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JJD
GROUP

JJD GROUP 2003



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FINANCIAL

SUPPL

Reviewed

interim results

for the six months ended 28 February 2003

82-4401

Financial highlights

- Revenue up by 14% to R2,4 bn (2002: R2,1 bn)
- Total sale of merchandise up by 11% to R1,5 bn (2002: R1,4 bn)
- Operating income up by 43% to R305m (2002: R214m)
- Headline earnings up by 44% to R188m (2002: R131m)
- Headline earnings per share up by 44% to 166,4c (2002: 115,9c)
- Distribution per share up by 24% to 42c (2002: 34c)

Operational highlights

- Operating margin improved from 10,1% to 12,6%
- Bad debts % down to 2,7% from 4,2%
- Price 'n Pride successfully repositioned
 - 32% growth in revenue
 - Arrears % declined from 26,0% to 19,5%

Trading environment and implications

- More stable interest rates and economic conditions in local durable credit retail market
- Significant benefits from
 - Proactive steps taken to reduce risk exposure
 - Repositioning of Price 'n Pride

Income statement

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| Audited 12 months ended 31 August 2002 R million | | Reviewed 6 months ended 28 February 2003 R million | Reviewed 6 months ended 28 February 2002 R million | Change % |
|---|--|---|---|-------------|
| 2 583 | Sale of merchandise | 1 504 | 1 352 | 11 |
| 750 | Finance charges earned | 443 | 384 | 15 |
| 551 | Financial services | 361 | 287 | 26 |
| 199 | Other services | 119 | 103 | 16 |
| 4 083 | Revenue | 2 427 | 2 126 | 14 |
| 1 706 | Cost of sales | 1 014 | 896 | 13 |
| 1 890 | Operating expenses before the following: | 1 080 | 989 | 9 |
| 57 | Depreciation | 28 | 28 | |
| 15 | Goodwill amortised | 2 | 1 | |
| (3) | Surplus on disposal of property, plant and equipment | (2) | (2) | |
| 418 | Operating income | 305 | 214 | 43 |
| (11) | Investment income | (3) | (4) | |
| 130 | Finance costs – net | 70 | 56 | 25 |
| 299 | Income before taxation | 238 | 162 | 47 |
| 60 | Taxation | 52 | 32 | |
| 239 | Income after taxation | 186 | 130 | 43 |
| (2) | Attributable to outside shareholders | (1) | (1) | |
| 241 | Income attributable to shareholders | 187 | 131 | 43 |
| | Reconciliation of headline earnings | | | |
| 241 | Income attributable to shareholders | 187 | 131 | |
| 15 | Goodwill amortised | 2 | 1 | |
| (3) | Surplus on disposal of property, plant and equipment | (2) | (2) | |
| 1 | Taxation thereon | 1 | 1 | |
| 254 | Headline earnings | 188 | 131 | 44 |
| 112 730 | Number of shares in issue (000) | 112 730 | 112 730 | – |
| | Weighted average number of shares in issue (000) | | | |
| 112 709 | – basic | 112 730 | 112 688 | – |
| 113 285 | – diluted | 113 696 | 113 560 | – |
| | Headline earnings per share (cents) | | | |
| 225,2 | – basic | 166,4 | 115,9 | 44 |
| 224,1 | – diluted | 164,9 | 115,0 | 43 |
| | Earnings per share (cents) | | | |
| 213,8 | – basic | 166,3 | 115,7 | 44 |
| 212,7 | – diluted | 164,8 | 114,8 | 44 |
| 56 | Distribution to shareholders (cents) | 42 | 34 | 24 |
| 34 | – Interim | 42 | 34 | |
| 22 | – Final | | | |
| 10,2 | Operating margin (%) | 12,6 | 10,1 | 25 |

