



PRESS RELEASE

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Desjardins Group jumps to 20th place from 25th on *Global Finance's* 2011 list of the world's safest banks

Desjardins outranks all of the major American banks for the second year in a row

Lévis (Québec), August 22, 2011 – Desjardins Group, Canada's largest cooperative financial group, continues to climb up the list of the world's safest banks, moving from 25th to 20th place on *Global Finance's* list of [World's 50 Safest Banks 2011](#). Holding strong in fourth among the [World's Safest Banks 2011 in North America](#), Desjardins continues to outstrip all major American banks.

For its 20th annual ranking of banks, New York-based *Global Finance* compared the 500 largest banks worldwide based on total assets and long-term credit ratings from Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch. Internationally, Desjardins ranks ahead of many of the top banks from the U.S., Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Monique F. Leroux, Chair of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of Desjardins Group says, "It's gratifying that Desjardins has been able to make a name for itself both in North America and worldwide. Our cooperative group has always been known for prudent management and long-term vision. By keeping its capital ratio well above the minimum regulatory requirements, Desjardins will be able to continue to offer competitive products and services to its members and clients, and continue to grow."

About Desjardins Group

Awarded the coveted title "Bank of the Year 2010 – Canada" by the UK magazine *The Banker*, Desjardins Group is the leading cooperative financial group in Canada and the sixth largest in the world, with assets of over \$188 billion. Drawing on the strength of its caisse network in Québec and Ontario, and its subsidiaries across Canada, it offers a full range of financial products and services to its 5.8 million members and clients. Desjardins specializes in Wealth Management and Life and Health Insurance, in Property and Casualty Insurance, in Personal Services, in Business and Institutional Services. As one of the largest employers in the country and one of Canada's 10 Most Admired Corporate Cultures™ of 2010, Desjardins is supported by the skills of its 42,500 employees and the commitment of nearly 6,000 elected officers. For more information, visit www.desjardins.com.

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