-	15,225
	114,098	1,201	6,058	109,241
Sovereign debt:				
Brazil	105,735	2,620	-	108,355
Colombia	169,026	401	6,690	162,737
Costa Rica	10,905	-	790	10,115
Dominican Republic	9,677	-	2,299	7,378
El Salvador	16,158	-	1,571	14,587
Mexico	97,839	-	5,883	91,956
Panama	43,281	-	1,681	41,600
Peru	28,881	-	1,943	26,938
Sweden	10,041	-	30	10,011
United States of America	24,999	1	-	25,000
	516,542	3,022	20,887	498,677
Total	630,640	4,223	26,945	607,918

At December 31, 2009 and 2008, securities available-for-sale with a carrying value of \$79 million and \$480 million, respectively, were pledged to secure repurchase transactions accounted for as secured financings.

The following table discloses those securities that have had unrealized losses for less than 12 months and for 12 months or longer:

(In thousands of US\$)	December 31, 2009					
	Less than 12 months		12 months or longer		Total	
	Fair Value	Unrealized Gross Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Gross Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Gross Losses
Sovereign debt	24,138	550	24,720	892	48,858	1,442
	24,138	550	24,720	892	48,858	1,442

(In thousands of US\$)	December 31, 2008					
	Less than 12 months		12 months or longer		Total	
	Fair Value	Unrealized Gross Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Gross Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Gross Losses
Corporate debt	52,905	5,767	5,024	291	57,929	6,058
Sovereign debt	270,757	18,588	7,377	2,299	278,134	20,887
	323,662	24,355	12,401	2,590	336,063	26,945

Notes to consolidated financial statements

Gross unrealized losses are related mainly to an overall increase in market interest rates and other market factors and not due to underlying credit concerns by the Bank about the issuers. The sovereign debt that shows an unrealized gross loss for more than twelve months relates to a counterparty whose payment performance is and continues to be strong. The price of the bonds in question has seen a significant recovery during 2009. Historically, this counterparty has not failed to perform on its obligation. As of December 31, 2009 the Bank does not intend to sell and will not be required to sell the security before its recovery of the amortized cost of the instrument. As a result, the Bank does not consider this exposure to be other-than temporary impaired.

The following table presents the realized gains and losses on securities available-for-sale:

	Year ended December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
Gains	1,276	2,173	9,550
Losses	(730)	(2,106)	(431)
Net	546	67	9,119

Losses on securities available-for-sale during 2008 were mainly the result of transactions of securities sold under repurchase agreements accounted for as sales at the transfer date of those securities (see Note 12).

An analysis of realized losses is described below:

	Year ended December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
Realized losses on sale of securities available-for-sale	(730)	(79)	(431)
Realized losses for transfers of securities under repurchase agreements accounted for as sales (see Note 12)	-	(2,027)	-
Total realized loss	(730)	(2,106)	(431)

The amortized cost and fair value of securities available-for-sale by contractual maturity at December 31, 2009, are shown in the following table:

	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Due within 1 year	30,302	31,463
After 1 year but within 5 years	231,775	243,983
After 5 years but within 10 years	172,330	181,538
	434,407	456,984

Securities held-to-maturity

The amortized cost, related unrealized gross gain (loss) and fair value of securities held-to-maturity are as follows:

(In thousands of US\$)	December 31, 2008			
	Amortized Cost	Unrealized Gross Gain	Unrealized Gross Loss	Fair Value
Corporate debt:				
United States of America	28,410	-	266	28,144
Total	28,410	-	266	28,144

At December 31, 2008, securities held-to-maturity with a carrying value of \$28.4 million secured repurchase agreements accounted for as secured borrowings. All securities held-to-maturity were redeemed during the first quarter of 2009.

6. Investment fund

The balance in the investment fund for \$197.6 million in 2009, and \$150.7 million in 2008 represents the participation of the Feeder in the net asset value (NAV) of the Fund.

At December 31, 2009, the Feeder owns 98.42% of the Fund with a total of 164,925.2 shares issued, divided in 30,725.5 “Class A” shares, 133,491.6 “Class B” shares and 708.1 “Class E” shares.

At December 31, 2008 the Feeder owned 98.83% of the Fund with a total of 137,811.6 shares issued, divided in 4,320.0 “Class A” shares and 133,491.6 “Class B” shares.

The Fund has issued “Class A”, “Class B”, “Class C”, “Class D” and “Class E” shares and administrative shares. “Class A” and “Class B” shares are participating shares in the net gains (losses) of the Fund, and only differ in relation to certain administrative fees. “Class C” and “Class D” shares do not participate in the net gains (losses) of the Fund; they are only entitled to the performance allocation. The “Class E” shares are not subject to either administrative fees or performance allocation. The Bank owns the Fund’s administrative shares.

7. Loans

The following table set forth details of the Bank’s loan portfolio:

	December 31,	
	2009	2008
(In thousands of US\$)		
Corporate	1,475,031	1,627,721
Banks:		
Private	870,554	571,665
State-owned	333,574	347,403
Others	100,103	71,854
Total	2,779,262	2,618,643

The composition of the loan portfolio by industry is as follows:

	December 31,	
	2009	2008
(In thousands of US\$)		
Industrial	1,031,781	1,020,015
Banking and financing	1,208,458	924,286
Agricultural	230,674	332,582
Services	70,968	111,531
Others	237,381	230,229
Total	2,779,262	2,618,643

The remaining loan maturities are summarized as follows:

	December 31,	
	2009	2008
(In thousands of US\$)		
<b>Current:</b>		
Up to 1 month	253,077	236,679
From 1 month to 3 months	490,950	488,471
From 3 months to 6 months	559,934	315,200
From 6 months to 1 year	526,990	556,744
From 1 year to 2 years	424,073	345,471
From 2 years to 5 years	460,153	622,080
More than 5 years	28,335	53,998
	2,743,512	2,618,643
<b>Impaired</b>	35,750	-
Total	2,779,262	2,618,643

The following table provides a breakdown of loans by country risk:

(In thousands of US\$)

	December 31,	
	2009	2008
Country:		
Argentina	72,746	150,988
Brazil	1,334,905	1,289,424
Chile	258,257	8,333
Colombia	200,490	284,901
Costa Rica	82,906	54,855
Dominican Republic	31,364	48,025
Ecuador	23,097	36,364
El Salvador	40,650	75,857
Guatemala	73,809	60,784
Honduras	22,984	44,925
Jamaica	31,297	14,678
Mexico	301,929	380,209
Nicaragua	700	3,993
Panama	41,492	47,495
Peru	161,047	49,812
Trinidad and Tobago	71,589	23,000
Uruguay	30,000	45,000
	2,779,262	2,618,643

The fixed and floating interest rate distribution of the loan portfolio is as follows:

(In thousands of US\$)

	December 31,	
	2009	2008
Fixed interest rates	1,310,754	933,234
Floating interest rates	1,468,508	1,685,409
	2,779,262	2,618,643

At December 31, 2009 and 2008, 80% and 78%, respectively, of the loan portfolio at fixed interest rates has remaining maturities of less than 180 days.

During the year 2009, the Bank reclassified a total of \$50.5 million loans to the non-accrual status. Based on analysis of these loans, the Bank has identified impaired loans of \$35.7 million for which specific reserves of \$14.4 million have been allocated. The remaining of the non-accrual portfolio, of \$14.8 million, does not present impairment; therefore, no additional specific reserves have been recorded.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

The following is a summary of information on non-accruing loans, and interest amounts on non-accruing loans:

<i>(In thousands of US\$)</i>	December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
Loans on non-accrual status	50,534	-	-
Interest which would had been recorded if the loans had not been on a non-accrual status	1,775	-	-
Interest income collected on non-accruing loans	847	-	-
Foregone interest revenue	928	-	-

Non-accruing loans include impaired loans detailed as follows:

<i>(In thousands of US\$)</i>	December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
Impaired loans with specific allowance for credit losses	35,750	-	-
Specific allowance for impaired loans	14,357	-	-
Average balance of impaired loans during the year	16,588	-	-
Interest income collected on impaired loans	719	-	-

At December 31, 2009, the impaired loans portfolio includes past due loans of \$5.7 million.

At December 31, 2009 and 2008, the Bank has credit transactions in the normal course of business with 18% and 20%, respectively, of its Class “A” and “B” stockholders (see Note 16). All transactions are made based on arm’s-length terms and subject to prevailing commercial criteria and market rates and are subject to all of the Bank’s corporate governance and control procedures. At December 31, 2009 and 2008, approximately 20% and 16%, respectively, of the outstanding loan portfolio is placed with the Bank’s Class “A” and “B” stockholders and their related parties. At December 31, 2009, the Bank was not directly or indirectly owned or controlled by another corporation or any foreign government, and no Class “A” or “B” shareholder was the registered owner of more than 3.5% of the total outstanding shares of the voting capital stock of the Bank.

During the year 2008, the Bank sold loans with a book value of \$25.6 million, with a net gain of \$54 thousand. There were no loan sales during 2009.



8. Allowance for credit losses

The Bank classifies the allowance for credit losses into two components:

a) Allowance for loan losses:

	December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
Balance at beginning of the year	54,648	69,643	51,266
Provision (reversal) for loan losses	18,293	(18,540)	11,994
Loan recoveries	866	3,545	6,434
Loans written-off against the allowance for loan losses	(18)	-	(51)
Balance at end of the year	73,789	54,648	69,643
Components:			
Generic allowance	59,432	54,648	69,643
Specific allowance	14,357	-	-
Total allowance for loan losses	73,789	54,648	69,643

Provision (reversal) of allowance for credit losses are mostly related to changes in volume and composition of the credit portfolio. Loan recoveries relate to the Bank’s non-accruing portfolio in Mexico, Argentina and Brazil, which have been collected during the last three years.

b) Reserve for losses on off-balance sheet credit risk:

	December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
Balance at beginning of the year	30,724	13,727	27,195
Provision (reversal) for losses on off-balance sheet credit risk	(3,463)	16,997	(13,468)
Balance at end of the year	27,261	30,724	13,727

The reserve for losses on off-balance sheet credit risk reflects the Bank’s management estimate of probable losses on off-balance sheet credit risk items such as: confirmed letters of credit, stand-by letters of credit, guarantees and credit commitments (see Note 18).

9. Premises and equipment

A breakdown of cost and accumulated depreciation and amortization for premises and equipment as of December 31, 2009 and 2008 is as follows:

(In thousands of US\$)

	December 31,	
	2009	2008
Land	462	462
Building and improvements	5,254	4,958
Furniture and equipment	16,323	14,144
	22,039	19,564
Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization	14,290	11,594
	7,749	7,970

10. Other assets

At December 31, 2009 and 2008, other assets include an equity investment in a private investment fund with a carrying value of \$1.9 million and \$1.5 million, respectively. During 2009, the participation in this investment was increased by \$0.4 million.

11. Deposits

The remaining maturity profile of the Bank’s deposits is as follows:

(In thousands of US\$)

	December 31,	
	2009	2008
Demand	51,375	113,022
Up to 1 month	586,949	766,268
From 1 month to 3 months	324,702	262,443
From 3 months to 6 months	273,220	27,315
From 6 months to 1 year	20,000	-
	1,256,246	1,169,048

The following table presents additional information about deposits:

(In thousands of US\$)

	December 31,	
	2009	2008
Aggregate amounts of time deposits of \$100,000 or more	1,204,657	1,056,026
Aggregate amounts of deposits in offices outside Panama	418,157	380,765
Interest expense paid to deposits in offices outside Panama	5,821	11,428

12. Securities sold under repurchase agreements

The Bank’s financing transactions under repurchase agreements amounted to \$71.3 million and \$474.2 million as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

As of December 31, 2009, all financing transactions under repurchase agreements qualified as secured financings. During 2008, the Bank entered into repurchase agreements that qualified as sales under ASC Topic 860 - Transfers and Servicing. These transactions specifically referred to repurchase agreements on which the Bank was required to take larger discounts or “haircuts” than in the past, as a result of the outbreak of the liquidity and credit crisis in the financial markets near the end of 2008. These were short-term repurchase agreements with anticipated maturity dates within the first quarter of 2009, transacted with counterparties of high repute. The Bank reacquired all the securities that guaranteed these transactions.

A summary of the repurchase agreements and their effect in the results of year 2008 is presented below:

<i>(In thousands of US\$)</i>	<u>2008</u>
Cash received from counterparties	147,301
Amortized cost of securities at the transfer dates	(192,907)
Fair value of forward repurchase agreements	36,451
Retained interest on securities transferred under repurchase agreements	<u>7,128</u>
Recognized loss in transfers of securities under repurchase agreements accounted for as sales	<u>(2,027)</u>

Changes in fair value of derivative financial instruments resulting from transfers of securities under repurchase agreements were reported in 2008 in the net gain (loss) from trading securities line item. Changes in fair value of sovereign bonds reacquired in repurchase transactions, which were included in the trading portfolio, were reported in the net gain (loss) from trading securities line item. The Bank discontinued hedge accounting for interest rate swaps that hedged securities transferred under these agreements and reported them as trading derivatives. Changes in fair value of these interest rate swaps were recorded in the net gain (loss) from trading securities line item. A summary of the effect of these financial instruments in net income of year ended December 31, 2008 is presented below:

<i>(In thousands of US\$)</i>	<u>2008</u>
Changes in fair value of forward repurchase agreements	(8,133)
Changes in fair value of sovereign bonds	(1,583)
Changes in fair value of interest rate swaps that hedged transferred securities	<u>(11,219)</u>
Total changes in fair value of financial instruments resulting from transfers of securities under repurchase agreements	<u>(20,935)</u>

Notes to consolidated financial statements

The effects in the statement of income for the year ended December 31, 2008 of transfers of securities under repurchase agreements is summarized below:

<i>(In thousands of US\$)</i>	<u>2008</u>
Loss in sale transactions under repurchase agreements	(2,027)
Changes in fair value of financial instruments resulting from transfers of securities under repurchase agreements	<u>(20,935)</u>
Total loss in transfers of securities under repurchase agreements	<u>(22,962)</u>

13. Short-term borrowings

The breakdown of short-term borrowings due to financial institutions is as follows:

