

HSBC HOLDINGS PLC
Form 6-K
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FORM 6-K

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Report of Foreign Private Issuer

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

For the month of August

HSBC Holdings plc

42nd Floor, 8 Canada Square, London E14 5HQ, England

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

Form 20-F Form 40-F

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

Yes..... No

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

**HANG SENG BANK LIMITED
2009 INTERIM RESULTS - HIGHLIGHTS**

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- Operating profit down 26.0 per cent to HK\$6,740 million (HK\$9,112 million for the first half of 2008; up 46.1 per cent compared with HK\$4,613 million for the second half of 2008).
- Operating profit excluding loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions down 20.8 per cent to HK\$7,361 million (HK\$9,300 million for the first half of 2008; up 2.2 per cent when compared with HK\$7,201 million for the second half of 2008).
- Profit before tax down 27.7 per cent to HK\$7,618 million (HK\$10,530 million for the first half of 2008; up 42.4 per cent compared with HK\$5,348 million for the second half of 2008).
- Attributable profit down 28.8 per cent to HK\$6,451 million (HK\$9,064 million for the first half of 2008; up 28.1 per cent compared with HK\$5,035 million for the second half of 2008).
- Return on average shareholders' funds of 25.1 per cent (32.8 per cent for the first half of 2008; 18.7 per cent for the second half of 2008).
- Assets up 3.7 per cent to HK\$790.1 billion (HK\$762.2 billion at 31 December 2008).
- Earnings per share down 28.9 per cent to HK\$3.37 per share (HK\$4.74 per share for the first half of 2008).
- Second interim dividend of HK\$1.10 per share; total dividends of HK\$2.20 per share for the first half of 2009 (HK\$2.20 per share for the first half of 2008).

- Capital adequacy ratio[^] of 16.6 per cent (12.5 per cent at 31 December 2008); core capital ratio of 13.1 per cent (9.5 per cent at 31 December 2008).
- Cost efficiency ratio of 30.4 per cent (26.3 per cent for the first half of 2008).

^

The capital adequacy and core capital ratios at 30 June 2009 were calculated in accordance with Basel II - advanced internal ratings-based approach which became effective on 1 January 2009, while those at 31 December 2008 were calculated in accordance with Basel II - foundation internal ratings-based approach.

Within this document, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China has been referred to as 'Hong Kong'.

Comment by Raymond Ch'ien, Chairman

Against the backdrop of the global economic crisis, Hang Seng's key financial indicators for the first half of 2009 are generally down compared with the same period last year, but have improved substantially against the second half of 2008. This highlights the success of our actions to maintain broad-based business momentum in these challenging economic times.

We have been well-served by our continued emphasis on the long-held values behind Hang Seng's trusted brand - including financial prudence, long-term partnerships and professionalism. These operating principles have helped us deepen existing customer relationships and establish new ones. Customers continue to rely on Hang Seng to help them manage their financial needs, rewarding us with their loyalty and trust.

With strong roots in our local communities, we are working hard with customers to tackle today's economic challenges, to capitalise on opportunities for sustainable growth and to support economic recovery.

We are an active player in the

Hong Kong

government's efforts to aid the business sector and promote economic activity. In the tight credit environment, we are assisting customers by extending loans under government-backed schemes aimed at small and medium-sized enterprises.

We continue to work to join up our Commercial Banking teams in Hong Kong and mainland China

as well as to introduce new initiatives such as our cross-border renminbi settlement services. In doing so, we are contributing to the infrastructure that facilitates trade activity and enhances

Hong Kong

's status as a leading international centre for finance and commerce.

We remain focused on increasing value for shareholders through careful risk management and cost control while investing in our business for future growth.

Financial Performance

Operating profit excluding loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions was HK\$7,361 million, down 20.8 per cent on the first half of 2008 but up 2.2 per cent on the second half. At HK\$6,740 million, operating profit fell by

26.0 per cent compared with a year earlier, but increased by 46.1 per cent compared with the second half of last year, reflecting the improvement in loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions.

Profit before tax recorded a decline of 27.7 per cent compared with a year earlier to HK\$7,618 million, but was up 42.4 per cent on the second half of last year.

Profit attributable to shareholders was HK\$6,451 million - a 28.8 per cent decline on the first half of 2008 but a 28.1 per cent increase on the second half. At HK\$3.37, earnings per share were down HK\$1.37, or 28.9 per cent, on the same time last year.

Net operating income before loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions fell by 16.2 per cent to HK\$10,576 million. Further emphasis on cost control saw us achieve a 3.2 per cent reduction in operating expenses to HK\$3,215 million. Our cost efficiency ratio was 30.4 per cent.

Return on average shareholders' funds was 25.1 per cent, compared with 32.8 per cent and 18.7 per cent for the first and second halves of 2008 respectively. Return on average total assets was 1.7 per cent - down 0.7 percentage points compared with the first half of last year but up 0.4 percentage points on the second half.

On 30 June 2009, our capital adequacy ratio and core capital ratio were 16.6 per cent and 13.1 per cent respectively, as calculated using the 'advanced internal ratings-based approach' under Basel II, compared with 12.5 per cent and 9.5 per cent as calculated using the 'foundation internal ratings-based approach' under Basel II at the end of last year. The strengthening of these ratios largely reflects profit growth after accounting for dividends in the first half of the year, the improvement in the available-for-sale debt securities reserve due to the narrowing of credit spreads and a change in calculation methodology.

The Directors have declared a second interim dividend of HK\$1.10 per share, payable on 2 September 2009. This brings the total distribution for the first half of 2009 to HK\$2.20 per share, the same as in the first half of last year.

Outlook

Following the implementation of large-scale fiscal and monetary stimulus programmes in many major economies, there are some early signs that the pace of global economic contraction has begun to moderate. However, operating conditions will remain challenging on the road to worldwide recovery.

The mainland economy has shown itself to be more resilient than most. Demand for exports has declined sharply, but comprehensive government efforts to promote economic activity have helped support continued domestic consumption.

As a highly open economy,
Hong Kong

has seen contraction in both export and domestic sectors. Action by the government is offering important assistance to businesses, but given the city's significant dependence on external demand, economic recovery among its major trading partners will be a crucial factor in regaining growth momentum.

Hang Seng's solid financial fundamentals and strong brand will remain important stabilising forces in uncertain market conditions.

We will continue to uphold our core principles and further enhance our relationships with customers and other stakeholders as we work to achieve long-term growth.

Review by Margaret Leung, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive

Hang Seng's well-respected brand, premium service, and prudent approach to business helped differentiate us from our peers in the challenging operating conditions experienced during the first half of 2009. Supported by our diverse portfolio of products, we adapted to the changing needs of customers - maintaining a strong position and achieving increased market share in both loans and deposits compared with the end of last year.

While working to protect our business against the effects of the global economic turbulence, we remained committed to developing wealth management, Commercial Banking and mainland
China
business as key drivers of long-term growth.

In the uncertain investment environment, we provided customers with yield enhancement opportunities through more defensive products. Our wide range of insurance solutions helped us increase our
Hong Kong
market share for life insurance (in terms of new business) to 16.3 per cent during the first quarter of the year. We strengthened wealth management growth prospects by expanding product offerings for commercial customers and on the Mainland.

Our cross-border Commercial Banking services and offering of government-guaranteed SME loans provided valuable support to new and existing customers in the difficult economic conditions.

In the changing credit conditions, Corporate Banking improved loan pricing, underpinning solid growth in net interest income.

Treasury moved forward with its strategy for enhancing the quality and performance of the balance sheet management portfolio and capitalised on increased customer interest in foreign exchange-linked investments.

Assisted by close collaboration between colleagues in Hong Kong and on the Mainland, Hang Seng Bank (

China

) Limited further enhanced service delivery and widened its product range. This helped drive a 45 per cent increase in the customer base compared with a year earlier.

Customer Groups

Personal Financial Services recorded a 34.4 per cent decline in profit before tax to HK\$3,467 million, due mainly to the substantial fall in wealth management income compared with the same period last year in the adverse investment environment. Operating profit excluding loan impairment charges was down 30.4 per cent at HK\$3,579 million. However, profit before tax and operating profit excluding loan impairment charges were up by 10.9 per cent and 7.6 per cent respectively compared with the second half of 2008.

Wealth management income was HK\$2,176 million - down 31.7 per cent on the first half of last year, but up 35.8 per cent compared with the second half.

Our new Securities Select Customer Trading Centre capitalised on rising investor interest in securities during the second quarter and we achieved growth in the securities account base and market share. Income from securities broking and related services fell by 15 per cent but grew by 25.4 per cent compared with the first and second halves of 2008 respectively. We achieved record turnover in sales of foreign exchange-linked investment deposits.

Overall, investment-related income was up 3.3 per cent on the second half of last year, but down 52.7 per cent on the first half, due mainly to the significantly lower level of investor transactions. Private Banking was also affected by poor investment sentiment, with income down by 70.5 per cent.

Supported by our comprehensive range of life insurance products, we achieved a 12.7 per cent rise in policies in force and a 19.1 per cent increase in total annualised premiums to HK\$13.0 billion. Life insurance income grew by 20.4 per cent compared with the first half of 2008 and 110.6 per cent compared with the second half.

Despite narrowing spreads on deposits and mortgage loans, net interest income declined only slightly by 6.5 per cent to HK\$4,015 million, due to our successful strategy to improve investment returns on the life insurance portfolio.

A series of customer acquisition and card utilisation campaigns helped us expand our credit card business and we gained market share in terms of the card base, spending and receivables. In competitive conditions, we leveraged our online services to maintain a strong position in mortgage lending, ranking first for equitable mortgages and second for residential mortgages in Hong Kong during the first quarter of the year.

Commercial Banking's operating profit excluding loan impairment charges was HK\$951 million - down 22 per cent and 16.2 per cent on the first and second halves of last year respectively. Total operating income was down 12.9 per cent, due largely to an 18.5 per cent drop in net interest income.

Average customer deposits grew by 3.1 per cent, but margin compression in the near-zero interest rate environment led to a 48.7 per cent decline in related net interest income. Reduced international trade flows resulted in a 4.9 per cent drop in average customer advances and a 23.4 per cent fall in trade finance. The repricing of loans to reflect prevailing credit conditions underpinned a 16.9 per cent increase in net interest income from advances.

