

Half-year Report 2021



Essity Aktiebolag (publ)



JANUARY 1 – JUNE 30, 2021

(compared with the corresponding period a year ago)

- Organic net sales declined 1.0% and were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions and lockdowns. Net sales declined 9.1% to SEK 56,496m (62,119). Sales growth was strong for the second quarter of 2021 and organic net sales increased by 9.5% compared with the second quarter of 2020.
- Market shares increased for more than 60% of branded sales in the retail trade for the most recent 12-month period
- E-commerce sales increased organically by 13.7% to approximately 14% of net sales, corresponding to approximately SEK 8bn.
- In emerging markets, which accounted for 38% of net sales, organic net sales increased 6.6%.
- Operating profit before amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets (EBITA) decreased 24% to SEK 6,937m (9,159)
- Adjusted EBITA decreased 23% to SEK 7,017m (9,115)
- Adjusted EBITA margin decreased 2.3 percentage points to 12.4% (14.7)
- Adjusted return on capital employed decreased 1.5 percentage points to 14.1% (15.6)
- Profit for the period was SEK 4,627m (6,118)
- Earnings per share were SEK 5.56 (7.58) and adjusted earnings per share were SEK 6.03 (7.95)
- Cash flow from current operations was SEK 1,741m (6,361)
- Entered into agreement to acquire approximately 44% of the Colombian hygiene company Productos Familia S.A.
- Started process to create a private label division in the Consumer Tissue business area
- After the end of the first half-year:
 - Acquisition of the Australian hygiene company Asaleo Care finalized
 - New and updated sustainability targets including the commitment to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 at the latest.

EARNINGS TREND

SEKm	2106	2006	%	2021:2	2020:2	%
Net sales	56,496	62,119	-9	28,968	28,407	2
Adjusted operating profit before amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets (EBITA) ¹	7,017	9,115	-23	3,409	3,782	-10
Operating profit before amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets (EBITA)	6,937	9,159	-24	3,273	3,843	-15
Amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets	-367	-409		-181	-208	
Adjusted operating profit ¹	6,650	8,706	-24	3,228	3,574	-10
Items affecting comparability	-80	44		-136	61	
Operating profit	6,570	8,750	-25	3,092	3,635	-15
Financial items	-335	-602		-177	-283	
Profit before tax	6,235	8,148	-23	2,915	3,352	-13
Adjusted Profit before tax ¹	6,315	8,104	-22	3,051	3,291	-7
Income taxes	-1,608	-2,030		-840	-844	
Profit for the period	4,627	6,118	-24	2,075	2,508	-17
Earnings per share, SEK	5.56	7.58		2.52	2.97	
Adjusted earnings per share, SEK ²	6.03	7.95		2.89	3.12	

¹Excluding items affecting comparability; for amounts see page 13.

²Excluding items affecting comparability and amortization of acquisition related intangible assets.

SUMMARY OF SECOND QUARTER OF 2021

Sales growth was strong in the second quarter and organic net sales rose 9.5% compared with the corresponding period a year ago, of which volume accounted for 9.9% and price/mix for -0.4%. There was a gradual increase in sales during the quarter as a result of more favorable market conditions and the continued growing awareness of the importance of hygiene and health. Organic net sales in mature markets increased 9.0%. In emerging markets, which accounted for 38% of net sales, organic net sales increased 9.1%.

Personal Care and Professional Hygiene noted highly favorable organic sales growth during the second quarter of 2021 compared with the second quarter of 2020. In Personal Care and Consumer Tissue, sales were at a higher level than in the second quarter of 2019. Medical Solutions demonstrated strong organic sales growth compared with the second quarter of 2020, and sales were also higher than in the second quarter of 2019 as a result of the positive performance in Wound Care.

During the second quarter Essity has:

- Launched innovations in all business areas under strong brands such as TENA, Tork, Leukoplast, Jobst, Libresse, Tempo and Regio.
- Increased market shares for more than 60% of branded sales in the retail trade for the most recent 12-month period through successful product launches, award-winning marketing campaigns and a strengthened presence in digital sales channels.
- Increased e-commerce sales organically by 13.3% to about 14% of net sales, corresponding to approximately SEK 4bn.
- Announced price increases in Consumer Tissue as a result of higher costs for raw materials, energy and distribution. A certain effect of the price increases was seen at the end of the second quarter of 2021 but the majority will be realized in the second half of 2021. Essity has also implemented and is preparing price increases in other product categories affected by higher costs.
- Achieved continuous costs savings for the second quarter of SEK 239m. The Manufacturing Roadmap program extends until 2025 and is expected to contribute to Essity's total annual cost savings of SEK 500-1,000m.
- Entered into an agreement to acquire approximately 44% of the Colombian hygiene company Productos Familia S.A. After closing of the transaction, Essity's ownership in Familia will amount to at least 94%. Furthermore, an acquisition was made of the remaining 25% of the shares in the medical solutions company ABIGO Medical AB.
- Started process to create the Consumer Tissue Private Label Europe division in the Consumer Tissue business area. Proforma 2020 net sales of the division was approximately SEK 6.7bn. About 1,700 employees and seven production facilities in Belgium, France, Germany and Italy are in scope. The work with creating the division is expected to be finalized by year end 2021.