<i>(In thousands of US\$)</i>	<u>December 31,</u>	
	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Advances from financial institutions:		
At fixed interest rates	317,800	738,747
At floating interest rate	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Total short-term borrowings	<u>327,800</u>	<u>738,747</u>
Average outstanding balance during the year	<u>498,751</u>	<u>1,088,947</u>
Maximum balance at any month-end	<u>693,900</u>	<u>1,254,050</u>
Range on fixed interest rates on borrowings in U.S. dollars	<u>0.85% to 2.70%</u>	<u>2.77% to 6.10%</u>
Floating interest rate outstanding as of December 31, 2009 on borrowing in U.S. dollars	<u>2.66%</u>	<u>-</u>
Range on fixed interest rates on borrowing in Euros	<u>-</u>	<u>5.68% to 5.73%</u>
Floating interest rate on borrowings in Yen	<u>-</u>	<u>1.79%</u>
Weighted average interest rate at end of the year	<u>1.62%</u>	<u>3.92%</u>
Weighted average interest rate during the year	<u>3.34%</u>	<u>4.21%</u>

14. Borrowings and long-term debt

Borrowings consist of long-term and syndicated loans obtained from international banks. Debt instruments consist of Euro-Notes and another issuance in Latin America. The breakdown of borrowings and long-term debt (original maturity of more than one year) is as follows:

<i>(In thousands of US\$)</i>	December 31,	
	2009	2008
<b>Borrowings:</b>		
At fixed interest rates with due dates from September 2010 to September 2013	83,334	138,786
At floating interest rates with due dates from February 2010 to July 2013	1,259,478	1,022,032
Total borrowings	1,342,812	1,160,818
<b>Debt:</b>		
At fixed interest rates with due dates in November 2014	42,575	39,134
At floating interest rates with due dates in October 2010	5,000	5,000
Total debt	47,575	44,134
Total borrowings and long-term debt outstanding	1,390,387	1,204,952
Average outstanding balance during the year	1,208,007	1,182,065
Maximum outstanding balance at any month-end	1,390,387	1,330,422
Range on fixed interest rates on borrowings and debt in U.S. dollars	2.25% to 4.64%	2.53% to 5.14%
Range on floating interest rates on borrowings and debt in U.S. dollars	0.55% to 2.78%	1.88% to 4.75%
Range on fixed interest rates on borrowings in Mexican pesos	8.20% to 9.90%	8.20% to 9.90%
Range on floating interest rates on borrowings in Mexican pesos	5.93% to 5.96%	9.58% to 9.66%
Fixed interest rate on debt in Peruvian soles	6.50%	6.50%
Weighted average interest rate at the end of the year	2.07%	4.58%
Weighted average interest rate during the year	3.07%	4.65%

Notes to consolidated financial statements

The Bank's funding activities include a Euro-Note program, which may be used to issue notes for up to \$2.3 billion, with maturities from 90 days up to a maximum of 30 years, at fixed or floating interest rates, or at discount, and in various currencies.

The notes are generally sold in bearer or registered form through one or more authorized financial institutions.

Some borrowing agreements include various events of default and covenants related to minimum capital adequacy ratios, incurrence of additional liens, and asset sales, as well as other customary covenants, representations and warranties. At December 31, 2009, the Bank was in compliance with all covenants.

The future remaining maturities of long-term debt and borrowings outstanding at December 31, 2009, are as follows:

<i>(In thousands of US\$)</i>	
<b>Due in:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
2010	529,110
2011	317,394
2012	191,224
2013	310,084
2014	42,575
	<u>1,390,387</u>

15. Common stock

The Bank’s common stock is divided into four categories:

- 1) Class “A”; shares may only be issued to Latin American Central Banks or banks in which the state or other government agency is the majority shareholder.
- 2) Class “B”; shares may only be issued to banks or financial institutions.
- 3) Class “E”; shares may be issued to any person whether a natural person or a legal entity.
- 4) Class “F”; can only be issued to state entities and agencies of non-Latin American countries, including, among others, central banks and majority state-owned banks in those countries, and multilateral financial institutions either international or regional institutions.

The holders of Class “B” shares have the right to convert or exchange their Class “B” shares, at any time, and without restriction, for Class “E” shares, at a rate of one to one.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

The following table provides detailed information on the Bank’s common stock activity per class for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2009:

<i>(Share units)</i>	Class “A”	Class “B”	Class “E”	Class “F”	Total
Authorized	40,000,000	40,000,000	100,000,000	100,000,000	280,000,000
Outstanding at January 1, 2007	6,342,189	2,725,390	27,261,495	-	36,329,074
Conversions	-	(64,540)	64,540	-	-
Accumulated difference in fractional shares in conversion of common stock	-	(3)	-	-	(3)
Restricted stock issued	-	-	22,240	-	22,240
Exercised stock options - compensation plans	-	-	18,838	-	18,838
Outstanding at December 31, 2007	6,342,189	2,660,847	27,367,113	-	36,370,149
Conversions	-	(43,063)	43,063	-	-
Restricted stock issued	-	-	31,246	-	31,246
Exercised stock options - compensation plans	-	-	11,693	-	11,693
Outstanding at December 31, 2008	6,342,189	2,617,784	27,453,115	-	36,413,088
Conversions	-	(32,902)	32,901	-	-(1)
Restricted stock issued	-	-	37,934	-	37,934
Exercised stock options - compensation plans	-	-	82,180	-	82,180
Restricted stock units - vested	-	-	12,415	-	12,415
Outstanding at December 31, 2009	6,342,189	2,584,882	27,618,545	-	36,545,616

The following table presents information regarding shares repurchased but not retired by the Bank and accordingly classified as treasury stock:

<i>(In thousands, except for share data)</i>	Class “A”		Class “B”		Class “E”		Total	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Outstanding at January 1, 2007	318,140	10,708	568,010	15,655	4,764,621	108,405	5,650,771	134,768
Restricted stock issued	-	-	-	-	(22,240)	(531)	(22,240)	(531)
Exercised stock options – compensation plans	-	-	-	-	(18,838)	(449)	(18,838)	(449)
Outstanding at December 31, 2007	318,140	10,708	568,010	15,655	4,723,543	107,425	5,609,693	133,788
Restricted stock issued	-	-	-	-	(31,246)	(745)	(31,246)	(745)
Exercised stock options – compensation plans	-	-	-	-	(11,693)	(280)	(11,693)	(280)
Outstanding at December 31, 2008	318,140	10,708	568,010	15,655	4,680,604	106,400	5,566,754	132,763
Restricted stock issued	-	-	-	-	(37,934)	(905)	(37,934)	(905)
Exercised stock options – compensation plans	-	-	-	-	(82,180)	(1,960)	(82,180)	(1,960)
Restricted stock units - vested	-	-	-	-	(12,415)	(296)	(12,415)	(296)
Outstanding at December 31, 2009	318,140	10,708	568,010	15,655	4,548,075	103,239	5,434,225	129,602

16. Cash and stock-based compensation plans

The Bank established equity compensation plans under which it administers restricted stock, restricted stock units and stock purchase option plans to attract, retain and motivate Directors and top employees and compensate them for their contributions to the growth and profitability of the Bank. Vesting conditions for each of the Bank’s plans are only comprised of specified requisite service periods.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

A. 2008 Stock Incentive Plan – Directors and Executives

In February 2008, the Board of Directors of the Bank approved an incentive plan for Directors and Executives allowing the Bank to grant restricted stock, restricted stock units, stock purchase options, and/or other similar compensation instruments. The maximum aggregate number of shares which may be issued under this plan is two million Class “E” common shares. The 2008 Stock Incentive Plan is administered by the Board of Directors which has the authority in its discretion to select the Directors and Executives to whom the Award may be granted; to determine whether and to what extent awards are granted, and to amend the terms of any outstanding award under this plan.

During 2009 and 2008, the Board of Directors approved the grant of restricted stock to Directors and stock options and restricted stock units to certain Executives of the Bank, as follows:

*Restricted stock – Directors*

In July 2009 and 2008, the Board of Directors granted 37,934 and 31,246, respectively, Class “E” common shares worth \$50 thousand for each Director and \$75 thousand to the Chairman of the Board. The fair value of restricted stock granted was based on the stock closing price in the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) of the Class “E” shares on July 10, 2009 and July 11, 2008. The restricted stock vests in five years at a rate of 20% each year, beginning the year following the grant date. The fair value of restricted stock granted totaled \$475 thousand in 2009 and 2008, of which \$139 thousand and \$44 thousand were charged against income during 2009 and 2008, respectively. The remaining cost pending amortization of \$767 thousand will be amortized over 4.10 years.

A summary at December 31, 2009 of the restricted stock granted to Directors during the years 2009 and 2008 is presented below:

	Shares	Weighted average grant date fair value
Outstanding at January 1, 2008	-	-
Granted	31,246	\$ 15.20
Vested	-	-
Outstanding at December 31, 2008	31,246	15.20
Granted	37,934	12.52
Vested	(6,242)	15.20
Outstanding at December 31, 2009	62,938	\$ 13.58
Expected to vest	62,938	\$ 13.58

The fair value of vested stock during the year 2009 was \$95 thousand.

*Restricted Stock Units and Stock Purchase Options granted to certain Executives*

The Board of Directors approved the grant of stock purchase options and restricted stock units to certain Executives of the Bank with a grant date fair value of \$2.3 million in 2009 and \$1.6 million in 2008, where 50% were granted in restricted stock units, and 50% in stock purchase options, in both years.

The Bank grants one Class “E” share per each exercised option or vested restricted stock unit.



Notes to consolidated financial statements

Restricted stock units:

The fair value of the stock units was based on the Class “E” stock closing price in the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) on the grant date. These stock units vest 25% each year on the grant date’s anniversary.

Compensation costs of these restricted stock units are amortized during the period of restriction. Costs charged against income during 2009 and 2008 due to the amortization of these grants totaled \$436 thousand and \$178 thousand, respectively. The remaining compensation cost pending amortization of \$1.3 million will be amortized over 2.89 years.

A summary as of December 31, 2009 and 2008 of the status of the restricted stock units granted to certain Executives and changes during the years 2009 and 2008 are presented below:

	Stock units	Weighted average grant date fair value	Weighted average remaining contractual term	Aggregate intrinsic value (thousands)
Outstanding at January 1, 2008	-	-		
Granted	52,982	\$ 15.43		
Forfeited	(756)	15.43		
Outstanding at December 31, 2008	52,226	15.43		
Granted	132,020	8.67		
Forfeited	(5,713)	11.44		
Vested	(12,415)	15.43	2.89 years	\$ -
Outstanding at December 31, 2009	166,118	\$ 10.20		\$ -
Expected to vest	166,118	\$ 10.20		\$ -

Stock purchase options:

The fair value of stock purchase options granted to certain Executives during 2009 and 2008 was estimated using the “Black-Scholes” option-pricing model, based on the following factors:

	2009	2008
Weighted average fair value per option	\$ 1.90	\$ 3.52
Weighted average expected term, in years	4.75	5.50
Expected volatility	37%	37%
Risk-free rate	1.79%	2.72%
Expected dividend	6.00%	4.84%

These options expire seven years after the grant date and are exercisable at a rate of 25% each year on the grant date’s anniversary.

Related cost charged against income during 2009 and 2008 as a result of the amortization of these plans amounted to \$436 thousand and \$178 thousand, respectively. The remaining compensation cost pending amortization of \$1.3 million in 2009 will be amortized over a period of 2.80 years. A summary of stock options granted is presented below:

Notes to consolidated financial statements

	Options	Weighted average exercise price	Weighted average remaining contractual term	Aggregate intrinsic value (thousands)
Outstanding at January 1, 2008	-	-		
Granted	232,403	\$ 15.43		
Forfeited	(3,318)	15.43		
Outstanding at December 31, 2008	229,085	15.43		
Granted	601,985	10.15		
Forfeited	(27,076)	12.43		
Outstanding at December 31, 2009	803,994	\$ 11.58	5.85 years	\$ 2,200
Exercisable	54,829	\$ 15.43	5.12 years	\$ -
Expected to vest	749,165	\$ 11.30	5.90 years	\$ 2,200

B. Restricted Stock – Directors

During 2003, the Board of Directors approved a restricted stock award plan for Directors of the Bank that was amended in 2007 and subsequently terminated in 2008. Until 2006, the Board of Directors granted Class “E” shares to each Director worth \$10 thousand, and to the Chairman of the Board worth \$15 thousand per year. In 2007, the Board granted Class “E” shares for each Director worth \$50 thousand, and to the Chairman of the Board worth \$75 thousand. The fair value of each award granted was based on the stock closing price in the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) of the Class “E” shares at the grant date. During 2007 the Bank issued under this plan 22,240 Class “E” common shares with a grant date fair value of \$21.35. The restricted stock vests at a rate of 20% each year on the grant date’s anniversary. No grants were made after this 2007 grant.

The compensation costs of restricted stock granted of \$475 thousand in 2007 are amortized during the restriction period. Related costs charged against income totaled \$123 thousand, \$217 thousand and \$118 thousand in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively. At December 31, 2009, the Bank had unrecognized compensation costs of \$248 thousand related to this plan that will be amortized over 2.39 years.

A summary as of December 31, 2009 of restricted stock granted to Directors under this plan and changes during 2007, 2008 and 2009 is presented below:

	Shares	Weighted average grant date fair value
Non vested at January 1, 2007	27,076	\$ 14.02
Granted	22,240	21.35
Vested	(4,860)	12.34
Non vested at December 31, 2007	44,456	17.87
Granted	-	-
Vested	(23,037)	15.83
Non vested at December 31, 2008	21,419	20.07
Granted	-	-
Vested	(6,746)	\$ 19.25
Non vested at December 31, 2009	14,673	\$ 20.45
Expected to vest	14,673	\$ 20.45

Notes to consolidated financial statements

The total fair value of vested stock during the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007 was \$130 thousand, \$365 thousand and \$60 thousand, respectively.

C. Stock Option Plan 2006 – Directors and Executives

On December 12, 2006, the Bank’s Board of Directors adopted the 2006 Stock Option Plan that was terminated in 2008. The options granted under this plan expire seven years after the grant date and are exercisable at a rate of 25% each year on the grant date’s anniversary.

During 2007, the Board of Directors approved the grant of \$95 thousand (grant date fair value) in stock options to members of the Board of Directors, and \$890 thousand (grant date fair value) in stock options to certain executives of the Bank. No grants were made subsequent to this grant.