Balance sheet

| Audited 31 August 2002 R million | | Reviewed 28 February 2003 R million | Reviewed 28 February 2002 R million |
|---|--|--|--|
| Assets | | | |
| 355 | Non-current assets | 353 | 341 |
| 144 | Property, plant and equipment | 144 | 146 |
| 54 | Goodwill | 51 | 53 |
| 10 | Share incentive trusts | 10 | 10 |
| 110 | Investments | 110 | 110 |
| 37 | Deferred taxation | 38 | 22 |
| 3 898 | Current assets | 3 986 | 4 082 |
| 427 | Inventories | 455 | 444 |
| 3 231 | Accounts receivable | 3 493 | 3 147 |
| 13 | Financial assets | 9 | 1 |
| 5 | Taxation | 1 | 3 |
| 222 | Bank balances and cash | 28 | 487 |
| 4 253 | Total assets | 4 339 | 4 423 |
| Equity and liabilities | | | |
| Equity and reserves | | | |
| 782 | Share capital and premium | 782 | 782 |
| 24 | Non-distributable reserve | 1 | 29 |
| 1 112 | Retained income | 1 252 | 1 027 |
| 25 | Shareholders for dividend | 47 | 38 |
| 1 943 | Shareholders' equity | 2 082 | 1 876 |
| 21 | Outside shareholders' interest | - | 17 |
| 1 310 | Non-current liabilities | 1 206 | 1 410 |
| 1 049 | Interest bearing long term liabilities | 929 | 1 155 |
| 261 | Deferred taxation | 277 | 255 |
| 979 | Current liabilities | 1 051 | 1 120 |
| 745 | Non-interest bearing | 748 | 785 |
| 219 | Interest bearing | 274 | 206 |
| 11 | Financial liabilities | 9 | 4 |
| 2 | Taxation | 9 | 115 |
| 2 | Bank overdraft | 11 | 10 |
| 4 253 | Total equity and liabilities | 4 339 | 4 423 |
| 110 | Directors' valuation of unlisted investments | 110 | 110 |
| 1 | Capital expenditure authorised and contracted | - | - |
| | Capital expenditure authorised | | |
| 94 | but not yet contracted | 50 | 21 |
| 920 | Operating lease commitments | 919 | 845 |
| | The Group has no other material commitments or contingent liabilities. | | |
| 1 723,9 | Net asset value per share (cents) | 1 847,2 | 1 664,2 |
| 53,9 | Gearing ratio (net) (%) | 56,9 | 47,1 |

Abridged cash flow statement

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| Audited 12 months ended 31 August 2002 R million | | Reviewed 6 months ended 28 February 2003 R million | Reviewed 6 months ended 28 February 2002 R million |
|---|---|---|---|
| 489 | Cash generated by trading | 333 | 241 |
| (238) | Increase in working capital | (291) | (122) |
| 251 | Cash generated by operations | 42 | 119 |
| 11 | Investment income | 3 | 4 |
| (146) | Finance costs – net | (68) | (62) |
| (195) | Taxation paid | (31) | (38) |
| | Cash (utilised by)/available from | | |
| (79) | operating activities | (54) | 23 |
| (80) | Dividends paid | (25) | (42) |
| (159) | Cash flows from operating activities | (79) | (19) |
| (88) | Cash utilised in investing activities | (59) | (64) |
| (184) | Cash utilised in financing activities | (65) | (91) |
| (431) | Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents | (203) | (174) |
| 651 | Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period | 220 | 651 |
| 220 | Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | 17 | 477 |
| 67 | Capital expenditure incurred | 42 | 38 |

Statement of changes in equity

| | Share capital R million | Share premium R million | Non- distrib- utable reserve R million | Retained income R million | Share- holders for dividend R million | Total R million |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Balance at 31 August 2001 | | | | | | |
| – as previously reported | 6 | 775 | 4 | 1 093 | 42 | 1 920 |
| Change in accounting policy | | | | (159) | | (159) |
| Balance at 31 August 2001 | | | | | | |
| – restated | 6 | 775 | 4 | 934 | 42 | 1 761 |
| Income attributable to shareholders | | | | 131 | | 131 |
| Distributable to shareholders | | | | (38) | 38 | – |
| Paid to shareholders | | | | | (42) | (42) |
| Translation of foreign entities | | | 25 | | | 25 |
| Issue of share capital | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Balance at 28 February 2002 | | | | | | |
| – restated (note 2) | 6 | 776 | 29 | 1 027 | 38 | 1 876 |
| Income attributable to shareholders | | | | 110 | | 110 |
| Distributable to shareholders | | | | (25) | 25 | – |
| Paid to shareholders | | | | | (38) | (38) |
| Translation of foreign entities | | | (5) | | | (5) |
| Issue of share capital | | | | | | – |
| Balance at 31 August 2002 | 6 | 776 | 24 | 1 112 | 25 | 1 943 |
| Income attributable to shareholders | | | | 187 | | 187 |
| Distributable to shareholders | | | | (47) | 47 | – |
| Paid to shareholders | | | | | (25) | (25) |
| Translation of foreign entities | | | (23) | | | (23) |
| Issue of share capital | | | | | | – |
| Balance at 28 February 2003 | 6 | 776 | 1 | 1 252 | 47 | 2 082 |

1. Accounting policies

The accounting policies used in the preparation of the interim profit announcement are consistent with those applied in the previous period ended 31 August 2002 after adoption of IAS 39 (refer note 2). This announcement was compiled in terms of AC127/IAS 34 – Interim Reporting.

