

Review of Financial Performance

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Certain figures in this section may not add up to the relevant totals due to rounding.

Certain comparative figures have been restated to conform with the current year's presentation.

Review of Financial Performance

Highlights and Performance Indicators

	2004	2003	Variance (%)	
Key indicators				
Net interest income (NII) (\$ million)	2,155	2,071	+ 4.	
Non-interest income (Non-NII) (\$ million)	1,104	1,089	+ 1.	
Total income (\$ million)	3,259	3,160	+ 3.	
Total expenses (\$ million)	1,227	1,095	+ 12.	
Operating profit before goodwill amortisation				
and provisions (\$ million)	2,032	2,064	_ 1.	
Net profit after tax				
Including goodwill amortisation (\$ million)	1,452	1,202	+ 20.	
Excluding goodwill amortisation (\$ million)	1,665	1,404	+ 18.	
Income mix				
NII/Total income (%)	66.1	65.5	+ 0.6 % poir	
Non-NII/Total income (%)	33.9	34.5	- 0.6 % poir	
	100.0	100.0		
Profit contribution (before tax and goodwill amortisation)				
Onshore (including ACU) (%)	78.8	75.6	+ 3.2 % poin	
Offshore (%)	21.2	24.4	- 3.2 % poin	
	100.0	100.0		
Return on average shareholders' funds (ROE)				
Including goodwill amortisation (%)	10.8	9.3	+ 1.5 % poin	
Excluding goodwill amortisation (%)	12.4	10.9	+ 1.5 % poin	
Basic earnings per share				
Including goodwill amortisation (cents)	92.6	76.5	+ 21.	
Excluding goodwill amortisation (cents)	106.3	89.3	+ 19.	
Return on average total assets (ROA)				
Including goodwill amortisation (%)	1.19	1.10	+ 0.09 % poir	
Excluding goodwill amortisation (%)	1.36	1.29	+ 0.07 % poir	
NII/Average interest bearing assets (%)	2.10	2.25	– 0.15 % poir	
Expense/Income ratio (%)	37.6	34.7	+ 2.9 % poin	
Dividend rates (%)				
Interim	20.0	20.0		
Final	40.0	40.0		

Highlights and Performance Indicators

	2004	2003	Variance	e (%)
Other indicators				
Customer loans (net) (\$ million)	64,300	59,297	+	8.4
Customer deposits (\$ million)	79,019	69,863	+	13.1
Loans/Deposits ratio* (%)	81.4	84.9	- 3.5 % p	oints
Non-performing loans (NPLs) (\$ million)	5,484	5,160	+	6.3
Cumulative provisions (\$ million)	3,724	3,332	+	11.8
NPL ratio ⁺ (%)	8.0	8.1	- 0.1 %	point
Cumulative provisions/NPLs (%)	67.9	64.6	+ 3.3 % p	oints
Total assets (\$ million)	134,879	113,446	+	18.9
Shareholders' funds (\$ million)	13,439	13,282	+	1.2
Unrealised revaluation surplus# (\$ million)	1,562	1,464	+	6.7
Net asset value (NAV) per share (\$)	8.75	8.45	+	3.6
Revalued NAV per share (\$)	9.77	9.38	+	4.2
Net tangible asset backing per share (\$)	6.14	6.23	_	1.4
Capital adequacy ratios				
Tier 1 capital (%)	11.0	13.2	– 2.2 % p	oints
Total capital (%)	15.6	15.2	+ 0.4 %	point
Manpower (number)	13,574	10,547	+ 3,02	7 no.

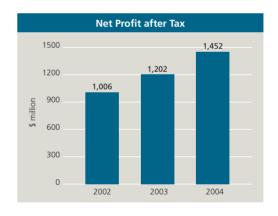
^{* &}quot;Loans" refers to net customer loans while "Deposits" refers to customer deposits.

Review of Group Performance

Following UOB's acquisition of Bank of Asia Public Company Limited and its subsidiaries ("BOA") on 27 July 2004, BOA's results for the five months ended 31 December 2004 and its balance sheet as at 31 December 2004 were consolidated into the Group's financial statements.

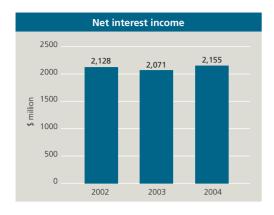
The Group's net profit after tax ("NPAT") for the financial year ended 31 December 2004 of \$1,452 million represented an increase of \$250 million or 20.8% over the \$1,202 million registered for the financial year ended 31 December 2003. The increase in NPAT was mainly due to higher share of profit of associates, lower provision charges, higher fee and commission income, and higher net interest income. These were partially offset by higher operating expenses and lower other operating income.

