

Orkla – Fourth quarter

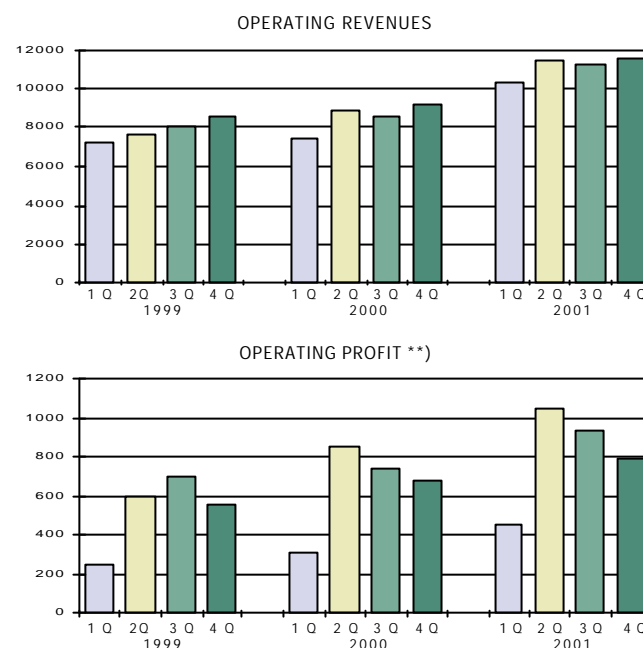
2001

Group Income Statement

Amounts in NOK million	1.1.-31.12.		1.10.-31.12.	
	2001	2000	2001	2000
Operating revenues	44,799	34,083	11,577	9,180
Cost of goods sold	(17,701)	(13,850)	(4,609)	(3,773)
Other operating expenses	(21,264)	(15,565)	(5,504)	(4,204)
Ord. depreciation and write-downs	(2,148)	(1,618)	(547)	(405)
Operating profit before goodwill and other revenues and expenses	3,686	3,050	917	798
Goodwill amortisation and write-downs	(454)	(479)	(122)	(118)
Other revenues and expenses	28	36	9	(4)
Operating profit	3,260	2,607	804	676
Profit from associates	1,510	242	1,275	3
Dividends	545	555	4	144
Portfolio gains	(760)	2,727	(932)	(353)
Financial items, net	(1,302)	(960)	(350)	(279)
Profit before tax	3,253	5,171	801	191
Taxes	(773)	(1,388)	(111)	(51)
Profit after tax	2,480	3,783	690	140
Of this minority interests	211	182	49	46
Profit before tax, Industry area	3,363	1,816	1,688	388
Profit before tax, Financial Investments	(110)	3,355	(887)	(197)
Earnings per share fully diluted (NOK)	10.7	17.0	3.0	0.5
Earnings per share fully diluted (NOK *)	13.3	19.5	4.0	1.2

*) Excluding goodwill amortisation and non-recurring items.

Operating revenues and Operating profit**) in NOK million fourth quarter



**) Excluding «Other revenues and expenses».

The Orkla Group

Main trends in fourth quarter

Group profit before tax totalled NOK 801 million in the fourth quarter of 2001, compared with NOK 191 million in the corresponding period of 2000. Earnings per share in the fourth quarter were NOK 3.0, compared with NOK 0.5 in the fourth quarter of 2000. The Industry division continued to achieve growth in the fourth quarter. Otherwise, profit was strongly affected by the sale of Orkla's interest in Hartwall in November, and by the Group's decision to write down the value of certain shareholdings and realise substantial book losses on the investment portfolio.

Operating profit before other revenues and expenses increased by 17 % to NOK 795 million in the fourth quarter. Profit growth was primarily driven by the expansion and growth of the Beverages business, although Orkla Foods and Orkla Brands also achieved satisfactory profit in comparison with a good fourth quarter in 2000. In the Chemicals area, the lignin business in particular continued to perform well, although poor results for Fine Chemicals had a negative impact on profit. Orkla Media's performance was affected by the continued weakness of the advertising markets for the Group's newspapers in Poland and Denmark. After remaining relatively stable in the first nine months of 2001, advertising revenues in Norway dropped sharply in the fourth quarter, particularly for newspapers. The decline in advertising revenues was partially offset

by significant workforce reductions and cost-cutting measures, particularly in Denmark and Poland.

