

Höganäs AB (publ)

Year End Report 2002

Highlights

• Net sales	3 249 MSEK	0%
• Income before tax	457 MSEK	+55%
• Operating margin	15.5%	(10.3)
• Equity/assets ratio	44%	(40)
• Proposed dividend SEK	5.00/ share	(4.50)
• Earning per share, SEK	9.20	(6.00)

Market situation

Höganäs' turnover* in 2002 increased by MSEK 4 to MSEK 3 249 (3 245). The relative value of the Swedish krona was 5% higher than in the previous year. Sales on the North American market expanded strongly, largely as a result of increased market shares. Volumes were also substantially higher in Asia (excluding Japan), but were slightly down in Europe.

The volume of sales during the year, excluding semis, was 9% greater than in 2001. Volume diminished by 1% in Europe, and by 3% in Japan. In the rest of Asia volumes increased by more than 20%. Other Markets recorded a volume increase of almost 30%. The volume of press powders sold rose by 14%. It was unchanged in Europe, but up by 8% on the Japanese market. Volumes on other Asian markets increased by 30%. This included increases of 40% for Taiwan, 13% for South Korea and 26% for China. Other Markets were up by almost 40%.

Volumes of other iron powders fell by 4%. The decrease affected all markets except Other Markets, which recorded a 10% rise. Sales of Coldstream powders rose by 11%. Further information is given in the table at the top of the page opposite.

Turnover* in the **fourth quarter** was MSEK 754, 3% less than in the previous year. Höganäs' rate-of-exchange index fell by 8% (due to a stronger krona), but sales volumes increased by 15% during that quarter. Volumes were higher on all geographical markets. Press powders were up by a total of 17%, other iron powders down by 4%, and Coldstream powders up by 15%.

The cost picture deteriorated substantially for both the Coldstream Division and the Brazilian operation during the fourth quarter. The principal causes in Coldstream's case were high production costs and changes in material costs. In Brazil, the main cause was a 35% devaluation of the Brazilian real, which was not compensated for by price increases until December. These circumstances have reduced earnings in the fourth quarter by about MSEK 30.

Financial position

Operating income amounted to MSEK 505 (334). This includes an allocation of MSEK 25 to the Höganäs Pension Foundation under the heading of items affecting comparabilities. The operating income excluding items affecting comparabilites became MSEK 530 (451).

Other operating income and expenses show the Group's total exchange result, which became MSEK 35 (-91). This includes the outcome from forward contracts amounting to MSEK +46 (-108). Not considering forward contracts the stronger krona during 2002 has negatively affected the operating income by approx. MSEK 70 compared to 2001.

The operating margin for the year was 15.5% (10.3). If items affecting comparabilities are excluded, the margin was 16.3% (13.9).

The net result of the Group's financial income and expenses was MSEK -48 (-39). Cash flow for the year before investments was MSEK 841 (257).

Income before taxes amounted to MSEK 457 (295), an increase of MSEK 162.

The equity-assets ratio amounted to 44% (40).

Investments

Investments in fixed assets by the Group amounted to MSEK 328 (914). MSEK 154 were invested in Sweden, MSEK 68 in Brazil, MSEK 49 in Belgium and MSEK 42 in the United States.

Buyback of own shares

The Annual General Meeting in 2002 authorized the Board to repurchased 6.4% of the total number of shares in the company. During the year Höganäs bought back 285 300 shares at an average price of SEK 164, or altogether MSEK 47. The company already held 596 600 of its own shares, which means that the total holding at the end of the year amounted to 881 900 B-series shares or about 2.5% of the total number of shares.

The Board has decided to ask the Annual General Meeting in May 2003 to prolong the previously granted authorization on the same terms until the 2004 Annual General Meeting.

Finance

The Group's net debt decreased by MSEK 304 during the year. The debt-equity ratio amounted to 74% (95). Cash flow for the year after investments was MSEK 542 (-735).

Parent Company

Invoicing by the Parent Company in 2002 amounted to MSEK 2 101 (2 126), including MSEK 946 invoiced to Group companies. Income after financial income and expenses was MSEK 572 (374). Cash & Bank at 31 December 2002 totalled MSEK 36 (17), not counting unutilized overdraft facilities. Investments totalled MSEK 149 (183).

Dividend

The Board of Directors recommends that the Annual General Meeting approve a dividend payment of SEK 5.00 per share (4.50).

Outlook

The state of the market for the first half of 2003 is expected to be rather weak whereas the second half contains a possibility for a more positive development. Production volumes in the automotive industry are expected to diminish somewhat. Satisfactory organic growth is expected to continue in the press powder sector. Market shares in North America will increase. Taken together, these factors are expected to result in a growth in volume. Income before taxes in 2003 is predicted to be better than in 2002.

Höganäs, 31 January 2003
The Board of Directors

* As of 2002, bonuses to customers have been reclassified from being a cost and are booked instead as a deduction from turnover. This has reduced turnover by about 2% compared to 2001.

