

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP PLC
Form 6-K
August 07, 2003

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

Report of Foreign Private Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

7 August 2003

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc

42 St Andrew Square
Edinburgh EH2 2YE
Scotland
United Kingdom

(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes No

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82-

This report on Form 6-K shall be deemed incorporated by reference into the company's Registration Statement on Form F-3 (File No. 333-100661) and to be a part thereof from the date which it was filed, to the extent not superseded by documents or reports subsequently filed or furnished.

THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

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THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

RESULTS SUMMARY

| | First half 2003 £m | First half 2002 £m | Increase | Full year 2002 £m |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Total income | 9,080 | 8,182 | 11% | 16,815 |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------|------------|-------|
| Operating expenses | 4,606 | 4,566 | 1% | 9,357 |
| Operating profit before provisions | 3,638 | 2,977 | 22% | 6,108 |
| Profit before tax | 2,896 | 2,325 | 25% | 4,763 |
| Cost:income ratio | 50.7% | 55.8% | - | 55.6% |
| Basic earnings per ordinary share | 60.0p | 46.6p | 29% | 68.4p |
| Dividends per ordinary share | 14.6p | 12.7p | 15% | 43.7p |

Sir George Mathewson, Chairman of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc, said:

"These are strong results, the more so for having been delivered against a backdrop of a lower growth environment in the markets in which we operate".

Important Note

In the announcement of its interim results to the London Stock Exchange on 5 August 2003, the Group also presented certain items on a basis other than the statutory basis. Operating expenses were presented excluding goodwill amortisation and integration costs, which were shown separately. The calculation of the cost:income ratio was based on operating expenses excluding goodwill amortisation and integration costs and after netting operating lease depreciation against rental income.

In this filing, data have been presented on a statutory basis in accordance with applicable SEC rules relating to disclosure of non-GAAP financial measures; operating expenses include goodwill amortisation and integration costs; the cost:income ratio is based on operating expenses.

THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

FIRST HALF 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

- Profit before tax up 25% to £2,896 million.
- Income up 11% to £9,080 million.

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- Operating expenses up 1% to £4,606 million.
- Excluding acquisitions, income up 10%, expenses down 1%.
- Customer growth in all divisions.
- Net interest margin 3.0% versus 3.1%.
- Further efficiency gains - cost:income ratio 50.7%, improved from 55.8%.
- Profit and loss charge for provisions £742 million, in line with growth in lending.
- Credit quality remains strong and problem loan metrics continue to improve.
- Basic earnings per share up 29%.
- Interim dividend 14.6p per share, up 15%.

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THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REVIEW

The Group continued to make good progress during the first half of 2003. We achieved strong growth in income, a further improvement in efficiency and maintained credit quality. As a result, we increased our Group profit before tax by 25% and basic earnings per share by 29%.

During the first half of 2003, we grew income across the Group as a whole by £898 million, with Direct Line, Retail Direct and Corporate Banking and Financial Markets achieving particularly strong year-on-year growth. We continue to see good growth in loans and deposits in both the UK and the US while maintaining our cautious stance towards corporate lending in particular. In addition, our credit card and general insurance businesses continue to perform strongly. All divisions of the Group increased their customer numbers.

Net interest margin at 3.0% (2002 3.1%) was in line with guidance given in February 2003, with the lower interest rate environment reducing both the benefit of interest-free funds and treasury income; and net interest income in the UK was reduced by the outcome of the Competition Commission inquiry into SME banking. A key strength of the Group however is the diversity of its revenue streams and, although interest margin was lower than the same period last year, non-interest income, including fees, commissions and income from financial markets, was strong.

In addition to growing its income, the Group improved its efficiency further in the first half of 2003. Whilst expenses increased to support higher business volumes, integration costs were lower. The Group cost:income ratio improved to 50.7% (2002 55.8%).

Provisions for bad debts amounted to £746 million in the first half of 2003, a level consistent with provisions reported in 2002 and the growth in the loan book. Credit quality remains strong, with no material change to the distribution by grade of our risk assets. Credit metrics have continued to improve, with risk elements in lending representing 2.01% of loans and advances to customers compared with 2.14% at 31 December 2002 and 2.24% at 30 June 2002. Potential problem loans saw a reduction of 18% from the position reported at 31 December 2002.

REVIEW OF DIVISIONS

Corporate Banking and Financial Markets increased its income by 12% and contribution before Manufacturing costs by 10% to £1,739 million (2002 £1,581 million). Corporate Banking and Financial Markets maintained leading positions in the UK in corporate

lending, leasing, deposits, payments, derivatives and foreign exchange and across a wide range of specialised corporate banking activities. It achieved good growth in customer numbers; in particular, UK mid-corporate customers increased by over 4,000 in the six months to June 2003. While good growth in loans and deposits was again achieved, net interest income was impacted by the outcome of the Competition Commission inquiry into SME banking and by the effect on deposit and treasury income of lower interest rates. Volumes in Financial Markets were up strongly in both the UK and the US as a result of growth in customer-driven activity in interest rate protection, mortgage securitisation and foreign exchange. Outside the UK, the division achieved good growth in Continental Europe through its offices in Paris, Frankfurt, Milan and Madrid.

Retail Banking achieved good volume growth across all areas of personal current accounts and mortgages, personal loans and deposits, and small business loans and current accounts. Total customers in the first six months of the year increased by 113,000. Average non-mortgage lending increased by 11%, mortgages increased by 12% and deposit balances increased by 5%. Both income and contribution were reduced in this period by the outcome of the Competition Commission inquiry into SME banking and by the impact of lower interest rates. Despite these significant negative factors, the division increased its income by 5% and contribution before Manufacturing costs by 3% to £1,535 million (2002 - £1,488 million).

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THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REVIEW (continued)

Retail Direct increased its income by 15% and contribution before Manufacturing costs by 23% to £407 million (2002 - £330 million). Retail Direct increased its customer accounts by 500,000 while expanding balances and fee income associated with these accounts. In July 2003, RBS bought the credit card and personal loan portfolios of Santander Direkt Bank which will add 480,000 customers in Germany.

Manufacturing costs increased by 2% to £900 million (2002 - £886 million). Technology costs were down 6% to £291 million (2002 - £309 million), while other costs were up by 6% to £609 million (2002 - £577 million), reflecting increased volume of customer transactions.

Wealth Management's income declined by 8% and contribution by 10% to £219 million (2002 - £244 million), reflecting continued difficult stock market conditions, although customer numbers and funds under management saw positive movements. In July 2003, RBS sold the Miami-based operations of Coutts to Santander Central Hispano.

Direct Line Group increased its income by 30% and contribution by 32% to £202 million (2002 - £153 million). Direct Line Group increased its UK motor insurance policies by 193,000 and its UK home insurance policies by 60,000. In Continental Europe, Direct Line businesses in Spain, Italy and Germany increased their total policy numbers by 143,000. In June 2003, RBS announced the acquisition of Churchill Insurance Group PLC, which has subsequently received Office of Fair Trading clearance, but is still subject to approval from the Financial Services Authority.

Ulster Bank increased its income by 9% and its contribution by 5% to £131 million (2002 - £125 million). Ulster Bank achieved strong growth in loans and deposits but recorded lower income from treasury and stockbroking activities. Customers in total increased by 7,000 in the first six months.

Citizens increased its US dollar income by 16% and contribution by 23% to \$685 million (2002 - \$555 million). In sterling terms, Citizens income growth was 4% and its contribution growth 11% to £425 million (2002 - £384 million). Citizens increased its personal customer base by 237,000 and its business customers by 18,000 as a result of organic growth, through both traditional branches and supermarket branches, and through the acquisition of Commonwealth Bancorp, Inc., Pennsylvania, which was completed in January 2003. In July 2003, Citizens announced the acquisition of Community Bancorp, Inc., Massachusetts and completed the acquisition of Port Financial Corp., Massachusetts.

OUTLOOK

These results provide further evidence of the core strengths of our Group: the ability to grow income strongly while improving efficiency and maintaining credit quality. Coupled with our strong cash generation these attributes present us with a wide range of strategic options.

Consequently, whilst an inherently and fundamentally optimistic outlook is tempered to a degree by elements of uncertainty in the markets in which we operate, we remain confident of our ability to continue to deliver superior value for our shareholders, customers and staff.

Fred Goodwin
Group Chief Executive

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THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Profit

The Group increased its profit before tax by 25%, from £2,325 million to £2,896 million.

Total income

The Group continued to achieve strong growth in income. Total income at £9,080 million was up 11% or £898 million. Excluding acquisitions, total income rose by 10%.

Net interest income increased by 4% to £4,025 million. The Group has maintained the good volume growth seen in the second half of last year. Average loans and advances to customers are up 12% over the comparable period last year, and average customer deposits have grown by 8%. While volume growth has been strong, income growth in this period has been affected by foreign exchange translation and the outcome of the Competition Commission inquiry into SME banking. In addition, lower interest rates have reduced the benefit of interest-free funds.

Non-interest income increased by 17% to £5,055 million. Growth in general insurance premium income was a major contributor to this as a result of strong growth across both motor and home products.

In addition, volumes in financial markets were up strongly in both the UK and the US as a result of growth in customer-driven activity in interest rate protection, mortgage securitisation and foreign exchange.

Operating lease income was also up strongly due to expansion of the operating lease portfolio in Corporate Banking and Financial Markets.

Net interest margin

The Group's net interest margin at 3.0% was, as anticipated, down from 3.1% due to a reduced benefit from interest-free funds arising from lower interest rates and the outcome of the Competition Commission inquiry into SME banking.

Operating expenses

Operating expenses rose by 1% to £4,606 million. Excluding acquisitions, operating expenses were down £20 million.

Cost:income ratio

Strong income growth coupled with tight cost management and the reduction in integration costs resulted in a further improvement in the Group's ratio of operating expenses to total income, to 50.7% from 55.8%. Excluding the effect of acquisitions, the

cost:income ratio improved to 50.6%.

Net insurance claims

Consistent with volume growth and reflecting stability in claims experience, general insurance claims, after reinsurance, increased by 31% to £836 million.

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THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

FINANCIAL REVIEW (continued)

Provisions

The profit and loss charge for bad debts and amounts written off fixed asset investments was £742 million compared with £652 million in the first half of 2002 and £693 million in the second half of 2002. The profit and loss charge is in line with the growth in loans and advances.

Credit quality

Overall credit quality remains strong with no material change in the distribution by grade of the Group's total risk assets compared with the position at 31 December 2002.

The ratio of risk elements in lending to gross loans and advances to customers at 2.01% at 30 June 2003 showed an improving trend (31 December 2002 - 2.14%; 30 June 2002- 2.24%).

Risk elements in lending and potential problem loans represented 2.40% of total loans and advances to customers compared with 2.66% at 31 December 2002 and 2.82% at 30 June 2002.

Integration

By February 2003 all integration initiatives in relation to NatWest had been implemented. The programme annualised benefits, comprising £890 million revenue benefits and £1,440 million cost savings, were fully implemented less than three years after the acquisition of NatWest. Total costs for the integration programme were £2.3 billion, in line with the revised plan.

Integration costs for the six months ended 30 June 2003 were £182 million. Of this amount, £143 million related to the final elements of the NatWest integration, which has now been completed.

Earnings and dividends

Basic earnings per ordinary share increased by 29%, from 46.6p to 60.0p, reflecting lower integration costs in the first half of 2003.

