

The present document is a translation into English of the original text in Danish. The Danish original text shall be considered final and conclusive.

Lyngby, 22 March 2001
Stock Exchange Release no. 2/Page 1 of 19

To: The Copenhagen Stock Exchange

From: Brødrene Hartmann A/S
Klampenborgvej 203
DK-2800 Kgs. Lyngby
Denmark
Phone: +45 45 87 50 30
Fax: +45 45 87 96 33
E-mail: bh@hartmann.dk
<http://www.hartmann.dk>

Contact: Asger Domino, Executive Vice-President

Shareholder
Relations: Ruth Pedersen, Head of Secretariat
Phone: +45 45 87 50 30
Fax: +45 45 87 96 33
E-mail: rp@hartmann.dk

BRØDRENE HARTMANN A/S

Financial Statements for the period 1 January - 31 December 2000

At its meeting today the Board of Directors of Brødrene Hartmann A/S approved the consolidated financial statements for the period 1 January to 31 December 2000. The following pages contain the financial statements and comments thereto. Questions can be addressed to Asger Domino, Executive Vice-President, on phone +45 45 87 50 30.

Yours sincerely,
BRØDRENE HARTMANN A/S

Mogens Petersen Vagn Genter
Chairman of the Board President & CEO

Table of Contents:

Main events in 2000	Page 3
Group financial highlights and key figures	Page 4
Developments in turnover and profit	Page 5
Investments, cash flows, returns and gearing	Page 7
Developments in Group capital and reserves	Page 8
New Group Management structure	Page 9
Food packaging - <i>dualpack</i> TM	Page 9
International environmental award	Page 10
Outlook for 2001	Page 10
Quarterly financial statements	Page 11
General strategy and objective	Page 11
Strategy for continued activity growth	Page 11
Earnings: the strategy for growth and greater stability	Page 13
Accounting policies and the printed accounts	Page 13
Proposal for the Annual General Meeting	Page 14
Profit and loss account	Page 15
Balance, assets	Page 16
Balance, liabilities	Page 17
Statement of Group cash flows 2000	Page 18
Key figures, definitions	Page 19

Main events in 2000

- Growth continues – 18% in 2000
- Profit after tax and minority interests stood at DKK 38.6 million – slightly above expectations
- Despite soaring prices of raw materials and energy, operating profit is at the year-earlier level
- Substantial earnings growth in Brazil
- Continued growth in Industrial Packaging which penetrated the US and Japanese markets
- New Group Management structure
- Preparations for new business area within food packaging
- Hartmann receives prestigious EU award for its sustainable management model
- Strategy for continued activity growth
- Strategy for increased earnings and greater stability in earnings
- Fiscal 2001 is expected to see turnover growth of some 8-10% and a profit after tax and minority interests of approx. DKK 45 million

On 21 March 2001 Hartmann launched a brand new and improved website. We look forward to your visit at www.hartmann.dk.

The printed version of the Annual Report and Accounts is scheduled for publication in early April. After publication it will be available on our website www.hartmann.dk.

Group financial highlights and key figures

(DKK'000)		2000	1999	1998	1997	1996
Turnover and earnings						
Net turnover		1,357,266	1,152,961	1,065,820	930,367	768,528
Development costs		8,199	5,578	6,269	5,388	4,471
Operating profit		77,336	81,759	100,984	63,188	37,310
Ordinary profit before tax		57,175	75,743	90,175	66,500	48,547
Ordinary profit after tax		40,123	49,350	65,561	45,360	30,827
Net profit after minority interests		38,577	48,624	63,535	42,593	29,224
Balance, etc.						
Tangible fixed assets		982,697	962,365	835,485	792,223	583,075
Total assets		1,412,711	1,399,835	1,306,136	1,332,062	1,143,163
Shareholders' equity		70,151	70,151	69,461	69,461	69,461
Capital and reserves		767,662	745,392	766,353	777,190	766,052
Market value		378,237	477,056	654,372	715,448	889,101
Interest-bearing debt (net)		254,357	208,331	62,641	(55,142)	(184,166)
Working capital		61,216	60,321	24,804	(48,908)	(28,929)
Capital employed		1,026,618	959,570	834,834	721,492	538,361
Cash flow, etc.						
Investments in tangible fixed assets, net		134,407	152,330	133,369	109,848	64,794
Depreciation		119,136	110,368	100,887	85,979	64,647
Acquisitions (less cash funds)		6,788	127,198	65,513	166,453	16,972
Cash flow from operations and investments		14,256	(162,902)	(96,035)	(115,896)	26,436
Key figures, etc.						
No. of shares of DKK20 at year-end	units	3,407,545	3,407,545	3,373,050	3,473,050	3,473,050
Earnings per share (EPS)	DKK	11.3	14.3	18.2	12.2	8.8
Growth in EPS	%	(21)	(22)	50	38	(25)
Return on equity	%	5.1	6.6	8.2	5.5	4.1
Return on capital employed (ROCE - operations)	%	7.8	9.1	13.0	9.4	6.9
Profit margin	%	5.7	7.1	9.5	6.8	4.9
Book value per share	DKK	225	219	222	224	221
Listed price per share	DKK	111	140	194	206	256
Price earnings	DKK	9.8	9.8	10.6	16.9	29.0
Pay-out ratio	%	30.9	29.8	28.7	29.4	33.8
Dividend per share	DKK	3.50	4.25	5.40	3.60	3.00
Equity ratio	%	54.3	53.2	58.7	58.3	67.0
Gearing	%	33.1	27.9	8.2	(7.1)	(24.0)
Average no. of employees		2,062	2,020	1,653	1,386	1,052

