

Oslo Børs Holding ASA – second quarter 2005

Second quarter highlights:

- **Energy sector continues to strengthen**
 - **15 new companies admitted to listing in the quarter**
 - **Operating revenues: NOK 86.6 (64.8) million**
 - **Operating profit: NOK 42.5 (22.4) million**
 - **Earnings for the period: NOK 30.8 (16.5) million**
 - **Earnings per share: NOK 6.16 (3.31)**
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Activity in the second quarter of 2005 (same period last year in brackets)

General

Trading activity in the equity market was again at a historically high level in the second quarter of 2005. The Benchmark Index (OSEBX) closed the second quarter at 283.41, up by around 11% since the close of the first quarter and 20% higher than at the start of the year. High oil prices caused the energy sector to gain around 24% in the second quarter, bringing the gain for the first six months to 44%. Companies showed strong interest in seeking a listing on the Oslo market. 15 new companies were admitted to listing in the quarter, while three companies were deleted from listing. For the first six months as a whole, 20 new companies have been admitted to listing and six have been deleted from listing.

The work carried out by Oslo Børs to attract more players to the market, including exchange members and investors as well as new issuers, again produced good results in the first six months. A particular focus on Swedish investors has led to some increase in trading from this market, and marketing to prospective remote members resulted in four new members in the second quarter.

Increased market interest in energy-related shares has created greater opportunities to attract small and medium-sized foreign companies in this sector. Among others, Canadian companies have shown interest in obtaining a listing at Oslo Børs.

As part of its commitment to improving access to Norwegian securities and harmonisation with other European exchanges, Oslo Børs has decided to extend its opening hours with effect from 1 January 2006.

Oslo Børs works continuously to promote greater activity in the Oslo market, and this includes attracting more participants, improving access to securities and generally improving marketplace quality.

Shares and primary capital certificates worth NOK 309 (172) billion changed hands in the second quarter, representing a slight reduction from the first quarter. Transactions in the equity market totalled 1,165,283 (648,355), an increase of around 80% from the second quarter of 2004. June saw the highest-ever daily average number of transactions at over 20,000 per day. At the end of the second quarter 202 companies were listed, representing a net increase of 18 from the same period last year. New shares worth some NOK 8.8 (2.6) billion were issued in the second quarter.

845 (836) bonds and other fixed-income instruments were listed at the close of the second quarter. The alternative marketplace for listing and trading bonds and other fixed-income instruments (ABM) was launched as planned on 6 June, and 7 issues have been listed in this market to date.

The level of activity in the derivatives market was somewhat lower than in the first quarter, but 25% more contracts were traded in the second quarter than in the same period last year. The number of contracts traded was 1,308,881 as compared to 1,051,185 in the second quarter of 2004. The average premium for derivatives contracts for the first six months was NOK 5.7 (7.9).

Operating revenue from derivatives trading is affected by the number of contracts and premium levels. Stock options have lower premiums than index options. Options in stocks with relatively low prices generally attract lower premiums than options in higher-price stocks. Trading in stock options where the underlying instrument has a relatively low market value increased in relative terms in the first six months of 2005.

The number of end-users with access to market data from Oslo Børs was some 3% higher at the close of the quarter than at the end of the first quarter, and around 9% higher than at the same time last year. Some distributors report actual numbers with a month's delay. The figure for the total number of end-users at the close of the second quarter is therefore an estimate that may be subject to subsequent revision.

The Annual General Meeting of Oslo Børs Holding ASA was held on 9 May 2005. The AGM approved a dividend payment totalling NOK 20 per share, and this has been distributed. Olaug Svarva and Svein Støle were re-elected to the Board of Directors for a 2-year term of office. Halvor Stenstadvold and Benedicte Schilbred Fasmer were elected as new members of the Board of Directors, while Knut Kjær retired from the Board.

Revenues

Second quarter revenues totalled NOK 86.6 (64.7) million. Revenues for the year to date total NOK 165.6 (135.8) million. The increase in revenues came mainly from the equity markets area, where trading and new listings showed strong increases.

