



Efficient performance of the trust business

The trust business portrayed great dynamism and a favorable evolution during 2008, term during which its total assets rose to \$6.90 billion. Of this total, \$4.58 billion belong to trusted funds managed by banks.

These assets comprise: \$2.1 billion in investment trusts; \$3.6 billion in guarantee trusts; \$448.6 million in management trusts; \$182.9 million in pension trusts; \$247.6 million in severance pay trusts, and \$312.7 million in other trusts; of these, the use of the guarantee trust stands out, which has undergone a constant growth in the last years.

As of December 31, 2008, total trust companies rose to sixty (60); whereof two (2) are Official Banks, nine (9) represent Private Panamanian Banks, sixteen (16) are Private International Banks, twelve (12) are attorney firms, nineteen (19) represent other trust companies and two (2) are insurance companies.

The Superintendency of Banks of Panama (SBP), through the Department of Trust Supervision, looks after the adequate operation of the trust business. To that end, it has as its main functions (i) the issuance of trust licenses to natural or legal persons that want to dedicate themselves professionally and habitually to exercising the trust business and (ii) the realization of supervisions.

The effective supervision of these companies has achieved a sound and stable trust business, looking after the transparency of its operations, while at the same time strengthening the system's credibility and providing reliability to its users.

It is worth pointing out that the efficient performance that the financial center has portrayed, the advantages that the local monetary regime offers and the development of large projects such as the Panama Canal widening and related businesses are some of the advantages that our country offers and that the companies dedicated to the trust business may take into account at the time of deciding to enter the Panamanian marketplace.

The behavior experienced by this business is evidence that the growth of trust operations in Panama continues to rise and a promising future is expected.

For more information on the trust business statistics visit the website www.superbancos.gob.pa Node: Trust Business / Trust Statistics / year 2008.