

Results for 1st quarter of 2009

Swissquote posts solid earnings despite financial crisis

In the first quarter of 2009, Swissquote posted a net profit of CHF 7.5 million in an environment of persisting weak trading volumes and historic low interest rates. This resulted in an impressive 32.0 percent profit margin. The number of clients increased by 28.4 percent year-on-year to 125,486. The inflow of new funds in the first quarter of 2009 came to CHF 290.6 million. For the year as a whole, Swissquote is maintaining the growth targets already announced – not least in light of the good start to the second quarter: 25,000 new clients and new funds totalling CHF 1 billion.

Moderate drop in revenues

In the first quarter of 2009, the decline in Swissquote's revenues came to CHF 4.3 million or 15.4 percent year-on-year – a moderate fall considering the dramatic situation on the financial markets over the last six months. Much of the relatively sharp 55.1 percent decrease (-CHF 4.1 million) in interest business was offset by a massive increase in revenues from trading operations (+CHF 2.6 million or 139.2 percent), particularly in the eForex sector. Commission business, which remains the mainstay of earnings, witnessed a decline of CHF 2.8 million or 15.3 percent.

Solid earnings

In comparison with the year-back period, operating expenditure increased by CHF 0.8 million or 6.1 percent to CHF 13.7 million. While marketing expenses decreased by CHF 0.3 million, other operating expenditure rose by CHF 1.2 million as a result of higher direct costs in the eForex business and a rise in charges for going live with links to additional exchanges. The lower revenues and slightly higher expenditure resulted in an operating profit of CHF 9.6 million (year-back quarter: CHF 14.7 million) and a net profit of CHF 7.5 million (CHF 11.5 million). Margins stood at 41.2 percent for operating profit and 32.0 percent for net earnings.



Strong client growth

In comparison with the year-back quarter, the number of clients increased by a total of 27,792 to 125,486, which is equivalent to a 28.4 percent increase. Compared with the fourth quarter of 2008, client numbers were up by 5,617. At 122,151 (+24,457), trading clients make up the largest contingent of clients. Although Swissquote only launched the 'dynamic savings account' one year ago, it already numbers 3,335 clients in this segment, with assets totalling CHF 121.7 million. Since 1 April 2009, at 1.8 percent Swissquote has become the price leader in the interest business.

Success with new services

Swissquote has recently also begun offering its trading clients an attractive new feature in the form of a ceiling of CHF 100 p.a. for safekeeping account charges. This adjustment in conditions should particularly appeal to larger private clients. Further progress has also been made in recent months on expanding the Swissquote platform. Clients can benefit from a redesigned real time account and an even more efficient information platform in which clearly displayed facts and figures are readily visible, allowing fast access to the required sections.

The complete **Financial Report for the first quarter of 2009** can be found at:
<http://www.swissquote.ch> – THE COMPANY/Investor Relations/Reporting

Swissquote – Swiss leader in online trading

Swissquote has 228 employees in Gland (Vaud) and Zurich. Swissquote is the Swiss leader in online trading. In addition to low-cost stock market access and a trading platform for portfolio managers, Swissquote also offers a wide range of financial and ePrivate banking tools. Swissquote Group Holding AG shares (SQN) are quoted on the SIX.

For further information

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Agenda 2009

- 30.04.2009 Annual General Meeting in Zurich
- 24.07.2009 Publication of figures for the first half of 2009 in Zurich (SIX)
- 27.10.2009 Publication of figures for the first nine months of 2009 (Conference Call)

Key Figures 1st Quarter 2009

CHF'000	Comparison with Previous Year				Comparison with Previous Quarter			
	Q1-2009	Q1-2008	Change	Change [%]	Q1-2009	Q4-2008	Change	Change [%]
Net Fee & Commission Income	15'484.6	18'280.7	(2'796.1)	-15.3%	15'484.6	18'604.7	(3'120.1)	-16.8%
Interest Income, net	3'333.4	7'426.1	(4'092.7)	-55.1%	3'333.4	7'004.2	(3'670.8)	-52.4%
Trading Results	4'520.7	1'890.1	2'630.6	139.2%	4'520.7	3'868.3	652.4	16.9%
Total Net Revenues	23'338.7	27'596.9	(4'258.2)	-15.4%	23'338.7	29'477.2	(6'138.5)	-20.8%
Payroll & Related Expenses	(6'064.0)	(6'139.6)	75.6	-1.2%	(6'064.0)	(6'065.7)	1.7	0.0%
Other Operating Expenses (incl. Depr. & Provision)	(5'688.3)	(4'488.1)	(1'200.2)	26.7%	(5'688.3)	(5'944.6)	256.3	-4.3%
Marketing Expenses	(1'981.9)	(2'319.1)	337.2	-14.5%	(1'981.9)	(2'804.1)	822.2	-29.3%
Total Expenses	(13'734.2)	(12'946.8)	(787.4)	6.1%	(13'734.2)	(14'814.4)	1'080.2	-7.3%
Operating Profit	9'604.5	14'650.1	(5'045.6)	-34.4%	9'604.5	14'662.8	(5'058.3)	-34.5%
Write down on investment securities, net of tax	-	-	-	-	-	(2'880.8)	2'880.8	-100.0%
Income Taxes	(2'139.2)	(3'139.3)	1'000.1	-31.9%	(2'139.2)	(3'035.7)	896.5	-29.5%
Net Profit	7'465.3	11'510.8	(4'045.5)	-35.1%	7'465.3	8'746.3	(1'281.0)	-14.6%
Operating Profit Margin	41.2%	53.1%			41.2%	49.7%		
Net Profit Margin	32.0%	41.7%			32.0%	29.7%		
	31.03.2009	31.03.2008	Change	Change [%]	31.03.2009	31.12.2008	Change	Change [%]
Total number of Trading Clients [units]	122'151	97'694	24'457	25.0%	122'151	117'141	5'010	4.3%
Total number of Saving Clients [units]	3'335	-	3'335	-	3'335	2'728	607	22.3%
Total Number of Clients	125'486	97'694	27'792	28.4%	125'486	119'869	5'617	4.7%
Assets under Custody [CHF m]	4'643.8	5'354.0	(710.2)	-13.3%	4'643.8	4'539.7	104.1	2.3%
Total Net New Monies [CHF m]	290.6	414.4	(123.8)	-29.9%	290.6	315.2	(24.6)	-7.8%
Total Headcounts	228	233	(5.0)	-2.1%	228	236	(8.0)	-3.4%
Total Balance Sheet [CHF m]	1'501.4	1'381.2	120.2	8.7%	1'501.4	1'346.1	155.3	11.5%
Total Equity [CHF m]	145.2	135.3	9.9	7.3%	145.2	139.1	6.1	4.4%
Equity Surplus [CHF m]	95.2	83.8	11.4	13.6%	94.9	89.5	5.4	6.0%