

HALF-YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT
HORNBAACH HOLDING AG GROUP

H1
2009/2010

(MARCH 1 – AUGUST 31, 2009)

HORNBACH HOLDING AG GROUP

Half-Year Financial Report (March 1 - August 31, 2009)

Key Figures of the HORNBACH HOLDING AG Group (in € million, unless otherwise stated)	2 nd Quarter 2009/2010	2 nd Quarter 2008/2009	Change %	1 st Half 2009/2010	1 st Half 2008/2009	Change %
Net sales	779.4	747.7	4.2	1,599.2	1,525.5	4.8
of which in other European countries	302.3	290.1	4.2	614.9	584.7	5.2
Like-for-like sales growth ¹⁾	1.9%	3.0%		1.7%	2.2%	
Gross margin as % of net sales	35.7%	35.6%		36.0%	35.9%	
EBITDA	88.4	92.0	(4.0)	165.5	176.4	(6.2)
EBIT²⁾	70.5	74.4	(5.2)	130.1	141.5	(8.1)
Consolidated earnings before taxes	60.8	66.3	(8.3)	111.2	124.8	(10.9)
Consolidated net income ³⁾	41.1	49.8	(17.5)	78.2	95.7	(18.3)
Earnings per preference share in €	4.15	4.92	(15.7)	7.84	9.76	(19.7)
Investments	26.1	25.8	1.3	64.9	61.0	6.4

¹⁾ currency-adjusted

²⁾ including non-operating earnings components: net non-operating income of € 24.9 million was reported in the second quarter of the previous year. As budgeted, no disposal gains from real estate transactions and net non-operating expenses of € 2.3 million were reported in the second quarter of 2009/2010. Net of non-operating earnings items, operative EBIT improved by 20.9% in the second quarter and by 13.6% in the first half of 2009/2010.

³⁾ pursuant to IFRS including minority interests.

Misc. Key Figures of the HORNBACH HOLDING AG Group (in € million, unless otherwise stated)	August 31, 2009	February 28, 2009	Change %
Total assets	2,139.6	1,995.8	7.2
Equity	852.9	780.5	9.3
Shareholders' equity as % of total assets	39.9%	39.1%	
Number of employees	13,342	13,169	1.3

Rounding up or down may lead to discrepancies between percentages and totals. Calculation of percentage figures based on € 000s.

INTERIM GROUP MANAGEMENT REPORT

Summary

- HORNBACH Group maintains upward trend in second quarter of 2009/2010 as well
- Consolidated sales grow by 4.8% to € 1.6 billion in first half as a whole
- DIY stores boost overall sales by 4.4% and like-for-like sales by 1.7%
 - Germany as growth driver: like-for-like sales up by 3.1% - top ranking in Kundenmonitor customer survey
 - Other European countries: previous year's high sales maintained despite weakness in Eastern Europe
- Builders' merchant business posts 11.1% sales growth
- Further improvement in earnings in operating business - EBIT reaches € 130.1 million in first six months

The overall HORNBACH HOLDING AG Group achieved year-on-year growth both in sales and in its key operating earnings figures in the first half of the financial year (March 1 to August 31, 2009). The sales of the HORNBACH Group grew by 4.8% to € 1,599.2 million in the first half of 2009/2010 (previous year: € 1,525.5m). At HORNBACH-Baumarkt-AG, the Group's largest operating subgroup, the 130 DIY megastores with garden centers across Europe maintained the growth trend seen in the first three months in the second quarter of the current 2009/2010 financial year as well. First-half sales at this subgroup increased by 4.4% to € 1,502.9 million (previous year: € 1,439.0m). Like-for-like DIY sales rose by 1.7%.

This growth was driven in particular by the 92 DIY megastores with garden centers in Germany, which boosted their like-for-like sales by 3.1% in the first six months. Based on this above-average growth rate compared with the sector as a whole, HORNBACH further expanded its market share in Germany. The company also benefited from its positive reception by customers, as demonstrated by its superb performance in Kundenmonitor Deutschland 2009. In this, the most important customer survey for the German retail sector, HORNBACH achieved one of the top positions and significantly extended its lead over the competition as the most competent DIY player in terms of its product range.

All in all, the stores in other European countries managed to maintain their like-for-like sales in the first half at the high level seen in the previous year. In this respect, the decline in demand in Eastern Europe due to the recession could be offset by a robust business performance in HORNBACH's other international regions.

The HORNBACH Baustoff Union GmbH (HBU) subgroup posted a strong sales performance. Defying the clearly negative trend in the builders' merchant sector, HBU boosted its sales by 11.1% in the first half as a whole.

Key operating earnings figures at the overall HORNBACH HOLDING AG Group showed pleasing year-on-year developments in the period under report from March to August 2009. This was due above all to like-for-like sales growth at the DIY megastores with garden centers in Germany, a stable gross margin across the Group, and lower pre-opening and administration expenses. Unlike in the previous year, no disposal gains were generated in the real estate segment (previous year: € 26.4m). As expected, this led overall earnings figures to fall short of the previous year's figures in spite of the improved earnings performance in the core operating business. The Group's operating earnings (EBIT) declined by 8.1% to € 130.1 million (previous year: € 141.5m). Adjusted for non-operating items, the operative EBIT for the first half of 2009/2010 improved by 13.6% in spite of the difficult economic climate in Europe.

Macroeconomic Framework and Sector Performance

The macroeconomic framework has gradually improved once again following the shock waves of the global economic crisis, which lasted well into spring 2009. Based on reporting periods for official statistics, the disastrous first quarter of the 2009 calendar year was followed by a surprisingly robust recovery in the second quarter.

At first, however, the first quarter (January to March 2009) witnessed a continuation of the sharp downturn in the global economy that began in autumn 2008. Industrial output, which fell at double-digit year-on-year rates in most advanced and many emerging economies, remained at the epicenter of the economic downturn in the winter months. Export-driven economies with a high share of manufacturing, notably Japan, Germany and emerging economies in East Asia, were especially hard hit by the collapse in global industry (catchwords: vehicle manufacture, engineering). It became apparent in the course of the second calendar quarter, however, that the global economy had probably begun to bottom out.

The pace of the economic contraction slowed visibly in the euro area as well in the spring. According to Eurostat, the decline in gross domestic product (GDP) amounted to minus 0.1% in the second calendar quarter of 2009, and thus virtually halted compared with the 2.5% downturn on the previous quarter seen in the first quarter of 2009. Developments in individual economies were uneven in the second quarter of 2009. Of the 13 member states already to have published GDP figures for the period from April to June 2009, five countries, including Europe's two largest economies, Germany and France, reported slight growth. Slovakia even posted robust GDP growth of 2.2%. However, this followed a very sharp downturn in the previous quarter (minus 11%). Macroeconomic output in the other countries fell once more, albeit at a significantly slower rate than previously. The second half of the 2009 calendar year is widely expected to see a continuation in the stabilization of the euro area economy.

