

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP PLC
Form 6-K
September 30, 2009

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

30 September 2009

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc

Gogarburn
PO Box 1000
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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 X

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): ___

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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 X

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the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82-

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This report on Form 6-K shall be deemed incorporated by reference into the company's Registration Statement on Form F-3 (File No. 333-123972) and to be a part thereof from the date which it was filed, to the extent not superseded by documents or reports subsequently filed or furnished.

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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', 'plan', 'probability', 'risk', 'Value-at-Risk ("VaR")', 'target', 'goal', 'objective', 'will', 'outlook', 'optimistic', 'prospects' and similar expressions or variations on such expressions.

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: the extent and nature of future developments in the credit markets, including the sub-prime market, and their impact on the financial industry in general and the Group in particular; the effect on the Group's capital of write downs in respect of credit market exposures; 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 announcement, 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.

The information, statements and opinions contained in this presentation do not constitute a public offer under any applicable legislation or an offer to sell or solicitation of any offer to buy any securities or financial instruments or any advice or recommendation with respect to such securities or other financial instruments.

Presentation of information

Acquisition of ABN AMRO

On 17 October 2007, RFS Holdings B.V. ('RFS Holdings'), a company jointly owned by The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc ('RBS'), Fortis Bank Nederland (Holding) N.V. ('Fortis') and Banco Santander S.A. ('Santander') (together, the 'Consortium Members'), completed the acquisition of ABN AMRO Holding N.V. ('ABN AMRO').

RFS Holdings is implementing an orderly separation of the business units of ABN AMRO with RBS retaining the following ABN AMRO business units:

- Continuing businesses of Business Unit North America;
- Business Unit Global Clients and wholesale clients in the Netherlands (including former Dutch wholesale clients) and Latin America (excluding Brazil);
- Business Unit Asia (excluding Saudi Hollandi); and
- Business Unit Europe (excluding Antonveneta).

Certain other assets will continue to be shared by the Consortium Members.

On 3 October 2008, the State of the Netherlands acquired Fortis Bank Nederland (Holding) N.V. including Fortis' participation in RFS Holdings that represents the acquired activities of ABN AMRO.

The separation of platforms shared between RBS and its Dutch state-owned partner has been completed and the Group is now on track, subject to legal process and regulatory approvals, for the legal separation of the constituent parts of ABN AMRO by the end of the year. From that point RBS will cease to consolidate the Dutch state's interest in RBS Group statutory accounts.

Non-GAAP financial information

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as issued by the IASB and IFRS as adopted by the European Union. IFRS requires consolidating investments over which RBS has control, including RFS Holdings as described below. However, as a practical matter, RBS does not measure its performance based on the results of operations including the assets and liabilities attributable to the RFS Holdings minority shareholders. RBS believes that combining the performance of the operations related to RFS Holdings minority shareholders with the rest of the Group does not provide a meaningful basis for discussion of the financial condition and results of RBS's operations. Therefore, RBS presents a discussion of certain components of its performance excluding RFS Holdings minority interest. These measures are non-GAAP financial measures.

A body of generally accepted accounting principles such as IFRS is commonly referred to as 'GAAP'. A non-GAAP financial measure is defined as one that measures historical or future financial performance, financial position or cash flows but which excludes or includes amounts that would not be so adjusted in the most comparable GAAP measures. A reconciliation is presented in the pro forma financial information presented in Appendix I to the Form 6-K. These non-GAAP financial measures are not a substitute for GAAP measures, for which management has responsibility.

Statutory results

RFS Holdings is jointly owned by the Consortium Members. It is controlled by RBS and is therefore fully consolidated in its statutory financial statements. The interests of the State of the Netherlands and Santander in RFS Holdings are included in minority interests.

Restatements

Divisional results for 2008 have been restated to reflect the Group's new organisational structure that includes a Non-Core division comprising individual assets, portfolios and lines of business that the Group intends to run off or dispose of. The Non-Core division is reported separately from the divisions which form the Core Group. In addition, separate reporting of Group Manufacturing and Centre results has changed and, with the exception of certain items of a one off nature, costs incurred are now allocated to the customer-facing divisions and included in the measurement of the returns which they generate. The changes do not affect the Group's results. Comparatives have been restated accordingly. Descriptions of business for the new divisions are set out on page 17.

The results for 2008 have been restated for the amendment to IFRS 2 'Share-based Payment'. This has resulted in an increase in staff costs amounting to £35 million for the first half of 2008 and £169 million for the full year 2008.

The results for the first half of 2008 have been restated for the finalisation of the ABN AMRO acquisition accounting.

In this document the term "2008 Form 20-F" refers to the Annual Report on Form 20-F filed with the SEC on 29 April 2009 and the amendment on Form 6-K filed on 30 September 2009.

Condensed consolidated income statement
for the half year ended 30 June 2009 (unaudited)

In the income statement below, amortisation of purchased intangible assets and integration and restructuring costs are included in operating expenses. First half 2008 and full year 2008 have been restated for the amendment to IFRS 2 'Share-based Payment'.

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Interest receivable	18,131	24,178
Interest payable	(9,962)	(15,483)
Net interest income	8,169	8,695
Fees and commissions receivable	4,988	4,917
Fees and commissions payable	(1,340)	(1,188)
Income/(loss) from trading activities	1,994	(3,373)
Gain on redemption of own debt	3,790	-
Other operating income (excluding insurance premium income)	1,419	1,635
Net insurance premium income	2,821	3,156
Non-interest income	13,672	5,147
Total income	21,841	13,842
Staff costs	(6,008)	(5,558)
Premises and equipment	(1,533)	(1,218)
Other administrative expenses	(2,682)	(2,420)
Depreciation and amortisation	(1,357)	(1,523)
Write-down of goodwill and other intangible assets	(311)	-
Operating expenses	(11,891)	(10,719)
Profit before other operating charges and impairment losses	9,950	3,123
Net insurance claims	(2,134)	(2,189)
Impairment losses	(8,060)	(1,661)
Operating loss before tax	(244)	(727)
Tax credit	441	333
Profit/(loss) from continuing operations	197	(394)
(Loss)/profit from discontinued operations, net of tax	(62)	234
Profit/(loss) for the period	135	(160)
Minority interests	(631)	(452)
Other owners' dividends	(546)	(215)
Loss attributable to ordinary shareholders	(1,042)	(827)

Business and strategic update

Financial performance

Group organisational structure

Following the conclusion of the Strategic Review, the Group has realigned its Core divisions, including in particular the separation of RBS UK into UK Retail and UK Corporate. A Non-Core division has also been established to manage and run off or dispose of a number of assets and businesses that do not meet the Group's target criteria. Further details of the new divisional structure are on page 17. The initial discussion of Group performance relates to both Core and Non-Core operations. Commentary on divisional performance on pages 20-44 relates to Core activities only.

Group operating performance

The Group delivered strong income generation, up 58% to £21,841 million, with operating expenses up 11% to £11,891 million to yield a profit before operating charges and impairment losses of £9,950 million in the first half of 2009, compared with £3,123 million in the first half of 2008. Impairments, however, rose sharply to £8,060 million, compared with £1,661 million in the first half of 2008. Over 65% of the impairment costs arose in the Non-Core division, but the Group also experienced a significant rise in credit costs in all core divisions, reflecting the continuing deterioration in economic conditions. Approximately 70% of the impairments and write-downs incurred in the first half are attributable to assets covered by the Asset Protection Scheme, subject to any changes to the Scheme, where some important issues remain open. Excluding RFS Holdings minority interest, total income was up 63% to £19,034 million, non-GAAP operating expenses were up 11% to £9,918 million resulting in a non-GAAP profit before operating charges and impairment losses of £9,116 million. Non-GAAP impairments also rose sharply to £7,521 million, compared with £1,479 million in the first half of 2008.

After a gain of £3,790 million on the redemption of a number of outstanding debt securities, the Group recorded a loss before tax of £244 million, compared with a loss of £727 million in the same period of 2008. After tax, minority interests and preference share dividends the loss attributable to ordinary shareholders was £1,042 million, up 26% from the loss recorded in the first half of 2008. This represents a basic loss per ordinary share of 2.2p, including discontinued operations. Excluding RFS Holdings minority interest, the non-GAAP loss before tax was £296 million compared with £726 million in the same period of 2008.

Group margin

Group net interest margin fell to 1.78%, compared with 2.03% in the first half of 2008 and 2.12% for the full year 2008. While new business asset margins have improved, these will take some time to feed through to the back book and have so far fallen well short of the increase in funding costs. In the very low interest rate environment prevailing in all the Group's major markets, deposit pricing floors and active competition have compressed liability margins. In addition, markedly increased costs of term funding and of increasing our stock of liquid assets have contributed to the reduction in net interest margin. Excluding RFS Holdings minority interest, non-GAAP net interest margin fell to 1.72%, compared with 2.14% in the first half of 2008 and 2.18% for the full year 2008.

In these prevailing conditions, margins in the core banking divisions are expected to remain under pressure in the second half.

Business and strategic update (continued)

Group credit and risk metrics

Loan impairments increased to £7,330 million in the first half, representing 1.98% of gross loans and advances excluding reverse repos, on an annualised basis, compared with 0.44% in the first half of 2008 and 1.27% in the second half of 2008. Impairments continued to increase in the second quarter, particularly in the Group's UK retail and corporate banking divisions, and included an incremental provision on our UK corporate book, to reflect the materially increased flow of companies into restructuring during the period. While a degree of stabilisation has occurred in financial markets, the impact of economic recession continues to feed through into the Group's credit portfolios. Excluding RFS Holdings minority interest, non-GAAP loan impairments increased to £6,796 million in the first half of 2008, representing 2.22% of non-GAAP gross loans and advances excluding reverse repos, on an annualised basis, compared with 0.46% in the first half of 2008 and 1.33% in the second half of 2008.

Non-performing and potential problem loans at 30 June 2009 totalled £33.7 billion, an increase of 222% from 30 June 2008 and of 56% from 31 December 2008. These categories represented 4.53% of gross loans and advances, excluding reverse repos, compared with 1.44% at 30 June 2008 and 2.52% at 31 December 2008. Excluding RFS Holdings minority interest, non-GAAP non-performing and potential problem loans at 30 June 2009 totalled £31.0 billion, an increase of 246% from 30 June 2008 and of 63% from 31 December 2008.

Provision coverage was 46%, a decrease of 12% compared with 30 June 2008 and a decrease of 6% compared with 31 December 2008. The declining trend is mainly attributable to the increasingly secured composition of the Group's non performing loan portfolio. In addition, during the first half of 2009, a small number of large corporate exposures assessed as requiring limited provisions, because of the structure of the transactions and the expected restructuring outcomes, moved into the non-performing category.

The availability of equity funding in the capital markets has provided some relief to companies, particularly in the UK, but corporate default rates have continued to rise. While personal unsecured lending has been reduced, arrears on these exposures have continued to increase, in line with rising unemployment trends. Arrears on residential mortgage lending have risen more modestly, with the arrears rate on the NatWest and RBS UK mortgage portfolio increasing to 1.8% at 30 June 2009 from 1.16% at 30 June 2008 and 1.5% at December 2008. The average loan-to-value for new business was 65% in the first half of 2009 versus 67% for 2008.

The Group has made good progress in strengthening its risk management practices, with the implementation of updated limit frameworks for credit and market risk and further refinement of the credit approval process.

Business and strategic update (continued)

Group balance sheet, capital and funding

The Group made good progress in its financial restructuring during the first six months of 2009, achieving a reduction of £583 billion in total assets to £1,819 billion – a fall of 24%. Excluding mark-to-market derivative assets, third party assets were reduced by £147 billion to £1,262 billion, principally reflecting substantial repayments of loans to banks and customers. Mark-to-market derivative assets fell by 44% to £557 billion, with a corresponding fall in derivative liabilities.

Group risk-weighted assets totalled £655.2 billion at 30 June 2009, an increase of £11.5 billion from June 2008 but a decrease of £40.6 billion from December 2008. Although the Group has continued to reduce its balance sheet throughout the half year, the pro-cyclical effects of the Basel 2 methodology have resulted in higher risk-weightings. Undrawn facilities and other commitments to lend have been reduced to £298.9 billion, down 10% from June 2008 and 15% from December 2008. The effect of currency movements during the latter half of 2008, in particular the marked weakening of sterling against the dollar, has been partially reversed during the first half of 2009. Excluding RFS Holdings minority interest, risk-weighted assets totalled £547.3 billion at 30 June 2009, an increase of £55.6 billion from June 2008 but a decrease of £30.5 billion from December 2008

The Group's Core Tier 1 ratio at 30 June 2009 was 7.0%, compared with 6.5% a year earlier, reflecting the preference share conversion and debt exchange carried out earlier this year, as well as 2008 equity issuance. Excluding RFS Holdings minority interest, the Group's Core Tier 1 ratio at 30 June 2009 was 6.4%, compared with 5.3% a year earlier.

In April, the Group concluded a series of exchange offers and tender offers with the holders of a number of Tier 1 and Upper Tier 2 securities which resulted in an aggregate pre-tax gain of £4.6 billion, of which approximately £3.8 billion was taken through income and the remainder through equity.

The Asset Protection Scheme announced in February and related capitalisations, when concluded, is expected to further strengthen the Group's capital ratios, as the assets covered by the Scheme will carry lower risk weightings as a result of UK Government asset insurance. This augments the impact of RBS's own extensive restructuring measures. The scheme is currently expected to provide approximately £150 billion of risk-weighted asset relief. In addition, HM Treasury will subscribe to a total of £19.5 billion of new B Shares qualifying as capital on implementation of the APS, with a further £6 billion as a contingent reserve. The APS should strengthen Core Tier 1 by more than 5% on a proportional consolidation basis excluding RFS Holdings minority interest. This figure is RBS's current estimate and subject to finalisation of the detailed terms and conditions, confirmation of asset eligibility and pricing (all of which require state aid approval) and without taking account of the £6 billion contingent tranche of B share issuance outlined in February.

Business and strategic update (continued)

While the quantum of funding available in the markets has increased, funding costs remain high compared with pre-crisis levels. Money market conditions have improved, with spreads between Libor and overnight indexed swap rates narrowing somewhat, though they remain substantially in excess of average levels experienced in previous years. The short and medium end of the yield curve remains steep.

The Group's average credit spreads in the first half were significantly higher than in the same period of 2008 but spreads have now narrowed from their peaks. During the period the Group was able to resume issuance of term debt without the requirement for a government guarantee and has made significant progress towards extending the maturity profile of its funding. It has also made good progress in building up its liquidity portfolio, although this has been at the expense of margins.

The Group's loan:deposit ratio improved from 146% at December 2008 to 136% at June 2009. Each division has been set targets for further improvements in this ratio over the next five years.

Core Bank

The Core Bank achieved a good recovery in operating performance in the first half, with underlying operating profit before tax, purchased intangibles amortisation, gain on redemption of own debt, strategic disposals, write-down of goodwill and other intangibles, integration and restructuring costs, up 33% to £6.294 million.

Operating income grew strongly, reflecting favourable trading conditions during the first half, with strong volumes and volatility benefiting Global Banking & Markets. There were more modest improvements in Wealth and Global Transaction Services, offset to a significant degree by increased funding costs. The core UK retail and corporate banking businesses put in a resilient performance, with severe margin attrition from higher deposit and funding costs but some improvement in new asset margins. Non-interest income was also affected by slower economic conditions. Total income rose by 25% to £17,793 million, with net interest income 10% lower at £6,205 million and non-interest income 59% higher at £11,588 million.

Expense discipline remained good, both in the customer-facing divisions and in Manufacturing operations, with operating expenses up 7% to £7,745 million. Operating profit before other operating charges and impairment losses increased by 44% to £10,048 million. The Group has made good progress in its £2.5 billion expense reduction programme, with £0.6 billion of cost savings delivered in the first half.

Impairments increased markedly across all banking divisions, totalling £2,177 million, an increase of 225% from the first half of 2008. Impairments in the second quarter were 11% higher than in the first, with a small net recovery in GBM but incremental impairments taken to reflect the accelerating flow of credit problems in the UK corporate sector, and a further increase in personal delinquencies in the UK and US, in line with the continuing deterioration in economic conditions and the rising level of unemployment.

Business and strategic update (continued)

Non-Core Division

Non-Core division third party assets at 30 June 2009, including derivatives, totalled £231.1 billion, down from £324.7 billion at 31 December 2008. The division recorded an operating loss of £9,648 million in the first half, driven largely by credit market and other write-downs of £4.2 billion and impairments of £5.3 billion. Approximately 44% of the assets of the Non-Core division are expected to be covered by the Asset Protection Scheme.

The Group has established targets for a reduction of approximately £230 billion in Non-Core's third party assets, excluding derivatives mark to market, by 2013, as compared with December 2008. This includes asset run-off of approximately £200 billion as well as £50 billion to £60 billion of asset sales, offset by rollovers and additional drawings. Achieving this run-off profile will depend on sufficient recovery in market conditions to allow assets to be disposed of at acceptable valuations, and on the securitisation or sale of some APS assets in the outer years of the five year plan, for which HM Treasury's permission may be needed.

Disposals

In January the Group announced that it had disposed of its 4.26% equity stake in Bank of China for a net consideration of £1.6 billion.

In April 2009 the Group disposed of its 50% stake in Linea Directa Aseguradora to its joint venture partner, Bankinter, for a cash consideration of €426 million. This disposal is consistent with the Group strategy announced on 26 February 2009. As a 50/50% joint venture, Linea Directa Aseguradora had operated as a largely independent Spanish insurance operation with limited connection to the Group.

RBS announced on 4 August 2009 that it had reached agreement with ANZ on the sale of a number of its Asian assets, and remains in advanced discussions on the sale of its remaining Asian retail and commercial businesses.

Asset Protection Scheme

Although full documentation of the Asset Protection Scheme has not yet been finalised, the key terms of the APS were agreed in principle and announced in February. RBS's most recent APS submission is for coverage of assets with a gross value of £316 billion and a carrying value, net of impairments and write-downs incurred before 1 January 2009, of £294 billion. These assets are individually identified and documented and comprise primarily corporate loans, bonds and mortgages, as well as more complex credit exposures such as collateralised debt obligations and derivative transactions with monoline insurers.

Subject to the detailed terms and conditions of the Scheme and state aid approval, RBS will bear the first loss on these specified assets up to £19.5 billion, plus historical impairments and write-downs. Once this first loss is exceeded, HMT will bear 90% of further losses, while the remaining 10% of the losses will remain with RBS. The APS applies to losses incurred on or after 1 January 2009 in respect of assets held on RBS's balance sheet as at 31 December 2008.

Business and strategic update (continued)

The Group will pay a fee of £6.5 billion for this protection. In addition, it has agreed to forgo certain tax reliefs, including the ability to carry back 2008 losses to 2007. RBS's agreement to forfeit these tax reliefs will continue until 31 December 2013 when the Group returns to profitability, whichever occurs earlier. The cost of this tax agreement will depend on results but is currently estimated at £9-11 billion.

Before RBS's participation in the APS can begin, state aid clearance must also be received by the UK Government from the European Commission in respect of all aspects of the scheme including asset coverage and pricing. Both the terms of the APS announced in February and the asset coverage outlined above remain open and may change as negotiations continue with HM Treasury and the European Commission regarding the Scheme. This remains an important risk factor for RBS.

UK Lending Commitments

In February, as a result of the APS, the Group agreed to make available an additional £25 billion of lending to creditworthy customers on commercial terms, and subject to market demand, over the ensuing 12 months, and a similar amount over the following year. In the first four months since entering into this commitment RBS has achieved strong results in the mortgage market, with gross lending over £7 billion despite generally weak demand, and remains on track to achieve its targets. UK mortgage balances, including Ulster at 30 June 2009 totalled £80.8 billion, up 9% year on year and 5% higher than at the end of 2008.

In business markets, RBS has achieved gross new lending of £28.6 billion. However, demand has been comparatively muted, with companies cutting inventories and expansion plans and reducing their bank borrowing requirements. Additionally, the anticipated withdrawal of non-UK and wholesale-funded lenders which has characterised the mortgage market has not occurred in corporate markets, and the anticipated "gap" in the market for creditworthy corporate borrowers has not emerged. After taking account of loan repayments and overdraft movements, RBS's UK business lending, including Ulster, at 30 June 2009 totalled £155.1 billion, a decrease of 1% from 30 June 2008 and a decline of 4% since the end of 2008.

In the SME segment of business markets, gross lending in the first half totalled £17 billion notwithstanding weaker demand. However, repayments have been accelerating since the third quarter of 2008, leaving balances at the end of June of £66.6 billion, up 2% from June 2008. As a result of RBS's price pledge, 94% of customers who renewed their overdrafts in the second quarter of 2009 did so at the same margin or lower and in June, the average interest rate paid by customers on term loans was half its level a year earlier. Total credit applications in the first half were down 22% on the same period of 2008. While there has been some recovery in recent months in the number of applications for term loans, the average size of each application has fallen, reflecting, among other factors, falling property values. As a result, term loan applications by value were 37% lower. The acceptance rate across all categories of SME credit remains stable at 85%.

Among larger corporates, RBS advanced £12 billion of gross new lending in the first half. However, many larger companies are actively deleveraging, and RBS has helped many of its clients to raise new finance in the equity and bonds markets, which has been used to reduce bank borrowing substantially. Demand for acquisition finance remains minimal.

Business and strategic update (continued)

RBS has undertaken a range of initiatives aimed at demonstrating that it remains open for business, and is determined to do its part in meeting demand for lending from creditworthy homeowners and businesses. There have been some recent signs of a modest increase in demand in certain segments of the market, but in the absence of a more general recovery in borrowing appetite the targets will remain challenging.

	30 June 2008 £bn	31 December 2008 £bn	Gross lending during H1 2009 £bn	Net lending during H1 2009 £bn	30 June 2009 £bn
Mortgages	74.2	76.7	7.2	4.1	80.8
Total Business	156.8	162.4	28.6	(7.3)	155.1
SME	65.0	66.9	17.0	(0.3)	66.6
Mid-corporate	47.3	49.4	7.3	(2.6)	46.8
Large corporate	44.5	46.1	4.3	(4.4)	41.7
Total Lending	231.0	239.1	35.8	(3.2)	235.9

Lending figures represent drawn balances, with the exception of Large Corporate figures, which are committed lending (as per RBS's Lending Commitments agreement). Wealth lending balances, unsecured personal lending and non-UK lending are not included in the above data.

Customer Franchises

Crucial to the Group's prospects for future success and return to standalone health is the resilience of its customer franchises. It was, therefore, significant that, excepting the extensive activities earmarked for restructuring, run-off or exit, RBS generally sustained its customer market positions during the first half despite the headwinds of reputational damage and financial weakness. In the UK personal sector, the RBS and NatWest banking brands made good headway, increasing the number of current account customers to 12.6 million, up 3% from June 2008, and the number of savings accounts to 9.7 million, up 18%. Our mortgage business has also made particularly good progress despite weak market demand, driven by the requirement to fulfil our lending commitments with market share increased from historically modest levels as wholesale-funded lenders have pulled out of the market. UK Corporate maintained its market-leading position among businesses, ranking first in customer satisfaction. Ulster Bank increased consumer accounts by 5%, while Citizens achieved good success in converting mortgage customers into checking account customers, with checking accounts up 2% to 4.1 million, and increased the number of business checking account customers by 3%. In GBM, good progress was made in chosen market positions, moving from fifth to fourth in the Euromoney global foreign exchange rankings and sustaining top 3 positions in key government bond markets. A number of other market shares slipped back, reflecting deliberate strategy and business disruption. RBS Insurance achieved a strong performance, with own-brand motor policies up 8% and own-brand non-motor policies also up 8%.

Business and strategic update (continued)

Outlook

The exceptionally favourable market conditions from which GBM benefited in the first half of 2009 are not expected to continue in the second half, and this is likely to have a material effect on Core Bank operating income. In the retail and corporate banking divisions, income is expected to be more stable. Costs are expected to remain well controlled, while impairments are expected to remain at elevated levels. Restructuring charges will continue to be a feature over the next three years.

Condensed consolidated balance sheet
at 30 June 2009 (unaudited)

	30 June 2009 £m	31 December 2008 £m
Assets		
Cash and balances at central banks	39,946	12,400
Net loans and advances to banks	60,330	79,426
Reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing	35,076	58,771
Loans and advances to banks	95,406	138,197
Net loans and advances to customers	722,260	835,409
Reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing	47,514	39,313
Loans and advances to customers	769,774	874,722
Debt securities	244,089	267,549
Equity shares	17,580	26,330
Settlement balances	23,264	17,832
Derivatives	557,284	992,559
Intangible assets	18,180	20,049
Property, plant and equipment	17,895	18,949
Deferred taxation	8,392	7,082
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets	23,265	24,402
Assets of disposal groups	3,848	1,581
Total assets	1,818,923	2,401,652
Liabilities		
Bank deposits	126,852	174,378
Repurchase agreements and stock lending	44,142	83,666
Deposits by banks	170,994	258,044
Customer deposits	540,674	581,369
Repurchase agreements and stock lending	75,015	58,143
Customer accounts	615,689	639,512
Debt securities in issue	274,180	300,289
Settlement balances and short positions	60,287	54,277
Derivatives	537,064	971,364
Accruals, deferred income and other liabilities	30,121	31,482
Retirement benefit liabilities	1,731	2,032
Deferred taxation	4,022	4,165
Insurance liabilities	9,542	9,976
Subordinated liabilities	35,703	49,154
Liabilities of disposal groups	7,498	859
Total liabilities	1,746,831	2,321,154
Equity:		
Minority interests	16,426	21,619
Owners' equity*		
Called up share capital	14,120	9,898

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Reserves	41,546	48,981
Total equity	72,092	80,498
Total liabilities and equity	1,818,923	2,401,652
*Owners' equity attributable to:		
Ordinary shareholders	47,820	45,525
Other equity owners	7,846	13,354
	55,666	58,879

Overview of condensed consolidated balance sheet

Total assets of £1,818.9 billion at 30 June 2009 were down £582.7 billion, 24%, compared with 31 December 2008.

Cash and balances at central banks increased £27.5 billion to £39.9 billion from seasonal lows.

Loans and advances to banks decreased by £42.8 billion, 31%, to £95.4 billion reflecting lower reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing ('reverse repos'), down by £23.7 billion, 40% to £35.1 billion and reduced bank placings, down £19.1 billion, 24%, to £60.3 billion largely as a result of reduced cash collateral balances in Global Banking & Markets.

