

Interim Report 2rd quarter 2003 Nordea Bank Norge Group

## Summary

World economic development remained weak in the first half of the year even if quick ending of the Iraqi war removed the threat of a recession. Growth was sluggish throughout the industrialised world with the Nordic countries forming no exception.

Weakening of the dollar in the aftermath of the Iraqi war, and the consequent strengthening of the euro, with its potentially adverse impact on European exports, added another worry on the European economic agenda. On the other hand appreciation of the euro helped to curb inflation, allowing the European Central Bank to lower its steering rates.

Following the development of the euro, the Danish krone appreciated and interest rates declined in Denmark. Interest rates declined also in Sweden, but appreciation of the Swedish krona stopped short of the euro and the Danish krone. In Norway concern about inflation gave way to worries on employment and the monetary policy was eased somewhat, resulting in lower interest rates and a weaker krone.

On equity markets the situation improved towards the end of the period. Share prices recovered from their lows in March. Trading in shares also picked up, although volumes remained lower than in the corresponding period the year before.

Within the Group initiated measures aiming at improved efficiency and lower costs were continued and new ones were launched in the second quarter. Their full impact will be felt gradually in the quarters to come. Nordea Bank Norge's profit for the first six months of the year amounted to NOK 85m (865), corresponding to a return of equity of 1.0% (9.9). Increased loan losses are the main cause of the weak result. Net interest income increased in 2003, while it has been a decrease in other income. Total expenses have increased by 4% compared to the corresponding period in 2002, mainly as a consequence of restructuring costs. Operating profit before losses amounted to NOK 1,379m (1,408).

Nordea Bank Norge's profit for the second quarter amounted to NOK 10m (380), corresponding to a return of equity of 0.2% (8.6). Total income and total expenses have increased by approximately 5% compared to the corresponding quarter in 2002, while loan losses have increased by NOK 550m to NOK 629.

#### Net interest income

Net interest income increased by 9.2%, to NOK 1,305m compared to the second quarter 2002. Net interest income in percent of average total assets was 2.06% (2.04) in the second quarter on an annualised basis. The difference between the average deposit rate of interest and lending rate of interest amounted to 2.57 percentage points (2.49). This is 0.12 percentage point higher compared to the first quarter and somewhat higher than the 2002 average that was 2.53 percentage points.

Lending to customers was on average 3.8% higher than in the second quarter the previous year. Average deposits from customers were 14.2% higher than in the corresponding quarter the previous year, however 2.3% lower than in the first quarter 2003.

Throughout this report, "Nordea Bank Norge" and "the Group" refer to the parent company Nordea Bank Norge ASA, corp. reg. no 911 044 110, with its subsidiaries. The registered office of the company is in Oslo. Nordea Bank Norge is a wholly owned subsidiary of Nordea Bank Finland Abp, itself a wholly owned subsidiary of Nordea AB (publ), the listed parent company of the whole Nordea Group. The business operations of the Nordea Group have been organised in three business areas, all of which operate across national boundaries: Retail Banking, Corporate and Institutional Banking (CIB) and Asset Management & Life. The consolidated interim report of Nordea AB (publ) embraces all the activities of the Nordea Group and provides the most complete and fair view. This statutory interim report covers the operations of the legal entity Nordea Bank Norge with its subsidiaries, comprising Nordea's retail and corporate banking operations in Norway. For occurred and planned changes in the legal structure see separate section on page 3.

# Dividends and profit from associated companies

Dividends and profit form associated companies were NOK 25m (42). The most significant contribution was the share of profit from Eksportfinans ASA.

## Commissions

Net commission income decreased by NOK 21m to NOK 229m. The decrease is not related to specific areas. Net commission income for the first six months amounted to NOK 475m, which is on the same level as the corresponding period in 2002.

# Net income on securities transactions and foreign exchange dealing

Net change in value and profit (loss) on securities was NOK 68m (-52), divided between NOK 0m (-69) on equities and NOK 68m (17) on certificates and bonds. Net change in value and profit (loss) on foreign exchange and financial derivatives was NOK 71m (166).

## Other income

Other non interest income amounted to NOK 34m (43).