In the wake of the recovery in the global economy, Germany already showed an unexpected return to economic growth in the second quarter, following four previous quarters in which gross domestic product had shrunk. According to the Federal Statistics Office, following adjustment for seasonal and calendar factors, real GDP grew by 0.3% in the second quarter of 2009 compared with the previous quarter. Germany has thus emerged from its severest period of recession since World War Two. Future developments nevertheless still involve considerable uncertainty. Following the sharpest drop in economic output on record, the basis for comparison is low. Real GDP was still 5.9% down on the second quarter of 2008. Comparison with the second quarter of the previous year shows that positive momentum came from private and government consumer spending, which grew by 0.7% and 0.4% respectively, as well as from construction investments (plus 1.4%). Moreover, the pick-up in international demand also made a major contribution to the economic recovery.

Private consumer spending in Germany has so far remained remarkably resilient in defying the negative impact of the global economic crisis. Consumer confidence has benefited from tax relief measures, which left their mark on private household budgets in the first half of 2009, from stable prices, and from the relatively stable labor market in Germany due to state-subsidized reduced working hour schemes. This is also reflected in the GfK consumer confidence index, which maintained the upward trend seen in previous months in August 2009 as well, albeit at a relatively low level in terms of long-term comparisons. There was a further rise in expectations concerning the economy as a whole and personal income levels. Not only that, consumers' propensity to spend also improved further in the late summer.

Having said this, the German retail sector (excluding vehicle retail) felt none of the effects of the slight growth in consumer spending in the first and second quarters of 2009. Based on preliminary figures from the Federal Statistics Office, retail sales fell by 2.3% in nominal terms and by 2.1% in real terms in the first half of 2009. According to the Association of German Retailers (HDE), one of the reasons for these disparate developments is the state-subsidized car scrapping incentive scheme, which is thought to have generated considerable extra business for car dealers, but diverted funds away from other retail segments.

As the year has progressed, the DIY and garden store segment has turned out to be one of the few winners in the German retail segment. According to the Federal Association of German Home Improvement, DIY and Specialist Garden Stores (BHB), gross sales here showed slight year-on-year growth of 0.2% in the period from January to June 2009. Accordingly, the DIY sector has been able to make up a good deal of ground thanks to a welcome revival in demand in the second quarter, thus more than compensating for the negative first quarter. However, this race to catch up was not yet sufficient to return like-for-like sales to positive territory as well. According to the BHB/GfK report, DIY and home improvement stores reported a cumulative decline in like-for-like sales by 1.1% in the first half. This nevertheless represented a marked improvement on the weak first quarter, which had suffered from poor weather conditions (minus 4.8%). Flowers, foliage plants, and garden furniture were in particular demand in the first half of the calendar year, as were traditional DIY products, such as sanitary, coating materials, tools and machinery, and hardware. Construction materials and construction chemicals also showed slight growth.

Earnings, Financial and Net Asset Situation *

Sales performance

The HORNBACH HOLDING AG Group (HORNBACH Group) comprises the HORNBACH-Baumarkt-AG, HORNBACH Baustoff Union GmbH and HORNBACH Immobilien AG subgroups. Regardless of the difficult economic climate, the HORNBACH Group maintained the growth trend seen in the first three months in the second quarter of the current 2009/2010 financial year as well. Net sales at the overall HORNBACH HOLDING AG Group thus rose by 4.2% to € 779.4 million in the second quarter (previous year: € 747.7m). The Group's sales for the first half of 2009/2010 (March 1 to August 31, 2009) grew by 4.8% to € 1,599.2 million (previous year: € 1,525.5m). Of this sum, the HORNBACH-Baumarkt-AG subgroup accounted for around 94%.

HORNBACH-Baumarkt-AG subgroup

The HORNBACH-Baumarkt-AG subgroup was operating 130 DIY megastores with garden centers across Europe as of August 31, 2009 (February 28, 2009: 129). No new retail outlets were opened in the second quarter of 2009/2010 (June 1 to August 31, 2009). The total sales areas at retail outlets amounted to around 1,464,000 m² at the reporting date. The HORNBACH DIY megastores with garden centers have an average size of more than 11,250 m².

The financial and economic crisis only touched on our business performance to a minor extent in the period under report from March 1 to August 31, 2009. In most of the regions where we operate our DIY megastores with garden centers, demand for building, home improvement and garden products services has risen compared with the previous year. Net sales rose by 4.0% to € 728.1 million in the second quarter (previous year: € 699.8m). This subgroup's overall sales for the first half of 2009/2010 (March 1 to August 31, 2009) grew by 4.4% to € 1,502.9 million (previous year: € 1,439.0m). We improved our like-for-like sales by 1.9% in the second quarter. On a cumulative basis for the first six months, like-for-like sales grew by 1.7% net of currency factors (including currency factors: 0.8%).

■ Germany

Our 92 HORNBACH DIY megastores with garden centers in Germany, which once again outperformed the German sector average, made a particularly marked contribution to this success. We increased our overall sales in Germany by 3.9% to € 425.9 million (previous year: € 409.8m). Sales in the first half of 2009/2010 grew by 3.9% to € 888.1 million (previous year: € 854.5m). On a like-for-like basis, we improved our sales year-on-year by 3.1% both in the second quarter and in the first half of the financial year. Based on the period relevant for sector statistics, namely the first half of the 2009 calendar year (January 1 to June 30), the BHB reported a 1.1% decline in like-for-like sales. HORNBACH, by contrast, posted like-for-like growth of 1.3% for the same period.

* Unless otherwise stated, periods relating to HORNBACH are based on the company's financial year (March – February).

We see this as providing renewed confirmation of our retail format, which focuses on the needs of project customers. At core, this concept involves combining a broad product range, professional advice, support services and permanently low prices. Past experience has shown that people tend to focus more closely on their private environment in periods of uncertainty (cocooning). Consumers concentrate more on their own four walls and are prepared to invest in renovating their homes, enhancing their appearance and upgrading their fittings. In the current financial year, this was assisted by the fact that stable prices and the relatively robust situation on the German labor market have so far helped the consumer climate to remain positive. HORNBACK was able to benefit from this business climate disproportionately compared with competitors in the period under report as well. Our concept has risen further on German DIY customers' popularity scale. This is demonstrated not least by the company's very positive performance in this year's Kundenmonitor Deutschland customer survey. In the "Overall Satisfaction" category, HORNBACK improved its mark from 2.38 to 2.27, thus defending the second position already achieved last year. We extended our lead over the competition at the same time. Our company reached top position for the dimensions of its products and services. This refers in particular to product selection, variety, quality and up-to-dateness. We made great progress in individual product categories, where consumers awarded us top position in eight out of nine categories. We are especially pleased with our promotion in the specialist advice category from sixth position in the previous year to top position this year.

