

## Oslo Børs Holding ASA – 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2001

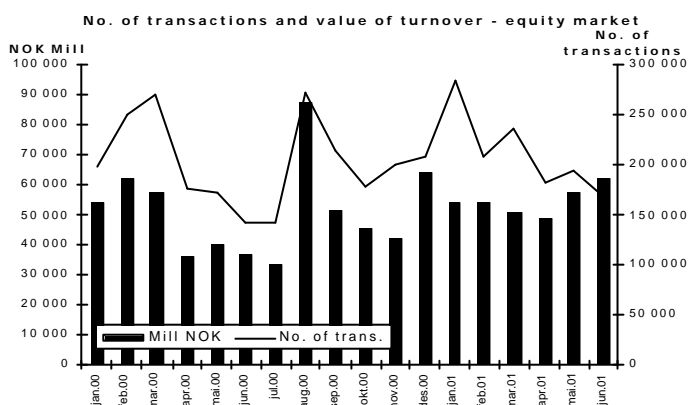
Oslo Børs Holding ASA achieved an operating profit of NOK 12.8 (8.5) million in the second quarter. The operating profit for the first half-year was NOK 21.9 (11.6) million, while the first-half profit after tax was NOK 24.8 (12.9) million. The changes are largely due to increased revenues this year compared with the same period last year.

Global stockmarkets have been under pressure throughout the first half-year due to lower activity in both the new-issue and secondary market and falling prices on a number of quoted securities, particularly in the technology field. Oslo Børs is less exposed to this segment than many other stock exchanges, which is one reason why Oslo Børs has managed fairly creditably so far in 2001 and can point to higher activity in the secondary market than in the same period last year. The focus on sales of financial market data continues to bear fruit with an increase of 21% over last year's second quarter and as much as 31% for the first half-year as a whole.

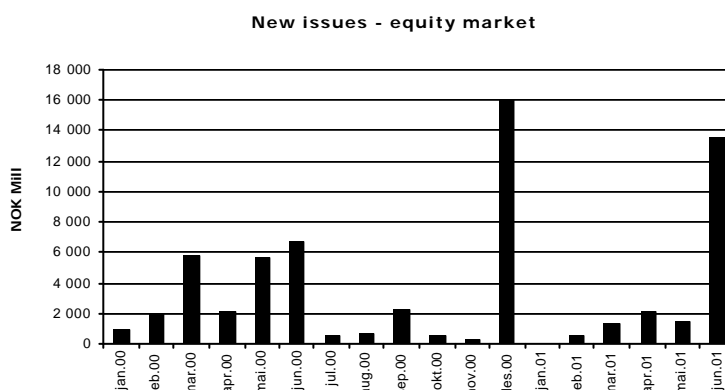
Oslo Børs is currently making extensive investments on the IT front, including the introduction of the trading system SAXESS, while concurrently running the old ASTS system. This is pushing up costs somewhat. SAXESS will go live in the first quarter of 2002.

### Market conditions

Activity in the new-issue market for shares has been far heavier in parts of the second quarter and the first half-year than in the same periods last year. Activity in the second quarter is ordinarily lower than in the first quarter. This has not been the case in 2001.



Activity in the new-issue market for shares has been relatively low compared with last year. Statoil's market debut in June to the tune of about NOK 13 billion accounted for the bulk of activity in the second quarter.

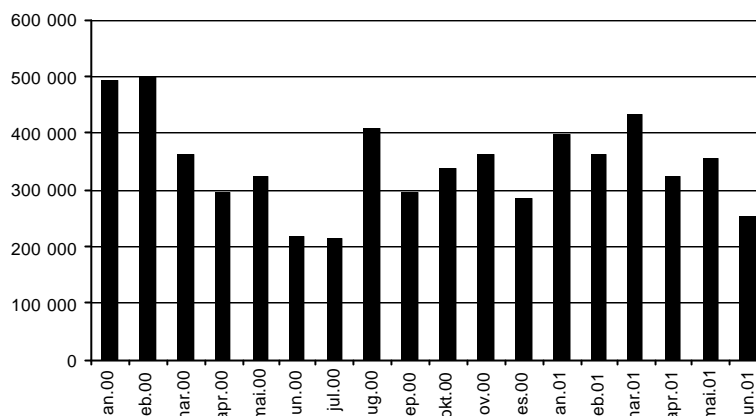


Activity in the derivatives market was lower in the second quarter than in the three preceding quarters, but somewhat higher than in the second quarter of 2000.