Developments in turnover and profit

Hartmann posted a consolidated turnover of DKK 1,357 million in 2000, up 18% from DKK 1,153 million in 1999. This increase was in keeping with expectations and was contributed by factors such as organic growth in volumes (1%), price increases and currency (13%) and acquisitions of companies (4%).

Profit for the year came to DKK 38.6 million in 2000 against DKK 48.6 million a year earlier. This is above the expected level of DKK 25-30 million announced in the interim results release and includes a positive adjustment of DKK 5.2 million in deferred tax re previous years primarily due to the 2% reduction of the Danish corporation tax rate in 2001, from 32% to 30%.

Profit before interest stood at DKK 82.6 million, unchanged from the year-earlier level.

Net interest costs for the year amounted to DKK 25.4 million, up from DKK 6.8 million in 1999. The increase was attributable mainly to realised gains on bond prices and exchange rates in 1999.

The tax rate for 2000 is high at 38.8% due to factors such as the loss-making companies in Malaysia and Israel, where the tax value of the loss has not been capitalised.

The year in review was characterised by exceptionally steep increases in prices of recycled paper (up about 150%) and energy (oil/gas – up about 100%). Group sales prices were increased several times during the year to compensate for these cost increases, but the effect of these increases of sales prices was delayed and will not be reflected in full until in 2001.

A breakdown of turnover and operating profit on main activities

DKKm	2000		1999	
	Turnover	Operating profit	Turnover	Operating profit
Egg and Fruit Packaging (outside Brazil and Argentina)	790	72	687	76
Brazil and Argentina	241	19	188	4
Industrial Packaging	114	8	99	12
- <i>Europe</i>		17		17
- <i>Malaysia/Japan/USA</i>		(9)		(5)
Machinery & Technology (external sales)	34	11	32	13
CHP plant (external sales)	40	(2)	41	5
Skjern Papirfabrik A/S	138	14	106	9

The Division for Egg and Fruit Packaging (not including Brazil and Argentina) returned an operating profit of DKK 72 million, which is on a par with the year-earlier level despite the strong increases in prices of recycled paper and energy. Turnover rose to DKK 790 million in 2000, up 15% from 1999. Turnover in Eastern Europe grew from DKK 66 million in 1999 to DKK 82 million in 2000, or an increase of 24%.

Hartmann acquired three new companies in 1999 in Croatia, Israel and Finland respectively. Implementation of the companies in Croatia and Finland went ahead as planned in 2000, and operations at the site in Croatia performed above expectations. Integration of the Finnish company was finalised, and it is now among the best-performing sites in the Group.

The company in Israel, however, posted a loss following a lengthy period of business interruption due to an oil spill. After a swift and efficient cleaning-up effort, which was performed in full compliance with Danish environmental standards, the company has now been protected against a repetition of the accident, and operations were resumed in July 2000.

The other sites in the Division – in Denmark, Germany and Hungary – experienced positive developments and increased efficiency.

In 2000 the Group established a sales office in Malaysia to handle the markets in Malaysia and Singapore in particular. Over the last couple of years, deliveries from the European sites have matured the Malaysian market for advanced egg packaging, thereby paving the way for local production which began late in the year.