Related cost charged against income as a result of the amortization of options granted under this compensation plan amounted to \$221 thousand in 2009, \$236 thousand in 2008 and \$302 thousand in 2007. The compensation cost pending amortization at December 31, 2009 of \$247 thousand will be amortized over 1.12 years. The fair value of each option was estimated at the grant date using the “Black-Scholes” option-pricing model, based on the following factors:

	2007
Weighted average fair value option	\$ 4.72
Weighted average expected term, in years	5.50
Expected volatility	36%
Risk-free rate	4.81%
Expected dividend	3.54%

A summary as of December 31, 2009 of the share options granted to Directors and certain Executives and changes during 2007, 2008 and 2009 is presented below:

	Options	Weighted average exercise price	Weighted average remaining contractual term	Aggregate intrinsic value (thousands)
Outstanding at January 1, 2007	-	-		
Granted	208,765	\$ 16.34		
Forfeited	-	-		
Outstanding at December 31, 2007	208,765	16.34		
Forfeited	(1,059)	16.34		
Outstanding at December 31, 2008	207,706	16.34		
Forfeited	-	-		
Outstanding at December 31, 2009	207,706	\$ 16.34	4.12 years	\$ -
Exercisable at December 31, 2009	93,768	\$ 16.34	4.12 years	\$ -
Expected to vest	113,938	\$ 16.34	4.12 years	\$ -

D. Indexed Stock Option Plan

During 2004, the Board of Directors approved an indexed stock purchase option plan for Directors and certain executives of the Bank, which was subsequently terminated in April 2006. The indexed stock options expire in ten years and are vested at a rate of 25% each year on the grant date’s anniversary. The exercise price is adjusted based on the change in a customized Latin American general market index. As of December 31, 2009, the Bank had remaining compensation costs pending amortization of \$17 thousand related to non-vested options granted under the plan. This cost will be recognized over a period of 0.08 years. Related costs charged against income amounted to \$241 thousand, \$440 thousand and \$828 thousand in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

A summary as of December 31, 2009 and changes during the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 of the indexed stock purchase options is presented below:

	Options	Weighted average exercise price	Weighted average remaining contractual term	Aggregate intrinsic value (thousands)
Outstanding at January 1, 2007	523,723	\$ 14.53		
Forfeited	-	-		
Exercised	(18,838)	8.50		
Outstanding at December 31, 2007	504,885	14.47		
Forfeited	(26,574)			
Exercised	(10,662)	14.19		
Outstanding at December 31, 2008	467,649	12.93		
Forfeited	-	-		
Exercised	(82,180)	9.84		
Outstanding at December 31, 2009	385,469	\$ 17.46	5.45 years	\$ 104
Exercisable at December 31, 2009	316,893	\$ 17.14	5.32 years	\$ 104
Expected to vest	68,576	\$ 18.91	6.09 years	\$ -

The intrinsic value of options exercised during the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007 was \$252 thousand, \$41 thousand and \$228 thousand, respectively. During the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, the Bank received \$808 thousand, \$151 thousand and \$160 thousand, respectively, from exercised options.

E. Stock Option Plans - Discontinued

During 2000, the Board of Directors approved a stock option plan for Directors and employees of the Bank. The exercise price of each option must equal 100% of the market value of the stock at the grant date and becomes 100% exercisable one year after the grant date and expires on the fifth year after the grant date. In addition, during 1995 and 1999, the Board of Directors approved two stock option plans for employees. Under these stock option plans, stock options were granted at a purchase price equal to the average market value of the common stock at the grant date. One third of the options may be exercised on each successive year after the grant date and expire on the tenth anniversary after the grant date. On July 19, 2003, the Board of Directors approved discontinuing these plans; therefore, no additional stock options have been granted.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

A summary of the status as of December 31, 2009 of the stock options granted and changes during 2009 and 2008 of these option plans is presented below:

	Options	Weighted average exercise price	Weighted average remaining contractual term	Aggregate intrinsic value (thousands)
Outstanding at January 1, 2008	38,163	\$ 31.46		
Forfeited	(15,163)	27.63		
Expired	(8,650)	42.56		
Outstanding at December 31, 2008	14,350	28.81		
Forfeited	(533)	27.72		
Expired	(2,082)	23.03		
Outstanding at December 31, 2009	11,735	\$ 29.89	0.79 years	\$ -
Exercisable at December 31, 2009	11,735	\$ 29.89	0.79 years	\$ -

All options are available to be exercised as of December 31, 2009.

F. Other plans - Expatriate Officer Plan

The Bank sponsors a defined contribution plan for its expatriate top executives based in Panama, which are not eligible to participate in the Panamanian social security system. The Bank’s contributions are determined as a percentage of the annual salaries of top executives eligible for the plan, each contributing an additional amount withheld from their salary. Contributions to this plan are managed by a fund manager through a trust. The executives are entitled to the Bank’s contributions after completing at least three years of service in the Bank. During the years 2009, 2008 and 2007, the Bank charged to salaries expense \$116 thousand, \$241 thousand and \$175 thousand, respectively, that correspond to the Bank’s contributions to this plan. As of December 31, 2009 and 2008, the accumulated liability payable amounted to \$386 thousand and \$420 thousand, respectively.

17. Earnings per share

The following table presents a reconciliation of the income and share data used in the basic and diluted earnings per share (“EPS”) computations for the dates indicated:

	Year ended December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
Net income attributable to Bladex for both basic and diluted EPS	54,862	55,119	72,177
Weighted average common shares outstanding - applicable to basic EPS	36,493	36,388	36,349
Basic earnings per share	1.50	1.51	1.99
Weighted average common shares outstanding applicable to diluted EPS	36,493	36,388	36,349
Effect of dilutive securities <sup>(1)</sup> :			
Stock options and restricted stock units plans	78	52	65
Adjusted weighted average common shares outstanding applicable to diluted EPS	36,571	36,440	36,414
Diluted earnings per share	1.50	1.51	1.98

<sup>(1)</sup> At December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, weighted average options of 769,790, 943,051 and 38,467, respectively, were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share because the option’s exercise price was greater than the average quoted market price of the Bank’s common stock.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

18. Financial instruments with off-balance sheet credit risk

In the normal course of business, to meet the financing needs of its customers, the Bank is party to financial instruments with off-balance sheet credit risk. These financial instruments involve, to varying degrees, elements of credit and market risk in excess of the amount recognized in the consolidated balance sheet. Credit risk represents the possibility of loss resulting from the failure of a customer to perform in accordance with the terms of a contract.

The Bank’s outstanding financial instruments with off-balance sheet credit risk were as follows:

	December 31,	
	2009	2008
Confirmed letters of credit	206,953	136,539
Stand-by letters of credit and guarantees:		
Country risk	10,000	40,000
Commercial risk	40,651	180,237
Credit derivative	3,000	3,000
	53,651	223,237
Credit commitments	70,181	84,019
	330,785	443,795

As of December 31, 2009, the remaining maturity profile of the Bank’s outstanding financial instruments with off-balance sheet credit risk is as follows:

(In thousands of US\$)	
Maturities	Amount
Within 1 year	323,980
From 1 to 2 years	4,769
From 2 to 5 years	1,185
After 5 years	851
	330,785

As of December 31, 2009 and 2008 the breakdown of the Bank’s off-balance sheet exposure by country risk is as follows:

(In thousands of US\$)		
Country:	2009	2008
Brazil	22,500	150,967
Chile	-	83,200
Colombia	3,000	4,225
Costa Rica	24,278	19,553
Dominican Republic	130	13,923
Ecuador	112,039	86,363
El Salvador	1,770	476
Guatemala	975	4,578
Honduras	430	350
Mexico	57,682	2,979
Panama	-	15,239
Uruguay	15,788	-
Venezuela	92,193	61,792
Other	-	150
	330,785	443,795

Letters of credit and guarantees

The Bank, on behalf of its client base, advises and confirms letters of credit to facilitate foreign trade transactions. When confirming letters of credit, the Bank adds its own unqualified assurance that the issuing bank will pay and that if the issuing bank does not honor drafts drawn on the credit, the Bank will. The Bank provides stand-by letters of credit and guarantees, including country risk guarantees, which are issued on behalf of institutional customers in connection with financing between its customers and third parties. The Bank applies the same credit policies used in its lending process, and once issued the commitment is irrevocable and remains valid until its expiration. Credit risk arises from the Bank's obligation to make payment in the event of a customer's contractual default to a third party. Risks associated with stand-by letters of credit and guarantees are included in the evaluation of the Bank's overall credit risk. The Bank issues stand-by letters and guarantees to provide coverage for country risk arising from the risk of convertibility and transferability of local currency of countries in the Region into hard currency, and to provide coverage for country risk arising from political risks, such as expropriation, nationalization, war and/or civil disturbances.

Credit commitments

Commitments to extend credit are a combination of either non-binding or legal agreements to lend to a customer. Commitments generally have fixed expiration dates or other termination clauses and may require payment of a fee to the Bank. As some commitments expire without being drawn down, the total commitment amounts do not necessarily represent future cash requirements.

Credit derivative

Credit derivative represents a guarantee issued by the Bank to the buyer of the derivative instrument, where the Bank guarantees the payment of principal if the underlying financial instrument is impaired and its original issuer does not comply with principal payments; therefore, the impairment risk is taken by the Bank, which receives commission income during the term of this derivative. The credit derivative matures in July 2010. As of December 31, 2009 and 2008, the fair value of this derivative instrument was \$2 thousand and \$91 thousand, respectively, and reported in trading assets and liabilities, respectively, in the consolidated balance sheet. The maximum potential amount of future payments the Bank could be required to make under this credit derivative is \$3 million.

19. Leasehold commitments

At December 31, 2009, a summary of leasehold commitments is as follows:

<i>(In thousands of US\$)</i>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Future Rental Commitments</b>
2010	577
2011	526
2012	261
2013	243
2014	243
Thereafter	203
	<u>2,053</u>

Notes to consolidated financial statements

Occupancy expense for years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, amounted to \$770 thousand, \$809 thousand, and \$593 thousand, respectively.

20. Derivative financial instruments for hedging purposes

At December 31, 2009 and 2008, quantitative information on derivative financial instruments held for hedging purposes is as follows:

(In thousands of US\$)	2009			2008		
	Nominal Amount	Fair Value (1)		Nominal Amount	Fair Value	
		Asset	Liability		Asset	Liability
<b>Fair value hedges:</b>						
Interest rate swaps	353,600	-	30,756	446,400	-	46,379
Cross-currency interest rate swaps	150,118	-	31,975	149,924	-	34,383
<b>Cash flow hedges:</b>						
Interest rate swaps	20,000	-	1,956	20,000	-	2,178
Cross-currency interest rate swaps	47,141	-	450	41,020	-	6,781
Forward foreign exchange	6,832	828	-	143,179	7,777	2,176
<b>Total</b>	<b>577,691</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>65,137</b>	<b>800,523</b>	<b>7,777</b>	<b>91,897</b>
Net gain (loss) on the ineffective portion of hedging activities (2)	(2,534)			9,956		

(1) The fair value of assets and liabilities is reported within the Derivative financial instruments used for hedging - receivable and payable lines in the consolidated balance sheets, respectively.

(2) Gains and losses resulting from ineffectiveness and credit risk in hedging activities are reported within the Derivative financial instruments and hedging line in the consolidated statements of income.

As of December 31, 2009, gains and losses resulting from activities of derivative financial instruments and hedging recognized in the consolidated statements of income are presented below:

(In thousands of US\$)		Gain (loss) on derivatives
<b>Derivatives - fair value hedge</b>	<b>Classification in statements of income</b>	
Interest rate swaps	Interest income – Investment securities available-for-sale	(11,959)
Cross-currency interest rate swaps	Gain (loss) on foreign currency exchange	591
Cross-currency interest rate swaps	Interest income – Loans	(62)
Cross-currency interest rate swaps	Interest expense - Borrowings	3,480
Cross-currency interest rate swaps	Derivative financial instruments and hedging	(2,531)
<b>Total</b>		<b>(10,481)</b>



Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of US\$)

	Gain (loss) recognized in OCI (effective portion)	Classification of gain (loss)	Gain (loss) reclassified from accumulated OCI to the statements of income (effective portion)	Gain (loss) recognized on derivatives (ineffective portion)
<b>Derivatives – cash flow hedge</b>				
Interest rate swaps	513			
Cross-currency interest rate swaps	6,231	Gain (loss) on foreign currency exchange Derivative financial instruments and hedging	(3,430) -	- (3)
Forward foreign exchange	(4,773)	Interest expense – borrowings Interest income - loans	336 313	- -
		Gain (loss) on foreign currency exchange	3,861	-
<b>Total</b>	<u>1,971</u>		<u>1,080</u>	<u>(3)</u>

As of December 31, 2009, the Bank recognized in earnings the gain (loss) on derivative financial instruments and the gain (loss) of the hedged asset or liability related to qualifying fair value hedges, as follows:

(In thousands of US\$)

	Classification in statements of income	Gain (loss) on derivatives	Gain (loss) on hedged item	Net gain (loss)
<b>Derivatives - fair value hedge</b>				
Interest rate swaps	Interest income	(11,959)	27,477	15,518
Cross-currency interest rate swaps	Derivative financial instruments and hedging (ineffectiveness)	(2,531)	-	(2,531)
	Interest income – loans	(62)	619	557
	Interest expense – borrowings	3,480	(8,098)	(4,618)
	Gain (loss) on foreign currency exchange	591	(5,681)	(5,090)
		<u>(10,481)</u>	<u>14,317</u>	<u>3,836</u>

For control purposes, derivative instruments are recorded at their nominal amount (“notional amount”) in memorandum accounts. Interest rate swaps are made either in a single currency or cross currency for a prescribed period to exchange a series of interest rate flows, which involve fixed for floating interest payments. The Bank also engages in certain foreign exchange trades to serve customers’ transaction needs and to manage the foreign currency risk. All such positions are hedged with an offsetting contract for the same currency. The Bank manages and controls the risks on these foreign exchange trades by establishing counterparty credit limits by customer and by adopting policies that do not allow for open positions in the credit and investment portfolio. Derivative and foreign exchange instruments negotiated by the Bank are executed mainly over-the-counter (OTC). These contracts are executed between two counterparties that negotiate specific agreement terms, including notional amount, exercise price and maturity.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

The maximum length of time over which the Bank has hedged its exposure to the variability in future cash flows on forecasted transactions is 4.9 years.

The Bank estimates that approximately \$430 thousand of losses reported in other comprehensive income (loss) at December 31, 2009 related to forward foreign exchange contracts are expected to be reclassified into interest income as an adjustment to yield of hedged loans during the twelve-month period ending December 31, 2010.