Loans and advances to customers were down £104.9 billion, 12%, at £769.8 billion. Within this, reverse repos increased by 21%, £8.2 billion to £47.5 billion. Excluding reverse repos, lending declined by £113.1 billion, 14% to £722.3 billion or £108.6 billion, 13%, before impairment provisions. This reflected the effect of exchange rate movements, £51.9 billion, following the strengthening of sterling during the first half of 2009 and reductions in lending in Global Banking & Markets, down £38.5 billion, Non-Core, £11.5 billion including £3.5 billion transfer to disposal groups in respect of the Asian businesses, UK Corporate & Commercial, £3.4 billion, US Retail & Commercial, £2.8 billion and Ulster Bank, £1.4 billion.

Debt securities decreased by £23.5 billion, 9%, to £244.1 billion and equity shares decreased by £8.8 billion, 33%, to £17.6 billion principally due to lower holdings in Global Banking & Markets.

Settlement balances were up £5.4 billion, 30%, at £23.3 billion reflecting increased customer activity.

Movements in the value of derivatives, assets and liabilities, primarily reflect reductions in interest rates and the strengthening of sterling during the first half of 2009.

Intangible assets declined by £1.9 billion, 9%, to £18.2 billion mainly due to the £0.3 billion write-down of goodwill in the Non-Core division and the effect of exchange rates.

Deferred tax assets increased £1.3 billion, 18%, to £8.4 billion principally due to carried forward trading losses.

Increases in assets and liabilities of disposal groups largely reflect the inclusion of the Asian businesses at 30 June 2009 partly offset by the continued disposals of ABN AMRO's private equity investments.

Deposits by banks declined by £87.0 billion, 34% to £171.0 billion. This reflected decreased repurchase agreements and stock lending ('repos'), down £39.5 billion, 47% to £44.1 billion and reduced inter-bank deposits, down £47.5 billion, 27% to £126.9 billion principally in Global Banking & Markets in part due to lower collateral deposits.

Customer accounts were down £23.8 billion, 4% to £615.7 billion. Within this, repos increased £16.9 billion, 29% to £75.0 billion. Excluding repos, deposits declined by £40.7 billion, 7%, to £540.7 billion primarily due to exchange rate movements, £33.3 billion, the transfer of £7.3 billion to disposal groups in respect of the Asian businesses and reductions in Global Banking & Markets, £17.6 billion, offset in part by increases in the RFS Minority Interest, up £17.4 billion.

Debt securities in issue decreased £26.1 billion, 9% to £274.2 billion mainly as a result of movements in exchange rates together with reductions in Global Banking & Markets, Non-Core and the RFS Minority Interest.

Settlement balances and short positions were up £6.0 billion, 11%, to £60.3 billion reflecting increased customer activity.

Subordinated liabilities decreased £13.5 billion, 27% to £35.7 billion reflecting the redemption of £5.0 billion undated loan capital, £1.5 billion trust preferred securities and £2.0 billion dated loan capital, together with the effect of exchange rates and other adjustments.

Overview of condensed consolidated balance sheet (continued)

Equity minority interests decreased by £5.2 billion, 24% to £16.4 billion. Equity withdrawals of £3.1 billion, reflecting the disposal of the investment in Bank of China attributable to minority shareholders and the redemption, in part, of certain Trust Preferred Securities, the recycling of related available-for-sale reserves to income, £0.4 billion, dividends paid of £0.3 billion and exchange rate movements of £2.0 billion, were partially offset by attributable profits of £0.6 billion.

Owners' equity declined by £3.2 billion, 5% to £55.7 billion. The placing and open offer in April 2009 raised £5.3 billion to fund the redemption of the £5.0 billion preference shares issued to HM Treasury in December 2008. A £0.7 billion decrease in available-for-sale reserves, net of tax, the payment of other owners dividends of £0.5 billion including £0.3 billion to HM Treasury on the redemption of preference shares, the partial redemption of paid-in equity of £0.3 billion, the attributable loss for the period of £0.5 billion and exchange rate movements of £2.3 billion, were partly offset by an increase in the cash flow hedging reserve of £0.4 billion and the equity owners gain on withdrawal of minority interests, net of tax, of £0.5 billion arising from the redemption of Trust Preferred Securities.

Description of business

UK Retail offers a comprehensive range of banking products and related financial services to the personal market. It serves customers through the RBS and NatWest networks of branches and ATMs in the United Kingdom, and also through telephone and internet channels.

UK Corporate is a provider of banking, finance, and risk management services to the corporate and SME sector in the United Kingdom. It offers a full range of banking products and related financial services through a nationwide network of relationship managers, and also through telephone and internet channels. The product range includes asset finance through the Lombard brand.

Wealth provides private banking and investment services in the UK through Coutts & Co and Adam & Company, offshore banking through RBS International, NatWest Offshore and Isle of Man Bank, and international private banking through RBS Coutts.

Global Banking & Markets is a leading banking partner to major corporations and financial institutions around the world, providing an extensive range of debt and equity financing, risk management and investment services to its customers. The division is organised along seven principal business lines: money markets; rates flow trading; currencies; commodities (including RBS Sempra Commodities LLP, the commodities-marketing joint venture between RBS and Sempra Energy); equities; credit markets and portfolio management & origination.

Global Transaction Services ranks among the top five global transaction services providers, offering global payments, cash and liquidity management, and trade finance, United Kingdom and international merchant acquiring and commercial card products and services. It includes the Group's corporate money transmission activities in the United Kingdom and the United States.

Ulster Bank is the leading retail and commercial bank in Northern Ireland and the third largest banking group on the island of Ireland. It provides a comprehensive range of financial services through both its Retail Markets division which has a network of branches and operates in the personal and bancassurance sectors, while its Corporate Markets division provides services to SME business customers, corporates and institutional markets.

US Retail & Commercial provides financial services primarily through the Citizens and Charter One brands. US Retail is engaged in retail and corporate banking activities through its branch network in 12 states in the United States and through non-branch offices in other states. It ranks among the top five banks in New England and the Mid Atlantic regions.

RBS Insurance sells and underwrites retail and SME insurance over the telephone and internet, as well as through brokers and partnerships. Its brands include Direct Line, Churchill and Privilege, which sell general insurance products direct to the customer, as well as Green Flag and NIG. Through its international division, RBS Insurance sells general insurance, mainly motor, in Germany and Italy. The Intermediary and Broker division sells general insurance products through independent brokers.

Group Manufacturing comprises the Group's worldwide manufacturing operations. It supports the customer-facing businesses and provides operational technology, customer support in telephony, account management, lending and money transmission, global purchasing, property and other services. Manufacturing drives efficiencies and supports income growth across multiple brands and channels by using a single, scalable platform and common processes wherever possible. It also leverages the Group's purchasing power and is the Group's centre of excellence for managing large-scale and complex change.

Description of business (continued)

Central items comprises group and corporate functions, such as treasury, funding and finance, risk management, legal, communications and human resources. The Centre manages the Group's capital resources and Group-wide regulatory projects and provides services to the operating divisions.

Non-Core Division manages separately assets that the Group intends to run off or dispose of. The division contains a range of businesses and asset portfolios primarily from the GBM division, linked to proprietary trading, higher risk profile asset portfolios including excess risk concentrations, and other illiquid portfolios. It also includes a number of other portfolios and businesses including regional markets businesses that the Group has concluded are no longer strategic.

RFS Holdings minority interest comprises those activities of ABN AMRO that are attributable to the other consortium members.

Divisional performance

The operating profit/(loss) of each division before amortisation of purchased intangible assets, write-down of goodwill and other intangible assets, integration and restructuring costs, gain on redemption of own debt and strategic disposals is detailed below.

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Operating profit/(loss) by division		
UK Retail	53	514
UK Corporate	321	939
Wealth	218	185
Global Banking & Markets	4,873	1,115
Global Transaction Services	496	493
Ulster Bank	(8)	172
US Retail & Commercial	(51)	291
RBS Insurance	217	300
Central items	175	706
Core	6,294	4,715
Non-Core	(9,648)	(4,863)
Group before RFS Holdings minority interest	(3,354)	(148)
RFS Holdings minority interest	52	(1)
Amortisation of purchased intangible assets	(140)	(262)
Integration and restructuring costs	(734)	(316)
Gain on redemption of own debt	3,790	-
Strategic disposals	453	-
Write-down of goodwill and other intangible assets	(311)	-
	(244)	(727)

	30 June 2009 £bn	31 December 2008 £bn
Risk-weighted assets by division		
UK Retail	54.0	45.7
UK Corporate	85.1	81.5
Wealth	10.5	11.0
Global Banking & Markets	126.6	166.5
Global Transaction Services	16.7	17.1
Ulster Bank	26.2	24.5
US Retail & Commercial	55.6	63.9
Other	8.6	7.0

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Core	383.3	417.2
Non-Core	164.0	160.6
	547.3	577.8
RFS Holdings minority interest	107.9	118.0
Total risk-weighted assets	655.2	695.8

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UK Retail

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Net interest income	1,684	1,530
Net fees and commissions - banking	658	814
Other non-interest income	148	203
Non-interest income	806	1,017
Total income	2,490	2,547
Direct expenses		
- staff	(428)	(445)
- other	(221)	(219)
Indirect expenses	(938)	(865)
	(1,587)	(1,529)
Insurance net claims	(26)	(64)
Impairment losses	(824)	(440)
Operating profit before tax	53	514
Analysis of income by product:		
Personal advances	609	633
Mortgages	480	219
Personal deposits	741	998
Bancassurance	148	196
Cards	416	418
Other	96	83
Total income	2,490	2,547
Analysis of impairment by sector:		
Mortgages	63	13
Personal	494	255
Cards	267	172
	824	440
Loan impairment charge as % of gross customer loans and advances by sector		
Mortgages	0.16%	0.04%

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Personal	7.01%	3.29%
Cards	8.75%	5.06%
Total	1.70%	0.96%

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UK Retail (continued)

	First half 2009	First half 2008
Performance ratios		
Return on equity (1)	1.8%	19.3%
Net interest margin	3.53%	3.52%
Cost:income ratio	63.7%	60.0%
	30 June 2009 £bn	31 December 2008 £bn
Capital and balance sheet		
Loans and advances to customers – gross		
- mortgages	76.9	72.4
- personal	14.1	15.1
- cards	6.1	6.3
Customer deposits (excluding bancassurance)	83.4	78.9
Assets under management – excluding deposits	4.7	5.7
Non-performing loans	4.5	3.8
Loan:deposit ratio (excluding repos)	116.4%	118.9%
Risk-weighted assets	54.0	45.7

Note:

- (1) Return on equity is based on divisional operating profit after tax, divided by divisional notional equity (based on 7% of divisional risk-weighted assets, adjusted for capital deductions).

UK Retail banking income declined marginally with growth in net interest income offset by declining fees. However, impairment losses have continued to rise, reflecting the wider economic environment, and consequently the division reported a much reduced operating profit of £53 million in the first half.

Net interest income grew by 10% to £1,684 million, driven by growth in both loan and deposit balances. Net interest margin increased slightly to 3.53% (2008 - 3.52%), with improved asset pricing, primarily in mortgages, offsetting the impact of the low interest rate environment on savings margins. Continued competitive pressure on savings margins and reduced volumes in unsecured lending may put pressure on the net interest margin in coming periods.

Non-interest income declined 21% to £806 million. Of this decline, £117 million reflected the withdrawal of the single premium payment protection insurance product and lower related income due to higher claims, with the remainder being largely due to the impact of the weak economic environment on credit card, private banking and bancassurance fees.

Direct expenses were reduced by 2% to £649 million, with a 4% reduction in direct staff costs reflecting lower staff compensation and the benefits of cost saving initiatives. Indirect costs rose by 8% to £938 million, including the effect of an additional £61 million Financial Services Compensation Scheme Levy. Total costs increased by 4% and the

cost:income ratio deteriorated to 63.7%.

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UK Retail (continued)

Impairment losses increased by 87% to £824 million reflecting the deterioration in the economic environment, and its impact on customer finances. The mortgage impairment charge was £63 million (2008 - £13 million) on a total book of £76.9 billion, while the unsecured lending impairments charge was £761 million (2008 - £427 million) on a book of £20.2 billion. Impairment provisions have been increased to reflect the reduction in expected cash recoveries. In mortgages, arrears rates remain below the industry average as reported by the Council of Mortgage Lenders. Repossessions have not increased as RBS seeks to support its customers in difficult times wherever possible. Current expectations are for the upward pressure on impairments to continue for the remainder of this year and into 2010.

Loans and advances to customers increased by 6% with particularly strong growth in mortgage lending, which grew by 10%. The strong performance in mortgages reflects good volumes of new business delivered primarily through organic channels as well as very good customer retention resulting from a competitively priced product range. Gross mortgage lending market share increased to 10.5% (2008 – 6.5%) and the Group is on track to deliver its commitments to the Government on net lending. Unsecured lending has continued to slow reflecting reduced customer demand and rising risk.

Customer deposits have grown 9% reflecting the strength of the UK Retail customer franchise in an increasingly competitive environment and despite depressed market growth. This is essential in order to fund the increased lending. Personal current account customers increased 3% both year on year and annualised in the first half to 12.6 million. Personal savings accounts increased 18% year on year to 9.7 million. The division's loan:deposit ratio improved by 4 percentage points compared with June 2008 to 116%.

Risk-weighted assets increased 18% to £54 billion, reflecting the upward pressure from procyclicality, including the impact of rising default probability and reduced levels of expected recoveries reflecting house price declines.

RBS continues to progress towards a more convenient, lower cost operating model, with over 3.8 million active users of online banking. A record share of new sales was achieved through direct channels. In the first half 700,000 additional accounts switched to paperless statements, taking the total number of paperless accounts to 2.3 million. In support of this lower cost operating model there has also been a 6% FTE reduction year on year. In Branches, a significant number of 'Cash & Deposits Machines' (CDMs) have been rolled out, giving customers in 121 branches access to this technology. The machines can accept cheque, notes and coin deposits, and can provide an 'image' receipt for customer reassurance.

UK Corporate

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Net interest income	1,006	1,194
Net fees and commissions	387	377
Other non-interest income	182	218
Non-interest income	569	595
Total income	1,575	1,789
Direct expenses		
- staff	(342)	(368)
- other	(106)	(137)
Indirect expenses	(255)	(249)
	(703)	(754)
Impairment losses	(551)	(96)
Operating profit before tax	321	939
Analysis of income by business:		
Corporate and commercial lending	692	792
Asset and invoice finance	233	245
Corporate deposits	544	573
Other	106	179
Total income	1,575	1,789
Analysis of impairment by sector:		
Manufacturing	21	10
Housebuilding and construction	61	5
Property	167	7
Asset and invoice finance	68	38
Other	234	36
Total impairment	551	96
Loan impairment charge as % of gross customer loans and advances excluding reverse repurchase agreements by sector:		
Manufacturing	0.88%	0.44%
Housebuilding and construction	2.30%	0.19%

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Property	1.02%	0.05%
Asset and invoice finance	1.55%	0.92%
Other	0.92%	0.13%
	1.08%	0.18%

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UK Corporate (continued)

	First half 2009	First half 2008
Performance ratios		
Return on equity (1)	6.3%	19.6%
Net interest margin	2.14%	2.64%
Cost:income ratio	44.6%	42.2%
	30 June 2009 £bn	31 December 2008 £bn
Capital and balance sheet		
Total assets	106.0	109.8
Loans and advances to customers – gross		
- Manufacturing	4.8	5.3
- Housebuilding and construction	5.3	5.8
- Property	32.9	32.1
- Asset and invoice finance	8.8	8.5
- Other	50.6	54.1
Customer deposits	84.1	79.9
Non-performing loans	2.4	1.3
Loan:deposit ratio	121.8%	132.4%
Risk-weighted assets	85.1	81.5

Note:

- (1) Return on equity is based on divisional operating profit after tax, divided by divisional notional equity (based on 8% of divisional risk-weighted assets, adjusted for capital deductions).

The first half of 2009 has been a challenging period, with operating profit falling to £321 million. Results were severely affected by worsening income and higher impairments, partially offset by cost reductions. Increases in the cost of funding, the low base rate environment and lower levels of economic activity reduced margins, driving income lower by 12%, while costs were reduced by 7%. Impairment losses were significantly higher at £551 million.

Net interest income fell by 16% to £1,006 million with narrowed margins as a result of the significant increase in the cost of funding. New business margins on lending have widened, partly reflecting repricing from Base rate to LIBOR to better reflect the Group's costs of funding. Deposit margins narrowed sharply as savings floors were reached on a range of deposit products, although the impact on net interest income was partly mitigated by hedging programmes. Overall, net interest margin reduced by 50 basis points to 2.1%, and is expected to remain under pressure while interest rates remain low and deposit competition strong.

Non-interest income has also been adversely impacted by the slowdown in the UK economy, with lower levels of activity across most sectors leading to a 4% fall to £569 million.

Total direct costs fell by 11% to £448 million, reflecting lower staff compensation and a business-wide cost reduction programme which will generate further savings into the second half. Indirect costs from Manufacturing and Group

Central functions increased by 2% to £255 million.

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UK Corporate (continued)

Impairment losses increased materially to £551 million. While there was a rise in the number of significant corporate delinquencies requiring a specific provision, increased impairments of £271 million have also been recognised to cover losses in the portfolio not yet specifically identified. The impairment charge has been biased towards the housebuilding, property and construction sectors, but this is expected to spread more widely as the adverse economic conditions begin to impact other sectors of the economy for the remainder of 2009.

Loans and advances to customers were slightly down compared with 30 June 2008 at £102.4 billion. The division has stepped up its efforts to provide support to UK businesses, reflecting the lending commitments made in February to HM Government. Demand for credit, however, remains subdued, with the value of applications for Business & Commercial term loans 37% lower than in the first half of 2008.

Deposit balances remained stable at £84.1 billion, building on the improved stability and confidence provided by the recapitalisations of 2008. Specific campaigns aimed at generating new deposits have yielded benefits in the first half of the year. Improving our capability and product offering is a key step in improving deposit-gathering performance. The loan:deposit ratio improved from 132% at the end of 2008 to 122% at June 2009.

Risk-weighted assets were stable at £85 billion, compared with June 2008, but increased by 4% from December 2008, reflecting the effect of procyclicality under Basel 2.

Wealth

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Net interest income	339	271
Net fees and commissions	182	212
Other non-interest income	43	39
Non-interest income	225	251
Total income	564	522
Direct expenses		
- staff	(169)	(187)
- other	(68)	(72)
Indirect expenses	(87)	(73)
	(324)	(332)
Impairment losses	(22)	(5)
Operating profit before tax	218	185
Analysis of income:		
Private Banking	469	395
Investments	95	127
Total income	564	522
Performance ratios		
Net interest margin	4.64%	4.42%
Cost:income ratio	57.5%	63.6%
		31
	30 June 2009 £bn	December 2008 £bn
Capital and balance sheet		
Loans and advances to customers – gross		
- mortgages	5.8	5.4
- personal	4.7	5.0
- other	2.2	2.2
Customer deposits	35.7	34.5

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Assets under management – excluding deposits	29.8	34.7
Non-performing loans	0.2	0.1
Loan:deposit ratio	35.6%	36.6%
Risk-weighted assets	10.5	11.0

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Wealth (continued)

Wealth delivered a resilient performance with income growing by 8% to £564 million and operating profit increasing by 18% to £218 million. Increases in income and reductions in direct costs were partly offset by higher provisions and higher internal allocations for support services.

Net interest income rose 25% to £339 million, primarily driven by increased internal pricing applied to the Wealth deposit base. The effect of this change improved divisional income, compared with the first half of 2008, by £89 million. Reported income also benefited from the appreciation of the Swiss franc against sterling. At constant exchange rates net interest income was 21% higher. Deposit balances have continued to grow in the second quarter of 2009 and recovered much of the outflow seen in the last quarter of 2008, demonstrating the underlying strength of the division's client relationships. The effect of lower base rates, and to a lesser extent lower average balances in the first half of 2009 (down 2% compared with the first half of 2008), was partially offset by an uplift in lending income. New deposit products have been designed to match evolving client needs for yield and liquidity. Lending volumes were strong, up 12%, particularly in mortgages and small business. Lending margins have improved, particularly for mortgages, and credit metrics for new business remain satisfactory.

Non-interest income, primarily comprising fees and commissions (for lending, payments and investments) declined 10% to £225 million as a result of two major factors: first, the significant fall in equity markets (the FTSE 100 index at 30 June 2009 was 24% lower than a year earlier while the S&P 500 index was down 28% for the same period) lowered overall investment portfolio values; second, ongoing lack of investor appetite led to lower than expected investment product sales as well as a preference for lower margin products. Furthermore, investors' use of leverage in investment portfolios was significantly lower. Together these contributed to an overall decline in investment assets under management of 14% to £29.8 billion.

Direct expenses fell 9% to £237 million reflecting three major influences: an increase due to foreign exchange effects (with the Swiss franc strengthening versus sterling), a decrease in remuneration and a further decrease from cost management. Headcount has been reduced 3% to 5,013. Indirect expenses increased by 19% to £87 million due to higher Group Centre allocations, most notably the Financial Services Compensation Scheme levies. At constant exchange rates total expenses were reduced by 8%.

Impairment losses increased by £17 million to £22 million, reflecting some isolated instances of difficulty in UK and offshore mortgage books (representing second property mortgages for expatriates). Impairment losses as a percentage of lending to customers increased to 0.35% (annualised).

Customer numbers have held steady, increasing by 1% compared with June 2008 despite the significant shrinkage in the population of high net worth individuals.

Global Banking & Markets

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Net interest income from banking activities	1,584	941
Net fees and commissions receivable	728	643
Income from trading activities	5,733	2,234
Other operating income (net of related funding costs)	(215)	(142)
Non-interest income	6,246	2,735
Total income	7,830	3,676
Direct expenses		
- staff	(1,787)	(1,603)
- other	(539)	(640)
Indirect expenses	(394)	(301)
	(2,720)	(2,544)
Impairment losses	(237)	(17)
Operating profit before tax	4,873	1,115
Analysis of income by product:		
Rates - money markets	1,356	500
Rates - flow	1,942	1,403
Currencies	976	699
Commodities	467	349
Equities	733	561
Credit markets	1,452	(1,028)
Portfolio management and origination	740	608
Fair value of own debt	164	584
Total income	7,830	3,676
Analysis of impairment by sector:		
Manufacturing and infrastructure	39	-
Property and construction	50	12
Transport	1	-
Telecommunications, media and technology	-	-
Banks and financial institutions	43	(9)
Other	104	14

	237	17
Loan impairment charge as % of gross customer loans and advances excluding reverse repurchase agreements	0.37%	0.02%

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Global Banking & Markets (continued)

	First half 2009	First half 2008
Performance ratios		
Return on equity (1)	51.6%	11.4%
Net interest margin	1.69%	0.93%
Cost:income ratio	34.7%	69.2%
	30 June 2009 £bn	31 December 2008 £bn
Capital and balance sheet		
Loans and advances (including banks)	166.4	236.4
Reverse repos	75.2	88.8
Securities	115.5	127.5
Cash and eligible bills	51.5	20.2
Other	46.3	42.9
Total third party assets (excluding derivatives mark to market)	454.9	515.8
Net derivative assets (after netting)	70.7	113.0
Customer deposits (excluding repos)	66.0	90.2
Non-performing loans	1.1	0.7
Loan:deposit ratio	195.8%	200.6%
Risk-weighted assets	126.6	166.5

Note:

- (1) Return on equity is based on divisional operating profit after tax, divided by divisional notional equity (based on 10% of divisional risk-weighted assets, adjusted for capital deductions).

Following a particularly strong first quarter performance, notably in its rates and currencies businesses, Global Banking & Markets (GBM) continued to deliver robust income across all business lines throughout the first half of 2009. Total income was £7,830 million, up 113% from the first half of 2008. Costs were up 7% and credit impairments rose sharply, resulting in a first half 2009 operating profit of £4,873 million. On a constant currency basis total income was up 86% from the first half of 2008, while costs fell 1%.

The performance was particularly creditable given the immense pressures of business restructuring following 2008 losses. Significant people issues arising from competitors' hiring activities resulted in a net loss of people and revenues from GBM. GBM's ability to benefit from favourable market conditions demonstrates the core strength of its franchise. It is important to note, however, that first half revenues are likely to prove unsustainable, with a significantly lower run-rate expected in the second half of 2009.

Net interest income grew 68% to £1,584 million, with money markets income showing an especially strong performance, driven by global interest rate movements and volatility. Portfolio margins have improved, reflecting the

rapid repricing taking place in the market. Fees and commissions rose 13% to £728 million, while income from trading activities advanced markedly to £5,733 million.

Global Banking & Markets (continued)

By business line, the rates flow business saw continued good performance in the first half of 2009 with increased market volatility and strong customer demand, albeit at a more moderate level in the second quarter than in the first, which saw exceptional levels of activity. This resulted in a 38% increase in income to £1,942 million. The currencies business continued to make good progress in consolidating its leading position, generating income of £976 million in the first half of 2009, up 40%. The Sempra Commodities joint venture, which began in April 2008, contributed income of £467 million for the first half of 2009. Money markets delivered very strong revenue of £1,356 million, benefiting from the rapid reduction in short-term rates.

Core equities and equity derivatives performed well in an active market. Core equities revenue growth was driven by a strong equity capital markets (ECM) performance, with RBS rising from 5th to 4th position in Non-US ECM from the first half of 2008 to the first half of 2009.

As the impact of various government schemes globally began to take effect credit markets benefited from greater liquidity and a more positive trading environment, driving increased activity particularly in the US liquid mortgage trading business. The legacy illiquid mortgage origination and trading portfolio that incurred losses in 2008 has been substantially closed out.

Portfolio management income remained resilient and debt capital markets origination revenues grew strongly across both Corporate and FI client sectors. Total portfolio management and origination income grew by 22% to £740 million for the first half of 2009. Gains on the fair value of own debt began to reverse as credit spreads narrowed, with a loss of £483 million booked in the second quarter compared with a gain of £647 million in the first quarter.

While total income grew by 113%, total expenses increased 7% to £2,720 million but reduced by 1% at constant exchange rates. Besides currency effects, the expense line reflects the inclusion of Sempra for the full six months and the phasing of performance-related accruals. Compensation structures have undergone far-reaching review to align reward with long-term value creation, adjusted for risk; the compensation ratio for the half year was 23%, at the lower end of the expected range for this ratio for the full year. The ratio is likely to increase modestly in 2010/11 as the full accounting impact of new deferral policies accrues. Notwithstanding adverse exchange rate movements, non-staff costs were cut by 16%, primarily reflecting restructuring and efficiency benefits. Headcount reduced by 1,500, or 8%, compared with June 2008. The overall cost:income ratio improved significantly to 34.7%, reflecting the exceptionally strong income performance.