An interim dividend of 14.6p per ordinary share, an increase of 15%, will be paid on 10 October 2003 to shareholders registered on 15 August 2003. The interim dividend is covered 4.0 times by earnings attributable to ordinary shareholders.

Balance sheet

Total assets were £449 billion at 30 June 2003, 9% higher than total assets of £412 billion at 31 December 2002.

In the first half of 2003, lending to customers, excluding repurchase agreements and stock borrowing (reverse repos), increased by 8% or £17 billion to £218 billion. Customer deposits, excluding repurchase agreements and stock lending (repos), grew by 6% or £12 billion to £206 billion.

Capital ratios at 30 June 2003 were 7.6% (tier 1) and 12.3% (total), against 7.3% (tier 1) and 11.7% (total) at 31 December 2002. These ratios are slightly higher than our target ratios ahead of the acquisition of Churchill Insurance.

Profitability

The after-tax return on ordinary equity was 14.3% compared with 11.6% for the first half of 2002. This is based on profit attributable to ordinary shareholders and average ordinary equity.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW (continued)

Acquisitions

In January 2003, Citizens completed the acquisition of Pennsylvania-based commercial bank, Commonwealth Bancorp, Inc. for a cash consideration of US\$450 million.

In April 2003, Citizens announced the acquisition of Port Financial Corp., the holding company of the Massachusetts savings bank, CambridgePort Bank for a cash consideration of US\$285 million. This transaction was completed on 31 July 2003.

In May 2003, RBS announced the acquisition of Nordisk Renting AB, a Swedish leasing company, for a cash consideration of €104 million. This transaction was completed on 2 June 2003.

In May 2003, RBS announced the purchase of the credit card and personal loans portfolios of Frankfurt-based Santander Direkt Bank for a consideration of €486 million. This transaction was completed on 31 July 2003.

In June 2003, RBS announced the acquisition of Churchill Insurance Group PLC for a consideration of £1.1 billion. OFT clearance has been received and the transaction, which is still subject to approval of the FSA, is expected to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2003.

In July 2003, Citizens announced the acquisition of Community Bancorp, Inc., the holding company for Community National Bank, for a cash consideration of US\$116 million. This transaction is subject to Community Bancorp, Inc. shareholder and US regulatory approvals and is expected to be completed by the end of 2003.

Disposals

In May 2003, RBS announced the sale of the Miami-based Latin American private banking operations of Coutts Group to Santander Central Hispano for a premium of approximately US\$75 million. This transaction was completed on 31 July 2003.

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**CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT
FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2003 (unaudited)**

Full year

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| | First half 2003 £m | First half 2002 £m | 2002 (Audited) £m |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Interest receivable | 6,850 | 6,708 | 13,561 |
| Interest payable | 2,825 | 2,835 | 5,712 |
| Net interest income | 4,025 | 3,873 | 7,849 |
| Dividend income | 30 | 29 | 58 |
| Fees and commissions receivable | 2,719 | 2,609 | 5,308 |
| Fees and commissions payable | (554) | (481) | (965) |
| Dealing profits | 985 | 724 | 1,462 |
| Other operating income | 726 | 543 | 1,209 |
| | 3,906 | 3,424 | 7,072 |
| General insurance | | | |
| - earned premiums | 1,359 | 1,111 | 2,383 |
| - reinsurance | (210) | (226) | (489) |
| Non-interest income | 5,055 | 4,309 | 8,966 |
| Total income | 9,080 | 8,182 | 16,815 |
| Administrative expenses | | | |
| - staff costs* | 2,238 | 2,192 | 4,472 |
| - premises and equipment* | 520 | 485 | 1,006 |
| - other* | 1,026 | 1,096 | 2,253 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | | | |
| - tangible fixed assets* | 449 | 428 | 895 |
| - goodwill | 373 | 365 | 731 |
| Operating expenses | 4,606 | 4,566 | 9,357 |
| Profit before other operating charges | 4,474 | 3,616 | 7,458 |
| General insurance | | | |
| - gross claims | 1,002 | 787 | 1,693 |
| - reinsurance | (166) | (148) | (343) |
| Operating profit before provisions | 3,638 | 2,977 | 6,108 |
| Provisions for bad and doubtful debts | 746 | 611 | 1,286 |
| Amounts written off fixed asset investments | (4) | 41 | 59 |
| Profit on ordinary activities before tax | 2,896 | 2,325 | 4,763 |

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CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT
FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2003 (unaudited) (continued)

| | First half 2003 £m | First half 2002 £m | Full year 2002 (Audited) £m |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Profit on ordinary activities before tax | 2,896 | 2,325 | 4,763 |
| Tax on profit on ordinary activities | 927 | 781 | 1,556 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Profit on ordinary activities after tax | 1,969 | 1,544 | 3,207 |
| Minority interests (including non-equity) | 87 | 49 | 133 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Profit after minority interests | 1,882 | 1,495 | 3,074 |
| Preference dividends | 137 | 159 | 305 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 1,745 | 1,336 | 2,769 |
| Additional Value Shares dividend | - | - | 798 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders | 1,745 | 1,336 | 1,971 |
| Ordinary dividends | 431 | 368 | 1,267 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Retained profit | 1,314 | 968 | 704 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Basic earnings per ordinary share (Note 4) | 60.0p | 46.6p | 68.4p |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Diluted earnings per ordinary share (Note 4) | 59.5p | 46.0p | 67.4p |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

* Integration costs included in operating expenses comprise:

| | First half 2003 £m | First half 2002 £m | Full year 2002 £m |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Staff costs | 112 | 262 | 530 |
| Premises and equipment | 31 | 52 | 127 |
| Other administrative expenses | 38 | 146 | 298 |
| Depreciation | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 182 | 461 | 957 |

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DIVISIONAL PERFORMANCE

The contribution of each division before goodwill amortisation and integration costs and, where appropriate, Manufacturing costs is detailed below.

| | First half 2003 | First half 2002 | Increase/ (decrease) in contribution % | Full year 2002 |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------|---|-------------------|
| | £m | £m | | £m |
| Corporate Banking and Financial Markets* | 1,739 | 1,581 | 10 | 3,261 |
| Retail Banking | 1,535 | 1,488 | 3 | 3,019 |
| Retail Direct | 407 | 330 | 23 | 701 |
| Manufacturing* | (900) | (886) | (2) | (1,762) |
| Wealth Management* | 219 | 244 | (10) | 454 |
| Direct Line Group | 202 | 153 | 32 | 355 |
| Ulster Bank | 131 | 125 | 5 | 244 |
| Citizens | 425 | 384 | 11 | 766 |
| Central items | (307) | (268) | (15) | (587) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | | <hr/> |
| Profit before goodwill amortisation and integration costs | 3,451 | 3,151 | 10 | 6,451 |
| Goodwill amortisation | (373) | (365) | | (731) |
| Integration costs | (182) | (461) | | (957) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | | <hr/> |
| Profit on ordinary activities before tax | 2,896 | 2,325 | | 4,763 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | | <hr/> |

* prior periods have been restated to reflect the transfer in the first half of 2003 of certain activities from Corporate Banking and Financial Markets and Wealth Management to Manufacturing.

THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

CORPORATE BANKING AND FINANCIAL MARKETS

| | First half 2003 | First half 2002 (restated*) | Full year 2002 (restated*) |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | £m | £m | £m |
| Net interest income excluding funding cost | | | |
| of operating lease assets | 1,246 | 1,264 | 2,529 |
| Operating lease funding cost | (100) | (85) | (180) |
| Net interest income | 1,146 | 1,179 | 2,349 |
| Fees and commissions receivable | 704 | 680 | 1,394 |
| Fees and commissions payable | (101) | (74) | (157) |
| Dealing profits (before associated direct costs) | 913 | 656 | 1,338 |
| Operating lease rentals | 446 | 356 | 791 |
| Other operating income | 186 | 137 | 337 |
| Non-interest income | 2,148 | 1,755 | 3,703 |
| Total income | 3,294 | 2,934 | 6,052 |
| Direct expenses | | | |
| - staff costs | 710 | 602 | 1,230 |
| - other | 189 | 178 | 375 |
| - operating lease depreciation | 252 | 217 | 461 |
| | 1,151 | 997 | 2,066 |
| Contribution before provisions | 2,143 | 1,937 | 3,986 |
| Provisions | 404 | 356 | 725 |
| Contribution | 1,739 | 1,581 | 3,261 |

* prior periods have been restated following the transfer of certain activities to Manufacturing.

| | £bn | £bn | £bn |
|---|--------------|-------|-------|
| Total assets** | 234.4 | 201.0 | 203.4 |
| Loans and advances to customers** gross | | | |
| banking book | 98.1 | 88.0 | 92.1 |
| trading book | 5.9 | 3.5 | 3.6 |
| Operating lease assets | 5.9 | 4.1 | 5.3 |
| Customer deposits** | 67.6 | 58.0 | 62.2 |
| Weighted risk assets | | | |
| banking | 139.9 | 119.3 | 125.2 |
| trading | 13.2 | 10.7 | 11.3 |

** excluding repos and reverse repos

Corporate Banking and Financial Markets (CBFM) is the largest provider of banking services to medium and large businesses in the UK and the leader in the UK in asset finance. It provides an integrated range of products and services to mid-sized and large corporate and institutional customers in the UK and overseas, including corporate and commercial banking, treasury and capital markets products, structured and leveraged finance, trade finance, leasing and factoring. Treasury and capital markets products are provided through Financial Markets which is a leading provider of debt, foreign exchange and derivatives products.

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THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

CORPORATE BANKING AND FINANCIAL MARKETS (continued)

Contribution increased over the first half of 2002 by 10% or £158 million to £1,739 million.

Total income was up 12% or £360 million to £3,294 million. Excluding the effect of the acquisition of Dixon Motors in May 2002, which added £36 million, total income was up 11%.

Net interest income decreased by 3%, or £33 million to £1,146 million. Excluding the cost of funding operating lease assets, net interest income was £18 million lower at £1,246 million. This decrease reflects the reduced benefit of interest-free funds due to lower interest rates and the outcome of the Competition Commission inquiry into SME banking. In addition, income from treasury was lower as a result of less favourable market conditions. Balance sheet growth however was good; average loans and advances to customers of the banking business increased by 9% or £7.9 billion to £93.0 billion and average customer deposits increased by 8% or £4.4 billion to £59.7 billion.

Non-interest income rose by 22% or £393 million to £2,148 million. Dealing profits before associated direct costs were up £257 million, reflecting increased volumes in the UK and the US as a result of growth in customer activity in interest rate protection, mortgage securitisation and foreign exchange. There was also a significant increase in operating lease rentals, up 25% or £90 million to £446 million, reflecting growth in the asset finance business.

Direct expenses increased by 15% or £154 million to £1,151 million. Excluding Dixon Motors, which added £31 million and after netting operating lease asset depreciation against rental income, expenses rose by 11%, in line with income growth.

The charge for provisions for bad debts and amounts written off fixed asset investments amounted to £404 million compared with £369 million in the second half of 2002 and £356 million in the first half of 2002.