Commercial Banking's non-interest income fell by a modest 5.4 per cent. We focused on structured deposits to serve customers looking for lower-risk yield enhancement. A strengthened product suite and coordinated marketing efforts drove the 230.3 per cent increase in corporate life insurance income. Corporate wealth management business contributed 12.9 per cent to Commercial Banking's total operating income, up from 10.4 per cent in 2008.

We continued to assist SMEs dealing with tough operating conditions. Since late 2008, we have approved over 3,400 government-guaranteed SME loans - totalling more than HK\$10 billion.

Commercial Banking's profit before tax was down 36.6 per cent at HK\$1,080 million, due mainly to higher loan impairment charges in the difficult economic environment. With continued vigilance in risk management, asset quality overall remained within our expectations. Much improved market conditions in the first half of this year led to a 66.4 per cent reduction in loan impairment charges compared with the second half of 2008, reflected in the 40.8 per cent increase in profit before tax compared with the second half of last year.

Corporate Banking recorded an operating profit excluding loan impairment charges of HK\$517 million - a 41.6 per cent increase compared with the first half of 2008 and a 14.9 per cent increase compared with the second half. At HK\$449 million, profit before tax was up 23.0 per cent and 60.4 per cent compared with the first and second halves of last year respectively.

Total operating income grew by 31.4 per cent, driven largely by the 31.9 per cent increase in net interest income. Supported by a strong balance sheet and liquidity, we continued to provide customers with new and renewed facilities while adjusting pricing in line with the credit environment, achieving a 66.2 per cent rise in net interest income from advances. Net interest income from deposits was down 34.5 per cent, with the increase in low-cost current and savings account deposits only partly offsetting the fall in time deposits.

Treasury's operating profit excluding credit risk provisions grew by 6.2 per cent to HK\$1,804 million. Compared with the second half of last year, operating profit excluding credit risk provisions increased by 34.7 per cent. We continued with our prudent risk management strategy - striving for stable revenue growth through investment in selected high-quality negotiable instruments.

In challenging market conditions, we maintained the momentum of customer-driven Treasury business by focusing on the increased demand for foreign exchange-linked products.

Treasury's profit before tax grew by 1.7 per cent to HK\$2,017 million.

Mainland Business

As at 30 June 2009, Hang Seng
China

's network stood at 34 outlets across 11 cities.

Significant growth in the customer base - driven by the further development of wealth management offerings and growing Commercial Banking capabilities - helped support an increase in net interest income, with total operating income rising by 19.9 per cent.

Under our strategy to create a springboard for future deposits growth, we continued to target the affluent personal customer segment, achieving a 77.0 per cent rise in Prestige Banking customers compared with a year earlier.

In the uncertain economic conditions, we took a prudent approach to lending - emphasising loan quality over business growth - resulting in a 12.9 per cent decline in customer advances. We further strengthened the management of credit risk and operational risk. Loan impairment charges were higher compared with the first half of 2008, but significantly lower compared with the second half. Deposits rose by 1.2 per cent.

Profit before tax recorded steady growth. Higher total operating income and a reduction in losses on the revaluation of US dollar capital funds against the renminbi were partly offset by the cost of network expansion, investment in human resources and the rise in loan impairment charges.

We continued to work with Industrial Bank to good effect. Our dual-branded credit card is now one of the favoured cards on the Mainland among younger generations and we are stepping up collaboration in areas such as wealth management and trade services.

Our cooperation with new strategic partner Yantai Bank Co., Ltd moved forward with the launch of its updated corporate image and tagline.

Including the share of profits from strategic partners, our Mainland business contributed 11.7 per cent to total profit before tax, compared with 9.4 per cent in the first half of 2008.

Looking Ahead

The global financial crisis that broke out in 2008 continues to pose challenges for business. Although major economies across the world have introduced stimulus measures, it is too soon to tell how successful such measures will be in driving sustainable growth momentum.

With
Hong Kong

's economy heavily reliant on trade, the outlook for the rest of the year and into 2010 remains cloudy. New investment projects and solid domestic consumption are helping to revive economic growth on the Mainland, although the pace is likely to be slower than that achieved in the past decade.

We will further enhance our product and service offerings to drive the expansion of our customer base - particularly among segments such as the affluent and young people - and provide greater choice for investors.

In mid July, our attractive promotion on IPO margin financing received an excellent customer response, with Personal Financial Services achieving a new high for staggging finance and a new high in the amount of financing applied for online - which reached 74 per cent. Towards the end of the month, we became the first financial institution in Hong Kong to obtain permission from the Financial Supervisory Commission in

Taiwan

to make dual-listing applications with the Taiwan Stock Exchange for two of our exchange-traded funds (ETFs) - the Hang Seng Index ETF and the Hang Seng H-Share Index ETF.

Making full use of our distribution, product manufacturing and time-to-market strengths, we will continue to tailor financial services to meet customer needs in changing economic conditions.

Our strong cross-border capabilities and the expansion of our corporate wealth management proposition will help us deepen relationships with commercial customers and attract new business.

Treasury will continue to actively manage its portfolio to achieve an optimal mix of investments that strikes a good balance between risk and return.

We will further strengthen our profile on the Mainland through brand-building initiatives and strategic business collaboration with our local partners. Hang Seng

China

will open more outlets in high-potential cities, focusing particularly on the Pearl River Delta region to take advantage of the new opportunities for business expansion provided under CEPA VI.

Businesses across the board will continue to be tested in the second half of 2009. With its highly respected brand and dedicated staff, Hang Seng is well positioned to overcome the obstacles that lie ahead and build on its competitive

strengths to capture future opportunities for growth.

Results summary

Hang Seng Bank Limited ('the bank') and its subsidiaries and associates ('the group') reported an unaudited profit attributable to shareholders of HK\$6,451 million for the first half of 2009, down 28.8 per cent compared with the first half of 2008. Despite the challenging macroeconomic environment and continuing difficulties in the financial markets, the group achieved growth of 28.1 per cent against the second half of 2008, due mainly to the HK\$1,967 million reduction in loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions. Earnings per share were HK\$3.37, down HK\$1.37 compared with the same period last year.

- Operating profit excluding loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions

fell by HK\$1,939 million, or 20.8 per cent, to HK\$7,361 million. Affected by the worldwide economic downturn and deteriorating operating conditions, net interest income and non-interest income both recorded significant declines. Operating expenses were contained at a lower level than last year.

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Net interest income

decreased by HK\$977 million, or 11.8 per cent, despite the 4.2 per cent increase in average interest-earning assets. Markedly reduced deposit spreads and a lower contribution from net free funds in the near-zero interest rate environment outweighed the benefits from improved loan spreads.

Net interest margin

for the first half of 2009 was 2.06 per cent - down 37 basis points compared with the same period last year. Net interest spread dropped by 21 basis points to 1.99 per cent and the contribution from net free funds declined by 16 basis points to 0.07 per cent.

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Net fees and commissions income

dropped by HK\$1,101 million, or 36.4 per cent, to HK\$1,926 million, due largely to reduced demand for investment-related products as a result of negative market sentiment. The volatility in global equity markets and the unfavourable investment climate dampened investor activity, with income from sales of retail investment funds and third party structured investment products fell by 70.8 per cent and 98.3 per cent respectively. With lower stock market turnover, income generated from stockbroking and related services fell by 14.7 per cent. Private banking recorded a 74.0 per cent drop in fee income, reflecting the diminished client appetite for trading and structured products. To meet the insurance needs of customers, the group offered a comprehensive range of health and wealth insurance solutions for all life stages. This drove a 90.7 per cent rise in insurance fee income and helped to increase the group's market share to 16.3 per cent in terms of new business in the first quarter of the year. Credit card business also continued to gain market share in terms of cards in issue, spending and receivables and achieved encouraging fee income growth of 5.8 per cent.

- Trading income

improved by HK\$276 million, or 36.4 per cent, to HK\$1,035 million. Foreign exchange income registered significant growth of HK\$395 million, or 73.8 per cent, attributable partly to increased trading net interest income from funding swaps and the continued strong customer demand for foreign exchanged-linked structured products. The rise was also driven by the reduced losses on the revaluation of certain US dollar capital funds - maintained in the bank's mainland subsidiary bank and subject to regulatory controls - against the renminbi. Securities, derivatives and other trading income dropped by HK\$119 million, or 53.1 per cent, resulting from the shrinking demand for equity-linked investment products.

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Income

from insurance business, including

net earned insurance premiums, net interest income, net fee income and net income from financial instruments designated at fair value, the change in present value of in-force business,
and after deducting

net insurance claims incurred and movement in policyholders' liabilities,

grew by HK\$242 million, or 24.0 per cent, to HK\$1,251 million. Life insurance business was ranked No. 2 in Hong Kong

in terms of direct new business, with a market share of 16.3 per cent for the first quarter of 2009. To cater for the increase in customer concerns about health issues, more emphasis was placed on products offering greater protection and medical coverage. Net interest income and fee income from life insurance business grew by 58.2 per cent, attributable mainly to the increase in the size of the investment portfolio. Investment returns on life insurance funds also improved significantly from a loss of HK\$1,030 million in the first half of 2008 to a loss of HK\$133 million in the first half of 2009.

- Net operating income

before loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions

decreased by HK\$2,044 million, or 16.2 per cent, to HK\$10,576 million.

- Operating expenses

were reduced by HK\$105 million, or 3.2 per cent, compared with the first half of 2008. With the deterioration in financial and economic conditions, the bank maintained strict cost control. Excluding mainland business, operating expenses dropped by 4.7 per cent, attributable largely to lower performance-related pay expenses and marketing expenditure. Mainland-related operating expenses rose by 9.1 per cent, reflecting the expansion of the bank's wholly owned mainland banking subsidiary, Hang Seng Bank (China) Limited ('Hang Seng China'), from 30 to 34 outlets as well as the increase in headcount from 1,312 to 1,411 in the last twelve months.