■ Other European countries

Second-quarter sales at the international HORNBACK DIY megastores with garden centers rose by 4.2% to € 302.2 million (previous year: € 290.0m). First-half sales in other European countries grew by 5.2% to € 614.9 million (previous year: € 584.6m). The international share of consolidated sales at HORNBACK-Baumarkt-AG grew to 40.9% in the first six months (previous year: 40.6%). The eight countries outside Germany reported uneven developments in terms of sales in the first half. In Eastern Europe, i.e. the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Romania, we reported a reduction in like-for-like sales. The global economic crisis has severely burdened the employment situation, especially in the manufacturing sector, and purchasing power in these countries. Thanks to sales growth, in some cases substantial, in other regions within our network, however, we were largely able to compensate for this factor. The international DIY megastores with garden centers generated slight growth of 0.2% in the second quarter. At minus 0.3%, like-for-like sales growth for the first six months net of currency factors virtually matched the previous year's figure (including currency factors: minus 2.5%).

Further details about the business performance of the HORNBACK-Baumarkt-AG subgroup can be found in the interim report published separately by this subsidiary.

HORNBACK Baustoff Union GmbH subgroup

The HORNBACK Baustoff Union GmbH (HBU) subgroup increased its sales by 6.7% to € 51.2 million in the second quarter of 2009/2010 (previous year: € 48.0m). Net sales for the first half of 2009/2010 grew by 11.1% to € 96.2 million (previous year: € 86.6m). On a like-for-like basis, i.e. excluding acquisitions, the subgroup's sales rose by 4.1%. HORNBACK Baustoff Union GmbH thus successfully defied the negative trend in the builders' merchant sector in Germany. According to the BDB sector association, member firms reported a 7.3% downturn in sales nationwide for the period January to June 2009. As of August 31, 2009, HBU was operating 21 builders' merchant outlets in South-Western Germany.

Earnings performance

Earnings at the HORNBACK HOLDING AG Group

Key operating earnings figures at the overall HORNBACK HOLDING AG Group showed a pleasing year-on-year performance in the reporting period from March to August 2009. This development was chiefly driven by like-for-like sales growth in Germany, a stable gross margin across the Group and lower pre-opening and administration expenses. Unlike in the previous year, no disposal gains were generated in the real estate segment (previous year: € 26.4m). As expected, this base effect led the overall key earnings figures to fall short of the previous year's figures in spite of the improved earnings performance in the core operating business (DIY and builders' merchants).

The gross margin remained unchanged on the previous year in the first half. The gross profit amounted to 36.0% as a percentage of net sales (previous year: 35.9%). The Group's selling and store expenses rose to € 399.2 million (previous year: € 378.6m), and thus grew slightly as a proportion of sales. The store expense ratio increased from 24.8% to 25.0%. Given that the personnel expense ratio (including bonuses) remained stable, this development was mainly due to higher general operating expenses. Earnings were positively affected, by contrast, by the year-on-year reduction in pre-opening and administration expenses. The pre-opening expense ratio thus declined from 0.3% to 0.1%, while the administration expense ratio decreased from 3.8% to 3.4%.

Other income and expenses dropped year-on-year from € 35.6 million to € 10.7 million in the first half of 2009/2010. This expected reduction was chiefly due to non-operating items amounting to a net total of € 27.3 million. Net non-operating income of € 24.9 million was reported in the first half of the previous year following successful transactions in the real estate segment. In line with the budget, the first half of 2009/2010 did not bring any disposal gains from transactions, however, but rather witnessed other non-operating charges on earnings. These led to net non-operating expenses of € 2.3 million. As a result, key earnings figures at the overall HORNBACH HOLDING AG Group for the period under report fell correspondingly short of the previous year's figure.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) declined by 6.2% from € 176.4 million to € 165.5 million in the first half of the current financial year. At € 130.1 million, the HORNBACH Group's operating earnings (EBIT) fell 8.1% short of the previous year's figure (€ 141.5m). Net of non-operating earnings items, operative EBIT grew by 13.6% to € 132.4 million (previous year: € 116.6m). Due to a lower volume of interest income compared with the previous year, as well as to exchange rate differences, net financial expenses at the HORNBACH HOLDING AG Group deteriorated from minus € 16.7 million to minus € 18.9 million. Consolidated earnings before taxes reduced by 10.9% to € 111.2 million (previous year: € 124.8m). Net income for the period is reported at € 78.2 million (previous year: € 95.7m). Earnings per preference share amounted to € 7.84 at the end of the first six months (previous year: € 9.76).

The EBITDA of the overall HORNBACH HOLDING AG Group for the second quarter of 2009/2010 decreased by 4.0% to € 88.4 million (previous year: € 92.0m). EBIT dropped by 5.2% to € 70.5 million (previous year: € 74.4m). EBIT net of non-operating one-off items improved by 20.9% to € 72.7 million (previous year: € 60.1m). Consolidated earnings before taxes fell by 8.3% to € 60.8 million (previous year: € 66.3m). Net income for the period amounted to € 41.1 million in the second quarter (previous year: € 49.8m). Earnings per preference share for the second quarter amounted to € 4.15 (previous year: € 4.92).

Earnings by subsidiary

The key earnings figures for the overall Group are largely dependent on the earnings performance of the largest operating subgroup, **HORNBACH-Baumarkt-AG**. Due to non-operating one-off items, mainly involving disposal gains of € 14.6 million in the real estate segment in the previous year, operating earnings (EBIT) at this company decreased by 4.9% to € 108.3 million (previous year: € 113.9m). Net of non-operating earnings items, operative EBIT rose by 11.5%, and thus showed markedly disproportionate growth compared with sales.

The **HORNBACH Baustoff Union GmbH** subgroup achieved clearly disproportionate growth in earnings compared with sales in the first half of the financial year. HBU improved its operating earnings from € 2.1 million to € 3.4 million. Alongside the pleasing sales momentum in the existing network of locations, this earnings growth was chiefly driven by an increase in the gross profit, and by improved cost ratios.

Due to base effects in the real estate segment, by contrast, EBIT at the **HORNBACH Immobilien AG** subgroup fell as expected from € 28.2 million to € 19.7 million. In the first six months of the previous year, this subgroup posted net non-operating income of € 10.3 million, mainly as a result of a successful land development project in Austria, whereas no disposal gains were generated in the period under report.

Financial and net asset position

Investments at the overall HORNBACH HOLDING AG Group showed a slight year-on-year increase from € 61.0 million to € 64.9 million in the first six months of the current 2009/2010 financial year. Around 69% of this sum was invested in land and buildings, while the rest was primarily channeled into plant and office equipment at new and existing stores, as well as into intangible assets (mainly IT software). Investments were financed in full from the cash flow of € 191.5 million from operating activities (previous year: € 158.5m). Further information about financing and investment activities at HORNBACH HOLDING AG can be found in the cash flow statement on Page 14.