Types of Derivatives and Foreign Exchange Instruments

Interest rate swaps are contracts in which a series of interest rate flows in a single currency are exchanged over a prescribed period. The Bank has designated a portion of these derivative instruments as fair value hedges and a portion as cash flow hedges. Cross currency swaps are contracts that generally involve the exchange of both interest and principal amounts in two different currencies. The Bank has designated a portion of these derivative instruments as fair value hedges and a portion as cash flow hedges. Forward foreign exchange contracts represent an agreement to purchase or sell foreign currency at a future date at agreed-upon terms. The Bank has designated these derivative instruments as cash flow hedges.

In addition to hedging derivative financial instruments, the Bank has derivative financial instruments held for trading purposes that have been disclosed in Note 4.

21. Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)

As of December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007 the breakdown of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) related to investment securities available-for-sale and derivative financial instruments is as follows:

<i>(In thousands of US\$)</i>	Securities Available-for- Sale	Derivative Financial Instruments	Total
Balance as of January 1, 2007	3,400	(72)	3,328
Net unrealized gains (losses) arising from the year	(1,912)	(2,081)	(3,993)
Reclassification adjustment for gains (losses) included in net income <sup>(1)</sup>	(9,119)	143	(8,976)
Balance as of December 31, 2007	(7,631)	(2,010)	(9,641)
Net unrealized gains (losses) arising from the year	(58,453)	(2,433)	(60,886)
Reclassification adjustment for (gains) losses included in net income <sup>(1)</sup>	(67)	(1,521)	(1,588)
Balance as of December 31, 2008	(66,151)	(5,964)	(72,115)
Net unrealized gains (losses) arising from the year	63,556	1,971	65,527
Reclassification adjustment for (gains) losses included in net income <sup>(1)</sup>	(649)	1,077	428
Balance as of December 31, 2009	(3,244)	(2,916)	(6,160)

<sup>(1)</sup> Reclassification adjustments include amounts recognized in net income during the current year that had been part of other comprehensive income in this and previous years.

**22. Fair value of financial instruments**

The Bank determines the fair value of its financial instruments using the fair value hierarchy established in ASC Topic 820 - Fair Value Measurements and Disclosure, which requires the Bank to maximize the use of observable inputs (those that reflect the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on market information obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity) and to minimize the use of unobservable inputs (those that reflect the reporting entity’s own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on the best information available in the circumstances) when measuring fair value. Fair value is used on a recurring basis to measure assets and liabilities in which fair value is the primary basis of accounting. Additionally, fair value is used on a non-recurring basis to evaluate assets and liabilities for impairment or for disclosure purposes. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Depending on the nature of the asset or liability, the Bank uses some valuation techniques and assumptions when estimating fair value. The Bank applied the following fair value hierarchy:

Level 1 – Assets or liabilities for which an identical instrument is traded in an active market, such as publicly-traded instruments or futures contracts.

Level 2 – Assets or liabilities valued based on observable market data for similar instruments, quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other observable inputs that can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 – Assets or liabilities for which significant valuation assumptions are not readily observable in the market; instruments measured based on the best available information, which might include some internally-developed data, and considers risk premiums that a market participant would require.

When determining the fair value measurements for assets and liabilities that are required or permitted to be recorded at fair value, the Bank considers the principal or most advantageous market in which it would transact and considers the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability. When possible, the Bank uses active and observable markets to price identical assets or liabilities. When identical assets and liabilities are not traded in active markets, the Bank uses observable market information for similar assets and liabilities. However, certain assets and liabilities are not actively traded in observable markets and the Bank must use alternative valuation techniques to determine the fair value measurement.

When there has been a significant decrease in the volume or level of activity for a financial asset or liability, the Bank uses the present value technique which considers market information to determine a representative fair value in usual market conditions.

**Notes to consolidated financial statements**

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A description of the valuation methodologies used for assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis, including the general classification of such assets and liabilities under the fair value hierarchy is presented below:

Trading assets and liabilities and securities available-for-sale

When quoted prices are available in an active market, available-for-sale securities and trading assets and liabilities are classified in level 1 of the fair value hierarchy. If quoted market prices are not available or they are available in markets that are not active, then fair values are estimated based upon quoted prices of similar instruments, or where these are not available, by using internal valuation techniques, principally discounted cash flows models. Such securities are classified within level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

Investment fund

The Fund is not traded in an active market and, therefore, representative market quotes are not readily available. Its fair value is adjusted on a monthly basis based on its financial results, its operating performance, its liquidity and the fair value of its long and short investment portfolio that are quoted and traded in active markets. Such investment is classified within level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

Derivative financial instruments

The valuation techniques and inputs depend on the type of derivative and the nature of the underlying instrument. Exchange-traded derivatives that are valued using quoted prices are classified within level 1 of the fair value hierarchy.

For those derivative contracts without quoted market prices, fair value is based on internal valuation techniques using inputs that are readily observable and that can be validated by information available in the market. The principal technique used to value these instruments is the discounted cash flows model and the key inputs considered in this technique include interest rate yield curves and foreign exchange rates. These derivatives are classified within level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

Adjustments for credit risk of the counterparty are applied to those derivative financial instruments where the internal credit risk rating of said counterparties deviates substantially from the credit risk implied by the London Interbank Offered rate (“LIBOR”). Not all counterparties have the same credit rating that is implicit in the LIBOR curve; therefore, it is necessary to take into account the current credit rating of the counterparty for the purpose of obtaining the true fair value of a particular instrument. In addition, adjustments to bilateral or own risk are adjusted to reflect the bank’s credit risk when measuring all liabilities at fair value. The methodology is consistent with the adjustments applied to generate the counterparty credit risk.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

Financial instruments measured at fair value on a recurring basis by caption on the consolidated balance sheets using the fair value hierarchy are described below:

	2009			Total carrying value in the consolidated balance sheets
	Quoted market prices in an active market (Level 1)	Internally developed models with significant observable market information (Level 2)	Internally developed models with significant unobservable market information (Level 3)	
(In thousands of US\$)				
<b>Assets</b>				
Trading assets	50,275	2	-	50,277
Securities available –for-sale	436,064	20,920	-	456,984
Investment fund	-	197,575	-	197,575
Derivative financial instruments - receivable	-	828	-	828
<b>Total assets at fair value</b>	<b>486,339</b>	<b>219,325</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>705,664</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Trading liabilities	-	3,152	-	3,152
Derivative financial instruments - payable	-	65,137	-	65,137
<b>Total liabilities at fair value</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>68,289</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>68,289</b>

	2008			Total carrying value in the consolidated balance sheets
	Quoted market prices in an active market (Level 1)	Internally developed models with significant observable market information (Level 2)	Internally developed models with significant unobservable market information (Level 3)	
(In thousands of US\$)				
<b>Assets</b>				
Trading assets	21,965	22,974	-	44,939
Securities available –for-sale	561,278	46,640	-	607,918
Investment fund	-	150,695	-	150,695
Derivative financial instruments - receivable	-	7,777	-	7,777
<b>Total assets at fair value</b>	<u>583,243</u>	<u>228,086</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>811,329</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Trading liabilities	-	14,157	-	14,157
Derivative financial instruments - payable	-	91,897	-	91,897
<b>Total liabilities at fair value</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>106,054</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>106,054</u>

As of December 31, 2009, the Bank classified within Level 1 securities available-for-sale amounting to \$15.8 million which were classified in 2008 as Level 2, since 2009 they were quoted in an active market. As of December 31, 2008, these securities did not have sufficient level of activity to be considered as an active market; therefore, the Bank used observable market data when valuing their fair value.

ASC Topic 825 - Financial Instruments requires disclosure of fair value of financial instruments including those assets and liabilities for which the Bank did not elect the fair value option. Bank’s management uses its best judgment in estimating the fair value of the Bank’s financial instruments; however, there are limitations in any estimation technique. The estimated fair value amounts have been measured as of their respective year-ends, and have not been re-expressed or updated subsequent to the dates of these consolidated financial statements. As such, the estimated fair values of these financial instruments subsequent to the respective reporting dates may be different than the amounts reported at each year-end.

**Notes to consolidated financial statements**

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The following information should not be interpreted as an estimate of the fair value of the Bank. Fair value calculations are only provided for a limited portion of the Bank’s financial assets and liabilities. Due to a wide range of valuation techniques and the degree of subjectivity used in making the estimates, comparison of fair value information of the Bank and other companies may not be meaningful for comparative analysis.

The following methods and assumptions were used by the Bank’s management in estimating the fair values of financial instruments whose fair value are not measured on a recurring basis:

Financial instruments with carrying value that approximates fair value

The carrying value of certain financial assets, including cash and due from banks, interest-bearing deposits in banks, customers’ liabilities under acceptances, accrued interest receivable and certain financial liabilities including customer’s demand and time deposits, securities sold under repurchase agreements, accrued interest payable, and acceptances outstanding, as a result of their short-term nature, are considered to approximate fair value.

Securities held-to-maturity

The fair value has been based upon current market quotations, where available. If quoted market prices are not available, fair value has been estimated based upon quoted price of similar instruments, or where these are not available, on discounted expected cash flows using market rates commensurate with the credit quality and maturity of the security.

Loans

The fair value of the loan portfolio has been determined based upon discounted cash flow models that consider the market’s credit margins on comparable debt instruments.

Borrowings and short and long-term debt

The fair value of short-term and long-term debt and borrowings is estimated using discounted cash flow analysis based on the current incremental borrowing rates for similar types of borrowing arrangements, taking into account the changes in the Bank’s credit margin.

Commitments to extend credit, stand-by letters of credit, and financial guarantees written

The fair value of commitments is estimated using the fees currently charged to enter into similar agreements, taking into account the remaining terms of the agreements and the present creditworthiness of the counterparties. For loan commitments, fair value also considers the difference between current levels of interest rates and the committed rates. The fair value of guarantees and letters of credit is based on fees currently charged for similar agreements which consider the counterparty risks.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

The following table provides information on the carrying value and estimated fair value of the Bank’s financial instruments that are not measured on a recurring basis:

(In thousands of US\$)	December 31,			
	2009		2008	
	Carrying Value	Fair Value	Carrying Value	Fair Value
Financial assets:				
Instruments with carrying value that approximates fair value	451,668	451,668	948,288	948,288
Securities held-to-maturity	-	-	28,410	28,144
Loans, net of allowance	2,701,484	2,746,175	2,559,306	2,474,606
Financial liabilities:				
Instruments with carrying value that approximates fair value	1,340,420	1,340,420	1,677,553	1,677,553
Short-term borrowings	327,800	327,877	738,747	737,414
Borrowings and long-term debt	1,390,387	1,381,022	1,204,952	1,126,379
Commitments to extend credit, standby letters of credit, and financial guarantees written	29,011	28,113	30,898	30,489

23. Litigation

Bladex is not engaged in any litigation that is material to the Bank’s business or, to the best of the knowledge of the Bank’s management that is likely to have an adverse effect on its business, financial condition or results of operations.

24. Capital adequacy

The Banking Law in the Republic of Panama requires banks with general licenses to maintain a total capital adequacy index that shall not be lower than 8% of total assets and off-balance sheet irrevocable contingency transactions, weighted according to their risk; and primary capital equivalent that shall not be less than 4% of its assets and off-balance sheet irrevocable contingency transactions, weighted according to their risk. As of December 31, 2009, the Bank’s capital adequacy ratio is 22% which is in compliance with the capital adequacy ratios required by the Banking Law in the Republic of Panama.

25. Business segment information

The Bank’s activities are operated and managed by three segments, Commercial, Treasury and Asset Management. The segment information reflects this operational and management structure, in a manner consistent with the requirements outlined in ASC Topic 280 - Segment Reporting. The segment results are determined based on the Bank’s management accounting process, which assigns consolidated balance sheets, revenue and expense items to each reportable division on a systematic basis.



**Notes to consolidated financial statements**

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The Bank incorporates net operating income<sup>(3)</sup> by business segment in order to disclose the revenue and expense items related to its normal course of business, segregating from the net income, the impact of reversals of reserves for loan losses and off-balance sheet credit risk, and recoveries on assets. In addition, the Bank’s net interest income represents the main driver of net operating income; therefore, the Bank presents its interest-earning assets by business segment, to give an indication of the size of business generating net interest income. Interest-earning assets also generate gains and losses on sales, such as for securities available-for-sale and trading assets and liabilities, which are included in net other income, in the Treasury and Asset Management segments. The Bank also discloses its other assets and contingencies by business segment, to give an indication of the size of business that generates net fees and commissions, also included in net other income, in the Commercial Segment.

The Bank believes that the presentation of net operating income provides important supplementary information to investors regarding financial and business trends relating to the Bank’s financial condition and results of operations. These measures exclude the impact of reversals (provisions) for loan losses and reversals (provisions) for losses on off-balance sheet credit risk (together referred to as “reversal (provision) for credit losses”) which Bank’s management considers distort trend analysis.

Net operating income disclosed by the Bank should not be considered a substitute for, or superior to, financial measures calculated differently from similar measures used by other companies. These measures, therefore, may not be comparable to similar measurements used by other companies.

Commercial incorporates all of the Bank’s financial intermediation and fee generation activities. Operating income from the Commercial Segment includes net interest income from loans, fee income and allocated operating expenses.

Treasury incorporates deposits in banks and all of the Bank’s securities available-for-sale and held-to-maturity. Operating income from the Treasury Segment includes net interest income from deposits with banks and securities available-for-sale and held-to-maturity, derivative and hedging activities, gains and losses on sale of securities available-for-sale, gain and losses on foreign exchange, and allocated operating expenses.