- Operating profit

was down by HK\$2,372 million, or 26.0 per cent, to HK\$6,740 million, after accounting for the HK\$433 million increase in

loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions

in the uncertain economic conditions. Compared with the second half of 2008, operating profit grew strongly by HK\$2,127 million, or 46.1 per cent, due mainly to the substantial reduction in loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions as a result of the more stable financial markets and credit environment in the first half of 2009.

- Profit before tax

was down by 27.7 per cent at HK\$7,618 million after taking the following items into account:

- a 77.6 per cent (or HK\$191 million) fall in **gains less losses from financial investments and fixed assets** ;
- a 73.8 per cent (or HK\$169 million) decrease in **net surplus on property revaluation** ; and
- a 19.1 per cent

(or HK\$180 million)

drop in

share of profits from associates

, mainly Industrial Bank Co., Ltd. ('Industrial Bank') and a property investment associated company.

Consolidated financial positions and key ratios

Total assets

increased by HK\$28.0 billion, or 3.7 per cent, to HK\$790.1 billion. In light of the weak global economy and the fact that financial markets were still recovering from the credit crisis, Treasury continued to take a highly prudent approach in managing its accrual investments. Surplus funds arising from trading assets that matured in the first half of 2009 were redeployed to interbank placements and available-for-sale debt securities to attain yield enhancement in light of the more stable financial market. As a result, financial investments rose by 24.4 per cent - primarily in high-quality debt securities which included government guaranteed debt securities. Customer advances dropped slightly by 1.1 per cent, due mainly to the fall in mainland lending as Hang Seng China refined loan risk criteria to emphasise lending quality over business expansion in the uncertain credit environment. In a highly competitive market, the group was able to sustain a leading position in mortgage business, recording encouraging growth in its residential mortgage lending. Customer deposits rose by HK\$24.7 billion, or 4.1 per cent, to HK\$629.2 billion, reflecting customers' lukewarm attitude towards investment and a preference for liquidity in the uncertain market conditions. At 30 June 2009, the advances-to-deposits ratio was 51.7 per cent, compared with 54.4 per cent and 58.1 per cent at the end of December 2008 and June 2008 respectively.

As at 30 June 2009, shareholders' funds (excluding proposed dividends) were HK\$51,158 million, an increase of HK\$5,268 million, or 11.5 per cent. Retained profits rose by HK\$3,564 million, reflecting the increase in attributable profit (excluding first and second interim dividends) for the first half of 2009. The available-for-sale investments reserve improved by HK\$1,819 million, due mainly to the narrowing of credit spreads as a result of stabilisation in credit markets.

The
return on average total assets
was 1.7 per cent, compared with 2.4 per cent and 1.3 per cent for the first and second halves of 2008 respectively.

The
return on average shareholders' funds
was 25.1 per cent (32.8 per cent in the first half of 2008 and 18.7 per cent in the second half of 2008).

At 30 June 2009, the
capital adequacy ratio
was 16.6 per cent, up from 12.5 per cent at the end of 2008. The

core capital ratio
was 13.1
per cent, up from 9.5 per cent. The ratios were calculated in accordance with the internal ratings-based approach under the Banking (Capital) Rules issued by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority for the implementation of Basel II. Effective 1 January 2009, the bank has migrated to the 'advanced internal ratings-based approach' under the Basel II framework to calculate its capital ratios. The capital adequacy ratio and core capital ratio at 31 December 2008 were calculated using the 'foundation internal ratings-based approach'.

The strengthening of these ratios largely reflects profit growth after accounting for dividends in the first half of the year, the improvement in the available-for-sale debt securities reserve due to the narrowing of credit spreads and a change in calculation methodology.

The bank maintained a strong liquidity position. The

average liquidity ratio

for the first half of 2009 was 47.5 per cent (calculated in accordance with the Fourth Schedule of the Hong Kong Banking Ordinance), compared with 47.3 per cent for the first half of 2008.

The cost efficiency ratio for the first half of 2009 was 30.4 per cent, compared with 26.3 per cent and 32.5 per cent for the first and second halves of 2008 respectively.

Dividends

The Directors have declared a second interim dividend of HK\$1.10 per share, which will be payable on 2 September 2009 to shareholders on the register of shareholders as of 18 August 2009. Together with the first interim dividend, the total distribution for the first half of 2009 will amount to HK\$2.20 per share, the same as in the first half of 2008.

Customer group performance

<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>	<i>Personal Financial Services</i>	<i>Commercial Banking</i>	<i>Corporate Banking</i>	<i>Treasury</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total Reportable Segment</i>	<i>Inter- segment elimination</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Half-year ended 30 June 2009</i>								
Net interest income	4,015	987	583	1,353	337	7,275	—	7,275
Net fee income/(expense)	1,294	524	79	(19)	48	1,926	—	1,926
Trading income/(loss)	317	115	10	616	(23)	1,035	—	1,035
Net loss from financial instruments designated at fair value	(170)	—	—	(9)	(16)	(195)	—	(195)
Dividend income	1	—	—	—	4	5	—	5
Net earned insurance premiums	6,549	108	1	—	—	6,658	—	6,658
Other operating income	264	15	1	—	307	587	(237)	350
Total operating income	12,270	1,749	674	1,941	657	17,291	(237)	17,054
Net insurance claims incurred and movement in policyholders' liabilities	(6,413)	(65)	—	—	—	(6,478)	—	(6,478)
Net operating income before loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions	5,857	1,684	674	1,941	657	10,813	(237)	10,576
Loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions	(274)	(263)	(82)	(2)	—	(621)	—	(621)
Net operating income	5,583	1,421	592	1,939	657	10,192	(237)	9,955
Total operating expenses ^	(2,278)	(733)	(157)	(137)	(147)	(3,452)	237	(3,215)
Operating profit	3,305	688	435	1,802	510	6,740	—	6,740
Gains less losses from	96	53	14	(95)	(13)	55	—	55

financial investments and fixed assets								
Net surplus on property revaluation	—	—	—	—	60	60	—	
Share of profits from associates	66	339	—	310	48	763	—	7
Profit before tax	3,467	1,080	449	2,017	605	7,618	—	7,6
Share of profit before tax	45.5%	14.2%	5.9%	26.5%	7.9%	100.0%	—	100
Operating profit excluding loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions	3,579	951	517	1,804	510	7,361	—	7,3
^								
Depreciation/amortisation included in total operating expenses	(82)	(15)	(4)	(2)	(162)	(265)	—	(2)
At 30 June 2009								
Total assets	218,251	84,180	90,115	366,245	31,330	790,121	—	790,1
Total liabilities	542,284	106,419	32,593	27,141	28,423	736,860	—	736,8
Investments in associates	683	3,608	—	2,666	2,372	9,329	—	9,3
<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>	<i>Personal Financial Services</i>	<i>Commercial Banking</i>	<i>Corporate Banking</i>	<i>Treasury</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total Reportable Segment</i>	<i>Inter-segment elimination</i>	<i>Total</i>
Half-year ended 30 June 2008								
Net interest income	4,295	1,211	442	1,536	768	8,252	—	8,252
Net fee income/(expense)	2,380	547	61	(17)	56	3,027	—	3,027
Trading income/(loss)	485	125	8	294	(153)	759	—	759
Net (loss)/income from financial instruments designated at fair value	(1,029)	(1)	—	6	—	(1,024)	—	(1,024)
Dividend income	17	5	—	—	32	54	—	54
Net earned insurance premiums	6,832	96	2	—	—	6,930	—	6,930
Other operating income/(loss)	435	24	—	(1)	300	758	(233)	522
Total operating income	13,415	2,007	513	1,818	1,003	18,756	(233)	18,523
Net insurance claims incurred and movement	(5,843)	(59)	(1)	—	—	(5,903)	—	(5,903)

in policyholders'
liabilities

**Net operating income
before loan impairment
charges and other credit
risk Provisions**

	7,572	1,948	512	1,818	1,003	12,853	(233)	12,620
Loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions	(86)	(71)	(31)	—	—	(188)	—	(188)
Net operating income	7,486	1,877	481	1,818	1,003	12,665	(233)	12,432
Total operating expenses [^]	(2,431)	(729)	(147)	(120)	(126)	(3,553)	233	(3,320)
Operating profit	5,055	1,148	334	1,698	877	9,112	—	9,112
Gains less losses from financial investments and fixed assets	175	96	31	—	(56)	246	—	246
Net surplus on property reevaluation	—	—	—	—	229	229	—	229
Share of profits from associates	54	459	—	285	145	943	—	943
Profit before tax	5,284	1,703	365	1,983	1,195	10,530	—	10,530
Share of profit before tax	50.2%	16.2%	3.5%	18.8%	11.3%	100.0%	—	100.0%

Operating profit excluding
loan impairment charges
and other credit risk
provisions

	5,141	1,219	365	1,698	877	9,300	—	9,300
--	-------	-------	-----	-------	-----	-------	---	-------

[^]
*Depreciation/amortisation
included in total
operating
expenses*

	(64)	(11)	(3)	(2)	(148)	(228)	—	(228)
--	------	------	-----	-----	-------	-------	---	-------

At 30 June 2008

Total assets	210,593	93,416	85,595	320,004	38,308	747,916	—	747,916
Total liabilities	473,224	96,559	46,288	37,937	38,300	692,308	—	692,308
Investments in associates	379	2,412	—	1,923	2,435	7,149	—	7,149

<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>	<i>Personal Financial Services</i>	<i>Commercial Banking</i>	<i>Corporate Banking</i>	<i>Treasury</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total Reportable Segments</i>	<i>Inter- segment elimination</i>	<i>Total</i>
-------------------------	--	-------------------------------	------------------------------	-----------------	--------------	--	---	--------------

**Half-year ended
31 December 2008**

Net interest income	4,405	1,200	546	1,146	683	7,980	—	7,980
Net fee income/(expense)	1,316	519	66	(16)	57	1,942	—	1,942