Impairments increased sharply to £237 million, representing 0.37% of loans & advances to customers. This compares with 0.02% for the first half of 2008 which was the low point in the economic cycle.

Global Banking & Markets (continued)

GBM's total third party assets excluding derivatives were reduced to £455 billion at 30 June 2009, a reduction of 24% on a year earlier, or 30% at constant exchange rates, reflecting continued progress in managing down the inventories supporting the trading businesses, with significant reductions in reverse repos and securities holdings. Within this, total loans and advances were £166 billion, a decrease of 5% from June 2008 or 13% at constant exchange rates, reflecting higher levels of corporate repayments particularly in Europe and the USA. GBM continued to provide direct support for key clients, notably in the UK, while at the same time facilitating their access to the global equity and debt capital markets. Net derivative assets totalled £70.7 billion, compared with £113.0 billion at 31 December 2008.

Risk-weighted assets reduced by 8% from a year earlier to £126.6 billion and were 24% lower than at 31 December 2008. The movement was principally affected by lower non-UK lending, reduced derivatives and foreign exchange movements.

Good progress was made in increasing market share in core markets, moving from fifth to fourth in the Euromoney global foreign exchange rankings and sustaining top 3 positions in key government bond markets. A number of other market shares slipped back, reflecting deliberate strategy and business disruption.

Global Transaction Services

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Net interest income	446	445
Non-interest income	782	710
Total income	1,228	1,155
Direct expenses		
- staff	(183)	(179)
- other	(72)	(66)
Indirect expenses	(464)	(413)
	(719)	(658)
Impairment losses	(13)	(4)
Operating profit before tax	496	493
Analysis of income by product:		
Domestic cash management	404	381
International cash management	350	344
Trade finance	152	110
Merchant acquiring	260	263
Commercial cards	62	57
Total income	1,228	1,155
Performance ratios		
Net interest margin	8.75%	8.27%
Cost: income ratio	58.6%	57.0%
		31
	30 June 2009 £bn	December 2008 £bn
Capital and balance sheet		
Total third party assets	19.7	22.5
Loans and advances	13.8	15.2
Customer deposits	54.0	62.0
Non-performing loans	0.1	0.1
Loan:deposit ratio	26.4%	25.7%
Risk-weighted assets	16.7	17.1

Global Transaction Services (continued)

Global Transaction Services increased operating profit by 1% to £496 million, with results benefiting from currency movements. Income increased by 6% to £1,228 million, but declined 2% at constant exchange rates. Expenses were up 9%, but 2% in constant currency terms, as cost savings and efficiencies offset the impact of prudent investment in staffing and infrastructure in the second half of 2008.

Growth was driven by a solid performance in cash management, where income rose 4% in the first half of the year to £754 million, with growth in UK and US domestic cash management. The division continued to win new cash management business, reflecting the strength of the domestic platforms and the international network.

In the UK domestic market income grew by 5% despite the low interest rate environment and increased competition for deposits. Average deposits increased 13% to £15 billion, attributable to growth with UK financial institutions. US domestic fee income benefited from re-pricing strategies implemented in the second half of 2008 as income grew 9%, with currency effects mitigating the migration of some balances to Citizens.

International cash management income increased by 2% but was 7% lower at constant exchange rates. Income benefited primarily from the increased internal pricing applied to the GTS deposit base, but this was more than offset by the negative impact on margins caused by low base rates. Average deposit balances remained stable, but there was some attrition of international deposit customers affecting the period end spot balances. Interest rates are negatively impacting deposit margins as zero rate floors are reached on a range of products. The continued benefit of overdraft re-pricing has increased margins on asset balances versus the first half of 2008. International fee income from payment transactions has increased 19% on H1 2008.

The trade finance business increased income by 38%, with improving penetration into the Asia-Pacific region. The strength of the product platform resulted in new customer mandates particularly in the UK corporate sector, where the Supply chain service has continued to expand.

Merchant services and commercial cards income remained stable at £322 million in the face of changing consumer spending patterns. The value of individual transactions has decreased together with a switch from credit card to debit card usage as households pay down debt. Volume growth in the UK domestic acquiring market was up 5%, exceeding UK economic growth, which partly offset the decreasing value of individual transactions. Commercial cards income grew 9% driven by improved margins, compensating for the downturn in corporate spending.

Total expenses for the division rose 9% in the first half of 2009 to £719 million, largely reflecting exchange rate movements, with direct expenses up 4% to £255 million and indirect expenses up 12% to £464 million. In constant currency terms, direct expenses were reduced by 1% as a result of the division's continued implementation of cost saving initiatives and operating model efficiencies, while indirect expenses increased by 4%. The cost: income ratio was 58.6%, a deterioration of 2.4% in constant currency terms.

Impairment losses were £13 million for the first half 2009, up from £4 million in the first half of 2008. Overall defaults remain modest at 0.1% of loans and advances.

Global Transaction Services (continued)

Average deposit balances for the period remained stable, but deposits at 30 June 2009 were down 10% on the first half of 2008, driven in part by US domestic transfers within the wider Group and some attrition in international cash management. Loans and advances were down 12% from June 2008 due to lower overdraft utilisation. In constant currency terms, deposits fell by 12% and loans and advances by 15%. Divisional net funding contribution has remained stable. Risk-weighted assets were 6% lower in constant currency terms.

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Ulster Bank

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Net interest income	410	360
Net fees and commissions	85	104
Other non-interest income	23	71
Non-interest income	108	175
Total income	518	535
Direct expenses		
- staff	(170)	(159)
- other	(47)	(46)
Indirect expenses	(152)	(140)
	(369)	(345)
Impairment losses	(157)	(18)
Operating (loss)/profit before tax	(8)	172
Analysis of income by business:		
Corporate	299	319
Retail	194	197
Other	25	19
Total income	518	535
Analysis of impairment by sector:		
Mortgages	23	7
Corporate	107	-
Other	27	11
	157	18
Loan impairment charge as % of gross customer loans and advances excluding reverse repurchase agreements by sector:		
Mortgages	0.29%	0.09%
Corporate	1.00%	-
Other	3.38%	0.92%

0.81%

0.10%

Ulster Bank (continued)

	First half 2009	First half 2008
Performance ratios		
Return on equity (1)	(0.7%)	18.2%
Net interest margin	1.95%	1.92%
Cost:income ratio	71.2%	64.5%
	30 June 2009 £bn	31 December 2008 £bn
Capital and balance sheet		
Loans and advances to customers – gross		
- mortgages	16.0	18.1
- corporate	21.2	23.8
- other	1.8	2.1
Customer deposits	18.9	24.3
Non-performing loans		
- mortgages	0.4	0.3
- corporate	1.1	0.8
- other	0.1	0.1
Loan:deposit ratio	206.3%	181.1%
Risk-weighted assets	26.2	24.5

Note:

- (1) Return on equity is based on divisional operating profit after tax, divided by divisional notional equity (based on 7% of divisional risk-weighted assets, adjusted for capital deductions).

Ulster Bank's results have been severely affected by economic conditions across the island of Ireland. Income fell by 3%, or by 14% at constant exchange rates, to £518 million, reflecting reduced volumes and narrowing margins. Although expense growth remained under tight control, impairments rose sharply, resulting in an operating loss of £8 million.

Net interest income rose to £410 million in the first half of 2009, an increase of 14% at constant exchange rates, with net interest margin up 3 basis points to 1.95%. There was some easing of wholesale funding costs over the course of the period, and a re-pricing of some new lending, but this was largely offset by the increasing cost of acquiring and retaining customer deposits. Margins are expected to decline reflecting the highly competitive deposit market. Loans to customers were flat year on year as new lending reduced significantly reflecting subdued demand, although redemption levels have also fallen. Ulster Bank remains on track to deliver its portion of the Group's lending commitments in Northern Ireland. Non-wholesale customer deposits were broadly flat reflecting the highly competitive deposit market in Ireland. Customer deposits were down by 21% in constant currency terms, primarily as a result of the impact of the Irish Government guarantee scheme and a reduction in wholesale deposits in the first quarter but this has since stabilised.

Non-interest income fell by 38% at constant currency rates in the first half of 2009 reflecting reduced fee income from bancassurance products sales and lower activity levels, particularly in the banking and Capital Markets businesses.

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Ulster Bank (continued)

Direct expenses were £217 million, a reduction of 5% in constant currency terms, driven by a 4% reduction in staff costs, reflecting the initial benefits of the Bank's restructuring programme. On the same constant currency basis, other costs were 10% lower as a result of a range of cost reduction initiatives across the business, with indirect costs held flat.

Impairment charges increased to £157 million, reflecting the significant continuing deterioration in the Irish economic outlook and the resultant change in underlying credit metrics. Impairments are expected to continue to rise in the second half of 2009.

Ulster Bank continues to launch products aimed at supporting existing and new customers through the changing economic environment. These include the Momentum mortgage and Co-ownership Scheme in Northern Ireland and the Secure Step mortgage in the Republic of Ireland. For business customers, €1billion of funding has been made available across the island of Ireland including £250 million of SME funding in Northern Ireland. Support is also being provided to customers through the launch of the "MoneySense for Adults" and "Flex" propositions, as well as the "Small Business Can" website.

Ulster Bank launched its 'One Bank' programme in January which is on track for completion by the end of 2009. The programme will see the merger of the First Active and Ulster Bank businesses and the implementation of a number of cost management initiatives across all business areas. The creation of a single franchise across the island of Ireland will increase efficiency and result in further cost reductions whilst providing customers with an improved level of service. Customer numbers have grown across the Ulster Bank brand and across the island of Ireland, with strong growth in current and savings accounts driving a 5% increase in total consumer accounts compared with June 2008.

US Retail & Commercial

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m	First half 2009 \$m	First half 2008 \$m
Net interest income	942	774	1,407	1,529
Net fees and commissions	407	310	608	612
Other non-interest income	97	84	144	168
Non-interest income	504	394	752	780
Total income	1,446	1,168	2,159	2,309
Direct expenses				
- staff	(402)	(311)	(600)	(614)
- other	(331)	(142)	(495)	(281)
Indirect expenses	(395)	(298)	(589)	(588)
	(1,128)	(751)	(1,684)	(1,483)
Impairment losses	(369)	(126)	(551)	(249)
Operating (loss)/profit before tax	(51)	291	(76)	577
Analysis of income by product:				
Mortgages and home equity	272	175	407	346
Personal lending and cards	220	157	328	310
Retail deposits	433	465	647	919
Commercial lending	281	179	419	354
Commercial deposits	193	169	288	334
Other	47	23	70	46
Total income	1,446	1,168	2,159	2,309
Average exchange rate - US\$/£	1.494	1.975		

US Retail & Commercial (continued)

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m	First half 2009 \$m	First half 2008 \$m
Analysis of impairment by sector:				
Residential mortgages	35	12	52	24
Home equity	72	25	107	50
Corporate & Commercial	169	40	253	78
Other consumer	93	49	139	97
	369	126	551	249
Loan impairment charge as % of gross customer loans and advances excluding reverse repurchase agreements by sector:				
Residential mortgages	0.96%	0.30%	0.87%	0.30%
Home equity	0.91%	0.37%	0.82%	0.37%
Corporate & Commercial	1.65%	0.48%	1.50%	0.47%
Other consumer	2.25%	1.36%	2.04%	1.35%
	1.42%	0.56%	1.29%	0.55%
Performance ratios				
Return on equity (1)	(1.7%)	12.1%	(1.5%)	12.0%
Net interest margin	2.31%	2.61%	2.32%	2.61%
Cost:income ratio	78.0%	64.2%	78.0%	64.2%
	30 June 2009 £bn	31 December 2008 £bn	30 June 2009 \$bn	31 December 2008 \$bn
Capital and balance sheet				
Total assets	75.6	87.5	124.4	127.8
Loans and advances to customers (gross):				
- Residential mortgages	7.3	9.5	12.0	13.9
- home equity	15.9	18.7	26.1	27.2
- corporate and commercial	20.5	23.7	33.6	34.7
- other consumer	8.3	9.8	13.7	14.3
Customer deposits	60.2	64.4	99.0	94.0
Non-performing loans				
- retail	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3
- commercial	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2
Loan:deposit ratio	86.7%	96.6%	86.7%	96.6%
Risk-weighted assets	55.6	63.9	91.3	93.2
Spot exchange rate - US\$/£	1.644	1.460		

Note:

(1) Return on equity is based on divisional operating profit after tax, divided by divisional notional equity (based on 7% of divisional risk-weighted assets, adjusted for capital deductions).

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US Retail & Commercial (continued)

US Retail & Commercial Banking results were challenged by the recessionary economic environment in the United States and historically low interest rates. Credit conditions worsened as the housing market continued to deteriorate and unemployment rose, exacerbating already difficult conditions. As a result, income declined by 6% to \$2,159 million, producing an operating loss of \$76 million. In sterling terms, total income increased by 24% to £1,446 million with an operating loss of £51 million, reflecting a significant weakening of sterling against the dollar.

Net interest income was down 8% to \$1,407 million with lower net interest margin at 2.31% for the first half of 2009 compared with 2.61% for the first half of 2008. The low interest rate environment contributed to a decline of 30 basis points in deposit margins, only partially offset by wider loan margins, reflecting deteriorating credit conditions and tighter underwriting standards. Non-interest income was down 4% primarily due to lower gains, which declined by \$29 million. Net fees and commissions were flat, with higher mortgage origination fees resulting from record refinancing activity offsetting weaker consumer banking fees. Depending upon the prevailing rate environment and local market competition, net interest margins are expected to remain stable / range-bound in the second half, largely driven by pricing around deposits.

Total expenses increased by 14% to \$1,684 million, largely as a result of higher deposit insurance costs including a one-off FDIC special assessment of \$72 million, as well as increased costs relating to loan workout and collection activity which is expected to mitigate the impact of future impairments. Half year results include the successful execution of restructuring actions announced at the end of 2008. These actions impacted approximately 1,000 employees and resulted in savings of \$32 million reflected in the first half results. With income weak, the cost:income ratio deteriorated markedly to 78%.

Impairment losses totalled \$551 million in the first half of 2009 compared with \$249 million in the first half of 2008 impacting both the retail and commercial loan portfolios. Actual charge-offs were \$376 million or 0.87% of loans, an increase of 44bps compared with the first half of 2008. There was a net increase of \$175 million in provision balances in the half. Consumer loan delinquencies have continued to rise throughout the first half reflecting the difficult economic conditions, representing 1.80% of loans compared with 1.04% of loans in the first half of 2008. Likewise, commercial non-performing loans rose to 0.87% of total loans compared with 0.20% in the first half of 2008. The challenging economic environment continues to affect credit losses; however, Citizens' asset quality remains superior to peers as measured by non performing loans as a percentage of total loans.

Loans and advances were down 5% at \$85.4 billion reflecting mortgage securitisations and subdued customer demand, partly offset by a modest increase in commercial loan balances, which rose 2%. Total customer deposits including wholesale funding at 30 June 2009 were 5% lower at \$99 billion, principally due to a planned reduction in wholesale funding. However, despite a very competitive deposit market, core customer deposits were up 5% to \$99 billion, partly driven by strong growth in checking balances. The loan:deposit ratio improved to 87%.

US Retail & Commercial (continued)

US Retail & Commercial is a top 5 bank in New England and the Mid Atlantic regions and is among the top five participants in eight out of the ten largest sub-markets in which it has a presence. Its strategy is based on building market share through dedicated marketing and competitive pricing strategies within its footprint and on capturing opportunities in under penetrated segments by building relationships with small and medium-sized companies.

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RBS Insurance

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Earned premiums	2,225	2,263
Reinsurers' share	(85)	(107)
Insurance net premium income	2,140	2,156
Net fees and commissions	(187)	(201)
Investment income	115	180
Other income	97	87
Total income	2,165	2,222
Direct expenses		
- staff	(139)	(145)
- other	(121)	(127)
Indirect expenses	(131)	(124)
	(391)	(396)
Gross claims	(1,574)	(1,571)
Reinsurers' share	23	45
Net claims	(1,551)	(1,526)
Impairment losses	(6)	-
Operating profit before tax	217	300
Analysis of income by product:		
Motor own-brand	972	959
Household and Life own-brands	414	400
Motor partnerships and broker	290	353
Household and Life, partnerships and broker	164	181
Other (International, commercial and central)	325	329
Total income	2,165	2,222
Key business metrics		
In-force policies (thousands)		
- Motor own-brand	4,789	4,424
- Own-brand non-motor (home, rescue, pet, HR24)	5,890	5,449
- Partnerships & broker (motor, home, rescue, pet, HR24)	5,609	6,417
- Other (International, commercial and central)	1,210	1,123
Gross written premium (£m)	2,270	2,224

Performance ratios		
Return on equity (1)	13.6%	18.8%
Cost:income ratio	18.1%	17.8%
Adjusted cost:income ratio (2)	63.7%	56.9%
		31
	30 June	December
	2009	2008
	£bn	£bn
Balance sheet		
General insurance reserves – total (£m)	6,601	6,672

RBS Insurance (continued)

Notes:

- (1) Return on equity is based on divisional operating profit after tax, divided by divisional notional equity (based on regulatory capital).
- (2) The adjusted cost:income ratio is based on total income and operating expenses above and after netting insurance claims against income.

For RBS Insurance, insurance premium income was stable at £2,140 million, reflecting 4% growth in the Group's own brands offset by a 10% decline in the partnerships and broker segment. This reflects the division's strategy of maximising profitability while focusing on growth in the Group's own-brand businesses. Investment income declined by 36% to £115 million, largely as a result of a year over year reduction in interest rates. The division has a very conservative investment policy for its £8.4 billion of invested funds, with 84% in short duration deposits and fixed income bonds. Net fees and commissions payable were 7% lower, mainly as a result of lower sales of the creditor product. Operating profit in the first half was £217 million, a decline of £83 million or 28% from the first half of 2008, of which £71 million directly related to lower investment returns and impairment losses.

In the UK motor market, the Churchill and Privilege brands continued to be successfully deployed on selected price comparison web sites. Direct Line, Churchill and Privilege motor policy numbers increased by 2%, 22% and 13% respectively over the period. In total, over previous year, own-brand motor policy numbers have increased by 8% to 4.8 million.

In own-brand non-motor insurance RBS Insurance has continued to achieve strong sales through RBS and NatWest, where home insurance policies in force increased by 16%. Direct Line has achieved a 2% increase in the number of policy renewals in the period. In addition, Privilege and Churchill have grown home policies by 223% and 29% respectively, mainly due to successful entry onto price comparison websites. Overall own-brand non-motor policies in force have grown by 8% to 5.9 million.

Direct expenses improved by 4% to £260 million, mainly driven by lower staff costs and reduced marketing spend.

Net claims were 2% higher at £1,551 million due to increases in creditor claims, home claims relating to the very cold weather in the first quarter of 2009, and a rise in personal injury motor claims costs. Impairment losses of £6 million reflect impairments of available for sale securities.

Gross written premium increased by 2% over the period, reflecting the strong growth in own-brand businesses. Own-brand motor gross written premium increased by 10% year on year and own-brand home gross written premium increased by 11%.

The UK combined operating ratio for the first half of 2009, including manufacturing costs, rose to 95.3%, compared with 94.8% a year earlier, reflecting a higher loss ratio partly offset by an improved expense base.

In April 2009 the Group disposed of its 50% stake in Linea Directa to Bankinter, its joint venture partner. In 2008 it also disposed of its 50% stake in Tesco Personal Finance. All financial data have been restated to reflect the transfer of Linea Directa and Tesco Personal Finance to the Non-Core division.

Central items

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Fair value of own debt	(93)	228
Other	268	478
Operating profit before tax	175	706

Funding and operating costs have been allocated to operating divisions, based on direct service usage, requirement for market funding and other appropriate drivers where services span more than one division. Residual unallocated items relate to volatile corporate items that do not naturally reside within a division.

Items not allocated amounted to a net credit of £175 million (first half 2008 - £706 million) and comprised an increase in the carrying value of own debt more than offset by a net credit on a number of other volatile items including foreign exchange translation and the impact of economic hedges which do not qualify for IFRS hedge accounting.

Non-Core

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Net interest income from banking activities	450	628
Net fees and commissions receivable	256	495
Loss from trading activities	(4,276)	(5,286)
Insurance net premium income	440	485
Other operating income	128	1,137
Non-interest income	(3,452)	(3,169)
Total income	(3,002)	(2,541)
Direct expenses		
- staff	(259)	(410)
- other	(450)	(509)
Indirect expenses	(279)	(256)
	(988)	(1,175)
Insurance net claims	(314)	(338)
Impairment losses	(5,344)	(809)
Operating loss before tax	(9,648)	(4,863)
Performance ratios		
Net interest margin	0.49%	0.83%
Cost:income ratio	(32.9%)	(46.2%)
	30 June 2009 £bn	31 December 2008 £bn
Capital and balance sheet*		
Total third party assets (including derivatives)	231.1	324.7
Loans and advances to customers - gross	166.3	190.2
Customer deposits	20.8	26.5
Non-performing loans	20.5	11.2
Loan:deposit ratio	819.6%	720.2%
Risk-weighted assets	164.0	160.6
	First half 2009	First half 2008

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	£m	£m
Income by donating division:		
UK Retail	3	147
UK Corporate	244	324
Wealth	209	243
Global Banking & Markets	(4,221)	(3,957)
Global Transaction Services	85	60
Ulster Bank	112	191
US Retail & Commercial	170	162
RBS Insurance	406	543
Central items	(10)	(254)
	(3,002)	(2,541)

* includes disposal groups.

Non-Core (continued)

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Included in income donated by Global Banking & Markets above are credit and other market write-downs as follows:		
Monoline exposures	1,547	2,120
CDPCs	569	80
Super senior CDOs	537	1,892
Leveraged finance	-	863
CLO's	-	113
Other credit exotics	542	361
Equities	22	36
Other	35	(61)
	3,252	5,404
CDS Hedging	996	(148)
	4,248	5,256
Impairment losses by donating division:		
UK Retail	34	47
UK Corporate	1,092	106
Wealth	156	61
Global Banking & Markets	2,987	277
Global Transaction Services	17	6
Ulster Bank	484	78
US Retail & Commercial	574	234
	5,344	809
Loan impairment charge as % of gross customer loans and advances by donating division:		
UK Retail	2.34%	1.67%
UK Corporate	8.94%	0.92%
Wealth	12.19%	5.13%
Global Banking & Markets	4.38%	0.53%
Global Transaction Services	2.85%	0.86%
Ulster Bank	5.97%	1.07%
US Retail & Commercial	9.34%	3.96%
Total	5.65%	1.00%

Non-Core (continued)

	30 June 2009 £bn	31 December 2008 £bn
Loans and advances by donating division:		
UK Retail	2.9	3.3
UK Corporate	24.4	25.0
Wealth	2.6	3.2
Global Banking & Markets	106.4	123.7
Global Transaction Services	1.2	1.4
Ulster Bank	16.2	17.7
US Retail & Commercial	12.3	15.6
RBS Insurance	0.2	0.2
Group centre	0.1	0.1
	166.3	190.2
Risk-weighted assets by donating division:		
UK Retail	2.0	2.0
UK Corporate	18.9	17.8
Wealth	2.9	3.7
Global Banking & Markets	118.1	112.6
Global Transaction Services	1.9	2.8
Ulster Bank	8.4	6.8
US Retail & Commercial	11.5	14.1
Group centre	0.3	0.8
	164.0	160.6

Non-Core (continued)

The establishment of the Non-Core Division of RBS was announced on 26 February 2009 as one of the key outcomes of the Group Strategic Review.

The Non-Core Division comprises a number of businesses and assets, including a number of overseas branches and subsidiaries which did not meet the target criteria of the new core bank. These criteria covered franchise strength, return on equity over the economic cycle, organic growth potential, capital and funding efficiency, and connectivity with other businesses of the Group.

The objective of the Division is to run off or dispose of the resulting pool of assets over a three to five year period whilst maximising shareholder value and minimising any negative impact on the core franchises of the bank. The Division will seek to achieve this first and foremost by optimising the timing, cost and method of exit of the Non-Core businesses and assets. The terms of the APS may constrain the Group in certain respects. In addition it will aim to achieve a reduction in the amount of capital and funding required to support the Group and over time to reduce the Group's cost base.

Following further detailed review of the Non-Core asset portfolio during the first half of 2009, a total of £325 billion of third party assets, as at 31 December 2008, were confirmed for transfer to the new Division. This total comprises £251 billion of on-balance sheet funded third party assets and £73 billion of derivative marked-to-market third party assets, compared with the estimates of £240 billion and £145 billion, respectively, announced on 26 February. In addition, the Division had outstanding undrawn commitments of £85 billion. The revised portfolio equates to £161 billion of RWAs, compared with £155 billion announced in February.

GBM's contribution made up 77% of starting third party assets (including derivative marked-to-market exposures) and 70% of RWAs comprising a number of illiquid medium to long-term structured finance lending books, exotic credits, illiquid asset-backed securities and proprietary trading assets. The balance of the Division's asset pool was contributed by other divisions in the Group and comprises a range of businesses and corporate, commercial and consumer loan books.

In order to provide a coherent management framework for the run-off and disposal of the Division's assets, a new management team has been established to exclusively focus on this task, utilising the Group's infrastructure. The opening asset pool has been divided into three groupings, each of which is managed on a global basis by one or more executives:

- Banking & Portfolio comprises the structured finance portfolios – mainly real estate finance, leveraged finance and project and asset-based finance which originated within GBM.
- Retail, Commercial & Countries mainly comprises the retail, commercial and in some cases wholesale banking activities of the Group in the UK and overseas locations which have been determined to be non-core.
- Trading comprises a number of exotic credit and highly illiquid asset-backed securities and proprietary trading books.

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Non-Core (continued)

Approximately 44% of the assets (50% of RWAs) in the Non-Core Division are expected to be covered by the UK Asset Protection Scheme (APS). The precise extent of the asset coverage and the terms of APS are still under negotiation with HMT. RBS also intends to clarify the eligibility of certain Ulster Bank assets for the Irish Government's National Asset Management Agency scheme. Given the overlap and interdependencies between the APS and the Non-Core Division, the management of the two programmes is integrated within the Non-Core Division.