Asset Management incorporates the balance of the investment fund. Operating income from the Asset Management Segment includes net interest margin related to the Feeder’s participation in the net interest margin of the Fund, net gains from the investment fund trading, and allocated operating expenses.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

The following table provides certain information regarding the Bank’s continuing operations by segment:

Business Segment Analysis <sup>(1)</sup>

<i>(In millions of US\$)</i>	2009	2008	2007
COMMERCIAL			
Interest income	114.3	200.1	221.6
Interest expense	(48.1)	(122.0)	(157.1)
Net interest income	66.2	78.1	64.5
Net other income (2)	6.9	7.8	5.3
Operating expenses	(23.4)	(27.5)	(27.2)
Net operating income (3)	49.7	58.4	42.6
(Provision) reversals for loans and off-balance sheet credit losses	(14.8)	1.5	1.5
Impairment on assets, net of recoveries	(0.1)	(0.8)	(0.5)
Net income attributable to Bladex	34.8	59.1	43.6
Commercial assets and contingencies (end of period balances):			
Interest-earning assets (4)	2,775.3	2,614.0	3,725.9
Other assets and contingencies (5)	331.2	443.6	549.5
Total interest-earning assets, other assets and contingencies	3,106.5	3,057.6	4,275.4
TREASURY			
Interest income	25.9	40.7	33.6
Interest expense	(23.9)	(37.7)	(27.7)
Net interest income	2.0	3.0	5.9
Net other income (2)	12.0	(12.4)	8.5
Operating expenses	(7.9)	(6.9)	(4.4)
Net operating income (3)	6.1	(16.3)	10.0
Net income attributable to Bladex	6.1	(16.3)	10.0
Treasury assets and contingencies (end of period balances):			
Interest-earning assets (6)	931.8	1,581.9	869.9
Other assets and contingencies (5)	3.0	3.0	3.0
Total interest-earning assets, other assets and contingencies	934.8	1,584.9	872.9
ASSET MANAGEMENT			
Interest income	1.8	3.5	9.6
Interest expense	(5.2)	(6.7)	(9.5)
Net interest income	(3.4)	(3.2)	0.1
Net other income (2)	25.4	21.3	23.9
Operating expenses	(6.8)	(5.6)	(5.5)
Net operating income (3)	15.2	12.5	18.5
Net income	15.2	12.5	18.5
Net income attributable to the redeemable noncontrolling interest	1.1	0.2	-
Net income attributable to Bladex	14.1	12.3	18.5
Fund’s assets and contingencies (end of period balances):			
Interest-earning assets (6)	197.6	150.7	81.8
Non-interest-earning assets	0.1	-	-
Total interest-earning assets, other assets and contingencies	197.7	150.7	81.8

Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In millions of US\$)	2009	2008	2007
TOTAL			
Interest income	142.0	244.3	264.8
Interest expense	(77.2)	(166.4)	(194.3)
Net interest income	64.8	77.9	70.5
Net other income (2)	44.3	16.7	37.7
Operating expenses	(38.2)	(40.0)	(37.0)
Net operating income (3)	70.9	54.6	71.2
(Provision) reversals for loans and off-balance sheet credit losses	(14.8)	1.5	1.5
Impairment on assets, net of recoveries	(0.1)	(0.8)	(0.5)
Net income	56.0	55.3	72.2
Net income attributable to the redeemable noncontrolling interest	1.1	0.2	-
Net income attributable to Bladex	54.9	55.1	72.2
Total assets and contingencies (end of period balances):			
Interest-earning assets (4 & 6)	3,904.7	4,346.6	4,677.6
Other assets and contingencies (5)	334.3	446.6	552.5
Total interest-earning assets, other assets and contingencies	4,239.0	4,793.2	5,230.1

- (1) The numbers set out in these tables have been rounded and accordingly may not total exactly.
- (2) Net other income excludes reversals (provisions) for loans and off-balance sheet credit losses, and recoveries on assets.
- Reconciliation of Net other income:
- |  |       |        |       |
|--|-------|--------|-------|
| Net other income – business segment                              | 44.3  | 16.7   | 37.7  |
| Reversal (provision) for losses on off-balance sheet credit risk | 3.5   | (17.0) | 13.4  |
| Recoveries on assets, net of impairments                         | (0.1) | (0.8)  | (0.5) |
| Net other income – consolidated financial statements             | 47.7  | (1.1)  | 50.6  |
- (3) Net operating income refers to net income excluding reversals (provisions) for loans and off-balance sheet credit losses and recoveries on assets
- (4) Includes loans, net of unearned income and deferred loan fees.
- (5) Includes customers’ liabilities under acceptances, letters of credit and guarantees covering commercial and country risk, and credit commitments and equity investments recorded as other assets.
- (6) Includes cash and due from banks, interest-bearing deposits with banks, securities available for sale and held to maturity, trading securities and the balance of the Investment Fund.

Reconciliation of Total assets:			
Interest-earning assets – business segment	3,904.7	4,346.6	4,677.6
Allowance for loan losses	(73.8)	(54.6)	(69.6)
Customers’ liabilities under acceptances	1.6	1.3	9.1
Premises and equipment	7.7	8.0	10.2
Accrued interest receivable	25.6	46.3	62.4
Derivative financial instruments used for hedging - receivable	0.8	7.8	0.1
Other assets	12.2	7.3	8.8
Total assets – consolidated financial statements	3,878.8	4,362.7	4,698.6

Notes to consolidated financial statements

Geographic information is as follows:

	2009			
	Panama	United States of America	Cayman Islands	Total
(In thousands of US\$)				
Interest income	122,731	17,470	1,763	141,964
Interest expense	(69,066)	(5,821)	(2,325)	(77,212)
Net interest income	53,665	11,649	(562)	64,752
Long-lived assets:				
Premises and equipment, net	7,096	653	-	7,749
	2008			
	Panama	United States of America	Cayman Islands	Total
(In thousands of US\$)				
Interest income	221,351	19,407	3,485	244,243
Interest expense	(152,665)	(11,435)	(2,296)	(166,396)
Net interest income	68,686	7,972	1,189	77,847
Long-lived assets:				
Premises and equipment, net	7,156	814	-	7,970
	2007			
	Panama	United States of America	Cayman Islands	Total
(In thousands of US\$)				
Interest income	226,218	29,064	9,587	264,869
Interest expense	(167,448)	(22,654)	(4,197)	(194,299)
Net interest income	58,770	6,410	5,390	70,570
Long-lived assets:				
Premises and equipment, net	9,242	934	-	10,176

**Item 19. Exhibits**

List of Exhibits

Exhibit 1.1.	Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation*
Exhibit 1.2.	By-Laws
Exhibit 8.1.	List of Subsidiaries
Exhibit 11.1.	Code of Ethics
Exhibit 12.1.	Rule 13a-14(a) Certification of Principal Executive Officer
Exhibit 12.2.	Rule 13a-14(a) Certification of Principal Financial Officer
Exhibit 13.1.	Rule 13a-14(b) Certification of Principal Executive Officer
Exhibit 13.2.	Rule 13a-14(b) Certification of Principal Financial Officer

\* Filed as an exhibit to the Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 filed with the SEC on June 26, 2009.

SIGNATURES

The registrant hereby certifies that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form 20-F and that it has duly caused and authorized the undersigned to sign this annual report on its behalf.

BANCO LATINOAMERICANO DE COMERCIO EXTERIOR, S.A.

/s/ JAIME RIVERA  
Jaime Rivera  
*Chief Executive Officer*

June 9, 2010

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

**Exhibit**

Exhibit 1.1.	Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation*
Exhibit 1.2.	By-Laws
Exhibit 8.1.	List of Subsidiaries
Exhibit 11.1.	Code of Ethics
Exhibit 12.1.	Rule 13a-14(a) Certification of Principal Executive Officer
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**BY-LAWS  
OF  
BANCO LATINOAMERICANO DE COMERCIO EXTERIOR, S.A.**

**CHAPTER I. NAME**

ARTICLE 1: The name of the corporation is Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S.A., in Spanish, and Foreign Trade Bank of Latin America, Inc., in English, and may also be known commercially as BLADEX (hereinafter, the “Corporation”).

**CHAPTER II. OFFICES**

ARTICLE 2: The Board of Directors shall establish the legal domicile of the Corporation in city of Panama, Republic of Panama.

ARTICLE 3: In addition, the Corporation may establish offices in other places and countries and establish such subsidiaries, branches, agencies, representation and correspondent offices as the Board of Directors may deem convenient.

**CHAPTER III. MEETINGS OF SHAREHOLDERS**

**Section A. Holders of Common Shares**

ARTICLE 4: Annual or extraordinary general meetings of the holders of common shares must be held in the place, date and time fixed in the notice thereof, subject to the requirement of the presence of the quorum contemplated in Article 10 of these By-Laws.

ARTICLE 5: Subject to Article 4 and Article 9 of these By-Laws, the Corporation shall hold a general meeting of the holders of common shares every year, on the date and in the place determined by a resolution of the Board of Directors, to elect directors and consider any other matter duly submitted to the meeting by the Board of Directors.



ARTICLE 6: The Annual General Meeting of Shareholders especially shall:

- (a) Subject to the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, elect the members of the Board of Directors;
- (b) Designate external auditors;
- (c) Review the audited annual financial statements of the Corporation as approved by the Board of Directors; and
- (d) Consider any other business duly submitted to the meeting.

ARTICLE 7: Subject to Article 5 and Article 9 of these By-Laws, the Corporation may hold special meetings of the holders of common shares called by the Board of Directors, each time that it considers convenient. In addition, the Board of Directors or its Chairman, must call an extraordinary meeting of holders of common shares whenever so requested in writing by one or more holders of common shares representing at least one-twentieth (1/20) part of the authorized capital.

ARTICLE 8: Any meeting of shareholders, whether ordinary or extraordinary, shall be called by notice to each registered shareholder with voting rights, by personal delivery, by facsimile transmission, by telex, by courier, by air mail or by any other means authorized by the Board of Directors, no less than thirty (30) days before the date of the meeting, counted from the date the notice is sent. The notice of the meeting shall include its agenda.

ARTICLE 9: Within twenty (20) days before the date fixed for holding the meeting, or during the course thereof, any holder of common shares shall have the right to request, the Board of Directors, before the meeting, or the Chairman of the meeting during the course thereof, to include any matter in the agenda. Such matter shall be considered in the meeting if the above-mentioned request is supported by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the issued and outstanding common shares.

ARTICLE 10: At any meeting of shareholders, any shareholder may be represented by proxy, who need not be a shareholder, and who may be appointed by public or private document, with or without power of substitution. Said document must be signed electronically or by the hand of the registered owner of the shares, or his duly constituted attorney, and upon presentation thereof to the Corporation or its agent it shall be presumed that it has been duly granted, unless otherwise proven. The Board of Directors of the Corporation may set a date and time until when proxies for meetings of shareholders will be received. A proxy shall not be valid after eleven (11) months from its date of issue unless a longer term is expressly stated. A duly authorized proxy may not be deemed revoked, and shall continue in full force and effect, until such time as a document with a later date revokes it or another proxy is duly constituted by means of a document bearing a later date. A person represented by proxy may suspend the exercise of the corresponding proxy and exercise his or her voting right at a meeting of shareholders if said person is present at the meeting and expressly states his or her desire to directly exercise his or her powers as shareholder to the Secretary of the Corporation.

ARTICLE 11: In order to obtain a quorum in any meeting of shareholders, it shall be required that one half plus one of the issued and outstanding common shares be represented thereat. The Secretary of the Corporation may set a time on the date of the meeting of shareholders, until when registration of shareholders will be allowed for the effects of determining the quorum. After that time, the meeting of shareholders shall be held with the shareholders registered until then, who shall be the only shareholders authorized to vote at the meeting of shareholders. When the quorum mentioned before is not obtained to hold a particular meeting of shareholders, then said meeting of shareholders shall be validly held on the second meeting date, which for this purpose shall be provided in the original notice of the meeting and at such second meeting date quorum shall be constituted by the shareholders present at the meeting.

ARTICLE 12: All of the resolutions of the general meetings of shareholders shall be adopted by the affirmative vote of one half plus one of the common shares represented at said meeting of shareholders. However, the affirmative vote of one half plus one of the common shares represented at a meeting called for such purpose, will be required, including the vote of three quarters (3/4) of all issued and outstanding Class A common shares, in order to adopt resolutions regarding:

- (a) the dissolution of the Corporation;
- (b) the amendment of Articles 2, 3, 4, 11, 12, 16 and 21 of the Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation; or
- (c) the merger or consolidation of the Corporation.

ARTICLE 13: The holders of common shares of each class are entitled to one (1) vote per share so held, except that in the elections of the members of the Board of Directors, the holders of shares of each class shall have a number of votes equal to the number of shares of the respective class multiplied by the number of directors to be elected, and may cast all of their votes for only one candidate or distribute them among the total number of directors to be elected or any two or more of them, as they may deem convenient.

ARTICLE 14: The shareholders may exercise their vote in person or by electronic means, as approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 15: The meeting of shareholders shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Corporation or, in his absence, by the person the Board of Directors designates for such purpose.

ARTICLE 16: The Secretary of the Corporation shall be the secretary of the meetings of shareholders. In his absence, the chairman of the meeting shall appoint any person, present at the corresponding meeting, to act as secretary thereof.

ARTICLE 17: The Board of Directors of the Corporation may appoint one or more persons to verify the counting of the proxies and votes at the meetings, as well as the elections that may be held at said meetings. If the Board of Directors does not appoint such person, then the Secretary of the Corporation may assume said responsibility.

ARTICLE 18: The Board of Directors may fix a date, before the holding of every meeting of shareholders, as the registration date for the determination of the shareholders with the right to be called upon and vote at the meeting of shareholders. Said registration date may not be more than forty (40) days before the date of the respective meeting. In such case, only the shareholders registered at such date shall be entitled to be called to attend said meeting and vote thereat, without taking into account any transfer or conveyance registered after the corresponding registration date. In the event that the Board of Directors fails to fix said registration date, only the persons who appear as holders of shares in the register of the Corporation may be entitled to vote at the corresponding meeting of shareholders upon (i) termination of the working hours of the day immediately prior to the date on which the corresponding call was made or, (ii) if said date is forty (40) or more days before the meeting, upon termination of the working hours of the fortieth (40th) day before the date of the corresponding meeting.

**Section B. Meetings per Class**

ARTICLE 19: Whenever the Board of Directors or the Chairman of the Corporation are requested by shareholders representing at least one-twentieth (1/20) of the issued and outstanding shares of a given class, the holders of such class of shares may hold a separate meeting for the purpose of dealing with any matter that, in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and these By-Laws, is within their competence.

ARTICLE 20: The provisions established in Section A of this Chapter shall be applicable *mutatis mutandis* to the notice, quorum and the meetings of holders of common shares of a particular class of shares.

**Section C. Holders of Preferred Shares**

ARTICLE 21: In the event that the holders of preferred shares are to exercise the voting right referred to in Article 4 of the Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation, the holders of preferred shares must be called to a meeting of shareholders of said class of shares by the Chairman of the Corporation, as soon as possible.

ARTICLE 22: The provisions established in Section A of this Chapter shall be applicable *mutatis mutandis* to the notice, quorum and the meetings of holders of preferred shares, unless the certificate of designation creating such shares establishes otherwise.