## Expenses

Total non-interest expenses were NOK 1,092m (1,038). Personnel expenses increased by NOK 184m whereof NOK 110m is related to restructuring. The number of full time equivalent positions was 3,919 (4,001) at the end of the quarter. There has been a decrease in depreciation, IT- and rental expenses. Relative to the average total assets, the costs represented 1.72% (1.77) on an annualised basis. The cost/income ratio, exclusive of net changes in value and profit (loss) on securities, amounted to 62.7% (60.3) in the first half year.

# Loan losses

In the second quarter the net provisions for losses on loans and guarantees were NOK 629m (79). This is equivalent to 1.2% of total lending, annualised. Weaker krone eased the situation in the fish farming industry somewhat, but not enough to offset the impact of declining prices. Thus the Group remained exposed to the industry's problems. The bulk of the loan losses are related to fish farming.

Gross non-performing and doubtful loans increased from NOK 8.1bn to NOK 8.4bn the last quarter. Net non-performing and doubtful loans, which represent the booked value of these loans, were NOK 6.0bn, which is an increase of NOK 0.1bn during the quarter.

## Taxes

Profit before taxes in the second quarter amounted to NOK 10m (526) while the tax expense was NOK 0m (146). Profit before taxes for the first six months was NOK 112m (1,335) while the tax expense was NOK 27m, corresponding to a tax rate of 24%.

## Balance sheet

Total assets of Nordea Bank Norge amounted to NOK 256bn (228). Loans to the public increased by NOK 10bn, equivalent to 5%, while other assets increased by NOK 14bn whereof NOK 10bn was related to unsettled certificates and bonds due to large trading volumes following the decrease of interest rates in the end of June. Deposits from customers were on the same level as at the end of June 2002.

## **Capital adequacy**

The risk-weighted asset base of the Group was NOK 198.5bn as at June 2003 (200.9), which is a decrease of NOK 2.4bn in the last quarter.

Under current legislation, the capital ratio is required to be at least 8% at all times. The Group's total capital amounted to NOK 19,778m, which represents a capital ratio of 10.0%. Tier 1 capital ratio amounted to 8.2%. In the Parent Bank the capital ratio was 10.4% and the Tier 1 capital ratio 8.6%. Profit for the period has not been taken into account in the calculations.

# **Group structure**

As announced in June, Nordea's legal group structure will be streamlined and simplified by establishing a single legal entity, a so-called European company that will be able to conduct business through branches in all four countries; Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

The parent company of the Nordea group, Nordea AB (publ) will become an operational banking company and will be converted into a European company continuing to be legally domiciled in Sweden.

The establishment of the single legal entity involves an internal sale of Nordea Bank Denmark, Nordea Bank Norge and Nordea Bank Sweden from Nordea Bank Finland to Nordea AB (publ), followed by the merger of Nordea AB and Nordea Bank Sweden. When it will be legally possible to create the European company, the other banks in the Group will also be merged into this company. The sale of Nordea Bank Denmark and Nordea Bank Sweden from Nordea Bank Finland to Nordea AB (publ) was completed on 24 and 19 August 2003, respectively. The sale of Nordea Bank Norge is pending permission by the relevant authorities.

It is expected that the transformation process will be completed in 2005, pending among other things approval from relevant authorities. Transforming Nordea AB (publ) into a banking company requires a decision by an Extraordinary General Meeting, which is planned to take place in late October 2003.

During May and June 2003 the Trading Infrastructure Programme implemented the new set-up for FX/MM and OTC-derivatives trading and settlement in Markets and TTO in Nordea Bank Norge. This means that all trading in these product lines is now done with Nordea Bank Finland as the legal counterpart of the customers.

The customers still interact with their usual contacts in Norway; settlement takes place to the existing accounts of the customers in Nordea Bank Norway and the staff involved in Norway acts in this respect on behalf of Nordea Bank Finland.

As a consequence of the new legal set-up, the risk elements and the capital requirements regarding trading in these products have been transferred from Nordea Bank Norway to Nordea Bank Finland. The centralisation to Nordea Bank Finland of the risk elements enable netting, which will reduce the total risk for the Group and thereby the total capital requirements for trading.

A Permanent Establishment (PE) of Nordea Bank Finland has been established in Norway, to which the profit from the Norwegian trading is transferred for taxation by the Norwegian authorities.