Revenues from sales of market data were 2% higher than in the first quarter and 3% higher than in the second quarter of 2004. Changes to the product and price structure with effect from the third quarter of 2004 have caused growth in revenues to be lower than the growth in terminal numbers. In addition, the revenues reported for the second quarter of 2004 were positively affected by accrual effects.

Costs

Second quarter operating expenses amounted to NOK 44.0 (42.3) million. Operating costs for the year to date total NOK 86.1 (84.2) million.

Salary and staff costs totalled NOK 22.1 (21.7) million in the second quarter. This increase was principally due to the annual increase in salaries on 1 January 2005 and increased pension accrual.

Other second quarter operating expenses totalled NOK 16.5 (15.2) million. The increase was largely due to a higher level of marketing activity and somewhat higher costs in some sections of the IT area.

Financial items

Oslo Børs uses forward foreign exchange contracts to cap costs denominated in foreign currency. The strengthening of the Norwegian krone in the second quarter caused an accounting loss of NOK 1.8 million on Swedish krona forward contracts. These forward contracts matured in June 2005. The accounting loss on these contracts is mirrored by lower operating costs.

Prospects

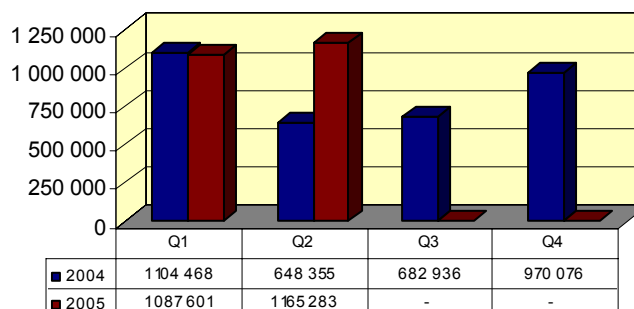
Oslo Børs' revenues in 2005 will vary in line with activity levels, above all with trading in the equity market and the trend in sales of financial market data as measured by the number of terminals. Oslo Børs notes that interest from companies seeking admission to listing continues to be strong.

Oslo Børs expects that its total operating costs for 2005 will be just under NOK 180 million. If the current low level of interest rate persists this will cause an increase in the pension costs recognised in the accounts.

Market developments

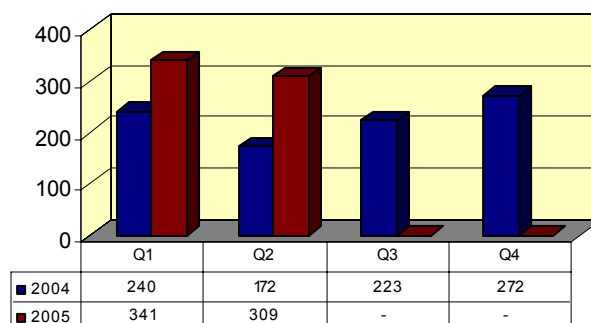
The second quarter saw a further increase in activity, with a 7% increase in the number of transactions from the previous quarter. The level of activity in the quarter was some 80% higher than in the same quarter last year.

Equity market - number of transactions



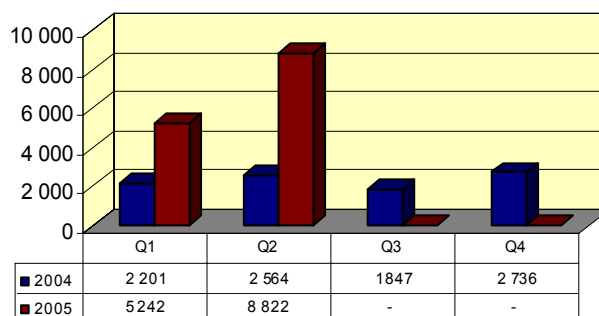
In terms of value, activity in the second quarter was around 9% higher than in the previous quarter and 80% higher than in the second quarter of last year.