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Trading income/(loss)	258	120	10	347	(39)	696	—	696
Net (loss)/income from financial instruments designated at fair value	(14)	(1)	—	(16)	24	(7)	—	(7)
Dividend income	8	5	—	—	15	28	—	28
Net earned insurance premiums	5,303	117	1	—	—	5,421	—	5,421
Other operating income	4	30	2	5	371	412	(236)	176
Total operating income	11,280	1,990	625	1,466	1,111	16,472	(236)	16,236
Net insurance claims incurred and movement								
in policyholders' liabilities	(5,506)	(54)	—	—	—	(5,560)	—	(5,560)
Net operating income before loan impairment charges and other credit risk Provisions	5,774	1,936	625	1,466	1,111	10,912	(236)	10,676
Loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions	(261)	(782)	(170)	(1,375)	—	(2,588)	—	(2,588)
Net operating income	5,513	1,154	455	91	1,111	8,324	(236)	8,088
Total operating expenses ^	(2,448)	(801)	(175)	(127)	(160)	(3,711)	236	(3,475)
Operating profit/(loss)	3,065	353	280	(36)	951	4,613	—	4,613
Gains less losses from financial investments and fixed assets	(19)	(11)	—	(84)	135	21	—	21
Net surplus/(deficit) on property revaluation	—	—	—	—	(150)	(150)	—	(150)
Share of profits/(losses) from associates	80	425	—	416	(57)	864	—	864
Profit before tax	3,126	767	280	296	879	5,348	—	5,348
Share of profit before tax	58.5%	14.4%	5.2%	5.5%	16.4%	100.0%	—	100.0%
Operating profit excluding loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions	3,326	1,135	450	1,339	951	7,201	—	7,201
^								
<i>Depreciation/amortisation included in total operating expenses</i>	(76)	(13)	(4)	(1)	(170)	(264)	—	(264)
At 31 December 2008								
Total assets	211,092	85,791	93,570	345,920	25,795	762,168	—	762,168

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Total liabilities	508,596	96,905	41,981	34,575	28,485	710,542	—	710,542
Investments in associates	501	3,194	—	2,784	2,391	8,870	—	8,870

Personal Financial Services ('PFS')

reported a profit before tax of HK\$3,467 million for the first half of 2009, 34.4 per cent lower than same period last year but up 10.9 per cent on the second half, due mainly to the continuing impact of the unfavourable economic conditions and reduced customer appetite for wealth management investment services. Operating profit excluding loan impairment charges was down 30.4 per cent at HK\$3,579 million but up 7.6 per cent compared with the second half of last year.

Despite lower interest spreads on deposits and secured lending in the low interest rate environment, net interest income was down only 6.5 per cent at HK\$4,015 million, having benefited from improved investment returns on the insurance funds portfolio.

Unsecured lending business registered strong year-on-year growth of 16.5 per cent in operating income, due mainly to the expansion of credit cards in force as well as card spending and receivables. Working within closely monitored credit risk parameters, PFS grew its card base to 1.8 million, representing a year-on-year increase of 9.1 per cent. The bank's customer loyalty scheme and card utilisation programmes drove up card spending by 5.3 per cent to HK\$27.5 billion - outperforming the market which shrank.

In the active property loans market, the bank maintained a leading position for total mortgage loans with a market share of 15.2 per cent as of June 2009.

Non-interest income was affected by weak investor sentiment at the start of 2009, falling by 43.8 per cent compared with the same period last year, but up 34.6 per cent on the second half. Fee income from the selling of investment products and private banking declined significantly compared with a year earlier. Nevertheless, securities turnover achieved robust growth, reaching a 17-month high of HK\$52.3 billion in June 2009.

Life insurance recorded solid sales with year-on-year growth of 12.7 per cent in terms of policies in force. Total annualised premiums amounted to HK\$13 billion - up 19.1 per cent compared with a year earlier. Against a backdrop of strong competition, life insurance products were revamped to include new embedded benefits, which helped drive an increase in market share to 16.3 per cent in terms of new business in the first quarter of the year.

PFS continued to expand the self-directed customer segment with innovative service propositions. Personal e-banking exceeded 920,000

registered customers in the first half of 2009 and enrolment for the e-Statement service grew by 23.2 per cent

. In May, the bank launched its pioneering mobile phone-based straight-through travel insurance application service.

Commercial Banking ('CMB')

contributed 14.2 per cent to the bank's total pre-tax profit in the first half of 2009, down 2.0 percentage points on a year earlier. Operating profit excluding loan impairment charges fell by 22.0 per cent to HK\$951 million, due primarily to narrowing deposit spreads in the near-zero interest rate environment. With increased loan impairment charges in the poor economic environment and a lower contribution from associates, profit before tax dropped by 36.6 per cent to HK\$1,080 million. In challenging market conditions, CMB managed to contain the upward trend in loan impairment charges by further refining its prudent credit policies to sharpen the focus on high-quality lending, reflected in the 40.8 per cent increase in profit before tax compared with the second half of last year.

Average customer advances fell by 4.9 per cent against the backdrop of the significant slowdown in global economic activity. Trade finance declined by 23.4 per cent, reflecting reduced export trade. In the changing credit environment, CMB actively managed its loans portfolio to improve pricing. However, falling deposit spreads dampened the positive effects of the 3.1 per cent rise in average customer deposits, leading to an overall decline of 18.5 per cent in net interest income.

CMB continued to leverage its strong customer relationships to expand corporate wealth management. Underpinned by a strengthened product suite and coordinated marketing efforts, CMB made good progress with growing corporate life insurance business, recording an encouraging 230.3 per cent rise in income. In response to the changing investment sentiment, CMB rapidly shifted its focus to 'back-to-basic' investments such as structured products and securities trading. This helped cushion the adverse effects of the slow investment environment, resulting in a drop of 14.7 per cent in corporate wealth management revenue. Corporate wealth management contributed 12.9 per cent of CMB's total operating income.

In line with the increasingly strong economic linkages between Hong Kong and the Mainland, CMB continued to pursue a strategy of offering one-stop seamless financial solutions to middle-market enterprises ('MMEs') through its cross-border commercial banking teams in Hong Kong, the Mainland and Macau.

Recognising the crucial role that small and medium-sized enterprises ('SMEs') have to play in driving the economy, the HKSAR Government launched a package of relief measures to support SMEs, including the SME Loan Guarantee Scheme ('SGS') and Special Loan Guarantee Scheme ('SpGS'). In support of the schemes, CMB launched a series of marketing campaigns, including print and radio advertisements, that included preferential offers, a pre-approved direct mailing programme and customer seminars. The Bank has approved over 3,400 applications with a total loan amount of more than HK\$10 billion.

CMB continued to encourage customers to switch to online and automated channels to enable the more efficient use of bank resources. As at 30 June 2009, over 71,000 customers had registered for Business e-Banking services, up 22.7 per cent on a year earlier. During the same period, the number of online business transactions grew by 13.9 per cent and branch counter transactions fell by 17.4 per cent.

Corporate Banking ('CIB')

achieved an increase of 41.6 per cent in operating profit excluding loan impairment charges, driven largely by satisfactory growth of 31.9 per cent in net interest income. Compared with the second half of last year, operating profit excluding loan impairment charges was up 14.9 per cent. Advances to customers decreased slightly by 3.6

per cent compared with the end of last year, mainly due to fewer advances to manufacturing and real estate companies and hotels and restaurants. Profit before tax rose by HK\$84

million, or 23.0

per cent, to HK\$449

million.

Throughout the first half of 2009, CIB supported customers with new or renewed facilities while adjusting pricing in line with the credit environment. Net interest income from advances grew by 66.2 per cent.

CIB continued to focus on better yield transactions and remained active in financing the Mainland projects of Hong Kong-based corporations as well as working to expand its customer base.

Treasury ('TRY')

reported satisfactory year-on-year growth of 6.8 per cent in operating income, due mainly to stable interest margins on the balance sheet management portfolio under the bank's strategy of investing in selected high-quality securities. Operating income was up 32.4 per cent compared with the second half of last year. Net trading income for the first six months of 2009 doubled compared with the same period last year, providing momentum for operating income to outperform. The remarkable performance of net trading income was mainly attributable to the increase in trading net interest income from funding swaps and strong customer demand for foreign exchange-linked structured products.

Treasury's net interest income registered at HK\$1,353 million for the first half of 2009, 11.9 per cent lower than same period last year. Including the net increase of HK\$471 million in funding swa

p^

income (described below) - which was recognised as foreign exchange income - net interest income rose by HK\$288 million, or 22.7 per cent. In the face of an uncertain operating environment, Treasury continued its prudent risk management strategy by striving to achieve an optimal mix of income sources from accrual investments.

Net operating income after credit risk provisions registered satisfactory growth of 6.7 per cent, or HK\$121 million. The improvement in global credit markets noted from the second quarter of 2009 saved the bank from suffering significant fair value losses and having to make further provisions for potential impairments.

Treasury also made good use of opportunities to dispose of higher-risk assets in the balance sheet management portfolio. This strategy significantly improved the credit quality and marked-to-market performance of the portfolio. However, with the accompanying disposal loss of HK\$95 million, profit before tax recorded only modest growth of 1.7 per cent to HK\$2,017 million - representing 26.5 per cent of the group's total profit before tax.

^

Treasury from time to time employs foreign exchange swaps for its funding activities, which in essence involve swapping a currency ('original currency') into another currency ('swap currency') at the spot exchange rate for short-term placement and simultaneously entering into a forward exchange contract to convert the funds back to the original currency on maturity of the placement. In accordance with HKAS39, the exchange difference of the spot and forward contracts is required to be recognised as a foreign exchange gain/loss, while the corresponding interest differential between the original and swap funding is reflected in net interest income.

Mainland business

At 30 June 2009, Hang Seng Bank (China) Limited ('Hang Seng China')

operated a network of 34 outlets in

Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Dongguan, Shenzhen, Fuzhou, Nanjing, Hangzhou, Ningbo, Tianjin and Kunming.

The bank has a branch in Shenzhen for foreign currency wholesale business and a representative office in Xiamen

.

In the uncertain credit environment, greater caution in extending new loans saw lending drop by 12.9 per cent compared to the end of 2008. Customer deposits rose slightly by 1.2 per cent, affected by customers' tightened liquidity and increased cautiousness towards foreign banks following the financial tsunami. Adverse market conditions notwithstanding, Hang Seng

China

was able to maintain solid growth in its customer base, which increased by 14 per cent compared with 31 December 2008. The total number of Prestige Banking customers grew by 21 per cent. Total operating income rose by 19.9 per cent, with encouraging growth in net interest income and the reduced exchange losses upon the revaluation of US dollar capital funds against the renminbi partly offset by the reduction in other non-interest income.