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RETAIL BANKING

| First half 2003 | First half 2002 | Full year 2002 |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|

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| | £m | £m | £m |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| Net interest income | 1,433 | 1,376 | 2,840 |
| Non-interest income | 703 | 661 | 1,353 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total income | 2,136 | 2,037 | 4,193 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Direct expenses | | | |
| - staff costs | 373 | 349 | 707 |
| - other | 93 | 98 | 254 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 466 | 447 | 961 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Contribution before provisions | 1,670 | 1,590 | 3,232 |
| Provisions | 135 | 102 | 213 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Contribution | 1,535 | 1,488 | 3,019 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | £bn | £bn | £bn |
| Total assets | 63.4 | 62.9 | 66.5 |
| Loans and advances to customers - gross | | | |
| - mortgages | 33.6 | 30.2 | 32.1 |
| - other | 24.2 | 21.4 | 23.5 |
| Customer deposits | 64.0 | 59.3 | 61.7 |
| Weighted risk assets | 41.2 | 36.6 | 38.8 |

Retail Banking provides a wide range of banking, insurance and related financial services to individuals and small businesses. These services are delivered from a network of Royal Bank of Scotland and NatWest branches throughout Great Britain and through the telephone, ATMs and the internet. Credit card services provided to retail customers are included within the Retail Direct division.

The division achieved good volume growth across all areas of personal current accounts and mortgages, personal loans and deposits, and small business loans and current accounts. Total customers in the first six months of the year increased by 113,000. Both income and contribution were reduced in this period by the outcome of the Competition Commission inquiry into SME banking and by the impact of lower interest rates. Despite these significant negative factors, the division increased its income by 5% or £99 million to £2,136 million, and contribution before Manufacturing costs by 3% or £47 million to £1,535 million.

Net interest income rose by 4% or £57 million to £1,433 million, reflecting strong growth in customer advances and deposits which was partially offset in this particular period by the outcome of the Competition Commission inquiry into SME banking and the impact of a lower interest rate environment. Average loans to customers, excluding mortgages, grew by 11% or £2.2 billion to £23.2 billion. Average mortgage lending grew by 12% or £3.6 billion to £32.6 billion. Average customer deposits increased by 5% or £2.8 billion to £59.6 billion.

Non-interest income rose by 6% or £42 million to £703 million. This was due to continued growth in customer numbers, increased volumes in the general insurance business and higher embedded value profit.

Direct expenses increased by 4% or £19 million to £466 million.

The charge for provisions for bad debts increased by £33 million to £135 million, reflecting growth in lending over recent years.

THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

RETAIL DIRECT

| | First half 2003 £m | First half 2002 £m | Full year 2002 £m |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Net interest income | 400 | 370 | 749 |
| Non-interest income | 468 | 386 | 841 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total income | 868 | 756 | 1,590 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Direct expenses | | | |
| - staff costs | 101 | 88 | 190 |
| - other | 213 | 198 | 418 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 314 | 286 | 608 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Contribution before provisions | 554 | 470 | 982 |
| Provisions | 147 | 140 | 281 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Contribution | 407 | 330 | 701 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | £bn | £bn | £bn |
| Total assets | 20.3 | 17.7 | 19.4 |
| Loans and advances to customers - gross | | | |
| - mortgages | 7.6 | 6.3 | 7.0 |
| - other | 12.9 | 11.4 | 12.4 |
| Customer deposits | 4.5 | 4.2 | 4.4 |
| Weighted risk assets | 15.3 | 13.0 | 14.4 |

Retail Direct issues a comprehensive range of credit, charge and debit cards to personal and corporate customers and engages in merchant acquisition and processing facilities for retail businesses. It also includes: Tesco Personal Finance (TPF), The One account, Direct Line Financial Services (DLFS), Lombard Direct, WorldPay Limited, the Group's internet banking platform, the Primeline brand, and in Europe, the Comfort Card businesses, all of them offering products to customers through direct channels. In July 2003, Retail Direct completed the purchase of the credit card and personal loans portfolios of Frankfurt-based Santander Direkt Bank.

Contribution increased over the first half of 2002 by 23% or £77 million to £407 million.

Total income was up 15% or £112 million to £868 million, reflecting continued strong growth in the Cards Business and in TPF. WorldPay, which was acquired in the second half of 2002, added £6 million.

Net interest income was up 8% or £30 million to £400 million. Average credit card balances were up 5% to £8.4 billion. In TPF, average personal loans rose by 21% and average customer deposits by 20%. Average mortgage lending was 24% higher in The One account and 10% higher in DLFS, while average personal lending in DLFS and Lombard Direct increased by 22%.

Non-interest income was up 21% or £82 million to £468 million. There was good growth in credit card fees, insurance and ATM income resulting from increased volumes, particularly in TPF and the Cards Business.

THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

RETAIL DIRECT (continued)

In the six months to 30 June 2003, the total number of customer accounts increased by 500,000.

Direct expenses increased by 10% or £28 million to £314 million to support business expansion and includes £9 million relating to WorldPay.

The charge for provisions for bad debts increased by £7 million to £147 million, reflecting growth in lending volumes offset by higher recoveries.

THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

MANUFACTURING

| | First half 2003 | First half 2002 (restated*) | Full year 2002 (restated*) |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | £m | £m | £m |
| Staff costs | 287 | 261 | 536 |
| Other costs | 613 | 625 | 1,226 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total manufacturing costs | 900 | 886 | 1,762 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Analysis: | | | |
| Group Technology** | 291 | 309 | 613 |
| Group Purchasing and Property Operations** | 319 | 299 | 585 |
| Customer Support and other operations | 290 | 278 | 564 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total manufacturing costs | 900 | 886 | 1,762 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

* prior periods have been restated following the transfer of certain activities from Corporate Banking and Financial Markets and Wealth Management.

*** prior periods have also been restated to reflect the transfer of certain business units within Manufacturing.*

Manufacturing supports the customer facing businesses, mainly Corporate Banking and Financial Markets, Retail Banking, Retail Direct and Wealth Management, and provides operational technology, customer support in telephony, account management, lending and money transmission, global purchasing, property and other services.

The expenditure incurred by Manufacturing relates to shared costs in respect of the Group's UK banking operations. These costs reflect, inter alia, operational technology, account processing and management, and money transmission activities which are shared between the various customer-facing divisions. Consequently, these joint costs cannot be directly attributed to individual divisions. Instead, the Group monitors and controls each of its customer facing divisions on revenue generation and direct costs whilst in Manufacturing such control is exercised through appropriate efficiency measures and targets.

Manufacturing drives optimum efficiencies in high volume processing activities, leverages the Group's purchasing power and has become the centre of excellence for managing large scale and complex change.

Manufacturing's costs increased by 2% or £14 million, to £900 million.

Lower costs in Group Technology reflect the benefits of the successful migration of NatWest onto the RBS technology platform during 2002.

Group Purchasing and Property Operations costs increased principally as a result of investment in the Group's property infrastructure, notably in London and Birmingham, and in modernisation of the branch network.

Customer Support and other operations continued with its programme of customer service enhancements. A significant element of this has been the rollout of the new telephony proposition that has enabled NatWest customers to call their branch direct, a major enhancement to customer service.

THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

WEALTH MANAGEMENT

| | First half 2003 | First half 2002 (restated*) | Full year 2002 (restated*) |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | £m | £m | £m |
| Net interest income | 225 | 228 | 460 |
| Non-interest income | 204 | 236 | 447 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total income | 429 | 464 | 907 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Expenses | | | |
| - staff costs | 139 | 149 | 301 |
| - other | 74 | 79 | 163 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 213 | 228 | 464 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

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| | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| Contribution before provisions | 216 | 236 | 443 |
| Net release of provisions | 3 | 8 | 11 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Contribution | 219 | 244 | 454 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | £bn | £bn | £bn |
| Total assets | 14.0 | 13.8 | 13.4 |
| Investment management assets - excluding deposits | 21.6 | 21.3 | 20.5 |
| Customer deposits | 29.7 | 28.9 | 29.1 |
| Weighted risk assets | 8.7 | 8.9 | 8.4 |

* prior periods have been restated following the transfer of certain activities to Manufacturing.

Wealth Management comprises Coutts Group, Adam & Company, The Royal Bank of Scotland International, The Royal Bank of Scotland Private Banking, NatWest Offshore and NatWest Private Banking. Following the sale in September 2002 of a 50% interest, NatWest Stockbrokers now operates as a 50:50 joint venture with TD Waterhouse. The Miami-based private banking operations of Coutts Group were sold to Santander Central Hispano in July 2003.

Contribution was £219 million, £25 million or 10% lower than the first half of 2002, in part due to the sale of NatWest Stockbrokers in September 2002 which had contributed £15 million of income and £12 million of costs in the first half of 2002.

Total income was down by 8% or £35 million to £429 million reflecting the effect of low interest rates and difficult stock market conditions.

Net interest income declined by 1% or £3 million to £225 million. Growth in banking volumes was negated by the effect of lower interest rates.

Non-interest income declined by 14% or £32 million to £204 million. The reduction reflects the continuing impact of lower equity markets on fees and commissions. Investment management assets increased to £21.6 billion.

Expenses were down by 7% or £15 million to £213 million reflecting tight cost control.

There was a net release of provisions of £3 million in the first half of 2003, against a net release of £8 million in the first half of 2002, reflecting recoveries in both periods.

THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

DIRECT LINE GROUP

| | First half 2003 £m | First half 2002 £m | Full year 2002 £m |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Earned premiums | 1,359 | 1,111 | 2,383 |
| Reinsurers' share | (210) | (226) | (489) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

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| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Insurance premium income | 1,149 | 885 | 1,894 |
| Other income | 132 | 104 | 245 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total income | 1,281 | 989 | 2,139 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Expenses | | | |
| - staff costs | 96 | 90 | 178 |
| - other | 147 | 107 | 256 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 243 | 197 | 434 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Gross claims | 1,002 | 787 | 1,693 |
| Reinsurers' share | (166) | (148) | (343) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Net claims | 836 | 639 | 1,350 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Contribution | 202 | 153 | 355 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| In-force policies (000) | | | |
| - motor: UK | 4,861 | 4,376 | 4,668 |
| - motor: International | 1,395 | 782 | 1,224 |
| - home: UK | 1,647 | 1,552 | 1,587 |
| Combined operating ratio - UK (%) | 89.5 | 89.1 | 89.4 |
| Insurance reserves - UK (£m) | 2,120 | 1,787 | 1,946 |

Direct Line Group sells and underwrites retail and wholesale insurance on the telephone and the internet. The Retail Division sells general insurance and motor breakdown services direct to the customer and UKI Partnerships is a leading wholesale provider of insurance and motoring related services. Through its International Division, Direct Line sells insurance in Spain, Germany, Italy and Japan. In June 2003, RBS Group announced the acquisition of Churchill Insurance Group PLC. The transaction, which has received clearance from the Office of Fair Trading ("OFT") but is still subject to Financial Services Authority ("FSA") approval, is expected to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2003.

Contribution increased over the first half of 2002 by 32% or £49 million to £202 million.

Total income was up 30% or £292 million to £1,281 million.

After reinsurance, insurance premium income was up 30% or £264 million to £1,149 million, reflecting strong growth in the customer base. In the six months to 30 June 2003, the number of UK in-force motor insurance policies increased by 193,000, while the number of UK in-force home insurance policies increased by 60,000. The number of international in-force motor policies increased by 171,000 since December 2002.

Other income increased by 27% or £28 million to £132 million with growth in customer volumes partially offset by the effect of lower interest rates.

Expenses increased by 23% or £46 million to £243 million to support the growth in business.

Net claims, after reinsurance, increased by 31% or £197 million to £836 million, mainly as a result of higher business volumes.

THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

ULSTER BANK

| | First half | First half | Full year |
|---|-------------------|------------|-----------|
| | 2003 | 2002 | 2002 |
| | £m | £m | £m |
| Net interest income | 190 | 165 | 339 |
| Non-interest income | 91 | 92 | 181 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total income | 281 | 257 | 520 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Expenses | | | |
| - staff costs | 79 | 69 | 145 |
| - other | 53 | 52 | 109 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 132 | 121 | 254 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Contribution before provisions | 149 | 136 | 266 |
| Provisions | 18 | 11 | 22 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Contribution | 131 | 125 | 244 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | £bn | £bn | £bn |
| Total assets | 14.2 | 11.6 | 12.7 |
| Loans and advances to customers - gross | 10.4 | 8.3 | 9.1 |
| Customer deposits | 9.0 | 8.1 | 8.8 |
| Weighted risk assets | 10.3 | 8.4 | 9.0 |
| Average exchange rate - €/£ | 1.460 | 1.609 | 1.591 |
| Spot exchange rate - €/£ | 1.437 | 1.543 | 1.536 |

Ulster Bank provides a comprehensive range of retail and wholesale financial services in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Retail Banking has a network of branches throughout Ireland and operates in the personal, commercial and wealth management sectors. Corporate Banking and Financial Markets provides a wide range of services in the corporate and institutional markets.

Contribution increased over the first half of 2002 by 5% or £6 million to £131 million with exchange rate movements offsetting less favourable market conditions in treasury and stockbroking.

Total income increased by 9% or £24 million to £281 million reflecting volume growth and the positive effect of exchange rate movements which more than offset reduced benefit of interest-free funds due to lower interest rates.

Net interest income rose by 15% or £25 million to £190 million, reflecting strong growth in both average customer lending and deposits of the banking business. These increased by 23% or £1.8 billion, to £9.5 billion, and by 14% or £1.1 billion, to £8.7 billion respectively. The net interest margin fell slightly following reductions in both the UK base rate and the European Central Bank rate. The number of customers increased since December 2002 by 7,000.

Non-interest income fell by £1 million to £91 million. Good growth in banking and card fee income was masked by lower levels of activity in treasury reflecting difficult trading conditions. Depressed equity markets adversely affected brokerage fees.

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Expenses increased by 9% or £11 million to £132 million, reflecting the annual pay award, and were adversely affected by exchange rate movements.

The charge for provisions for bad debts was up £7 million to £18 million reflecting growth in lending and a slight deterioration in asset quality.

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THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

CITIZENS

| | First half 2003 £m | First half 2002 £m | Full year 2002 £m |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Net interest income | 638 | 640 | 1,248 |
| Non-interest income | 271 | 236 | 468 |
| Total income | 909 | 876 | 1,716 |
| Expenses | | | |
| - staff costs | 254 | 243 | 485 |
| - other | 186 | 198 | 370 |
| | 440 | 441 | 855 |
| Contribution before provisions | 469 | 435 | 861 |
| Provisions | 44 | 51 | 95 |
| Contribution | 425 | 384 | 766 |
| | \$bn | \$bn | \$bn |
| Total assets | 68.2 | 54.3 | 61.1 |
| Loans and advances to customers - gross | 37.5 | 27.1 | 31.4 |
| Customer deposits | 57.5 | 44.4 | 51.1 |
| Weighted risk assets | 44.1 | 36.5 | 38.8 |
| Average exchange rate - US\$/£ | 1.611 | 1.445 | 1.503 |
| Spot exchange rate - US\$/£ | 1.650 | 1.528 | 1.613 |

Citizens is engaged in retail and corporate banking activities through its branch network in the states of Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey. Citizens is the fifteenth largest commercial bank in the US based on deposits. In January 2003, Citizens completed the acquisition of Commonwealth Bancorp, Inc. of Pennsylvania, and in July 2003, completed the acquisition of Port Financial Corp., the holding company for CambridgePort Bank, a Massachusetts savings bank. Also in July 2003, Citizens announced the acquisition of Community Bancorp, Inc., Massachusetts, the holding

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company for Community National Bank. The transaction is subject to Community Bancorp, Inc. shareholder and US regulatory approvals and is expected to be completed by the end of 2003.

Contribution increased over the first half of 2002 by 11% or £41 million to £425 million; in US dollars, contribution increased by 23% or \$130 million to \$685 million.

Total income was up 16% or \$200 million to \$1,465 million.

Net interest income increased by 11% or \$104 million to \$1,029 million. Excluding the acquisitions, net interest income was up 7% or \$62 million (£38 million), reflecting strong organic growth in personal loans and deposits. Excluding the acquisitions, average loans were up 25% or \$6.7 billion and average deposits were up 22% or \$9.4 billion. The benefit of this growth was partially offset by a narrowing interest margin due to reductions in US interest rates.

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THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

CITIZENS (continued)

Non-interest income rose by 28% or \$96 million to \$436 million. Excluding the acquisitions, non-interest income was up 25% or \$85 million (£52 million), as a result of growth in banking service charges and securities gains.

Expenses increased by 11% or \$72 million to \$709 million. Excluding the acquisitions, expenses increased by 7% or \$45 million (£29 million), to support higher business volumes and expansion of Citizens' supermarket banking programme.

Provisions were down \$2 million from \$73 million to \$71 million. Excluding the acquisitions, provisions were \$4 million (£3 million), or 5%, lower than the first half of 2002.

In the six months ended 30 June 2003, Citizens increased its personal customer base by 237,000 accounts and its business customers by 18,000 due to growth through both traditional and supermarket branches, and the acquisition of Commonwealth Bancorp.

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THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

CENTRAL ITEMS

| | First half 2003 £m | First half 2002 £m | Full year 2002 £m |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Funding costs | 85 | 113 | 215 |

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| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Central department costs | | | |
| - staff costs | 56 | 51 | 108 |
| - other | 69 | 48 | 102 |
| Other corporate items net | 97 | 56 | 162 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Central items | 307 | 268 | 587 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

The Centre comprises group and corporate functions, such as human resources and finance, which provide services to the operating divisions.

Total Central items increased by £39 million to £307 million, compared with the first half of 2002.

Funding costs at £85 million, were 25% or £28 million lower partly due to the benefit of capital raising undertaken in the first half of the year.

Departmental and other costs at £222 million were broadly in line with the second half of 2002.

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THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

AVERAGE BALANCE SHEET

| | First half 2003 | | | First half 2002 | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| | Average balance £m | Interest £m | Rate % | Average balance £m | Interest £m | Rate % |
| Assets | | | | | | |
| Treasury and other eligible bills | | | | | | |
| UK | 1,656 | 27 | 3.3 | 935 | 9 | 1.9 |
| Overseas | - | - | - | 271 | 2 | 1.5 |
| Loans and advances to banks | | | | | | |
| UK | 13,212 | 230 | 3.5 | 13,733 | 254 | 3.7 |
| Overseas | 9,406 | 107 | 2.3 | 10,767 | 171 | 3.2 |
| Loans and advances to customers | | | | | | |
| UK | 166,743 | 4,671 | 5.6 | 150,028 | 4,507 | 6.0 |
| Overseas | 40,023 | 1,020 | 5.1 | 34,697 | 958 | 5.5 |
| Debt securities | | | | | | |
| UK | 22,683 | 382 | 3.4 | 16,919 | 335 | 4.0 |
| Overseas | 18,160 | 413 | 4.5 | 18,750 | 472 | 5.0 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | | <hr/> | <hr/> | |
| Interest-earning assets | | | | | | |
| - banking business | | | | | | |
| UK | 204,294 | 5,310 | 5.2 | 181,615 | 5,105 | 5.6 |
| Overseas | 67,589 | 1,540 | 4.6 | 64,485 | 1,603 | 5.0 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | | <hr/> | <hr/> | |
| | 271,883 | 6,850 | 5.0 | 246,100 | 6,708 | 5.5 |

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| | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|----------|-------|------|
| | - trading business | 91,946 | | | 75,941 | | |
| Total interest-earning assets | | 363,829 | | | 322,041 | | |
| Non-interest-earning assets | | 67,300 | | | 65,188 | | |
| Total assets | | 431,129 | | | 387,229 | | |
| Percentage of assets applicable to Overseas operations | | 32.0% | | | 31.7% | | |
| Liabilities | | | | | | | |
| Deposits by banks | | | | | | | |
| | UK | 26,515 | 338 | 2.5 | 19,112 | 253 | 2.6 |
| | Overseas | 9,819 | 110 | 2.2 | 10,496 | 129 | 2.5 |
| Customer accounts | | | | | | | |
| | UK | 130,902 | 1,513 | 2.3 | 118,123 | 1,499 | 2.5 |
| | Overseas | 40,953 | 366 | 1.8 | 34,940 | 413 | 2.4 |
| Debt securities in issue | | | | | | | |
| | UK | 29,034 | 495 | 3.4 | 24,096 | 470 | 3.9 |
| | Overseas | 9,674 | 64 | 1.3 | 9,032 | 129 | 2.9 |
| Loan capital | | | | | | | |
| | UK | 14,435 | 228 | 3.2 | 12,847 | 322 | 5.0 |
| | Overseas | 156 | 8 | 10.3 | 173 | 9 | 10.4 |
| Internal funding of trading business | | (22,218) | (297) | 2.7 | (22,075) | (389) | 3.5 |
| Interest-bearing liabilities | | | | | | | |
| | - banking business | | | | | | |
| | UK | 180,767 | 2,292 | 2.5 | 153,317 | 2,168 | 2.8 |
| | Overseas | 58,503 | 533 | 1.9 | 53,427 | 667 | 2.5 |
| | | 239,270 | 2,825 | 2.3 | 206,744 | 2,835 | 2.8 |
| | - trading business | 88,778 | | | 72,095 | | |
| Total interest-bearing liabilities | | 328,048 | | | 278,839 | | |
| Non-interest-bearing liabilities | | | | | | | |
| | - demand deposits | 24,130 | | | 28,309 | | |
| | - other liabilities | 51,326 | | | 53,207 | | |
| Shareholders' funds | | 27,625 | | | 26,874 | | |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' funds | | 431,129 | | | 387,229 | | |
| Percentage of liabilities applicable to Overseas operations | | 31.1% | | | 30.2% | | |

The analysis between UK and Overseas has been compiled on the basis of location of office. Interest receivable and interest payable on trading assets and liabilities are included in dealing profits.

THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

AVERAGE INTEREST RATES, YIELDS, SPREADS AND MARGINS

| | First half 2003 Average rate % | First half 2002 Average rate % |
|--|---|--|
| The Group's base rate | 3.8 | 4.0 |
| London inter-bank three month offered rates: | | |
| Sterling | 3.7 | 4.1 |
| Eurodollar | 1.3 | 1.9 |
| Euro | 2.5 | 3.4 |
| Yields, spreads and margins of the banking business: | | |
| Gross yield | | |
| Group | 5.0 | 5.5 |
| UK | 5.2 | 5.6 |
| Overseas | 4.6 | 5.0 |
| Interest spread | | |
| Group | 2.7 | 2.7 |
| UK | 2.7 | 2.8 |
| Overseas | 2.7 | 2.5 |
| Net interest margin | | |
| Group | 3.0 | 3.1 |
| UK | 3.0 | 3.2 |
| Overseas | 3.0 | 2.9 |

| | First half 2003 % | First half 2002 % | Full year 2002 % |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Gross yield on interest-earning assets of banking business | 5.0 | 5.5 | 5.4 |
| Cost of interest-bearing liabilities of banking business | (2.3) | (2.8) | (2.7) |
| Interest spread of banking business | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 |
| Benefit from interest-free funds | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Net interest margin of banking business | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.1 |

Group

Interest spread for the Group as a whole was unchanged at 2.7%.