Equity market - value of trades Billion NOK



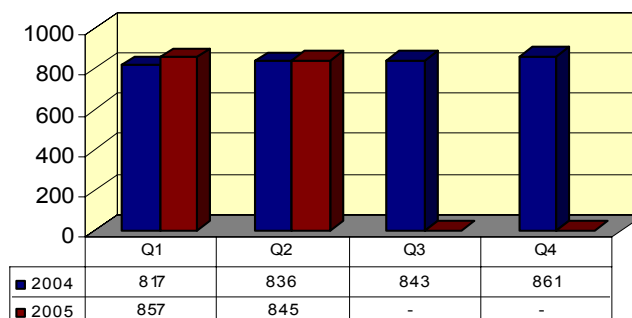
The total value of new issues in the second quarter was 68% higher than in the previous quarter. The value of capital raised was over three times that achieved in the second quarter of 2004.

Equity market - value of new issues Million NOK



Bond market - number of listed issues

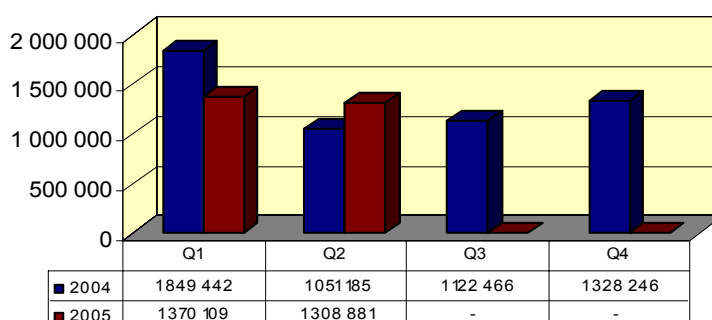
The number of listed issues in the fixed income market was slightly lower than in the previous quarter, but was still somewhat higher than in the second quarter of 2004.



Derivatives market - number of contracts traded

The level of activity in the derivatives market was somewhat lower than in the previous quarter, but around 25% more contracts were traded than in the second quarter of 2004.

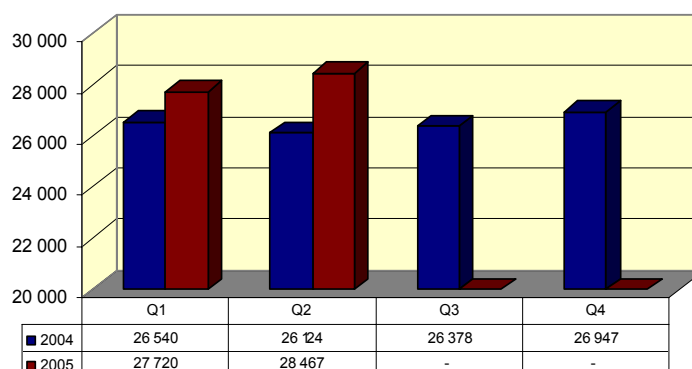
The average premium so far this year is NOK 5.7 as compared to NOK 7.9 in the second quarter of 2004.



The number of end-users of market data from Oslo Børs is estimated to be 3% higher at the end of the second quarter than at the end of the first quarter. The comparison with the second quarter of 2004 shows an increase of 9%.

Some distributors report actual numbers with a month's delay. The figure for the total number of terminals at the close of the second 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 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.

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 on page 61 of the 2004 annual report.