2. Change in accounting policy

During the prior year, the Group changed its accounting policy relating to financial instruments in accordance with IAS 39: Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement (Revised 2000).

IAS 39 (Revised 2000) has introduced a comprehensive framework for accounting for all financial instruments. The principal effect of the adoption of IAS 39 has been the recognition of additional impairment provisions for originating loans and receivables based on the net present value of expected future cash flows of delinquent accounts, and the recognition of the derivative financial instruments on balance sheet at fair value with effect from 1 September 2001.

The effects on retained income and net income in the prior year are summarised as follows:

| | Gross Rm | Taxation Rm | Net Rm |
|---|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| Opening retained income 1 September 2001 | | | |
| Additional accounts receivable provision | (220) | 67 | (153) |
| Fair value of derivative instruments | (9) | 3 | (6) |
| Reduction in opening retained income | (229) | 70 | (159) |
| Prior year net income movement | | | |
| 1 September 2001 to 28 February 2002 | | | |
| – Increase in accounts receivable provision | (22) | 7 | (15) |
| – Movements in fair value of derivative instruments | 6 | (2) | 4 |
| Included as at 28 February 2002 | (16) | 5 | (11) |
| 1 March 2002 to 31 August 2002 | | | |
| – Decrease in accounts receivable provision | 105 | (32) | 73 |
| – Movements in fair value of derivative instruments | 7 | (2) | 5 |
| Included as at 31 August 2002 | 112 | (34) | 78 |
| Total movement for the year | 96 | (29) | 67 |

3. Finance costs

| Audited 12 months ended 31 August 2002 R million | | Reviewed 6 months ended 28 February 2003 R million | Reviewed 6 months ended 28 February 2002 R million |
|---|--|---|---|
| 176 | Interest paid | 83 | 82 |
| (30) | Interest received | (17) | (20) |
| (16) | Fair value losses/(gains) on financial assets and liabilities | 4 | (6) |
| 130 | | 70 | 56 |

4. Diluted earnings and headline earnings per share

The diluted number of shares has been calculated after considering the dilutive impact of share options and the cash value to be received in future, in respect of unissued share options granted to employees.

Account has not been taken of the future impact of the inclusion of the Profurn earnings and the increased number of shares in issue, issued subsequent to the reporting date.

5. Accounts receivable

| Audited 31 August 2002 R million | | Reviewed 28 February 2003 R million | Reviewed 28 February 2002 R million |
|---|--|--|--|
| 3 972 | Instalment sale receivables | 4 424 | 3 938 |
| – | Cash loans | – | 5 |
| (915) | Less: Provisions | (1 077) | (906) |
| (522) | Unearned finance charges | (679) | (495) |
| (137) | IAS 39 impairment provision | (156) | (242) |
| (256) | Other | (242) | (169) |
| 3 057 | Net instalment sale receivables | 3 347 | 3 037 |
| 174 | Other receivables | 146 | 110 |
| 3 231 | Total accounts receivable | 3 493 | 3 147 |
| 23,0 | Provisions as a percentage of instalment sale receivables (%) | 24,3 | 23,0 |

Amounts due from instalment sale receivables after one year are included in current assets. The credit terms of instalment sale receivables range from 6 to 24 months.

Bank borrowings are secured by a negative pledge of accounts receivable.

6. Comparative figures

Comparative figures have been restated where necessary in order to facilitate more meaningful comparison and to give effect to the adoption of IAS 39 in the prior period.