## Outlook

There is still an expectation of growth in the global as well as the Nordic economies going forward, and the scope for revenue growth is slightly improved. This is based on reduced uncertainty with respect to an economic turnaround.

The sharp attention on cost control will be maintained and expenses for the full year are expected to be well within the previously stated cost target for 2003.

The target for average loan losses over a business cycle, maximum 0.40% of loans and guarantees, remains unchanged. Weakening of the krone has improved the competitive position of Norwegian export industries, but has not compensated for the fall in the price of salmon. Uncertainty is still attached to the fish-farming portfolio, and credit losses are expected to remain relatively high in 2003.

# Statement of income

		The Group				The	Parent B	ank			
						Full					Ful
		2rd o	quarter	6 mo	nths	year	2rd o	quarter	6 mo	nths	year
NOK million	Note	2003	2002	2003	2002	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2002
Interest income		3,693	3,964	7,654	7,829	16,434	3,306	3,575	6,820	7,019	14,684
Interest expenses		2,388	2,769	5,102	5,439	11,651	2,168	2,514	4,616	4,913	10,517
Net interest income		1,305	1,195	2,552	2,390	4,783	1,138	1,061	2,204	2,106	4,167
Dividends and profit from group companies and associated companies		25	42	38	61	94	127	63	240	121	242
Commissions and fees		317	342	652	659	1,338	316	341	651	658	1,337
Commission expenses		- 88	- 92	- 177	- 180	- 342	- 87	- 92	- 176	- 180	- 342
Net change in value and profit (loss) on securities		68	- 52	118	61	- 6	68	18	118	63	117
Net change in value and profit (loss) on foreign exchange and financial derivatives		71	166	252	377	891	71	166	252	377	892
Other non-interest income		34	43	68	82	189	24	28	43	52	120
Total non-interest income		427	449	951	1,060	2,164	519	524	1,128	1,091	2,366
Personnel expenses		708	524	1,287	1,072	2,241	679	496	1,225	1,014	2,120
Administrative expenses		244	318	530	614	1,147	237	308	513	595	1,109
Ordinary depreciation and write-downs		68	75	135	149	295	65	72	129	143	282
Other non-interest expenses		72	121	172	207	489	70	120	165	205	482
Total non-interest expenses		1,092	1,038	2,124	2,042	4,172	1,051	996	2,032	1,957	3,993
Operating profit before loan losses and		(40	(0)(	1 250	1 400	2.775	(0)(	700	1 200	1.040	2.540
profit on long-term securities		640	606	1,379	1,408	2,775	606	589	1,300	1,240	2,540
Provision for losses on loans and guarantees	2, 3	629	79	1,266	72	1,242	623	77	1,258	66	1,225
Profit (losses/write-downs) on long-term securities		- 1	- 1	- 1	- 1	165	- 1	- 1	- 1	- 1	190
Operating profit		10	526	112	1,335	1,698	- 18	511	41	1,173	1,505
Income taxes	4	-	146	27	470	670	- 28	131	- 44	308	477
Net profit		10	380	85	865	1,028	10	380	85	865	1,028
Earnings per share, fully diluted (NOK)											

# Interim results

NOK million	4th quarter 2001	1st quarter 2002	2nd quarter 2002	3rd quarter 2002	4nd quarter 2002	1st quarter 2003	2rd quarter 2003
Interest income	4,134	3,865	3,964	4,160	4,445	3,961	3,693
Interest expenses	2,892	2,670	2,769	3,015	3,197	2,714	2,388
Net interest income	1,242	1,195	1,195	1,145	1,248	1,247	1,305
Dividends and profit from associated companies	35	19	42	17	16	13	25
Commissions and fees	394	317	342	318	361	335	317
Commission expenses	- 83	- 88	- 92	- 72	- 90	- 89	- 88
Net change in value and profit (loss) on securities	85	113	- 52	- 91	24	50	68
Net change in value and profit (loss) on foreign exchange and financial derivatives	152	211	166	227	287	181	71
Other non-interest income	269	39	43	40	67	34	34
Total non-interest income	852	611	449	439	665	524	427
Personnel expenses	611	548	524	587	582	579	708
Administrative expenses	443	296	318	259	274	286	244
Ordinary depreciation and write-downs	86	74	75	72	74	67	68
Other non-interest expenses	194	86	121	98	184	100	72
Total non-interest expenses	1,334	1,004	1,038	1,016	1,114	1,032	1,092
Operating profit before loan losses and profit on long-term securities	760	802	606	568	799	739	640
Provision for losses on loans and guarantees	321	- 7	79	273	897	637	629
Profit (losses/write-downs) on long-term securities	_	_	- 1	- 7	173	_	- 1
Operating profit	439	809	526	288	75	102	10
Income taxes	- 75	324	146	148	52	27	-
Net profit	514	485	380	140	23	75	10
Average total assets	235,125	238,979	234,224	236,251	246,255	223,440	253,268