Total assets at the HORNBACH Group grew to € 2,139.6 million as of August 31, 2009, up 7.2% on the balance sheet date on February 28, 2009. This increase was primarily due to the substantial rise in cash and cash equivalents from € 275.2 million to € 418.9 million. This was countered within current assets by a reduction in inventories by € 59.7 million to € 456.5 million. In this respect, the inventory turnover rate at the HORNBACH-Baumarkt-AG subgroup improved year-on-year by 0.2 in the first half of the financial year. Mainly as a result of the increase in property, plant and equipment, non-current assets grew by 7.1% to € 1,002.6 million.

Key ratios on the liabilities side of the balance sheet underline the HORNBACH Group's solid financing policies which, given the ongoing uncertainty triggered by the financial crisis, focus on ensuring flexibility in the management of the company and on securing its liquidity. Shareholders' equity as reported in the balance sheet rose to € 852.9 million as of August 31, 2009, an increase of 9.3%, or € 72.4 million, compared with the balance sheet date on February 28, 2009. As a result, the equity ratio increased from 39.1% to 39.9%. Moreover, the Group achieved further improvements in its financing structure and increased its cash item as a security cushion.

Following the successful placement of a borrowers' note loan of € 60.0 million in July 2009 and the taking up of additional long-term financing facilities by HORNBACH Immobilien AG, current financial liabilities at the overall Group were reduced by € 41.6 million to € 111.7 million. This reduction was countered by increased trade payables and other liabilities (plus € 32.5m) and increased income tax liabilities (plus € 6.9m). At € 498.6 million, current liabilities thus fell slightly short of the figure as of February 28, 2009 (€ 502.4m). Due largely to the increase in long-term financial debt (plus € 72.3m), non-current debt rose by 10.6% to € 788.2 million (February 28, 2009: € 712.9m).

As of August 31, 2009, the net financial debt of the HORNBACH Group had reduced significantly from € 499.4 million as of February 28, 2009 to € 386.3 million.

Employees

At the reporting date on August 31, 2009, 13,342 individuals across Europe were in fixed employment at the HORNBACH Group (February 28, 2009: 13,169). Of this total, the Group had 8,325 employees in Germany (balance sheet date: 8,282) and 5,017 in other European countries (balance sheet date: 4,887).

Risk Report

We provided a detailed presentation of the risks involved in our business activities on Pages 64 to 67 of the 2008/2009 Annual Report of the HORNBACH HOLDING AG Group. Over and above the information provided in the Annual Report, there have been no major changes in the first half of 2009/2010 which could result in any new risk assessment for the second half of the year. Furthermore, no future risks to the continued existence of the HORNBACH HOLDING AG Group have been identified on the basis of the information currently available.

Events After the Balance Sheet Date

No events of material significance for the assessment of the earnings, financial and net asset position of HORNBAACH HOLDING AG or of the HORNBAACH HOLDING AG Group have taken place since the conclusion of the first half of the financial year on August 31, 2009.

Outlook

Opportunities

We reported extensively on the macroeconomic, sector-specific and strategic opportunities of relevance to the business activities of the HORNBAACH HOLDING AG Group on Pages 67 to 76 of our 2008/2009 Annual Report. This basic assessment of our medium to long-term development potential also remains valid upon publication of this half-year financial report. Macroeconomic developments for the second half of the financial year through to the year-end on February 28, 2010 continue to involve considerable forecasting uncertainties. This is particularly the case for developments on the labor market and their implications for real-term incomes and consumer confidence.

The global economic crisis lost much of its intensity in summer 2009. According to figures released by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), seasonally-adjusted gross domestic product in OECD countries showed a minimal reduction of 0.002% in the second calendar quarter of 2009 and thus virtually halted its decline, having still dropped by 2.1% in the first quarter. Against this backdrop, there has been a further tangible improvement in the global economic climate in the third calendar quarter. A whole series of early indicators and assessments by bank economists and research institutes point to an economic turnaround. According to the global ifo business confidence index in August 2009, the experts surveyed have provided a considerably more favorable outlook, especially for the coming six months. Not only that, the assessment of the current situation has also improved for the first time in two years. The Purchasing Managers Index showed similar results (August 2009). According to the economists, the euro area and Germany are about to witness several months of robust growth. The experts attribute this surprising increase in the early indicator to economic stimulus packages gradually beginning to take effect, as well as to low stocks at companies, which have to be replenished to satisfy the pick-up in demand. Moreover, the improvement in the business climate has also benefited from very expansive monetary policies and the extensive measures taken to stabilize financial markets.

One large question mark remains as to the sustainability of this upward trend. The possibility of any notably robust recovery in the second half of 2009 would seem to be hindered by the fact that the economy is far from having overcome the consequences of its previous hard landing. Current forecasts for economic growth in the current and coming years also reflect a more cautious assessment. In its "World Economic Outlook" published in July 2009, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecast a 1.4% reduction in GDP for 2009 as a whole, a development due to the very poor figures for the first quarter. An annual average growth rate of 2.5% is forecast for 2010. The European Central Bank (ECB) expects economic activity to remain weak in the euro area in the remainder of the year and, following a period of stabilization, to return to growth in 2010. This is consistent with the forecast made by financial experts surveyed by the ECB in mid-July 2009, according to which real GDP in the euro area is expected to contract by 4.5% in 2009 as a whole and to grow by 0.3% in 2010.

Based on the forecast issued by Deutsche Bank Research, the German economy will shrink by an annualized average rate of around 5% in 2009. In spite of the return to growth in the second quarter, that would be the severest economic downturn since World War Two. This in turn reflects the massive reduction in industrial output in Germany, which is estimated to have amounted to around 20%. More important for economic experts, however, is the outlook for 2010. Germany, one of the world's leading exporters and thus heavily reliant on the global economic recovery, is predicted to achieve economic growth of around 1%.

The construction sector will emit mixed signals in 2009 and 2010. Due to the renewed reduction in the volume of housing projects completed, only the economic stimulus programs for civil engineering and public construction can be expected to provide any tailwind. Deutsche Bank expects construction output to decline by around 4% in real terms in 2009, with slight growth then possible in 2010. Private consumer spending is standing on a shaky foundation. While consumer spending still benefited from fiscal relief and the state-subsidized car scrapping scheme for large parts of 2009, from the new year onwards it can be expected to come under pressure due to developments on the labor market. Whereas one wave of redundancies has already followed hot on the heels of the last at companies in other countries, the state subsidies provided for reduced working hours in Germany mean that companies have stockpiled a huge supply of labor - more than could be retained in employment even if the economy were to show a robust recovery. Experts expect unemployment to rise from its current total of 3.5 million to up to 4.5 million by the end of 2010. At the latest by then, therefore, the solid level of consumer confidence in Germany can be expected to suffer. Having said this, purchasing power at least stands to continue to benefit from price stability for the time being.