Between December 2008 and June 2009, total third party assets were reduced by £94 billion to £231 billion, including a £51 billion reduction in funded third party assets (excluding derivatives). The reduction in funded third party assets was assisted by foreign exchange movements, which resulted in a £14 billion decline. In addition, net balance run-off totalled £20 billion, and £9 billion of disposals were recorded, including the sale of Linea Directa in Spain (£0.5 billion) and Bank of China (£3.9 billion). Mark-to-market derivative assets decreased by £43 billion, largely as a result of the significant rally in credit markets which led to spreads tightening.

The Division has large hedging exposures on a number of portfolios, so a similar movement in mark-to-market derivative liabilities was recorded.

RWAs remained flat at £164 billion, compared with £161 billion in December 2008. The movements in RWAs were broadly consistent with the movements in nominal assets in Citizens, UK Retail, Wealth and Global Transaction Services. In the case of UK Corporate Banking and Ulster, nominal assets decreased but RWAs increased, primarily as a result of procyclicality.

Non-Core's GBM funded third party assets fell by a total of £36.3 billion, while its' RWAs increased by a net £5.6 billion. Reductions in RWAs as a result of foreign exchange rates (£8.7 billion), reductions in market risk (other than in relation to CDPC exposures) (£9.2 billion) the movement of certain counterparties to default status (causing their removal from the calculation) (£6.1 billion) and other reductions of £13.0 billion, were more than offset by increases in RWAs of £26.3 billion in respect of market and counterparty risk associated with CDPC exposures and of £16.3 billion, from the impact of procyclicality on probability of default and loss given default factors.

The Non-Core Division recorded an operating loss of £9,648 million in the first half of 2009. Net interest income was £450 million, down 28%, but non-interest income totalled a negative £3,452 million, including £4,248 million of credit market and other write-downs, compared with £5,256 million in the first half of 2008. These write-downs included £1,547 million of monoline losses, which were largely incurred in the first quarter and reflected the further widening in monoline credit spreads in February. The Division uses a portfolio of CDSs to manage the capital consumption, concentration and credit risk of its loans. The CDSs are carried at fair value while the loans are recorded at cost less provisions for impairment. The tightening of spreads in the first half of 2009 reduced income by £996 million compared with a positive income impact of £148 million in the first half of 2008 and £1,690 million for full year 2008.

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Non-Core (continued)

The operating loss was largely due to the increase in impairment charges, compared with the first half of 2008, on assets contributed by GBM (£2,710 million), UK Corporate (£986 million), US Retail & Commercial (£340 million) and Ulster Bank (£406 million).

Targets have been set for a reduction of third party assets, excluding derivatives, to approximately £20 billion by 2013. This includes asset run-off of approximately £200 billion as well as £50 billion to £60 billion of asset sales, offset by rollovers and additional drawings. Achieving this run-off profile will depend on sufficient recovery in market conditions to allow assets to be disposed of at acceptable valuations, and on the securitisation or sale of some APS assets in the outer years of the five year plan, for which HM Treasury's permission may be required.

In the first half of 2009, a number of financial institutions and larger investment grade corporates with strong underlying businesses were able to take advantage of more favourable conditions in the bond and equity markets to refinance borrowing and generally deleveraging their balance sheets in advance of their legal maturity. However, smaller corporates without access to the public markets and with less robust underlying businesses, which are more typical of the Non-Core asset portfolio, have continued to rely on their banks for finance. Given the economic environment, it is expected that a number of these businesses will require their banking facilities to be rolled over or refinanced or to make greater use of any undrawn committed facilities they may have in the remainder of this year. This trend is expected to continue into 2010.

In later years, financial markets and market liquidity may improve to a sufficient extent to allow access to alternative sources of finance, including securitisation, reducing the need to roll over banking facilities and allowing a reduction in commitments.

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Allocation methodology for indirect costs

Manufacturing directly attributable costs have been allocated to the operating divisions, based on their service usage. Where services span more than one division an appropriate measure is used to allocate the costs on a basis which management considers reasonable. Manufacturing costs are fully allocated and there are no residual unallocated costs.

Group centre directly attributable costs have been allocated to the operating divisions, based on their service usage. Where services span more than one division, the costs are allocated on a basis management considers reasonable. The residual unallocated costs remaining in the Group centre, relate to volatile corporate items that do not naturally reside within a division.

Treasury costs are allocated to operating divisions as follows; term funding costs are allocated or rewarded based on long term funding gap or surplus; liquidity buffer funding costs are allocated based on share of overall liquidity buffer derived from divisional stresses; and capital cost or benefit is allocated based on share of divisional risk-adjusted RWAs.

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Manufacturing costs:		
Property	959	815
Operations	734	716
Technology services and support functions	930	874
	2,623	2,405
Allocated to divisions:		
UK Retail	(796)	(791)
UK Corporate	(219)	(218)
Wealth	(61)	(59)
Global Banking & Markets	(277)	(228)
Global Transaction Services	(431)	(392)
Ulster Bank	(132)	(124)
US Retail & Commercial	(360)	(271)
RBS Insurance	(113)	(110)
Non-Core	(234)	(212)
	-	-
Group centre costs	472	314
Allocated to divisions:		
UK Retail	(142)	(74)
UK Corporate	(36)	(31)
Wealth	(26)	(14)
Global Banking & Markets	(117)	(73)
Global Transaction Services	(33)	(21)

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Ulster Bank	(20)	(16)
US Retail & Commercial	(35)	(27)
RBS Insurance	(18)	(14)
Non-Core	(45)	(44)

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Allocation methodology for indirect costs (continued)

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Treasury funding	754	707
Allocated to divisions:		
UK Retail	(78)	(105)
UK Corporate	(134)	(96)
Wealth	39	(50)
Global Banking & Markets	164	(56)
Global Transaction Services	59	37
Ulster Bank	(3)	(39)
US Retail & Commercial	(37)	(58)
RBS Insurance	(18)	(17)
Non-Core	(746)	(323)
	-	-

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Condensed consolidated income statement
for the half year ended 30 June 2009 (unaudited)

	First half 2009	First half 2008
	£m	£m
Interest receivable	18,131	24,178
Interest payable	(9,962)	(15,483)
Net interest income	8,169	8,695
Fees and commissions receivable	4,988	4,917
Fees and commissions payable	(1,340)	(1,188)
Income/(loss) from trading activities	1,994	(3,373)
Gain on redemption of own debt	3,790	-
Other operating income (excluding insurance premium income)	1,419	1,635
Net insurance premium income	2,821	3,156
Non-interest income	13,672	5,147
Total income	21,841	13,842
Staff costs	(6,008)	(5,558)
Premises and equipment	(1,533)	(1,218)
Other administrative expenses	(2,682)	(2,420)
Depreciation and amortisation	(1,357)	(1,523)
Write-down of goodwill and other intangible assets	(311)	-
Operating expenses*	(11,891)	(10,719)
Profit before other operating charges and impairment losses	9,950	3,123
Net insurance claims	(2,134)	(2,189)
Impairment losses	(8,060)	(1,661)
Operating loss before tax	(244)	(727)
Tax credit	441	333
Profit/(loss) from continuing operations	197	(394)
(Loss)/profit from discontinued operations, net of tax	(62)	234
Profit/(loss) for the period	135	(160)
Minority interests	(631)	(452)
Other owners' dividends	(546)	(215)
Loss attributable to ordinary shareholders	(1,042)	(827)
Basic earnings per ordinary share from continuing operations (Note 10)	(2.1p)	(6.4p)

Diluted earnings per ordinary share from continuing operations (Note 10)	(2.1p)	(6.4p)
Basic earnings per ordinary share from discontinued operations (Note 10)	(0.1p)	(0.4p)
Diluted earnings per ordinary share from discontinued operations (Note 10)	(0.1p)	(0.4p)
*Operating expenses include:	£m	£m
Integration and restructuring costs:		
- administrative expenses	726	302
- depreciation and amortisation	8	14
	734	316
Amortisation of purchased intangible assets	140	262
	874	578

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Condensed consolidated statement of comprehensive income
for the half year ended 30 June 2009 (unaudited)

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Profit/(loss) for the period	135	(160)
Other comprehensive income:		
Available-for-sale financial assets	(1,660)	(1,796)
Cash flow hedges	364	326
Currency translation	(4,281)	3,509
Actuarial losses on defined benefit plans	-	-
Tax on other comprehensive income	478	423
Other comprehensive income for the period, net of tax	(5,099)	2,462
Total comprehensive income for the period	(4,964)	2,302
Attributable to:		
Equity shareholders	(3,146)	(936)
Minority interests	(1,818)	3,238
	(4,964)	2,302

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Condensed consolidated balance sheet
at 30 June 2009 (unaudited)

	30 June 2009 £m	31 December 2008 £m
Assets		
Cash and balances at central banks	39,946	12,400
Net loans and advances to banks	60,330	79,426
Reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing	35,076	58,771
Loans and advances to banks	95,406	138,197
Net loans and advances to customers	722,260	835,409
Reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing	47,514	39,313
Loans and advances to customers	769,774	874,722
Debt securities	244,089	267,549
Equity shares	17,580	26,330
Settlement balances	23,264	17,832
Derivatives	557,284	992,559
Intangible assets	18,180	20,049
Property, plant and equipment	17,895	18,949
Deferred taxation	8,392	7,082
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets	23,265	24,402
Assets of disposal groups	3,848	1,581
Total assets	1,818,923	2,401,652
Liabilities		
Bank deposits	126,852	174,378
Repurchase agreements and stock lending	44,142	83,666
Deposits by banks	170,994	258,044
Customer deposits	540,674	581,369
Repurchase agreements and stock lending	75,015	58,143
Customer accounts	615,689	639,512
Debt securities in issue	274,180	300,289
Settlement balances and short positions	60,287	54,277
Derivatives	537,064	971,364
Accruals, deferred income and other liabilities	30,121	31,482
Retirement benefit liabilities	1,731	2,032
Deferred taxation	4,022	4,165
Insurance liabilities	9,542	9,976
Subordinated liabilities	35,703	49,154
Liabilities of disposal groups	7,498	859
Total liabilities	1,746,831	2,321,154
Equity:		
Minority interests	16,426	21,619
Owners' equity*		
Called up share capital	14,120	9,898

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Reserves	41,546	48,981
Total equity	72,092	80,498
Total liabilities and equity	1,818,923	2,401,652
*Owners' equity attributable to:		
Ordinary shareholders	47,820	45,525
Other equity owners	7,846	13,354
	55,666	58,879

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Condensed consolidated statement of changes in equity
for the half year ended 30 June 2009 (unaudited)

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m	Full year 2008 £m
Called-up share capital			
At beginning of period	9,898	2,530	2,530
Ordinary shares issued in respect of rights issue	-	1,531	1,531
Ordinary shares issued in respect of capitalisation issue	-	-	101
Ordinary shares issued in respect of placing and open offers	4,227	-	5,728
Preference shares issued in respect of placing and open offer	-	-	5
Other shares issued during the period	-	3	3
Preference shares redeemed during the period	(5)	-	-
At end of period	14,120	4,064	9,898
Paid-in equity			
At beginning of period	1,073	1,073	1,073
Securities redeemed during the period	(308)	-	-
Transfer to retained earnings	(200)	-	-
At end of period	565	1,073	1,073
Share premium account			
At beginning of period	27,471	17,322	17,322
Ordinary shares issued in respect of rights issue, net of £246 million expenses	-	10,469	10,469
Ordinary shares issued in respect of capitalisation issue	-	-	(101)
Ordinary shares issued in respect of placing and open offer, net of £95 million expenses	1,047	-	-
Expenses of placing and open offer	-	-	(265)
Other shares issued during the year	-	46	46
Preference shares redeemed during the period	(4,995)	-	-
At end of period	23,523	27,837	27,471
Merger reserve			
At beginning of period	10,881	10,881	10,881
Placing and open offer	-	-	14,273
Transfer to retained earnings	-	-	(14,273)
At end of period	10,881	10,881	10,881
Available-for-sale reserves			
At beginning of period	(3,561)	1,032	1,032
Unrealised losses in the period	(1,494)	(1,322)	(6,808)
Realised losses in the period	197	60	842
Taxation	592	343	1,373

At end of period	(4,266)	113	(3,561)
Cash flow hedging reserve			
At beginning of period	(876)	(555)	(555)
Amount recognised in equity during the period	415	(297)	(603)
Amount transferred from equity to earnings in the period	106	174	198
Taxation	(138)	36	84
At end of period	(493)	(642)	(876)

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Condensed consolidated statement of changes in equity
for the half year ended 30 June 2009 (unaudited) (continued)

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m	Full year 2008 £m
Foreign exchange reserve			
At beginning of period	6,385	(426)	(426)
Retranslation of net assets	(2,724)	1,748	11,970
Foreign currency gains/(losses) on hedges of net assets	442	(1,177)	(5,801)
Taxation	(46)	111	642
At end of period	4,057	256	6,385
Capital redemption reserve			
At beginning and end of period	170	170	170
Retained earnings			
At beginning of period	7,542	21,072	21,072
Loss attributable to ordinary shareholders and other equity owners	(496)	(612)	(23,710)
Ordinary dividends paid	-	(2,312)	(2,312)
Equity preference dividends paid	(510)	(188)	(536)
Paid-in equity dividends paid, net of tax	(36)	(27)	(60)
Transfer from paid-in equity	200	-	-
Equity owners gain on withdrawal of minority interest			
- gross	629	-	-
- taxation	(176)	-	-
Transfer from merger reserve	-	-	14,273
Actuarial losses recognised in retirement benefit schemes			
- gross	-	-	(1,807)
- taxation	-	-	472
Net cost of shares bought and used to satisfy share-based payments	(13)	(16)	(19)
Share-based payments, net of tax	60	51	169
At end of period	7,200	17,968	7,542
Own shares held			
At beginning of period	(104)	(61)	(61)
Shares purchased during the period	-	(39)	(64)
Shares issued under employee share schemes	13	17	21
At end of period	(91)	(83)	(104)
Owners' equity at end of period	55,666	61,637	58,879

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Condensed consolidated statement of changes in equity
for the half year ended 30 June 2009 (unaudited) (continued)

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m	Full year 2008 £m
Minority interests			
At beginning of period	21,619	38,388	38,388
Currency translation adjustments and other movements	(1,999)	2,938	9,256
Acquisition of ABN AMRO	-	-	356
Profit/(loss) attributable to minority interests	631	452	(10,832)
Dividends paid	(310)	(137)	(285)
Losses on available-for-sale securities			
- net losses in the period	(363)	(534)	(1,440)
- taxation	7	47	(7)
Movements in cash flow hedging reserves			
- gross	(157)	449	(1,051)
- taxation	63	(114)	220
Actuarial losses recognised in retirement benefit schemes			
- gross	-	-	(480)
- taxation	-	-	2
Equity raised	9	810	1,071
Equity withdrawn and disposals	(2,445)	(243)	(13,579)
Transfer to retained earnings	(629)	-	-
At end of period	16,426	42,056	21,619
Total equity at end of period	72,092	103,693	80,498
Total comprehensive income recognised in the statement of changes in equity is attributable as follows:			
Equity shareholders	(3,146)	(936)	(23,148)
Minority interests	(1,818)	3,238	(4,332)
	(4,964)	2,302	(27,480)

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Condensed consolidated cash flow statement
for the half year ended 30 June 2009 (unaudited)

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Operating activities		
Operating loss before tax	(244)	(727)
Operating (loss)/profit before tax on discontinued operations	(65)	463
Adjustments for non-cash items	16,800	(10,553)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from trading activities	16,491	(10,817)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities	(18,455)	(32,572)
Net cash flows from operating activities before tax	(1,964)	(43,389)
Income taxes paid	(284)	(1,327)
Net cash flows from operating activities	(2,248)	(44,716)
Net cash flows from investing activities	4,461	31,955
Net cash flows from financing activities	(5,525)	10,340
Effects of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	(10,836)	7,501
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents	(14,148)	5,080
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	134,925	148,955
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	120,777	154,035

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Notes

1. Basis of preparation

The accounts for the half year ended 30 June 2009 have been prepared on a going concern basis. The directors have reviewed the Group's forecasts, projections and other relevant evidence including the ongoing measures from governments and central banks in the UK and around the world to sustain the banking sector. Whilst the Group has received no guarantees, the directors have a reasonable expectation, based on experience to date, of continued and sufficient access to these funding facilities and, accordingly, that the Group will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

2. Accounting policies

The annual accounts of the Group are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ("IASB") and interpretations issued by the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee of the IASB (together "IFRS") as adopted by the European Union ("EU"). It also complies with IFRS as issued by the IASB. There have been no significant changes to the Group's principal accounting policies as set out on pages 162 to 171 of the 2008 Form 20F apart from the implementation of amendments to IFRS 2 (see below) and the introduction of a new policy dealing with the redemption or settlement of issued debt. These interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with IAS 34 'Interim Financial Reporting'.

The Group has implemented Vesting Conditions and Cancellation amendments to IFRS 2 Share-based Payment. The amendments change the way the cancellation of share schemes by an employee are treated. Previously, cancellations resulted in credits as the charge was trued up to reflect the reduction in the number of shares that vest. Under the amendments, cancellations result in the amount that would otherwise have been recognised over the remainder of the vesting period being charged to profit or loss immediately. Implementation of these amendments has increased the charge for the Group's share schemes in the first half of 2009 by £38 million. The Group's income statement, related notes and cash flow statement for the half year ended 30 June 2008 and the year ended 31 December 2008 have been restated increasing loss before tax by £35 million and £169 million respectively.

The comparative amounts for the first half of 2008 have been restated for the finalisation of the ABN AMRO acquisition accounting.

As a result of the amendments to IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements, the interim financial statements include a statement of changes in equity (showing the components of changes in equity for the period) as a primary financial statement and a statement of comprehensive income immediately following the income statement.

The Group has extended its accounting policy on derecognition to cover the redemption or settlement of issued debt:

On the redemption or settlement of debt securities (including subordinated liabilities) issued by the Group, the Group derecognises the debt instrument and records a gain or loss being the difference between the debt's carrying amount and the cost of redemption or settlement. The same treatment applies where the debt is exchanged for a new debt issue that has terms substantially different from those of the existing debt. The assessment of whether the terms of the new debt instrument are substantially different takes into account qualitative and quantitative characteristics including a comparison of the discounted present value of the cash flows under the new terms with the discounted present value of the remaining cash flows of the original debt issue.

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Notes (continued)

2. Accounting policies (continued)

There are a number of other changes to IFRS that were effective from 1 January 2009. They have had no material effect on the Group's interim financial statements:

Improvements to IFRS issued in May 2008 makes minor amendments to a number of IFRS as part of IASB's annual improvements project.

Cost of an Investment in a Subsidiary, Jointly Controlled Entity or Associate Amendments to IAS 27 Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements and IFRS 1 First-time Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards amends investor accounting for the cost of an investment in a subsidiary, jointly controlled entity or associate.

Improving Disclosures about Financial Instruments Amendments to IFRS 7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures enhances disclosures required about liquidity risk and fair value measurements.

IAS 23 Borrowing Costs requires entities to capitalise borrowing costs attributable to the development or construction of intangible assets or property plant or equipment.

Puttable Financial Instruments and Obligations arising on Liquidation Amendments to IAS 32 Financial Instruments: Presentation and IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements amends IAS 32 to enable puttable instruments to be disclosed as equity.

Embedded Derivatives Amendments to IFRIC 9 and IAS 39 makes changes in relation to embedded derivatives when reclassifying financial instruments.

IFRIC 13 Customer Loyalty Programmes requires entities that provide customers with benefits ancillary to the sale of goods or services should apportion the sales proceeds on the basis of relative fair values.

IFRIC 15 Agreements for the Construction of Real Estate clarifies the accounting for construction profits.

IFRIC 16 Hedges of a Net Investment in a Foreign Operation addresses the nature of the hedged risk and the amount of the hedged item; where in a group the hedging item could be held; and what amounts should be reclassified from equity on the disposal of a foreign operation that had been subject to hedging.

Recent developments in IFRS

The IASB published a revised IFRS 3 Business Combinations and related revisions to IAS 27 Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements in January 2008. The standards improve convergence with US GAAP and provide new guidance on accounting for changes in interests in subsidiaries. The cost of an acquisition will comprise only consideration paid to vendors for equity; other costs will be expensed immediately. Groups will only account for goodwill on acquisition of a subsidiary; subsequent changes in interest will be recognised in equity and only on a loss of control will there be a profit or loss on disposal to be recognised in income. The changes are effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2009. These changes will affect the Group's accounting for future acquisitions and disposals of subsidiaries.

The IASB issued an amendment to IAS 39 Eligible Hedged Items in July 2008 to clarify how the hedge accounting principles in IAS 39 should be applied in the designation of a one-sided risk in a hedged item and

inflation in a financial hedged item. The amendment is effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2009 and is not expected to have a material effect on the Group.

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Notes (continued)

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Group Cash-settled Share-based Payment Transactions Amendments to IFRS 2 issued by the IASB in June 2009 clarifies the scope and the accounting for group cash-settled share-based payment transactions in the separate or individual financial statements of the entity receiving the goods or services when it has no obligation to settle the transaction. The amendments are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2010. They will have no effect on the Group's financial statements.

In April 2009, the IASB issued Improvements to IFRS which makes minor changes to IFRS as part of the Board's annual improvements project: making non-urgent but necessary amendments to standards, primarily to remove inconsistencies and to clarify wording. The amendments are not expected to have a material effect on the Group.

Additional Exemptions for First-time Adopters Amendments to IFRS 1 was issued in July 2009 and provides relief from retrospective application in relation to oil and gas assets and determining whether an arrangement contains a lease. These exemptions will have no effect on the Group.

The IFRIC issued interpretation IFRIC 17 Distributions of Non-Cash Assets to Owners and the IASB made consequential amendments to IFRS 5 Non-Current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations in December 2008. The interpretation requires distributions to be presented at fair value with any surplus or deficit to be recognised in income. The amendment to IFRS 5 extends the definition of disposal groups and discontinued operations to disposals by way of distribution. The interpretation is effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2009, to be adopted at the same time as IFRS 3 (revised 2008), and is not expected to have a material effect on the Group.

The IFRIC issued interpretation IFRIC 18 Transfers of Assets from Customers in January 2009. The interpretation addresses the accounting by suppliers that receive assets from customers, requiring measurement at fair value. The interpretation is effective for assets from customers received on or after 1 July 2009 and is not expected to have a material effect on the Group.

3. Analysis of income, expenses and impairment losses

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Fees and commissions receivable	4,988	4,917
Fees and commissions payable		
- banking	(1,080)	(986)
- insurance related	(260)	(202)
Net fees and commissions	3,648	3,729
Foreign exchange	1,722	906
Interest rate	3,265	1,447
Credit	(3,815)	(6,273)
Other	822	547
Income/(loss) from trading activities	1,994	(3,373)

Gain on redemption of own debt

3,790

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In April 2009, the Group concluded a series of exchange offers and tender offers with the holders of a number of Tier 1 and Upper Tier 2 securities which resulted in an aggregate pre-tax gain of £4.6 billion, of which £3.79 billion was taken through income and the remainder through equity.

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Notes (continued)

3. Analysis of income, expenses and impairment losses (continued)

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Operating lease and other rental income	695	872
Changes in the fair value of own debt	(60)	527
Changes in the fair value of securities and other financial assets and liabilities	60	(601)
Changes in the fair value of investment properties	(147)	(22)
Profit on sale of securities	101	115
Profit on sale of property, plant and equipment	26	87
Profit on sale of subsidiaries and associates	227	563
Life company profits/(losses)	24	(44)
Dividend income	46	51
Share of profits less losses of associated entities	(3)	55
Other income	450	32
Other operating income (excluding insurance premium income)	1,419	1,635
Non-interest income (excluding insurance premiums)	10,851	1,991
Insurance net premium income	2,821	3,156
Total non-interest income	13,672	5,147
Staff costs	6,008	5,558
Premises and equipment	1,533	1,218
Other	2,682	2,420
Administrative expenses	10,223	9,196
Depreciation and amortisation	1,357	1,523
Write-down of goodwill and other intangible assets	311	-
Operating expenses	11,891	10,719
General insurance	1,865	1,863
Bancassurance	269	326
Insurance net claims	2,134	2,189
Loan impairment losses	7,330	1,588
Impairment of available-for-sale securities	730	73
Impairment losses	8,060	1,661

4. Goodwill

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Write-down of goodwill and other intangible assets	311	-

The write down of goodwill in the first half of 2009 principally relates to ABN AMRO and NatWest goodwill allocated to non-core businesses.

5. Pensions

The pension cost for the first half of 2009 amounting to £425 million (first half 2008 - £339 million) reflects the assumptions adopted in the Group's 2008 financial statements as the Group has concluded, following a review of scheme assumptions, that as at 30 June 2009 no adjustment to the deficit on the schemes is required.

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Notes (continued)

6. Loan impairment provisions

Operating loss is stated after charging loan impairment losses of £7,330 million (first half 2008 - £1,588 million; full year 2008 - £7,091 million). The balance sheet loan impairment provisions increased in the half year ended 30 June 2009 from £11,016 million to £15,528 million, and the movements thereon were:

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
At beginning of period	11,016	6,452
Currency translation and other adjustments	(666)	193
Disposals	-	(1,010)
Amounts written-off	(2,150)	(1,333)
Recoveries of amounts previously written-off	176	171
Charge to the income statement	7,330	1,588
Unwind of discount	(178)	(91)
At end of period	15,528	5,970

The provision at 30 June 2009 includes £126 million (31 December 2008 - £127 million; 30 June 2008 - £3 million) in respect of loans and advances to banks.

7. Taxation

The credit for taxation differs from the tax credit computed by applying the standard UK corporation tax rate of 28% (2008 - 28.5%) as follows:

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Loss before tax from continuing operations	(244)	(727)
Expected tax credit at 28% (2008 - 28.5%)	(68)	(207)
Non-deductible goodwill impairment	87	-
Unrecognised timing differences	16	4
Other non-deductible items	73	162
Non-taxable items;		
- gain on redemption of own debt	(692)	-
- other	(176)	(225)
Taxable foreign exchange movements	(23)	7
Foreign profits taxed at other rates	3	(52)
Losses in year not recognised	184	40
Other	(23)	-
Adjustments in respect of prior periods	178	(62)
Actual tax credit	(441)	(333)

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Notes (continued)

8.Minority interests

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Trust preferred securities	45	45
Investment in Bank of China	359	-
Sempra joint venture	144	96
ABN AMRO	79	290
Other	4	21
Profit attributable to minority interests	631	452

9.Other owners' dividends

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Non-cumulative preference shares of US\$0.01	179	136
Non-cumulative preference shares of €0.01	57	52
Non-cumulative preference shares of £1 - issued to UK Financial Investments Limited (1)	274	-
Interest on securities classified as equity, net of tax	36	27
	546	215

Note:

(1) Includes £50 million redemption premium on repayment of preference shares.