Segmental report – 6 months ended 28 February 2003

| | | Russells | Joshua Doore | Bradlows |
|---|--------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Revenue | Rm | 801 | 599 | 335 |
| Operating income | Rm | 168 | 98 | 43 |
| Depreciation | Rm | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total assets | Rm | 1 356 | 980 | 560 |
| Total current liabilities | Rm | 219 | 173 | 86 |
| Capital expenditure | Rm | 1 | 1 | – |
| Operating margin | % | 21,0 | 16,3 | 12,7 |
| Total sale of merchandise | Rm | 470 | 358 | 216 |
| Share of Group sale of merchandise | % | 31,3 | 23,8 | 14,3 |
| Credit sales | Rm | 398 | 281 | 171 |
| Percentage of total | % | 84,7 | 78,5 | 79,2 |
| Cash sales | Rm | 72 | 77 | 45 |
| Percentage of total | % | 15,3 | 21,5 | 20,8 |
| Deposit rate on credit sales | % | 11,1 | 13,4 | 18,0 |
| Number of stores | | 194 | 147 | 90 |
| Revenue per store | R000 | 4 129 | 4 075 | 3 722 |
| Retail square meterage | | 136 764 | 116 271 | 67 775 |
| Revenue per square metre | Rand | 5 857 | 5 152 | 4 943 |
| Number of employees | | 2 811 | 2 268 | 1 431 |
| Revenue per employee | R000 | 285 | 264 | 234 |
| Instalment sale receivables – gross | Rm | 1 593 | 1 140 | 608 |
| Bad debts written off | Rm | 44 | 28 | 13 |
| Bad debts written off as a percentage of gross receivables | % | 2,8 | 2,5 | 2,1 |
| Receivables' arrears | Rm | 230 | 132 | 59 |
| Receivables' arrears as a percentage of gross receivables | % | 14,4 | 11,6 | 9,7 |
| Average length of the book | Months | 14,7 | 14,5 | 12,8 |

Segmental report – 6 months ended 28 February 2002

| | | Russells | Joshua Doore | Bradlows |
|---|--------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Revenue | Rm | 726 | 522 | 320 |
| Operating income | Rm | 130 | 70 | 44 |
| Depreciation | Rm | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total assets | Rm | 1 246 | 892 | 569 |
| Total current liabilities | Rm | 217 | 177 | 111 |
| Capital expenditure | Rm | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Operating margin | % | 17,9 | 13,4 | 13,8 |
| Total sale of merchandise | Rm | 442 | 325 | 208 |
| Share of Group sale of merchandise | % | 32,6 | 24,1 | 15,4 |
| Credit sales | Rm | 363 | 249 | 170 |
| Percentage of total | % | 82,1 | 76,6 | 81,7 |
| Cash sales | Rm | 79 | 76 | 38 |
| Percentage of total | % | 17,9 | 23,4 | 18,3 |
| Deposit rate on credit sales | % | 11,9 | 13,1 | 17,4 |
| Number of stores | | 194 | 146 | 94 |
| Revenue per store | R000 | 3 744 | 3 578 | 3 399 |
| Retail square meterage | | 132 735 | 115 353 | 67 027 |
| Revenue per square metre | Rand | 5 472 | 4 529 | 4 767 |
| Number of employees | | 2 775 | 2 291 | 1 492 |
| Revenue per employee | R000 | 262 | 228 | 214 |
| Instalment sale receivables – gross | Rm | 1 414 | 979 | 596 |
| Bad debts written off | Rm | 62 | 33 | 15 |
| Bad debts written off as a percentage of gross receivables | % | 4,4 | 3,4 | 2,5 |
| Receivables' arrears | Rm | 172 | 106 | 63 |
| Receivables' arrears as a percentage of gross receivables | % | 12,2 | 10,8 | 10,6 |
| Average length of the book | Months | 14,8 | 14,8 | 13,6 |