	2nd Quarter 2005	2nd Quarter 2004	30 June 2005	30 June 2004	2004
Operating revenues	86 610	64 763	165 632	135 789	268 680
Operating expenses					
Salary and other personnel expenses	22 074	21 668	44 062	42 467	85 141
Depreciation	5 457	5 473	10 927	11 006	21 969
Other operating expenses	16 534	15 185	31 086	30 759	60 910
Total operating expenses	44 065	42 327	86 075	84 232	168 020
Operating profit	42 546	22 436	79 557	51 556	100 660
Net financial items	-802	1 188	8 231	2 776	4 108
Ordinary pre-tax profit	41 743	23 624	87 788	54 332	104 768
Tax	10 946	7 080	22 097	16 285	29 024
Earnings for the period	30 797	16 544	65 691	38 048	75 744
Earnings per share (NOK)	6,16	3,31	13,14	7,61	15,15
Diluted earnings per share (NOK)	6,16	3,31	13,14	7,61	15,15

Operating revenues by area and category

The year-on-year increase in revenues seen in the second quarter came mainly from the equity markets area, where trading and admissions to listing showed strong increases.

Oslo Børs introduced changes to fees for admission to listing and inspection of prospectuses with effect from the start of 2005. The prospectus fee has been reduced to a fixed payment of NOK 50,000. At the same time an introduction and registration fee has been introduced, which is calculated on the market value of the capital to be listed.

	2nd Quarter 2005	2nd Quarter 2004	30 June 2005	30 June 2004	2004
Equity Markets	50 102	29 424	93 169	65 188	130 846
Fixed Income Markets	6 663	6 842	14 141	13 347	26 012
Derivatives Markets	3 344	2 983	6 526	7 295	12 520
Financial Market data	24 882	24 231	49 364	47 251	94 743
Other	1 619	1 283	2 432	2 708	4 559
Total operating revenues	86 610	64 763	165 632	135 789	268 680

	2nd Quarter 2005	2nd Quarter 2004	30 June 2005	30 June 2004	2004
Fixed fees- issuers	14 521	13 061	29 387	25 660	50 772
Fixed fees - members	2 268	2 325	4 418	4 600	9 200
Trading fees	30 029	17 982	60 165	45 332	90 120
Prospectus and admission fees	12 661	5 881	18 905	10 120	17 688
Financial market data	24 882	24 231	49 364	47 251	94 743
Income from courses/seminars	1 079	902	1 550	1 712	2 467
Other income	1 171	380	1 843	1 115	3 691
Total operating revenues	86 610	64 763	165 632	135 789	268 681

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 second quarter of 2005 was estimated to be NOK 190 per share. In accordance with IFRS, the difference between cost price and estimated fair value (NOK 13 million) has been applied directly to equity.

Oslo Børs has divided its premises assets into constituent components and has applied different depreciation rates in accordance with the relevant expected commercial life of the components. This has caused an increase in depreciation of tangible fixed assets.

Short-term receivables totalled NOK 59 million at the end of the second quarter. Of this, trade receivables totalled NOK 30 million and other current receivables were NOK 29 million, including prepaid expenses of NOK 23 million and income accrued but not yet invoiced of some NOK 6 million.

Cash and cash equivalents totalled NOK 112 million at quarter end. In addition, NOK 7 million of liquid assets are classified as financial fixed assets.

Current liabilities amounted to about NOK 94 million at the end of the second quarter. This includes NOK 42 million for accrual accounting of listing fees and other annual fees. Accrual for costs incurred accounts for NOK 17 million, and tax payable amounts to approximately NOK 22 million.

	30 June 2005	30 June 2004	2004
Fixed assets			
IT systems	24 219	38 470	31 345
Deferred tax assets	29 355	29 921	29 354
Tangible assets	36 189	37 153	37 877
Financial fixed assets	71 086	68 209	65 051
Current assets			
Receivables	59 120	52 470	39 096
Cash and liquid assets	112 001	68 240	110 894
Assets	331 970	294 464	313 617
Equity			
Contributed equity	113 405	113 405	113 405
Earned equity	83 839	67 204	104 900
	197 244	180 609	218 305
Liabilities			
Provisions for liabilities	40 786	29 009	38 589
Current liabilities	93 940	84 846	56 723
Equity and liabilities	331 970	294 464	313 617

Cash flow

The Oslo Børs Group recorded a reduction of NOK 99 million in its cash holding in the second quarter. Cash flow for the second quarter of 2005 was reduced by the payment of a dividend of NOK 100 million and pre-payment of trading system costs of NOK 23 million. Cash and cash equivalents totalled NOK 112 million at quarter end. In addition, NOK 7 million of liquid assets are classified as financial fixed assets.