Average premium per contract has also fallen somewhat. In the first half-year of 2000 the premium averaged NOK 9.5, while in the first quarter and first half of 2001 it has averaged NOK 8.5 and NOK 8.1 respectively. Revenues from derivatives trading are calculated partly on the basis of contract premiums.

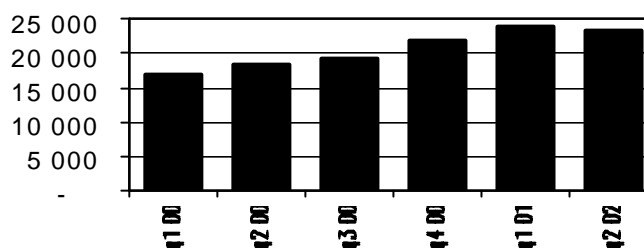
As previously announced, Oslo Børs has reduced charges on derivatives trading as from 1 July. Charges for options are reduced by 25%, and for OBX futures by 37.5%.

No. of derivatives contracts



Revenues from sales of financial market data are rising steadily. When adjusted for variance between estimated and actual figures for the first quarter of 2001, revenues rose by about 6% from the first to the second quarter. Average quarterly growth from the first quarter of 2000 to the second quarter of 2001 is 7.5%, adjusted for such variance.

Revenues - sale of financial market data



See [www.ose.no/ir](http://www.ose.no/ir) for further operational main figures

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter

### In general

The Oslo Exchanges Benchmark Index (OSEBX) was introduced on 23 May as the new overall benchmark for shares quoted on Oslo Børs. The OSEBX replaces the All Share Index as the most important reference index.

Along with the other indices comprising the new index family introduced in February, the OSEBX represents an improvement in terms of providing a precise picture of the market. In the first half of 2001 the OSEBX has fallen from 195.79 to 192.04 – a decline of about 1.9% in the period. The OSEAX, which includes all shares quoted on the Oslo Børs, fell about 1.6% in the first half-year from 185.19 to 182.23.

Statoil was quoted on Oslo Børs as from 18 June and represents in krone terms the biggest market debut in the history of the bourse. On the 10 days that the Statoil share was traded in June, shares worth NOK 15.6 billion changed hands.

### Revenues

In the second quarter of 2001 Oslo Børs recorded operating revenues of NOK 55 million, an increase of 10% over the same period last year. Overall first-half revenues come to NOK 110 million, an increase of 14% over last year.

Trading activity is usually somewhat lower in the second quarter than the first quarter. This has not been the case for the share market in 2001. The value of shares traded was about 4% higher in the second than in the first quarter.

## Costs

Operating costs for the second quarter come to NOK 42 million, an increase of 0.7% over the same period of 2000. Operating costs in the first half of 2001 total NOK 89 million, i.e. 3.7% higher than in the same period last year.

Oslo Børs expects the new trading system, SAXESS, to go live in the first quarter of 2002. Implementation of the new system, and development of affiliated systems, is regarded for accounting purposes as production of intangible assets. According to the draft Norwegian Accounting Standard (Intangible Assets), pay and personnel expenses related to own employees who participate in such production are to be recorded in the balance sheet as part of the cost price of the asset. This item comes to about NOK 2 million for the second quarter.

The present trading system, ASTS, will remain in use until the new system goes into operation. Up to the end of the first quarter the present system was depreciated in accordance with a plan entailing complete depreciation by the end of 2001. As from the second quarter of 2001, the system will be depreciated based on a plan entailing complete depreciation of the system by the middle of the first quarter of 2002. The effect of the change is a reduction of about NOK 1.6 million in depreciation per quarter compared with previous quarters in 2000 and 2001. It should be noted that the system is now being depreciated over a period of just over three years, producing an additional annual depreciation of about NOK 20 million compared with the original five-year depreciation plan.