Hang Seng

China

continued to enrich and diversify its product offerings to cater for different market conditions and promote wealth management awareness among its target customers. Hang Seng

China

is the only locally incorporated foreign bank to have launched partially protected renminbi equity linked investment products, offering debit cards and joining the bankcard association of China UnionPay. The award-winning 'Easy Touch' and the index-linked '

Ping

Pang

Range

' were launched in response to increased customer demand for capital protected investment products. Variations such as the transfer-in mortgage and guaranteed company mortgage loan were added to mortgage products to capture more business.

Hang Seng

China

is striving to improve its network and business development efficiency by increasing its penetration in four key cities. Resources are also being redeployed to achieve greater management and operational efficiency. Management of credit risk and operational risk continues to be strengthened through proactive risk management practices.

The bank remains firmly committed to developing its mainland business, both through its own presence and long-term strategic relationships within strategic mainland partners. The bank's newest mainland associate, Yantai Bank Co., Ltd, began to contribute profit during the first half of 2009. Including the bank's share of profit from Industrial Bank Co., Ltd, mainland business contributed 11.7 per cent of total profit before tax, compared with 9.4 per cent for the first half of 2008.

Contents

The financial information in this news release is based on the unaudited consolidated financial statements of Hang Seng Bank Limited ('the bank') and its subsidiaries and associates ('the group') for the six months ended 30 June 2009.

1

Highlights of Results

2

Chairman's Comment

4

Chief Executive's Review

9

Results Summary

13

Customer Group Performance

19

Mainland Business

20

Contents

22

Consolidated Income Statement	23
Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income	24
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position	25
Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity	27
Consolidated Cash Flow Statement	28
Financial Review	
28	
Net interest income	30
Net fee income	31
Trading income	32
Net loss from financial instruments designated at fair value	32
Other operating income	33
Analysis of income from wealth management business	35
Loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions	36
Operating expenses	37
Gains less losses from financial investments and fixed assets	38
Tax expense	39
Earnings per share	39
Dividends per share	39
Segmental analysis	42
Cash and balances with banks and other financial institutions	42
Placings with and advances to banks and other financial institutions	43
Trading assets	44
Financial assets designated at fair value	45
Advances to customers	46
Loan impairment allowances against advances to customers	47
Impaired advances and allowances	

48
Overdue advances
49
Rescheduled advances
49
Segmental analysis of advances to customers by geographical area
50
Gross advances to customers by industry sector
52
Financial investments
54
Investments in associates
54
Other assets
54
Current, savings and other deposit accounts
55
Certificates of deposit and other debt securities in issue
55
Trading liabilities
56
Other liabilities
57
Subordinated liabilities
58
Shareholders' funds
59
Capital resources management
60
Liquidity ratio
61
Reconciliation of cash flow statement
62
Contingent liabilities, commitments and derivatives
66
Statutory accounts and accounting policies
67
Comparative figures
67
Property revaluation
67
Foreign currency positions
68
Ultimate holding company
68
Register of shareholders
68
Proposed timetable for the remaining 2009 quarterly dividends
69
Code on corporate governance practices
69

Board of directors

69

News release

Consolidated Income Statement (unaudited)

	<i>Half-year ended 30 June</i>	<i>Half-year ended 30 June</i>	<i>Half-year ended 31 December</i>
<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2008</i>
Interest income	8,775	13,665	12,507
Interest expense	(1,500)	(5,413)	(4,527)
Net interest income	7,275	8,252	7,980
Fee income	2,327	3,368	2,336
Fee expense	(401)	(341)	(394)
Net fee income	1,926	3,027	1,942
Trading income	1,035	759	696
Net loss from financial instruments designated at fair value	(195)	(1,024)	(7)
Dividend income	5	54	28
Net earned insurance premiums	6,658	6,930	5,421
Other operating income	350	525	176
Total operating income	17,054	18,523	16,236
Net insurance claims incurred and movement in policyholders' liabilities	(6,478)	(5,903)	(5,560)
Net operating income before loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions	10,576	12,620	10,676
Loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions	(621)	(188)	(2,588)
Net operating income	9,955	12,432	8,088
Employee compensation and benefits	(1,669)	(1,736)	(1,716)
General and administrative expenses	(1,281)	(1,356)	(1,495)
Depreciation of premises, plant and equipment	(225)	(201)	(231)
Amortisation of intangible assets	(40)	(27)	(33)
Total operating expenses	(3,215)	(3,320)	(3,475)
Operating profit	6,740	9,112	4,613
Gains less losses from financial investments and fixed assets	55	246	21
Net surplus/(deficit) on property revaluation	60	229	(150)
Share of profits from associates	763	943	864
Profit before tax	7,618	10,530	5,348
Tax expense	(1,167)	(1,466)	(313)
Profit for the period	6,451	9,064	5,035
Profit attributable to shareholders	6,451	9,064	5,035
Earnings per share (in HK\$)	3.37	4.74	2.63

Details of dividends payable to shareholders of the bank attributable to the profit for the half year are set out on page 39.

The HSBC Group reports interest income and interest expense arising from financial assets and financial liabilities held for trading as 'Net trading income' and arising from financial instruments designated at fair value through profit and loss as 'Net income from financial instruments designated at fair value' (other than for debt securities in issue and subordinated liabilities, together with derivatives managed in conjunction with them).

The table below presents the interest income and interest expense of Hang Seng, as included within the HSBC Group accounts:

<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>	<i>Half-year ended 30 June 2009</i>	<i>Half-year ended 30 June 2008</i>	<i>Half-year ended 31 December 2008</i>
<i>Interest income</i>	8,545	13,376	12,223
<i>Interest expense</i>	(1,124)	(4,679)	(3,687)
<i>Net interest income</i>	7,421	8,697	8,536
<i>Net interest income and expense reported as 'Net trading income'</i>	(196)	(551)	(660)
<i>Net interest income and expense reported as 'Net income from financial instruments designated at fair value'</i>	50	106	104

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income (unaudited)

<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>	<i>Half-year ended 30 June 2009</i>	<i>Half-year ended 30 June 2008</i>	<i>Half-year ended 31 December 2008</i>
Profit for the period	6,451	9,064	5,035
Other comprehensive income			
Premises:			
- unrealised surplus/(deficit) on revaluation of premises	244	559	(388)
- deferred taxes	(40)	(90)	66
Available-for-sale investments reserve:			
- fair value changes taken to equity:			
-- on debt securities	1,934	(1,448)	(2,179)
-- on equity shares	28	(1,095)	(842)
- fair value changes transferred from/(to) income statement:			
-- on impairment	4	67	488

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-- on hedged items	114	(22)	(474)
-- on disposal	(64)	(369)	(194)
- share of changes in equity of associates			
-- fair value changes	73	(56)	(7)
- deferred taxes	(270)	170	247
Cash flow hedging reserve:			
- fair value changes taken to equity	194	49	821
- fair value changes transferred to income statement	(511)	(234)	(142)
- deferred taxes	48	30	(106)
Defined benefit plans:			
-			
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit plans	1,520	(506)	(2,510)
- deferred taxes	(251)	83	414
Exchange differences on translation of:			
- financial statements of overseas branches, subsidiaries and associates	(12)	677	(55)
- others	5	5	—
Effect of decrease in tax rate on deferred tax balance at 1 January 2008	—	30	—
Other comprehensive income for the period, net of tax	3,016	(2,150)	(4,861)
Total comprehensive income for the period	9,467	6,914	174
Total comprehensive income for the period attributable to shareholders	9,467	6,914	174
	9,467	6,914	174

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position (unaudited)

	<i>At 30 June 2009</i>	<i>At 30 June 2008</i>	<i>At 31 December 2008</i>
<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>			

ASSETS

Cash and
balances with
banks and

other	51,065	19,755	24,822
financial institutions			
Placings with and advances to banks and other	55,223	136,534	69,579
financial institutions			
Trading assets	84,517	13,689	108,389
Financial assets designated at fair value	6,025	12,607	7,798
Derivative financial instruments	4,927	6,043	7,104
Advances to customers	325,371	337,157	329,121
Financial investments	225,338	184,654	181,159
Investments in associates	9,329	7,149	8,870
Investment properties	2,716	2,776	2,593
Premises, plant and equipment	6,887	7,487	7,090
Interest in leasehold land held for own use			
under operating lease	543	558	551
Intangible assets	3,621	3,297	3,385
Other assets	14,534	16,205	11,506
Deferred tax assets	25	5	201
Total assets	790,121	747,916	762,168

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

Current, savings and other deposit accounts	591,267	535,148	562,183
Deposits from banks	4,603	19,247	11,556

Trading liabilities	53,387	53,767	48,282
Financial liabilities designated at fair value	1,452	1,431	1,407
Derivative financial instruments	8,778	8,882	14,945
Certificates of deposit and other debt securities in issue	2,294	4,026	2,772
Other liabilities	14,328	17,629	15,448
Liabilities to customers under insurance contracts	49,479	38,737	43,835
Current tax liabilities	739	2,902	94
Deferred tax liabilities	1,221	1,184	711
Subordinated liabilities	9,312	9,355	9,309
Total liabilities	736,860	692,308	710,542
Equity			
Share capital	9,559	9,559	9,559
Retained profits	36,082	37,358	32,518
Other reserves	5,517	6,588	3,813
Proposed dividends	2,103	2,103	5,736
Shareholders' funds	53,261	55,608	51,626
Total equity and liabilities	790,121	747,916	762,168

**Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity
(unaudited)**

<i>Half-year to 30 June</i>	<i>Half-year to 30 June</i>	<i>Half-year to 31 December 2008</i>
---------------------------------	---------------------------------	--

2009 **2008**

Figures in HK\$m

Share capital

At beginning and end of period **9,559** 9,559 9,559

Retained profits (including proposed dividends)

At beginning of period **38,254** 38,609 39,461

Dividends to shareholders

- Dividends approved in respect of the previous year **(5,736)** (5,736) —

- Dividends declared in respect of the current period **(2,103)** (2,103) (4,206)