The German retail sector is also defensive in its assessment of its chances for the second half of 2009. Retail sales for the first seven months dropped by 2.3% in nominal terms and by 2.0% adjusted for inflation. For 2009 as a whole, the HDE sector association expects sales to fall by 2% in nominal terms, even though consumer confidence as calculated by GfK market researchers reached an annual high in September 2009. The BHB DIY sector association, by contrast, is "relatively calm" in its assessment of the second half of the year. Developments in DIY retail and the trend in July/August have so far been much better than many had expected. As long as there is no sudden change in customers' confidence levels before the end of 2009, the DIY store sector thus still has the opportunity of matching the previous year's sales on a like-for-like basis.

Outlook for the company

Based on the information currently available, we can confirm the outlook for the current financial year formulated in the 2008/2009 Annual Report (Pages 76 to 79) and in the interim report for the first quarter of 2009/2010. Accordingly, one further HORNBACH DIY megastore with a garden center is scheduled to be opened before the balance sheet date on February 28, 2010 - the fifth HORNBACH DIY megastore with a garden center in Switzerland is expected to commence trading in the fourth quarter of the current financial year at Galgenen in the Zurich area. The total number of locations across the Group will thus rise to 131 by the end of the financial year.

We expect consolidated sales, i.e. net sales including sales generated at newly opened stores, to grow in a low to medium single-digit percentage range both on the level of the overall HORNBACH HOLDING AG Group and of the HORNBACH-Baumarkt-AG subgroup in the current 2009/2010 financial year. We expect like-for-like sales at our DIY megastores with garden centers in Germany to continue to outperform the sector average by a clear margin in the coming months as well. Sales at the HORNBACH Baustoff Union GmbH subgroup are also expected to outperform the builders' merchant sector in Germany. In other European countries, we assume that the distribution of risks across our European store network will allow the reduction in sales expected in specific regions to be compensated for at least in part by sales growth in other regions.

Up to two HORNBACH DIY megastores with garden centers in total are due to be refinanced by sale and leaseback transactions in the current financial year, rather than the total of three previously budgeted. One transaction is expected to be completed in the third quarter, and one in the fourth quarter. The real estate segment is not expected to generate any substantial disposal gains, compared with net non-operating income of around € 45 million at the overall Group in the previous 2008/2009 financial year. The inflow of funds is budgeted at around € 60 million and is to be reinvested in full.

Due mainly to significantly lower earnings in the real estate segment, the operating earnings (EBIT) of the overall HORNBACH HOLDING AG Group for the 2009/2010 financial year as a whole are expected to fall considerably short of the level reported for the 2008/2009 financial year (€ 179.1m), but should nevertheless exceed the EBIT posted for the 2007/2008 financial year (€ 105.5m).

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Income Statement

€ million	2 nd Quarter 2009/2010	2 nd Quarter 2008/2009	Change %	1 st Half 2009/2010	1 st Half 2008/2009	Change %
Sales	779.4	747.7	4.2	1,599.2	1,525.5	4.8
Cost of goods sold	500.9	481.4	4.1	1,024.2	978.4	4.7
Gross profit	278.5	266.4	4.5	574.9	547.1	5.1
Selling and store expenses	186.8	179.9	3.9	399.2	378.6	5.5
Pre-opening expenses	0.7	2.9	(74.8)	1.6	4.7	(66.7)
General and administration expenses	26.1	28.2	(7.6)	54.7	57.9	(5.5)
Other income and expenses	5.7	19.0	(70.2)	10.7	35.6	(70.0)
Earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT)	70.5	74.4	(5.2)	130.1	141.5	(8.1)
Other interest and similar income	1.1	3.8	(70.7)	2.4	6.4	(62.7)
Other interest and similar expenses	10.2	11.9	(14.5)	20.8	22.4	(7.0)
Other financial result	(0.6)	0.0		(0.4)	(0.7)	(39.0)
Net financial expenses	(9.7)	(8.0)	20.1	(18.9)	(16.7)	13.0
Consolidated earnings before taxes	60.8	66.3	(8.3)	111.2	124.8	(10.9)
Taxes on income	19.7	16.5	19.7	33.1	29.1	13.6
Consolidated net income	41.1	49.8	(17.5)	78.2	95.7	(18.3)
of which: income attributable to shareholders	33.0	39.1	(15.8)	62.5	77.9	(19.8)
of which: minority interests	8.1	10.7	(23.9)	15.7	17.9	(12.1)
Earnings per share in €	4.09	4.86	(15.8)	7.78	9.70	(19.8)
Earnings per preference share in €	4.15	4.92	(15.7)	7.84	9.76	(19.7)

Rounding up or down may lead to discrepancies between percentages and totals. Calculation of percentage figures based on € 000s.

Statement of Recognized Income and Expenses

€ million	1 st Half 2009/2010	1 st Half 2008/2009
Consolidated net income	78.2	95.7
Measurement of derivative financial instruments (cash flow hedge)		
Measurement of derivative hedging instruments directly in equity	(1.1)	3.9
Gains and losses from measurement of derivative financial instruments transferred to profit or loss	1.0	(0.7)
Exchange differences arising on the translation of foreign subsidiaries	6.2	2.0
Deferred taxes on gains and losses recognized directly in equity	0.0	(0.9)
Income and expenses recognized directly in equity	6.2	4.2
Total income and expenses recognized in the financial statements	84.3	100.0
of which: attributable to shareholders	67.5	81.5
of which: attributable to minority interests	16.9	18.5

Rounding up or down may lead to discrepancies between totals.

Balance Sheet

Assets	August 31, 2009		February 28, 2009	
	€ million	%	€ million	%
Non-current assets				
Intangible assets	19.8	0.9	20.3	1.0
Property, plant, and equipment	1,002.6	46.9	936.1	46.9
Investment property	45.4	2.1	48.9	2.5
Financial assets	2.4	0.1	5.1	0.3
Non-current receivables and other assets	18.7	0.9	23.8	1.2
Non-current income tax receivables	17.1	0.8	16.9	0.8
Deferred tax assets	20.7	1.0	21.1	1.1
	1,126.7	52.7	1,072.1	53.7
Current assets				
Inventories	456.5	21.3	516.2	25.9
Other receivables and assets	101.7	4.8	72.7	3.6
Income tax receivables	0.4	0.0	8.7	0.4
Cash and cash equivalents	418.9	19.6	275.2	13.8
Non-current assets held for sale and disposal groups	35.5	1.7	51.0	2.6
	1,012.9	47.3	923.7	46.3
	2,139.6	100.0	1,995.8	100.0

Equity and liabilities	August 31, 2009		February 28, 2009	
	€ million	%	€ million	%
Equity				
Share capital	24.0	1.1	24.0	1.2
Capital reserve	130.4	6.1	130.4	6.5
Revenue reserves	549.2	25.7	491.0	24.6
Minority interests	149.4	7.0	135.1	6.8
	852.9	39.9	780.5	39.1
Non-current liabilities				
Long-term financial debt	693.5	32.4	621.2	31.1
Deferred tax liabilities	73.3	3.4	71.7	3.6
Other non-current liabilities	21.4	1.0	20.0	1.0
	788.2	36.8	712.9	35.7
Current liabilities				
Short-term financial debt	111.7	5.2	153.3	7.7
Trade payables and other liabilities	280.7	13.1	248.2	12.4
Income tax liabilities	39.4	1.8	32.5	1.6
Other provisions and accrued liabilities	66.7	3.1	68.5	3.4
	498.6	23.3	502.4	25.2
	2,139.6	100.0	1,995.8	100.0

Rounding up or down may lead to discrepancies between percentages and totals. Calculation of percentage figures based on € 000s.