The Group also opened a sales office in Chicago to cater to the market in North America. This boosted the influx of new customers, who will be receiving deliveries from the sites in Europe for the time being. The sales office has increased Hartmann's geographical coverage and, at the same time, enhanced its position as a supplier of more advanced products. This particular market segment is characterised by strong growth.

Investments in local sales organisations in Asia and North America are considered an integral part of the Group's globalisation efforts, even though it does affect the Division's earnings negatively. However, this negative effect is likely to be offset in the relatively short term by growth in sales.

Brazil and Argentina posted a sizeable improvement in operating profit, up from DKK 4 million to DKK 19 million in 2000. Brazil reported good progress, whereas Argentina recorded a decline to a break-even on operations. The price war raging in Brazil over the past two years abated in 2000, when prices were partially re-established at a sensible level which was even sufficient to absorb the steep increases in prices of recycled paper and energy. In Argentina sales of egg packaging rose fairly well in 2000 but not enough to make up for the decline in sales of apple trays caused by the poor harvest yield and losses on debtors due to the difficult economic situation in the country. Reported in DKK, sales in Brazil and Argentina rose by 28% to DKK 241 million in 2000 as a result of increases in sales prices and a minor reduction in volume caused by the strong focus on increases in sales prices and earnings.

The Industrial Packaging Division returned a growth in turnover of 15% to DKK 114 million in 2000, and an operating profit of DKK 8.3 million, down from DKK 11.6 million in 1999. The profit achieved in Europe is at the same high level as in 1999, however with less growth in turnover than anticipated due to a downturn in sales of mobile phones. Against this background the progress made

by the Division was insufficient to provide the expected compensation for the increase in costs caused by the new market initiatives involving the establishment of sales offices in the USA and Japan and the loss reported by the production site in Malaysia. In Japan the Division won its first contracts in 2000, and sales efforts are generally proceeding as planned. In the USA sales performed above expectations in 2000, when several contracts were landed.

The Machinery & Technology Division posted a profit of DKK 11 million after intra-group profit, and this is slightly below the year-earlier level. External sales totalled DKK 34 million, up from DKK 32 million in 1999. The Division's turnover will increasingly be contributed by intra-group sales in step with the globalisation of Hartmann's activities.

The combined heat and power plant in Tønder returned a negative DKK 2.4 million in operating result in 2000, down DKK 7.7 million from a positive DKK 5.3 million in 1999. The reason for the negative development was the strong increases in gas prices which could not be compensated for by increases in power rates, as these are subject to public regulation. About half of the poor economy of the CHP plant can be ascribed to an unreasonable price-fixing model for heating supplied to Tønder Fjernvarme, the local district heating utility. In March 2001 Hartmann initiated arbitration proceedings demanding a re-negotiation of the heating prices.

Skjern Papirfabrik A/S posted a turnover of DKK 138 million, or an increase of 30%, of which increases in volumes accounted for 10% and price increases contributed the remaining 20%. Operating profit came to DKK 14 million, or an increase of DKK 5 million from DKK 9 million in 1999.

Turnover by region

DKKm	2000	% of total	1999	% of total
Denmark	88	6%	80	7%
EUR countries	609	45%	509	44%
Other countries in Europe	325	24%	324	28%
South America	245	18%	193	17%
Rest of the world	90	7%	47	4%

Investments, cash flows, returns and gearing

Total Group investments came to DKK 141 million in 2000. Of this amount DKK 35 million went to an expansion of production capacity with DKK 99 million being spent on improvements and maintenance of existing production plant. A further DKK 7 million was invested in connection with acquisitions. Depreciation for the year stood at DKK 119 million against DKK 110 million in 1999. Total investments in 1999 amounted to DKK 279.5 million of which DKK 152.3 million went to an expansion of production capacity, improvements and maintenance of existing production plants, and DKK 127,2 million went to acquisitions.

Cash flow from operations in 2000 totalled DKK 155 million against DKK 116 million in 1999, the improvement being due to an increase in operating capital of only DKK 7 million against an increase

in 1999 of DKK 43 million. Cash flow after investments and before financing came to DKK 14 million in 2000 against a negative DKK 163 million in 1999, the latter figure including DKK 127 million in acquisitions.

Working capital at 31 December 2000 stood at DKK 61 million against DKK 60 million at 31 December 1999. This represents an increase of 2%, compared to an increase in turnover of 18%.

Return on equity in 2000 came to 5.1% against 6.6% in 1999. Return on capital employed (ROCE – operations) came to 7.8% in 2000, down from 9.1% in 1999. This is below the 12% target which the Group intends to attain within the next few years.