10.Earnings per share

Earnings per share have been calculated based on the following:

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Earnings		
Loss from continuing operations attributable to ordinary shareholders	(984)	(786)
Add back finance cost on dilutive convertible securities	-	-
Diluted loss from continuing operations attributable to ordinary shareholders	(984)	(786)
Loss from discontinued operations attributable to ordinary shareholders	(58)	(41)
Weighted average number of ordinary shares (millions)		

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In issue during the period	46,719	12,197
Effect of dilutive share options and convertible securities	-	-
Diluted weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue during the period	46,719	12,197
Basic loss per share from continuing operations	(2.1p)	(6.4p)
Diluted loss per share from continuing operations	(2.1p)	(6.4p)
Basic loss per share from discontinued operations	(0.1p)	(0.4p)
Diluted loss per share from discontinued operations	(0.1p)	(0.4p)

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Notes (continued)

11. Segmental analysis

Changes have been made to the Group's operating segments in the first half of 2009. A Non-Core division has been created comprising those lines of business, portfolios and individual assets that the Group intends to run off or sell. Furthermore, Group Manufacturing is no longer reported as a separate division whose costs are now allocated to the customer-facing divisions along with certain central costs. UK Retail & Commercial Banking has been split into three segments (UK Retail, UK Corporate and Wealth). Ulster Bank has become a specific segment. The remaining elements of Europe & Middle East Retail & Commercial Banking, Asia Retail & Commercial Banking and Share of shared assets form part of Non-Core. The segment measure is now Operating profit/(loss) before tax which differs from Contribution used previously; it excludes strategic disposals. Comparative data have been restated accordingly.

	First half 2009			First half 2008		
	External	Inter segment	Total	External	Inter segment	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Total revenue						
UK Retail	3,525	365	3,890	4,174	813	4,987
UK Corporate	2,212	28	2,240	3,992	21	4,013
Wealth	416	465	881	506	1,131	1,637
Global Banking & Markets	9,691	4,621	14,312	8,844	4,648	13,492
Global Transaction Services	1,392	33	1,425	1,412	41	1,453
Ulster Bank	888	49	937	1,173	128	1,301
US Retail & Commercial	2,213	203	2,416	1,913	234	2,147
RBS Insurance	2,446	12	2,458	2,542	14	2,556
Central items	4,564	5,967	10,531	638	5,261	5,899
Core	27,347	11,743	39,090	25,194	12,291	37,485
Non-Core	897	399	1,296	886	736	1,622
Group before RFS Holdings minority interest	28,244	12,142	40,386	26,080	13,027	39,107
RFS Holdings minority interest	5,033	130	5,163	4,585	417	5,002
Elimination of intra-group transactions	-	(12,272)	(12,272)	-	(13,444)	(13,444)
	33,277	-	33,277	30,665	-	30,665

Notes (continued)

11. Segmental analysis (continued)

	First half 2009 £m	First half 2008 £m
Operating profit/(loss) before tax		
UK Retail	53	514
UK Corporate	321	939
Wealth	218	185
Global Banking & Markets	4,873	1,115
Global Transaction Services	496	493
Ulster Bank	(8)	172
US Retail & Commercial	(51)	291
RBS Insurance	217	300
Central items	175	706
Core	6,294	4,715
Non-Core	(9,648)	(4,863)
Group before RFS Holdings minority interest	(3,354)	(148)
RFS Holdings minority interest	52	(1)
Amortisation of purchased intangible assets	(140)	(262)
Integration and restructuring costs	(734)	(316)
Gain on redemption of own debt	3,790	-
Strategic disposals	453	-
Write-down of goodwill and other intangible assets	(311)	-
	(244)	(727)
	30 June 2009 £m	31 December 2008 £m
Total assets		
UK Retail	104,832	102,430
UK Corporate	105,984	109,834
Wealth	16,423	16,356
Global Banking & Markets	977,221	1,423,805
Global Transaction Services	19,669	22,534
Ulster Bank	41,504	49,107
US Retail & Commercial	76,314	88,673
RBS Insurance	11,694	11,018
Central items	59,746	70,201
Core	1,413,387	1,893,958
Non-Core	231,058	324,734

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	1,644,445	2,218,692
RFS Holdings minority interest	174,478	182,960
	1,818,923	2,401,652

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Notes (continued)

12. Financial instruments

Classification

The following tables analyse the Group's financial assets and liabilities in accordance with the categories of financial instruments in IAS 39. Assets and liabilities outside the scope of IAS 39 are shown separately.

	Held-for-trading £m	Designated as at fair value through profit or loss Available-for-sale £m	Loans and receivables £m	Other (amortised cost) £m	Finance leases £m	Other assets/ liabilities £m	Total £m
At 30 June 2009							
Cash and balances at central banks	-	-	-	39,946	-	-	39,946
Loans & advances to banks	35,848	-	-	59,558	-	-	95,406
Loans and advances to customers	51,911	1,963	-	702,334	-	13,566	769,774
Debt securities	107,508	4,578	120,589	11,414	-	-	244,089
Equity shares	12,630	1,955	2,995	-	-	-	17,580
Settlement balances	-	-	-	23,264	-	-	23,264
Derivatives (1)	557,284	-	-	-	-	-	557,284
Intangible assets	-	-	-	-	-	18,180	18,180
Property, plant and equipment	-	-	-	-	-	17,895	17,895
Deferred taxation	-	-	-	-	-	8,392	8,392
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets	-	-	-	1,461	-	21,804	23,265
Assets of disposal groups	-	-	-	-	-	3,848	3,848
Total assets	765,181	8,496	123,584	837,977	-	70,119	1,818,923
Deposits by banks	58,018	-	-	-	112,976	-	170,994
Customer accounts	64,743	7,463	-	-	543,483	-	615,689
Debt securities in issue	1,051	34,299	-	-	238,830	-	274,180

Settlement balances and short positions	37,224	-	-	-	23,063	-	-	60,287
Derivatives (1)	537,064	-	-	-	-	-	-	537,064
Accruals, deferred income and other liabilities	-	-	-	-	1,617	24	28,480	30,121
Retirement benefit liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,731	1,731
Deferred taxations	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,022	4,022
Insurance liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,542	9,542
Subordinated liabilities	-	1,291	-	-	34,412	-	-	35,703
Liabilities of disposal groups	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,498	7,498
Total liabilities	698,100	43,053	-	-	954,381	24	51,273	1,746,831
Equity								72,092
								1,818,923

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Notes (continued)

12. Financial instruments (continued)

	Held-for-trading £m	Designated as at fair value through profit or loss Available-for-sale £m	Loans and receivables £m	Other (amortised cost) £m	Finance leases £m	Other assets/ liabilities £m	Total £m
At 31 December 2008							
Cash and balances at central banks	-	-	12,400	-	-	-	12,400
Loans & advances to banks	56,234	-	81,963	-	-	-	138,197
Loans and advances to customers	51,501	2,141	806,627	-	14,453	-	874,722
Debt securities	116,280	5,428	12,985	-	-	-	267,549
Equity shares	17,054	2,101	7,175	-	-	-	26,330
Settlement balances	-	-	17,832	-	-	-	17,832
Derivatives (1)	992,559	-	-	-	-	-	992,559
Intangible assets	-	-	-	-	-	20,049	20,049
Property, plant and equipment	-	-	-	-	-	18,949	18,949
Deferred taxation	-	-	-	-	-	7,082	7,082
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets	-	-	1,326	-	-	23,076	24,402
Assets of disposal groups	-	-	-	-	-	1,581	1,581
Total assets	1,233,628	9,670	140,031	933,133	14,453	70,737	2,401,652
Deposits by banks	81,154	-	-	176,890	-	-	258,044
Customer accounts	55,926	8,054	-	575,532	-	-	639,512

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Debt securities in issue	3,992	47,451	-	-	248,846	-	-	300,289
Settlement balances and short positions	42,536	-	-	-	11,741	-	-	54,277
Derivatives (1)	971,364	-	-	-	-	-	-	971,364
Accruals, deferred income and other liabilities	260	-	-	-	1,619	22	29,581	31,482
Retirement benefit liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,032	2,032
Deferred taxations	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,165	4,165
Insurance liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,976	9,976
Subordinated liabilities	-	1,509	-	-	47,645	-	-	49,154
Liabilities of disposal groups	-	-	-	-	-	-	859	859
Total liabilities	1,155,232	57,014	-	-	1,062,273	22	46,613	2,321,154
Equity								80,498
								2,401,652

Note:

(1) Held-for-trading derivatives include hedging derivatives.

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Notes (continued)

12. Financial instruments (continued)

Valuation techniques

Refer to Note 11 of the 2008 Form 20F.

Valuation hierarchy

The table below shows the financial instruments carried at fair value, by valuation method.

	30 June 2009				31 December 2008			
	Level 1(1) £bn	Level 2(2) £bn	Level 3(3) £bn	Total £bn	Level 1(1) £bn	Level 2(2) £bn	Level 3(3) £bn	Total £bn
Assets								
Fair value through profit or loss								
Loans and advances to banks	-	35.8	-	35.8	-	56.2	-	56.2
Loans and advances to customers	-	52.8	1.1	53.9	-	50.5	3.1	53.6
Debt securities	53.4	55.1	3.6	112.1	52.8	65.1	3.8	121.7
Equity shares	10.7	3.4	0.5	14.6	10.6	7.8	0.8	19.2
Derivatives	1.0	547.6	8.7	557.3	3.9	978.4	10.3	992.6
	65.1	694.7	13.9	773.7	67.3	1,158.0	18.0	1,243.3
Available-for-sale								
Debt securities	43.4	75.6	1.6	120.6	20.9	108.8	3.1	132.8
Equity shares	1.1	1.4	0.5	3.0	4.8	2.1	0.3	7.2
	44.5	77.0	2.1	123.6	25.7	110.9	3.4	140.0
	109.6	771.7	16.0	897.3	93.0	1,268.9	21.4	1,383.3
Liabilities								
Deposits by banks and customers	-	129.9	0.3	130.2	-	144.8	0.3	145.1
Debt securities in issue	-	32.3	3.1	35.4	-	47.0	4.4	51.4
Short positions	29.9	6.9	0.4	37.2	36.0	6.5	-	42.5
Derivatives	1.7	531.2	4.2	537.1	3.6	963.8	4.0	971.4
Other financial liabilities (4)	-	1.3	-	1.3	-	1.5	0.3	1.8
	31.6	701.6	8.0	741.2	39.6	1,163.6	9.0	1,212.2

Notes:

- (1) Valued using unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical financial instruments. This category includes listed equity shares, certain exchange-traded derivatives, G10 government securities and certain US

agency securities.

(2) Valued using techniques based significantly on observable market data. Instruments in this category are valued using:

- (a) quoted prices for identical instruments in markets which are not considered to be active or quoted prices for similar instruments trading in active or not so active markets; or
- (b) valuation techniques where all the inputs that have a significant effect on the valuation are directly or indirectly based on observable market data.

Instruments that trade in markets that are not considered to be active, but for which valuations are based on quoted market prices, broker dealer quotations, or alternative pricing sources with reasonable levels of price transparency and instruments valued using techniques include: most government agency securities, investment-grade corporate bonds, certain mortgage products, certain bank and bridge loans, repos and reverse repos, less liquid listed equities, state and municipal obligations, most physical commodities, investment contracts issued by the Group's life assurance businesses and certain money market securities and loan commitments and most OTC derivatives.

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Notes (continued)

12. Financial instruments (continued)

Notes (continued):

(3) Valued using a technique where at least one input (which could have a significant effect on the instrument's valuation) is not based on observable market data. Where inputs can be observed from market data without undue cost and effort, the observed input is used. Otherwise, the Group determines a reasonable level for the input.

Financial instruments included within level 3 of the fair value hierarchy primarily include cash instruments which trade infrequently, certain syndicated and commercial mortgage loans, unlisted equity shares, certain residual interests in securitisations, super senior tranches of high grade and mezzanine collateralised debt obligations (CDOs), other mortgage-based products and less liquid debt securities, certain structured debt securities in issue and OTC derivatives where valuation depends upon unobservable inputs such as certain credit and exotic derivatives. No gain or loss is recognised on the initial recognition of a financial instrument valued using a technique incorporating significant unobservable data.

(4) Comprise subordinated liabilities and write downs relating to undrawn syndicated loan facilities.

Level 3 portfolios

Level 3 portfolios have reduced since 31 December 2008 (by £5.4 billion) due to disposals, write downs, reclassification between levels 2 and 3 and reclassification of a number of assets from held-for-trading ('HFT') to loans and receivables ('LAR'). Level 3 liabilities have reduced by £1.0 billion.

Level 3 loans and advances to customers decreased by £2.0 billion primarily reflecting the reclassification of certain HFT loans (leveraged finance and other corporate loans) to LAR.

Debt securities categorised as level 3 at the 30 June 2009 included £3.7 billion asset-backed securities and £1.5 billion of corporate and other debt securities. The decrease during the first half reflects liquidations, mark-downs and the unwinding of part of the fund derivative portfolio in the US.

Equity shares categorised as level 3 decreased by £0.1 billion primarily reflecting the movement of strategic investments from level 3 to level 2 and reduction in value of certain private equity investments, partly offset by other small increases.

Level 3 derivative assets at 30 June 2009 included credit derivative trades with credit derivative product companies ('CDPCs') with a fair value of £1.5 billion after credit valuation adjustments of £0.8 billion. At 31 December 2008 these credit derivative trades with CDPCs had a fair value of £3.5 billion after a credit valuation adjustment of £1.3 billion. Other level 3 derivative assets included illiquid credit default swaps ('CDSs'), other credit derivatives and illiquid interest rate derivatives.

Debt securities in issue categorised as level 3 were structured medium term notes, with the decrease in the period primarily due to the movement of £1 billion of guaranteed investment certificates from level 3 at the end of 2008 to level 2 at the end of June 2009 reflecting increased price availability in the market.

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Notes (continued)

12. Financial instruments (continued)
Level 3 portfolios (continued)

	Valuation basis/technique	Main assumptions	Carrying value £bn	Reasonably possible alternative assumptions	
				Increase in fair value £m	Decrease in fair value £m
Assets					
Loans and advances	Proprietary model	Credit spreads, indices	1.1	33	33
Debt securities:					
- RMBS (1)	Industry standard model	Prepayment rates, probability of default, loss severity and yield	0.4	24	28
- CMBS (2)	Industry standard model	Prepayment rates, probability of default, loss severity and yield	0.4	16	16
- CDOs (3)	Proprietary model	Implied collateral valuation, defaults rates, housing prices, correlation	1.5	311	288
- CLOs (4)	Industry standard simulation model	Credit spreads, recovery rates, correlation	0.7	27	27
- other	Proprietary model	Credit spreads	2.2	54	55
Equity shares	Private equity – valuation statements	Fund valuations	1.0	106	127
Derivatives:					
- credit	Proprietary CVA model, industry option models, correlation model	Counterparty credit risk, correlation, volatility	5.1	497	365
- other	Proprietary model	Volatility, correlation, dividends	3.6	170	174
30 June 2009			16.0	1,238	1,113
31 December 2008			21.4	1,880	2,200
Liabilities					
Debt securities in issue	Proprietary model	Correlation, volatility	3.1	65	65
Derivatives					
- credit	Proprietary CVA model, industry option models, correlation model	Correlation, volatility	2.7	196	196

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- other	Proprietary model	Volatility, correlation	1.5	54	52
Other portfolios	Proprietary model	Credit spreads, correlation	0.7	11	11
30 June 2009			8.0	326	324
31 December 2008			9.0	490	550

Notes:

- (1) Residential mortgage-backed securities.
- (2) Commercial mortgage-backed securities.
- (3) Collateralised debt obligations.
- (4) Collateralised loan obligations.

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Notes (continued)

12. Financial instruments (continued)

Level 3 portfolios (continued)

For each of the portfolio categories shown in the above table, a description is set out below of the types of products that comprise the portfolio and the valuation techniques that are applied in determining fair value, and inputs to those models and techniques. These techniques are also used where the product is categorised as level 2. Where reasonably possible alternative assumptions of unobservable inputs used in models would change the fair value of the portfolio significantly, the alternative inputs are indicated along with the impact this would have on the fair value. Where there have been significant changes to valuation techniques during the year, an explanation of the reasons for this is also included. Amounts relating to 31 December 2008 are also included where relevant.

Loans and advances to customers

Loans in level 3 primarily comprise US commercial mortgages and syndicated loans.

Commercial mortgages

These senior and mezzanine commercial mortgages are loans secured on commercial land and buildings that were originated or acquired for securitisation. Senior commercial mortgages carry a variable interest rate and mezzanine or more junior commercial mortgages may carry a fixed or variable interest rate. Factors affecting the value of these loans may include, but are not limited to, loan type, underlying property type and geographic location, loan interest rate, loan to value ratios, debt service coverage ratios, prepayment rates, cumulative loan loss information, yields, investor demand, market volatility since the last securitisation, and credit enhancement. Where observable market prices for a particular loan are not available, the fair value will typically be determined with reference to observable market transactions in other loans or credit related products including debt securities and credit derivatives. Assumptions are made about the relationship between the loan and the available benchmark data. Using reasonably possible alternative assumptions for credit spreads (taking into account all other applicable factors) would reduce the fair value of these mortgages of £0.3 billion (2008 - £1.1 billion) by up to £8 million (2008 - £18 million) or increase the fair value by up to £8 million (2008 - £25 million).

Syndicated lending

The Group's syndicated lending activities are conducted by the syndicate business in conjunction with the loan origination business. When a commitment to lend is entered into, the Group estimates the proportion of the loan that it intends to syndicate and the proportion it anticipates to retain on its balance sheet as a loan and receivable. Where the commitment is intended to be syndicated, the commitment to lend is fair valued through the income statement. On drawdown, the portion of the loan expected to be syndicated is classified as a held-for-trading asset, and the expected hold portion is classified as loan or receivables.

The Group values the portion of the loan expected to be syndicated at fair value by using market observable syndication prices in the same or similar assets. Where these prices are not available, a discounted cash flow model is used. The model incorporates observable assumptions such as current interest rates and yield curves, the notional and tender amount of the loan and counterparty credit quality which is derived from credit default swap spreads quoted in the market. The model also incorporates unobservable assumptions, including expected refinancing periods, and counterparty credit quality derived from the Group's internal risk assessments. Derivatives arising from commitments to lend are measured using the same model, based on proxy notional amounts.

Using reasonably possible alternative assumptions for expected cash flows to value these assets of £0.8 billion (2008 - £2.0 billion) would reduce the fair value by up to £25 million (2008 - £32 million) or increase the fair value by up to £25 million (2008 - £45 million). The assumptions to determine these amounts were based on restructuring scenarios and expected margins.

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Notes (continued)

12. Financial instruments (continued)

Level 3 portfolios (continued)

Debt securities

Residential mortgage backed securities

RMBS where the underlying assets are US agency-backed mortgages and there is regular trading are generally classified as level 2 in the fair value hierarchy. RMBS are also classified as level 2 when regular trading is not prevalent in the market, but similar executed trades or third-party data including indices, broker quotes and pricing services can be used to substantiate the fair value. RMBS are classified as level 3 when trading data are unavailable, and in these cases a model using significant unobservable data is utilised for valuation purposes.

In determining whether an instrument is similar to that being valued, the Group considers a range of factors, principally: the lending standards of the brokers and underwriters that originated the mortgages, the lead manager of the security, the issue date of the respective securities, the underlying asset composition (including origination date, loan-to-value ratios, historic loss information and geographic location of the mortgages), the credit rating of the instrument, and any credit protection that the instrument may benefit from, such as insurance wraps or subordinated tranches. Where there are instances of market observable data for several similar RMBS tranches, the Group considers the extent of similar characteristics shared with the instrument being valued, together with the frequency, tenor and nature of the trades that have been observed. This method is most frequently used for US and UK RMBS. The RMBS of Dutch and Spanish originated mortgages guaranteed by those governments are valued using the credit spreads of the respective government debt and certain assumptions made by the Group, or based on observable prices from Bloomberg or consensus pricing services.

Where there is no trading activity in respect of the relevant RMBS, models are used for valuation purposes. The Group primarily uses an industry standard model to project the expected future cash flows to be received from the underlying mortgages and to forecast how these cash flows will be distributed to the various holders of the RMBS. This model utilises data provided by the servicer of the underlying mortgage portfolio, layering on assumptions for mortgage prepayments, probability of default, expected losses, and yield. The Group uses data from third-party sources to calibrate its assumptions, including pricing information from third party pricing services, independent research, broker quotes, and other independent sources. An assessment is made of the third-party data source to determine its applicability and reliability. The Group adjusts the model price with a liquidity premium to reflect the price that the instrument could be traded at in the market and may also make adjustments for model deficiencies.

The weighted average of the key significant inputs utilised in valuing US level 3 RMBS positions are shown in the table below.

	Weighted-average inputs	
	Non-agency prime RMBS	Alt-A RMBS
Yield	12%	18%
Probability of default	3.0% CDR (1)	40.0% CDR(1)
Loss severity	40%	65%
Prepayment	15% CPR(2)	10% CPR(2)

Notes:

- (1) Constant default rate or probability of default
- (2) Constant prepayment rate

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Notes (continued)

12. Financial instruments (continued)

Level 3 portfolios (continued)

Debt securities (continued)

The fair value of securities within each class of asset changes on a broadly consistent basis in response to changes in given market factors. However, the extent of the change, and therefore the range of reasonably possible alternative assumptions, may be either more or less pronounced, depending on the particular terms and circumstances of the individual security. The Group believes that the probability of default is the least transparent input into Alt-A and prime RMBS modelled valuations and is the most sensitive to variations for valuation purposes. The Group believes that a range of 500 basis points greater than and 300 basis points less than the weighted average constant default rate, and a range of 300 basis points greater than and 200 basis points less than the weighted average constant default rate represents a reasonably possible set of acceptable pricing alternatives for Alt-A and prime RMBS, respectively. These assumptions consider the inherently risky nature of Alt-A over prime securities, as well as declining economic conditions leading to an increased likelihood of default at year-end. While other key inputs may possess characteristics of unobservability in both Alt-A and prime modelled valuations, the effect of utilising reasonably possible alternatives for these inputs would have an immaterial effect on the overall valuation. Using these reasonably possible alternative assumptions the fair value of RMBS of £0.4 billion (2008 - £0.5 billion) would be £28 million (2008 - £90 million) lower or £24 million (2008 - £40 million) higher.

Commercial mortgage backed securities

CMBS are valued using an industry standard model and the inputs, where possible, are corroborated using observable market data.

For senior CMBS and subordinated tranches, the Group has determined that the most sensitive input to reasonably possible alternative valuation is probability of default and yield respectively. Using reasonably possible alternative assumptions for these inputs, the fair value of CMBS of £ 0.4 billion (2008 - £0.6 billion) would be £16 million (2008 - £30 million) lower or £16 million (2008 - £30 million) higher.

Collateralised debt obligations

CDOs purchased from third parties are valued using independent, third-party quotes or independent lead manager indicative prices. For super senior CDOs which have been originated by the Group no specific third-party information is available. The valuation of these super senior CDOs therefore takes into consideration available market data and appropriate valuation adjustments.

A collateral net asset value methodology is considered which uses dealer buy side marks to determine an upper bound for super senior CDO valuations. An ABS index implied collateral valuation methodology is also used, which provides a market calibrated valuation data point. Both the ABS index implied valuation and the collateral net asset value methodology apply an assumed immediate liquidation approach.

The output from using these alternative assumptions has been compared with inferred pricing from other published data. The Group believes that reasonably possible alternative assumptions could reduce or increase valuations by up to 4%. Using these alternative assumptions would reduce the fair value of level 3 CDOs of £1.5 billion (2008 - £1.7 billion) by up to £288 million (2008 - £440 million) (super senior CDOs: £179 million (2008

- £292 million)) and increase the fair value by up to £311 million (2008 - £410 million) (super senior CDOs: £202 million (2008 - £292 million)).

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Notes (continued)

12. Financial instruments (continued)

Level 3 portfolios (continued)

Debt securities (continued)

Collateralised loan obligations

To determine the fair value of CLOs purchased from third parties, the Group uses third-party broker or lead manager quotes as the primary pricing source. These quotes are benchmarked to consensus pricing sources where they are available.

For CLOs originated and still held by the Group, the fair value is determined using a correlation model based on a Monte Carlo simulation framework. The main model inputs are credit spreads and recovery rates of the underlying assets and their correlation. A credit curve is assigned to each underlying asset based on prices, from third-party dealer quotes, and cash flow profiles, sourced from an industry standard model. Losses are calculated taking into account the attachment and detachment point of the exposure. As the correlation inputs to this model are not observable CLOs are deemed to be level 3. Using reasonably possible alternative assumptions the fair value of CLOs of £0.7 billion (2008 - £1.0 billion) would be £27 million (2008 - £40 million) lower or £27 million higher (2008 - £40 million).

Other debt securities

Other level 3 debt securities comprise £0.7 billion (2008 - £1.4 billion) of other asset-backed securities ('ABS') and £1.5 billion (2008 - £1.7 billion) of other debt securities. Where observable market prices for a particular debt security are not available, the fair value is typically determined with reference to observable market transactions in other related products, such as similar debt securities or credit derivatives. Assumptions are made about the relationship between the individual debt security and the available benchmark data. Where significant management judgement has been applied in identifying the most relevant related product, or in determining the relationship between the related product and the instrument itself, the valuation is shown in level 3. Using differing assumptions about this relationship would result in different fair values for these assets. The main assumption made is that of relative creditworthiness. Using reasonably possible alternative credit assumptions, taking into account the underlying currency, tenor, and rating of the debt securities within each portfolio, would reduce the fair value of other debt securities of £2.2 billion (2008 - £3.1 billion) by up to £55 million (2008 - £50 million) or increase the fair value by up to £54 million (2008 - £50 million).

Equity shares

Private equity investments include unit holdings and limited partnership interests primarily in corporate private equity funds, debt funds and fund of hedge funds. Externally managed funds are valued using recent prices where available. Where not available, the fair value of investments in externally managed funds is generally determined using statements or other information provided by the fund managers.