Transfer **45** 59 62

Total comprehensive income for the period **7,725** 8,632 2,937

38,185 39,461 38,254

Other reserves

Premises revaluation reserve

At beginning of period **3,711** 3,639 4,094

Transfer **(45)** (59) (62)

Total comprehensive income for the period **204** 514 (321)

3,870 4,094 3,711

Available-for-sale investment reserve

At beginning of period **(3,823)** 1,892 (862)

Total comprehensive income for the period **1,819** (2,754) (2,961)

(2,004) (862) (3,823)

Cash flow hedging reserve

At beginning of period **562** 144 (11)

Total comprehensive income for the period **(269)** (155) 573

293 (11) 562

Foreign exchange reserve

At beginning of period **1,379** 757 1,434

Total comprehensive income for the period **(12)** 677 (55)

1,367 1,434 1,379

Half-year to *Half-year to* *Half-year to*
30 June *30 June* *31 December*
2009 **2008** **2008**

Figures in HK\$m

Other reserve

At beginning of period	1,984	1,856	1,933
Cost of share-based payment arrangements	7	77	50
Total comprehensive income for the period	—	—	1
	1,991	1,933	1,984
Total equity			
At beginning of period	51,626	56,456	55,608
Dividends to shareholders	(7,839)	(7,839)	(4,206)
Cost of share-based payment arrangements	7	77	50
Total comprehensive income for the period	9,467	6,914	174
	53,261	55,608	51,626

**Consolidated Cash Flow Statement
(unaudited)**

	<i>Half-year ended 30 June 2009</i>	<i>Half-year ended 30 June 2008</i>
<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>		
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	102,831	(44,918)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends received from associates	358	258
Purchase of available-for-sale investments	(35,448)	(27,368)
Purchase of held-to-maturity debt securities	(130)	(134)
Proceeds from sale or redemption of available-for-sale investments	26,397	84,669
Proceeds from redemption of held-to-maturity debt securities	132	71
Purchase of fixed assets and intangible assets	(157)	(367)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets and asset held for sale	—	233
Interest received from available-for-sale investments	2,142	5,218
Dividends received from available-for-sale investments	4	54
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from investing activities	(6,702)	62,634
Cash flows from financing activities		
Dividends paid	(7,839)	(7,839)
Interest paid for subordinated liabilities	(86)	(205)
Net cash outflow from financing activities	(7,925)	(8,044)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	88,204	9,672

Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	76,116	113,474
Effect of foreign exchange rate changes	1,895	988
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June	166,215	124,134

Financial Review

Net interest income

	<i>Half-year ended</i>	<i>Half-year</i>	<i>Half-year</i>
	<i>30 June</i>	<i>30 June</i>	<i>31 December</i>
<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2008</i>
Net interest income/(expense) arising from:			
- financial assets and liabilities that are not at fair value through profit and loss	7,431	8,717	8,560
- trading assets and liabilities	(196)	(551)	(660)
- financial instruments designated at fair value	40	86	80
	7,275	8,252	7,980
Average interest-earning assets	711,253	682,728	693,716
Net interest spread	1.99%	2.20%	2.10%
Net interest margin	2.06%	2.43%	2.29%

Despite a HK\$28.5 billion, or 4.2 per cent, increase in average interest-earning assets to HK\$711.3 billion, a 4.9 per cent rise in average customer deposits, and the shifting of time deposits to low-cost savings deposits, net interest income fell by HK\$977 million, or 11.8 per cent, to HK\$7,275 million.

Net interest margin narrowed

by 37 basis points to 2.06 per cent. Net interest spread declined by 21 basis points to 1.99 per cent, mainly

caused by markedly reduced deposit spreads under the current low

interest rate environment which offered little room for the reduction of

interest rates paid to customers. Volume growth was noted in the

average

balance of

mortgage lending,

with strong volume growth offsetting the effect of tighter spreads on mortgages in an intensely competitive market

. The increase in higher-yielding personal loans and credit cards also

helped support net interest income revenue streams

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I
nterest income from
the

life insurance fund investments portfolio grew by
51.6
per cent

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Including the net increase of HK\$471 million in funding swap net interest income - which was recognised as a foreign exchange gain under trading income - the decrease in net interest income was reduced from HK\$977 million to HK\$506 million, or 6.3 per cent. Net interest margin on this basis dropped by 23 basis points to 2.12 per cent. This was contributed by
the improvement in
yields from the Treasury's balance sheet management portfolio

which
benefited from the steepening interest rate
yield
curve and the successful strategy of investing in selective quality negotiable instruments.

The contribution from net free funds also dropped by 16 basis points to 0.07 per cent as a result of the decline in average market interest rates.

Compared with the second half of 2008, net interest income dropped by HK\$705 million, or 8.8 per cent, with average interest-earning assets maintaining a stable growth of 2.5 per cent. Net interest margin was down by 23 basis points

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The HSBC Group reports interest income and interest expense arising from financial assets and financial liabilities held for trading as 'Net trading income' and arising from financial instruments designated at fair value through profit and loss is reported as 'Net income from financial instruments designated at fair value' (other than for debt securities in issue and subordinated liabilities, together with derivatives managed in conjunction with them).

The table below presents the net interest income of Hang Seng, as included within the HSBC Group accounts:

	<i>Half-year ended 30 June</i>	<i>Half-year ended 30 June</i>	<i>Half-year ended 31 December</i>
<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2008</i>
Net interest income	7,421	8,697	8,536
Average interest-earning assets	653,655	664,892	664,610
Net interest spread	2.23%	2.33%	2.34%
Net interest margin	2.29%	2.63%	2.55%

Net fee income

Half-year ended

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<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>	<i>Half-year</i>	<i>Half-year</i>	
	<i>ended</i>	<i>ended</i>	
	30 June	31	
	<i>June</i>	<i>December</i>	
	2009	2008	
- Stockbroking and related services	689	808	551
- Retail investment funds	226	773	311
- Structured investment products	5	297	44
- Insurance	103	54	44
- Account services	143	141	141
- Private banking	46	177	57
- Remittances	101	107	105
- Cards	659	623	681
- Credit facilities	67	60	72
- Trade services	173	199	210
- Other	115	129	120
Fee income	2,327	3,368	2,336
Fee expense	(401)	(341)	(394)
	1,926	3,027	1,942

Net fee income dropped by HK\$1,101 million, or 36.4 per cent, compared with the first half of 2008, to HK\$1,926 million.

With the continuing unfavourable economic environment and subdued customer interest in investment products, income from retail investment funds and sales of structured investment products decreased substantially by 70.8 per cent and 98.3 per cent respectively. Against the backdrop of lower equity market turnover, income from stockbroking and related services decreased by 14.7 per cent. Private banking investment services fee income fell by 74.0 per cent, reflecting the reduced client appetite for trading and structured investment products.

Card services income was 5.8 per cent higher than in the same period last year and was broadly in line with the growth in average card balances. The bank's customer loyalty scheme and card utilisation programmes helped to drive up card spending in the first half of 2009 to outperform the shrinking market. The increase in merchant income was supported by year-on-year increases of 9.1 per cent in the number of cards in circulation and 5.3 per cent in cardholder spending.

Insurance income rose by 90.7 per cent, due mainly to the successful sale of HSBC Jade Global Universal Life product.

Compared with the second half of 2008, net fee income remained broadly unchanged. Higher income from insurance and stockbroking and related services was offset by the decrease in income from retail investment funds, structured investment products and trade services.

Trading income

<i>Half-year</i>	<i>Half-year</i>	<i>Half-year</i>
<i>ended</i>	<i>ended</i>	<i>ended</i>
30 June	30 June	31
		<i>December</i>

<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>	2009	2008	2008
Trading income:			
- foreign exchange	930	535	849
- securities, derivatives and other trading activities	105	224	(153)
	1,035	759	696

Trading income rose significantly by HK\$276 million, or 36.4 per cent, to HK\$1,035 million. Foreign exchange income increased by 73.8 per cent, due mainly to the favourable increase in net interest income from funding swaps and the decrease in exchange losses on Hang Seng

China

's US dollar capital funds upon revaluation against the renminbi. Normal foreign exchange trading, however, fell by 32.2 per cent.

Income from securities, derivatives and other trading was down by HK\$119 million, due largely to decreased customer appetite for equity-linked structured products

Net loss from financial instruments designated at fair value

<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>	Half-year ended 30 June 2009	<i>Half-year ended 30 June 2008</i>	<i>Half-year ended 31 December 2008</i>
Net loss on assets designated at fair value which back insurance and investment contracts	(170)	(1,030)	(15)
Net change in fair value of other financial instruments designated at fair value	(25)	6	8
	(195)	(1,024)	(7)

Net loss from financial instruments designated at fair value improved by HK\$829 million, or 81.0 per cent, compared with the first half of 2008, to reach HK\$195 million, reflecting the more stable financial markets in the first half of 2009 and the swapping of the equity component of the investment assets of the life insurance portfolios for high-quality debt securities in the second half of 2008.

Other operating income

<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>	Half-year ended 30 June 2009	<i>Half-year ended 30 June 2008</i>	<i>Half-year ended 31 December 2008</i>
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Rental income from investment properties	73	66	72
Movement in present value of in-force long-term insurance business	202	363	19
Other	75	96	85
	350	525	176

Analysis of income from wealth management business

	<i>Half-year ended</i> 30 June <i>2009</i>	<i>Half-year ended</i> <i>30 June</i> <i>2008</i>	<i>Half-year ended</i> <i>31 December</i> <i>2008</i>
<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>			
Investment income:			
- retail investment funds	226	773	311
- structured investment products [^]	204	689	193
- private banking ^{^^}	58	187	61
- securities broking and related services	689	808	551
- margin trading and others	76	52	67
	1,253	2,509	1,183
Insurance income:			
- life insurance	1,089	862	521
- general insurance and others	162	147	167
	1,251	1,009	688
Total	2,504	3,518	1,871

^

Income from structured investment products includes income reported under net fee income on the sales of third-party structured investment products. It also includes profit generated from the selling of structured investment products in issue, reported under trading income.

^^

Income from private banking includes income reported under net fee income on investment services and profit generated from selling of structured investment products in issue, reported under trading income.