The amount in capital employed rose by DKK 67 million to DKK 1.03 billion at year-end 2000. The increase was contributed by fixed assets (DKK 21 million), trade receivables (DKK 10 million) and a decline in short-term debt due to payments on acquisitions at year-end 1999.

Hartmann's financial reserves at year-end 2000 came to DKK 185.1 million against DKK 164.1 million in 1999. Group financial reserves were increased further by DKK 115.0 million early 2001.

Interest-bearing net debt at year-end 2000 came to DKK 254 million or 33.1% of capital and reserves, up from the year-earlier level of DKK 208 million. Gearing remained cautious at year-end 2000, and the Group wishes to increase this gearing in step with the growth in business activities. The targeted effort to optimise the Group's debt structure continued in 2000, replacing a large part of cash funds with local overdraft facilities.

Developments in capital and reserves, earnings per share and dividend

Developments in capital and reserves	DKKm
Capital and reserves at 31 December 1999	763.5
<i>Change in accounting policies re own shares:</i>	
Write-down of own shares	(18.5)
Allocated in dividend at 31. December 1999 re own shares	0.4
Capital and reserves at 1 January 2000	745.4
Consolidated profit after minorities	38.6
Exchange-rate adjustments re non-integrated subsidiaries	0.6
Goodwill (net) incl. acquisition costs	(5.0)
Proposed dividend	(11.9)
Capital and reserves at 31 December 2000	767.7

Capital and reserves for the Group increased from DKK 745 million in 1999 to DKK 768 million in 2000. The increase includes DKK 38.6 million in profit for the year, exchange-rate adjustments of DKK 0.6 million and DKK 11.9 million in proposed dividend.

Earnings per share (EPS) came to DKK 11.3 against DKK 14.3 in 1999.

The Board recommends to the company in general meeting that the dividend per share be fixed at DKK 3.50 against DKK 4.25 in 1999. This corresponds to a pay-out ratio of 31% and is in keeping with the Group's dividend policy.

New Group Management

On 1 September 2000 Hartmann announced the appointment of a new Group Management whose task is to ensure a dynamic development and an optimum utilisation of synergies within the Group.

The new organisation still includes a narrow Executive Board consisting of Vagn Genter, President & CEO, and Asger Domino, Executive Vice-President. This constellation will remain until the Annual General Meeting 2001, when Asger Domino will take up the position of President & CEO. Vagn Genter will continue working for the Group until the end of 2001, when he will retire on a pension. The plan is to appoint a Chief Financial Officer, who will become a member of the Executive Board as soon as possible. Vagn Genter will resign from the Executive Board upon the appointment of the new CFO.

The Group Management consists of five directors with responsibility for each their business or staff area. The purpose of the new organisational structure is to make sure that the Group's activities, which are divided upon many geographical regions and business areas, are represented on the Group Management. The new structure is also an ideal basis for the full utilisation of Group synergies across the organisation. Furthermore, the direct connection between Executive Board and business areas will ensure that the same objectives are applied throughout the Group.

The organisational change also reflects the Group's wish to promote openness and transparency in its management structure.

Food Packaging - *dualpack*TM

Food packaging is a new business area identified by Hartmann in 1999. In 2000 Hartmann performed detailed surveys of the European food market and discovered an array of interesting opportunities. However, the most interesting market of all turned out to be market for ready meals, which is still a relatively young market undergoing very strong growth. Another important factor was that this is a segment in which Hartmann is competitive in relation to both price and environment, and in which production is realistic from a technical viewpoint within a short development period.

The new packaging product - *dualpack*TM - is a moulded-fibre product with a thin plastic barrier which makes it possible to use the packaging also for wet materials such as food. The tray can be frozen and heated in both an ordinary oven and a microwave oven, and this enables it to compete in terms of functionality with the PET plastic trays currently dominating in the market. Furthermore, *dualpack*TM has a very good environmental profile.

*Dualpack*TM is especially competitive in relation to large quantities, which makes it particularly attractive to large food producers and food retail chains – a customer segment well known by Hartmann from its activities within egg packaging.

In the course of 2000 the Group performed trials with potential customers, and expectations are high for future cooperation. Sales and marketing activities have been initiated in France, the Benelux

countries, Germany, the UK and in Scandinavia, the target group being a number of carefully selected potential customers.

In the year in review Hartmann set up production facilities with hygiene certification for the new packaging.