The sale of Orkla's shares in Hartwall was a result of the Finnish competition authorities' conditions for the establishment of Carlsberg Breweries, and the NOK 1.35 billion gain was taken to income in the fourth quarter; NOK 1.28 billion was posted under associated companies and NOK 72 million as portfolio gains. Net book losses of NOK 932 million were debited against the investment portfolio in the fourth quarter. The largest items were related to the realisation of losses on Merkantildata and the write-down of Stepstone by NOK 285 million. The realised losses led to a low tax charge for Orkla in the fourth quarter. However, underlying growth on the investment portfolio was positive in the fourth quarter. After bottoming out in September 2001, the stock markets rose towards the end of the year and Orkla's Financial Investments division reported positive growth in both net asset value (NOK + 882 million) and unrealised gains before tax (NOK + 1.7 billion) in the fourth quarter.

Further provisions were made during the quarter in connection with Jotun's involvement in the USA, while other financial investments were written down to their lowest assessed market value. In total, these write-downs reduced fourth quarter profit by NOK 56 million.

Annual results for 2001

2001 was a year of significant expansion for Orkla. The establishment of Carlsberg Breweries and the acquisition of Det Berlingske Officin towards the end of 2000 contributed towards a 31 % rise in Group operating revenues, which totalled NOK 44.8 billion.

Group operating profit for the year, before other revenues and expenses, rose 26 % to NOK 3.2 billion, primarily driven by Orkla Beverages, where continued growth and higher profit for Baltic Beverages Holding (BBH) and the acquisition of Feldschlösschen were the primary contributors. Orkla Brands and Chemicals also achieved significant growth in 2001, while Orkla Foods' performance was on a par with the previous year despite the negative impact of the weaker Swedish krone. Orkla Media posted lower profit than in 2000.

Despite the upswing in the fourth quarter, the international stock markets showed a substantial decline for the year as a whole. Orkla's Financial Investments division also posted weak results in 2001. Net book losses for the year totalling NOK 760 million were debited against the investment portfolio, mainly because a decision was made to realise several low-value items. By comparison, substantial gains on the sale of shares in NetCom and Dyno were realised in 2000. In the course of 2001, the net asset value of the Financial Investments division was reduced by NOK 3,013 million to NOK 12,909 million. The return on Orkla's investment portfolio was -15.3 %, somewhat weaker than the Oslo Stock Exchange Benchmark Index (-14.6 %) and the FT World Index (-14.9 %).

For the year as a whole, write-downs of NOK 58 million on Internet-related investments had a negative impact on net financial items.

The substantial profit from associated companies, which amounted to NOK 1.5 billion, was primarily ascribable to the gain on the sale of Hartwall shares, while a provision of NOK 60 million was made for Orkla's interest in Jotun, mainly related to the company's involvement in the USA.

Other revenues and expenses totalled NOK 28 million. These figures include NOK 68 million in gains on divestments and provisions totalling NOK 40 million (demolition projects in the Chemicals business and the restructuring of Carlsberg Breweries).

Orkla consolidated Carlsberg Breweries in its accounts from 1 January 2001. Consequently, the expansion that took place in Carlsberg Breweries from the date the agreement was signed on 30 May 2000 until 31 December 2000 does not feature in Orkla's balance sheet until 2001. This is the main reason why the balance sheet total was NOK 6.0 billion higher than in 2000. Similarly, Carlsberg Breweries' investments towards the end of 2000 were not posted as acquisitions in Orkla's cash flow statement until 2001, and this is the main reasons why the Group posted a negative cash flow of NOK 1.6 billion. The sale of Hartwall shares in November generated NOK 2.4 billion, which contributed towards reducing interest-bearing liabilities to NOK 19.1 billion towards the end of the year.

The equity ratio rose 1.1 percentage points to 34.7 % in the fourth quarter. If unrealised gains on the investment portfolio are included, the equity ratio increased by 3.1 percentage points to 37.8 %.

Orkla's earnings per share were NOK 10.7, compared with NOK 17.0 the previous year. The difference is wholly ascribable to the

Financial Investments division, which realised extraordinarily high gains in 2000 but decided to realise a significant loss in 2001. Before goodwill amortisation and non-recurring items, earnings per share amounted to NOK 13.3 compared with NOK 19.5 in 2000. This figure is based on a tax charge of 23.8 %, which is lower than in 2000.

