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NATIONAL NEWS:

Hispanic stocks get first big index in US

By Deborah Brewster
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Ramirez & Co, an investment bank, has launched the first big index of Hispanic stocks listed in the US, giving investors interested in playing the fast-growing Hispanic market a bird's eye view.

The Ramirez & Co Hispanic index (RCHI) comprises 10 companies with a combined market capitalisation of \$38bn, including Univision, Banco Popular, Doral Financial and Molina Healthcare.

The index was up 57 per cent for the year to November, compared with a 20 per cent rise in the Standard and Poor's 500.

Hispanics constitute the largest minority group in the US, comprising 13.3 per cent of the population and growing. Deborah Brewster