**CHAPTER IV. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ARTICLE 23: The Board of Directors shall direct and control the affairs and assets of the Corporation, with the exception of such cases as may be reserved by law or by the Articles of Incorporation for the meeting of shareholders. The Board of Directors are specially responsible for the following matters:

- (a) Ensure compliance of the resolutions of the General Meeting of Shareholders;

- (b) Submit for consideration of the General Meeting of Shareholders the annual audited financial statements of the Corporation;
- (c) Approve the budget and annual business and operations plan submitted by the President and Chief Executive Officer and supervise its compliance;
- (d) Analyze, review and approve the strategic plan of the Corporation submitted by the President and Chief Executive Officer and supervise its compliance, which shall include, without restriction thereto, the long-term and annual goals of the Corporation;
- (e) Identify and adopt policies to limit and manage the risks in which the Corporation may incur, including risks related to credits, operations, liquidity and funding;
- (f) Review and inspect the control and administrative information systems in order to ensure that the information is complete and timely and compliance with the applicable regulatory regime;
- (g) Develop, implement and monitor information programs to all stakeholders of the Corporation and particularly to shareholders;
- (h) Elect, by majority of votes, the Chairman of the Corporation, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and any other Officer of the Corporation;
- (i) Adopt hiring and compensation policies for key executives and give support to the selection and evaluation process thereof;
- (j) Appoint, pursuant to the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, the members of the committees of the Board of Directors;
- (k) Appoint, pursuant to the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, the members of the Advisory Council;
- (l) Grant general or special powers of attorney to directors, officers, or other employees of the Corporation, or third parties, to manage as many matters as the Board of Directors may deem convenient, provided that they are within the powers of the Board of Directors; and
- (n) Make sure the activities of the Corporation are conducted with transparency and in compliance with the highest standards of banking ethics.

ARTICLE 24: Directors shall be nominated, elected and replaced pursuant to the provisions of Article 12 of the Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation.

ARTICLE 25: Directors shall be elected for a period of three (3) years and may be reelected.

ARTICLE 26: Meetings of directors shall be held at least four (4) times a year in the Republic of Panama or in any other country, as determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 27: Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be deemed as held between the persons present at the meeting if the directors that participate in the meeting are in direct communication among them by telephone, videoconference or by any other means of communication authorized by the Board of Directors, and can hear each other during the meeting.

ARTICLE 28: Notice of any meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given by the Chairman or the Secretary of the Corporation by means of a personal notice sent by fax, electronic mail, telex, courier or air mail, to each director. No such notice for calling a meeting of the Board of Directors needs to be given for meetings of the Board of Directors if the dates thereof had been pre-established by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 29: The presence of at least six (6) directors is necessary for a meeting of the Board of Directors to be duly held.

ARTICLE 30: The Board of Directors shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Corporation and in his absence, by the person appointed by the majority of directors present at the meeting.

ARTICLE 31: The Secretary of the Corporation shall be the secretary of the Board of Directors. In his absence, the chairman of the meeting shall appoint any person present at the meeting to act as the secretary thereof.

ARTICLE 32: The resolutions of the Board of Directors shall be adopted by the affirmative vote of the majority of the directors present at the meeting.

ARTICLE 33: Written resolutions of the Board of Directors signed at least by six (6) directors of the Corporation shall be valid and binding as resolutions of the Board of Directors, duly approved, even if the same are signed on different dates and at different places and without the need for holding a meeting, provided all directors are informed of the proposed resolution and are given the opportunity to render their opinion on the same.

ARTICLE 34: The Board of Directors may create one or more committees, which shall have the powers and duties delegated thereto by the Board, subject to the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and these By-Laws. Each committee shall be composed of two or more members of the Board of Directors, appointed in the manner and for the purposes and term determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 35: The Board of Directors may appoint an Advisory Council that may be composed of a maximum of ten (10) persons, who need not be directors, officers or shareholders of the Corporation. The Advisory Council may meet twice a year or whenever convened by the Board of Directors of the Corporation and its duties shall be solely to provide advice to the Board of Directors in the manner and as indicated by the latter.

**CHAPTER V. OFFICERS**

ARTICLE 36: The officers of the Corporation shall be:

- (a) A Chairman of the Corporation;
- (b) A President and Chief Executive Officer;
- (c) A Treasurer; and
- (d) A Secretary.

ARTICLE 37: The Board of Directors may appoint other officers to exercise the powers and duties granted or conferred upon them by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 38: Officers shall be elected for a period of one (1) year or until their successors are appointed. Officers may be reelected.

ARTICLE 39: Any officer may be removed by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 40: The powers and duties of the officers of the Corporation, as specified hereunder, shall be subordinated to the power of the Board of Directors to indicate, change or amend by means of a duly adopted resolution, the powers and duties of the officers and agents with respect to any business or transaction. Without prejudice to the foregoing, the officers shall have the powers and duties hereinafter set forth:

**Section A. The Chairman of the Corporation**

ARTICLE 41: The Chairman shall act as chairman at all the meetings of the shareholders and the Board of Directors, propose the place and the matters to be considered at such meetings and shall give or shall cause to be given notice of all meetings of the shareholders and of the Board of Directors and shall carry out any other matters entrusted to him by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 42: The Chairman of the Corporation shall have the following special powers:

- (a) To assure the proper operation of the Board of Directors, including to verify that all matters relevant and within the powers of the Board of Directors are included in the agenda of each meeting; to ensure that all members of the Board of Directors receive, in a timely manner, the necessary information to evaluate the topics to be dealt with at the meetings of the Board of Directors; to strive for the active participation of all members of the Board of Directors and confirm that all resolutions adopted are duly recorded in the minutes drafted by the Secretary;
- (b) To represent the Corporation at such events where the Board of Directors deems it convenient for him to be present; and
- (c) To direct, as approved by the Board of Directors, the execution of information programs to all stakeholders of the Corporation and the relationship between the Corporation and such persons.



**Section B. The President and Chief Executive Officer**

ARTICLE 43: The President and Chief Executive Officer shall be the legal representative of the Corporation and shall have the following powers subject to the guidelines established by the Board of Directors:

- (a) To oversee the daily management of the affairs of the Corporation, specially the execution of its programs, the conduct of its operations, the protection of its equity and the performance of all agreements and resolutions of the Board of Directors;
- (b) To appoint, promote, transfer, remove and fix the remuneration and other working conditions of the Corporation’s personnel;
- (c) To authorize the granting of powers of attorney for the judicial and extrajudicial representation of the Corporation;
- (d) To participate in the meetings of the Board of Directors and authorize, by means of his signature, the transactions, contracts and documents of the Corporation, within the parameters established by the Board of Directors;
- (e) To prepare the budget and annual business and operations plan of the Corporation, submit it to the Board of Directors for its review and approval and execute same;
- (f) To prepare the long-term strategic plan of the Corporation, submit it to the Board of Directors for its review and approval and execute same; and
- (g) Any other powers delegated thereto by the Board of Directors.

In the permanent absence of the President and Chief Executive Officer, the representation of the Corporation shall be held by the person or persons from time to time appointed by the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

**Section C. The Treasurer**

ARTICLE 44: In addition to the powers granted by law, the Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the Corporation and shall have the custody of its funds and securities.

**Section D. The Secretary**

ARTICLE 45: The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the shareholders and the Board of Directors, and shall record the votes and sign, jointly with the Chairman, the minutes of such meetings. As an alternative to the Chairman of the Corporation, the Secretary may give or cause to be given notice of all meetings of the shareholders and the Board of Directors and shall perform all other duties entrusted to him by the Board of Directors or the Chairman of the Corporation, who shall be in charge of his supervision.

**CHAPTER VI. SHARE CERTIFICATES**

ARTICLE 46: The Corporation may issue common or preferred shares of stock, by means of physical certificates or in a totally incorporeal form, or both ways, as may be authorized from time to time by the Board of Directors. The physical share certificates may, in turn, be individual certificates issued in the name of the shareholder or global certificates to be deposited with a central custodian.

ARTICLE 47: The contents and form of the physical share certificates of the Corporation shall be determined by the Board of Directors and shall necessarily include its sequential number, the name of the owner and the issuance date of the certificate, and shall comply with the laws of the Republic of Panama, the Articles of Incorporation and these By-Laws.

ARTICLE 48: The physical share certificates of the Corporation shall be signed by the Chairman of the Corporation or by the President and Chief Executive Officer as well as by the Secretary or Treasurer.

ARTICLE 49: Any and all signatures on the share certificates may be facsimiles. In the event that any of the officers of the Corporation or employees of the registration and transfer agent or agents of the shares of the Corporation who have signed a share certificate or whose facsimile signature is affixed on a particular share certificate shall cease to be an officer of the Corporation or an employee of the respective registration and transfer agent before the certificate is issued and outstanding, said certificate may be issued by the Corporation as if the officer of the Corporation or employee of the relevant registration and transfer agent were holding the respective position on the date of issuance.

ARTICLE 50: The shares of stock that are issued in totally incorporeal form shall be recorded in the Register of Shares and Share Transfers that the Corporation, or one or more of the registration and transfer agents appointed thereto by the Corporation, shall keep to such effect. The Board of Directors may, from time to time, establish the information contained in said Registers of Shares and Share Transfers.

ARTICLE 51: The Corporation shall keep one or more Registers of Shares and Share Transfers, according to the share classes comprising the authorized capital of the Corporation, in which shall validly be registered the issuance and transfers of shares according to the law, including the name of the shareholder and his or her address, the number and class of shares owned thereby, the number and date of issuance of the share certificate (for physical certificates), the amount paid for such shares or indication that they are fully paid and non-assessable; and the number and the cancellation date of each share certificate (for physical certificates) delivered to the Corporation for its cancellation.

ARTICLE 52: The Corporation may appoint one or more registration and transfer agents for the shares of the Corporation.

ARTICLE 53: The transfer of shares shall be recorded in the registers of shares and share transfers of the Corporation and no new physical certificate shall be issued to replace an existing physical share certificate unless the existing physical certificate, for the same number of shares represented by the new physical certificate, is previously delivered to the Corporation for its cancellation.

ARTICLE 54: In the event of loss or damage of any physical share certificate, a new physical certificate may be issued in its stead once the respective loss or damage has been evidenced and the Corporation is given a satisfactory indemnity bond in the amount and terms determined by the Board of Directors.

**CHAPTER VII. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

ARTICLE 55: The Corporation shall close its accounts on December 31 of each year and shall have the annual financial statements prepared and audited for the completed fiscal period, which shall at least include the corresponding balance sheet and a detailed report of its profit and loss accounts. These shall be submitted for the consideration of the Board of Directors, which after studying and approving them, shall be submitted by the Board of Directors, together with the report of the external auditors, to the Annual Meeting of Shareholders within a period of one hundred and twenty (120) days after the pertinent fiscal period.

ARTICLE 56: The financial statements shall be prepared according to generally accepted accounting principles and rules as accepted by the Board of Directors and shall accurately show the profits and losses realized by the Corporation.

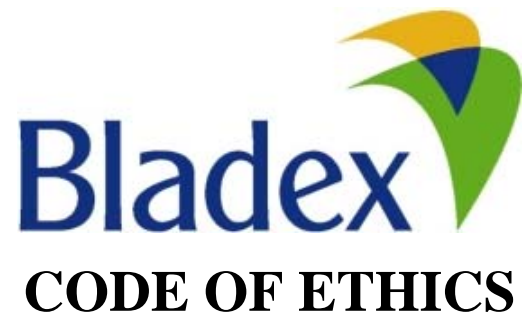
**CHAPTER VIII. AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS**

ARTICLE 57: The Board of Directors may amend or modify these By-Laws by affirmative vote of the majority of its members at any meeting duly held.

Subsidiaries of Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S.A.

Name of Subsidiary	Jurisdiction of Incorporation
Bladex Holdings Inc.	United States
Bladex Asset Management Inc.	United States
Bladex Offshore Feeder Fund	Cayman Islands
Bladex Capital Growth Fund	Cayman Islands
Clavex, LLC	United States
Bladex Representacao Ltda.	Brazil
Clavex, S.A.	Panama

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**UPDATED: July 2009**  
Approved by the Nomination and Compensation Committee in its July 13, 2009 meeting, as stated in the corresponding minutes.

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## INTRODUCTION

The set of ethical principles adopted by the Foreign Trade Bank of Latin America, Inc (“**Bladex**”) shall be a guideline for its Board of Directors and team of employees in the independent performance of business transactions as well as for their personal and interpersonal conduct, both within and without the Bank.

These ethical principles shall also be for ensuring and enhancing the image of an Organization that can be relied upon because of its solid principles and values.

Bladex, as a supranational bank with a shareholding structure representing the public and private sectors, has to deal with a series of different interests that need to be regarded with guidelines for carrying out its business. To this extent, the values of the Bank: Commitment, Humility, Excellence, Respect and Integrity, constitute the foundations of organizational culture and are the framework for the individual and collective behavior of all collaborators.

The principles set forth hereunder have been adopted as the Code of Ethics governing all members of the Board of Directors as well as all other Bladex employees.

The Board of Directors is responsible, together with the Executive Team, for promoting the highest ethical standards, as well as for promote and strengthen an organizational culture focused on values and showing and emphasizing to all of the collaborators the importance of each one at the Bank.

All members of the Bladex team shall avoid any situation that might cause a conflict of interest between the Bank, its Clients, Shareholders, Directors, and Members of the Advisory Board, Suppliers and Collaborators. At the same time, each supervisor shall guarantee that his/her subordinates participate exclusively in those assignments and tasks for which they possess the required knowledge abilities and expertise.

**1. Objectives**

Bladex Code of Ethics pursues the following objectives:

- To act as guideline for establishing relationships based on trust, both within as well as without the Bank, which will make it possible to always and under any circumstances keep up a high reputation of Commitment, Humility, Excellence, Respect and Integrity.
- To ensure the highest quality conduct of its Employees, Board of Directors, and Staff.
- To maintain both organizational and individual credibility, through the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct, for organizational operations as well as for generating business.
- To ensure that its commercial activities are being performed in accordance with the legal regulations applying to Bladex
- To report, as far as possible, any potential conflicts of interest and independence

**2. Scope of action**

The Bladex Code of Ethics shall apply to the Board of Directors as well as to all other Staff at the Head Office, Agencies, Representation Offices and Subsidiaries.

This Code sets forth all standards of conduct for our Bank, the people representing it as well as the expectations of our Clients.