The Board of Directors proposes to pay a dividend of NOK 3.25 per share for 2001, compared with NOK 3.0 for 2000.

Orkla Foods

Operating profit for Orkla Foods totalled NOK 284 million in the fourth quarter, on a par with the corresponding period of 2000. With about 40 % of its sales in Sweden, Orkla Foods is strongly affected by fluctuations in the value of the Swedish currency. In the fourth quarter of 2001, the Swedish krone was still considerably weaker than in the previous year. Despite this, the Swedish companies achieved profit growth during the period. The Danish and Finnish companies also made a positive contribution to quarterly profit. Orkla Foods experienced a significant rise in the price of important raw materials at the beginning of 2001, but by the end of the year higher raw material prices had largely been offset by price increases.

Orkla Foods' operating revenues for 2001 as a whole totalled NOK 11,133 million, on a par with 2000. Adjusted for currency effects, however, operating revenues were approximately 2.5 % higher for continuing business. Operating profit before other revenues and expenses was NOK 791 million, compared with NOK 787 million the previous year. Adjusted for currency effects, profit for continuing business was up by approximately 5 %.

Stabburet achieved profit growth. Many of Stabburet's branded products grew more strongly than the market as a whole. Stabburet successfully launched several new products in 2001, particularly in the pizza category.

The value of the Swedish krone in 2001 was, on average, 9 % lower than the previous year. The weak Swedish krone also led to higher purchase prices for imported raw materials for the Swedish companies. At the same time, competition on the Swedish market increased. Despite this, Procordia Food achieved operating profit in SEK on a par with 2000. Fixed costs were reduced, while sales of important products continued to improve.

Abba Seafood reported profit growth for continuing business. Abba's newly-launched sandwich spreads achieved a satisfactory level of distribution in the Swedish grocery market and were well received by consumers. The integration of the Polish company Superfish is proceeding as anticipated.

Beauvais reported profit growth. A combination of operational efficiency and focus on systematic brand-building contributed to the Danish company's progress.

Felix Abba's operating profit was higher than in the previous year.

Orkla Foods International continued to post negative operating profit, although it made significant progress in comparison with 2000. Lower fixed costs at Kotlin were the main reason for the improved performance. Felix Austria also reported profit growth.

Operating profit for Orkla Food Ingredients was lower than in 2000. The company has carried out several structural changes in recent years, which have had a negative impact on operating profit in the short term.

Amounts in NOK million	Operating revenues				Operating profit ^{*)}			
	1.1.-31.12.		1.10.-31.12.		1.1.-31.12.		1.10.-31.12.	
	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000
Orkla Foods	11,133	11,039	3,054	3,029	791	787	284	284
Orkla Beverages	14,924	7,424	3,697	1,860	1,213	712	192	90
Orkla Brands	4,527	4,586	1,199	1,237	611	543	160	151
Orkla Media	7,453	3,585	1,936	1,000	155	205	66	91
Eliminations	(153)	(146)	(48)	(52)	0	0	0	0
Branded Consumer Goods	37,884	26,488	9,838	7,074	2,770	2,247	702	616
Chemicals	6,581	6,926	1,658	1,955	554	450	128	139
H.O./Unallocated/Eliminations	79	252	(23)	70	(121)	(200)	(41)	(74)
Other revenues and expenses	0	0	0	0	28	36	9	(4)
Industry	44,544	33,666	11,473	9,099	3,231	2,533	798	677
Financial Investments	255	417	104	81	29	74	6	(1)
Group	44,799	34,083	11,577	9,180	3,260	2,607	804	676

*) Other revenues and expenses totalled NOK 28 million in fourth quarter 2001: Gains from sale of Fredrikstad Blikk- og Metallvarefabrikk (NOK 48 million), as well as provisions for future demolition costs (NOK -27 million), both in Chemicals. Gain from sale of Kalnapillis, Orkla Beverages (NOK 20 million) and restructuring of Carlsberg Breweries' Head office (NOK -13 million). Per fourth quarter 2000: Gains from sale of Viking Fottøy (NOK 65 million) and discontinuation of biscuit production at Kolbotn (NOK -29 million).

