

# Oslo Børs Holding ASA – first quarter 2006

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## First quarter highlights:

- **Fifth quarter in a row with record level of trading activity**
  - **Operating revenues: NOK 117.2 (79.0) million**
  - **Operating profit: NOK 68.3 (37.0) million**
  - **Earnings for the period: NOK 50.1 (34.9) million**
  - **Earnings per share: NOK 10.03 (6.98)**
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## Business activities in the first quarter of 2006 (prior-year figures in brackets)

### General

The first quarter of 2006 was characterised by high activity in both the equity and derivatives markets. The Benchmark Index (OSEBX) closed the quarter at 396.3, up by 19.2% since the start of the year. The Benchmark Index reached new all-time highs in the course of the quarter, and broke through 400 on 30 March. Companies again showed great interest in applying for a stock exchange listing, and the first quarter saw six companies admitted to listing for the first time while five companies were removed from listing. At the end of the first quarter 220 companies were listed, representing a net increase of one since the start of the year and a net increase of 30 from the same period last year.

The value of shares and primary capital certificates traded in the first quarter was NOK 642 billion (341), the highest ever level of trading for a quarter. The number of transactions in the equity market in the first quarter totalled 2,182,157 (1,087,601), more than double the number seen in the first quarter of 2005. Shares worth about NOK 23.8 (4.2) billion were issued in the first quarter.

At the end of the first quarter, 853 (857) bond loans and other interest bearing securities were listed on the stock exchange. In addition, 63 bond loans were listed on the Alternative Bond Market (ABM).

Trading activity in the derivatives market increased throughout the first quarter. The number of contracts traded was some 60% higher than in the first quarter of 2005 (2,188,727 as compared to 1,370,109). The level of activity was very high from time to time. As many as 80,000 contracts were traded on 16 March, while on 17 March, the day after the expiry date, over 50,000 contracts were traded. The average premium for options contracts for the year to date is NOK 9.5 (4.7).

The number of end-users with access to market data from Oslo Børs was around 12% higher at the end of the first quarter than at the end of the previous quarter, and around 24% higher than at the same time last year.

### Revenues

Revenues totalled NOK 117.2 (79.0) million in the first quarter, an increase of NOK 38.2 million.

Revenue from equity trading was NOK 22.5 million higher than in the same period last year, and NOK 10.5 million higher than in the previous quarter. Revenue from sales of market data show an increase of NOK 5.8 million from the same period last year and of NOK 3.8 million from the previous quarter.

### Costs

First quarter operating costs amounted to NOK 48.9 (42.0) million, an increase of NOK 6.9 million.

Salary and staff costs totalled NOK 25.9 (22.0) million in the first quarter. The increase reflects the annual salary increase on 1 January and an increase in employee numbers from the same period last year.

Other operating expenses totalled NOK 18.7 (14.6) million in the first quarter, an increase of NOK 4.1 million from the same period last year. The increase is principally related to variable trading system costs (NOK 0.3 million), internal system projects (NOK 1.5 million) and non-recurring items that had a cost-saving effect in 2005 (NOK 1 million).

## **Financial items**

Financial items in the first quarter of 2005 includes gain from sales of shares in Copenhagen Stock exchange (NOK 6.2 million) and dividend from VPS Holding ASA (NOK 2.7 million). Dividend from VPS Holding ASA will be proposed on the Annual General meeting during second quarter and will be taken into account this period.

## **Operational matters**

As decided in 2005, Oslo Børs introduced extended trading hours with effect from 2 January 2006. Following this change, trading hours are now from 09.00 to 16.30. Oslo Børs believes that the move to longer trading hours has been very successful.

With effect from 2 January 2006, the market data published by Oslo Børs has been expanded to include lists of the 20 largest shareholders in the companies listed on Oslo Børs (Top 20). This information is provided in collaboration with Manamind, a subsidiary of VPS (the Norwegian Central Securities Depository).

On 3 April 2006, Oslo Børs, the Iceland Stock Exchange (ICEX) and the OMX exchanges in Stockholm, Copenhagen and Helsinki launched a new Nordic index family known as VINX. This is intended to reflect the entire Nordic region in a reliable and predictable manner and so promote Nordic investment opportunities.

Oslo Børs carries out an on-going program of marketing activities, both in Norway and internationally. By way of example, the first quarter included a capital markets day in Tokyo organised by Oslo Børs in collaboration with a Japanese broking firm and selected companies listed on Oslo Børs.

