

# Banco Santander

*The world's eighth largest bank.  
Its president, Emilio Botin, has forecast a record €10-billion net profit for 2008*



■ **1857: Banco Santander** founded by Botin family



■ **1995:** Buys Spanish mortgage lender **Banesto** at knock-down price

■ **2004:** Acquires UK bank **Abbey** for €11.9bn. Installs its own in-house Partenon computer system to compete with UK's biggest banks

■ **2005:** Becomes Latin America's top bank with 3,554 branches in Brazil, Mexico and Chile. Latin America accounts for 32% of profits

■ **2007:** Buys Dutch bank **ABN Amro** in joint deal with Belgian-Dutch bank Fortis and Royal Bank of Scotland

■ **2008:** Buys UK mortgage lenders **Alliance & Leicester** for €1.57 billion and **Bradford & Bingley** for €773 million. Becomes Britain's second largest bank with 24.6 million customers, €143 billion in savings (10% of market) and 1,286 branches