| Price 'n Pride | Electric Express | Abra | BoConcept® | Corporate | Group |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------|------------|-----------|---------|
| 332 | 184 | 119 | 57 | | 2 427 |
| 55 | 26 | (8) | (13) | (64) | 305 |
| 1 | - | 1 | 3 | 20 | 28 |
| 659 | 263 | 57 | 102 | 362 | 4 339 |
| 74 | 53 | 49 | 29 | 368 | 1 051 |
| 1 | - | 1 | 15 | 23 | 42 |
| 16,5 | 14,2 | (6,7) | (22,5) | | 12,6 |
| 175 | 114 | 117 | 54 | | 1 504 |
| 11,6 | 7,6 | 7,8 | 3,6 | | 100,0 |
| 164 | 78 | | | | 1 092 |
| 93,7 | 68,4 | | | | 72,6 |
| 11 | 36 | 117 | 54 | | 412 |
| 6,3 | 31,6 | 100,0 | 100,0 | | 27,4 |
| 13,0 | 17,8 | | | | 13,5 |
| 109 | 112 | 24 | 7 | | 683 |
| 3 046 | 1 643 | 4 958 | 8 143 | | 3 553 |
| 69 201 | 17 630 | 24 638 | 5 191 | | 437 470 |
| 4 798 | 10 437 | 4 830 | 10 981 | | 5 548 |
| 1 740 | 644 | 385 | 74 | 320 | 9 673 |
| 191 | 286 | 309 | 770 | | 251 |
| 776 | 307 | | | | 4 424 |
| 31 | 4 | | | | 120 |
| 4,0 | 1,3 | | | | 2,7 |
| 151 | 20 | | | | 592 |
| 19,5 | 6,5 | | | | 13,4 |
| 18,2 | 13,1 | | | | 14,8 |

| Price 'n Pride | Electric Express | Abra | BoConcept® | Corporate | Group |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------|------------|-----------|---------|
| 252 | 163 | 117 | 26 | | 2 126 |
| (15) | 23 | (9) | (3) | (26) | 214 |
| 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 22 | 28 |
| 586 | 242 | 81 | 154 | 653 | 4 423 |
| 67 | 46 | 40 | 22 | 440 | 1 120 |
| - | - | 4 | 4 | 27 | 38 |
| (6,0) | 14,1 | (7,9) | (12,5) | | 10,1 |
| 131 | 105 | 115 | 26 | | 1 352 |
| 9,7 | 7,8 | 8,5 | 1,9 | | 100,0 |
| 120 | 70 | | | | 972 |
| 91,6 | 66,7 | | | | 71,9 |
| 11 | 35 | 115 | 26 | | 380 |
| 8,4 | 33,3 | 100,0 | 100,0 | | 28,1 |
| 15,0 | 17,6 | | | | 14,0 |
| 132 | 111 | 22 | 3 | | 702 |
| 1 907 | 1 470 | 5 322 | 8 605 | | 3 029 |
| 71 116 | 17 290 | 25 189 | 2 137 | | 430 847 |
| 3 541 | 9 435 | 4 648 | 12 080 | | 4 935 |
| 2 049 | 694 | 347 | 58 | 304 | 10 010 |
| 123 | 235 | 337 | 445 | | 212 |
| 689 | 260 | | | | 3 938 |
| 51 | 4 | | | | 165 |
| 7,4 | 1,5 | | | | 4,2 |
| 179 | 17 | | | | 537 |
| 26,0 | 6,5 | | | | 13,6 |
| 19,5 | 13,2 | | | | 15,4 |

Segmental report – year ended 31 August 2002

| | | Russells | Joshua Doore | Bradlows |
|---|--------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Revenue | Rm | 1 352 | 989 | 606 |
| Operating income | Rm | 243 | 133 | 74 |
| Depreciation | Rm | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Total assets | Rm | 1 224 | 884 | 550 |
| Total current liabilities | Rm | 181 | 144 | 84 |
| Capital expenditure | Rm | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Operating margin | % | 18,0 | 13,4 | 12,2 |
| Total sale of merchandise | Rm | 807 | 608 | 395 |
| Share of Group sale of merchandise | % | 31,2 | 23,5 | 15,3 |
| Credit sales | Rm | 667 | 470 | 320 |
| Percentage of total | % | 82,7 | 77,3 | 81,0 |
| Cash sales | Rm | 140 | 138 | 75 |
| Percentage of total | % | 17,3 | 22,7 | 19,0 |
| Deposit rate on credit sales | % | 12,5 | 14,1 | 18,1 |
| Number of stores | | 194 | 146 | 93 |
| Revenue per store | R000 | 6 969 | 6 774 | 6 516 |
| Retail square meterage | | 131 266 | 114 608 | 69 908 |
| Revenue per square metre | Rand | 10 300 | 8 629 | 8 669 |
| Number of employees | | 2 867 | 2 330 | 1 495 |
| Revenue per employee | R000 | 472 | 424 | 405 |
| Instalment sale receivables – gross | Rm | 1 418 | 994 | 587 |
| Bad debts written off | Rm | 87 | 54 | 27 |
| Bad debts written off as a percentage of gross receivables | % | 6,1 | 5,4 | 4,6 |
| Receivables' arrears | Rm | 201 | 117 | 64 |
| Receivables' arrears as a percentage of gross receivables | % | 14,2 | 11,8 | 10,9 |
| Average length of the book | Months | 14,8 | 14,7 | 13,2 |