Bakers continued to improve its operating profit in 2001. The company is market leader for fresh bakery products in Southern and Central Norway. After signing an agreement on sales and production cooperation in Northern Norway, Bakers has nationwide market coverage. Bakers is also a leading player in the bake-off market following the signing of contracts with Statoil and Narvesen.

Orkla Beverages (40 % of Carlsberg Breweries)

Orkla's 40 % interest in Carlsberg Breweries represented operating revenues of NOK 3,697 million in the fourth quarter of 2001, NOK 1,837 million higher than for Orkla Beverages the previous year. Operating profit before other revenues and expenses totalled NOK 192 million, compared with NOK 90 million in 2000. The improvement in revenues and profit was due to the establishment of Carlsberg Breweries, where the acquisition of Feldschlösschen, the largest brewery group in Switzerland, and continued strong growth in Central and Eastern Europe made a particularly strong contribution.

In 2001, operating revenues totalled NOK 14,924 million and profit before other revenues and expenses was NOK 1,213 million, up 101 % and 70 % respectively.

For Carlsberg Breweries, the volume of beer sold rose 15 % in 2001 to 67.9 million hectolitres (hl). The increase in sales volume was mainly ascribable to growth in Eastern Europe, while 36 % was due to acquisitions. Volume sales of carbonated soft drinks and water increased by 23 % to 20.3 million hl, mainly due to the acquisition of Feldschlösschen.

Operating revenues in Northern and Western Europe totalled NOK 11,348 million in 2001, 15 % higher than Carlsberg Breweries' pro-forma figures for 2000. Operating profit before goodwill amortisation was NOK 820 million, compared with a pro forma figure of NOK 787 million for 2000. The rise in operating revenues was ascribable to Feldschlösschen, for which only one month's operations were included in 2000.

Carlsberg Breweries improved its performance on the Nordic markets, with the exception of Sweden. The integration process in

Sweden entailed higher costs than anticipated, while the market trend was weak. The synergy potential of the integration process remains unchanged, but synergy gains will be realised later than planned. Carlsberg Breweries reported neutral or positive growth on its West European markets. The restructuring of Feldschlösschen is proceeding better than planned, with increased volume and lower costs.

In Central and Eastern Europe, operating revenues rose 51 % to NOK 2,616 million in 2001. Operating profit before goodwill amortisation amounted to NOK 511 million compared with NOK 309 million in 2000. This strong performance was due to continued strong growth for BBH and sound profit growth for Vena. Vena will become part of BBH from 1 January 2002.

BBH's market share in Russia in 2001 was 29.8 %, 3.1 percentage points higher than in 2000. After the acquisition of Vena and the Voronezh brewery in Southern Russia, BBH's market share in Russia will be approximately 32 %. BBH has also started construction on a new brewery in Samara in the Volga region. The brewery will be completed in 2003 and have an annual capacity of 1 million hl. Market growth in 2001 was 18 % in Russia, 16 % in Ukraine and 5 % in the Baltic States. BBH's volume growth on these markets was 33 %, 29 % and 8 % respectively.

Carlsberg Breweries now has all the necessary approvals from the relevant competition authorities to establish Carlsberg Asia with Chang Beverages, which has been Carlsberg's partner for many years. The Asian market region was consolidated according to Carlsberg Breweries' original Asian structure in 2001, while from 2002 Carlsberg Breweries will book a 50 % interest in Carlsberg Asia for this market region.

Operating revenues in Asia amounted to NOK 816 million in 2001, 1 % higher than in 2000. Operating profit before goodwill amortisation totalled NOK 180 million, compared with NOK 155 million in 2000. The improvement was primarily due to the sale of an unprofitable brewery in China, and also to progress in Malaysia.

In January 2002, Carlsberg Asia increased its stake in Hite, the biggest brewery group in South Korea, to approximately 25 % and

also acquired a 25 % interest in the only brewery in Laos.

Many of Carlsberg Breweries' companies are implementing improvement projects which are expected to have an impact on profit in 2002. Following up these projects, establishing Carlsberg Asia and ensuring continued profitable growth in its core areas, will be Carlsberg Breweries' greatest challenges in the months and years ahead.