# **Balance sheet**

		Т	he Group		The Pa	rent Bank	
NOK million	Note	30.06.03	30.06.02	31.12.02	30.06.03	30.06.02	31.12.02
Assets							
Cash and deposits with central banks		14,646	6,984	12,312	14,646	6,984	12,312
Deposits with and loans to credit institutions		4,387	6,601	5,929	13,962	11,808	11,776
Total cash and claims on credit institutions		19,033	13,585	18,241	28,608	18,792	24,088
Loans to customers	6	201,357	190,493	194,703	174,704	164,124	168,653
Specific allowance	3, 6	-2,422	-1,091	-2,153	-2,346	- 997	-2,084
General allowance for loan losses	6	-1,638	-1,633	-1,633	-1,525	-1,524	-1,525
Net loans to customers		197,297	187,769	190,917	170,833	161,603	165,044
Repossessed assets		33	53	33	28	47	27
Certificates and bonds	5	16,804	16,150	18,529	16,969	15,829	18,335
Equities and investments	5	313	1,144	295	100	75	61
Total securities		17,117	17,294	18,824	17,069	15,904	18,396
Associated companies		620	584	608	620	584	608
Equities and investments in group compani	es	-	-	-	5,341	5,078	5,124
Deferred tax asset, goodwill and other		000	746	700		702	704
intangible assets		829	746	780	758	723	704
Real estate and machinery		2,379	2,527	2,448	2,316	2,461	2,384
Other assets		14,847	1,096	5,333	14,539	1,127	5,663
Prepaid expenses and accrued income		<u>3,870</u> 256,025	4,234 227,888	3,991 241,175	3,534 243,646	4,021 210,340	3,757 <b>225,795</b>
Total assets		230,023	227,000	241,175	243,040	210,540	223,193
Liabilities and equity							
Deposits from credit institutions		63,191	46,966	54,589	59,556	41,878	50,529
Deposits from customers		107,271	106,162	110,978	108,504	106,862	112,408
Total deposits		170,462	153,128	165,567	168,060	148,740	162,937
Certificates and bond loans		43,186	41,129	39,455	33,730	28,939	27,360
Other liabilities		17,078	1,099	8,295	16,784	957	8,300
Accrued expenses and prepaid receivables		3,731	9,163	5,516	3,554	8,489	4,905
Allowances for liabilities		1,187	1,069	1,145	1,139	1,055	1,099
Total other liabilities		65,182	52,460	54,411	55,207	39,440	41,664
Subordinated loan capital		3,124	4,466	4,045	3,122	4,326	4,042
Share capital		3,860	3,860	3,860	3,860	3,860	3,860
Reserves		13,312	13,109	13,292	13,312	13,109	13,292
Profit for the period		13,312 85	865	13	85	865	
Total equity	7	17,257	17,834	17,152	17,257	17,834	17,152
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Nordea Bank Norge ASA Oslo, 13 August 2003

Lars G. Nordström	Markku Pohjola	Liv Irene Haug	Carl Erik Krefting
Chairman of the Board	Deputy Chairman of the Board		
Arne Liljedahl	Hege Marie Norheim	Tom Ruud	Baard Syrrist Managing director