HSBC and Knight Equity started trading on Oslo Børs in the first quarter. The quarter also saw one investment firm withdraw from membership of Oslo Børs.

Two instances of operational problems with the Saxess trading system during trading hours occurred in the first quarter. Both these incidents prevented member firms from trading through the trading system for a short period.

The Board of Oslo Børs imposed violation charges on one issuer and one member firm in the first quarter. The Stock Exchange Appeals Committee considered and upheld a decision to impose a violation charge taken by the Board in 2005, but decided to halve the amount of the charge imposed.

The Market Surveillance Department referred a total of 35 matters to Kredittilsynet (the Financial Supervisory Authority of Norway) in the quarter (47 cases in the previous quarter). The majority of the cases referred in both quarters related to the information requirement for primary insiders and flagging major changes in shareholdings.

Oslo Børs applied measures available to control trading (suspension, matching halts and special observation) on 101 occasions in total in the first quarter (94 in the fourth quarter of 2005).

The EU Prospectus Directive was implemented in Norwegian legislation with effect from 1 January 2006. Oslo Børs is the competent authority responsible for approving prospectuses in Norway.

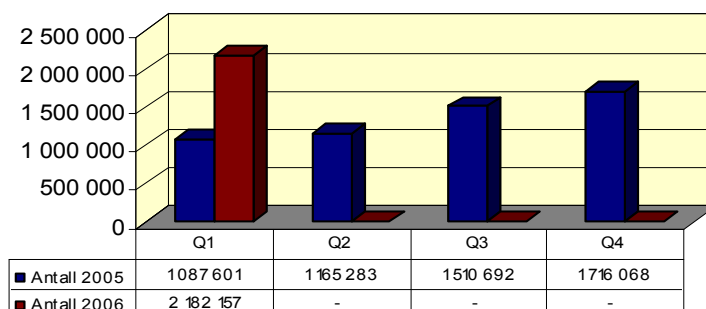
## **Outlook**

Oslo Børs' revenues for 2006 will vary in line with activity levels. Oslo Børs expects that its total operating costs for 2006 will be in the order of NOK 195 million.

## Market developments

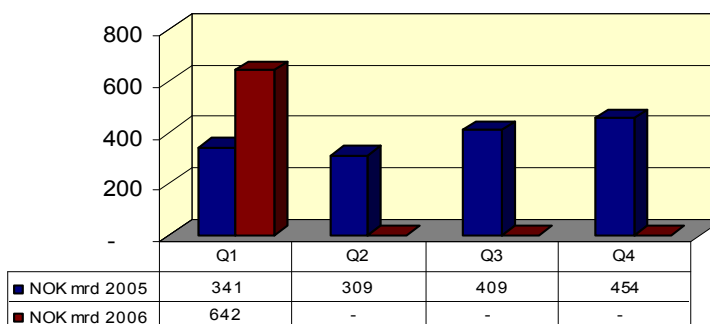
Trading activity was very strong in the first quarter, with a 27% increase in the number of transactions from the previous quarter. The level of activity in the quarter was over 100% higher than in the first quarter of 2005.

### Equity market - number of transactions



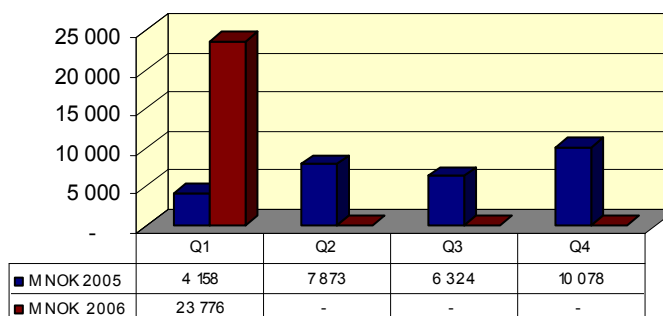
Measured in terms of value, the level of trading activity in the first quarter was around 41% higher than in the previous quarter and some 88% higher than in the first quarter of 2005.

### Equity market - value of trades Billion NOK



The total value of new issues in the first quarter more than doubled compared to the previous quarter. Compared to the same quarter of 2005, over five times as much capital was raised in the first quarter of this year.