Orkla Brands

In the fourth quarter, Orkla Brands' operating revenues were on a par with the corresponding period of 2000, adjusted for continuing business and currency effects. After several years of growth, export revenues from Lilleborg were slightly lower in the fourth quarter of 2001, and they are likely to remain lower in 2002. In the fourth quarter alone, operating profit was NOK 160 million, NOK 9 million (6 %) higher than the corresponding figure for 2000. Growth in the fourth quarter was primarily ascribable to the improved performance of the biscuits business in Norway.

Orkla Brands posted operating revenues of NOK 4,527 million in 2001, which for continuing business adjusted for currency effects was 5 % (NOK 202 million) higher than the previous year.

Operating profit for the year before other revenues and expenses totalled NOK 611 million, equivalent to 12 % growth for continuing business adjusted for currency effects in comparison with the previous year. All businesses except Lilleborg Industrial Detergents and the biscuits business in Sweden achieved profit growth in 2001.

In 2001, all business areas strengthened or maintained their market positions. Growth in 2001 was particularly driven by a high rate of innovation at Lilleborg Home and Personal Care. In addition to many successful launches in 2001, the products launched in 2000 made a positive contribution to sales and profit growth. For the Confectionery business, too, new launches led to sales and profit growth. In the first year after closing down production in Norway, the Norwegian Biscuits business reported a significant rise in profit and sales. Biscuits in Sweden did not do as well as in 2000, partly due to ongoing structural changes in the Swedish grocery market. All biscuit production has now been amalgamated in Sweden, and an improvement project was initiated towards the end of 2001 to ensure efficiency in all parts of the value chain. This project is expected to have a positive impact on profit from 2003 onwards.

Orkla Media

Operating revenues for Orkla Media in the fourth quarter totalled NOK 1,936 million, while operating profit before other revenues and expenses amounted to NOK 66 million. The continued weakness of the advertising markets in Poland and Denmark had a significant impact on profit, and the Norwegian newspaper business also registered a marked decline in advertising revenues in the fourth quarter. Substantial cutbacks in the workforce in Denmark and Poland and other cost improvement measures helped to offset the impact of declining advertising revenues. However, Magazines continued to report satisfactory advertising markets and profit growth.

For 2001 as a whole, Orkla Media's operating revenues totalled NOK 7,453 million. Operating profit before other revenues and expenses was NOK 155 million, which for continuing business adjusted for currency effects is equivalent to a decline of 41 %. The

operating margin for continuing business before goodwill amortisation dropped 1.3 percentage points to 3.9 %. The poor profit performance was primarily due to the weakness of the newspaper advertising markets.

The Danish business reported lower profit than anticipated in the last half of 2001, mainly due to the sharp decline in the Danish advertising market, which was strongest in the fourth quarter. Comprehensive staffing cutbacks have been implemented and further rationalisation measures will be initiated to offset the negative trend. The launch in Copenhagen of the free newspaper, Urban, in 2001 affected profit. Further investments will be made in Urban in 2002. Circulation figures for the Group's Danish newspapers declined somewhat, on a par with the total market.

The Newspaper business in Norway and Sweden reported lower profit than in 2000, mainly due to higher paper prices, higher distribution costs and a decline in the advertising market in the second half of 2001. Circulation remained stable.

In the course of the year, Orkla Media gained market shares in terms of circulation and strengthened its position as market leader on the Polish newspaper market. However, profit for the East European newspapers was lower for continuing business than in 2000. The Polish advertising market was also weak, and weakened even further in the latter half of 2001. The decline in profit was also ascribable to higher paper prices and the introduction of VAT on newspapers. Several rationalisation measures have been initiated, which are partially offsetting the negative trend.

The Magazine business reported profit growth for continuing business, mainly due to productivity improvements and positive growth on the advertising market. Circulation figures for the newly-launched magazine Her og Nå have been stabilised.

Direct Marketing achieved higher profit than in 2000, mainly due to a rise in revenues and cost savings in the Swedish business.

Chemicals

Operating revenues totalled NOK 1,658 million in the fourth quarter, compared with NOK 1,955 million in 2000, while operating profit before other revenues and expenses amounted to NOK 128 million, compared with NOK 139 million in the corresponding period of 2000. The lignin business (Borregaard LignoTech) continued to achieve significant sales and profit growth, but this was offset by Fine Chemicals (Borregaard Synthesis), which reported lower sales and significantly lower profit than in the corresponding period of the previous year. In the other areas, performance was on a par with the fourth quarter of 2000.