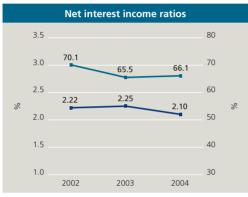
Share of profit of associates (before tax) increased \$200 million to \$307 million for 2004 mainly due to an exceptional gain recorded by United Overseas Land Limited from the divestment of its holdings in UOB shares.



⁺ NPL ratio represents NPLs (excluding debt securities) as a percentage of gross customer loans.

[#] Refer to revaluation surplus on properties and investment securities which was not incorporated into the financial statements.





- → NII/Average interest bearing assets
- → NII/Total income

Net Interest Income

Net interest income of the Group increased 4.1% to \$2,155 million for 2004 compared to \$2,071 million for 2003. The increase was mainly from inter-bank money market activities and debt securities, partly offset by lower contributions from customer loans due to a lower average interest spread. Net interest income continued to be the major contributor of total income, accounting for 66.1% (2003: 65.5%) of total income.

Average interest margin decreased 15 basis points to 2.10% for 2004 from 2.25% for 2003. The contraction in interest margin was mainly due to competitive market conditions that eroded the loan yields, coupled with a higher average cost of funds.

Average interest rates and margin

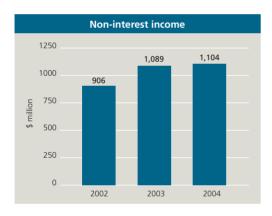
		2004		2003		
	Average balance \$ million	Interest \$ million	Average interest rate %	Average balance \$ million	Interest \$ million	Average interest rate %
Assets						
Interest bearing						
Customer loans	60,907	2,570	4.22	58,865	2,533	4.30
Inter-bank balances and balances with central banks	26,739	631	2.36	20,784	410	1.97
Government securities	8,729	183	2.10	8,607	167	1.93
Dealing and investment securities	6,222	277	4.46	3,783	185	4.89
Total interest bearing assets	102,597	3,661	3.57	92,039	3,294	3.58
Non-interest bearing						
Cash and balances with						
central banks	5,121			3,017		
Investments in associates	1,542			1,269		
Fixed assets Goodwill	1,800			1,779		
Other assets	3,626 5,641			3,586 4,209		
Total non-interest bearing assets	17,730			13,860		
Total assets	120,327			105,899		
				103,033		
Liabilities Interest bearing						
Customer deposits	74,764	907	1.21	68,016	796	1.17
Inter-bank balances	21,901	367	1.67	17,695	293	1.65
Debts issued	5,315	232	4.37 +	3,293	135	4.09 +
Total interest bearing liabilities	101,980	1,506	1.48	89,004	1,224	1.37
Total non-interest bearing liabilities	4,792			4,042		
Total liabilities	106,772			93,046		
Net interest income		2,155			2,071	
Average interest margin*			2.10			2.25

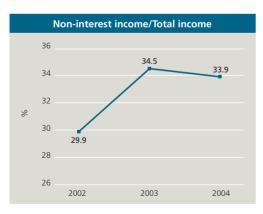
^{*} Average interest margin represents net interest income as a percentage of total interest bearing assets.

⁺ Including the effect of hedging, the average interest rate would be reduced to 2.57% and 3.18% for 2004 and 2003 respectively.

Analysis of changes in net interest income

		2004			2003	
	Volume change \$ million	Rate change \$ million	Net change \$ million	Volume change \$ million	Rate change \$ million	Net change \$ million
Interest bearing assets						
Customer loans	88	(51)	37	(63)	(215)	(278)
Inter-bank balances and balances with central banks	117	104	221	(44)	(92)	(136)
Government securities	2	15	17	(28)	(4)	(32)
Dealing and investment securities	119	(27)	92	45	(16)	29
Total interest bearing assets	326	41	367	(90)	(327)	(417)
Interest bearing liabilities						
Customer deposits	79	32	111	(10)	(261)	(271)
Inter-bank balances	70	4	74	(50)	(53)	(103)
Debts issued	83	15	98	3	11	14
Total interest bearing liabilities	232	51	283	(57)	(303)	(360)





Non-Interest Income

Non-interest income of the Group increased 1.4% to \$1,104 million for 2004 from \$1,089 million for 2003. The increase was primarily due to higher fee and commission income derived largely from fund management, investment-related and trade-related activities, higher net profit on disposal of investment securities, and higher net profit on foreign exchange dealings. This was partially negated by the net loss on dealing securities, government securities and derivatives. The Group's non-interest income for 2004 accounted for 33.9% of total income compared to 34.5% for 2003.