Although such valuations are provided from third parties, the Group recognises that such valuations may rely significantly on the judgements and estimates made by those fund managers, particularly in assessing private equity components. Following the decline in liquidity in world markets, the Group believes that there is sufficient subjectivity in such valuations to report them in level 3.

Reasonably possible alternative valuations have been determined based on the historical trends in valuations received, and by considering the possible impact of market movements towards the end of the reporting period, which may not be fully reflected in valuations received. Using these reasonably possible alternate assumptions would reduce the fair value of externally managed funds of £1.0 billion (2008 - £1.1 billion) by up to £127 million (2008 - £150 million) or increase the fair value by up to £106 million (2008 - £80 million).

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Notes (continued)

12. Financial instruments (continued)

Level 3 portfolios (continued)

Derivatives

Level 3 derivative assets comprise credit derivatives £5.1 billion (2008 - £8 billion), and interest rate, foreign exchange rate and commodity derivative contracts of £3.6 billion (2008 - £2.2 billion). Derivative liabilities comprise credit derivatives of £2.7 billion (2008 - £2.6 billion), and interest rate, foreign exchange rate and commodity derivatives contracts of £1.5 billion (2008 - £1.4 billion).

Derivatives are priced using quoted prices for the same or similar instruments where these are available. However, the majority of derivatives are valued using pricing models. Inputs for these models are usually observed directly in the market, or derived from observed prices. However, it is not always possible to observe or corroborate all model inputs. Where there are no observable inputs in respect of certain or all of the parameters, inputs are based on estimates taking into account a range of available information including historical analysis, historical traded levels, market practice, comparison to other relevant benchmark observable data and consensus pricing data.

Credit derivatives

The Group's credit derivatives include vanilla and bespoke portfolio tranches, gap risk products and certain other unique trades. The bespoke portfolio tranches are synthetic tranches referenced to a bespoke portfolio of corporate names on which the Group purchases credit protection. Bespoke portfolio tranches are valued using Gaussian Copula, a standard method which uses observable market inputs (credit spreads, index tranche prices and recovery rates) to generate an output price for the tranche via a mapping methodology. In essence this method takes the expected loss of the tranche expressed as a fraction of the expected loss of the whole underlying portfolio and calculates which detachment point on the liquid index, and hence which correlation level, coincides with this expected loss fraction. Where the inputs into this valuation technique are observable in the market, bespoke tranches are considered to be level 2 assets. Where inputs are not observable, bespoke tranches are considered to be level 3 assets. However, all transactions executed with CDPCs are considered level 3 as the counterparty credit risk assessment is a significant component of these valuations.

Gap risk products are leveraged trades, with the counterparty's potential loss capped at the amount of the initial principal invested. Gap risk is the probability that the market will move discontinuously too quickly to exit a portfolio and return the principal to the counterparty without incurring losses, should an unwind event be triggered. This optionality is embedded within these portfolio structures and is very rarely traded outright in the market. Gap risk is not observable in the markets and, as such, these structures are deemed to be level 3 instruments.

Other unique trades are valued using a specialised model for each instrument with the same market data inputs as all other trades where applicable. By their nature, the valuation is also driven by a variety of other model inputs, many of which are unobservable in the market. Where these instruments have embedded optionality it is valued using a variation of the Black-Scholes option pricing formula, and where they have correlation exposure it is valued using a variant of the Gaussian Copula model. The volatility or unique correlation inputs required to value these products are generally unobservable and the instruments are therefore deemed to be level 3 instruments.

Notes (continued)

12. Financial instruments (continued)

Level 3 portfolios (continued)

Derivatives (continued)

Equity derivatives

Equity derivative products are split into equity exotic derivatives and equity hybrids. Equity exotic derivatives have payouts based on the performance of one or more stocks, equity funds or indices. Most payouts are based on the performance of a single asset and are valued using observable market option data. Unobservable equity derivative trades are typically complex basket options on stocks. Such basket option payouts depend on the performance of more than one equity asset and require inputs based on the correlations between the individual components of the stock market. Valuation is then performed using industry standard valuation models, with unobservable correlation inputs calculated by reference to correlations observed between similar underlying instruments.

Equity hybrids have payouts based on the performance of a basket of underlying instruments where the underlying instruments are all from different asset classes. Correlations between these different underlying instruments are typically unobservable with no market information for closely related assets available. Where no market for the correlation input exists, these inputs are based on historical time series.

For equity exotic derivatives and equity hybrids, reasonable possible alternative valuations are determined on the basis of parameter uncertainty calculations for the unobservable parameters. The range of valuations is inferred from consensus data and market quotes. Where day one reserves exist for a given product, the worst case valuation is mitigated by these reserves. For certain products, day one reserves exceed valuation uncertainty and in these instances the worst case is deemed to be current book value.

Other derivatives

Interest rate and commodity options provide a payout (or series of payouts) linked to the performance of one or more underlying rates, including interest rates, foreign exchange rates and commodity prices. Included in commodities derivatives are energy contracts entered into by RBS Sempra Commodities. Most of these contracts are valued using models that incorporate observable data. A small number are more complex, structured derivatives which incorporate in their valuation assumptions regarding power price volatilities and correlation between inputs, which are not market observable. These include certain tolling agreements, where power is purchased in return for a given quantity of fuel, and load deals, where a seller agrees to deliver a fixed proportion of power used by a client's utility customers.

Exotic options do not trade in active markets except in a small number of cases. Consequently, the Group uses models to determine fair value using valuation techniques typical for the industry. These techniques can be divided, firstly, into modelling approaches and, secondly, into methods of assessing appropriate levels for model inputs. The Group uses a variety of proprietary models for valuing exotic trades.

Exotic valuation inputs include correlation between interest rates, foreign exchange rates and commodity prices. Correlations for more liquid rate pairs are valued using independently sourced consensus pricing levels. Where a consensus pricing benchmark is unavailable, these instruments are categorised as level 3.

Reasonably possible alternative assumptions have been determined by stressing unobservable model input parameters by levels determined by a qualitative assessment of historical data.

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Notes (continued)

12. Financial instruments (continued)

Level 3 portfolios (continued)

Derivatives (continued)

Reasonably possible alternative assumptions for derivatives

In determining the effect of reasonably possible alternative assumptions for unobservable inputs, the Group has considered credit derivative trades with CDPCs separately from all other level 3 derivatives due to the significant element of subjectivity in determining the counterparty credit risk.

The fair value of credit derivative trades with CDPCs as at 30 June 2009 was £2.3 billion (2008 - £4.8 billion) before applying a CVA of £0.8 billion (2008 - £1.3 billion). The Group's credit derivative exposures to CDPCs are valued using pricing models with inputs observed directly in the market. An adjustment is made to the model valuation as the creditworthiness of CDPCs differs from that of the credit risk assumptions used in the model. The adjustment reflects the estimated cost of hedging the counterparty risk arising from each trade. In the absence of market observable credit spreads of CDPCs, the cost of hedging the counterparty risk is estimated from an analysis of the underlying trades and the cost of hedging expected default losses in excess of the capital available in each vehicle. A reasonably possible alternative approach would be to estimate the cost of hedging the counterparty risk from market observable credit spreads of entities considered similar to CDPCs (for example monoline insurers with similar business or similarly rated entities). These reasonably possible alternative approaches would reduce the fair value credit derivatives with CDPCs by up to £111 million (2008 - £740 million) or increase the fair value by up to £245 million (2008 - £600 million).

For all other level 3 derivatives, unobservable inputs are principally comprised of correlations and volatilities. Where a derivative valuation relies significantly on an unobservable input, the valuation is shown in level 3. It is usual for such derivative valuations to depend on several observable, and one or few unobservable model inputs. In determining reasonably possible alternative assumptions, the relative effect of unobservable inputs compared to those which may be observed was considered. Using reasonably possible alternative assumptions the fair value of all other level 3 derivative assets (excluding CDPCs) would be reduced by up to £428 million (2008 - £600 million) or increased by up to £422 million (2008 - £560 million) and derivative liabilities of £4.2 billion (2008 - £4.0 billion) would be reduced by up to £248 million (2008 - £300 million) or increased by up to £250 million (2008 - £280 million).

Other financial instruments

The carrying value of debt securities in issue is represented partly by underlying cash and partly through a derivative component. The classification of the amount in level 3 is driven by the derivative component and not by assumptions.

In addition to the portfolios discussed above, there are other financial instruments which are held at fair value determined from data that are not market observable, or incorporating material adjustments to market observed data. Using reasonably possible alternate assumptions appropriate to the liability in question, such as credit spreads, derivative inputs and equity correlations, would reduce the fair value of other financial instruments held at fair value of £3.5 billion (2008 - £5.0 billion), primarily debt securities in issue of £3.1 billion (2008 - £4.4 billion), by up to £76 million (2008 - £250 million) or increase the fair value by up to £76 million (2008 - £210 million).

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Notes (continued)

12. Financial instruments (continued)

Own credit

When valuing financial liabilities recorded at fair value, the Group takes into account the effect of its own credit standing. The categories of financial liabilities on which own credit spread adjustments are made are issued debt, including issued structured notes, and derivatives. An own credit adjustment is applied to positions where it is believed that counterparties would consider the Group's creditworthiness when pricing trades.

For issued debt and structured notes, this adjustment is based on independent quotes from market participants for the debt issuance spreads above average inter-bank rates (at a range of tenors) which the market would demand when purchasing new senior or sub-debt issuances from the Group. Where necessary, these quotes are interpolated using a curve shape derived from CDS prices.

The fair value of the Group's derivative financial liabilities has also been adjusted to reflect the Group's own credit risk. The adjustment takes into account collateral posted by the Group and the effects of master netting agreements.

The table below shows the own credit spread adjustments on liabilities recorded in the income statement during the half year ended 30 June 2009.

	Held-for-trading £m	Debt securities in issue Designated at fair value through profit and loss £m	Total £m	Derivatives £m	Total £m
At 1 January 2009	1,346	1,027	2,373	450	2,823
Net effect of changes to credit spreads	242	(73)	169	54	223
Foreign exchange movements	(189)	(31)	(220)	-	(220)
New issues and redemptions (net)	(22)	11	(11)	-	(11)
At 30 June 2009	1,377	934	2,311	504	2,815

The effect of change in credit spreads could be reversed in future periods.

Reclassification of financial instruments

During 2008, as permitted by amended IAS 39, the Group reclassified financial assets from the held-for-trading and available-for-sale categories into the loans and receivables category and from the held-for-trading category into the available-for-sale category. There were further reclassifications from the held-for-trading category to the loans and receivables category in the first half of 2009. The effect of the reclassifications and the balance sheet values of the assets were as follows.

Additional losses that would have been
recognised in H1 2009 if reclassifications had not
occurred

	Total £m	Reclassified in:	
		H1 2009 £m	2008 £m
From held-for-trading to:			
Available-for-sale	(284)	-	(284)
Loans and receivables	526	178	348
	242	178	64

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Notes (continued)

12. Financial instruments (continued)

Reclassification of financial instruments (continued)

	Assets reclassified in 2009: carrying value £m	30 June 2009 All reclassifications		31 December 2008 All reclassifications (1)	
		Carrying value £m	Fair value £m	Carrying value £m	Fair value £m
From held-for-trading to:					
Available-for-sale	-	8,442	8,442	12,047	12,047
Loans and receivables	1,871	16,458	12,158	20,774	16,628
	1,871	24,900	20,600	32,821	28,675
From available-for-sale to:					
Loans and receivables	-	866	741	1,016	956
	1,871	25,766	21,341	33,837	29,631

Note:

(1) 31 December 2008 amounts have been restated.

During the period, the balance sheet value of reclassified assets reduced by £8.1 billion. This was primarily due to disposals and repayments of £6.0 billion across a range of asset backed securities and loans, foreign exchange rate movements of £3.2 billion, and impairment losses of £1.5 billion offset by reclassifications in the period of £1.9 billion.

For assets reclassified from held-for-trading to available-for-sale, net unrealised losses recorded in equity at 30 June 2009 were £1.9 billion (31 December 2008 - £2.2 billion).

13. Debt securities

30 June 2009	UK central and local government £m	US central and local government £m	Other central and local government £m	Bank and building society £m	Asset backed securities £m	Corporate £m	Other £m	Total £m
Held-for-trading	7,753	9,526	43,140	5,140	32,539	8,304	1,106	107,508
Designated as at fair value through profit or loss	1,943	3	570	624	354	1,074	10	4,578
Available-for-sale	6,179	9,630	36,554	10,851	49,037	7,611	727	120,589
Loans and receivables	-	-	63	97	8,746	2,416	92	11,414
	15,875	19,159	80,327	16,712	90,676	19,405	1,935	244,089

31 December 2008

Held-for-trading	5,372	9,859	37,519	4,407	39,879	17,671	1,573	116,280
Designated as at fair value through profit or loss	2,085	510	472	89	236	1,580	456	5,428
Available-for-sale	11,330	6,152	32,480	12,038	62,067	6,501	2,288	132,856
Loans and receivables	-	-	-	114	8,961	3,749	161	12,985
	18,787	16,521	70,471	16,648	111,143	29,501	4,478	267,549

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Notes (continued)

14. Derivatives

	30 June 2009		31 December 2008	
	Assets £m	Liabilities £m	Assets £m	Liabilities £m
Exchange rate contracts				
Spot, forwards and futures	29,138	28,218	83,065	83,568
Currency swaps	32,721	30,951	53,398	54,728
Options purchased	18,409	-	36,762	-
Options written	-	17,922	-	35,017
Interest rate contracts				
Interest rate swaps	331,179	318,617	548,040	532,180
Options purchased	61,115	-	99,192	-
Options written	-	60,129	-	102,216
Futures and forwards	3,635	2,836	7,600	6,620
Credit derivatives	64,388	59,715	142,366	132,734
Equity and commodity contracts	16,699	18,676	22,136	24,301
	557,284	537,064	992,559	971,364

The Group enters into master netting agreements in respect of its derivatives activities. These arrangements, which give the Group a legal right to set-off derivative assets and liabilities with the same counterparty, do not result in a net presentation in the Group's balance sheet for which IFRS requires an intention to settle net or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously as well as a legally enforceable right to set off. They are however effective in reducing the Group's credit exposure from derivative assets. The Group has executed master netting agreements with the majority of its derivative counterparties resulting in a significant reduction in its net exposure to derivative assets. Of the £557 billion derivatives assets shown above, £461 billion (31 December 2008 - £834 billion) were subject to such agreements. Furthermore the Group holds substantial collateral against this net derivative asset exposure.

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Notes (continued)

15. Assets and liabilities of disposal groups

At 30 June 2009, disposal groups comprise the assets and liabilities of the Group's retail and commercial businesses across Asia and the wholesale banking businesses in Vietnam, Philippines, Taiwan and Pakistan. On 4 August 2009, the Group announced that it had agreed to sell its Retail & Commercial Banking operations in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Indonesia together with its onshore wholesale operations in the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan to ANZ Group Limited.

At 31 December 2008, the assets and liabilities relating to the remaining ABN AMRO businesses, primarily Private Equity, classified as disposal groups on the acquisition of ABN AMRO.

At 30 June 2008, the assets and liabilities of Banco Real, Tesco Personal Finance and the ECF businesses in Germany and Austria which were all sold in the second half of 2008 together with the assets and liabilities of the remaining ABN AMRO businesses, primarily Private Equity, classified as disposal groups on the acquisition of ABN AMRO.

16. Available-for-sale reserves

Available-for-sale financial assets are initially recognised at fair value plus directly related transaction costs and subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value reported in shareholders' equity until disposal, at which stage the cumulative gain or loss is recognised in profit or loss. When there is objective evidence that an available-for-sale financial asset is impaired, any decline in its fair value below original cost is removed from equity and recognised in profit or loss.

During the first half of 2009 impairment losses of £730 million (first half 2008 - £73 million; full year 2008 - £981 million) were charged to profit or loss and net unrealised losses of £1,494 million (first half 2008 - £1,322 million; full year 2008 - £6,808 million) were recognised directly in equity on available-for-sale financial assets. Available-for-sale reserves at 30 June 2009 amounted to net losses of £4,266 million (31 December 2008 - net losses £3,561 million).

Impairment losses are recognised when there is objective evidence of impairment. The Group reviews its portfolios of available-for-sale financial assets for such evidence which includes: default or delinquency in interest or principal payments; significant financial difficulty of the issuer or obligor; and it becoming probable that the issuer will enter bankruptcy or other financial reorganisation. However, the disappearance of an active market because an entity's financial instruments are no longer publicly traded is not evidence of impairment. Furthermore, a downgrade of an entity's credit rating is not, of itself, evidence of impairment, although it may be evidence of impairment when considered with other available information. A decline in the fair value of a financial asset below its cost or amortised cost is not necessarily evidence of impairment. Determining whether objective evidence of impairment exists requires the exercise of management judgment. The unrecognised losses on the Group's available for sale debt securities are concentrated in its portfolios of mortgage-backed securities. The losses reflect the widening of credit spreads as a result of the reduced market liquidity in these securities and the current uncertain macro-economic outlook in US and Europe. The underlying securities remain unimpaired.

Notes (continued)

17. Capital resources

	30 June 2009 £m	31 December 2008 £m
Composition of regulatory capital		
Tier 1		
Ordinary shareholders' equity	47,820	45,525
Minority interests	16,426	21,619
Adjustments for:		
Goodwill and other intangible assets – continuing	(18,180)	(20,049)
Goodwill and other intangible assets – discontinued	-	-
Unrealised losses on available-for-sale debt securities	4,194	3,687
Reserves arising on revaluation of property and unrealised gains on available-for-sale equities	(25)	(984)
Reallocation of preference shares and innovative securities	(656)	(1,813)
Other regulatory adjustments	(507)	(362)
Less expected losses over provisions	(1,502)	(770)
Less securitisation positions	(1,397)	(663)
Core Tier 1 capital	46,173	46,190
Preference shares	11,207	16,655
Innovative Tier 1 securities	3,586	7,383
Tax on the excess of expected losses over provisions	599	308
Less deductions from Tier 1 capital	(678)	(689)
Total Tier 1 capital	60,887	69,847
Tier 2		
Reserves arising on revaluation of property and unrealised gains on available-for-sale equities	25	984
Collective impairment allowances	744	666
Perpetual subordinated debt	4,844	9,829
Term subordinated debt	19,630	23,162
Minority and other interests in Tier 2 capital	11	11
Less deductions from Tier 2 capital	(4,176)	(2,429)
Total Tier 2 capital	21,078	32,223
Tier 3	232	260
Supervisory deductions		
Unconsolidated investments	4,461	4,044
Other deductions	75	111
Total deductions other than from Tier 1 capital	4,536	4,155
Total regulatory capital	77,661	98,175

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Notes (continued)

18. Analysis of contingent liabilities and commitments

	30 June 2009 £m	31 December 2008 £m
Contingent liabilities		
Guarantees and assets pledged as collateral security	41,587	49,262
Other contingent liabilities	17,298	22,275
	58,885	71,537
Commitments		
Undrawn formal standby facilities, credit lines and other commitments to lend	298,895	352,398
Other commitments	6,317	9,326
	305,212	361,724
Total contingent liabilities and commitments	364,097	433,261

Additional contingent liabilities arise in the normal course of the Group's business. It is not anticipated that any material loss will arise from these transactions.

19. Litigation

United Kingdom

In common with other banks in the United Kingdom, RBS and NatWest have received claims and complaints from a large number of customers challenging unarranged overdraft charges (the 'Charges') as contravening the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1999 (the 'Regulations') or being unenforceable penalties (or both).

On 27 July 2007, the OFT issued proceedings in a test case against the banks which was intended to determine certain preliminary issues concerning the legal status and enforceability of contractual terms relating to the Charges. Because of the test case, most existing and new claims in the County Courts are currently stayed, the FSA temporarily waived the customer complaints-handling process and there is a standstill of Financial Ombudsman Service decisions.

A High Court judgment in April 2008 addressed preliminary issues in respect of the banks' contractual terms relating to the Charges in force in early 2008 (the 'Current Terms'). The judgment held that the Current Terms used by RBS and NatWest (i) are not unenforceable as penalties, but (ii) are not exempt from assessment for fairness under the Regulations.

RBSG (in common with the other banks) has accepted that the ruling in the April judgment that the Current Terms are not exempt from assessment for fairness applies also to a sample of the RBS and NatWest contractual terms relating to the Charges in force between 2001 and 2007 (the 'Historic Terms'). The High Court made an order to this effect in October 2008.

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Notes (continued)

19. Litigation (continued)

United Kingdom (continued)

RBSG and the other banks have appealed against the rulings in April 2008 and October 2008 that the Current Terms and Historic Terms are not exempt from assessment for fairness under the Regulations. The hearing of the appeal in relation to Current Terms took place before the Court of Appeal in October and November 2008. The Court of Appeal delivered its judgment on 26 February 2009 and rejected the appeals. The House of Lords granted RBSG and the other banks leave to appeal the Court of Appeal's decision. That further appeal took place on 23 June 2009. The House of Lords' judgment is likely to be delivered later in 2009. The appeal in relation to the Historic Terms is stayed pending the resolution of the appeal in relation to the Current Terms.

High Court judgments on further preliminary issues were handed down in October 2008 and January 2009. These judgments primarily addressed the question of whether certain Historic Terms were capable of being unenforceable penalties. The Judge decided that all of RBS's and most of NatWest's Historic Terms were not penalties, but that a term contained in a set of NatWest 2001 terms and conditions was a contractual prohibition against using a card to obtain an unarranged overdraft. The Judge did not decide whether any charge payable upon a breach of this prohibition was a penalty. RBSG has not appealed that decision.

The issues relating to the legal status and enforceability of the Charges are complex. RBSG maintains that its Charges are fair and enforceable and believes that it has a number of substantive and credible defences. RBSG cannot at this stage predict with any certainty the final outcome of the customer claims and complaints, the appeals referred to above and any further stages of the test case. It is unable reliably to estimate the liability, if any, that may arise as a result of or in connection with these matters or its effect on the Group's consolidated net assets, operating results or cash flows in any particular period.

United States

Proceedings, including consolidated class actions on behalf of former Enron securities holders, have been brought in the United States against a large number of defendants, including the Group, following the collapse of Enron. The claims against the Group could be significant; the class plaintiff's position is that each defendant is responsible for an entire aggregate damage amount less settlements – they have not quantified claimed damages against the Group in particular. The Group considers that it has substantial and credible legal and factual defences to these claims and will continue to defend them vigorously. Recent decisions by the US Supreme Court and the US Federal Court for the Fifth Circuit provide further support for the Group's position. In light of these developments the Group does not expect these claims will have a material impact on its consolidated net assets, operating results or cash flows in any particular period.

RBS Group companies have been named as defendants in a number of purported class action and other lawsuits in the United States that relate to the sub-prime mortgage business. In general, the cases involve the issuance of sub-prime-related securities or the issuance of shares in companies with sub-prime-related exposure, where the plaintiffs have brought actions against the issuers and underwriters (including RBS Group companies) of such securities claiming that certain disclosures made in connection with the relevant offerings of such securities were false or misleading. The Group considers that it has substantial and credible legal and factual defences to these claims and will continue to defend them vigorously. The Group does not currently expect that these lawsuits, individually or in the aggregate, will have a material impact on its consolidated net assets, operating results or cash flows in any particular period.

Notes (continued)

19. Litigation (continued)

United States (continued)

RBS Group and a number of its subsidiaries and certain individual officers and directors have been named as defendants in a class action filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. The consolidated amended complaint alleges certain false and misleading statements and omissions in public filings and other communications during the period 1 March 2007 to 19 January 2009, and variously asserts claims under Sections 11, 12 and 15 of the Securities Act 1933, Sections 10 and 20 of the Securities Exchange Act 1934 and SEC Rule 10b-5. The putative class is composed of (1) all persons who purchased or otherwise acquired RBS Group securities between 1 March 2007 and 19 January 2009; and/or (2) all persons who purchased or otherwise acquired RBS Series Q, R, S, T and/or U Non-cumulative Dollar Preference Shares issued pursuant or traceable to the 8 April 2005 Registration Statement and were damaged thereby. Plaintiffs seek unquantified damages on behalf of the putative class. The Group considers that it has substantial and credible legal and factual defences to these claims and will defend them vigorously. The Group is unable reliably to estimate the liability, if any, that might arise or its effect on the Group's consolidated net assets, operating results or cash flows in any particular period.

Summary of other disputes, legal proceedings and litigation

Members of the Group are engaged in other litigation in the United Kingdom and a number of overseas jurisdictions, including the United States, involving claims by and against them arising in the ordinary course of business. The Group has reviewed these other actual, threatened and known potential claims and proceedings and, after consulting with its legal advisers, does not expect that the outcome of these other claims and proceedings will have a material adverse effect on its consolidated net assets, operating results or cash flows in any particular period.

20. Regulatory enquiries and investigations

The Group's businesses and financial condition can be affected by the fiscal or other policies and other actions of various governmental and regulatory authorities in the United Kingdom, the European Union, the United States and elsewhere. The Group has engaged, and will continue to engage, in discussions with relevant regulators, including in the United Kingdom and the United States, on an ongoing and regular basis informing them of operational, systems and control evaluations and issues as deemed appropriate or required and it is possible that any matters discussed or identified may result in investigatory actions by the regulators, increased costs being incurred by the Group, remediation of systems and controls, public or private censure or fines. Any of these events or circumstances could have a material adverse impact on the Group, its business, reputation, results of operations or the price of securities issued by it.

There is continuing political and regulatory scrutiny of the operation of the retail banking and consumer credit industries in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. The nature and impact of future changes in policies and regulatory action are not predictable and are beyond the Group's control but could have an adverse impact on the Group's businesses and earnings.

European Union

In the European Union, regulatory actions included an inquiry into retail banking in all of the then 25 member states by the European Commission's Directorate General for Competition. The inquiry examined retail banking in Europe generally. On 31 January 2007, the European Commission announced that barriers to competition in certain areas of retail banking, payment cards and payment systems in the European Union had been identified.

The European Commission indicated that it will consider using its powers to address these barriers and will encourage national competition authorities to enforce European and national competition laws where appropriate.