**3. General Principles**

The Banking Business is based on an impeccable reputation of credibility and trust, as banks are custodians of the business community’s financial resources. A bank’s success is measured by the degree of trust demonstrated by their Clients and Investors. This trust is contingent on the manner in which the members of the organization achieve excellence through commitments; humility; respect and integrity in their performance of their duties, thus extolling the high ethical standards represented by Bladex, on the protection of confidentiality of information related to its clients avoidance of conflicts of interest and compliance with the laws and regulations governing the Bank activities.

Under no circumstances may personal conduct interfere with organization values and interests.

All Bladex’s staff members are responsible for ensuring that the Bank’s values and principles are honored at all times, within as well as without the organization.



4. Conduct and behavior based on organizational values.

The conduct of all Bladex Employees must be characterized, at all times, by modeling the values of the organization commitment, humility, excellence, respect and integrity when fulfilling their assigned duties and in their interpersonal relationships.

In the performance of their assigned duties they shall adopt the attitude that honorable persons with solid character would manifest in their interpersonal relationships and the management of their own business.

The conduct of the members of the Board of Directors and that of all Bladex collaborators shall at all times reflect the values of the Bank, always driven by the goal of achieving excellence. Likewise behaviors must be modeled as associated with each of the following values.

Commitment.

- Put the success of the organization a head of our own interest.
- Work together constructively.
- Be aligned with the Bank’s strategy and personally committed to the objective of the organization.

Humility:

- Admit our mistakes and learn from them
- Acknowledge the contributions made by others
- Accept feedback

Excellence:

- Give our very best
- Exceed our and our clients’ expectations.
- Keep up to date with the necessary skills and knowledge to perform our duties.

Respect:

- Be considered of others
- Foster harmony in interpersonal relationships.

Integrity:

- Be transparent, honest, professional and reliable.
- Promote and enforce standars for appropriate behavior
- Have zero tolerance for fraud or corruption.

Due to their position of trust, the personal finances of all the Bank’s collaborator should be managed with caution. Matters of personal finance must be conducted in an upright manner avoiding situations that might affect their image and that of the organization they represent.

Collaborators are responsible for maintaining ethical standards including due controls over accounting activities.

Any behaviors to the detriment of the value of the organization shall be considered unacceptable and is not in line with the ethical values of the organization:

**4.1 External Matters**

- To carryout business transactions in representation of the Bank, with institutions or companies in which they have some type of personal and/or proprietor interest. If, for any reason and under no preferential treatment conditions, the aforementioned transactions are performed, the Bank’s Head Compliance Officer shall be informed in writing.
- The usage of their hierarchical position or the information to which they have access to influence decisions favoring personal or third parties’ interests.
- The performance of business transactions with Bladex’s Shares or with the shares in any other company and/or institution that is a Bladex client, while in possession of important information that is not in the public domain. In other words, all collaborators and Directors of the Bank are subject to restrictions regarding commercial transactions with inside information. (Refer to section 6. Insider Trading).
- To directly or indirectly request, accept or offer gifts or sinecures, with a representative or nominal value exceeding USD200.00 (except for Invitations regarding food and beverages), which could influence objective decision making.
- Using the Bank’s funds for payments to any type of organization, individuals or government representatives, in order to obtain favors, business or to influence their decisions in favor of Bladex.

Note: Publications, speeches, interviews with the media and other public presentations in matters related to the Bank, shall be previously approved by the Institutional Relations and Marketing Department.

**4.2 Internal Matters**

- Any type of that discriminatory, harassing or intimidating attitude or behavior towards collaborators.
- The usage of equipment or facilities assigned for the performance of his/her duties for personal purposes.
- The usage of time during the working hours for personal matters.

- The usage or transfer of technology, methods and processes developed for the use of the institution for particular purposes or in benefit of third parties.
- Infringement of established policies, norms and procedures in detriment of the organization.

5. Managing Information

Behavior shall always guarantee the best interests of the Bank, maintaining confidentiality of its business and operations, as well as the confidentiality of its client’s information. This premise is especially important in the case of those Directors, Members of the Advisory Board or employees whose activities are directly or mainly related to the Bank’s line of business, or who have frequent or habitual access to classified and privileged information of Bladex or its clients.

5.1. Definitions:

- a. **Confidential information:**All past, present or future information about the Bank and its business is considered confidential. This includes, in a non-restrictive manner, information related to marketing and advertising plans, products, services, clients, markets, technology applications, equipment, configurations, processes, designs and finance. Confidential information may include commercial secrets and, in general, information, products, objects, trademarks and inventions protected by Intellectual Property Laws.
- b. **Privileged Information:** Information concerning the activities of Bladex or of a client of Bladex or of its Economic Group, that has not been disclosed to the public or to third parties and the knowledge of which could influence the price of stock, securities or derived products of Bladex or of a Bladex client or of its Economic Group.

In general, any information that may be used in deciding to buy, sell or secure investments is privileged information, including the knowledge of, among others:

- The company’s strategic plan.
  - Expected financial results.
  - Future expected earning per share.
  - Any decision related to dividend payment.
- Possible merges, acquisitions and/or strategic alliances.
- Penal processes against the company.
- Development of important products or services.

➤ Decisions related to the company's capital.

- c. **Banking Secrecy:** The Banking Law of the Republic of Panama, that regulates the banking business in or from Panama, establishes that the banks shall only disclose information regarding their clients or the operations of said clients with their written consent, except when there exists a formal request from competent authority, in accordance with the law.
- d. **Information considered as non Public:** Information must be considered as non public until it has been disclosed through public media and/or media previously established for this purpose. In addition, information will maintain the condition of non public until it has been disseminated. (Please refer to section No.6 –Insider Trading)

## 5.2. Confidential and privileged information management

### 5.2.1 Information received from clients

- a. Those employees authorized to request information from Bladex's clients or future clients, will request the necessary information for their correct identification, as well as information about their financial situation, business plans and/or future objectives, when it is relevant for the services that are or will be offered.
- b. Non-public information obtained from the clients or future clients, in accordance with the previously stated, will be private and confidential.

Prohibitions:

Based on the above, it is prohibited to use any confidential and privileged information for illegitimate business purposes, for purposes different from those for which it was requested or for personal benefit or of third parties.

Directors, Members of the Advisory Board, employees and the Bank itself could become exposed to civil suits and penal sanctions as consequence of the transgression of applicable regulations in the management of confidential and privileged information.

In this sense, Directors, Members of the Advisory Board and employees that have or may have frequent, regular or occasional access to relevant information concerning a Bladex's client, will not be allowed to perform, promote or protect on his/her own behalf or that of a third party, directly or indirectly, any of the following behaviors:

- ⇒ Purchase or sell stock or any other investments while in possession of non-disclosed material and/or information concerning a Bladex’s client or its Economic Group.
- ⇒ Disclose non-public material or information pertaining to a Bladex Client or its Economic Group, to a third party, including family members, friends or colleagues, so this information can be used by third parties to gain income in the Stock Market.
- ⇒ Recommend or suggest to any person the purchase, selling or retaining of shares or other stock investments of a Bladex clients or of its Economic Group.
- ⇒ Grant access, to whom is not entitled to it, to non-public material or information pertaining to a Bladex client or its Economic Group.

**5.2.2 Bladex’s Information**

Financial information about the Bank and other information obtained inside the Institution shall not be used to satisfy personal interests, or commented with third parties, unless it has been expressly transmitted by the Bank’s Administration in reports or through conferences intended for public knowledge. No direct or indirect advantage shall be obtained from that information. (Please refer to section No.6 Insider Trading):

**5.2.3 Information provided by Bladex to its employees, directors, clients, investors, purveyors, outsourcing purveyors or competent authorities.**

- a. All information shall be provided in accordance with the operational procedures established and following the legal requirements applicable to the Bank’s operations. In cases when providing information is required, approval from authorized persons shall be obtained and the information shall be provided in accordance with internally established policies, rules and procedures.
- b. Persons authorized by Bladex to provide information related to the Bank or its Group shall be extremely cautious with the purpose of avoiding any improper behavior in the use or transmission of the information.
- c. The Bank’s Disclosure Committee shall previously review and evaluate all confidential and/or privileged information related to Bladex intended for disclosure to employees, directors, clients, investors, purveyors, outsourcing purveyors or competent authorities.

**5.2.4 Care and industriousness in information management**

Bladex must organize and permanently control the responsible usage of information, by adopting necessary measures and using adequate resources to efficiently perform its activity. In consequence:

- a. Necessary administrative procedures shall be established for adequate control of information management and of risk levels derived from said information, ensuring that the access and safeguard systems of its computer media are sufficient for this purpose.
- b. It will be ensured that the information of each of the different areas of the Bank, derived from the respective specific activities performed in it, according to the current rules is not directly or indirectly available to the other areas of the Bank, therefore having autonomous and independent execution.

**6. Insider Trading**

Any confidential and/or privileged information obtained related to Bladex and its businesses shall be used solely for the legitimate purposes of Bladex’s business and not otherwise. Moreover, under no circumstances shall any Director, Member of the Advisory Board, Officer or employee buy or sell Bladex shares or securities, or carry out transactions related thereto, based on confidential or privileged information of material importance to Bladex and its businesses, regardless if such purchase is made for their own account, by proxy or a third party to whom such confidential or privileged information of material importance has been disclosed. This will subsist while there is an existing relationship with the Bank as well as when such relationship has ended.

Any Director, Member of the Advisory Board, Officer or employee, and the Bank itself, may be exposed to civil lawsuits or penalties as a result of any breach of regulations applicable to the handing of confidential and privileged information. To that effect, the Bank’s Directors, Members of the Advisory Board, Officers and employees shall not carry out, promote or cover, on their own or another party’s account, either directly or indirectly, any type of transaction related to Bladex shares, without taking into account the internal policies set forth below.

**6.1. Window period:**

Window period is the time interval during which the Directors, Members of the Advisory Board, Officers and employees of a publicly traded company are permitted to trade its stock.

Generally, unless there is any reason for the Bank to close this time interval during which its Directors, Members of the Advisory Board, Officers and employees are permitted to trade its stock, the period set forth to carry out any type of trades of Bladex shares shall begin three (3) business days following the issue of the press release on the Bank’s financial results with a duration of forty-five (45) calendar days subsequent to the issue of the corresponding press release. The period that begins after the forty five (45) calendar days of the Window Period and ends after the three (3) business days following the next press release on the Bank’s financial results is referred to as a Blackout Period.

Bladex shall retain the right to increase the length of the blackout period or restrict the window period.

Directors, Members of the Advisory Board, Officers and employees shall submit written notification using the form provided by the Bank of any type of trades of Bladex shares carried out, immediately upon their execution, to the following persons designated for this purpose:

- If a Bank Director, Member of the Advisory Board or Officer, including the CEO, notification should be made to the President of the Board of Directors of the Bank with a copy to the Shareholder Department.
- If President of the Board of Directors of the Bank, notification should be made to the Chairman of the Audit and Compliance Committee of the Bank with a copy to the Shareholder Department.
- If a Bank collaborator, notification should be made to the CEO with a copy to the Human Resources Department.

The above designated persons shall send copies of the completed notification forms received to the Bank’s Shareholders Relations Department (in case of Directors, Members of the Advisory Board and Officers), and to the Human Resources Department (in case of employees).

Notification forms are available through the Bank’s network or Shareholders Relations Department. A copy of the signed form, either an original or copy received by fax or in PDF format, shall be filed in the employee records of the corresponding Director, Member of the Advisory Board, Officer or employee kept in the Bank’s Shareholders Relations and Human Resources Departments.

The procedures established here are applicable to any type of purchase, sale or trade of Bladex shares (including shares obtained by exercising stock options), carried out on own account or through another party, either an individual or legal entity, including family members, friends or coworkers.

Notwithstanding the above, the Bank’s Directors, Members of the Advisory Board, Officers and employees shall abstain from carrying out trades of Bladex shares, even if within the “Window Period” set fort in this section, if they become aware of any confidential or privileged information of material importance related to Bladex and its businesses that has not been released to the market by Bladex.

Any of the above mentioned individuals to whom this policy is applicable who does not comply with the dispositions contained herein and performs a transaction of sale/purchase of shares during the restricted period (outside the Window Period), shall reverse said transaction within two (2) weeks. Any profits obtained from this reversion shall be handed to the Bank and any loss shall by assumed by the individual.

The Audit and Compliance Committee of the Board of Directors shall determine the severity of the infringement and shall apply the disciplinary measures it deems appropriate.

**6.2. “Rule” 10-b5-1 of the Securities and Exchange Commission**

Any Director, Member of the Advisory Board, Officer and employee has the option of adopting a pre-arranged stock trading plan in accordance with Rule 10-b5-1 of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, obtaining the right to negotiate Bladex’s shares in advance without violating Insider Trading policies.

**6.3. Consequences of non-compliance with the policy on handling and control of confidential and privileged information.**

Non-compliance pursuant to Sections 5 and 6 herein contained shall be subject to the imposition of the corresponding administrative sanctions, without prejudice to the outcome of the application of existing labor laws or any other applicable, internal or external standing order.

**7. Relations with Customers and Service Providers**

The Bank’s commitment with Customer Satisfaction shall be made clear by the respect and search of solutions meeting their needs in parallel with the Bank’s profitability and business objectives.



All customers and service providers shall be treated courteously, providing them with all required information in a clear, concise and transparent manner. At no times should any preferential treatment be given for furthering personal interests or due to any personal affinity.

In the case of service providers such as External Auditors, the Bank shall comply with the foregoing, as well as the provisions of the SEC’s Independence Standards Boards (“ISB”) Standard No.1 and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, with regards to the independence rules forbidding the hiring of staff from the external auditing firm that has been a part of the team auditing the financial statements of the Bank and its subsidiaries for the past two years.

**8. Shareholders Relations**

The relations with our shareholders are based on transparent, objective and timely communications that let them follow up on the Bank’s performance and progress at all times.

Any information that has not been publicly disclosed shall be kept as confidential in order to protect the Bank’s Shareholders’ interest.

**9. Relationships with the Public Sector and Regulatory Entities**

Deference and courtesy by Bladex and its representatives towards members of the public sector and regulatory entities should be an organizational trait. Those relationships should never be used for personal advantage by people who work at Bladex.

High moral and civic standards and respect for the law should be observed at all times.