Wealth

management business remained muted during the first half of 2009, recording a 28.8 per cent decline in income. To cater for changing customer demands in the turbulent financial markets environment, the group rapidly shifted its focus to highly defensive products including life insurance. This resulted in an encouraging growth of 24.0 per cent in insurance income which partly offset the 50.1 per cent decline in investment income.

Income from retail investment funds and structured products has been adversely affected by the unfavourable investment climate and volatility in equity markets since the second half of 2008. The bank focused on offering a diverse variety of products with a focus on lower-risk yield enhancement but continuing investor caution saw investment funds turnover fall by 84.2 per cent and investment funds income decline by 70.8 per cent year on year. Structured investment products income dropped by 70.4 per cent compared with same period last year.

Following the stock market rebound in the second quarter of 2009, the bank's securities business gained momentum and grew its market share. Securities broking and related services income recorded a rebound as compared to the second half of 2008 - rising by 25.0 per cent but was down 14.7 per cent year on year. Securities turnover declined by 5.3 per cent compared with the same period last year. The bank also captured additional sales opportunities via its recently opened Securities Select Customer Trading Centre.

Private Banking was adversely affected by the weak investment sentiment. This led to fewer customer transactions and a 69.0 per cent decline in wealth management income in the first half of the year.

Leveraging its strong customer relationships and flexible wealth management strategy, the group was successful in sustaining business by focusing on defensive products that provided investors with stable returns in the uncertain market conditions

. A comprehensive range of health and wealth insurance solutions for all life stages enabled life insurance sales to remain resilient. Despite the intensely competitive environment, the Group achieved an increase in life insurance market share to 16.3 per cent in terms of direct new business for the first quarter of 2009 and was the No. 2 provider in

Hong Kong

. Total policies in force grew by 12.7 per cent year-on-year and annualised premiums increased by 19.1 per cent. A mobile phone-based straight-through travel insurance enrolment service was launched

during the first half of the year to

supplement

the bank's

proven e-channel

. This pioneering service provides a timely and convenient way for customers to enrol for travel cover prior to departing on a trip.

General insurance income increased by 10.2 per cent to HK\$162 million

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<i>Half-year ended</i>	<i>Half-year ended</i>	<i>Half-year ended</i>
<i>30 June 2009</i>	<i>30 June 2008</i>	<i>31 December 2008</i>

Figures in HK\$m

Life insurance:

- net interest income and fee income	951	601	799
- investment returns on life insurance funds	(133)	(1,030)	(35)
- net earned insurance premiums	6,502	6,774	5,249
- claims, benefits and surrenders paid	(948)	(300)	(376)
- movement in policyholders' liabilities	(5,496)	(5,555)	(5,148)
- reinsurers' share of claims incurred and movement in policyholders' liabilities	11	9	13
- movement in present value of in-force long-term insurance business	202	363	19
	1,089	862	521
General insurance and others	162	147	167
Total	1,251	1,009	688

^

Including premium and investment reserves

Loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions

	<i>Half-year ended 30 June 2009</i>	<i>Half-year ended 30 June 2008</i>	<i>Half-year ended 31 December 2008</i>
<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>	2009	2008	2008
Loan impairment charges:			
- individually assessed	(288)	(56)	(869)
- collectively assessed	(333)	(132)	(344)
	(621)	(188)	(1,213)
Of which:			
- new and additional	(709)	(278)	(1,245)
- releases	61	60	6
- recoveries	27	30	26
	(621)	(188)	(1,213)
Other credit risk provisions	-	-	(1,375)
Loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions	(621)	(188)	(2,588)

Loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions increased by HK\$433 million to HK\$621 million year-on-year. As compared to the second half of 2008, loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions decreased significantly by HK\$1,967 million, or 76.0 per cent, due mainly to the HK\$1,

375

million reduction in other credit risk provisions as a result of

the write down of the carrying value of certain available-for-sale debt securities in the second half of 2008

Individually assessed provisions rose by HK\$232 million due mainly to the downgrade of certain corporate and commercial banking customers.

Collectively assessed provisions rose by HK\$201 million due largely to the rise in credit card delinquencies against the background of higher card spending and the unfavourable credit environment. Impairment provisions for personal loan portfolios increased in line with the rising bankruptcy trend and allowances for loans not individually identified as impaired also increased as a result of higher historical loss rates to reflect the turbulence in the global credit markets.

Operating expenses

	<i>Half-year ended 30 June 2009</i>	<i>Half-year ended June 2008</i>	<i>Half-year ended 31 December 2008</i>
<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>			
Employee compensation and benefits:			
- salaries and other costs	1,401	1,351	1,466
- performance-related pay	123	301	161
- retirement benefit costs	145	84	89
	1,669	1,736	1,716
General and administrative expenses:			
- rental expenses	218	203	220
- other premises and equipment	442	422	504
- marketing and advertising expenses	174	242	274
- other operating expenses	447	489	497
	1,281	1,356	1,495
Depreciation of business premises and equipment	225	201	231
Amortisation of intangible assets	40	27	33
	3,215	3,320	3,475
Cost efficiency ratio	30.4 %	26.3%	32.5%
	<i>At 30 June</i>	<i>At 30 June</i>	<i>At 31 December</i>
<i>Staff numbers^</i>			
<i>by region</i>	2009	2008	2008

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Hong Kong	7,972	8,240	8,256
Mainland	1,411	1,312	1,450
Others	55	58	58
Total	9,438	9,610	9,764

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Full-time equivalent

Operating expenses fell by HK\$105 million, or 3.2 per cent, compared with the first half of 2008, reflecting the bank's cost discipline in the difficult operating environment. Excluding mainland business, operating expenses fell by 4.7 per cent.

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mployee compensation and benefits decreased by HK\$67 million, or 3.9 per cent. Salaries and other costs increased by 3.7

per cent, reflecting the increase in average headcount and other staff

-

related costs

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Performance-related pay expenses declined substantially by 59.1 per cent while retirement benefit costs increased due to a reduction in the assumed investment return at the end of 2008

. General and administrative expenses decreased by 5.5 per cent, attributable to cost management in marketing and advertising, although this was partly offset by rising rental expenses and other premises and equipment costs. Rental expenses rose due to increased rents for branches in Hong Kong as well as new branches on the Mainland and the bank's large office premises in Kowloon

Bay

. Depreciation charges rose by 11.9 per cent, reflecting the acquisition of equipment, fixtures and fittings for the bank's Kowloon

Bay

office and Head Office in Central.

The group's number of full-time equivalent staff dropped by 326 compared with 2008 year-end - mainly from Hong Kong

operations. The headcount number was closely monitored and gradually reduced through natural attrition. Headcount for mainland operations remained static when compared with last year-end.

The cost efficiency ratio for the first half of 2009 was 30.4 per cent, compared with 26.3 per cent for the first half of 2008, due primarily to the reduction in net operating income before impairment charges and other credit risk provisions.

Gains less losses from financial investments and fixed assets

	<i>Half-year ended 30 June</i>	<i>Half-year ended 30 June</i>	<i>Half-year ended 31 December</i>
<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2008</i>
Net gains from disposal of available-for-sale equity securities	159	369	277
Net losses from disposal of available-for-sale debt securities	(95)	—	(83)
Impairment of available-for-sale equity securities	(4)	(118)	(166)
Gains less losses on disposal of fixed assets	(5)	(5)	(7)
	55	246	21

Gains less losses from financial investments and fixed assets amounted to HK\$55 million, a decrease of HK\$191 million compared with the first half of 2008. As the group disposed of the majority of its equity holdings in 2008, net gains from the disposal of available-for-sale equity securities decreased by HK\$210 million, or 56.9 per cent. Impairment charges for certain available-for-sale equity securities also decreased by HK\$114 million, or 96.6 per cent, as a result of the disposal in equity holdings.

Tax expense

Taxation in the consolidated income statement represents:

	<i>Half-year ended 30 June</i>	<i>Half-year ended 30 June</i>	<i>Half-year ended 31 December</i>
<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2008</i>

Current tax - provision for

Hong Kong profits tax

Tax for the period	977	1,447	720
Adjustment in respect of prior periods	(3)	(13)	(337)

Current tax - taxation outside Hong Kong

Tax for the period	3	5	(26)
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Deferred tax

Origination and reversal of temporary differences	190	75	(44)
Effect of decrease in tax rate on deferred tax balances at 1 January 2008	—	(48)	—
Total tax expenses	1,167	1,466	313

The current tax provision is based on the estimated assessable profit for the first half of 2009, and is determined for the bank and its subsidiaries operating in Hong Kong by using the Hong Kong

profits tax rate of 16.5 per cent (same as 2008). For subsidiaries and branches operating in other jurisdictions, the appropriate tax rates prevailing in the relevant countries are used. Deferred tax is calculated at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the period when the liability is settled or the asset is realised.

Earnings per share

The calculation of earnings per share for the first half of 2009 is based on earnings of HK\$6,451 million (HK\$9,064 million and HK\$5,035 million for the first and second halves of 2008 respectively) and on the weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue of 1,911,842,736 shares (unchanged from the first and second halves of 2008).

Dividends per share

	<i>Half-year ended</i>		<i>Half-year ended</i>		<i>Half-year ended</i>	
	<i>30 June</i>		<i>30 June</i>		<i>31 December</i>	
	<i>2009</i>		<i>2008</i>		<i>2008</i>	
	<i>HK\$</i>	<i>HK\$m</i>	<i>HK\$</i>	<i>HK\$m</i>	<i>HK\$</i>	<i>HK\$m</i>
	<i>per share</i>		<i>per share</i>		<i>per share</i>	
First interim	1.10	2,103	1.10	2,103	—	—
Second interim	1.10	2,103	1.10	2,103	—	—
Third interim	—	—	—	—	1.10	2,103
Fourth interim	—	—	—	—	3.00	5,736
	2.20	4,206	2.20	4,206	4.10	7,839

Segmental analysis

The group's

business comprises five customer groups.

On first-time adoption of HKFRS 8 'Operating segments' and in a manner consistent with the way in which information is reported internally for the purposes of resource allocation and performance assessment, the group has identified the following five reportable segments.