| Price 'n Pride | Electric Express | Abra | BoConcept® | Corporate | Group |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------|------------|-----------|---------|
| 522 | 318 | 232 | 64 | | 4 083 |
| 37 | 40 | (31) | (21) | (57) | 418 |
| 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 44 | 57 |
| 592 | 243 | 74 | 109 | 577 | 4 253 |
| 78 | 51 | 65 | 32 | 344 | 979 |
| 1 | - | 5 | 13 | 42 | 67 |
| 7,1 | 12,6 | (13,4) | (32,8) | | 10,2 |
| 278 | 203 | 228 | 64 | | 2 583 |
| 10,8 | 7,9 | 8,8 | 2,5 | | 100,0 |
| 255 | 138 | | | | 1 850 |
| 91,7 | 68,0 | | | | 71,6 |
| 23 | 65 | 228 | 64 | | 733 |
| 8,3 | 32,0 | 100,0 | 100,0 | | 28,4 |
| 13,8 | 18,0 | | | | 14,5 |
| 121 | 114 | 22 | 5 | | 695 |
| 4 314 | 2 789 | 10 545 | 12 800 | | 5 875 |
| 74 192 | 17 947 | 24 066 | 3 871 | | 435 858 |
| 7 036 | 17 719 | 9 640 | 16 533 | | 9 368 |
| 1 946 | 685 | 365 | 43 | 333 | 10 064 |
| 268 | 464 | 636 | 1 488 | | 406 |
| 698 | 275 | | | | 3 972 |
| 69 | 10 | | | | 247 |
| 9,9 | 3,6 | | | | 6,2 |
| 170 | 18 | | | | 570 |
| 24,4 | 6,5 | | | | 14,4 |
| 18,5 | 13,1 | | | | 15,1 |

INTRODUCTION

JD Group continues to benefit from its focus on what the customer wants with strong growth in revenue, operating margin and headline earnings. The repositioning of Price 'n Pride made a positive contribution, raising operating income to R55 million from a loss of R15 million a year ago.

OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

The period under review was characterised by higher interest rate levels and high inflation, causing a slower growth in real disposable income. According to Econometrix, these lower disposable income levels have resulted in reduced private consumption expenditure ("PCE") and lower uptake in discretionary credit extension. Sales in durables were hardest hit, with all categories experiencing negative growth in the 4th quarter of 2002. The 1st quarter of 2003 has seen a marked improvement, particularly in the sale of domestic appliances and household furniture.

Interest expenditure as a percentage of total household income was fairly stable over the period despite higher interest rates. The ratio of household debt to disposable income has reduced from 54% in the comparable period to below 51% for the period under review. On an international basis these levels are considered low and indicate capacity for consumers to take up more debt in a responsible way. JD Group is well positioned to benefit from this cyclical uptake in debt as interest rates decline and PCE increases over the next six months.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Revenue increased by 14% to R2,4 billion, with sale of merchandise increasing by 11% to R1,5 billion. Southern African sale of merchandise rose 10% to R1,3 billion and foreign sales rose 21% to R171 million. Sale of merchandise constituted 62% of total revenue.

Southern African revenue contributed 93% of total revenue. BoConcept® grew revenue by 114% to £3,7 million. Abra managed to grow revenue in Zloty terms by 7% to Pln49 million. Total credit sales accounted for 73% of total sales, in line with the corresponding period.

Cost of sales amounted to R1,01 billion (2002: R896 million). Had the effect of currency movement been disregarded, cost of sales would have increased in line with the increase in the sale of merchandise of 11%.

Finance charges earned increased by 15% to R443 million in a higher usury rate environment. Financial services, which include all the Group's insurance offerings, increased by 26% to R361 million.

Operating costs grew by 9% to R1,1 billion. Expenses in the southern African operations grew by 6% and by 50% in the European operations, in respective local currencies. This was largely due to the opening of new stores. Salary increases for union members are negotiated in terms of a two-year agreement, which is currently in its second year.

Operating income grew by 43% to R305 million, with the operating margin improving to 12,6% from 10,1%. Price 'n Pride significantly improved its margin from a negative 6,0% a year ago to the current positive 16,5%.