Interest-free balances fell by over £6 billion partly due to the outcome of the Competition Commission inquiry into SME banking and this together with the lower interest rate environment contributed to the reduction in the benefit of interest-free funds from 0.4% to 0.3% giving a decline in net interest margin from 3.1% to 3.0%.

UK

While individual product margins remained stable, a slightly greater proportion of relatively lower margin mortgage business has resulted in a reduction in spread versus the first half of 2002, although a spread of 2.7% is consistent with the second half of 2002. The reduced benefit of interest-free funds reflects the rate and volume impact on interest-free funds described above.

Overseas

Although asset spreads have tightened in US, overall mix and volume improvements elsewhere have resulted in an increased overseas spread from 2.5% to 2.7%. Lower interest rates led to a reduction in the benefit from interest-free funds.

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THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2003 (unaudited)**

| | 30 June 2003 £m | 31 December 2002 (Audited) £m | 30 June 2002 £m |
|---|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Assets | | | |
| Cash and balances at central banks | 3,268 | 3,481 | 3,037 |
| Items in the course of collection from other banks | 3,729 | 2,741 | 3,925 |
| Treasury bills and other eligible bills | 7,047 | 11,459 | 8,184 |
| Loans and advances to banks | 44,923 | 44,296 | 39,172 |
| Loans and advances to customers | 248,726 | 223,324 | 209,884 |
| Debt securities | 73,328 | 67,042 | 68,829 |
| Equity shares | 2,150 | 1,886 | 1,794 |
| Interests in associated undertakings | 91 | 94 | 110 |
| Intangible fixed assets | 12,514 | 12,697 | 12,981 |
| Tangible fixed assets | 11,638 | 10,485 | 9,136 |
| Settlement balances | 15,169 | 4,102 | 9,635 |
| Other assets | 19,026 | 16,929 | 16,435 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 4,074 | 4,353 | 4,487 |
| | 445,683 | 402,889 | 387,609 |
| Long -term assurance assets attributable to policyholders | 3,462 | 9,111 | 9,530 |
| | 449,145 | 412,000 | 397,139 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Deposits by banks | 62,039 | 54,720 | 47,015 |
| Items in the course of transmission to other banks | 1,367 | 1,258 | 1,942 |
| Customer accounts | 225,697 | 219,161 | 204,800 |
| Debt securities in issue | 40,156 | 33,938 | 32,451 |

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| | | | |
|--|----------------|---------|---------|
| Settlement balances and short positions | 36,749 | 19,412 | 31,004 |
| Other liabilities | 22,343 | 20,754 | 17,986 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 8,399 | 8,626 | 8,156 |
| Provisions for liabilities and charges | | | |
| - deferred taxation | 1,909 | 1,834 | 1,672 |
| - other provisions | 293 | 330 | 306 |
| Subordinated liabilities | | | |
| - dated loan capital | 8,151 | 7,602 | 7,247 |
| - undated loan capital including convertible debt | 7,545 | 6,363 | 6,215 |
| Minority interests | | | |
| - equity | (23) | (11) | 32 |
| - non-equity | 2,444 | 1,850 | 1,383 |
| Shareholders' funds | | | |
| - equity | 25,496 | 23,545 | 23,743 |
| - non-equity | 3,118 | 3,507 | 3,657 |
| | 445,683 | 402,889 | 387,609 |
| Long -term assurance liabilities attributable to policyholders | 3,462 | 9,111 | 9,530 |
| Total liabilities | 449,145 | 412,000 | 397,139 |
| Memorandum items | | | |
| Contingent liabilities and commitments | 138,933 | 144,180 | 146,249 |

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THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

OVERVIEW OF CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

This overview compares the balance sheets at 30 June 2003 and 31 December 2002.

Total assets of £449.1 billion at 30 June 2003 were up £37.1 billion, 9%, compared with 31 December 2002, reflecting business growth.

Treasury bills and other eligible bills decreased by £4.4 billion, 39%, to £7.0 billion reflecting liquidity management.

Loans and advances to banks rose £0.6 billion, 1%, to £44.9 billion. Growth in bank placings, up £6.0 billion, 26% to £29.8 billion, was partially offset by decreased reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing ("reverse repos"), down £5.4 billion, 26%, to £15.1 billion, reflecting a switch to customer reverse repos.

Loans and advances to customers were up £25.4 billion, 11%, to £248.7 billion. Within this, reverse repos increased by 39%, £8.5 billion to £30.4 billion. Excluding reverse repos, lending increased by £16.9 billion, 8% to £218.3 billion with growth reflected across all divisions.

Debt securities increased by £6.3 billion, 9%, to £73.3 billion, principally relating to growth in Financial Markets.

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Intangible fixed assets declined by £0.2 billion, 1% to £12.5 billion, reflecting amortisation in the period and the effect of exchange rate movements, partially offset by goodwill arising on the acquisition of Commonwealth Bancorp, Inc. and Nordisk Renting AB.

Tangible fixed assets were up £1.2 billion, 11% to £11.6 billion, primarily due to growth in operating lease assets.

Settlement balances increased by £11.1 billion to £15.2 billion as a result of increased trading activity.

Other assets rose by £2.1 billion, 12% to £19.0 billion, mainly due to growth in the mark-to-market value of trading derivatives.

Long-term assurance assets and liabilities declined £5.6 billion, 62% to £3.5 billion, resulting from the transfer of the pension managed fund business of NatWest Life to another third party life company.

Deposits by banks increased by £7.3 billion, 13% to £62.0 billion to fund business growth, with repurchase agreements and stock lending ("repos") up £0.5 billion, 3%, to £20.6 billion and inter-bank deposits up £6.8 billion, 20% to £41.4 billion.

Customer accounts were up £6.5 billion, 3% at £225.7 billion. Within this, repos were down £5.5 billion, 22% to £19.6 billion. Excluding repos, deposits rose by £12.0 billion, 6%, to £206.1 billion with growth across all divisions.

Debt securities in issue were up £6.2 billion, 18%, at £40.2 billion primarily to meet the Group's funding requirements.

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THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

OVERVIEW OF CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (continued)

Short positions were up £7.2 billion, 44% to £23.6 billion to fund the growth in the Group's trading activities. Settlement balances rose by £10.1 billion to £13.1 billion as a result of increased trading activity.

Other liabilities increased by £1.6 billion, 8% to £22.3 billion mainly due to growth in the mark-to-market value of trading derivatives.

Subordinated liabilities were up £1.7 billion, 12% to £15.7 billion. This reflected the issue of £0.5 billion (€750 million) euro denominated dated loan capital, and £0.7 billion sterling denominated and £0.5 billion (US\$850 million) US\$ denominated, undated loan capital.

Minority interests increased by £0.6 billion, 32%, to £2.4 billion, mainly reflecting the issue in May 2003 by a subsidiary of the Group of US\$850 million (£0.5 billion) Series C non-cumulative trust preferred securities.

Shareholders' funds were up £1.6 billion, 6% to £28.6 billion principally due to retentions of £1.3 billion and the issue of £0.6 billion of equity shares, mainly in respect of the scrip dividend, partly offset by the redemption of £0.4 billion non-equity shares in January 2003.

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THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

**STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES
FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2003 (unaudited)**

| | First half 2003 £m | First half 2002 £m | Full year 2002 (Audited) £m |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders | 1,745 | 1,336 | 1,971 |
| Currency translation adjustments and other movements | 47 | 13 | 36 |
| Revaluation of premises | - | - | (33) |
| | <u>1,792</u> | <u>1,349</u> | <u>1,974</u> |
| Total recognised gains in the period | 1,792 | 1,349 | 1,974 |
| Prior year adjustment arising from the implementation of Financial Reporting Standard 19 Deferred Tax | - | (117) | (117) |
| | <u>1,792</u> | <u>1,232</u> | <u>1,857</u> |
| Total recognised gains | 1,792 | 1,232 | 1,857 |

**RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN CONSOLIDATED SHAREHOLDERS FUNDS
FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2003 (unaudited)**

| | First half 2003 £m | First half 2002 £m | Full year 2002 (Audited) £m |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders | 1,745 | 1,336 | 1,971 |
| Ordinary dividends | (431) | (368) | (1,267) |
| | <u>1,314</u> | <u>968</u> | <u>704</u> |
| Retained profit for the period | 1,314 | 968 | 704 |
| Issue of ordinary shares | 555 | 481 | 560 |
| Redemption of preference shares | (364) | (600) | (600) |
| Goodwill previously written off to reserves | 40 | - | - |
| Other recognised gains | 47 | 13 | 3 |
| Currency translation adjustment on share premium account | (30) | (130) | (283) |
| | <u>1,562</u> | <u>732</u> | <u>384</u> |
| Net increase in shareholders funds | 1,562 | 732 | 384 |
| Opening shareholders funds | 27,052 | 26,668 | 26,668 |
| | <u>28,614</u> | <u>27,400</u> | <u>27,052</u> |
| Closing shareholders funds | 28,614 | 27,400 | 27,052 |

THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

**CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2003 (unaudited)**

| | First half 2003 £m | First half 2002 £m | Full year 2002 (Audited) £m |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Net cash inflow from operating activities (note 10) | 14,428 | 4,597 | 13,737 |
| Dividends received from associated undertakings | 1 | - | 1 |
| Returns on investments and servicing of finance | | | |
| Preference dividends paid | (140) | (175) | (317) |
| Additional Value Shares dividend paid | - | - | (798) |
| Dividends paid to minority shareholders in subsidiary undertakings | (60) | (22) | (112) |
| Interest paid on subordinated liabilities | (322) | (313) | (674) |
| Net cash outflow from returns on investments and servicing of finance | (522) | (510) | (1,901) |
| Taxation | | | |
| UK tax paid | (359) | (349) | (833) |
| Overseas tax paid | (233) | (142) | (274) |
| Net cash outflow from taxation | (592) | (491) | (1,107) |
| Capital expenditure and financial investment | | | |
| Purchase of investment securities | (24,343) | (13,957) | (32,701) |
| Sale and maturity of investment securities | 20,775 | 11,957 | 26,072 |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets | (1,533) | (1,344) | (3,367) |
| Sale of tangible fixed assets | 395 | 615 | 811 |
| Net cash outflow from capital expenditure and financial investment | (4,706) | (2,729) | (9,185) |
| Acquisitions and disposals | | | |
| Purchases of businesses and subsidiary undertakings (net of cash acquired) | (318) | (173) | (308) |
| Investment in associated undertakings | (3) | (2) | (2) |
| Sale of subsidiary and associated undertakings (net of cash sold) | 105 | - | 29 |
| Net cash outflow from acquisitions and disposals | (216) | (175) | (281) |
| Ordinary equity dividends paid | (396) | (381) | (729) |
| Net cash inflow before financing | 7,997 | 311 | 535 |

Financing

| | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Proceeds from issue of ordinary share capital | 9 | 22 | 85 |
| Proceeds from issue of trust preferred securities | 512 | 802 | 1,242 |
| Redemption of preference share capital | (364) | (600) | (600) |
| Issue of subordinated liabilities | 1,731 | 1,167 | 2,157 |
| Repayment of subordinated liabilities | (40) | (40) | (202) |
| Increase in minority interests | 19 | 21 | 29 |
| | <u>1,867</u> | <u>1,372</u> | <u>2,711</u> |
| Net cash inflow from financing | | | |
| | <u>9,864</u> | <u>1,683</u> | <u>3,246</u> |

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THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

NOTES**1. Accounting policies**

There have been no changes to the Group's principal accounting policies as set out on pages 93 to 95 of the 2002 Report and Accounts.