Personal Financial Services provides banking (including deposits, credit cards, mortgages and other retail lending) and wealth management services (including private banking, investment and insurance) to personal customers. Commercial Banking manages middle market and smaller corporate relationships and specialises in trade-related financial services. Corporate Banking handles relationships with large corporate and institutional customers. Treasury engages in balance sheet management and proprietary trading. Treasury also manages the funding and liquidity positions of the group and other market risk positions arising from banking activities. 'Other' mainly represents management of shareholders' funds and investments in premises, investment properties and equity shares.

(a) Segment result

For the purpose of segmental analysis, the allocation of revenue reflects the benefits of capital and other funding resources allocated to the customer groups by way of internal capital allocation and fund transfer-pricing mechanisms. Cost allocation is based on the direct costs incurred by the respective customer groups and apportionment of management overheads. Rental charges at market rates for usage of premises are reflected in other operating income for the 'Other' customer group and total operating expenses for the respective customer groups.

Profit before tax contributed by the customer groups for the periods stated is set out in the table below. More customer group analysis and discussions are set out in the 'Customer group performance' section on page 13.

<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>	<i>Personal Financial Services</i>	<i>Commercial Banking</i>	<i>Corporate Banking</i>	<i>Treasury</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total Reportable Segment</i>
<i>Half-year ended 30 June 2009</i>						
Profit before tax	3,467	1,080	449	2,017	605	7,618
Share of profit before tax	45.5%	14.2%	5.9%	26.5%	7.9%	100.0%
<i>Half-year ended 30 June 2008</i>						
Profit before tax	5,284	1,703	365	1,983	1,195	10,530
Share of profit before tax	50.2%	16.2%	3.5%	18.8%	11.3%	100.0%
<i>Half-year ended 31 December 2008</i>						
Profit before tax	3,126	767	280	296	879	5,348
Share of profit before tax	58.5%	14.4%	5.2%	5.5%	16.4%	100.0%

(b)
Geographic information

The geographical regions in this analysis are classified by the location of the principal operations of the subsidiary companies or, in the case of the bank itself, by the location of the branches responsible for reporting the results or

advancing the funds.

<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>	<i>Mainland</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Hong Kong</i>	<i>Americas</i>	<i>and other</i>	
Half-year ended 30 June 2009				
Income and expense				
Total operating income	16,058	499	497	17,054
Profit before tax	6,391	449	778	7,618

At 30 June 2009

Total assets	680,589	60,265	49,267	790,121
Total liabilities	707,734	1,169	27,957	736,860
Contingent liabilities and commitments	193,094	—	15,786	208,880

Half-year ended 30 June 2008

Income and expense				
Total operating income	16,789	1,296	438	18,523
Profit before tax	8,410	1,273	847	10,530

At 30 June 2008

Total assets	620,326	74,177	53,413	747,916
Total liabilities	658,663	3,453	30,192	692,308
Contingent liabilities and commitments	207,082	—	12,417	219,499

Half-year ended 31 December 2008

Income and expense				
Total operating income	14,592	1,082	562	16,236
Profit before tax	4,424	498	426	5,348

At 31 December 2008

Total assets	656,411	55,365	50,392	762,168
Total liabilities	680,296	1,238	29,008	710,542
Contingent liabilities and commitments	196,778	—	13,464	210,242

Cash and balances with banks and other financial institutions

<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>	<i>At 30 June 2009</i>	<i>At 30 June 2008</i>	<i>At 31 December 2008</i>
Cash in hand	3,621	3,099	3,696
Balances with central banks	31,637	2,049	2,426

Balances with banks and other financial institutions	15,807	14,607	18,700
	51,065	19,755	24,822

Placings with and advances to banks and other financial institutions

	<i>At 30 June 2009</i>	<i>At 30 June 2008</i>	<i>At 31 December 2008</i>
<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>			
Placings with and advances to banks and other financial institutions maturing within one month	28,456	99,200	47,025
Placings with and advances to banks and other financial institutions maturing after one month	26,767	37,334	22,554
	55,223	136,534	69,579

Trading assets

	<i>At 30 June 2009</i>	<i>At 30 June 2008</i>	<i>At 31 December 2008</i>
<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>			
Treasury bills	79,426	6,732	103,621
Other debt securities	4,340	5,413	4,750
Debt securities	83,766	12,145	108,371
Equity shares	1	6	—
Total trading securities	83,767	12,151	108,371
Othe r [^]	750	1,538	18
Total trading assets	84,517	13,689	108,389

Debt securities:

- listed in Hong Kong	2,872	4,454	3,631
- listed outside Hong Kong	153	431	269
	3,025	4,885	3,900
- unlisted	80,741	7,260	104,471
	83,766	12,145	108,371

Equity shares:

- listed in Hong Kong	1	6	—
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Total trading securities	83,767	12,151	108,371
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Debt securities:

Issued by public bodies:

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- central governments and central banks	83,168	11,049	107,428
- other public sector entities	373	379	378
	83,541	11,428	107,806
Issued by other bodies:			
- banks and other financial institutions	80	401	306
- corporate entities	145	316	259
	225	717	565
	83,766	12,145	108,371
Equity shares:			
Issued by corporate entities	1	6	—
Total trading securities	83,767	12,151	108,371

^

This represents amount receivable from counterparties on trading transactions not yet settled.

With the severe turbulence in the financial markets and interventions by various governments and central banks to stabilise their financial systems in the second half of 2008, the bank has preserved its liquidity and yield by deploying surplus funds from matured available-for-sale securities and short-term interbank placements to high quality trading debt securities in late 2008. These trading securities are mostly in the form of treasury bills with short tenors issued by governments. During the first half of 2009, Treasury redeployed the surplus funds upon the maturity of trading assets to interbank placements and available-for-sale debt securities to achieve yield enhancement while prudently managing risk in the more stable financial markets and credit environment experienced in the first half of 2009. As a result, trading securities declined by HK\$24,604 million, or 22.7 per cent, to HK\$83,767 million when compared with last year-end.

Financial assets designated at fair value

	<i>At 30</i>	<i>At 30</i>	<i>At 31</i>
	<i>June</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>December</i>
<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2008</i>
Certificates of deposit	139	190	163
Other debt securities	5,481	9,813	7,273
Debt securities	5,620	10,003	7,436
Equity shares	405	2,604	362
	6,025	12,607	7,798
Debt securities:			
- listed in Hong Kong	559	1,233	834
- listed outside Hong Kong	271	2,006	1,004
	830	3,239	1,838
- unlisted	4,790	6,764	5,598
	5,620	10,003	7,436
Equity shares:			
- listed in Hong Kong	34	1,759	26

- listed outside Hong Kong	54	115	57
	88	1,874	83
- unlisted	317	730	279
	405	2,604	362
	6,025	12,607	7,798

Debt securities:

Issued by public bodies:

- central governments and central banks	556	2,298	924
- other public sector entities	409	623	564
	965	2,921	1,488

Issued by other bodies:

- banks and other financial institutions	4,441	5,589	5,317
- corporate entities	214	1,493	631
	4,655	7,082	5,948
	5,620	10,003	7,436

Equity shares:

Issued by corporate entities	405	2,604	362
	6,025	12,607	7,798

Advances to customers

	<i>At 30 June 2009</i>	<i>At 30 June 2008</i>	<i>At 31 December 2008</i>
<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>			
Gross advances to customers	327,731	338,202	331,164
Less:			
Loan impairment allowances:			
- individually assessed	(1,492)	(415)	(1,241)
- collectively assessed	(868)	(630)	(802)
	325,371	337,157	329,121

Included in advances to customers are:

- Trade bills	2,773	3,676	2,899
Less: loan impairment allowances	(39)	(12)	(30)
	2,734	3,664	2,869

Loan impairment allowances against advances to customers

<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>	<i>Individually assessed</i>	<i>Collectively assessed</i>	<i>Total</i>
At 1 January 2009	1,241	802	2,043
Amounts written off	(29)	(283)	(312)

Recoveries of advances written off in previous years	9	18	27
New impairment allowances charged to income statement	358	351	709
Impairment allowances released to income statement	(70)	(18)	(88)
Unwinding of discount of loan impairment allowances recognised as 'interest income'	(17)	(2)	(19)
At 30 June 2009	1,492	868	2,360

Total loan impairment allowances as a percentage of gross advances to customers are as follows:

	<i>At 30 June 2009</i>	<i>At 30 June 2008</i>	<i>At 31 December 2008</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Loan impairment allowances:			
- individually assessed	0.46	0.12	0.37
- collectively assessed	0.26	0.19	0.24
Total loan impairment allowances	0.72	0.31	0.61

Total loan impairment allowances as a percentage of gross advances to customers was 0.72 per cent at 30 June 2009, 0.11 percentage points higher than at the end of 2008. Individually assessed allowances as a percentage of gross advances rose by 0.09 percentage points to 0.46 per cent, reflecting the downgrading of certain corporate and commercial banking customers as a result of the weak credit environment

Impaired advances and allowances

	<i>At 30 June 2009</i>	<i>At 30 June 2008</i>	<i>At 31 December 2008</i>
<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>			
Gross impaired advances	3,742	1,391	3,404
Individually assessed allowances	(1,492)	(415)	(1,241)
	2,250	976	2,163
Individually assessed allowances as a percentage of gross impaired advances	39.9%	29.8%	36.5%
Gross impaired advances as a percentage of gross advances to customers	1.1%	0.4%	1.0%

Impaired advances are those advances where objective evidence exists that full repayment of principal or interest is considered unlikely.

Gross impaired advances rose by HK\$338 million, or 9.9 per cent, to HK\$3,742 million compared with last year-end, with the downgrade of certain commercial banking accounts partly offset by the write-off of irrecoverable balances against impairment allowances and customer repayments. Gross impaired advances as a percentage of gross advances to customers was 1.1 per cent, broadly in line with the end of 2008.

	<i>At 30</i>	<i>At 30</i>	<i>At 31</i>
	<i>June</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>December</i>
<i>Figures in HK\$m</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2008</i>
			<i>(restated)</i>
Gross individually assessed impaired advances	3,650	1,300	3,297
Individually assessed allowances	(1,492)	(415)	(1,241)
	2,158	885	2,056