# **Key figures**

NOK million	31.12.01	31.03.02	30.06.02	30.09.02	31.12.02	31.03.03	30.06.03
Total assets	230,321	237,927	227,888	248,879	241,175	249,787	256,025
Net loans to customers	184,232	186,857	187,769	190,572	190,917	193,645	197,297
Net loans to customers as percentage of total assets	80.0	78.5	82.4	76.6	79.2	77.5	77.1
Deposits from customers	104,332	100,817	106,162	101,902	110,978	109,422	107,271
Deposits from customers as percentage of total assets	45.3	42.4	46.6	40.9	46.0	43.8	41.9
Deposit ratio (customer deposits to net loans to customers)	56.6	54.0	56.5	53.5	58.1	56.5	54.4
Total non-performing commitments	2,162	2,160	2,402	2,567	5,062	2,937	3,747
Net non-performing commitments	1,273	1,265	1,644	1,638	3,493	1,423	1,855
Risk-weighted assets	203,200	202,900	200,900	202,100	198,900	200,900	198,500
Book equity per share (NOK) *	30.75	31.63	32.35	32.60	31.11	31.28	31.30
Earnings per share (per quarter) (NOK)	0.93	0.88	0.69	0.25	0.04	0.14	0.02
Cost/income ratio (excluding net change in value and profit (loss) on securities per quarter)	66.4	59.3	61.2	60.7	59.0	60.0	65.6
Numbers of employees (full-time positions)	4,096	4,081	4,001	4,003	4,007	3,979	3,919

\* Excluding allocations of dividend, not yet paid at the time, of NOK 3.63 per share as at 4Q01 and NOK 1.45 as at 4Q02.

# Notes to the statement of income and the balance sheet

## Note 1 General principles and composition of the Group

The quarterly accounts have been set out in accordance with the same principles as the 2002 annual accounts. Unless stated otherwise, the notes show Group figures.

## Note 2 Provision for losses on loans and guarantees

## Loan loss provision by industry

	2rd qua	rter 2003	6 months	2003
	NOK million	Percentage of total loans*)	NOK million	Percentage of total loans *)
Retail market	12	0.1	15	-
Primary industries (agriculture/fisheries)	268	9.6	424	7.6
Mining, oil extraction and drilling	2	0.2	73	4.1
Manufacturing industry	325	9.3	440	6.3
Power and water supply, building and construction	-	-	1	-
Wholesale and retail trade	-9	-0.5	- 2	-0.1
Hotels and restaurants	1	0.3	- 2	-0.2
Shipping and aviation	1	-	2	-
Real estate	2	-	2	-
Commercial services	24	0.4	301	2.4
Other	3	0.2	12	0.5
Total	629	1.2	1,266	1.3
Change in general allowance	-		-	
Net loan loss provision	629	1.2	1,266	1.3

\*) Annualised

#### Note 3 Charge-offs and changes in allowances

NOK million	2rd quarter 2003	6 months 2003
Specific allowance, beginning of period	2,270	2,153
New loan loss provisions	253	666
Purchased commitments	-	-
Sold commitments	38	38
Change in previous allowances	125	- 154
Charge-offs	- 266	- 294
Exchange rate differences	2	13
Specific allowance, end of period	2,422	2,422
Of which specific allowance on guarantees	-	-
Specific allowance on loans, end of period	2,422	2,422

#### Net losses on loans and guarantees during the period

Provision for losses on loans and guarantees	629	1,266
Change in general allowance	_	-
Recoveries on commitments previously written off	- 14	- 29
Net loss (profit) on repossessed assets etc.	260	781
Change in previous allowances	125	- 154
Charge-offs that affect the result	5	2
New specific loan loss provisions	253	666

#### Note 4 Taxes

The tax charge for the period includes payable taxes and changes in deferred taxes. The calculated taxes for the first six months are NOK 27 million corresponding to approximately 24 per cent of profit before taxes.

Following a ruling made by Central Taxation Office for Large-Sized Enterprises on 1 October 2002 the tax assessment of Nordea Bank Norge ASA regarding the income year 2001 was changed. Due to this ruling NOK 88 million in increased taxes were expensed in the third quarter of 2002. In March 2003 "Ligningsnemda" reached the same conclusion, but increased the income with further NOK 62 million. Due to this approximately NOK 17 million in increased taxes were expensed in the first quarter of 2003. The case concerns the Bank's sales of its foreign branches in London and Singapore. The Bank has lodged an appeal to "Overligningsnemda".