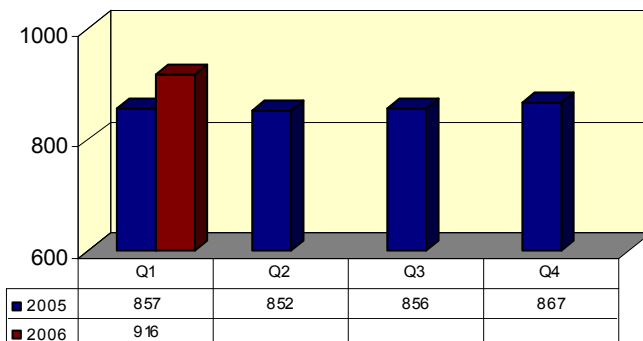
### Equity market - value of new issues Million NOK



In total, 59 more fixed-income issues are now listed on Oslo Børs and on the ABM than at the same time last year. The number of issues listed in Oslo Børs is reduced by 4 issues. The number of issues on ABM, which was implemented in June 2005, is 63.

The number of listed loans has increased by 49 since the start of the year, with an increase of 16 and 33 on Oslo Børs and ABM respectively.

### Bond market - number of listed issues (incl. ABM)

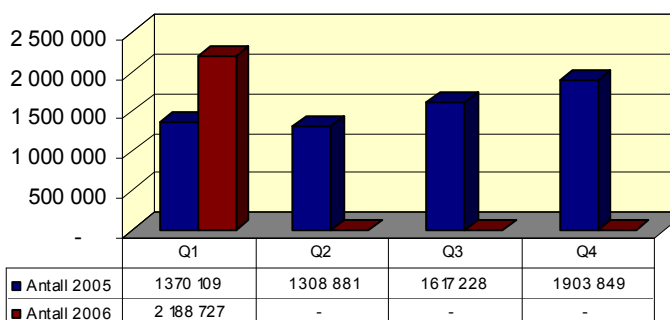


The level of activity in the derivatives market was good throughout the first quarter. New records for the number of contracts traded were set on a number of days in the quarter.

Around 60% more contracts were traded than in the same period of 2005. The increase relative to the previous quarter was around 15%.

The average premium for derivatives contracts also showed an improvement from last year at NOK 9.5 as compared to NOK 4.7.

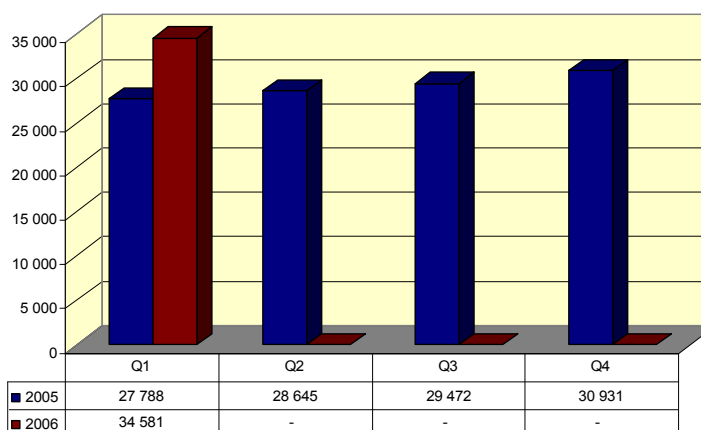
### Derivatives market - number of contracts traded



The number of end-users of market data from Oslo Børs was around 12% higher at the end of the first quarter than at the end of the previous quarter. The comparison with the first quarter of 2005 shows an increase of 24%.

Some distributors report actual terminal numbers with a month's delay. The figure for the total number of end-users at the close of the quarter is therefore an estimate that may be subject to subsequent revision.

### Financial Market Data - number of end-users



Please see [www.oslobors.no/ob/ir](http://www.oslobors.no/ob/ir) for further operational key figures. All figures are in thousands of Norwegian kroner and apply to the Oslo Børs Holding ASA group unless otherwise stated. The group comprises Oslo Børs Holding ASA, Oslo Børs ASA and Oslo Børs Informasjon AS.

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## Profit and loss account

With effect from 1 January 2005, all financial information is reported in accordance with the current International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Further information on the transition to IFRS can be found in Note 17 (page 63) of the 2005 annual report.