	2nd Quarter 2005	2nd Quarter 2004	30 June 2005	30 June 2004	2004
Cash flow from					
- operational activities	2 878	-6 374	89 776	75 271	122 486
- investment activities	-1 688	-647	11 331	-51 042	-55 604
- financing activities	-100 000	-50 000	-100 000	-50 000	-50 000
Cash and cash equivalents at period's start	210 812	125 261	110 894	94 012	94 012
Change in cash and cash equivalents	-98 810	-57 021	1 108	-25 772	16 882
Cash and cash equivalents at period's end	112 002	68 240	112 002	68 240	110 894
Cash flow per share before financing activities (NOK)	0,24	-1,40	20,22	4,85	13,38
Cash flow per share (NOK)	-19,76	-11,40	0,22	-5,15	3,38

Equity

Equity amounted to NOK 197 million at the end of the second quarter, and the equity ratio was approximately 59%.

	2nd Quarter 2005	2nd Quarter 2004	30 June 2005	30 June 2004	2004
Equity at period's start	266 447	214 065	218 305	192 561	192 561
Profit for the period	30 797	16 544	65 691	38 048	75 744
Dividends	-100 000	-50 000	-100 000	-50 000	-50 000
Capital reduction	0	0	0	0	0
Increase in value of financial instruments	0	0	13 248	0	0
Equity at period's end	197 244	180 609	197 244	180 609	218 305
Equity ratio	59 %	61 %	59 %	61 %	70 %

Reconciliation between IFRS and N GAAP

The following table shows the difference between IFRS and generally accepted Norwegian accounting practice (N GAAP) for profit and loss and balance sheet items. Further information can be found in the 2004 annual report.

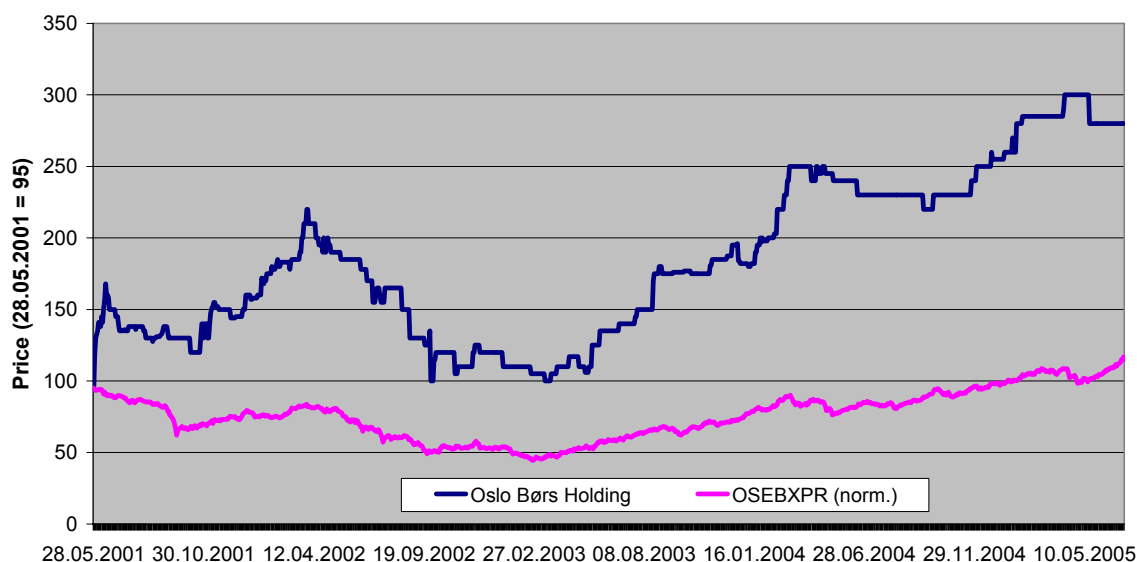
	Result 2nd Quarter 2004	30 June 2004	Equity as of 31 March 2004
N GAAP	16 284	37 528	196 983
Pensioncost/pension liabilities	629	1 258	-22 137
Depreciation/Building	-268	-536	-1 864
Tax effect of change in profit	-101	-202	7 626
IFRS	16 544	38 048	180 609

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 June 2005, 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.