Bladex, as a multinational institution, is subject to a series of laws and regulations for its operations in different countries. Any non-compliance with those laws and regulations could be the object of sanctions. It is a responsibility o each and every person to know and understand the legal aspects that apply to the performance of the tasks assigned to them, the activity of each of the Departments as well as of the Banks as a whole, in order to avoid any legal problems that could be caused for the Bank.

**10. Interpersonal relationships in the Workplace**

As a world class organization, Bladex pays a lot of attention to strengthening its social capital in its networking, both internally as well as externally, in order to achieve its business targets and organization strengthening goals. In order for that to be possible, having a solid character should be distinctive trait of each of its Employees, so that the interpersonal relation, with regards to dealing with Customers and labor relations at the Bank do reflect the highest levels and standard of trustworthiness.

Workplace relations shall at all times be distinguished by humility and respect. Each of the colleagues at the workplace should collaborate in creating a teamwork climate, full of trust and commitment, compatible with the institution’s values. It is mandatory that the relations among coworkers be respectful of moral principles and that they do not attempt against family integrity.

The Banks respects the right to privacy of its collaborator, therefore, matters of personal nature concerning current or past collaborator of the Bank, shall be treated in strict confidentiality. Spreading rumors referring to third parties is considered a lack of character and integrity.

All persons holding a supervisory position shall role model their values and behavior on what they expect from their team members.

The high professional level of interpersonal relations of Bladex Staff is mainly distinguished by:

- The quality of the results obtained through teamwork.
- The Satisfaction of the Bank’s Clients.
- The productive work climate that is focused on results.
- The respect for individuals differences as well as for opinions that are contrary to their own.
- Humility on accepting and receiving feedback from others.
- A fair, objective and equitable treatment at the workplace.
- Facilitating human and organizational growth and development.
- Rejecting obnoxious behavior, such as degrading words to describe a person, talk about third parties behind their backs, drug and alcohol addictions.
- Not spreading any rumors at the Bank.
- Complying with all established policies, rules and procedures in the organization.

**11. Handling Conflicts of Interest**

The existence of any kind of personal interest in a transaction, work relation or work decision creates a conflict of interest situation that could get in the way of objectivity and good judgment in order for the best interest of the Bank to prevail. A conflict of interest would also be implied by using their position at Bladex in order to obtain personal benefits or advantages at the cost of the Bank.

Each and every Bladex Employee is entitled to their private life and the pursuit of their private interests outside the organization. Therefore, everyone is responsible for conducting their personal and financial matters as they may see fit, provided however that this is not a cause or appears to be a cause of conflict of interest with the Bank.

The following situations are considered as conflicts of interest:

- To partake in the approval or consideration of a credit, transaction or any other activity for his or her own benefit or that of a family member or of persons with whom business interests are shared.
- To request or accept from, or offer valuable gifts to the Banks suppliers or Customers, such as services, training, discounts or entertainment, with a representative or nominal value exceeding USD200.00 (Except for invitations regarding food and beverages), which could be interpreted as a gesture for obtaining special privileges and not necessarily in the best interest or at the best terms for Bladex.
- To use their condition as a Bladex Collaborator for requesting preferential treatment or any kind of special concession in transactions of a personal nature.
- To invest in capital and/or debt issues of institutions that are Bladex Customers, with whom they have a direct business relationship.
- To hold positions such as Director, Partner, Consultant or any other remunerated employment with institutions or corporations with which Bladex does business or that are considered to be competitors of the Bank. Should such a situation occur, then the Bank should be notified in writing and its approval obtained.
- Any other situation where there could be any doubt, although not included in this Code, should be consulted with the Bank’s Head Compliance Officer and/or Controller, in order to have it duly checked out.

**12. Transactions with Related Parties**

Bladex should adhere to the regulatory guidelines establishing limitations on transactions between natural and juridical persons that are being considered as “Related Parties”, as established by legislation in the different jurisdictions that apply to Bladex. Should there be any difference between those, then the strictest one shall be adopted.

Any transaction carried out with a Related Party must be assessed in the first instance by the Bank’s Legal Department. This review is in order to consider if such transaction does not contravene the laws and regulations enacted by the Government of the Republic of Panama, by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of the United States or any other existing legal disposition applicable to the Bank.

Any transaction or transactions that are approved shall have to comply fully and at all times with all of the Bank’s established internal policies and procedures.

**13. A High-Level Culture of Honesty and Ethics**

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, proclaimed in the United States of America, establishes the obligation to ensure adequate internal controls at the organization in order to:

- ✓ Be reasonably sure that transactions are duly recorded and that they are being carried out only according to the authorizations from the Board of Directors.
- ✓ Have designed effective internal controls to ensure that significant information about the Company and its consolidating subsidiaries is being disclosed.
- ✓ Public Companies must implement measures to avoid, dissuade and detect fraud. The implementation of such measures should be evidenced by a separate document drawn up by the Bank’s Management, in accordance with generally accepted international standards about that matter.

**14. Administration of the Code of Ethics**

The Code of Ethics shall be reviewed periodically in order to keep it up to date as a function of the regulatory framework that applies to Bladex.

**15. Ethics Committee**

The Ethics Committee shall be responsible for ongoing evaluation and updating of this Code and review and implement the necessary mechanisms for disclosing and encouraging the highest standards of conduct at the institution.

The Ethics Committee consists of:

- Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
- Controller
- Senior Vice-President Administration and Human Resources
- Head Compliance Officer
- Internal Legal Counsel

**16. Approval of and Modifications to the Code of Ethics**

The Code of Ethics will be approved by the Nomination and Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors, and it will also evaluate the modification proposals and/or updates that the Ethics Committee deems pertinent.

**17. Compliance with the Code of Ethics**

The Directors of Bladex, Members of the Advisory Board and employees must strictly follow the Code of Ethics. The monitoring and compliance assurance of the stipulations of the Code of Ethics will be responsibility of the Audit and Compliance Committee of the Board of Directors, based on the reports that the Comptroller Area presents.

Each of the members of the Bladex team is responsible for the notification of any conflict of interests or non-compliance with the Code of Ethics, suspicious activities that could constitute transactions involving privileged information, frauds or fraud attempts, accounting registers that do not comply with generally accepted accounting principles, as well as any mysterious disappearance of funds or titles. The employee may report these to the persons designated by the Bank for this purpose, following the procedures or systems established for it.

In the case of Bank collaborators, the sanctions for Code of Ethics violations will be joint responsibility of the supervisors and the CEO, and in the case of the Directors, the sanctions will be responsibility of the Nomination and Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors. The Ethics Committee will be informed of these sanctions.

**18. Other Considerations**

The Code of Ethics constitutes part of the Bank’s regulatory framework, together with the Discipline and Internal Rules and Regulations, the Compliance Manual, the Procedures, Standards and Policies Manuals as well as other Operating Instructions.

Should there be any doubt about the interpretation of the contents of this Code or the respective application thereof, or particularly about conflicts of interest, then the Bank’s Head Compliance Officer or Comptroller should be consulted.

**Last revision: July 13, 2009**

**ADENDA (THE “ADENDA”) TO THE CODE OF ETHICS (THE “CODE”) FOR THE MAIN EXECUTIVES AND THE TOP FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES**

The Chief Executive Officer, Executive Vice President – Chief Operating Officer, The Senior Vice President & CFO and the Vice President – Principal Accountant, as Bladex top executives (The “Top Executives”, herewith and hereby accept the contents of the Bladex Code of Ethics and agree to be bound by the additional dispositions contained herein.

- I. This Addenda applies to all Top Executives at Bladex, with the purpose of encouraging:**
- Honest and ethical conduct, including ethical management of actual or apparent conflict of interest between their personal and professional relationships;
  - A complete, fair, precise, timely and understandable disclosure in the reports and documents that Bladex issues or files with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) as well as in other public communications made by Bladex.;
  - Compliance with applicable laws and governmental rules and regulations;
  - Timely internal reports about violations of the Code to an appropriate person or to the persons identified in the Code; and
  - Responsibility for adhering to the Code.

All Top Executives shall adhere to high ethical business standards and should be sensitive about situations that could result in actual or apparent conflict of interest. Bladex expects that its Top Executives comply at all times with the principles of this Code. Any violation of this Code shall be cause for disciplinary actions, including dismissal and possible legal action. Any consultations about the application of this Code should be referred to the Bladex Board of Directors’ Audit and Compliance Committee.

- II. Top Executives should ethically manage actual or apparent conflicts of interests.**
- Summary.** A “Conflict of Interest” occurs when a Top Executive’s private interest interferes with the interest of, or his or her service at, Bladex. For example, a Top Executive’s conflict of interest could arise if a Top Executive or a member of his family would receive improper personal benefits as a result of his or her position at Bladex.

All Top Executive must ensure the strictly follow the guidelines for Handling Conflicts of Interest described in clause 11 of the Code of Ethics and particularly avoid the situations depicted there.

In situations involving a Top Executive, where the appearance or the potential of a conflict of interests is involved, but where the Top Executive does not believe that a significant conflict of interests exists, the Top Executive should obtain approval from the Audit and Compliance Committee before getting involved in that situation. No such approval shall be considered as a waiver of this Code.

**III. Disclosure and Compliance**

- All Top Executives should get acquainted with the disclosure and compliance requirements that are generally applicable to Bladex;
- All Top Executives should not distort, or cause others to distort, facts about Bladex, whether within or without Bladex, including Bladex Directors and Auditors, or to government regulators and autonomous organizations;
- All Top Executives must, as far as appropriate in their area of responsibility, consult with other Bladex Executives and Collaborators in order to promote full, fair, precise, timely and understandable disclosure in reports issued by Bladex or filed with the SEC, as well as in other public communications made by Bladex; and
- It is a responsibility of all Top Executives to encourage compliance with the standards and restrictions imposed by applicable laws, rules and regulations.

**IV. Reports and Responsibilities**

All Top Executives shall:

- Once this code has been adopted (or if applicable later on, upon becoming a Top Executive), file a written statement with the Board of Directors that they have received, read and understood this Code;
- Not take any retributive actions against any other Bladex Top Executive or Collaborator or their family members for reports about potential violations that were made in good faith.
- Promptly notify the Audit and Compliance Committee if they are aware of any violation to this Code. To omit any such notification shall be considered as a violation of this Code.

The Audit and Compliance Committee is responsible for applying this Code in specific situations where there could be some doubt, and they have the authority to construe this Code for any particular situation. Any exception for a Top Executive should be considered by the Audit and Compliance Committee.

Bladex shall follow the following procedures when investigating compliance with this Code:

- The Audit and Compliance Committee shall take all appropriate actions necessary for investigating any potential violation that may have been reported to them;
- If, after investigating, the Audit and Compliance Committee believes that no violation has occurred, then it is not required for the Audit and Compliance Committee to take any further action;
- If the Audit and Compliance Committee should determine that there has been a violation, then they shall consider the appropriate measures that could include a review of, or revision to, the applicable policies and procedures, or the recommendation for dismissing the Top Executive;
- The Audit and Compliance Committee shall be responsible for granting waivers to this Code, as may be appropriate; and
- Any change or exception to this code shall be disclosed to the necessary extent, as established by SEC Regulations.

**V. Changes or Exceptions to the Code**

Any and all exceptions stipulated in this Code shall be reported to and filed with the SEC and shall be reported to Bladex Shareholders within the timeframe required by SEC Regulations and any applicable laws from any banking regulators or regulators of securities and stock markets where Bladex is listed.

**VI. Other Policies and Procedures**

This Code shall be the only Ethics Code adopted by Bladex, with regards to the “Sarbanes-Oxley Act” of 2002 and the rules and regulations applying to companies listed therein.

**VII. Amendments**

Any amendment to this Code must be approved by the Nominating and Compensation Committee and ratified by a majority vote of the Board of Directors’ Audit and Compliance Committee.

**VIII. Confidentiality**

All reports and records drawn up or kept pursuant to this Code shall be considered as confidential and shall be kept and protected as such. Except where required by Law or by this Code, such matters shall not be disclosed to anybody outside the Audit and Compliance Committee and the Board of Directors of Bladex.

**IX. Internal Use**

This Code is exclusively for the internal use of Bladex and does not represent any admission, by or in behalf of, Bladex, of any fact, circumstance or legal conclusion.



I have read and understood the terms of the Code. I recognize the responsibilities and obligations incurred by me as a result of being subject to this Code. I herewith express my agreement to comply with this Code.

/s/ JAIME RIVERA  
Chief Executive Officer

/s/ CHRISTOPHER SCHECH  
Senior Vice President – CFO

/s/ EDUARDO SÁNCHEZ  
Assistant Vice President – Main Accountant

CERTIFICATION

I, Jaime Rivera, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 20-F of Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S.A.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the company as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The company’s other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the company and have:

a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the company, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;

b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the company’s disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and

d) Disclosed in this report any change in the company’s internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the period covered by the report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the company’s internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The company’s other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the company’s auditors and the Audit and Compliance Committee of the company’s board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the company’s ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves Management or other employees who have a significant role in the company’s internal control over financial reporting.

Date: June 9, 2010

By: /s/ JAIME RIVERA  
Jaime Rivera  
Chief Executive Officer

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CERTIFICATION

I, Christopher Schech, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 20-F of Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S.A.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the company as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The company’s other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the company and have:

a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the company, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;

b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the company’s disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and

d) Disclosed in this report any change in the company’s internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the period covered by the report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the company’s internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The company’s other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the company’s auditors and the Audit and Compliance Committee of the company’s board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the company’s ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves Management or other employees who have a significant role in the company’s internal control over financial reporting.

Date: June 9, 2010

By: /s/ CHRISTOPHER SCHECH  
Christopher Schech  
Chief Financial Officer

CERTIFICATION

This certification is provided pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and accompanies the Annual Report on Form 20-F (the “Report”) for the period ended December 31, 2009 of Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S.A. (the “Company”).

I, Jaime Rivera, Chief Executive Officer of the Company, certify that:

- (i) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (ii) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company at the dates and for the periods presented.

Date: June 9, 2010

By: /s/ JAIME RIVERA  
Jaime Rivera  
*Chief Executive Officer*

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CERTIFICATION

This certification is provided pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and accompanies the Annual Report on Form 20-F (the “Report”) for the period ended December 31, 2009 of Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S.A. (the “Company”).

I, Christopher Schech, the Chief Financial Officer of the Company, certify that:

- (i) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (ii) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company at the dates and for the periods presented.

Date: June 9, 2010

By: /s/ CHRISTOPHER SCHECH  
Christopher Schech.  
*Chief Financial Officer*

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