Composition of non-interest income

	2004 \$ million	2003 \$ million	Variance %
Fee and commission income			
Credit card	109	94	15.9
Fund management	111	78	42.8
Futures broking	32	35	(8.1)
Investment-related	131	98	34.1
Loan-related	114	97	18.1
Service charges	52	49	5.9
Trade-related	138	111	24.3
Other	18	26	(31.2)
	706	588	20.1
Dividend and rental income	108	115	(6.2)
Other operating income			
Net profit/(loss) on:			
Dealing securities, government treasury bills and securities, and derivatives	(34)	142	(124.0)
Foreign exchange dealings	126	111	13.3
Disposal of investment securities and associates	88	54	63.9
Disposal and liquidation of subsidiaries	(5)	0*	NM
Disposal of fixed assets	13	19	(31.2)
Other	103	60	71.3
	290	387	(24.9)
Total non-interest income	1,104	1,089	1.4

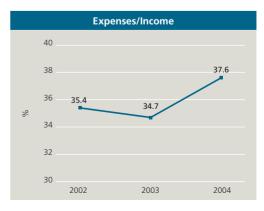
Less than \$500,000.

NM denotes 'Not Meaningful'.

Operating Expenses

Total operating expenses increased 12.0% to \$1,227 million for 2004 compared to \$1,095 million for 2003, attributed mainly to the acquisition of BOA. Consequently, the expense-to-income ratio of the Group increased to 37.6% for 2004 from 34.7% for 2003. Excluding BOA, the Group's total operating expenses would have shown a lower increase of 4.9% and a lower expense-to-income ratio of 36.6%.





	2004 \$ million	2003 \$ million	Variance %
Wages and salaries	499	450	10.9
Employer's contribution to defined contribution plans, including Central Provident Fund	46	49	(7.3)
Other staff-related costs	43	33	31.4
Staff costs	587	532	10.5
Other operating expenses	639	564	13.4
Total operating expenses*	1,227	1,095	12.0
* Total operating expenses included:			
IT-related expenses	188	199	(5.5)
IT-related expenses/ Total operating expenses (%)	15.3	18.2	(2.9)%pts

Provisions Charged To Profit and Loss Account

Provision charges of \$209 million for 2004 were 42.3% lower than the \$362 million for 2003. The decrease was largely attributable to lower specific provisions for loans and the write-back of general provisions as a result of improved asset quality and economic conditions in Singapore and the region, partly offset by higher specific provisions for investments and other assets.

	2004 \$ million	2003 \$ million	Variance %
Specific provisions for loans			
Five Regional Countries*	63	(38)	NM
Greater China ⁺	(5)	(3)	(73.3)
Singapore and other countries	177	387	(54.2)
	235	345	(32.0)
General provisions			
Five Regional Countries*	6	1	NM
Greater China+	3	1	100.0
Singapore and other countries	(110)	(2)	NM
	(102)	_	NM
Other provisions	76	16	371.3
Total provisions	209	362	(42.3)

^{*} The Five Regional Countries comprise Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and South Korea.

NM denotes 'Not Meaningful'.

⁺ Greater China comprises China, Hong Kong S.A.R. and Taiwan.

Overview of Balance Sheet

Total Assets

Total assets as at 31 December 2004 were \$134,879 million, representing a growth of 18.9% over the \$113,446 million as at 31 December 2003. The increase was mainly from placements and balances with banks, customer loans largely from the acquisition of BOA, and investment securities.

Assets mix

	2004		200	3
	\$ million	%	\$ million	%
Cash, balances and placements with central banks	11,653	8.6	9,085	8.0
Securities*	18,795	13.9	13,609	12.0
Placements and balances with banks	26,726	19.8	20,072	17.7
Customer loans	64,300	47.7	59,297	52.3
Goodwill	3,876	2.9	3,466	3.0
Other	9,529	7.1	7,917	7.0
Total assets	134,879	100.0	113,446	100.0

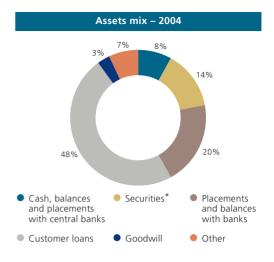
Comprise Singapore and other government treasury bills and securities, dealing and investment securities

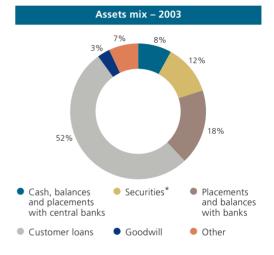
Securities

Total securities as at 31 December 2004 amounted to \$18,795 million, representing an increase of 38.1% over the \$13,609 million as at 31 December 2003. The growth was mainly from increased holdings in securities issued by governments, banks and corporates.