Headline earnings increased by 44% to R188 million, after goodwill amortisation of R2 million (2002: R1 million) and surplus on disposal of property, plant and equipment of R1 million (2002: R1 million) net of tax.

Net accounts receivable grew by 8% to R3,5 billion from R3,2 billion at 31 August 2002. Gross instalment sale receivables grew in line with credit sales by 12% to R4,4 billion from R4,0 billion at 31 August 2002, with the deposit rate on credit sales declining marginally to 13,5% from 14,0%. Total provisions as a percentage of gross instalment sale receivables were 24,3%, compared to 23,0% at 31 August 2002. The provision made in terms of IAS 39 increased to R156 million from R137 million at 31 August 2002. The Group continues to insure its South African instalment sale receivables.

Bad debts written off declined from R165 million a year ago to R120 million and from 4,2% to 2,7% of gross receivables. These improvements were achieved across all chains, most notably in Price 'n Pride. Receivables in arrears amount to R592 million (2002: R537 million) representing 13,4% of gross receivables down from 13,6% a year ago. The average length of the book declined to 14,8 months from 15,4 months a year ago.

Inventories rose by 2,5% to R455 million (2002: R444 million), after a R10 million mark down due to currency fluctuations and reduced store numbers.

Cash generated by operations amounted to R42 million (2002: R119 million), though cash generated by trading increased to R333 million from R241 million last year. Cash utilised in the increase in working capital amounted to R291 million (2002: R122 million), largely due to paying suppliers sooner and funding the 12% increase in gross instalment sale receivables.

Net gearing rose to 56,9% from 47,1% a year ago, reflecting an increased utilisation of cash, primarily in expansion and replacement capital. The Group also redeemed R66 million of interest bearing debt (2002: R93 million). The target gearing ratio remains between 35% and 50%, a range management is confident will be attained by year end.

OPERATIONAL REVIEW

During the period under review there was a net reduction in the number of stores from 695 to 683, predominantly in Price 'n Pride closing 12 stores and Bradlows closing three, resulting in higher trading densities in the remaining stores.

Improvements in efficiency were evident across all local chains, with revenue per square metre and employee both increasing.

The benefits of the revised credit granting model are still being realised. Bad debts written off as a percentage of gross receivables was significantly reduced.

Efficiency improvements in Europe are mixed. Same store sales were up by 5% in the UK and down by 6% in Poland in local currency terms.

Nedcor alliance

The number of in-store points of presence is currently 181 across all chains. The alliance continues to follow a prudent approach in all product offerings to its target market. The product offering has been expanded subsequent to the reporting date, to incorporate home loans and term investment products. In line with expectation, the operation did not contribute to operating income.

Poland

The macro-economic environment in Poland continues to be influenced by relatively high interest rates and a strong Zloty which places pressure on the country's competitiveness in general. The planned admission of Poland into the European Union, effective in May 2004, should ease these burdens, and have a positive impact on economic activity. The number of stores increased to 24 and our presence remains predominantly in the southern and central regions. The Group intends to grow its presence nationwide, as opportunities arise. The operating margin, though improving, currently stands at a negative 6,7%. Margin improvements are expected when sales volumes increase to utilise current infrastructural capacity. During the period under review the Group purchased the outside shareholders' interest in Abra. A new CEO from Poland was appointed, with a mandate to accelerate these growth initiatives, including further investment in staff training and development.

United Kingdom

BoConcept® increased revenue by 119% over the comparable period through opening of an additional two stores, bringing the total number of stores to seven. The depressed UK retail sector impacted the performance of the stores. We remain confident that BoConcept® will succeed within its niche market and it is anticipated that an increase in the number of stores to 10 over the next 6 months should provide the necessary critical mass to ensure that the business is profit generating.

The minority shareholders' 15% holding in BoConcept® was acquired, for a sum of R23,5 million. Linda Manson, formerly CEO of Bradlows, has been appointed as the acting CEO. Linda has been with JD Group for many years and will be applying the JD systems and management approach to the business.

POST BALANCE SHEET EVENT

The Scheme of Arrangement as proposed by JD Group between Profum and its shareholders in terms of Section 311 of the Companies Act, No 61 of 1973 as amended, became operative on 22 April 2003. The purchase consideration of R990 million has been settled by the issue and listing of 53,7 million JD Group shares. Profum has become a wholly owned subsidiary of JD Group. The listing of Profum shares on the JSE Securities Exchange (SA), the Namibian Stock Exchange and the Botswana Stock Exchange has been terminated.