Hartmann received international environmental award

The prestigious European Award for the Environment in the category 'The Management Award for Sustainable Development' was given to Hartmann in 2000. A total of 23 candidates from 14 EU member states had been nominated. Hartmann was given the celebrated award for its universal management model 'STEP', which ensures that all Group production sites apply the same procedure for accountability in global and sustainable growth. Based on the STEP model, a substantial number of far-reaching environmental initiatives have been taken at the Group's 11 production sites on three continents, and very often these initiatives go beyond the requirements of local legislation. The STEP model was developed by the Group alone, and with the award it receives international recognition of its efforts.

Outlook for 2001

Hartmann expects to see continued growth in 2001 at a rate of approx.8-10%, corresponding to a turnover of DKK 1,450-1,500 million excluding possible acquisitions. Growth will be contributed by rising sales of egg and fruit packaging in Eastern Europe, North America, Asia and Brazil, and by the full-year effect of price increases made in 2000. Industrial Packaging is also expected to see continued growth both in Europe and the rest of the world. Thus, investments in the new sales organisations in Japan and the USA are expected to make positive contributions. Food Packaging, the Group's new business area, is expected to land its first contracts in the first half of 2001. Much is expected of this new area, and it is forecast to make a positive contribution to consolidated earnings already after a running-in period of 12 to 24 months.

Operating profit is expected to grow from DKK 77 million in 2000 to DKK 95-100 million in 2001, and net profit after tax and minority interests is forecast at approx. DKK 45 million in 2001 against DKK 38.6 million in 2000. The net profit in 2000 included DKK 5.2 million in positive adjustment of tax re previous years. The expectations for continued growth build upon the assumptions that the increases in prices of egg and fruit packaging made in Europe in 2000 are maintained and, thus, are likely to have a full effect in 2001, and that Israel will return a substantially improved profit. Brazil is also expected to make progress, and here, too, the price increases made in 2000 are likely to have a full-year effect in 2001. Expectations for Argentina are conservative due to the fragile national economy and the difficult situation in the apple industry, but this notwithstanding the Group expects a performance slightly above the year-earlier level.

Industrial Packaging is expected to see good growth in profit due to an expected increase in turnover obtainable without an expansion of the existing production plant and sales organisation. The profit performance is closely linked to developments in sales of mobile phones, which are expected to grow in 2001, in particular in the second half.

The Machinery & Technology Division is likely to grow the proportion of its turnover accounted for by intra-group sales, resulting in a profit below the 2000 level. The result of the CHP plant is expected

to decline further in 2001, whereas Skjern Papirfabrik A/S is expected to return a good profit on a par with 2000.

The Group is still looking into a number of possible solutions to the situation at the CHP plant in Tønder, but it is difficult to say to what extent it will be possible to muster the necessary political support. About half of the poor economy of the plant can be ascribed to an unreasonable price-fixing model for heating supplied to Tønder Fjernvarme, the local district heating utility. In March 2001 Hartmann initiated arbitration proceedings demanding a renegotiation of the heating prices.

Quarterly financial statements

Hartmann plans to issue quarterly financial statements, starting in 2002. This is in keeping with the Group's efforts in recent years to create more openness and transparency in relation to its activities and results and to improve services to investors and analysts.

General strategy and objective

It is Hartmann's overall strategy to strengthen its position as absolute global leader within existing moulded-fibre products by means of professionalism and innovation and by taking an active part in the consolidation of the industry by means of acquisitions. The Group also wishes to engage in innovation, research and development for the purpose of developing new products based upon moulded fibre and, in this way, to capture market shares from other materials in the global market for packaging. Environmental benefits, consumer preferences and low production costs are some of the main arguments behind this vision.

By applying this strategy Hartmann will be able to achieve growth rates far above the industrial average, and this even in an area where the Group is already among the absolute world leaders.

Hartmann has set itself the goal of obtaining minimum 12% in return on capital employed (ROCE – operations). This is above the Group's capital costs and sufficient to constitute an attractive source of financing for the Group's planned growth.

In recent years Hartmann has focused on growth in earnings as well as in turnover. Earnings on operations has grown in the past five years, however with a decline in 1999 and 2000 due to extraordinarily high increases in prices of recycled paper and energy. Turnover has risen by about 14% p.a. in the past five years.

The Group's main focus is now on obtaining growth in ROCE in the short term and on creating an increased stability in earnings. Particularly attractive acquisition targets will be carefully considered against the background of these priorities.