Total securities

	2004 \$ million	2003 \$ million	Variance %
Trading securities	2,469	1,028	140.2
Non-trading securities	16,587	12,713	30.5
Provision for diminution in value	(260)	(131)	98.4
	16,326	12,582	29.8
Total securities (net)	18,795	13,609	38.1





Securities analysed by issuer type

	2	2004	2	2003		
	Trading \$ million	Non-Trading \$ million	Trading \$ million	Non-Trading \$ million		
Government	2,030	7,720	503	7,159		
Public sector	8	51	11	4		
Bank	39	3,605	64	1,498		
Corporate	343	4,955	426	3,799		
Other	49	256	24	253		
Total securities (gross)	2,469	16,587	1,028	12,713		

Securities analysed by industry

	2004		2003	
	\$ million	%	\$ million	%
Transport, storage and communication	395	2.4	401	3.1
Building and construction	434	2.6	236	1.9
Manufacturing	588	3.6	561	4.4
Financial institutions	5,133	30.9	2,613	20.6
General commerce	800	4.8	689	5.4
Government	7,720	46.5	7,159	56.3
Other	1,517	9.2	1,053	8.3
Non-trading securities (gross)	16,587	100.0	12,713	100.0

Customer Loans

Net loans and advances to customers of \$64,300 million as at 31 December 2004 was 8.4% higher than the \$59,297 million as at 31 December 2003, mainly contributed by the acquisition of BOA.

Customer loans analysed by product group

	2004		2003	3
	\$ million	%	\$ million	%
Housing loans	15,875	23.4	14,789	23.6
Term loans	38,371	56.4	35,033	56.0
Trade financing	4,503	6.6	3,397	5.4
Overdrafts	9,228	13.6	9,362	15.0
Total gross customer loans	67,977	100.0	62,581	100.0
General provisions	(1,370)		(1,422)	
Specific provisions	(2,306)		(1,862)	
Total net customer loans	64,300		59,297	

Gross customer loans analysed by industry

	2004		2003	
	\$ million	%	\$ million	%
Transport, storage and communication	2,104	3.1	2,104	3.4
Building and construction	7,477	11.0	7,320	11.7
Manufacturing	7,796	11.5	5,846	9.4
Non-bank financial institutions	10,205	15.0	10,408	16.6
General commerce	10,908	16.0	9,273	14.8
Professionals and private individuals	10,155	14.9	9,653	15.4
Housing loans	15,875	23.4	14,789	23.6
Other	3,457	5.1	3,188	5.1
Total gross customer loans	67,977	100.0	62,581	100.0

Gross customer loans analysed by currency and fixed/variable rates

	2004		2003	
	\$ million	%	\$ million	%
Fixed rate				
Singapore dollar	8,146	12.0	8,987	14.4
US dollar	1,529	2.2	960	1.5
Malaysian ringgit	255	0.4	204	0.3
Hong Kong dollar	47	0.1	35	0.1
Thai baht	2,652	3.9	948	1.5
Other	524	0.8	469	0.7
Total fixed rate gross customer loans	13,153	19.4	11,603	18.5
Variable rate				
Singapore dollar	32,103	47.2	31,777	50.8
US dollar	7,241	10.7	6,948	11.1
Malaysian ringgit	6,318	9.3	6,110	9.8
Hong Kong dollar	848	1.2	966	1.5
Thai baht	3,822	5.6	599	0.9
Other	4,492	6.6	4,578	7.4
Total variable rate gross				
customer loans	54,824	80.6	50,978	81.5
Total gross customer loans	67,977	100.0	62,581	100.0

Gross customer loans analysed by remaining maturity

	2004		2003	
	\$ million	%	\$ million	%
Within 1 year	33,566	49.4	30,256	48.3
Over 1 year but within 3 years	9,293	13.7	9,668	15.5
Over 3 years but within 5 years	6,428	9.4	5,386	8.6
Over 5 years	18,689	27.5	17,271	27.6
Total gross customer loans	67,977	100.0	62,581	100.0

For a breakdown of credit facilities to related parties, please refer to Note 28(g) to the financial statements.