The Profum acquisition has the potential to enhance value for JD Group shareholders by improving efficiency and at the same time preserving jobs and the supply base of the industry, which are suffering from overtrading.

These expectations are being met with the Group's management assuming managerial control of the Profum businesses. To date, no material issues have arisen, which indicate that the trading position of the Profum businesses is in any way removed from that which was indicated in the due diligence process. It is anticipated that ongoing synergistic savings of approximately R70 million per annum will be realised. To date 164 stores have been closed in South Africa, and 38 closures are imminent in the BLNS countries. Negotiations are currently underway to rightsize operations in the rest of Africa.

STRATEGIC REVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

It is our intention to focus our strategic initiatives over the next six months on the integration of the Profum acquisition and the consolidation of our offerings in the local market. The successful repositioning of Price 'n Pride will be replicated at Barnetts, in order to fulfil our stated strategy of focusing on the middle market.

The acquisition of Profum presents an opportunity to secure our position in an overtraded market. Our intention remains to diversify our exposure geographically. In this regard, we intend to continue to grow our offshore businesses in the UK and Poland.

GROUP PROSPECTS AND OUTLOOK

Revenue growth should be sustained in the second half of the year, providing current economic and trading conditions prevail. Likely interest rate cuts later in the year will benefit consumer confidence.

The Group is well placed to benefit from the ongoing store rationalisation which is necessitated by current overtrading in the local furniture market.

The growing AIDS epidemic will alter consumer spending patterns in the medium term. This is taken into account in devising the Group's optimal revenue mix and store footprint.

JD Group is committed to exceed the expectations of its customers, through innovative furniture retailing and the provision of financial services, both locally and abroad.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

JD Group complies in all material respects with the Code of Corporate Practices and Conduct as set out in the King Report on Corporate Governance.

TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE

The Group's commitment to support HIV/Aids interventions, sound labour relations, enhanced skills training and the development of our people in an environment which allows employees to develop to their fullest potential, continues as scheduled. Black Economic Empowerment within our South African communities is an integral part of the Group's strategy.

I-PROXY

Shareholders are encouraged to register to receive shareholder information electronically. This facility is made available following requisite changes having been made to the Group's Articles of Association. Shareholders are encouraged to visit www.jdg.co.za to register and receive further information.

DIVIDEND

Shareholders are referred to the announcement dated 3 April 2003, in which an interim distribution of 42 cents per share (2002: 34 cents) was declared and payment dates detailed.

REVIEW BY THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

The financial information has been reviewed, but not audited, by Deloitte & Touche, whose unqualified review report is available for inspection at the Company's registered office.

For and on behalf of the board



David Sussman
Executive Chairman

Johannesburg
5 May 2003



Gerald Völkel
Financial Director

Administration



JD Group Limited ("JD" or "the Group")
Registration number: 1981/009108/06 Share code: JDG ISIN: ZAE000030771
Registered office: 11th Floor, JD House, 27 Stiemens Street
Braamfontein, Johannesburg, 2001
(PO Box 4208, Johannesburg, 2000)
Telephone: +27 11 408 0408
Facsimile: +27 11 408 0604

Transfer secretaries:
South Africa Computershare Investor Services Limited
70 Marshall Street, Johannesburg, 2001
(PO Box 61051, Marshalltown, 2107)
Telephone: +27 11 370 5000
Facsimile: +27 11 370 5663

Namibia Transfer Secretaries (Proprietary) Limited
Shop 12, Kaiserkrone Centre, Post Street Mall, Windhoek, Namibia
Telephone: +264 61 227647
Facsimile: +264 61 248531

Sponsor: JP Morgan, 1 Fricker Road, Illovo, Johannesburg, 2001
Telephone: +27 11 507 0300
Facsimile: +27 11 302 1660

Executive directors: I D Sussman (*Executive Chairman*), H C Strauss (*Managing*),
J L Bezuidenhout, G Völkel

Non-executive directors: M E King, Dr D Konar, I S Levy, M Lock, M J Shaw

Company secretary: M I Jaye CA(SA)

E-mail: info@jdg.co.za



JD's Brands



Visit our website:
www.jdg.co.za