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Notes (continued)

20. Regulatory enquiries and investigations (continued)

In 2007, the European Commission issued a decision that while interchange is not illegal per se, MasterCard's current multilateral interchange fee ("MIF") arrangement for cross-border payment card transactions with MasterCard and Maestro branded consumer credit and debit cards in the European Union are in breach of competition law. MasterCard was required by the decision to withdraw the relevant cross border MIFs by 21 June 2008. MasterCard lodged an appeal against the decision with the European Court of First Instance on 1 March 2008 and the Group has intervened in the appeal proceedings. Visa's MIFs were exempted in 2002 by the European Commission for a period of five years up to 31 December 2007 subject to certain conditions. On 26 March 2008, the European Commission opened a formal inquiry into Visa's current MIF arrangements for cross-border payment card transactions with Visa branded debit and consumer credit cards in the European Union and on 6 April 2009 the European Commission announced that it had issued Visa with a formal Statement of Objections. There is no deadline for the closure of the inquiry.

United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom, in September 2005, the OFT received a super-complaint from the Citizens Advice Bureau relating to payment protection insurance ("PPI"). As a result, the OFT commenced a market study on PPI in April 2006. In October 2006, the OFT announced the outcome of the market study and, on 7 February 2007, following a period of consultation, the OFT referred the PPI market to the Competition Commission ("CC") for an in-depth inquiry. The CC published its final report on 29 January 2009. It found a lack of competition in the PPI market as a result of various factors, including a lack of transparency and barriers to entry for standalone providers. The CC will therefore impose by order a range of remedies, including a prohibition on actively selling PPI at point of sale of the credit product (and for 7 days thereafter), a ban on single premium policies and other measures to increase transparency (in order to improve customers' ability to search and improve price competition). The expected deadline for implementation will be 2010 at the earliest, subject to the outcome of an appeal by Barclays against the CC's decision.

The FSA has been conducting a broad industry thematic review of PPI sales practices and in September 2008 announced that it intends to escalate its level of regulatory intervention. The FSA is expected to publish a further update in 2009. Substantial numbers of customer complaints alleging the mis-selling of PPI policies have been made to banks and to the FOS and many of these are being upheld by the FOS against the banks. The FSA is currently consulting informally with the industry on its proposals to issue specific guidance on PPI complaint handling. The timescale is uncertain but the guidance is expected to be completed during 2009. Separately, discussions are ongoing between the FSA and the Group in respect of concerns expressed by the FSA over certain categories of historic PPI sales.

The OFT has carried out investigations into Visa and MasterCard domestic credit card interchange rates. The decision by the OFT in the MasterCard interchange case was set aside by the Competition Appeals Tribunal in June 2006. The OFT's investigations in the Visa interchange case and a second MasterCard interchange case are ongoing. The outcome is not known, but these investigations may have an impact on the consumer credit industry in general and, therefore, on the Group's business in this sector. On 9 February 2007, the OFT announced that it was expanding its investigation into domestic interchange rates to include debit cards.

On 29 March 2007, the OFT announced that, following an initial review into bank current account charges, it had decided to conduct a market study into personal current accounts in the United Kingdom and a formal investigation into the fairness of bank current account charges.

Notes (continued)

20. Regulatory enquiries and investigations (continued)

On 16 July 2008, the OFT published the results of its market study into personal current accounts in the United Kingdom. The OFT found evidence of competition and several positive features in the personal current account market but believes that the market as a whole is not working well for consumers and that the ability of the market to function well has become distorted. The OFT is currently consulting with the banking industry, consumer groups and interested parties on its report. After this consultation the OFT will decide on next steps, which could include further discussions or agreed remedies with the industry, or possibly a reference of the market to the CC.

The OFT's investigation into the fairness of bank current account charges is ongoing. On 12 August 2008, the OFT indicated to the Group and other banks that, although it had not concluded its investigation and had reached no final view, it had serious concerns that contractual terms relating to the Charges in personal current account agreements were unfair under the Regulations. The OFT is currently consulting with the Group and other banks on this issue.

Given the stage of the investigation, the Group cannot reliably estimate the impact of any adverse outcome of the OFT's market study or investigation upon it, if any. However, RBSG is co-operating fully with the OFT to achieve resolution of the matters under investigation.

On 26 January 2007, the FSA issued a Statement of Good Practice relating to Mortgage Exit Administration Fees. On 1 March 2007, the Group adopted a policy of charging all customers the fee applicable at the time the customers took out the mortgage or, if later, varied their mortgage. RBSG believes that it is currently in compliance with the Statement of Good Practice and will continue to monitor its performance against those standards.

In April 2009 the FSA notified the Group that it was commencing a supervisory review of the acquisition of ABN AMRO in 2007 and the 2008 capital raisings and an investigation into, and responsibility for, conduct, systems and controls within the Global Banking & Markets division of the Group. The Group and its subsidiaries are cooperating fully with this review and investigation.

United States

In connection with a previously disclosed investigation of ABN AMRO's New York Branch by US regulatory authorities, ABN AMRO and members of ABN AMRO's management continue to provide information to law enforcement authorities relating to ABN AMRO's dollar clearing activities, United States Department of Treasury compliance procedures and other Bank Secrecy Act of 1970 compliance matters. Although no written agreement has yet been reached and negotiations are ongoing, ABN AMRO has reached an agreement in principle with the United States Department of Justice that would resolve all presently known aspects of the ongoing investigation. Under the terms of the agreement in principle, ABN AMRO and the United States would enter into a deferred prosecution agreement in which ABN AMRO would waive indictment and agree to the filing of information in the United States District Court charging it with certain violations of federal law based on information disclosed in an agreed factual statement. ABN AMRO would also agree to continue co-operating in the United States' ongoing investigation and to settle all known civil and criminal claims currently held by the United States for the sum of US\$500 million. The precise terms of the deferred prosecution agreement are still under negotiation.

Notes (continued)

20. Regulatory enquiries and investigations (continued)

United States (continued)

The New York State Attorney General has issued subpoenas to a wide array of participants in the sub-prime mortgage industry, focusing on the information underwriters obtained as part of the due diligence process from the independent due diligence firms. RBS Securities Inc. has produced documents requested by the New York State Attorney General principally related to sub-prime loans that were pooled into one securitisation transaction and will continue to cooperate with the investigation. More recently, the Massachusetts Attorney General has issued a subpoena to RBS Securities Inc. seeking information related to residential mortgage lending practices and sales and securitisation or residential mortgage loans. The investigation is in its very early stages and therefore it is difficult to predict the potential exposure from such an investigation. At this time RBS Securities Inc. is fully cooperating with the request.

In addition to the above, certain of the Group's subsidiaries have received requests for information from various United States governmental agencies, self-regulatory organisations, and state governmental agencies including in connection with sub-prime mortgages and securitisations, collateralised debt obligations and synthetic products related to sub-prime mortgages. In particular, during March 2008, the Group was advised by the Securities and Exchange Commission that it had commenced a non-public, formal investigation relating to the Group's United States sub-prime securities exposures and United States residential mortgage exposures. RBSG and its subsidiaries are co-operating with these various requests for information and investigations.

21. Related party transactions

On 1 December 2008, the UK Government through HM Treasury became the ultimate controlling party of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc. The UK Government's shareholding is managed by UK Financial Investments Limited, a company wholly owned by the UK Government. As a result the UK Government and other public bodies became related parties of the Group. The Group enters into transactions with many of these bodies on an arms' length basis. The Group participates in a number of schemes operated by the Bank of England and the UK Government and made available to eligible banks and building societies. As at 30 June 2009, the Group's utilisation of Bank of England facilities amounted to £28 billion (31 December 2008 - £42 billion) and it had debt in issue guaranteed by the UK Government totalling £52 billion (31 December 2008 - £32 billion). During the first half of 2009, following a placing and open offer, the UK Government's holding of £5 billion of preference shares was redeemed and the UK Government subscribed for 16.8 billion new ordinary shares; its interest in the Group's ordinary share capital is now 70.3%.

Other related party transactions in the half year ended 30 June 2009 were similar in nature to those for the year ended 31 December 2008. Full details of the Group's related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2008 are included in the Group's 2008 Annual Report and Accounts.

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Notes (continued)

22. Market risk

Market risk arises from changes in interest rates, foreign currency, credit spread, equity prices and risk related factors such as market volatilities. The Group manages market risk centrally within its trading and treasury portfolios through a comprehensive market risk management framework. This framework contains limits based on, but not limited to: value-at-risk (VaR), scenario analysis, position and sensitivity analyses.

The Group discloses market risk in VaR terms. VaR is a measure that produces estimates of the potential change in the market value of a portfolio over a specified time horizon at given confidence levels. The Group uses a historical simulation methodology with a two year time horizon and a 99% confidence level.

At the Group level the risk appetite is expressed in the form of a combination of VaR, sensitivity and scenario limits. The Group recently changed its VaR confidence level from 95% to 99% as it believes this provides greater clarity in respect of potential economic outcomes. The table below sets out VaR for the Group's portfolios with prior periods restated to reflect the 99% confidence level for consistency and comparability.

The Group continued to update and enhance its market risk management framework during the first half of 2009. In addition to the move to VaR based on a 99% confidence level, the Group has improved and strengthened its market risk limit framework, increasing the transparency of market price risk taken across the Group's businesses in both the trading and non-trading portfolios.

The Group's market risk appetite is defined within this limit framework which is cascaded down through legal entity, division, business and ultimately trader level market risk limits.

The VaR disclosure is broken down into trading and non-trading (referred to in previous disclosures as Treasury VaR), where trading VaR relates to the main trading activities of the Group and non-trading reflects the VaR associated with reclassified assets, money market business and the management of internal funds flow within the Group's businesses.

As part of the Strategic Review announced on 26 February 2009, the designation of assets between Core and Non-Core divisions was completed during the period. The period end Core/Non-Core VaR as of 30 June 2009 shown below reflects the conclusion of this process. Average, Maximum and Minimum VaR for Core/Non-Core are measures that require daily data. The Non-Core division was not defined at the start of the period and average, maximum and minimum VaR are measures that require daily data. These three measures have been prepared on a best efforts basis and reflect the process of designating Non-Core assets.

	Average £m	Period end £m	Maximum £m	Minimum £m
Trading VaR (Group before RFS Holdings minority interest and statutory basis)				
Interest rate	65.6	81.4	112.8	42.5
Credit spread	125.3	199.6	231.2	66.9
Currency	17.7	15.6	35.8	9.2
Equity	13.0	11.7	21.6	8.3
Commodity	12.7	11.5	21.4	6.5

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Diversification effects		(129.2)		
30 June 2009	143.3	190.6	229.0	76.8
Core (30 June 2009)	99.6	94.3	135.6	54.2
Non-Core (30 June 2009)	77.3	130.4	166.5	28.6

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Notes (continued)

22. Market risk (continued)

	Average £m	Period end £m	Maximum £m	Minimum £m
Interest rate	38.7	54.4	94.0	18.2
Credit spread	71.5	61.5	130.8	51.7
Currency	7.6	17.0	18.0	3.5
Equity	22.4	18.3	42.6	11.0
Commodity	9.9	10.0	25.8	0.2
Diversification effects		(52.4)		
31 December 2008	82.3	108.8	155.7	49.3
Interest rate	29.1	33.7	56.1	18.2
Credit spread	72.7	75.5	96.3	51.7
Currency	6.0	7.1	8.6	3.5
Equity	23.1	19.9	42.6	11.0
Commodity	9.5	23.0	25.3	0.2
Diversification effects		(67.7)		
30 June 2008	70.4	91.5	106.0	49.3
	Average £m	Period end £m	Maximum £m	Minimum £m
Non-trading VaR (Group before RFS Holdings minority interest and statutory basis)				
Interest rate	17.6	16.6	26.1	12.9
Credit spread	198.9	205.4	270.3	65.4
Currency	1.2	1.1	3.8	0.2
Equity	4.0	3.7	7.2	2.2
Diversification effects		(27.0)		
30 June 2009	199.6	199.8	274.9	76.1
Core (30 June 2009)	82.6	81.6	133.5	55.0
Non-Core (30 June 2009)	123.1	132.6	145.3	20.2
Interest rate	10.6	24.4	32.9	5.2
Credit spread	10.5	65.2	65.2	5.5
Currency	0.6	2.2	5.7	0.1
Equity	3.4	7.0	8.0	0.8
Diversification effects		(22.7)		

31 December 2008	14.8	76.1	76.1	7.7
	Average	Period	Maximum	Minimum
	£m	end	£m	£m
		£m		
Interest rate	7.4	9.1	10.2	5.2
Credit spread	7.7	7.0	10.6	5.6
Currency	0.4	0.3	1.0	0.2
Equity	1.7	1.7	2.6	0.8
Diversification effects		(8.7)		
30 June 2008	10.0	9.4	13.4	7.7

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Notes (continued)

22. Market risk (continued)

The data in the tables above exclude exposures to super senior tranches of asset-backed CDOs, as VaR does not provide an appropriate measure of risk for these exposures due to the continued illiquidity and opaqueness of pricing of these instruments. For these exposures, the maximum potential loss is equal to the aggregate net exposure of £548 million at 30 June 2009. For more information, please refer to market turmoil exposure - Super senior CDOs on page 145 and Note 12, financial instruments - collateralised debt obligations.

The Group uses the most recent two years of market data in its VaR model. Accordingly the VaR at June 2009 incorporates all of the market volatility experienced since the credit crisis began in August 2007. On average this means that a given underlying risk position expressed in VaR terms will be considerably larger than previously reported. If one assumes future volatility declines in comparison to the average over the last two years then the half year may well represent a peak VaR number for a given position. The Group has reduced its underlying trading positions in the first half of 2009, but the increase in market volatility factored into the VaR calculation has more than offset this; consequently the Trading VaR has increased when compared with previous periods.

Non-Core credit spread trading VaR increased materially during the period, not only for the reason described above, but also owing to additional hedges against the risk of counterparty failure. As this counterparty risk is itself not in VaR, these hedges increase reported VaR.

The non-trading VaR increased not only because of more volatile market data in the VaR models, but also as a result of reclassification of certain trading portfolio assets.

The Group's VaR should be interpreted in light of the limitations of the methodologies used, detailed as follows:

- Historical Simulation VaR may not provide the best estimate of future market movements. It can only provide a prediction of the future based on events that occurred in the two year time series. Therefore, events that are more severe than those in the historical data series cannot be predicted.
- VaR that uses a 99% confidence level does not reflect the extent of potential losses beyond that percentile.
- VaR uses a one-day time horizon which will not fully capture the profit and loss implications of positions that cannot be liquidated or hedged within one day.
- The Group computes the VaR of trading portfolios at the close of business. Positions may change substantially during the course of the trading day and intraday profit and losses will be incurred.

These limitations mean that the Group cannot guarantee that losses will not exceed the VaR.

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Notes (continued)

22. Market risk (continued)

The following table details the combined other than trading (non-trading businesses and retail and commercial banking activities) VaR at a 99% confidence level, which relates mainly to interest rate risk and credit spreads.

	Average £m	Period end £m	Maximum £m	Minimum £m
30 June 2009	187.2	190.6	203.2	177.3
31 December 2008	133.1	134.9	197.0	86.4

Structural interest rate and currency VaR (statutory basis)

Structural interest rate risks mainly arise in retail and commercial banking assets and liabilities.

	Average £m	Period end £m	Maximum £m	Minimum £m
Statutory basis				
30 June 2009	91.3	100.4	112.5	69.3
31 December 2008	128.1	60.1	194.6	60.3

Statutory basis				30 June 2009 £m
EUR				39.3
GBP				25.2
USD				83.8
Other				5.1

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Notes (continued)

23. Currency risk

The Group does not maintain material non-trading open currency positions other than the structural foreign currency translation exposures arising from its investments in foreign subsidiaries and associated undertakings and their related currency funding. The Group's policy in relation to structural positions is to match fund the structural foreign currency exposure arising from net asset value, including goodwill, in foreign subsidiaries, equity accounted investments and branches, except where doing so would materially increase the sensitivity of either the Group's or the subsidiary's regulatory capital ratios to currency movements. The policy requires structural foreign exchange positions to be reviewed regularly by GALCO. GALCO approves open structural exposures, primarily in USD and EUR and expressed in currency notional amounts, which are sufficient to reduce the sensitivity of regulatory capital ratios to exchange rate movements within defined tolerance limits.

Foreign exchange differences arising on the translation of foreign operations are recognised directly in equity together with the effective portion of foreign exchange differences arising on hedging instruments.

Equity classification of foreign currency denominated preference share issuances requires that these shares be held on the balance sheet at historic cost. Consequently, these share issuances have the effect of increasing the Group's structural foreign currency position.

See the Annual Report and Accounts 2008 for background on the Group's structural currency risk exposures.

The tables below set out the Group's structural foreign currency exposures.

	Net assets of overseas operations £m	Minority Interests £m	Net investments in foreign operations £m	Net investment hedges £m	Structural foreign currency exposures £m
30 June 2009					
US dollar	15,551	(3)	15,554	(3,330)	12,224
Euro	18,282	13,619	4,663	(1,300)	3,363
Other non sterling	5,639	536	5,103	(3,585)	1,518
Total	39,472	14,152	25,320	(8,215)	17,105
31 December 2008					
US dollar	17,480	(19)	17,499	(3,659)	13,840
Euro	26,943	15,431	11,512	(7,461)	4,051
Chinese RMB	3,928	1,898	2,030	(1,082)	948
Other non sterling	5,088	621	4,467	(3,096)	1,371
Total	53,439	17,931	35,508	(15,298)	20,210

Retranslation gains and losses on the Group's net investments in operations, together with those on instruments hedging these investments, are recognised directly in equity. Changes in foreign currency exchange rates will affect equity in proportion to the structural foreign currency exposure. A five percent strengthening of foreign currencies

would result in a gain of £900 million (31 December 2008 – £1,010 million) recognised in equity. A five percent weakening of foreign currencies would result in a loss of £810 million (31 December 2008 – £960 million) recognised in equity. There are no Chinese RMB exposures at 30 June 2009 following the sale of the Group's interest in Bank of China. These movements in equity would offset retranslation effects on the Group's foreign currency denominated risk weighted assets, reducing the sensitivity of the Group's tier 1 capital ratio to movements in foreign currency exchange rates.

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Notes (continued)

24. Consolidating financial information

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc ('RBS plc') is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc ('RBSG plc') and is able to offer and sell certain securities in the US from time to time pursuant to a registration statement on Form F-3 filed with the SEC with a full and unconditional guarantee from RBSG plc.

RBS plc utilises an exception provided in Rule 3-10 of Regulation S-X, and therefore does not file its financial statements with the SEC. In accordance with the requirements to qualify for the exception, presented below is condensed consolidating financial information for:

RBSG plc on a stand-alone basis as guarantor ('RBSG Company')
RBS plc on a stand-alone basis as issuer ('RBS Company')
Non-guarantor Subsidiaries of RBSG Company and RBS Company on a combined basis ('Subsidiaries')
Consolidation adjustments; and
RBSG plc consolidated amounts ('RBSG Group').

Under IAS 27, RBSG Company and RBS Company account for investments in their subsidiary undertakings at cost less impairment. Rule 3-10 of Regulation S-X requires a company to account for its investments in subsidiary undertakings using the equity method, which would (decrease)/increase the results for the period of RBSG Company and RBS Company in the information below by £(3,331) million and £1 million respectively for the six months ended 30 June 2009 £(1,046) million and £761 million for the six months ended 30 June 2008. The net assets of RBSG Company and RBS Company in the information below would also be increased/(decreased) by £9,251 million and £10,813 million respectively at 30 June 2009 (£14,721 million and £11,913 million at 31 December 2008).

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Notes (continued)

24. Consolidating financial information (continued)

Income statement for the six months ended 30 June 2009

	RBSG Company £m	RBS Company £m	Subsidiaries £m	Consolidation adjustments £m	RBSG Group £m
Net interest income	155	1,926	6,105	(17)	8,169
Non-interest income (excluding insurance net premium income)	2,838	5,671	3,037	(695)	10,851
Insurance net premium income	-	-	2,821	-	2,821
Total income	2,993	7,597	11,963	(712)	21,841
Operating expenses	(1)	(4,252)	(7,453)	(185)	(11,891)
Insurance net claims	-	-	(2,134)	-	(2,134)
Impairment losses	-	(3,779)	(4,496)	215	(8,060)
Operating profit/(loss) before tax	2,992	(434)	(2,120)	(682)	(244)
Tax	(157)	631	489	(522)	441
Profit/(loss) from continuing operations	2,835	197	(1,631)	(1,204)	197
Loss from discontinued operations, net of tax	-	-	(62)	-	(62)
Profit/(loss) for the period	2,835	197	(1,693)	(1,204)	135

Income statement for the six months ended 30 June 2008

	RBSG Company £m	RBS Company £m	Subsidiaries £m	Consolidation adjustments £m	RBSG Group £m
Net interest income	(404)	2,117	6,940	42	8,695
Non-interest income (excluding insurance net premium income)	695	954	1,435	(1,093)	1,991
Insurance net premium income	-	-	3,156	-	3,156
Total income	291	3,071	11,531	(1,051)	13,842
Operating expenses	(25)	(3,296)	(7,701)	303	(10,719)
Insurance net claims	-	-	(2,189)	-	(2,189)
Impairment losses	-	(356)	(1,307)	2	(1,661)
Operating profit/(loss) before tax	266	(581)	334	(746)	(727)
Tax	168	416	(130)	(121)	333

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Profit/(loss) from continuing operations	434	(165)	204	(867)	(394)
Profit from discontinued operations, net of tax	-	-	234	-	234
Profit/(loss) for the period	434	(165)	438	(867)	(160)

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Notes (continued)

24. Consolidating financial information (continued)

Balance sheet at 30 June 2009

	RBSG Company £m	RBS Company £m	Subsidiaries £m	Consolidation adjustments £m	RBSG Group £m
Assets					
Cash and balances at central banks	-	21,845	18,101	-	39,946
Loans and advances to banks	13,699	107,192	273,940	(299,425)	95,406
Loans and advances to customers	-	338,058	516,785	(85,069)	769,774
Debt securities	1,112	154,203	141,622	(52,848)	244,089
Equity shares	-	930	17,392	(742)	17,580
Investments in Group undertakings	48,667	26,831	11,162	(86,660)	-
Settlement balances	-	9,280	13,984	-	23,264
Derivatives	712	557,868	85,086	(86,382)	557,284
Intangible assets	-	146	11,371	6,663	18,180
Property, plant and equipment	-	2,360	15,362	173	17,895
Deferred taxation	-	2,009	5,922	461	8,392
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets	348	10,176	13,404	(663)	23,265
Assets of disposal groups	-	-	3,848	-	3,848
Total assets	64,538	1,230,898	1,127,979	(604,492)	1,818,923
Liabilities					
Deposits by banks	109	195,437	227,379	(251,931)	170,994
Customer accounts	-	260,445	473,928	(118,684)	615,689
Debt securities in issue	9,311	135,508	180,246	(50,885)	274,180
Settlement balances and short positions	3	31,265	29,891	(872)	60,287
Derivatives	100	534,632	89,826	(87,494)	537,064
Accruals, deferred income and other liabilities	42	8,867	25,300	(4,088)	30,121
Retirement benefit liabilities	-	23	1,707	1	1,731
Deferred taxation	-	-	3,022	1,000	4,022
Insurance liabilities	-	-	9,542	-	9,542
Subordinated liabilities	8,558	25,701	16,464	(15,020)	35,703
Liabilities of disposal groups	-	-	7,498	-	7,498
Total liabilities	18,123	1,191,878	1,064,803	(527,973)	1,746,831
Equity:					
Minority interests	-	-	2,088	14,338	16,426
Owners' equity	46,415	39,020	61,088	(90,857)	55,666
	46,415	39,020	63,176	(76,519)	72,092
Total equity					
Total liabilities and equity	64,538	1,230,898	1,127,979	(604,492)	1,818,923

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Notes (continued)

24. Consolidating financial information (continued)

Balance sheet at 31 December 2008

	RBSG Company £m	RBS Company £m	Subsidiaries £m	Consolidation adjustments £m	RBSG Group £m
Assets					
Cash and balances at central banks	-	3,714	8,686	-	12,400
Loans and advances to banks	27,031	91,717	222,172	(202,723)	138,197
Loans and advances to customers	-	327,040	596,306	(48,624)	874,722
Debt securities	-	159,698	151,004	(43,153)	267,549
Equity shares	-	1,020	26,063	(753)	26,330
Investments in Group undertakings	42,196	26,814	11,166	(80,176)	-
Settlement balances	-	5,335	12,497	-	17,832
Derivatives	1,168	938,505	187,009	(134,123)	992,559
Intangible assets	-	136	13,132	6,781	20,049
Property, plant and equipment	-	2,368	16,450	131	18,949
Deferred taxation	3	1,323	4,745	1,011	7,082
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets	489	5,930	18,423	(440)	24,402
Assets of disposal groups	-	-	1,581	-	1,581
Total assets	70,887	1,563,600	1,269,234	(502,069)	2,401,652
Liabilities					
Deposits by banks	1,802	201,266	205,036	(150,060)	258,044
Customer accounts	26	229,266	496,037	(85,817)	639,512
Debt securities in issue	14,179	115,149	213,859	(42,898)	300,289
Settlement balances and short positions	-	29,361	25,258	(342)	54,277
Derivatives	361	911,174	193,952	(134,123)	971,364
Accruals, deferred income and other liabilities	47	9,618	22,491	(674)	31,482
Retirement benefit liabilities	-	23	2,006	3	2,032
Deferred taxation	-	-	2,892	1,273	4,165
Insurance liabilities	-	-	9,976	-	9,976
Subordinated liabilities	10,314	33,698	23,455	(18,313)	49,154
Liabilities of disposal groups	-	-	859	-	859
Total liabilities	26,729	1,529,555	1,195,821	(430,951)	2,321,154
Equity:					
Minority interests	-	-	2,041	19,578	21,619
Owners' equity	44,158	34,045	71,372	(90,696)	58,879
Total equity	44,158	34,045	73,413	(71,118)	80,498
Total liabilities and equity	70,887	1,563,600	1,269,234	(502,069)	2,401,652

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Notes (continued)

24. Consolidating financial information (continued)

Cash flow statement for the six months ended 30 June 2009

	RBSG Company £m	RBS Company £m	Subsidiaries £m	Consolidation adjustments £m	RBSG Group £m
Net cash flows from operating activities	1,338	44,714	29,480	(77,780)	(2,248)
Net cash flows from investing activities	(3,741)	(14,983)	19,146	4,039	4,461
Net cash flows from financing activities	(1,266)	(197)	(3,075)	(987)	(5,525)
Effects of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	(193)	(4,466)	(9,610)	3,433	(10,836)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(3,862)	25,068	35,941	(71,295)	(14,148)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	5,069	73,449	114,527	(58,120)	134,925
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	1,207	98,517	150,468	(129,415)	120,777

Cash flow statement for the six months ended 30 June 2008

	RBSG Company £m	RBS Company £m	Subsidiaries £m	Consolidation adjustments £m	RBSG Group £m
Net cash flows from operating activities	3,174	(19,285)	(36,164)	7,559	(44,716)
Net cash flows from investing activities	(9,260)	(28,329)	53,048	16,496	31,955
Net cash flows from financing activities	9,156	13,356	3,589	(15,761)	10,340
Effects of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	50	2,490	5,717	(756)	7,501
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	3,120	(31,768)	26,190	7,538	5,080
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	1,573	77,249	137,301	(67,168)	148,955
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	4,693	45,481	163,491	(59,630)	154,035

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Average balance sheet

	First half 2009			First half 2008		
	Average balance £m	Interest £m	Rate %	Average balance £m	Interest £m	Rate %
Assets						
Loans and advances to banks	51,122	569	2.23	51,954	1,140	4.39
Loans and advances to customers	736,943	15,099	4.10	693,947	20,583	5.93
Debt securities	132,079	2,463	3.73	108,896	2,455	4.51
Interest-earning assets – banking business	920,144	18,131	3.94	854,797	24,178	5.66
Trading business	306,304			477,634		
Total interest-earning assets	1,226,448			1,332,431		
Non-interest-earning assets	944,827			677,552		
Total assets	2,171,275			2,009,983		
Liabilities						
Deposits by banks	141,679	1,267	1.79	135,954	2,819	4.15
Customer accounts	475,445	4,326	1.82	495,479	8,666	3.50
Debt securities in issue	232,681	3,975	3.42	227,611	5,127	4.51
Subordinated liabilities	37,716	825	4.37	37,235	1,144	6.14
Internal funding of trading business	(77,925)	(431)	1.11	(112,856)	(2,273)	4.03
Interest-bearing liabilities – banking business	809,596	9,962	2.46	783,423	15,483	3.95
Trading business	352,953			510,554		
Total interest-bearing liabilities	1,162,549			1,293,977		
Non-interest-bearing liabilities						
- demand deposits	42,086			34,828		
- other liabilities	909,489			627,791		
Owners' equity	57,151			53,387		
Total liabilities and owners' equity	2,171,275			2,009,983		

First half 2009 First half 2008

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Average yields, spreads and margins of the banking business	%	%
Gross yield on interest-earning assets of banking business	3.94	5.66
Cost of interest-bearing liabilities of banking business	(2.46)	(3.95)
Interest spread of banking business	1.48	1.71
Benefit from interest-free funds	0.30	0.32
Net interest margin of banking business	1.78	2.03

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Capital ratios

	30 June 2009 £m	31 December 2008 £m
Capital base		
Core Tier 1 capital	46,173	46,190
Preference shares and tax deductible securities	14,793	24,038
Deductions from Tier 1 capital net of tax credit on expected losses	(79)	(381)
Tier 1 capital	60,887	69,847
Tier 2 capital	21,078	32,223
Tier 3 capital	232	260
	82,197	102,330
Less: Supervisory deductions	(4,536)	(4,155)
Total regulatory capital	77,661	98,175
Risk-weighted assets		
Credit risk	512,000	551,300
Counterparty risk	53,000	61,100
Market risk	56,300	46,500
Operational risk	33,900	36,900
	655,200	695,800
Risk asset ratio		
Core Tier 1	7.0%	6.6%
Tier 1	9.3%	10.0%
Total	11.9%	14.1%

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Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties for the Group in the second half of 2009 are:

The company may face the risk of full nationalisation and under such circumstances shareholders may lose the full value of their shares.