2. Provisions for bad and doubtful debts

Operating profit is stated after charging provisions for bad and doubtful debts of £746 million (30 June 2002 - £611 million). The balance sheet provisions for bad and doubtful debts increased in the six months to 30 June 2003 from £3,927 million to £3,971 million, and the movements thereon were:

| | Specific | General | 2003 | 2002 |
|--|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| | £m | £m | Total | Total |
| | £m | £m | £m | £m |
| At 1 January | 3,330 | 597 | 3,927 | 3,653 |
| Currency translation and other adjustments | (8) | 2 | (6) | (18) |
| Acquisitions | 10 | - | 10 | - |
| Amounts written off | (740) | - | (740) | (424) |
| Recoveries of amounts previously written off | 34 | - | 34 | 34 |
| Charge to profit and loss account | 741 | 5 | 746 | 611 |
| | <u>3,367</u> | <u>604</u> | <u>3,971</u> | <u>3,856</u> |
| At 30 June | | | | |

3. Taxation

The charge for taxation is based on a UK corporation tax rate of 30% and comprises:

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| | First half 2003 £m | First half 2002 £m | Full year 2002 £m |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Tax on profit before goodwill amortisation and integration costs | 1,001 | 942 | 1,863 |
| Tax relief on goodwill amortisation and integration costs | (74) | (161) | (307) |
| | <u>927</u> | <u>781</u> | <u>1,556</u> |

The actual tax charge differs from the expected tax charge computed by applying the standard UK corporation tax rate of 30% as follows:

| | First half 2003 £m | First half 2002 £m | Full year 2002 £m |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Expected tax charge | 869 | 698 | 1,429 |
| Goodwill amortisation | 95 | 92 | 190 |
| Contributions to employee share schemes | (4) | (3) | (40) |
| Non-deductible items | 3 | 5 | 111 |
| Non-taxable items | (34) | (3) | (70) |
| Taxable foreign exchange movements | (2) | - | 4 |
| Foreign profits taxed at other rates | 6 | (7) | 3 |
| Unutilised losses brought forward and carried forward | (1) | (1) | - |
| Adjustments in respect of prior periods | (5) | - | (71) |
| | <u>927</u> | <u>781</u> | <u>1,556</u> |
| Actual tax charge | | | |

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THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

NOTES (continued)

4. Earnings per share

Earnings per share have been calculated based on the following:

| | First half 2003 £m | First half 2002 £m | Full year 2002 £m |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Earnings | | | |
| Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders | 1,745 | 1,336 | 1,971 |

| | Number of shares - millions | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------|-------|
| Weighted average number of ordinary shares | | | |
| In issue during the period | 2,908 | 2,866 | 2,881 |
| Effect of dilutive share options and convertible non-equity shares | 26 | 39 | 43 |
| | 2,934 | 2,905 | 2,924 |
| Basic earnings per share | 60.0p | 46.6p | 68.4p |
| Diluted earnings per share | 59.5p | 46.0p | 67.4p |

5. Interim dividend

The directors have declared an interim dividend of 14.6p per share on the ordinary shares. The interim dividend will be paid on 10 October 2003 to shareholders registered on 15 August 2003. As an alternative to cash, a scrip dividend election is to be offered and shareholders will receive details of this by letter.

6. Analysis of repurchase agreements

| | 30 June 2003 £m | 31 December 2002 £m | 30 June 2002 £m |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing | | | |
| Loans and advances to banks | 15,140 | 20,578 | 16,166 |
| Loans and advances to customers | 30,443 | 21,941 | 19,582 |
| Repurchase agreements and stock lending | | | |
| Deposits by banks | 20,644 | 20,097 | 14,748 |
| Customer accounts | 19,595 | 25,060 | 19,401 |

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NOTES (continued)

7. Contingent liabilities and commitments

| | 30 June 2003 £m | 31 December 2002 £m | 30 June 2002 £m |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Contingent liabilities | | | |
| Acceptances and endorsements | 2,268 | 2,407 | 2,246 |
| Guarantees and assets pledged as collateral security | 5,683 | 5,200 | 4,970 |
| Other contingent liabilities | 8,232 | 7,981 | 5,829 |
| | 16,183 | 15,588 | 13,045 |
| Commitments | | | |
| Documentary credits and other short-term trade related transactions | 244 | 655 | 2,098 |
| Undrawn formal stand by facilities, credit lines and other commitments to lend | 121,515 | 127,429 | 130,761 |
| Other commitments | 991 | 508 | 345 |
| | 122,750 | 128,592 | 133,204 |
| Total contingent liabilities and commitments | 138,933 | 144,180 | 146,249 |

8. Derivatives**Replacement cost of over-the-counter contracts (trading and non-trading)**

The following table shows the gross replacement cost, which is the sum of the fair values, of all over-the-counter contracts with third parties (trading and non-trading) with positive value. This measure makes no allowance for netting arrangements.

| | 30 June 2003 £m | 31 December 2002 £m | 30 June 2002 £m |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Exchange rate contracts | 20,941 | 17,262 | 21,134 |
| Interest rate contracts | 76,883 | 64,460 | 37,732 |
| Equity and commodity contracts | 924 | 810 | 228 |
| | 98,748 | 82,532 | 59,094 |

NOTES (continued)

8. Derivatives (continued)

Derivatives held for trading purposes

The table below shows the notional principal amounts of trading instruments entered into with third parties.

| | 30 June 2003 £bn | 31 December 2002 £bn | 30 June 2002 £bn |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Exchange rate contracts | 1,241.8 | 899.0 | 883.4 |
| Interest rate contracts | 5,072.2 | 3,922.4 | 3,817.4 |
| Equity and commodity contracts | 28.3 | 23.5 | 16.2 |

The table below shows the fair values (which, after netting, are the balance sheet values) of trading instruments entered into with third parties.

| | 30 June 2003 | | 31 December 2002 | | 30 June 2002 | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | Fair value | | Fair value | | Fair value | |
| | Assets | Liabilities | Assets | Liabilities | Assets | Liabilities |
| | £m | £m | £m | £m | £m | £m |
| Exchange rate contracts | 20,905 | 22,392 | 17,217 | 18,625 | 21,110 | 21,799 |
| Interest rate contracts | 76,364 | 76,556 | 64,072 | 64,420 | 37,366 | 37,715 |
| Equity and commodity contracts | 867 | 599 | 733 | 496 | 259 | 268 |
| | 98,136 | 99,547 | 82,022 | 83,541 | 58,735 | 59,782 |
| Netting | (83,374) | (83,374) | (68,812) | (68,812) | (47,417) | (47,417) |
| | 14,762 | 16,173 | 13,210 | 14,729 | 11,318 | 12,365 |

Derivatives held for purposes other than trading

The Group uses derivatives to manage specific interest rate positions relating to assets and liabilities and to hedge foreign currency exposures. The Group establishes non-trading derivative positions with third parties and through intra-company and intra-Group transactions with the Group's independent trading operations. The table below shows the notional principal amounts of the Group's non-trading derivatives (third party and internal).

| | 30 June 2003 £bn | 31 December 2002 £bn | 30 June 2002 £bn |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Exchange rate contracts | 16.3 | 14.1 | 13.8 |
| Interest rate contracts | 127.6 | 113.7 | 115.2 |
| Equity and commodity contracts | 1.7 | 2.2 | 0.9 |

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NOTES (continued)**9. Analysis of consolidated shareholders funds**

| | First half 2003 £m | First half 2002 £m | Full year 2002 £m |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Called-up share capital | | | |
| At beginning of period | 754 | 893 | 893 |
| Shares issued during the period | 10 | 7 | 11 |
| Preference shares redeemed during the period | - | (150) | (150) |
| | <u>764</u> | <u>750</u> | <u>754</u> |
| At end of period | 764 | 750 | 754 |
| Share premium account | | | |
| At beginning of period | 7,608 | 7,465 | 7,465 |
| Currency translation adjustments | (30) | (130) | (283) |
| Shares issued during the period | 557 | 485 | 685 |
| Preference shares redeemed during the period | - | (268) | (268) |
| Other movements | 6 | 6 | 9 |
| | <u>8,141</u> | <u>7,558</u> | <u>7,608</u> |
| At end of period | 8,141 | 7,558 | 7,608 |
| Merger reserve | | | |
| At beginning of period | 11,455 | 12,029 | 12,029 |
| Transfer to profit and loss account | (287) | (287) | (574) |
| | <u>11,168</u> | <u>11,742</u> | <u>11,455</u> |
| At end of period | 11,168 | 11,742 | 11,455 |
| Revaluation reserve | | | |
| At beginning of period | 80 | 113 | 113 |
| Revaluation of premises | - | - | (33) |
| | <u>80</u> | <u>113</u> | <u>80</u> |
| At end of period | 80 | 113 | 80 |
| Other reserves | | | |
| At beginning of period | 387 | 212 | 212 |
| Redemption of preference shares | - | 150 | 150 |
| Transfer of increase in value of long-term assurance business | 10 | 3 | 25 |

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| | | | |
|---|---------------|--------|--------|
| At end of period | 397 | 365 | 387 |
| Profit and loss account | | | |
| At beginning of period | 6,768 | 5,956 | 5,956 |
| Currency translation adjustments and other movements | 41 | 7 | 27 |
| Retention for the period | 1,314 | 968 | 704 |
| Employee share option payments | (12) | (11) | (136) |
| Redemption of preference shares | (364) | (332) | (332) |
| Goodwill previously written off | 40 | - | - |
| Transfer from merger reserve | 287 | 287 | 574 |
| Transfer of increase in value of long-term assurance business | (10) | (3) | (25) |
| At end of period | 8,064 | 6,872 | 6,768 |
| Closing shareholders funds | 28,614 | 27,400 | 27,052 |

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THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

NOTES (continued)

10. Analysis of net cash inflow from operating activities

| | First half 2003 £m | First half 2002 £m | Full year 2002 £m |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Net cash inflow from trading activities | 3,920 | 3,328 | 7,459 |
| Increase in loans and advances to banks and customers | (14,452) | (18,514) | (35,426) |
| Increase in deposits by banks and customers | 11,677 | 12,723 | 33,895 |
| (Increase)/decrease in securities | (2,901) | (3,864) | 1,799 |
| Increase in debt securities in issue | 6,218 | 1,782 | 3,269 |
| Settlement balances and short positions | 6,270 | 6,541 | 482 |
| Increase in other assets and liabilities | 3,696 | 2,601 | 2,259 |
| Net cash inflow from operating activities | 14,428 | 4,597 | 13,737 |

11. Litigation

Members of the Group are engaged in litigation in the United Kingdom and a number of overseas jurisdictions, including the United States, involving claims by and against them which arise in the ordinary course of business. The directors, after reviewing the actual, threatened and known potential claims against Group undertakings and taking into account the advice of the relevant legal advisers, are satisfied that the outcome of these claims will not have a material adverse effect on the net assets of the Group.