	<b>1st Quarter 2006</b>	<b>1st Quarter 2005</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Operating revenues</b>	<b>117 161</b>	<b>79 022</b>	<b>361 386</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>			
Salary and other personnel expenses	25 929	21 988	91 391
Other operating expenses	18 672	14 552	65 995
<b>Operating expenses before depreciation</b>	<b>44 600</b>	<b>36 540</b>	<b>157 386</b>
Depreciation	4 295	5 470	16 623
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>48 895</b>	<b>42 010</b>	<b>174 009</b>
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>68 266</b>	<b>37 011</b>	<b>187 377</b>
Net financial items	1 380	9 033	9 781
<b>Ordinary pre-tax profit</b>	<b>69 646</b>	<b>46 044</b>	<b>197 158</b>
Tax	19 501	11 150	53 061
<b>Earnings for the period</b>	<b>50 145</b>	<b>34 894</b>	<b>144 098</b>
<b>Earnings per share (NOK)</b>	<b>10,03</b>	<b>6,98</b>	<b>28,82</b>
<b>Diluted earnings per share (NOK)</b>	<b>10,03</b>	<b>6,98</b>	<b>28,82</b>

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## Operating revenues by area and category

Fees from equity market trading represented the largest increase in revenue relative to the first quarter of 2005, while the fixed income market reported a drop in revenue due to the reduction in listing fees from 1 January and the restructuring of prospectus fees implemented in July last year. Revenue from the derivatives market was higher than last year. Certain contracts attracted very active trading, and the first quarter set a new record for the total number of contracts traded. In addition, the average premium on derivative contracts in the first quarter was significantly higher than in the same period of last year.

The number of terminals with access to market data from Oslo Børs was 24% higher than in the first quarter of 2005. Revenue for the quarter includes a non-recurring item of NOK 4.7 million arising from invoicing in arrears for one distributor's under-reporting of the number of terminals in use. Other income includes fees charged for courses and seminars, which was somewhat higher than in the same quarter of 2005.

	<b>1st Quarter 2006</b>	<b>1st Quarter 2005</b>	<b>2005</b>
Equity Markets	73 434	43 067	212 826
Fixed Income Markets	6 427	7 478	26 281
Derivatives Markets	5 832	3 181	16 430
Financial Market data	30 295	24 482	101 436
Other	1 172	813	4 414
<b>Total operating revenues</b>	<b>117 161</b>	<b>79 022</b>	<b>361 386</b>

	<b>1st Quarter 2006</b>	<b>1st Quarter 2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Fixed fees- issuers	18 204	14 865	59 824
Fixed fees - members	2 484	2 150	9 250
Trading fees	55 309	30 137	143 559
Prospectus and admission fees	8 567	6 244	41 442
Financial market data	30 295	24 482	101 436
Income from courses/seminars	715	472	2 396
Other income	1 587	672	3 478
<b>Total operating revenues</b>	<b>117 161</b>	<b>79 022</b>	<b>361 386</b>

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## Balance sheet

Financial assets principally comprise shares in VPS Holding ASA. The cost price of the shareholding is NOK 150 per share. Fair value at the close of the first quarter of 2005 was estimated to be NOK 260 per share. In accordance with IFRS, the difference between cost price and estimated fair value is applied directly to equity.

Short-term receivables totalled ca. NOK 62 million at the end of the first quarter. Of this, trade receivables totalled NOK 48 million. Other current receivables were NOK 14 million, including prepaid expenses of NOK 4 million and income accrued but not yet invoiced of some NOK 6 million.

Cash and cash equivalents totalled NOK 300 million at the end of the first quarter. In addition, NOK 7 million of liquid assets are classified as financial fixed assets.

Current liabilities amounted to approximately NOK 152 million at the end of the first quarter. NOK 70 million relates to accruals of listing fees and other annual fees, while tax payable accounts for approximately NOK 52 million.

	<b>31 March 2006</b>	<b>31 March 2005</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
IT systems	20 503	27 782	22 511
Deferred tax assets	31 867	29 354	31 936
Tangible assets	43 404	36 395	43 786
Financial fixed assets	94 120	71 086	94 120
<b>Current assets</b>			
Receivables	61 612	44 699	57 710
Cash and liquid assets	300 207	210 812	185 893
<b>Assets</b>	<b>551 712</b>	<b>420 129</b>	<b>435 956</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Contributed equity	113 405	113 405	113 405
Earned equity	218 977	153 042	168 832
Total equity	332 382	266 447	282 237
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Provisions for liabilities	67 758	39 731	67 696
Current liabilities	151 572	113 951	86 023
<b>Equity and liabilities</b>	<b>551 712</b>	<b>420 129</b>	<b>435 956</b>

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## Cash flow

The Oslo Børs group recorded an increase of NOK 114 million in its cash and cash equivalents in the first quarter. Cash and cash equivalents held at the end of the quarter totalled NOK 300 million. In addition, NOK 7 million of liquid assets are classified as financial fixed assets.