Statement of Changes in Equity

1 st Half 2008/2009 € million	Share capital	Capital reserve	Hedging reserve	Cumulative currency translation	Other revenue reserves ^{*)}	Equity attributable to share- holders	Minority interests	Total group equity
Balance at March 1, 2008	24.0	130.4	(1.2)	7.1	410.7	570.9	116.7	687.6
Total income and expenses recognized in the financial statements			1.8	1.8	77.9	81.5	18.5	100.0
Dividend distribution					(8.9)	(8.9)	(3.1)	(12.0)
Capital increase from share option plans					0.1	0.1	1.1	1.2
Changes in scope of consolidation					(0.4)	(0.4)	0.2	(0.2)
Balance at August 31, 2008	24.0	130.4	0.6	8.9	479.3	643.2	133.4	776.6

1 st Half 2009/2010 € million	Share capital	Capital reserve	Hedging reserve	Cumulative currency translation	Other revenue reserves ^{*)}	Equity attributable to share- holders	Minority interests	Total group equity
Balance at March 1, 2009	24.0	130.4	(4.0)	3.3	491.7	645.3	135.1	780.5
Total income and expenses recognized in the financial statements			0.0	5.0	62.5	67.5	16.9	84.3
Dividend distribution					(8.9)	(8.9)	(3.1)	(12.0)
Capital increase from share option plans							0.6	0.6
Changes in scope of consolidation					(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.1)	(0.5)
Balance at August 31, 2009	24.0	130.4	(4.0)	8.3	544.8	703.5	149.4	852.9

Rounding up or down may lead to discrepancies between totals.

^{*)} the income and expenses recognized under other revenue reserves relate to net income for the period attributable to shareholders.

Cash Flow Statement

€ million	1 st Half 2009/2010	1 st Half 2008/2009
Consolidated net income	78.2	95.7
Depreciation and amortization of non-current assets	35.4	34.9
Change in provisions	2.2	(0.2)
Gains/losses on disposals of non-current assets and of non-current assets held for sale	0.0	(25.4)
Change in inventories, trade receivables and other assets	43.0	(1.5)
Change in trade payables and other liabilities	30.9	54.9
Other non-cash income/expenses	1.7	0.0
Cash flow from operating activities	191.5	158.5
Proceeds from disposals of non-current assets and of non-current assets held for sale	7.9	17.2
Payments for investments in property, plant, and equipment	(47.8)	(58.4)
Payments for investments in intangible assets	(1.9)	(0.7)
Payments for investments in financial assets	(1.0)	0.0
Payments for acquisitions of shareholdings and other business units	(14.3)	(1.9)
Cash flow from investing activities	(57.0)	(43.8)
Proceeds from capital increases	0.6	1.1
Dividends paid	(12.0)	(12.0)
Proceeds from taking up long-term debt	87.5	25.3
Repayment of long-term debt	(23.4)	(23.6)
Payments for transaction costs	(0.8)	0.0
Change in short-term debt	(43.4)	9.8
Cash flow from financing activities	8.5	0.6
Cash-effective change in cash and cash equivalents	142.9	115.2
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to changes in exchange rates	0.7	0.5
Cash and cash equivalents at March 1	275.2	196.0
Cash and cash equivalents at August 31	418.9	311.7

Rounding up or down may lead to discrepancies between totals.

The proceeds from disposals of non-current assets include purchase price payments of € 5.9 million from the disposal of land not required for operations executed in the previous year.

The cash flow from operating activities was reduced by € 17.4 million on account of income tax payments (previous year: € 17.0m) and by € 22.2 million on account of interest payments (previous year: € 22.2m) and increased by € 2.4 million on account of interest received (previous year: € 6.4m).

The other non-cash income/expenses item largely consists of unrecognized foreign currency differences and deferred taxes.

The payments for the acquisition of shareholdings and other business units in the first half of 2009/2010 relate to the acquisition of a new builders' merchant location and of a Czech real estate company.

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Notes to the Interim Consolidated Financial Statements

(1) Accounting principles

This Group half-year financial report of HORNBAACH HOLDING AG and its subsidiaries for the 1st half as of August 31, 2009 has been prepared in accordance with Section 315a of the German Commercial Code (HGB) based on International Financial Reporting Standards in the form requiring mandatory application in the European Union.

The HORNBAACH Group has implemented all International Financial Reporting Standards and Interpretations of the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) requiring mandatory application in the European Union for the first time from the 2009/2010 financial year. Specifically, these involve:

- IAS 1 "Presentation of Financial Statements": the initial application of the new version of this standard has mainly resulted in a change in the presentation of components of the financial statements.
- IAS 23 "Borrowing Costs (revised)": the revised standard has abolished the previous option of not capitalizing borrowing costs. From January 1, 2009, borrowing costs directly or indirectly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of qualifying assets must be capitalized as a cost component. As this option was already drawn on in the past, the initial application has not had any implications for the group interim report.
- IFRS 8 "Operating Segments" replaces IAS 14 and bases segment reporting on application of the management approach. The initial application of IFRS 8 has resulted in a restructuring of the segment report. The business segments of the HORNBAACH-HOLDING AG Group requiring report correspond to the "DIY Stores", "Builders' Merchants", and "Real Estate" segments previously included in the primary segment report. Moreover, the transition from total segment earnings (EBIT) to consolidated earnings before taxes has been presented.

The application of the other International Financial Reporting Standards and Interpretations of the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee requiring initial application in the 2009/2010 financial year has not had any implications for the net asset, financial and earnings position of the Group.