12. Statutory accounts

Financial information contained in this document does not constitute statutory accounts within the meaning of section 240 of the Companies Act 1985 ("the Act"). The statutory accounts for the year ended 31 December 2002 have been filed with the Registrar of Companies and have been reported on by the auditors under section 235 of the Act. The report of the auditors was unqualified and did not contain a statement under section 237(2) or (3) of the Act.

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THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

ASSET QUALITY**Analysis of loans and advances to customers**

The following table analyses loans and advances to customers (including reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing) by geographical area and type of customer.

| | 30 June 2003 £m | 31 December 2002 £m | 30 June 2002 £m |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| UK | | | |
| Central and local government | 627 | 1,521 | 1,300 |
| Manufacturing | 7,167 | 7,386 | 6,730 |
| Construction | 4,055 | 3,468 | 3,235 |
| Finance | 13,508 | 12,396 | 15,208 |
| Service industries and business activities | 28,717 | 26,022 | 27,177 |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing | 2,756 | 2,463 | 2,511 |
| Property | 18,906 | 15,939 | 13,558 |
| Individuals | | | |
| - home mortgages | 44,240 | 42,101 | 39,501 |
| - other | 23,793 | 22,255 | 21,366 |
| Finance leases and instalment credit | 11,577 | 11,723 | 11,624 |
| | 155,346 | 145,274 | 142,210 |
| Overseas residents | 27,539 | 23,657 | 24,737 |
| Total UK offices | 182,885 | 168,931 | 166,947 |
| Overseas | | | |
| US | 49,766 | 41,008 | 31,646 |

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| | | | |
|---|----------------|-------------|---------|
| Rest of the World | 20,039 | 17,305 | 15,141 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total overseas offices | 69,805 | 58,313 | 46,787 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Loans and advances to customers gross | 252,690 | 227,244 | 213,734 |
| Provisions for bad and doubtful debts | (3,964) | (3,920) | (3,850) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total loans and advances to customers | 248,726 | 223,324 | 209,884 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Reverse repurchase agreements included in the analysis above: | | | |
| | 30 June | 31 December | 30 June |
| | 2003 | 2002 | 2002 |
| | £m | £m | £m |
| Central and local government | 358 | 1,000 | 1,150 |
| Finance | 8,436 | 5,186 | 8,650 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 8,794 | 6,186 | 9,800 |
| Overseas residents | 3,310 | 1,287 | 1,505 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total UK offices | 12,104 | 7,473 | 11,305 |
| Overseas | | | |
| US | 18,038 | 14,184 | 8,093 |
| Rest of the World | 301 | 284 | 184 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total | 30,443 | 21,941 | 19,582 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Loans and advances to customers excluding reverse repurchase agreements- net | 218,283 | 201,383 | 190,302 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

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ASSET QUALITY (continued)

Cross border outstandings

The table below sets out the Group's cross border outstandings in excess of 0.75% of Group total assets (including acceptances) of £451.4 billion (31 December 2002 - £414.4 billion; 30 June 2002 - £399.4 billion). None of these countries have experienced repayment difficulties which have required refinancing of outstanding debt.

| | | |
|----------------|-------------|---------|
| 30 June | 31 December | 30 June |
| 2003 | 2002 | 2002 |

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| | £m | £m | £m |
|----------------|--------|--------|-------|
| US | 14,504 | 11,658 | 7,986 |
| Germany | 10,648 | 10,464 | 9,424 |
| France | 7,242 | 5,971 | 4,563 |
| Netherlands | 7,090 | 6,318 | 4,996 |
| Cayman Islands | 6,611 | 6,897 | 6,333 |
| Japan | 5,250 | 3,156 | * |
| Spain | 3,997 | * | 3,476 |
| Italy | 3,978 | 3,867 | * |
| Canada | 3,426 | * | * |

* less than 0.75% of Group total assets (including acceptances).

Selected country exposures

The table below details exposures to countries that are sometimes considered as having a higher credit and foreign exchange risk.

| | 30 June 2003 | | | 31 December 2002 | | | 30 June 2002 | | |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|
| | Bank £m | Non- bank £m | Total £m | Bank £m | Non- bank £m | Total £m | Bank £m | Non- bank £m | Total £m |
| Argentina | 29 | 11 | 40 | 30 | 15 | 45 | 35 | 16 | 51 |
| Brazil | - | 10 | 10 | - | 14 | 14 | 42 | 22 | 64 |
| Turkey | 7 | 83 | 90 | 25 | 65 | 90 | 29 | 103 | 132 |
| Venezuela | - | 108 | 108 | - | 115 | 115 | - | 111 | 111 |

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THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

ASSET QUALITY (continued)

Risk elements in lending

The Group's loan control and review procedures do not include the classification of loans as non-accrual, accruing past due, restructured and potential problem loans, as defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in the US. The following table shows the estimated amount of loans which would be reported using the SEC's classifications. The figures incorporate estimates and are stated before deducting the value of security held or related provisions.

| | 30 June 2003 £m | 31 December 2002 £m | 30 June 2002 £m |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Loans accounted for on a non-accrual basis (2) : | | | |
| Domestic | 3,404 | 3,077 | 3,085 |
| Foreign | 1,177 | 1,098 | 897 |
| | <u>4,581</u> | <u>4,175</u> | <u>3,982</u> |

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| | | | |
|--|--------------|-------|-------|
| Accruing loans which are contractually overdue 90 days or more as to principal or interest (3): | | | |
| Domestic | 306 | 363 | 494 |
| Foreign | 61 | 129 | 145 |
| | 367 | 492 | 639 |
| Loans not included above which are troubled debt restructurings as defined by the SEC: | | | |
| Domestic | 96 | 144 | 78 |
| Foreign | 39 | 60 | 92 |
| | 135 | 204 | 170 |
| Total risk elements in lending | 5,083 | 4,871 | 4,791 |
| Potential problem loans (4) | | | |
| Domestic | 871 | 639 | 897 |
| Foreign | 104 | 544 | 333 |
| | 975 | 1,183 | 1,230 |
| Closing provisions for bad and doubtful debts as a % of total risk elements in lending | 78% | 81% | 80% |
| Closing provisions for bad and doubtful debts as a % of gross loans and advances to customers | 1.57% | 1.73% | 1.80% |
| Risk elements in lending as a % of gross loans and advances to customers | 2.01% | 2.14% | 2.24% |

Notes:

- 1) For the analysis above, 'Domestic' consists of the United Kingdom domestic transactions of the Group. 'Foreign' comprises the Group's transactions conducted through offices outside the UK and through those offices in the UK specifically organised to service international banking transactions.
- 2) The Group's UK banking subsidiary undertakings account for loans on a non-accrual basis from the point in time at which the collectability of interest is in significant doubt. Certain subsidiary undertakings of the Group generally account for loans on a non-accrual basis when interest or principal is past due 90 days.
- 3) Overdrafts generally have no fixed repayment schedule and consequently are not included in this category.
- 4) Loans that are current as to payment of principal and interest but in respect of which management has serious doubts about the ability of the borrower to comply with contractual repayment terms. Substantial security is held in respect of these loans and appropriate provisions have already been made in accordance with the Group's provisioning policy for bad and doubtful debts.

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ASSET QUALITY (continued)**Provisions for bad and doubtful debts**

| | First half 2003 | | Full year 2002 | | First half 2002 | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | Specific £m | General £m | Specific £m | General £m | Specific £m | General £m |
| Provisions at beginning of period | | | | | | |
| Domestic | 2,232 | 349 | 2,123 | 344 | 2,123 | 344 |
| Foreign | 1,098 | 248 | 916 | 270 | 916 | 270 |
| | 3,330 | 597 | 3,039 | 614 | 3,039 | 614 |
| Currency translation and other adjustments | | | | | | |
| Domestic | 4 | - | 11 | (15) | 7 | 3 |
| Foreign | (12) | 2 | (56) | (2) | (23) | (5) |
| | (8) | 2 | (45) | (17) | (16) | (2) |
| Acquisitions | | | | | | |
| Domestic | - | - | 11 | - | - | - |
| Foreign | 10 | - | 12 | - | - | - |
| | 10 | - | 23 | - | - | - |
| Amounts written-off | | | | | | |
| Domestic | (506) | - | (743) | - | (313) | - |
| Foreign | (234) | - | (293) | - | (111) | - |
| | (740) | - | (1,036) | - | (424) | - |
| Recoveries of amounts written-off in previous periods | | | | | | |
| Domestic | 15 | - | 37 | - | 20 | - |
| Foreign | 19 | - | 26 | - | 14 | - |
| | 34 | - | 63 | - | 34 | - |
| Charged to profit and loss account | | | | | | |
| Domestic | 482 | 14 | 793 | 20 | 474 | 1 |
| Foreign | 259 | (9) | 493 | (20) | 135 | 1 |
| | 741 | 5 | 1,286 | - | 609 | 2 |
| Provisions at end of period (2) | | | | | | |

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| | | | | | | |
|----------|--------------|------------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| Domestic | 2,227 | 363 | 2,232 | 349 | 2,311 | 348 |
| Foreign | 1,140 | 241 | 1,098 | 248 | 931 | 266 |
| | 3,367 | 604 | 3,330 | 597 | 3,242 | 614 |

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ASSET QUALITY (continued)

Provisions for bad and doubtful debts (continued)

| | 30 June 2003 £m | 31 December 2002 £m | 30 June 2002 £m |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Gross loans and advances to customers | | | |
| Domestic | 155,346 | 145,274 | 142,210 |
| Foreign | 97,344 | 81,970 | 71,524 |
| | 252,690 | 227,244 | 213,734 |
| Closing customer provisions as a % of gross loans and advances to customers (3) | | | |
| Domestic | 1.67% | 1.78% | 1.87% |
| Foreign | 1.41% | 1.63% | 1.67% |
| Total | 1.57% | 1.73% | 1.80% |
| Customer charge against profit (annualised) as a % of gross loans and advances to customers | | | |
| Domestic | 0.64% | 0.56% | 0.67% |
| Foreign | 0.51% | 0.58% | 0.38% |
| Total | 0.59% | 0.57% | 0.57% |

Notes:

- 1) For the analysis above, 'Domestic' consists of the United Kingdom domestic transactions of the Group. 'Foreign' comprises the Group's transactions conducted through offices outside the UK and through those offices in the UK specifically organised to service international banking transactions.
- 2) Includes closing provisions against loans and advances to banks of £7 million (31 December 2002 - £7 million; 30 June 2002- £6 million).
- 3) Closing customer provisions exclude closing provisions against loans and advances to banks.

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THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP plc

MARKET RISK

The Group manages the market risk in its trading and treasury portfolios through value-at-risk (VaR) limits as well as stress testing, position and sensitivity limits. VaR is a technique that produces estimates of the potential negative change in the market value of a portfolio over a specified time horizon at a given confidence level. The table below sets out the trading and treasury VaR for the Group, which assumes a 95% confidence level and a one-day time horizon.

| | Six months to 30 June | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | At 30 June £m | Maximum £m | Minimum £m | Average £m |
| Trading | | | | |
| 2003 | 11.5 | 12.8 | 8.0 | 10.8 |
| 2002 | 9.7 | 11.3 | 7.0 | 8.9 |
| Treasury | | | | |
| 2003 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 5.6 | 7.3 |
| 2002 | 4.1 | 4.8 | 3.6 | 4.1 |

The Group's VaR should be interpreted in light of the limitations of the methodologies used. These limitations include:

- Historical data may not provide the best estimate of the joint distribution of risk factor changes in the future and may fail to capture the risk of possible extreme adverse market movements which have not occurred in the historical window used in the calculations.
- VaR using a one -day time horizon does not fully capture the market risk of positions that cannot be liquidated or hedged within one day.
- VaR using a 95% confidence level does not reflect the extent of potential losses beyond that percentile.
- The Group largely computes the VaR of the trading portfolios at the close of business and positions may change substantially during the course of the trading day. Controls are in place to limit the Group's intra-day exposure; such as the calculation of VaR for selected portfolios.