Strategy for continued activity growth

Hartmann is among the world's leading manufacturers of moulded-fibre packaging and is the only one of the three global suppliers specialising in this niche. With the right strategy, Hartmann expects to be able to keep up the attractive growth rates achieved within moulded-fibre packaging. Against this background the Group intends to focus on this area in the next couple of years and, in this way, to become absolute market leader.

Growth will be contributed by the following areas:

- Egg packaging in Western Europe, where the Group is working on a shift towards products which are more advanced and offer a higher value. Hartmann is the largest of the three dominant manufacturers in Europe and has already successfully differentiated itself in the market by means of product development and the marketing of high-value packaging.
- Egg packaging in Eastern Europe, where modern supermarkets account for an increasing proportion of egg retail sales, thereby growing the need for egg retail packaging.
- Egg packaging in South America, where, as a result of a growing number of food retail chains and higher purchasing frequencies, there is a potential for increased sales of high-value retail packaging at the expense of 30-egg wholesale containers. Today, Hartmann is market leader in the market for moulded-fibre packaging in the two largest economies in South America – Brazil and Argentina – and has captured about 50% share of the market for egg retail packaging.
- Egg packaging in the United States. Hartmann has not previously been active in sales of packaging in the North American market, which has been characterised by a 100% standardisation of both eggs and packaging. However, with the emergence of the market for specialty eggs, there is a growing need for more modern and customised packaging types to facilitate differentiation in the food retail chains. This market is showing steep growth and is expected soon to become a highly attractive area.

This development represents an opening for Hartmann precisely because one of the Group's strongest competitive edges is its wide product range of high-quality packaging and its well-developed marketing concept.

Against this backdrop the Group has opened a sales office in Chicago and is now exporting egg packaging from Europe to several customers in the United States – among them several of the leading egg producers.

- Egg packaging in Asia, where the growing emergence of food retail markets in Asia will turn the region into a market which, despite its present limited size, and although far from all food retail chains sell eggs, is likely to see high growth rates in the future. Hartmann delivers packaging from its production site in Malaysia, where production capacity for egg packaging was installed in late 2000. A small sales organisation has been set up in selected markets.
- Industrial packaging in Europe and South-East Asia will grow in step with moulded fibre capturing market shares from other materials such as e.g. plastic and folded corrugated cardboard. Moulded fibre has advantages in relation to handling and environmental impact and also gives customer products a modern profile and an image of accountability. Hartmann's products are generally strongly positioned in all markets due to the superior relationship between price and quality. Moreover, Hartmann has a major competitive edge in being the only supplier capable of offering international customers global service.
- Industrial packaging in North America, where the Division recently began sales of products from its sites in Europe. In this market, too, Hartmann has a competitive edge with regard to quality and prices. If the success continues as expected, Hartmann will set up local production.

- The *dualpack*TM food packaging concept was launched on the European market at the turn of 2000/2001. The market potential is considerable, and after a running-in period of 1 to 2 years this is expected to become a major contributory factor in consolidated growth.

Earnings: the strategy for growth and increased reliability

The combination of a focus on growth in ROCE and the expected increase in turnover gives the Group a basis for obtaining attractive growth in EPS (earnings per share).

Growth in ROCE will be contributed by a number of activities:

- The Group currently has excess production capacity that can be utilised without special investments in step with the expected growth in turnover.
- The capacity of existing production lines can be increased further by marginal investments in new additional equipment recently developed in a collaborative effort by the Group's R&D department, the Machinery & Technology Division and the Tønder plant. In addition to higher speeds and less wastage, this will also give reduced production costs.
- General efficiencies and optimisations of the production plants have also grown the capacity of the existing plants, giving higher speeds, less wastage, and a reduction in production costs. Efforts continue, and the internal benchmarking system with best practice for the Group's 10 production sites shows that there is a considerable untapped potential in the existing plants.
- A shift towards products of a higher value obtained by means of focused product development within egg packaging and a shift towards more expensive products in new markets such as Eastern Europe. Industrial packaging and *dualpack*TM are examples of high-value products with high margins, and increased sales in these areas will contribute to growth in ROCE.
- The Group's management and follow-up tools have been considerably improved. The individual units have their main focus on ROCE, and reporting on expectations of future performance is now more frequent and of a better quality. This improves the possibility of early intervention.

Accounting policies and the printed accounts

The annual accounts of Parent Company and Group are prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Danish Company Accounts Act and the Copenhagen Stock Exchange guidelines for listed companies. The accounts are presented on the basis of same accounting policies as last year, with the exception of the accounting treatment of own shares. Previously entered at original cost, own shares are now written down in full against capital and reserves, resulting in own shares no longer being recognised as assets in the accounts. This change in accounting policies reduced profit before and after tax in an amount of DKK 0.4 million (DKK 0.5 million in 1999) and capital and reserves in an amount of DKK 18.1 million (DKK 18.1 million in 1999).