When these two factors are adjusted for, operating costs for the second quarter of 2001 come to NOK 46 million. This represents an increase of 10% compared with the same period of 2000, but no change from this year's first-quarter level. Large parts of the bourse's organisation have focused heavily on the above-mentioned investment projects in the period.

## Privatisation of Oslo Børs

Up to and including May 2001 Oslo Børs has been organised as a self-owned institution. At the end of May its operations were transferred to Oslo Børs ASA, which is wholly owned by Oslo Børs Holding ASA. This transaction was accounted for in a manner similar to a pooling of interest, i.e. book values of assets and liabilities transferred to Oslo Børs ASA are retained. The accounts for Oslo Børs ASA are presented as if the bourse's operations had been transferred at the start of the earliest period for which figures are presented.

For tax purposes the transfer of operations is treated in accordance with the concept of discontinuity, i.e. the assets' tax-related value is set at market value. The tax-related value of the company's equity at end-May equals the selling price achieved on the shares of Oslo Børs Holding ASA, i.e. NOK 475 million. The difference between the accounting and the tax-related value of assets and liabilities constitutes tax-reducing differences which in turn represent a deferred tax asset for Oslo Børs ASA. Owing to uncertainty related to the timing of reversal of some tax-reducing differences, only parts of the deferred tax asset can be recorded in the accounts. A deferred tax asset of NOK 47.5 million has been recorded in the balance sheet in connection with the transfer of operations. This is allocated directly to equity. The estimated tax charge for the first half-year for the group reduces the deferred tax asset at the end of the period.

## The VAT-reform

The Ministry of Finance has published an interpretative statement stating that the bourse's services, apart from sale of price data and statistics, will be exempt from VAT. This has a negative impact on costs for Oslo Børs.

The effects on ordinary operations in the second half-year are expected to be limited to about NOK 1 million. For projects such as implementation of the new trading system and development of new affiliated systems (totalling about NOK 50 million), project costs, depending on how the projects are organised, could rise by about 10%.

The bourse will put the trading system Saxess, delivered by the Swedish company OM Technology, into operation in the first quarter of 2002. The VAT reform could mean the exchange having to pay VAT on leasing the system. If VAT has to be paid, costs are expected to increase by 15%. The charge for using the system comprises a connection fee of SEK 50 million largely payable over the agreed period of use of five years and an annual payment of SEK 13.9 million over the same period.

The cost increase will naturally have to be offset by higher prices.

## Segment reporting

Revenues from the business area Equity Markets show little change from last year. Operating costs are somewhat higher than last year. This is offset by lower depreciation on the trading system as a result of the above-mentioned change in the depreciation plan effective as from the second quarter.

Activity in the business area Fixed Income Markets has been somewhat higher at times than in 2000.

The business area Derivatives Markets has recorded lower-than-expected revenues in the first half-year, and in the same period of 2000, as a result of lower trading activity and a reduction in contract premiums on derivatives contracts.

The business area Financial Market Data shows a steady increase in revenues from data feed sales. The increase over last year amounts to more than 20%.

	2. Quarter 2001	2. Quarter 2000	June 30 2001	June 30 2000	2000
<b>Equity Markets</b>					
Operating revenues	22 390	22 068	43 205	43 220	84 401
Operating profit	4 044	2 996	3 737	3 877	-4 585
<b>Fixed Income Markets</b>					
Operating revenues	5 394	5 323	11 324	9 531	19 567
Operating profit	1 617	1 023	3 107	916	2 029
<b>Derivatives Markets</b>					
Operating revenues	2 643	3 610	6 139	8 184	14 010
Operating profit	-2 238	-1 302	-3 622	-2 353	-6 323
<b>Financial Market data</b>					
Operating revenues	22 455	18 484	46 238	35 300	76 497
Operating profit	8 448	5 336	16 943	8 489	21 936
<b>Other</b>					
Operating revenues	2 068	443	3 541	634	2 352
Operating profit	924	443	1 756	634	2 235
<b>Total operating revenues</b>	<b>54 949</b>	<b>49 929</b>	<b>110 446</b>	<b>96 869</b>	<b>196 827</b>
<b>Total operating profit</b>	<b>12 796</b>	<b>8 497</b>	<b>21 922</b>	<b>11 563</b>	<b>15 292</b>