Volume development (tons) per application area and market

Markets	Press Powder			Other Iron Powder ³⁾			Coldstream Powder		
	Q1-4	Q4 ¹⁾	12months ²⁾	Q1-4	Q4 ¹⁾	12months ²⁾	Q1-4	Q4 ¹⁾	12months ²⁾
Europe	98000	+ 10%	0%	25300	- 3%	- 3%	5250	+ 15%	+ 9%
Japan	32100	+ 17%	+ 8%	7700	- 47%	- 32%	450	+ 30%	+ 15%
Asia (excl. Japan)	55000	+ 36%	+ 30%	14400	+ 3%	- 1%	1560	+ 25%	+ 21%
Others	50000	+ 35%	+ 38%	21700	+21%	+ 9%	1190	0%	+ 5%
Totally	235100	21%	+ 14%	69100	- 4%	- 4%	8450	+ 15%	+ 11%

¹⁾ %- change compared with corresponding quarter previous year

²⁾ %- change rolling 12-months

³⁾ excl. semi finished powders

Consolidated income statements, MSEK

	2002	2001
Net sales	3,249	3,245
Cost of sales	-2,292	- 2,246
Gross profit	957	999
Selling expenses	-185	- 203
Administrative expenses	-144	- 139
R&D expenses	- 133	- 115
Items affecting comparabilities	- 25	- 117
Other income	50	2
Other expenses	- 15	- 93
Operating income	505	334
Financial income	33	19
Financial expenses	- 81	- 58
Income before tax	457	295
Taxes	- 140	- 85
Minority share	-	- 1
Net income	317	209
Operating margin,%	15.5	10.3
Earnings per share, SEK (after actual tax)	9.20	6.00

Consolidated balance sheets, MSEK

	31 Dec 2002	31 Dec 2001
Intangible assets	170	207
Tangible assets	2,660	2,794
Financial assets	83	92
Inventory	631	697
Short-term receivables	584	540
Cash and bank	77	78
Total assets	4,205	4,408
Shareholders' equity	1,827	1,744
Minority interests	2	6
Interest-bearing liabilities	1,434	1,739
Non interest-bearing liabilities	942	919
Total shareholders' equity and liabilities	4,205	4,408
Equity/assets ratio	44%	40%

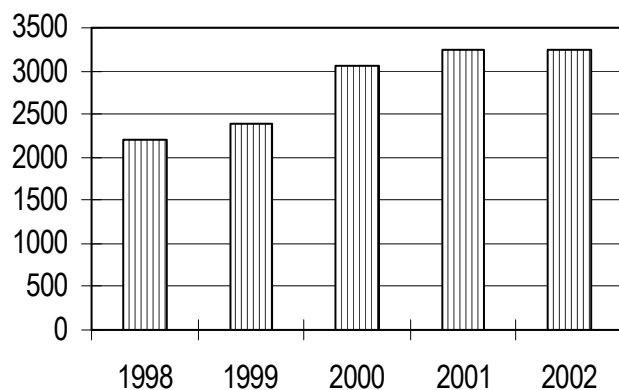
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Höganäs intends to publish the following financial information during 2003:

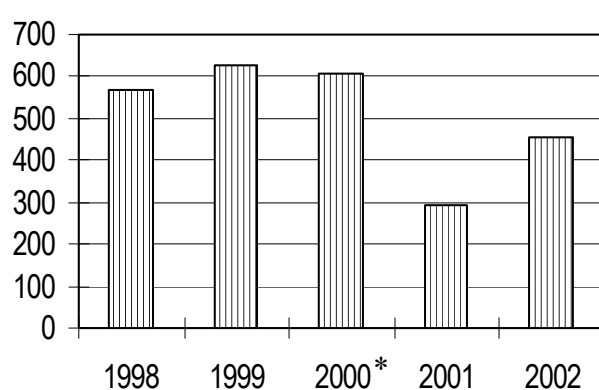
- ♦ Annual report in mid-March
- ♦ Interim report for first quarter on 14 April
- ♦ Interim report for first six months on 11 July
- ♦ Interim report for first nine months on 13 October

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 8 May.

Net sales, MSEK



Income before taxes, MSEK



* Excl. sale of HC-shares

Consolidated Quarterly data MSEK	Oct - Dec		July - Sept		April - June		Jan - March	
	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001
Net sales	754	779	791	805	872	851	832	810
Operating expenses	- 592	- 648	- 602	- 643	- 656	- 668	- 635	- 630
Items affecting comparabilities	2	- 117	- 27	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	- 53	- 49	- 58	- 53	- 61	- 53	- 62	- 50
Operating income	111	- 35	104	109	155	130	135	130
Income before tax	102	- 37	90	97	142	117	123	118
Net income	70	- 26	63	70	97	83	87	82
Operating margin, %	14.7	- 4.5	13.1	13.5	17.8	15.3	16.2	16.0
Operating margin, % excl. items affecting comparabilities	14.5	10.5	16.6	13.5	17.8	15.3	16.2	16.0
Key indicators								
Earnings per share, SEK	2.00	- 0.80	1.90	2.00	2.80	2.40	2.50	2.40
Equity, SEK/share	53.40	50.50	52.60	51.50	50.60	49.60	52.80	51.50
Number of shares, 1000's	34,217	34,502	34,502	34,527	34,502	34,527	34,502	34,527
Number of shares, average 1000's	34,360	34,515	34,502	34,527	34,502	34,527	34,502	34,862

Consolidated Cash Flow analysis, MSEK		2002	2001
Cash flow before change in working capital		822	406
Change in working capital		19	- 149
Acquisitions		- 6	- 70
Disposals		-	-
Net investments		- 328	- 914
Change in long-term receivables, provisions and liabilities		35	- 8
Cash flow after investments		542	- 735
Buy back of own shares		- 47	- 120
Dividend		- 155	- 155
Change in financing		- 305	994
Translation difference and others		- 36	16
Change in liquid funds		- 1	0

Changes in shareholders' equity, MSEK		2002	2001
Balance brought forward		1,744	1,798
Net income		317	209
Buy back of own shares		- 47	- 120
Dividend		- 155	- 155
Translation difference		- 32	12
Balance carried forward		1,827	1,744
Return on shareholders' equity		17.8%	11.8%
Dept/equity ratio		0.74	0.95