	<b>1st Quarter 2006</b>	<b>1st Quarter 2005</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Cash flow from</b>			
- operational activities	116 219	86 899	175 253
- investment activities	-1 905	13 019	-254
- financing activities	0	0	-100 000
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at period's start</b>	<b>185 893</b>	<b>110 894</b>	<b>110 894</b>
Change in cash and cash equivalents	114 314	99 918	74 999
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at period's end</b>	<b>300 207</b>	<b>210 812</b>	<b>185 893</b>
<b>Cash flow per share before financing activities (NOK)</b>	<b>22,86</b>	<b>19,98</b>	<b>35,00</b>
<b>Cash flow per share (NOK)</b>	<b>22,86</b>	<b>19,98</b>	<b>15,00</b>

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## Equity

Equity amounted to NOK 332 million at the end of the first quarter, and the equity ratio was approximately 60%.

	<b>31 March 2006</b>	<b>31 March 2005</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Equity at period's start</b>	<b>282 237</b>	<b>218 305</b>	<b>218 305</b>
Profit for the period	50 145	34 894	144 098
Dividends	0	0	-100 000
Increase in value of financial instruments	0	13 248	36 138
Actuarial gains/losses in the period	0	0	-16 302
<b>Equity at period's end</b>	<b>332 382</b>	<b>266 447</b>	<b>282 237</b>
<b>Equity ratio</b>	<b>60 %</b>	<b>63 %</b>	<b>65 %</b>

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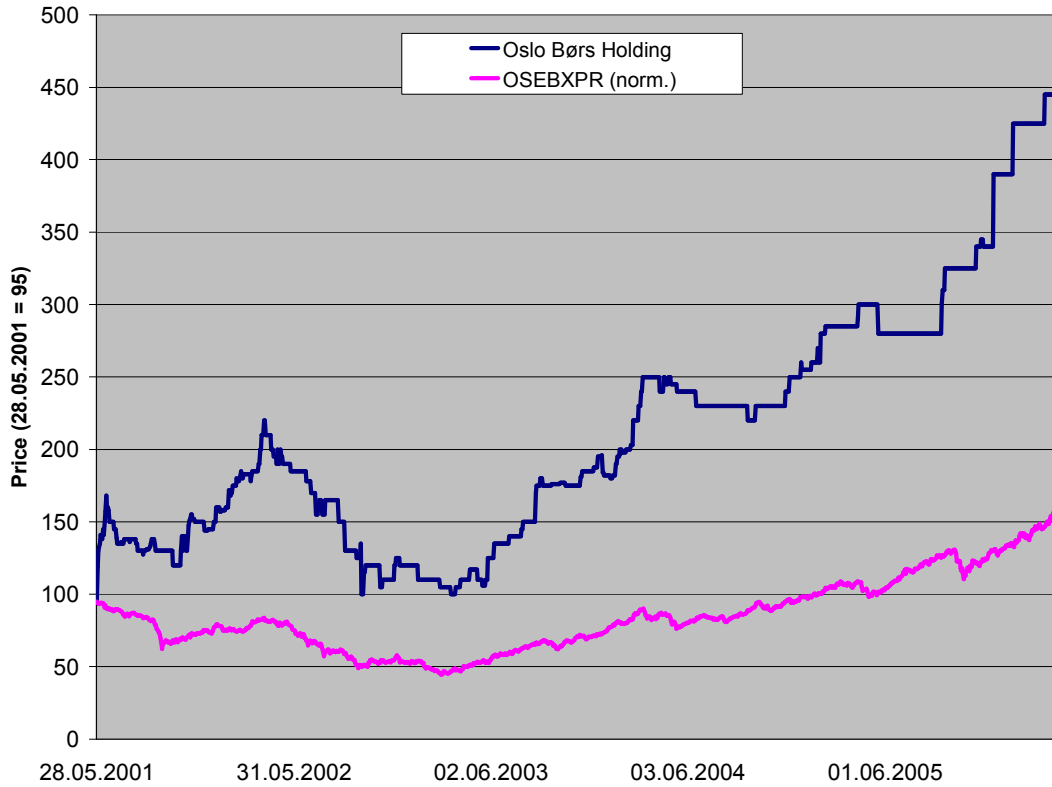
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## Shareholder information

### Oslo Børs Holding ASA share price:

The graph shows movements in the share price of Oslo Børs Holding ASA from May 2001 to March 2006, not adjusted for disbursed dividends or reduction of capital. The share price is compared with the OSEBX price index, also not adjusted for dividends. Since May 2001, Oslo Børs Holding ASA has distributed dividends and made a payment to shareholders in respect of a reduction in its share capital. These payments total NOK 66 per share. In addition, the 2006 Annual General Meeting will consider a proposal to pay a total dividend of NOK 26 per share in respect of the 2005 financial year.