Otherwise, the accounting principles applied when preparing the interim report correspond to those applied in the consolidated financial statements as of February 28, 2009. The Group has made additional application of IAS 34 "Interim Financial Reporting". This interim report is to be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements of HORNBAACH HOLDING AG for the 2008/2009 financial year. Reference is made to these financial statements on account of the additional information they contain as to the specific accounting and valuation methods applied. The notes included therein also apply to this interim report, unless any amendments are expressly indicated. Moreover, this interim report also complies with German Accounting Standard No. 16 (DRS 16) - Interim Reporting - of the German Accounting Standards Committee (DRSC). Based on a resolution adopted by the Annual General Meeting on July 10, 2009, the group auditor, KPMG AG Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft, was commissioned to perform an audit review of the half-year financial report of the HORNBAACH HOLDING AG Group.

(2) Adjustments to enhance presentation

Recognized foreign currency gains and losses and income and expenses from the measurement of primary receivables and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies were recognized under net financial expenses for the first time in the consolidated financial statements as of February 28, 2009. Previously, these items were presented under other income and expenses, while IFRS required the measurement of derivative foreign currency hedging instruments to be reported under net financial expenses. As these components of earnings are closely related in economic terms, the amended reporting method has led to a more accurate presentation of foreign currency gains and losses. Other income of € 43.7 million and other expenses of € 7.8 million were reported in the half-year financial report for the first half of 2008/2009 as of August 31, 2008. These items included income of € 3.3 million and expenses of € 2.9 million from exchange differences. The net income of € 0.4 million has been reclassified in line with the new presentation. As a result, other income and expenses are € 0.4 million lower and net financial expenses are correspondingly higher than stated in the interim report for the first half of 2008/2009. Accordingly, EBIT and EBITDA for the first half of 2008/2009 are also € 0.4 million lower.

(3) Scope of consolidation

Development OVA South a.s., Opava (Czech Republic) was included in the consolidated financial statements for the first time in the first half of 2009/2010.

(4) Seasonal influences

Due to weather conditions, the HORNBACH HOLDING AG Group generally reports a weaker business performance in the autumn and winter than in the spring and summer months. These seasonal fluctuations are reflected in the figures for the first half. The business performance in the first six months as of August 31, 2009 does not necessarily provide an indication of the results to be expected for the 2009/2010 financial year as a whole.

(5) Other income and expenses

Other income and expenses are structured as follows:

€ million	2nd Quarter 2009/2010	2 nd Quarter 2008/2009	Change %
Other income	9.9	21.2	(53.2)
Other expenses	4.2	2.2	97.0
Other income and expenses	5.7	19.0	(70.2)

€ million	1st Half 2009/2010	1 st Half 2008/2009	Change %
Other income	16.2	40.4	(59.9)
Other expenses	5.5	4.9	13.5
Other income and expenses	10.7	35.6	(70.0)

Percentages calculated on basis of € 000s. Rounding up or down may lead to discrepancies between totals.

The other income reported for the first half consists of operating income of € 15.6 million (previous year: € 13.2m) and non-operating income of € 0.6 million (previous year: € 27.2m). Operating income mainly consists of advertising grants and income from reversals of provisions. Non-operating income for the first half of 2009/2010 mainly consists of retrospective income of € 0.6 million from the sale of real estate in the 2008/2009 financial year. The non-operating income for the first half of 2008/2009 mainly results from the disposal of a DIY store property and of land not required for operations (total: € 26.4m). These disposals were handled partly as disposals of real estate companies and partly as disposals of assets. The DIY store property was leased back on a long-term basis within the framework of an operating lease. There is the option of extending the letting period

following expiry of the fixed term. Moreover, the previous year's figure also includes income of € 0.8 million from the reversal of a provision for onerous contracts.

The other expenses for the first half of 2009/2010 consist of operating expenses of € 2.6 million (previous year: € 2.6m) and non-operating expenses of € 2.9 million (previous year: € 2.3m). Operating expenses mainly involve write-downs on receivables, losses incurred for damages, and losses on the disposal of non-current assets. Non-operating expenses for the first half of 2009/2010 chiefly result from an allocation of € 1.9 million to provisions for onerous contracts (previous year: € 0.2m) and from the reclassification of a property previously held for sale. As the intention to sell no longer applies, the property has been reclassified to property, plant and equipment and measured at its amortized original carrying amount. The retrospective recognition of scheduled depreciation led to expenses of € 0.7 million. Moreover, this item also includes expenses of € 0.2 million in connection with investment projects not subject to further development (previous year: € 1.6m). The previous year's figure also includes an impairment loss of € 0.5 million resulting from the write-down of a piece of land held for sale in the real estate segment to its expected net sale proceeds.

(6) Earnings per share

Basic earnings per share are calculated pursuant to IAS 33 (Earnings per Share) as the quotient of the income attributable to the shareholders of HORNBACH HOLDING AG for the period under report and the weighted average number of shares outstanding.

	2 nd Quarter 2009/2010	2 nd Quarter 2008/2009
Consolidated net income in € million	33.0	39.1
Additional dividend for preference shares in € million	0.2	0.2
Consolidated net income adjusted to account for additional dividend claims in € million	32.7	38.9
Number of ordinary shares issued	4,000,000	4,000,000
Number of preference shares issued	4,000,000	4,000,000
	8,000,000	8,000,000
Earnings per share in €	4.09	4.86
Additional dividend claim per preference share in €	0.06	0.06
Earnings per preference share in €	4.15	4.92

	1 st Half 2009/2010	1 st Half 2008/2009
Consolidated net income in € million	62.5	77.9
Additional dividend for preference shares in € million	0.2	0.2
Consolidated net income adjusted to account for additional dividend claims in € million	62.2	77.6
Number of ordinary shares issued	4,000,000	4,000,000
Number of preference shares issued	4,000,000	4,000,000
	8,000,000	8,000,000
Earnings per share in €	7.78	9.70
Additional dividend claim per preference share in €	0.06	0.06
Earnings per preference share in €	7.84	9.76

(7) Other disclosures

The personnel expenses of the HORNBACH HOLDING AG Group amounted to € 230.6 million at the end of the first half as of August 31, 2009 (previous year: € 224.8m).

Depreciation and amortization totaling € 35.4 million was recognized on non-current intangible assets and property, plant and equipment at the HORNBACH HOLDING AG Group in the first half of the 2009/2010 financial year (previous year: € 34.9m).

(8) Dividends

As proposed by the Board of Management and Supervisory Board of HORNBACH HOLDING AG, following approval by the Annual General Meeting on July 10, 2009 dividends of € 1.08 per ordinary share and € 1.14 per preference share were distributed to shareholders for the 2008/2009 financial year.

(9) Share option plans

Within the framework of the 1999 share option plan of HORNBACH-Baumarkt-AG, a total of 27,570 subscription rights were exercised in accordance with the terms and conditions of the share option plan during the exercise windows in the first half of 2009/2010. In addition, a total of 1,480 share options within the 2003 phantom stock plan of HORNBACH-Baumarkt-AG were exercised over the same period.