Where changes have been made in accounting policies and in the grouping of individual items, the comparative figures have been changed accordingly.

The printed Annual Report & Accounts are scheduled for publication in early April.

Financial statements, page 13 of 19

Proposal for the Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is held at the Group head office at Klampenborgvej 203, Kgs. Lyngby, on Wednesday, 2 May 2001, at 3pm. The Board has the following proposals to the company in general meeting:

- that a total of DKK 11.926 million be paid out in dividend. This corresponds to DKK 3.50 per share and a pay-out ratio (dividend as a percentage of net profit) of 31%.
- that the Board be authorised to acquire on behalf of the company up to a total of 10% of the company's own shares in pursuance of section 48 of the Danish Companies Act.

Profit and loss account

(DKK '000)

for the period 1 January to 31 December 2000

	Group		Parent company	
	2000	1999	2000	1999
Net turnover	1,357,266	1,152,961	644,398	631,620
Other income	3,146	3,435	13,773	11,608
	1,360,412	1,156,396	658,171	643,228
Production costs	(966,352)	(797,438)	(516,332)	(469,763)
Gross profit	394,060	358,958	141,839	173,465
Sales and distribution costs	(245,252)	(213,268)	(82,589)	(78,972)
Administration costs	(71,472)	(63,931)	(40,540)	(36,485)
Profit before tax in subsidiaries	-	-	41,525	24,220
Operating profit	77,336	81,759	60,235	82,228
Profit before tax in associated companies	5,223	796	5,223	(487)
Profit before interest etc.	82,559	82,555	65,458	81,741
Other income from financial fixed assets	843	981	843	981
Interest (net)	(26,227)	(7,793)	(10,937)	(7,919)
Ordinary profit before tax	57,175	75,743	55,364	74,803
Tax on ordinary profit	(22,212)	(27,575)	(21,929)	(27,220)
Adjustment of tax re previous years etc.	5,160	1,182	5,142	1,041
Profit before minority interests	40,123	49,350	38,577	48,624
Share of profit attributable to minority interests	(1,546)	(726)	-	-
Profit for the year	38,577	48,624	38,577	48,624
Proposed distribution of profit:				
Dividend			11,926	
Transfer to other reserves			22,501	
Transfer to reserve for net revaluation under the equity method			4,150	
			38,577	

Balance sheet

(DKK '000)

at 31 December 2000

	Group		Parent Company	
Assets	2000	1999	2000	1999
Fixed assets				
Tangible fixed assets				
Land and buildings	269,297	260,450	113,908	114,879
Technical plant and machinery	640,451	632,999	284,662	302,084
Other operating assets	46,016	52,250	22,163	28,229
	955,764	945,699	420,733	445,192
Prepayments and plant under construction	26,933	16,666	12,981	3,717
Total tangible fixed assets	982,697	962,365	433,714	448,909
Financial fixed assets				
Shareholdings in subsidiaries	-	-	521,926	416,708
Receivables from subsidiaries	-	-	41,450	20,000
Shareholdings in associated companies	27,087	24,044	27,087	24,044
Shareholdings in other companies	10,754	10,802	10,754	10,802
Total financial fixed assets	37,841	34,846	601,217	471,554
Total fixed assets	1,020,538	997,211	1,034,931	920,463
Current assets				
Stocks	87,808	86,556	31,390	37,377
Receivables				
Trade debtors	237,618	223,301	28,572	27,952
Bills of exchange	1,971	6,589	1,971	6,589
Receivables from subsidiaries	-	-	68,395	120,229
Dividend receivable from subsidiaries	-	-	29,021	19,217
Dividend receivable from associated companies	75	75	75	75
Other receivables	25,949	16,758	5,116	1,072
Prepayments and accrued income	2,405	3,078	1,181	2,048
Total receivables	268,018	249,801	134,331	177,182
Cash funds	36,347	66,267	127	36,047
Total current assets	392,173	402,624	165,848	250,606
Total assets	1,412,711	1,399,835	1,200,779	1,171,069