HM Treasury, the Bank of England and the FSA have extensive powers to stabilise banks. These include private sector transfer, transfer to a 'bridge bank' established by the Bank of England and nationalisation. Stabilisation measures may only be taken if the FSA is satisfied that a relevant entity is failing, or is likely to fail, to satisfy the conditions which an FSA-authorized institution must satisfy. HM Treasury may also take the parent company of a relevant entity into temporary public ownership and it has wide discretion in taking actions in relation to the company's issued securities.

The Group's business, earnings and financial prospects may be affected if it is unable to participate in the Asset Protection Scheme, or if the costs of participation outweigh the benefits.

On 26th February 2009, the Group announced its intention to participate in the asset protection scheme (APS) announced by HM Treasury on 19th January 2009. The Group's ability to participate in the APS is subject to a number of conditions which may not be satisfied resulting in the Group being unable to participate in the APS. Furthermore, if the Group is able to participate in the APS, there can be no assurance that the benefits of participation in the APS will outweigh its cost. European State Aid clearance must be obtained by the UK Government before the Group can participate in the APS. The European Commission may require significantly greater restructuring by the Group than is currently envisaged under the Group's strategic plan, including divestments, balance sheet reduction and business exits.

The Group's businesses, earnings and financial condition have been and will continue to be affected by the continued deterioration in the global economy, as well as ongoing instability in the global financial markets.

Many of the economies in which the Group operates, including the United Kingdom and the United States, face recessionary conditions which are expected to continue or worsen over the near to medium term. Financial markets around the world have yet to recover from recent unprecedented dislocation and illiquidity. These circumstances may cause the Group to experience further reductions in business activity, increased funding costs and funding pressures, decreased asset values, additional write downs and impairment charges and lower profitability or losses during the second half of 2009.

Lack of liquidity is a risk to the Group's business and its ability to access sources of liquidity has been, and will continue to be, constrained.

Credit markets have experienced a severe reduction in liquidity. The Group's liquidity management focuses on maintaining a diverse and appropriate funding strategy for its assets, controlling the mis-match of maturities and carefully monitoring its undrawn commitments and contingent liabilities. Further tightening of credit markets could have a negative impact on the Group in the second half of 2009.

Governmental support schemes are subject to cancellation or change, which may have a negative impact on the availability of funding in the markets in which the Group operates.

To the extent government support schemes are cancelled or changed, the Group may face limited access to, have insufficient access to, or incur the higher costs associated with, funding alternatives.

The financial performance of the Group has been and will be affected by borrower credit quality.

Risks arising from changes in credit quality and the recoverability of loans and amounts due from counterparties are inherent in a wide range of the Group's businesses. Whilst economies have stabilised during the first half of 2009, the

Group may see adverse changes in the credit quality of its borrowers and counterparties in the second half of 2009 with increasing delinquencies and defaults leading to higher impairment charges.

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Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

The actual or perceived failure or worsening credit of the Group's counterparties could adversely affect the Group. The Group's ability to engage in funding transactions with counterparties in the financial markets, including brokers and dealers, commercial banks, investment banks, mutual and hedge funds and other institutional clients has been and will continue to be adversely affected by the actual or perceived failure or worsening credit of these counterparties. Many of these transactions expose the Group to credit risk in the event of default of the Group's counterparty or client.

The Group's earnings and financial condition have been, and its future earnings and financial condition are likely to continue to be, affected by depressed asset valuations resulting from poor market conditions.

Financial markets have been subject to significant stress conditions. Severe market events resulted in the Group recording large write-downs on its credit market exposures in 2008 and the first half of 2009. Any further deterioration in economic and financial market conditions could lead to additional impairment charges and write-downs during the second half of 2009. Recent market volatility and illiquidity has made it difficult to value certain of the Group's exposures. The value ultimately realised by the Group may be materially different from the current or estimated fair value.

The value or effectiveness of any credit protection that the Group has purchased from monoline and other insurers and other market counterparties (including credit derivative product companies) depends on the value of the underlying assets and the financial condition of the insurers and such counterparties.

The Group has credit exposure arising from over-the-counter derivative contracts, mainly credit default swaps (CDSs), which are carried at fair value. Since 2007, the actual and perceived creditworthiness of monoline, credit derivative product companies and other market counterparties has deteriorated rapidly and this may continue in the second half of 2009. As a result the Group may recognise further credit valuation adjustments on CDSs bought from these counterparties.

Changes in interest rates, foreign exchange rates, bond, equity and commodity prices, and other market factors have significantly affected and will continue to affect the Group's business. Some of the most significant market risks the Group faces are interest rate, foreign exchange, bond, equity and commodity price risks.

The most significant market risks the Group faces are interest rate, foreign exchange and bond and equity price risks. Changes in interest rates and spreads in the second half of 2009 may affect the interest rate margin realised between lending and borrowing. Changes in currency rates affect the value of assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies and affect earnings reported by the Group's non-UK subsidiaries and may affect income from foreign exchange dealing. The performance of financial markets during the second half of 2009 may cause reductions in the value of the Group's investment and trading portfolios.

The Group's borrowing costs and its access to the debt capital markets depend significantly on its credit ratings. Any future reductions in the long-term credit ratings of the Group or one of its principal subsidiaries (particularly the Royal Bank) could increase its borrowing costs, limit the Group's access to the capital markets and money markets, trigger additional collateral requirements, and adversely affect its competitive position.

The Group's business performance could be adversely affected if its capital is not managed effectively. The Group is required by regulators in the United Kingdom and in other jurisdictions in which it undertakes regulated activities to maintain adequate capital. Adequate capital is also necessary for the Group's financial flexibility in the face of continuing turbulence and uncertainty in the global economy. Any developments that limit the Group's ability to manage its balance sheet and capital resources effectively (including, for example, reductions in profits and retained earnings, increases in risk-weighted assets, delays in the disposal of certain assets or the inability to syndicate loans) could have a material adverse impact on its financial condition.

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Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

The value of certain financial instruments recorded at fair value is determined using financial models incorporating assumptions, judgements and estimates that may change over time or may ultimately not turn out to be accurate.

To establish the value of instruments measured at fair value, the Group relies on quoted market prices or, where the market for a financial instrument is not sufficiently active, valuation models. These valuation models are complex, and the related assumptions, judgements and estimates often relate to matters that are inherently uncertain, such as expected cash flows, the ability of borrowers to service debt, residential and commercial property price appreciation and depreciation, and relative levels of defaults and deficiencies. Valuations in future periods, reflecting prevailing market conditions, may result in further significant changes in the fair values of these instruments.

The Group's future earnings and financial condition in part depend on the success of the Group's strategic refocus on core strengths and its disposal programme.

The Group has embarked on a restructuring focused on achieving appropriate risk-adjusted returns, reducing reliance on wholesale funding and lowering the Group's exposure to capital intensive businesses. The Group will also continue its disposal programme and continue to review its portfolio to identify further disposals of non-core assets. Global markets remain challenging and the execution of the Group's current and future strategic plans may not be successful. In connection with the implementation of these plans, the Group may incur restructuring charges, which may be material.

The Group operates in markets that are highly competitive and consolidating. If the Group is unable to perform effectively, its business and results of operations will be adversely affected.

The markets in which the Group operates are expected to remain highly competitive. Consolidation among banks in the United Kingdom, the United States and throughout Europe in combination with the introduction of new entrants into the US and UK markets from other European and Asian countries and increased government ownership of, and involvement in, banks, could cause the Group to experience stronger competition for corporate, institutional and retail clients and greater pressure on profit margins in the second half of 2009.

The Group agreed to certain undertakings in relation to the operation of its business in the First Placing and Open Offer Agreement and the Second Placing and Open Offer Agreement and the proposed APS, which may serve to limit the Group's operations.

The Group undertook in connection with the First Placing and Open Offer Agreement and the Second Placing and Open Offer Agreement and the proposed APS to support certain initiatives in relation to lending in the UK and to regulate management remuneration and the rate of growth of the Group's balance sheet. These undertakings may serve to limit the Group's operations.

The Group could fail to attract or retain senior management or other key employees.

The failure to attract or retain a sufficient number of appropriately skilled personnel could prevent the Group from successfully implementing its strategy, which could have a material adverse effect on the Group's financial condition.

Each of the Group's businesses is subject to substantial regulation and oversight. Any significant regulatory developments could have an effect on how the Group conducts its business and on its results of operations and financial condition.

The Group is subject to financial services laws, regulations, administrative actions and policies wherever it operates. Recently there have been unprecedented levels of government intervention and changes to the regulations governing financial institutions, including recent nationalisations in the United Kingdom, the United States and other European countries. Significant regulatory developments could have an adverse impact on how the Group conducts its business and on its results of operations and financial condition.

Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

The Group's results have been and could be further adversely affected in the event of goodwill impairment. The Group recognises goodwill initially at cost and subsequently at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. It is tested for impairment annually or more frequently when events or circumstances indicate that it might be impaired. The recoverable amount (the higher of value in use and fair value less cost to sell) of an individual cash generating unit is compared to its carrying value. The recoverable amount of the Group's cash generating units are affected by market conditions and the performance of the economies in which the Group operates. Where the Group is required to recognise a goodwill impairment, it is recorded in the Group's income statement, although it has no effect on the Group's regulatory capital position.

The Group may be required to make further contributions to its pension schemes if the value of pension fund assets is not sufficient to cover potential obligations.

Given current economic and financial market difficulties and the prospect that they may continue over the near and medium term, the Group may be required or elect to make further contributions to its pension schemes and such contributions could be significant.

The Group is and may be subject to litigation and regulatory investigations that may impact its business.

The Group's operations are diverse and complex and it operates in legal and regulatory environments that expose it to potentially significant litigation, regulatory investigation and other regulatory risk. As a result, the Group is, and may in the future be, involved in various disputes, legal proceedings and regulatory investigations in the United Kingdom, the United States and other jurisdictions, including class-action litigation. These are subject to many uncertainties, and their outcomes are often difficult to predict. Adverse regulatory action or adverse judgements in litigation could result in restrictions or limitations on the Group's operations or significant reputational damage.

Operational risks are inherent in the Group's operations.

The activities of the Group depend on the ability to process a very large number of transactions efficiently and accurately while complying with applicable laws and regulations. Operational risk and losses can result from fraud, errors by employees or third-parties, failure to document transactions properly or to obtain proper authorisation, failure to comply with regulatory requirements and conduct of business rules (including those arising out of anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism legislation), equipment failures, natural disasters or the inadequacy or failure of systems and controls, including those of the Group's suppliers or counterparties. Although the Group has implemented risk controls and loss mitigation actions, it is not possible to be certain that such actions have been or will be effective in controlling each of the operational risks faced by the Group.

The Group is exposed to the risk of changes in tax legislation and its interpretation and to increases in the rate of corporate and other taxes in the jurisdictions in which it operates.

The Group's activities are subject to tax at various rates around the world computed in accordance with local legislation and practice. Action by governments to increase tax rates or to impose additional taxes would reduce the Group's profitability. Revisions to tax legislation or to its interpretation might also affect the Group's results in the future.

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Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

The Group's insurance businesses are subject to inherent risks involving claims.

Future claims in the Group's general and life assurance business may be higher than expected as a result of changing trends in claims experience resulting from catastrophic weather conditions, demographic developments, changes in mortality and other causes outside the Group's control. These trends could affect the profitability of current and future insurance products and services. The Group reinsures some of the risks it has assumed and is exposed to the risk of loss should its reinsurers become unable or unwilling to pay claims made by the Group against them.

The Group's operations have inherent reputational risk.

Reputational risk is inherent in the Group's business. Negative public opinion may adversely affect the Group's ability to keep and attract customers and, in particular, corporate and retail depositors.

In the United Kingdom and in other jurisdictions, the Group is responsible for contributing to compensation schemes in respect of banks and other authorised financial services firms that are unable to meet their obligations to customers. In the United Kingdom, the Financial Services Compensation Scheme is the UK's statutory fund of last resort for customers of authorised financial services firms. It is funded by levies on firms authorised by the FSA, including the Group. Other jurisdictions where the Group operates have introduced or plan to introduce similar compensation, contributory or reimbursement schemes (such as in the United States with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation). As a result the Group may incur additional costs and liabilities.

The Group's business and earnings may be affected by geopolitical conditions.

The performance of the Group is significantly influenced by the geopolitical and economic conditions in the countries in which it operates. The Group has a presence in countries where its businesses could be exposed to the risk of business interruption and economic slowdown following the outbreak of a pandemic, or the risk of sovereign default following the assumption by governments of the obligations of private sector institutions. The Group also faces the risk of trade barriers, exchange controls and other measures taken by sovereign governments which may impact a borrower's ability to repay. Terrorist acts and threats and the response to them of governments could also adversely affect levels of economic activity and have an adverse effect upon the Group's business.

The restructuring proposals for ABN AMRO are complex and may not realise the anticipated benefits for the Group.

The restructuring of ABN AMRO is complex involving substantial reorganisation of ABN AMRO's operations and legal structure. The restructuring plan is being implemented and significant elements have been completed within the planned timescales and the integration of the Group's businesses continues. However, risks remain that the Group may not realise all the anticipated benefits of the acquisition.

The recoverability of certain deferred tax assets recognised by the Group depends on the Group's ability to generate sufficient future taxable profits and there being no adverse changes to tax legislation.

In accordance with IFRS, the Group has recognised deferred tax assets on losses available to relieve future profits from tax only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered. The losses are quantified on the basis of current tax legislation and are subject to change in respect of the rate of tax or the rules for computing taxable profits and allowable losses. Failure to generate sufficient future taxable profits or changes in tax legislation may reduce the recoverable amount of the recognised deferred tax assets. If the Group participates in the APS, it is anticipated that certain UK tax losses, which are recognised as deferred tax assets, will be foregone as part consideration for the Group's participation in the scheme.

Further details on the Group's credit, liquidity and market risks are included on pages 112 to 131.

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Risk and capital management

Risk and capital management across the Group is based on the risk appetite set by the Board, which sets strategic direction, contributes to, and ultimately approves annual plans for each division, and regularly reviews and monitors the Group's performance in relation to risk through monthly Board reports.

Commentary and outlook

Whilst the future for many aspects of the global economy remains uncertain, it is clear that the first half of 2009 saw a decisive shift. The extreme volatility and risk aversion that characterised the end of 2008 moderated and equity and fixed income markets largely recovered value lost at the start of the year in a sustained rally that ran for most of the second quarter. Intervention by governments and central banks has prevented further failure in the world's financial system. At this point in what has already been a sharp economic slowdown, the key focus is on whether a broader economic recovery can be established, limiting the recession's duration.

For RBS, as for many of its peers, it appears that the full impact of the slowdown already witnessed has yet to be fully realised in terms of loan impairments. This is true for both retail portfolios, where unemployment is likely to rise further even if the broader economy stabilises, and corporate portfolios, where default rates have yet to peak. The Group's investment in remedial and collection processes is therefore of major importance. The Group is committed to working with its customers to restructure debt and aid recovery wherever possible; doing so both maximises current value and supports the Group's franchises in the longer term.

As importantly, this approach drives a focus on early identification and intervention in portfolios most exposed to economic weakness. Responsibility for this rests with the Group's businesses and functions across the Group; the Group's risk management teams continue to work closely with customer and product groups to identify vulnerable customers or portfolio segments and to implement mitigation strategies.

Recovery from a slowdown as sharp as that recently experienced, especially as it will involve the correction of material imbalances in the global economy, is likely to be accompanied by periods of volatility. Whilst not anticipating a return to the extreme uncertainty and market dislocation witnessed during the past two years, a return to the extended period of extreme stability that preceded them is also not expected. The Group's profile – in both its core and non-core activities – remains such that events in many of the world's geographies and markets have the potential to impact the Group's performance.

Effective risk management is therefore of strategic importance for RBS and refinements to the Group's risk management framework continue to be implemented. Updated limit frameworks for both credit and market risk support strategic priorities by targeting resources on areas that are core to the Group's future success. The Group will continue to invest in people, both through recruitment and development, at all levels in the risk management organisation. Through these and other changes, the risk management framework and function are being developed to support the Group's execution against its strategic plan.

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Risk and capital management (continued)

Risk governance

Risk and capital management strategy is owned and set by the Group's Board of Directors, and implemented by executive management led by the Group Chief Executive. There are a number of committees and executives that support the execution of the business plan and strategy.

Refer to the 2008 Form 20-F for further information on the risk and capital management strategy, noting the following changes:

- The Group Executive Management Committee has been replaced by the Executive Committee;
- As a result of the Group adopting a new credit approval framework based on delegated individual authority, a new forum – the Executive Credit Group – was formed to consider, on behalf of the Board of Directors, credit applications that exceed the highest level of individual authority provided by the framework; and
- The Group Chief Executive's Advisory Group (GCEAG) has been disbanded and its responsibilities assigned to other fora. Executive Committee and Management Committee members now meet twice weekly. The risk management scope of the GCEAG has been incorporated into the agenda of the Executive Risk Forum.

Presentation of information

The information in this section has been prepared on a Group before RFS Holdings minority interest basis unless otherwise indicated as prepared on a statutory basis.

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Risk and capital management (continued)

Capital

The Group aims to maintain appropriate levels of capital. For details on capital adequacy, refer to the 2008 Form 20-F.

Capital resources and ratios

The Group's regulatory capital resources on a proportional consolidation basis excluding RFS minority interest at 30 June 2009, in accordance with Financial Services Authority (FSA) definitions, were as follows:

	30 June 2009 £m	31 December 2008 £m	30 June 2008 £m
Capital base			
Core Tier 1 capital: ordinary shareholders' funds and minority interests less intangibles	35,177	34,041	26,097
Preference shares and tax deductible securities	13,949	23,091	16,200
Tax on the excess of expected losses over provisions	599	308	437
Less deductions from Tier 1 capital	(329)	(316)	(218)
Tier 1 capital	49,396	57,124	42,516
Tier 2 capital	18,879	28,967	25,966
Tier 3 capital	232	260	215
	68,507	86,351	68,697
Less: Supervisory deductions	(4,536)	(4,155)	(4,157)
Total regulatory capital	63,971	82,196	64,540
Risk-weighted (or equivalent risk-weighted) assets			
Credit risk	404,100	433,400	385,000
Counterparty risk	53,000	61,100	37,100
Market risk	56,300	46,500	32,500
Operational risk	33,900	36,800	37,100
	547,300	577,800	491,700
Risk asset ratio (Group before RFS Holdings minority interest)			
Core Tier 1	6.4%	5.9%	5.3%
Tier 1	9.0%	9.9%	8.6%
Total	11.7%	14.2%	13.1%
Risk asset ratio			
Core Tier 1	7.0%	6.6%	6.5%
Tier 1	9.3%	10.0%	9.1%
Total	11.9%	14.1%	13.2%

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Risk and capital management (continued)

Capital resources and ratios (continued)

The components of the Group's regulatory capital resources at 30 June 2009 in accordance with FSA definitions were as follows:

	30 June 2009 £m	31 December 2008 £m	30 June 2008 £m
Composition of regulatory capital			
Tier 1			
Ordinary shareholders' equity	47,820	45,525	53,283
Minority interests	2,123	5,436	5,808
Adjustments for:			
Goodwill and other intangible assets - continuing	(15,117)	(16,386)	(27,534)
Goodwill and other intangibles assets - discontinued	-	-	(47)
Unrealised losses on available-for-sale debt securities	4,194	3,687	919
Reserves arising on revaluation of property and unrealised gains on available-for-sale equities	(25)	(984)	(2,623)
Reallocation of preference shares and innovative securities	(656)	(1,813)	(1,813)
Other regulatory adjustments	(263)	9	(37)
Less expected losses over provisions net of tax	(1,502)	(770)	(1,095)
Less securitisation positions	(1,397)	(663)	(764)
Core Tier 1 capital	35,177	34,041	26,097
Preference shares	11,207	16,655	10,608
Innovative Tier 1 securities	2,742	6,436	5,592
Tax on the excess of expected losses over provisions	599	308	437
Less deductions from Tier 1 capital	(329)	(316)	(218)
Total Tier 1 capital	49,396	57,124	42,516
Tier 2			
Reserves arising on revaluation of property and unrealised gains on available-for-sale equities	25	984	2,623
Collective impairment allowances	744	666	326
Perpetual subordinated debt	4,094	9,079	8,419
Term subordinated debt	17,832	20,282	17,012
Minority and other interests in Tier 2 capital	11	11	100
Less deductions from Tier 2 capital	(3,827)	(2,055)	(2,514)
Total Tier 2 capital	18,879	28,967	25,966
Tier 3			
Supervisory deductions	232	260	215
Unconsolidated investments	4,461	4,044	4,119
Other deductions	75	111	38

Total deductions other than from Tier 1 capital	4,536	4,155	4,157
Total regulatory capital	63,971	82,196	64,540

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Risk and capital management (continued)

Credit risk

Key elements of the Group's credit risk management framework are laid out in the 2008 Form 20-F. Key developments in the first half of 2009 were:

- The introduction of a new credit approval framework for wholesale credit, replacing credit committees with individual delegated authorities and requiring at least two individuals to approve each credit decision, one from the business and one from risk management. Both parties must hold sufficient delegated authority. The level of authority granted to an individual is dependent on their experience and expertise with only a small number of senior executives holding the highest authority provided under the framework.
- Further refinement and embedding of the frameworks to manage the various dimensions of concentration risk: country, sector and single name.

Credit risk assets

Credit risk assets consist of loans and advances (including overdraft facilities), instalment credit, finance lease receivables and other traded instruments across all customer types. Reverse repurchase agreements and issuer risk are excluded.

	30 June 2009 £bn
UK Retail	98
UK Corporate	100
Wealth	14
Global Banking & Markets	264
Global Transaction Services	7
Ulster Bank	40
US Retail and Commercial	56
RBS Insurance	3
Other	-
Core	582
Non-core	156
	738

Total credit risk assets fell 14% to £738 billion at 30 June 2009, largely owing to a reduction in loans and advances to customers and banks and to the impact of sterling strengthening during the first half of the year. In the UK, credit risk assets fell only 1% while outside the UK the reduction was 22%.

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Risk and capital management (continued)

Credit risk (continued)

Credit concentration risk (including country risk)

The country risk table below shows credit risk assets exceeding £1 billion by borrower domicile for countries designated internally as risk countries. Exposure is stated gross of mitigating action which may have been taken to reduce or eliminate exposure to country risk events.

	30 June 2009				31 December 2008			
	Consumer £m	Banks, financial institutions and sovereign £m	Corporate £m	Total £m	Consumer £m	Banks, financial institutions and sovereign £m	Corporate £m	Total £m
UAE	596	1,647	2,733	4,976	757	1,813	2,989	5,559
India	970	906	3,047	4,923	1,020	743	3,801	5,564
Russia	91	290	3,305	3,686	51	362	5,361	5,774
Turkey	12	926	2,192	3,130	25	966	3,036	4,027
China	22	1,477	1,473	2,972	25	1,207	2,027	3,259
South Korea	1	1,339	1,004	2,344				