Operating revenues for the Chemicals business totalled NOK 6,581 million in 2001. For continuing business adjusted for currency effects, revenues were 3 % higher than in the previous year. Borregaard LignoTech achieved the strongest growth, up more than 20 %.

Operating profit before other revenues and expenses amounted to NOK 554 million, compared with NOK 450 million in 2000. This was mainly due to substantially higher profit from Borregaard LignoTech, although Borregaard ChemCell also achieved profit growth.

For Borregaard LignoTech, 2001 was a year of considerable activity and satisfactory profit from most markets and applications.

Group Balance Sheet

Amounts in NOK million	31.12. 2001	31.12. 2000
Assets:		
Long-term assets	28,434	24,696
Portfolio investments etc.	11,599	12,758
Short-term assets	14,612	11,193
Total assets	54,645	48,647
Equity and Liabilities:		
Equity and minority interests	18,957	17,301
Interest-bearing liabilities	22,712	19,746
Interest-free liabilities and provisions	12,976	11,600
Total equity and liabilities	54,645	48,647
Equity to total assets ratio (%):		
Book	34.7	35.6
Including unrealised gains before tax	37.8	42.0

Cash flow

Amounts in NOK million	1.1.-31.12. 2001 2000		1.10.-31.12. 2001 2000	
Industry area:				
Operating profit	3,231	2,533	798	677
Depreciation and write-downs	2,606	2,077	687	519
Change in net working capital	12	(353)	556	558
Cash flow from operating activities	5,849	4,257	2,041	1,754
Net replacement expenditure	(1,960)	(1,443)	(932)	(529)
Free cash flow operating activities	3,889	2,814	1,109	1,225
Financial items, net	(1,301)	(990)	(410)	(296)
Free cash flow from Industry area	2,588	1,824	699	929
Free cash flow from Financial Investments	955	(77)	141	208
Taxes and dividends paid	(1,951)	(1,173)	(586)	(204)
Sold companies	2,455	121	2,232	(10)
Miscellaneous capital transactions	(96)	(31)	41	30
Group's self-financing capacity	3,951	664	2,527	953
Expansion investments (Industry area)	(726)	(1,233)	(282)	(495)
Acquisitions	(4,769)	(2,280)	(317)	(1,988)
Net purchases/sales portfolio investments	41	657	140	(550)
Share buy back	(64)	(35)	3	31
Net cash flow	(1,567)	(2,227)	2,071	(2,049)
Currency translations				
net interest-bearing debt	416	(45)	203	0
Change in net interest-bearing debt	1,151	2,272	(2,274)	2,049
Net interest-bearing debt	19,132	17,981		

This particularly applied to sales to the construction industry and the oil drilling sector, where the closure of the factory of Borregaard's competitor, Georgia Pacific, on the west coast of the USA led to a certain scarcity of supplies throughout 2001. A decision has been made to triple capacity at the factory in South Africa and this process will be completed in the course of 2003.

A high degree of specialisation has softened the effects of a generally weak cellulose market and helped to ensure continued progress for Borregaard ChemCell. Improved markets for caustic soda and ethanol and positive currency effects were partially offset by higher energy costs and lower production.

Borregaard Synthesis performed poorly in the last half of 2001, posting lower sales and significantly lower profit than in the corresponding period of 2000.

Denofa achieved higher profit in 2001 than in the previous year, although results in the fourth quarter were on a par with 2000. An improved market situation for soya meal in Norway and on the continent was offset by lower contributions from sales of oil and fat products to export markets and lower sales of fish oil for fish feed production.

Higher electricity prices and financial trading led to significantly higher profit for Borregaard Energy. Swedish Kemetyl reported a rise in profit due to higher volumes, while Borregaard Vafos was affected by a weaker wood pulp market in the second half of the year. A satisfactory market situation for book-quality paper led to profit growth for Borregaard Hellefos.