Balance

(DKK'000)

at 31 December 2000

Liabilities	2000	Group	Parent Company	
		1999	2000	1999
Capital and reserves				
Share capital	70,151	70,151	70,151	70,151
Premium on issue	299,974	299,974	299,974	299,974
Reserve for net revaluation under the equity method	10,859	7,816	-	-
Other reserves	386,678	367,451	397,537	375,267
Total capital and reserves	767,662	745,392	767,662	745,392
Minority interests	31,686	29,891	-	-
Provisions				
Deferred tax	79,359	71,290	63,000	55,200
Provision re investment in subsidiaries	-	-	-	494
Total provisions	79,359	71,290	63,000	55,694
Long-term debt				
Mortgages	32,284	36,862	17,548	20,549
Bank debt	196,816	204,185	182,320	190,137
Other long-term debt	8,313	8,439	-	-
Accruals	14,337	15,745	12,628	13,378
Total long-term debt	251,750	265,231	212,496	224,064
Short-term debt				
Repayment of long-term debt	24,289	24,650	12,338	12,148
Prepayments from customers	1,393	4,284	1,360	4,084
Bank debt	30,788	2,209	17,243	-
Trade payables	72,571	65,319	39,356	38,474
Payable to subsidiaries	-	-	20,632	8,290
Payable to associated companies	3,651	2,281	1,732	905
Corporation tax owing	9,960	8,499	-	2,875
Other creditors	127,676	166,307	53,034	64,661
Dividend for the financial year	11,926	14,482	11,926	14,482
Total short-term debt	282,254	288,031	157,621	145,919
Total debt and provisions	613,363	624,552	433,117	425,677
Total liabilities	1,412,711	1,399,835	1,200,779	1,171,069

Statement of cash flows

(DKK '000)

for the period 1 January – 31 December 2000

	Group	
	2000	1999
Profit for the year	40,123	49,350
Adjustments	155,893	141,992
Changes in working capital	(7,100)	(42,943)
Cash flow from operations before financial items	188,916	148,399
Interest received and similar items	7,750	19,185
Interest paid and similar items	(33,199)	(30,073)
Cash flow from ordinary operations	163,467	137,511
Corporation tax paid	(8,469)	(21,926)
Cash flow from operations	154,998	115,585
Acquisition of companies etc.	(6,788)	(127,198)
Investments in tangible fixed assets	(137,330)	(154,551)
Sales of tangible fixed assets	2,923	2,221
Public grants for fixed assets	378	966
Dividend received from associated companies	75	75
Cash flow from investments	(140,742)	(278,487)
Changes in cash flows due to operations and investments	14,256	(162,902)
Repayment of long-term debt	(24,791)	(94,260)
Establishment of long-term loans	9,822	148,673
Debt re company acquisition	(43,481)	43,481
Capital increase	-	691
Dividend paid	(14,482)	(19,295)
Cash flow from financing	(72,932)	79,290
Changes in cash funds	(58,676)	(83,612)
Cash funds (net) at 1 January	64,235	147,670
Cash funds (net) at 31 December	5,559	64,058

Key figures, definitions

Working capital*	=	Stocks plus total receivables – deferred tax - non-interest-bearing short-term debt, less dividend owing and debt re acquisitions
Earnings per share (EPS)	=	$\frac{\text{Ordinary profit after tax and minority interests}}{\text{Average number of shares}}$
Return on equity	=	$\frac{\text{Ordinary profit after tax and minority interests} \times 100}{\text{Average capital and reserves}}$
Return on capital employed (operations) (ROCE)*	=	$\frac{\text{Operating profit} \times 100}{\text{Capital and reserves plus minority interests and interest-bearing debt, and less shareholdings in associated companies, cash funds (net) and securities.}}$ Calculated as an average of opening and year-end figures.
Profit margin	=	$\frac{\text{Operating profit} \times 100}{\text{Net turnover}}$
Book value per share	=	$\frac{\text{Capital and reserves less minority interests at year-end}}{\text{Number of shares at year-end}}$
Price earnings	=	$\frac{\text{Stock market price}}{\text{Earnings per share (EPS)}}$
Pay-out ratio	=	$\frac{\text{Total dividend pay-out} \times 100}{\text{Ordinary profit after tax and minority interests}}$
Equity ratio	=	$\frac{\text{Capital and reserves less minority interests at year-end} \times 100}{\text{Liabilities at year-end}}$
Gearing*	=	$\frac{\text{Interest-bearing debt less cash funds at year-end} \times 100}{\text{Capital and reserves at year-end}}$

The key figures were prepared in accordance with the recommendations of the Association of Danish Financial Analysts (ADFA).

*) Not included in the ADFA recommendations.