"Ligningsnemda " handed down a ruling on 25 February 2002, which caused a change in the tax assessment of Nordea Finans Norge AS regarding the income year 1999. Due to this ruling NOK 96 million in increased taxes were expensed in the first quarter of 2002. The case concerns the right to carry forward losses after a merger with a subsidiary. In December 2002 "Overligningsnemda" reached the same conclusion, but on a different basis. The case was served with a summons to Oslo City Court (Oslo Tingrett) on 23 May 2003.

On 9 October 2002 Central Taxation Office for Large-Sized Enterprises handed down a ruling which caused a change in the tax assessment of Christiania Forsikring AS regarding the income year 2001. Due to this ruling NOK 11 million in increased taxes were expensed in the fourth quarter of 2002. The case concerns the sale of its subsidiary K-Fondsforsikring AS. The company has lodged an appeal.

#### Note 5 Securities

	30.0	)6.03	30.06	.02	31.12	.02
Trading portfolio	Cost	Book value/ market value	Cost	Book value/ market value	Cost	Book value/ market value
Certificates and bonds	6,917	6,998	6,844	6,843	8,865	8,911
Equities and investments	3	3	539	544	3	3
Total trading portfolio	6,920	7,001	7,383	7,387	8,868	8,914
Short positions *)						
Certificates and bonds	1,236	1,231	494	494	877	887
Equities and investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other current and fixed assets		Book value		Book value		Book value
Certificates and bonds		9,806		9,307		9,618
Equities and investments		310		600		292
Total other current and fixed assets		10,116		9,907		9,910
Unrealised gains on other current and fi	ixed assets					
Certificates and bonds		200		26		130
Equities and investments **)		-		-		-

\*) Included in Other liabilities

\*\*) Unrealised gains on unquoted stocks not included

Equities and investments classified as other current and fixed assets include only non-listed equities and investments.

During 2002 the subsidiary Nordea Equity Holdings AS reduced its activity considerably through sale of the main part of the equity portfolio. The reason is that Nordea has reduced its risk willingness and therefore the risks allocated to equities. In addition, these activities will in the future be concentrated in Copenhagen.

## Note 6 Analysis of the loan portfolio

	Total			Allowances				Net		
	NOK mi	illion	NOK million		%		NOK million			
	30.06.03	31.03.03	30.06.03	31.03.03	30.06.03	31.03.03	30.06.03	31.03.03		
Non-performing commitments	3,747	2,937	1,892	1,514	50	52	1,855	1,423		
Doubtful commitments	4,649	5,186	530	756	11	15	4,119	4,430		
Total	8,396	8,123	2,422	2,270	29	28	5,974	5,853		
Of which guarantees etc.	- 961	- 984	-	-	-	-	- 961	- 984		
Other loans	193,922	190,414	1,638	1,638	0.8	0.9	192,284	188,776		
Total	201,357	197,553	4,060	3,908	2	2	197,297	193,645		

#### Non-performing commitments were distributed as follows

	Total non-p	performing		Allowa	nces		Net non-per	rforming	
	NOK m	NOK million		NOK million		%		NOK million	
	30.06.03	31.03.03	30.06.03	31.03.03	30.06.03	31.03.03	30.06.03	31.03.03	
Corporate commitments	3,199	2,403	1,689	1,332	53	55	1,510	1,071	
Retail commitments	548	534	203	182	37	34	345	352	
Total	3,747	2,937	1,892	1,514	50	52	1,855	1,423	

# Note 7 Equity

NOK million	2003	2002
Equity as at 1 January	17,152	16,957
Profit for the period	85	865
Difference between provision and actual group contribution to companies outside NBN group	20	15
Exchange rate differences	-	- 3
Equity as at 30 June	17,257	17,834

## Note 8 Capital ratio

Risk-weighted assets as at	NOK billion		
	30.06.03	30.06.02	
Total assets	172.6	167.9	
Total off-balance sheet items	20.9	23.3	
Total market and foreign exchange risk	5.0	9.7	
Risk-weighted assets	198.5	200.9	

Capital ratio as at	NOK million		%	
	30.06.03	30.06.02	30.06.03	30.06.02
Core capital	16,318	16,870	8.2	8.4
Supplementary capital	3,473	4,808	1.8	2.4
Deductions	-13	- 36	-	
Total capital	19,778	21,642	10.0	10.8

The capital ratio requirement is 8 per cent.