## Cash-flow analysis

The Oslo Børs Group recorded a net positive cash flow of NOK 4.5 million in the second quarter compared with NOK 29.6 million in the same period of 2000. The net cash flow in the first half of 2000 comes to NOK 51 million compared with NOK 55 million in the same period last year.

Implementation of the new trading system and development of affiliated systems has increased investment in the first half of 2001 by about NOK 15 million compared with the same period of 2000.

The same projects will continue to year-end along with other projects, including alterations to the Oslo Børs building, which are due to start in the second half of 2001.

	2. Quarter 2001	2. Quarter 2000	June 30 2001	June 30 2000	2000
<b>Cash flow from</b>					
- operational activities	17 342	29 829	71 241	60 004	71 858
- investment activities	-12 806	-230	-20 487	-5 546	-16 908
- financing activities	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Cash and liquid assets at the start of the period</b>	<b>168 191</b>	<b>91 882</b>	<b>121 973</b>	<b>67 023</b>	<b>67 023</b>
Change in cash and liquid assets	4 536	29 599	50 754	54 458	54 950
<b>Cash and liquid assets at the end of the period</b>	<b>172 727</b>	<b>121 481</b>	<b>172 727</b>	<b>121 481</b>	<b>121 973</b>

## Changes to shareholders equity

Equity totalled NOK 268 million at end-quarter.

The equity ratio was about 77%.

The deferred tax asset of NOK 47.5 million in connection with the conversion to Oslo Børs ASA is added directly to equity.

	2. Quarter 2001	2. Quarter 2000	June 30 2001	June 30 2000	2000
<b>Equity at the start of the period</b>	<b>207 024</b>	<b>178 616</b>	<b>195 927</b>	<b>174 811</b>	<b>174 811</b>
Profit for the period	13 703	9 096	24 800	12 901	20 654
Deferred tax asset	47 478	0	47 478	0	0
Effect of changes in accounting principles	0	0	0	0	462
<b>Equity at the end of the period</b>	<b>268 205</b>	<b>187 712</b>	<b>268 205</b>	<b>187 712</b>	<b>195 927</b>
<b>Equity ratio</b>			<b>77 %</b>	<b>73 %</b>	<b>83 %</b>

## Ownership structure

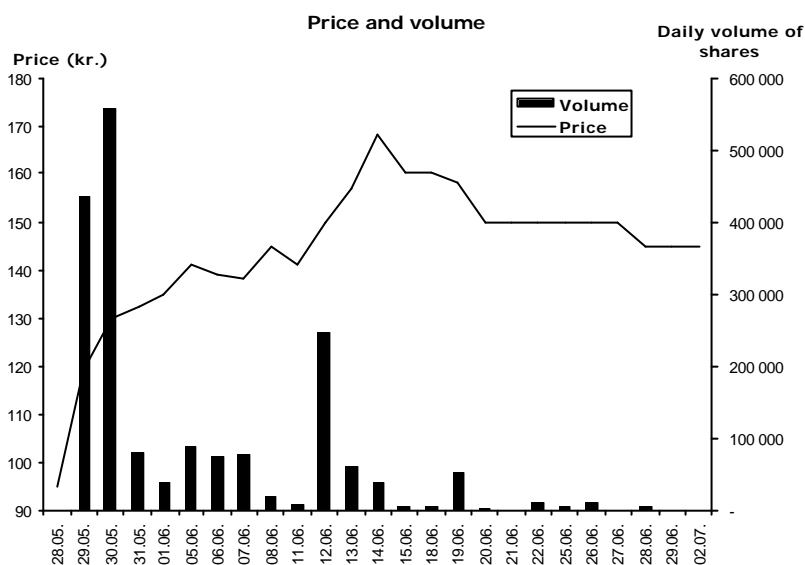
The 10 largest individual shareholders in Oslo Børs Holding ASA as of 3 July were:

The group's overall holding is not shown in the overview, but no single holding exceeds 10%.