(10) Employee shares

On August 10, 2009, the Board of Management of HORNBACH-Baumarkt-AG resolved pursuant to Section 71 (1) No. 2 of the German Stock Corporation Act (AktG) to acquire up to 20,000 treasury stock shares. These shares are to be acquired for the (annual) issue of employee shares scheduled to take place at the end of 2009.

The repurchase of shares pursuant to this management board resolution is being undertaken in accordance with the safe harbor regulations set out in Section 20a (3) of the German Securities Trading Act (WpHG) in conjunction with Regulation (EC) No. 2273/2003 of the Commission dated December 22, 2003.

The repurchase of shares began on August 11, 2009 and is limited until December 31, 2009. A total of 6,757 treasury stocks had been acquired by August 31, 2009.

(11) Contingent liabilities and other financial obligations

These mainly involve rental, hiring, leasehold and leasing contracts for which the companies of the HORNBACH HOLDING AG Group do not constitute the economic owners of the assets thereby leased pursuant to IFRS regulations (Operating Lease). These amounted to € 848.0 million at the end of the first half of 2009/2010 (February 28, 2009: € 911.2m).

(12) Relationships to closely related companies and persons

In addition to the subsidiaries included in the consolidated financial statements, HORNBACH HOLDING AG also has direct or indirect relationships with associated companies when performing its customary business activities. Apart from the transactions reported in the annual financial statements, no major transactions were undertaken with closely related companies and persons during the first half of 2009/2010.

(13) Segment report

1 st Half 2009/2010 in € million 1 st Half 2008/2009 in € million	DIY stores	Builders' merchants	Real estate	Headquarters and consolidation	HORNBACH HOLDING AG Group
Segment sales	1,502.4	96.2	90.5	(89.9)	1,599.2
	1,438.6	86.6	84.8	(84.5)	1,525.5
Sales to third parties	1,502.4	94.9	0.0	0.0	1,597.3
	1,438.5	85.2	0.0	0.0	1,523.7
Sales to affiliated companies	0.0	1.3	0.0	(1.3)	0.0
	0.1	1.4	0.0	(1.5)	0.0
Rental income from affiliated companies	0.0	0.0	88.6	(88.6)	0.0
	0.0	0.0	83.0	(83.0)	0.0
Rental income from external third parties	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	1.9
	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0	1.8
Segment earnings (EBIT)	96.2	3.4	37.8	(7.3)	130.1
	89.9	2.1	60.0	(10.5)	141.5
Depreciation and amortization	17.6	2.0	11.8	4.0	35.4
	18.9	1.6	10.3	4.1	34.9
EBITDA	113.8	5.4	49.6	(3.3)	165.5
	108.8	3.7	70.3	(6.4)	176.4
Segment assets	722.8	105.2	972.8	300.7	2,101.5
	727.7	89.8	888.0	295.6	2,001.1
of which: credit balances at banks	73.0	0.5	57.6	266.2	397.3
	51.1	0.3	7.9	218.5	277.8

Reconciliation in € million	1 st Half 2009/2010	1 st Half 2008/2009
Segment earnings (EBIT) before "Headquarters and consolidation"	137.4	152.0
Unallocated activities	(6.8)	(10.1)
Consolidation adjustments	(0.5)	(0.4)
Net financial expenses	(18.9)	(16.7)
Consolidated earnings before taxes	111.2	124.8

Rounding up or down may lead to discrepancies between totals.

RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

To the best of our knowledge, and in accordance with the applicable reporting principles for interim financial reporting, the interim consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Group, and the interim management report of the Group includes a fair review of the development and performance of the business and the position of the Group, together with a description of the principal opportunities and risks associated with the expected development of the Group for the remaining months of the financial year.

Neustadt an der Weinstrasse, September 22, 2009

The Board of Management of HORNBACH HOLDING AG

Albrecht Hornbach

Roland Pelka

REVIEW REPORT

To Hornbach Holding Aktiengesellschaft, Neustadt/Weinstrasse

We have reviewed the condensed interim consolidated financial statements – comprising the balance sheet, income statement, cash flow statement, statement of changes in equity and selected explanatory notes - and the interim group management report of Hornbach Holding Aktiengesellschaft, Neustadt/Weinstrasse, for the period from March 1 to August 31, 2009, which are part of the half year financial report according to § 37 w WpHG [„Wertpapierhandelsgesetz“: „German Securities Trading Act“]. The preparation of the condensed interim consolidated financial statements in accordance with the IFRS applicable to interim financial reporting as adopted by the EU, and of the interim group management report which has been prepared in accordance with the regulations of the German Securities Trading Act applicable to interim group management reports is the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to issue a review report on these condensed interim consolidated financial statements and on the interim group management report based on our review.

We performed our review of the condensed interim consolidated financial statements and the interim group management report in accordance with the German generally accepted standards for the review of financial statements promulgated by the Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer (IDW) and additionally in accordance with the International Standard on Review Engagements, “Review of Interim Financial Information Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity” (ISRE 2410). Those standards require that we plan and conduct the review so that we can preclude through critical evaluation, with a certain level of assurance, that the condensed interim consolidated financial statements have not been prepared, in material aspects, in accordance with the IFRS applicable to interim financial reporting as adopted by the EU, and that the interim group management report has not been prepared, in material aspects, in accordance with the regulations of the German Securities Trading Act applicable to interim group management reports. A review is limited primarily to inquiries of company employees and analytical assessments and therefore does not provide the assurance attainable in a financial statement audit. Since, in accordance with our engagement, we have not performed a financial statement audit, we cannot issue an auditor's report.

Based on our review, no matters have come to our attention that cause us to presume that the condensed interim consolidated financial statements have not been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the IFRS applicable to interim financial reporting as adopted by the EU and that the interim group management report has not been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the regulations of the German Securities Trading Act applicable to interim group management reports.

Frankfurt am Main, September 22, 2009

KPMG AG Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft

Bertram
Auditor

Kunisch
Auditor

FINANCIAL CALENDAR 2009/2010

December 22, 2009	Interim Report: 3 rd Quarter of 2009/2010 as of November 30, 2009
March 18, 2010	Trading Statement
May 27, 2010	Annual Results Press Conference 2009/2010 Publication of Annual Report

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DISCLAIMER

This interim report contains forward-looking statements based on assumptions and estimates made by the Board of Management of HORNBACH. Statements referring to the future are always only valid at the time at which they are made. Although we assume that the expectations reflected in these forecast statements are realistic, the company can provide no guarantee that these expectations will also turn out to be accurate. The assumptions may involve risks and uncertainties which could result in actual results differing significantly from the forecast statements. The factors which could produce such variances include changes in the economic and business environment, particularly in respect of consumer behavior and the competitive environment in those retail markets of relevance for HORNBACH. Furthermore, they include a lack of acceptance of new sales formats or new product ranges, as well as changes to the corporate strategy. HORNBACH has no plans to update the forecast statements, neither does it accept any obligation to do so.