After the end of the second quarter:

- Finalized the acquisition of the Australian hygiene company Asaleo Care
- Commitment to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 at the latest. This includes raising the ambition level of Essity's current Science Based Targets. Other updated targets include sustainable innovations, occupational safety and responsible sourcing.

The Group's adjusted gross margin for the second quarter of 2021 decreased by 1.8 percentage points year on year to 30.4%. The gross margin was positively impacted by higher volumes, an improved mix and cost savings. Higher raw material and energy costs reduced the margin by 1.9 percentage points. The gross margin was also negatively impacted by higher distribution costs and lower prices in Consumer Tissue. The lower prices were primarily the result of higher campaign activity compared with a low level in the preceding year as well as price adjustments in Europe in the second half of 2020. Announced and agreed price increases in Consumer Tissue in Europe had a certain effect at the end of the second quarter but the majority will be realized in the second half of 2021. The Group's adjusted EBITA margin decreased 1.5 percentage points to 11.8%. Sales costs increased in absolute terms but decreased as a share of net sales. Investments in growth increased marketing costs in absolute terms and as a percentage of net sales. Adjusted EBITA, excluding exchange rate effects, decreased 2%. Adjusted return on capital employed amounted to 12.4 percent and earnings per share were SEK 2.52.

ADJUSTED EARNINGS TREND

SEKm	2106	2006	%	2021:2	2020:2	%
Net sales	56,496	62,119	-9	28,968	28,407	2
Cost of goods sold ¹	-38,809	-41,923		-20,149	-19,260	
Adjusted gross profit¹	17,687	20,196	-12	8,819	9,147	-4
Sales, general and administration ¹	-10,670	-11,081		-5,410	-5,365	
Adjusted operating profit before amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets (EBITA)¹	7,017	9,115	-23	3,409	3,782	-10
Amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets	-367	-409		-181	-208	
Adjusted operating profit¹	6,650	8,706	-24	3,228	3,574	-10
Financial items	-335	-602		-177	-283	
Adjusted profit before tax¹	6,315	8,104	-22	3,051	3,291	-7
Adjusted Income taxes ¹	-1,622	-2,012		-849	-823	
Adjusted profit for the period¹	4,693	6,092	-23	2,202	2,468	-11
¹ Excluding items affecting comparability; for amounts see page 13.						
Adjusted Margins (%)						
Gross margin¹	31.3	32.5		30.4	32.2	
EBITA margin¹	12.4	14.7		11.8	13.3	
Operating margin¹	11.8	14.0		11.1	12.6	
Financial net margin	-0.6	-1.0		-0.6	-1.0	
Profit margin¹	11.2	13.0		10.5	11.6	
Income taxes ¹	-2.9	-3.2		-2.9	-2.9	
Net margin¹	8.3	9.8		7.6	8.7	
¹ Excluding items affecting comparability; for amounts see page 13.						

ADJUSTED EBITA BY BUSINESS AREA

SEKm	2106	2006	%	2021:2	2020:2	%
Personal Care	3,418	3,477	-2	1,710	1,438	19
Consumer Tissue	2,892	4,216	-31	1,207	2,124	-43
Professional Hygiene	1,129	1,874	-40	710	481	48
Other	-422	-452		-218	-261	
Total¹	7,017	9,115	-23	3,409	3,782	-10
¹ Excluding items affecting comparability; for amounts see page 13.						

ADJUSTED OPERATING PROFIT BY BUSINESS AREA

SEKm	2106	2006	%	2021:2	2020:2	%
Personal Care	3,059	3,091	-1	1,531	1,241	23
Consumer Tissue	2,889	4,212	-31	1,205	2,122	-43
Professional Hygiene	1,124	1,855	-39	709	472	50
Other	-422	-452		-217	-261	
Total¹	6,650	8,706	-24	3,228	3,574	-10
¹ Excluding items affecting comparability; for amounts see page 13.						

OPERATING CASH FLOW BY BUSINESS AREA

SEKm	2106	2006	%	2021:2	2020:2	%
Personal Care	2,621	3,336	-21	1,238	1,646	-25
Consumer Tissue	1,750	4,522	-61	444	2,429	-82
Professional Hygiene	626	1,631	-62	655	769	-15
Other	-761	-662		-377	-498	
Total	4,236	8,827	-52	1,960	4,346	-55

GROUP

NET SALES AND EARNINGS

January–June 2021 compared with the corresponding period a year ago

Net sales declined 9.1% compared with the corresponding period a year ago to SEK 56,496m (62,119). Organic net sales, which exclude exchange rate effects, acquisitions and divestments, declined 1.0%, of which volume accounted for -0.3% and price/mix for -0.7%. Sales were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the related lockdowns and restrictions, primarily within Professional Hygiene. Organic net sales declined 5.8% in mature markets and increased 6.6% in emerging markets. Emerging markets accounted for 38% of net sales. Exchange rate effects reduced net sales by 7.4%. Acquisitions, divestments and deconsolidation reduced net sales by 0.7%.