Oslo Børs Holding VS OSEBX Priceindex



Oslo Børs Holding ASA – 20 largest shareholders at 6 July 2005:

20 largest as of 6 July 2005:

Name	Nationality	Holding in numbers	Holding in percent
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	432 106	8,64 %
5. THIRD AVENUE INTL.	USA	351 700	7,03 %
6. STATE STREET BANK (nominee account)	USA	249 150	4,98 %
7. JPMORGAN SECURITIES	GBR	245 000	4,90 %
8. MORGAN STANLEY (nominee account)	GBR	234 262	4,69 %
9. KLP FORSIKRING	NOR	200 000	4,00 %
10. DANSKE BANK	NOR	192 200	3,84 %
11. NORDEA LIV ASA	NOR	123 100	2,46 %
12. PARETO SECURITIES AS	NOR	116 100	2,32 %
13. PARETO AS	NOR	100 000	2,00 %
14. ERIK MUST A/S	NOR	68 824	1,38 %
15. NORDEA BANK	FIN	57 500	1,15 %
16. TELENOR PENSJONSKASSE	NOR	52 960	1,06 %
17. SPAREBANK 1	NOR	50 000	1,00 %
18. THE NORTHERN TRUST (nominee account)	GBR	47 000	0,94 %
19. ABG SUNDAL COLLIER	NOR	45 000	0,90 %
20. TONSENHAGEN FORR.SENTER	NOR	35 273	0,71 %
Sum 20 largest		4 583 079	91,66 %

Key figures

	2nd Quarter 2005	2nd Quarter 2004	30 June 2005	30 June 2004	2004
Financial					
Earnings per share (NOK)	6,16	3,31	13,14	7,61	15,15
Diluted earnings per share (NOK)	6,16	3,31	13,14	7,61	15,15
Cash flow per share before dividends and capital reduction (NOK)	0,24	-1,40	20,22	4,85	13,38
Change in cash per share (NOK)	-19,76	-11,40	0,22	-5,15	3,38
Return on equity	53,1 %	33,5 %	63,2 %	38,6 %	36,9 %
Return on total capital	44,4 %	29,5 %	54,4 %	38,8 %	36,2 %
Net operating margin	49,1 %	34,6 %	48,0 %	38,0 %	37,5 %
Operational					
Benchmark index at period's end	283,41	204,55	283,41	204,55	236,70
Change in period	10,6 %	5,6 %	19,7 %	19,6 %	38,4 %
Equities - no. of transactions (1000s)	1 165	648	2 253	1 753	3 406
Equities - value of turnover (NOKbnl)	309	172	650	412	907
Equities - market value listed companies (NOKbn)			1 143	804	932
No. of companies listed			202	184	188
Change in period			14	6	10
Bonds - no. of listed issues			845	836	861
Derivatives - no. of contracts traded (1000s)	1 309	1 051	2 679	2 901	5 352
Financial market data - number of end-users			28 467	26 124	26 947

Earnings per share:

Profit for the period divided by the no. of shares

Cash flow per share before dividends:

Net change in cash and cash equivalents plus dividends paid divided by the no. of shares

Net cash flow per share:

Net change in cash and cash equivalents divided by the no. of shares

Return on equity:

Profit for the period (annualised) divided by the average of book equity at the start and end of the period

Return on total capital:

Profit before tax for the period (annualised) divided by the average of total assets at the start and end of the period

Net operating margin:

Operating profit divided by operating revenues

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

15 July 2005