Financial Investments

Having dropped 24.9 % by the end of the third quarter of 2001, the Oslo Stock Exchange Benchmark Index rose 13.7 % in the fourth quarter. Orkla's investment portfolio also showed positive underlying growth, and the net asset value increased by NOK 882 million in the fourth quarter alone. However, as a result of write-downs and the realisation of substantial accounting losses, the Financial Investments division posted a book loss of NOK - 887 million in the fourth quarter. The strongest impact on profit came from realised losses on Merkantildata and the write-down of Stepstone. These results must be viewed in conjunction with the fact that unrealised gains increased by NOK 1.7 billion in the same period.

The Oslo Stock Exchange Benchmark Index was 14.6 % lower at the end of the fourth quarter than at the beginning of the year. The other Nordic markets also showed poor performance in 2001. The strongest decline was on the Finnish stock exchange, which dropped 32.4 %. The FT World Index fell 14.9 %. Orkla's investment portfolio had a negative return of 15.3 % in 2001. The negative difference in comparison with the Oslo Stock Exchange Benchmark Index was mainly due to the poor performance of Nokia, Stepstone and Merkantildata. Orkla's interests in Enitel and AP Holdings were written down by a total of NOK 363 million in the third quarter, while Stepstone was written down by NOK 285 million in the fourth quarter.

The pre-tax loss for the Financial Investments division amounted to NOK -110 million in 2001, compared with a profit of NOK 3,355 million in 2000. Realised losses amounted to NOK -760 million, compared with realised gains of NOK 2,727 million the previ-

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Shareholderservice
P.O. Box 423 Skøyen,
NO-0213 Oslo, Norway

In the event of a change of address, shareholders are requested to contact their account manager (bank etc.).

Information on Orkla is available at: www.orkla.com

ous year. Dividends received totalled NOK 544 million in 2001, on a par with dividends received the previous year. The Orkla Finans Group reported profit of NOK 82 million, compared with NOK 178 million in 2000.

Net divestments of shares totalled approximately NOK 163 million in the fourth quarter, while the total for the year was NOK 234 million.

At the end of the fourth quarter, the market value of the portfolio and net asset value amounted to NOK 14,140 million and NOK 12,909 million respectively. Foreign investments accounted for 32.4 %. Unrealised gains totalled NOK 2,746 million.

Cash flow, investments and financial situation

In the fourth quarter, the Group's self-financing capacity amounted to NOK 2.5 billion. The sale of shares in Hartwall generated NOK 2.4 billion, which is the main reason for the NOK 2.3 billion reduction in net interest-bearing liabilities. In addition to this, capital gains tax on the sale of NetCom and Dyno shares was paid in 2000.

The year 2001 was a period of significant expansion for the Orkla Group and net cash flow for the year amounted to NOK -1,567 million. The expansion that took place in Carlsberg Breweries in the latter half of 2000 was not posted as expansion investments in the Orkla Group accounts until 2001. This accounts for a significant proportion of expansion investments and acquisitions, which totalled NOK 5.5 billion. Free cash flow from operations amounted to NOK 2,588 million in 2001.

The average borrowing rate per 31 December 2001 was 5.8 %. At the end of the fourth quarter, 84 % of interest-bearing debt was at floating rates, mainly distributed between NOK, SEK, EUR and USD.

From the first quarter of 2001, the book equity ratio rose 2.4 percentage points to 34.7 % as of 31 December 2001. If unrealised gains on the share portfolio (before tax) are included, the equity ratio at year-end was 37.8 %.

General Meeting

An Ordinary General Meeting will be held on 2 May 2002 at 3 p.m. in Sarpsborg. The annual report will be distributed in Week 14.

Outlook

No significant improvement in the global economy is anticipated before the second half of 2002. The impact of the weak economic situation is generally moderate for the Branded Consumer Goods business and the Board anticipates continued growth for Orkla's operations. However, the markets for Orkla Media's newspapers are expected to continue to be difficult in 2002. The Chemicals business is traditionally exposed to global economic cycles, but this is partially offset by a favourable competitive situation for lignin, a favourable currency situation and the positive results of the specialisation strategy for the cellulose market.

After most stock exchanges had fallen sharply in the third quarter of 2001, the markets bottomed out in September, with a subsequent upswing in the fourth quarter. Although there is still considerable uncertainty on the stock markets, on the whole, a positive trend is anticipated in 2002.

Oslo, 13 February 2002
The Board of Directors of Orkla ASA