Name	No. of shares	Votes and capital, %
1. Morgan Stanley (nominee konto)	437 512	8,75
2. Gjensidige NOR	408 512	8,17
3. Goldman Sachs	308 666	6,17
4. State Street Bank (nominee konto)	200 000	4,00
5. Danske Bank AS (nominee konto)	200 000	4,00
6. Orkla ASA	200 000	4,00
7. KLP Forsikring	200 000	4,00
8. Chase Manhattan Bank (nominee konto)	200 000	4,00
9. Norsk Hydros Pensjonskasse	150 000	3,00
10. Sparebank 1 Livsforsikring	142 857	2,85

Between the sale of Oslo Børs Holding ASA's shares and end-June, a total of 1.8 million share transactions were recorded on the Norwegian Stockbrokers' Association's information system.

Up to the end of the quarter the share has traded in the range NOK 95-168. The share was last traded on 28 June at NOK 145.-.



## Outlook

The latest forecast in the prospectus issued in connection with the share offering by Oslo Børs Holding ASA indicated a pre-tax profit of just under NOK 40 million. Apart from the effect of pay and personnel expenses in connection with the production of intangible assets, the change in the depreciation plan and the VAT reform, updated forecasts show no material changes in relation to the forecast given in the prospectus.

## Income statement and balance sheet

This interim report has been prepared in keeping with the same accounting principles as those employed in the annual financial statement.

<b>(NOK 1000)</b>	<b>2. Quarter 2001</b>	<b>2. Quarter 2000</b>	<b>June 30 2001</b>	<b>June 30 2000</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Operating revenues</b>	<b>54 949</b>	<b>49 929</b>	<b>110 446</b>	<b>96 869</b>	<b>196 827</b>
<b>Operating costs</b>					
Salaries and related costs	16 225	14 499	33 670	30 021	61 300
Depreciation	10 419	12 167	22 846	24 859	49 543
Other operating costs	15 510	14 766	32 009	30 427	70 692
<b>Total operating costs</b>	<b>42 154</b>	<b>41 432</b>	<b>88 525</b>	<b>85 307</b>	<b>181 535</b>
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>12 796</b>	<b>8 497</b>	<b>21 922</b>	<b>11 563</b>	<b>15 292</b>
Net financial items	3 544	1 386	6 168	2 536	7 809
<b>Ordinary pre-tax profit</b>	<b>16 340</b>	<b>9 883</b>	<b>28 090</b>	<b>14 099</b>	<b>23 101</b>
Tax	2 637	787	3 290	1 198	2 447
<b>Profit for the period</b>	<b>13 703</b>	<b>9 096</b>	<b>24 800</b>	<b>12 901</b>	<b>20 654</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Intangible assets			14 170	-	-
Deferred tax assets			45 194	723	1 006
Tangible assets			38 447	77 324	57 370
Financial fixed assets			38 399	26 689	36 925
<b>Current assets</b>					
Receivables			39 542	29 673	20 111
Cash and liquid assets			172 727	121 481	121 973
<b>Assets</b>			<b>348 479</b>	<b>255 890</b>	<b>237 385</b>
<b>Equity</b>			<b>268 205</b>	<b>187 712</b>	<b>195 927</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Provisions for liabilities			9 805	6 168	9 313
Current liabilities			70 469	62 010	32 145
<b>Equity and liabilities</b>			<b>348 479</b>	<b>255 890</b>	<b>237 385</b>

Board of Directors  
Oslo Børs Holding ASA/Oslo Børs ASA

21 August 2001