Oslo Børs Holding VS OSEBX Priceindex



**Oslo Børs Holding ASA – 20 largest shareholders at 8 April 2006:****20 largest as of April 2006:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Holding in numbers</b>	<b>Holding in percent</b>
1. DNB NOR BANK ASA	NOR	983 404	19,67 %
2. FIDELITY FUNDS-EUROPE	LUX	500 000	10,00 %
3. ORKLA ASA	NOR	499 500	9,99 %
4. NORSK HYDROS PENSJONSKASSE	NOR	422 106	8,44 %
5. THIRD AVENUE INTL.	USA	351 700	7,03 %
6. STATE STREET BANK (NOMINEE)	USA	249 150	4,98 %
7. JPMORGAN SECURITIES	GBR	245 000	4,90 %
8. MORGAN STANLEY (NOMINEE)	GBR	234 262	4,69 %
9. KLP FORSIKRING	NOR	200 000	4,00 %
10. PARETO AS	NOR	163 100	3,26 %
11. DANSKE BANK	NOR	150 000	3,00 %
12. PARETO SECURITIES AS	NOR	100 028	2,00 %
13. NORDEA BANK (NOMINEE)	FIN	90 500	1,81 %
14. SPAREBANK 1	NOR	90 000	1,80 %
15. FONDSAVANSE AS	NOR	68 824	1,38 %
16. UBS AG (NOMINEE)	GBR	68 200	1,36 %
17. TELENOR PENSJONSKASSE	NOR	43 760	0,88 %
18. NORDEA LIV ASA	NOR	39 300	0,79 %
19. TONSENHAGEN FORRETNINGSSENTER	NOR	35 273	0,71 %
20. STATOILS PENSJONSKASSE	NOR	33 305	0,67 %
<b>Sum 20 largest</b>		<b>4 567 212</b>	<b>91,36 %</b>

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## Key figures

	1st Quarter 2006	1st Quarter 2005	2005
<b>Financial</b>			
Earnings per share (NOK)	10,03	6,98	28,82
Diluted earnings per share (NOK)	10,03	6,98	28,82
Change in cash per share (NOK)	22,86	19,98	15,00
Return on equity	65,3 %	57,6 %	57,6 %
Return on total capital	56,4 %	50,2 %	52,6 %
Net operating margin	58,3 %	46,8 %	51,8 %
<b>Operational</b>			
Benchmark index at period's end	396,30	256,27	332,51
Change in period	19,2 %	8,3 %	40,5 %
Equities - no. of transactions (1000s)	2 122	1 088	5 480
Equities - value of turnover (NOKbnl)	642	341	1 513
Equities - market value listed companies (NOKbn)	1 695	1 031	1 402
No. of companies listed	220	190	219
Change in period	1	2	31
Bonds - no. of listed issues	853	857	837
ABM - no. of listed issues	63	0	30
Derivatives - no. of contracts traded (1000s)	2 189	1 370	6 200
Financial market data - number of end-users	34 581	27 436	30 931

Resultat pr. aksje:

Kontantstrøm pr. aksje før utbytte:

Kontantstrøm pr. aksje:

Egenkapitalrentabilitet

Totalkapitalrentabilitet

Netto driftsmargin

Periodens resultat/antall aksjer

Netto endring i kontanter og kontantekvivalenter tillagt utbetalt utbytte/antall aksjer

Netto endring i kontanter og kontantekvivalenter/antall aksjer

Periodens resultat (annualisert)/gjennomsnitt av bokført egenkapital ved inngangen og utgangen av perioden

Resultat før skatt (annualisert)/gjennomsnitt av sum eiendeler ved inngangen og utgangen av perioden

Driftsresultat/driftsinntekter

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The Board of Directors of Oslo Børs Holding ASA/Oslo Børs ASA

27 April 2006