These limitations and the nature of the VaR measure mean that the Group cannot guarantee that losses will not exceed the VaR amounts indicated nor that losses in excess of the VaR amounts will not occur more frequently than once in 20 business days.

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REGULATORY RATIOS AND OTHER INFORMATION

| 30 June 2003 | 31 December 2002 | 30 June 2002 |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|

Capital base (£m)

| | | | |
|--|----------------|---------|---------|
| Ordinary shareholders funds and minority interests | 13,321 | 11,169 | 10,889 |
| Preference shares and tax deductible securities | 6,137 | 5,986 | 5,915 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Tier 1 capital | 19,458 | 17,155 | 16,804 |
| Tier 2 capital | 14,941 | 13,271 | 12,644 |
| Tier 3 capital | - | - | 164 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 34,399 | 30,426 | 29,612 |
| Less: investments in insurance companies, associated undertakings and other supervisory deductions | (2,707) | (3,146) | (2,980) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 31,692 | 27,280 | 26,632 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

Weighted risk assets (£m)

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|---------|---------|
| Banking book | | | |
| - on-balance sheet | 209,500 | 193,800 | 185,300 |
| - off-balance sheet | 34,200 | 28,700 | 29,700 |
| Trading book | 13,400 | 11,500 | 10,800 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 257,100 | 234,000 | 225,800 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

Risk asset ratio

| | | | |
|----------|--------------|-------|-------|
| - tier 1 | 7.6% | 7.3% | 7.4% |
| - total | 12.3% | 11.7% | 11.8% |

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------|--------|
| Share price | £17.00 | £14.88 | £18.60 |
|--------------------|---------------|--------|--------|

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|
| Number of shares in issue | 2,942m | 2,901m | 2,888m |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|
| Market capitalisation | £50.0bn | £43.2bn | £53.7bn |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|

| | | | |
|---|--------------|-------|-------|
| Net asset value per ordinary share | £8.67 | £8.12 | £8.22 |
|---|--------------|-------|-------|

Employee numbers

| | | | |
|--|---------------|--------|--------|
| Corporate Banking and Financial Markets* | 16,100 | 16,900 | 17,000 |
| Retail Banking | 30,000 | 30,100 | 29,500 |
| Retail Direct | 7,000 | 7,000 | 6,500 |
| Manufacturing* | 21,200 | 21,900 | 22,700 |
| Wealth Management* | 5,500 | 6,000 | 6,400 |
| Direct Line Group | 11,000 | 10,500 | 10,300 |
| Ulster Bank | 4,500 | 4,400 | 4,700 |
| Citizens | 13,800 | 13,300 | 12,700 |
| Centre | 1,700 | 1,700 | 1,700 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|---------|---------|
| Group total | 110,800 | 111,800 | 111,500 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

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| | |
|---|----------------|
| Acquisitions in the six months ended 30 June 2003 | (500) |
| Underlying | 110,300 |

* prior periods have been restated to reflect the transfer in the first half of 2003 of certain activities from Corporate Banking and Financial Markets and Wealth Management to Manufacturing.

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ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL DATA FOR US INVESTORS

Reconciliation between UK and US GAAP

The consolidated results of the Group are prepared in accordance with UK generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) that differ in certain material respects from US GAAP. These differences are discussed in the Group's 2002 Annual Report on Form 20-F. The following tables summarise the significant adjustments to net income available for ordinary shareholders, shareholders equity and total assets, which would result from the application of US GAAP instead of UK GAAP.

| | First half 2003 | First half 2002 | Full year 2002 |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | £m | £m | £m |
| Consolidated statement of income | | | |
| Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders UK GAAP | 1,745 | 1,336 | 1,971 |
| Adjustments in respect of: | | | |
| Acquisition accounting | 22 | - | - |
| Amortisation of goodwill | 366 | 339 | 681 |
| Property depreciation | (12) | (5) | (18) |
| Loan fees and costs | (20) | (47) | (72) |
| Pension costs | (168) | (42) | (58) |
| Long-term assurance business | (13) | (17) | (37) |
| Leasing | (33) | (33) | (71) |
| Derivatives and hedging | (243) | 104 | 770 |
| Software development costs | (123) | 163 | 283 |
| Tax effect on the above adjustments | 160 | (38) | (261) |
| Deferred taxation | - | (46) | (80) |
| Net income available for ordinary shareholders - US GAAP | 1,681 | 1,714 | 3,108 |
| Dividend per ordinary share - paid during the period | 31.0p | 27.0p | 39.7p |
| Basic earnings per share under US GAAP | 57.8p | 59.8p | 107.9p |
| Diluted earnings per share under US GAAP | 57.3p | 59.0p | 106.3p |
| Consolidated shareholders' equity | 30 June 2003 | 31 December 2002 | 30 June 2002 |
| | £m | £m | £m |

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| | | | |
|---|----------------|---------|--------|
| Shareholders' funds - UK GAAP | 28,614 | 27,052 | 27,400 |
| Adjustments in respect of: | | | |
| Acquisition accounting | 440 | 418 | 418 |
| Goodwill | 1,867 | 1,541 | 1,199 |
| Property revaluation and depreciation | (289) | (277) | (297) |
| Proposed dividend | 431 | 899 | 368 |
| Loan fees and costs | (261) | (241) | (216) |
| Pension costs | 174 | 342 | 358 |
| Recognition of pension scheme minimum liability | (3,393) | (3,568) | - |
| Long-term assurance business | (134) | (121) | (101) |
| Leasing | (198) | (165) | (127) |
| Available-for-sale securities | 147 | 284 | 326 |
| Derivatives and hedging | 643 | 535 | (5) |
| Perpetual regulatory tier one securities | 733 | 751 | 793 |
| Software development costs | 837 | 960 | 840 |
| Tax effect on cumulative UK/US GAAP adjustments | (301) | (461) | (238) |
| Tax effect on other comprehensive income | 900 | 1,013 | 7 |
| Deferred taxation | (34) | (34) | (97) |
| | 30,176 | 28,928 | 30,628 |
| Shareholders' equity US GAAP | | | |

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ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL DATA FOR US INVESTORS (continued)

Total assets

Total assets under US GAAP, which include acceptances and the grossing-up of certain repurchase balances offset under UK GAAP, together with the affect of adjustments made to net income and shareholders' equity were £472 billion (31 December 2002 - £431 billion; 30 June 2002 - £417 billion).

Other financial data

| | 30 June 2003 | 31 December 2002 | 30 June 2002 |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Other financial data in accordance with UK GAAP | | | |
| Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preference dividends | | | |
| - including interest on deposits | 1.91% | 1.73% | 1.71% |
| - excluding interest on deposits | 6.09% | 5.12% | 4.93% |
| Ratio of earnings to fixed charges | | | |
| - including interest on deposits | 2.00% | 1.82% | 1.80% |
| - excluding interest on deposits | 8.15% | 7.13% | 6.93% |

Other financial data in accordance with US GAAP

Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preference dividends

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-------|-------|
| - including interest on deposits | 1.84% | 1.97% | 1.86% |
| - excluding interest on deposits | 5.68% | 6.49% | 5.77% |

Ratio of earnings to fixed charges

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-------|-------|
| - including interest on deposits | 1.92% | 2.07% | 1.96% |
| - excluding interest on deposits | 7.60% | 9.03% | 8.11% |

Developments in US GAAP

In April 2003, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) 149 Amendment of Statement 133 on Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities . SFAS 149 amends and clarifies accounting for derivative instruments, including certain derivative instruments embedded in other contracts, and for hedging activities under SFAS 133. SFAS 149 is effective for contracts entered into or modified after 30 June 2003 and for hedging relationships designated after 30 June 2003. The Group has determined that this statement has no material effect on its US GAAP reporting.

In May 2003, the FASB issued SFAS 150 Accounting for Certain Financial Instruments with Characteristics of both Liabilities and Equity . SFAS 150 addresses how an issuer classifies and measures certain financial instruments with characteristics of both liabilities and equity. It requires certain financial instruments falling within its scope to be classified as liabilities. SFAS 150 is effective for instruments issued or modified after 31 May 2003. This statement has not affected the Group s US GAAP reporting at 30 June 2003.

Exchange rates

The following table shows rates for cable transfers in sterling as certified for customs purposes by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (the Noon Buying Rate) and the rates used by the Group in the preparation of its consolidated financial statements.

| | 30 June 2003 | 31 December 2002 | 30 June 2002 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| US\$ per £1 | | | |
| Noon Buying Rate | | | |
| Period end rate | 1.653 | 1.610 | 1.525 |
| Average rate for the period (1) | 1.615 | 1.504 | 1.449 |
| High | 1.684 | 1.610 | 1.529 |
| Low | 1.550 | 1.556 | 1.407 |
| Consolidation rate (2) | | | |
| Period end rate | 1.650 | 1.613 | 1.528 |
| Average rate for the period | 1.611 | 1.503 | 1.445 |

Notes:

- 1) The average of the Noon Buying Rates on the last business day of each month during the period.
- 2) The rates used by the Group for translating dollars into sterling in the preparation of its consolidated financial statements.
- 3) On 5 August 2003, the Noon Buying Rate was £1.00 = \$1.609.

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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain sections in this document contain forward-looking statements as that term is defined in the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, such as statements that include the words expect, estimate, project, anticipate, should, intend, probability, risk, Value-at-Risk (VaR), target, goal, objective, will, endeavour, outlook, 'optimistic', 'prospects' and expressions or variations on such expressions and sections such as Chairman's statement, Group Chief Executive's review and Financial review'.

In particular, this document includes forward-looking statements relating, but not limited, to the Group's potential exposures to various types of market risks, such as interest rate risk, foreign exchange rate risk and commodity and equity price risk. Such statements are subject to risks and uncertainties. For example, certain of the market risk disclosures are dependent on choices about key model characteristics and assumptions and are subject to various limitations. By their nature, certain of the market risk disclosures are only estimates and, as a result, actual future gains and losses could differ materially from those that have been estimated.

Other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those estimated by the forward-looking statements contained in this document include, but are not limited to: general economic conditions in the UK and in other countries in which the Group has significant business activities or investments, including the United States; the monetary and interest rate policies of the Bank of England, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and other G-7 central banks; inflation; deflation; unanticipated turbulence in interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates, commodity prices and equity prices; changes in UK and foreign laws, regulations and taxes; changes in competition and pricing environments; natural and other disasters; the inability to hedge certain risks economically; the adequacy of loss reserves; acquisitions or restructurings; technological changes; changes in consumer spending and saving habits; and the success of the Group in managing the risks involved in the foregoing.

The forward-looking statements contained in this document speak only as of the date of this report, and the Group does not undertake to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

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SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorised.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc
Registrant

/s/ Fred Watt
Fred Watt
Group Finance Director
7 August 2003

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