Deposits

Total deposits of \$107,213 million as at 31 December 2004 rose 20.9% from \$88,702 million as at 31 December 2003. The increase was mainly from bankers' deposits, customer fixed deposits and savings accounts, largely from the acquisition of BOA.

As at 31 December 2004, customer deposits accounted for 73.7% of total deposits.

Deposits analysed by product group

	2004		2003	
	\$ million	%	\$ million	%
Bankers' deposits Customer deposits	28,194	26.3	18,839	21.2
Fixed rate deposits Current, savings and	50,933	47.5	45,801	51.7
other deposits	28,086	26.2	24,062	27.1
	79,019	73.7	69,863	78.8
Total deposits	107,213	100.0	88,702	100.0

Deposits analysed by remaining maturity

	2004		2003	
	\$ million	%	\$ million	%
Within 1 year	104,729	97.7	87,450	98.6
Over 1 year but within 3 years	1,412	1.3	703	0.8
Over 3 years but within 5 years	903	8.0	434	0.5
Over 5 years	169	0.2	115	0.1
Total deposits	107,213	100.0	88,702	100.0

Loans/Deposits Ratio*

With the 13.1% increase in customer deposits outpacing the 8.4% increase in net customer loans, the loans-to-deposits ratio decreased 3.5% points to 81.4% as at 31 December 2004.

* "Loans" refers to net customer loans while "Deposits" refers to customer deposits.

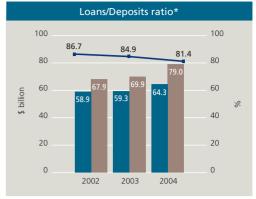
Shareholders' Funds

Shareholders' funds as at 31 December 2004 were \$13,439 million, representing an increase of 1.2% over the \$13,282 million as at 31 December 2003. The increase was largely contributed by retained profits, net of the amount of \$500 million utilised for the share buy-back.

Unrealised revaluation surplus on properties and investment securities amounted to \$1,562 million as at 31 December 2004. The revaluation surplus was not incorporated into the financial statements.

	2004 \$ million	2003 \$ million	Variance %
Shareholders' funds	13,439	13,282	1.2
Add: Revaluation surplus*	1,562	1,464	6.7
Shareholders' funds including revaluation surplus	15,001	14,746	1.7
Net Asset Value (NAV) per share (\$)	8.75	8.45	3.6
Revaluation surplus per share (\$)	1.02	0.93	9.7
Revalued NAV per share (\$)	9.77	9.38	4.2

Refer to revaluation surplus on properties and investment securities which was not incorporated into the financial statements.



- Net customer loans
- Customer deposits
- Loans/Deposits ratio*

Capital Adequacy Ratios

The Capital Adequacy Ratios ("CAR") of the Group were computed in accordance to the revised capital framework for Singapore-incorporated banks issued by the Monetary Authority of Singapore ("MAS").

As at 31 December 2004, the Group's total CAR of 15.6% was 5.6% points higher than the minimum total CAR of 10% set by MAS. Compared to the total CAR of 15.2% as at 31 December 2003, it had increased 0.4% point mainly attributable to the issue of US\$1 billion 5.375% and S\$1 billion 4.100% subordinated notes in August 2004, largely offset by the increase in risk-weighted assets due primarily to the consolidation of BOA's financials and higher holdings in investment securities.

The Group's tier 1 CAR of 11.0% was 4.0% points higher than the minimum tier 1 CAR of 7% set by MAS. However, the Group's tier 1 CAR as at 31 December 2004 had decreased by 2.2% points as compared to 31 December 2003. The decrease was mainly attributable to enlarged risk-weighted assets arising from the acquisition of BOA and higher holdings in investment securities, higher goodwill, and share buy-back of \$500 million.

	2004 \$ million	2003* \$ million
Capital		
Tier 1 Capital		
Share capital	1,536	1,572
Disclosed reserves/other	11,910	11,726
Deduction of goodwill	(4,008)	(3,483)
	9,438	9,815
Upper Tier 2 Capital		
Cumulative general provisions/other	1,079	934
Subordinated notes	5,550	2,991
	6,629	3,925
Deductions from Tier 1 and Upper Tier 2 Capital	(2,623)	(2,410)
Total capital	13,444	11,330
Risk-weighted assets (including market risk)	85,966	74,353
Capital adequacy ratios		
Tier 1 capital	11.0%	13.2%
Total capital	15.6%	15.2%

^{*} The comparative figures as at 31 December 2003 have been adjusted to conform with the revised capital framework for Singapore-incorporated banks issued by MAS, which was effective from 30 June 2004.