The Group's adjusted gross margin decreased by 1.2 percentage points year on year to 31.3% (32.5). The gross margin was positively impacted by an improved mix and cost savings. Continuous cost savings amounted to SEK 251m. Higher costs for raw materials, energy and distribution, and lower prices in Consumer Tissue had a negative impact on the margin.

The Group's adjusted EBITA margin decreased 2.3 percentage points to 12.4% (14.7). Sales costs increased in absolute terms and as a share of net sales. Investments in growth increased marketing costs in absolute terms and as a share of net sales.

Adjusted operating profit before amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets (adjusted EBITA) decreased 23% (15% excluding currency translation effects, acquisitions and divestments) to SEK 7,017m (9,115).

Items affecting comparability amounted to SEK -80m (44) primarily related to restructuring and transaction costs.

Financial items decreased to SEK -335m (-602). Lower interest and lower average net debt had a positive impact.

Adjusted profit before tax decreased 22% (14% excluding currency translation effects, acquisitions and divestments) and amounted to SEK 6,315m (8,104).

The tax expense, excluding effects of items affecting comparability, was SEK 1,622m (2,012).

Adjusted profit for the period decreased 23% (15% excluding currency translation effects, acquisitions and divestments) to SEK 4,693m (6,092).

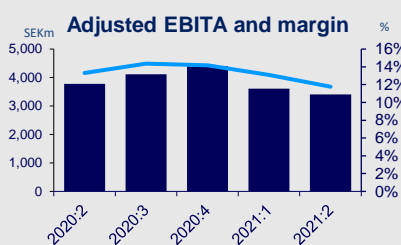
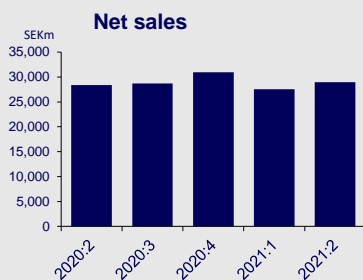
Profit for the period decreased 24% (16% excluding currency translation effects, acquisitions and divestments) to SEK 4,627m (6,118). Earnings per share were SEK 5.56 (7.58). The adjusted earnings per share were SEK 6.03 (7.95).

The adjusted return on capital employed was 14.1% (15.6). The adjusted return on equity was 16.1% (19.5).

Second quarter of 2021 compared with the corresponding period a year ago

Net sales increased 2.0% compared with the corresponding period a year ago to SEK 28,968m (28,407). Organic net sales, which exclude exchange rate effects, acquisitions and divestments, increased 9.5%, of which volume accounted for 9.9% and price/mix for -0.4%. The negative effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and the related lockdowns and restrictions was less severe in the second quarter of 2021 compared with the preceding year. Sales in the second quarter of 2020 were negatively impacted by inventory adjustments among consumers and distributors. Organic net sales increased 9.0% in mature markets and increased 9.1% in emerging markets. Emerging markets accounted for 38% of net sales. Exchange rate effects reduced net sales by 6.8%. Acquisitions, divestments and deconsolidation reduced net sales by 0.7%.

The Group's adjusted gross margin for the second quarter of 2021 decreased by 1.8 percentage points year on year to 30.4% (32.2). The gross margin was positively impacted by higher volumes, an improved mix and cost savings. Higher raw material and energy costs reduced the margin by 1.9 percentage points. The continuous costs savings amounted to SEK 239m. The gross margin was also negatively impacted by higher distribution costs and lower prices in Consumer Tissue. The lower prices were primarily the result of higher campaign activity compared with a low level in the preceding year as well as price adjustments in Europe in the second half of 2020. Announced and agreed price increases in Consumer Tissue in Europe had



Excluding items affecting comparability

Change in net sales (%)

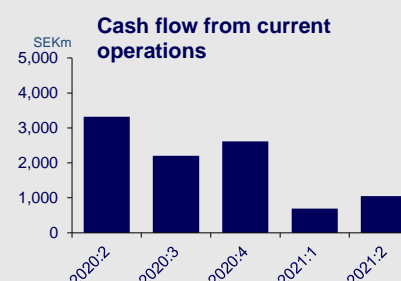
	2106 vs 2006	21:2 vs 20:2
Total	-9.1	2.0
Volume	-0.3	9.9
Price/mix	-0.7	-0.4
Currency	-7.4	-6.8
Acquisitions	0.1	0.1
Divestments	-0.8	-0.8

Change in adjusted EBITA (%)

	2106 vs 2006	21:2 vs 20:2
Total	-23	-10
Volume	0	26
Price/mix	-5	-3
Raw materials	-2	-12
Energy	-2	-4
Currency	-8	-8
Other	-6	-9



Excluding items affecting comparability



a certain effect at the end of the second quarter but the majority will be realized in the second half of 2021. The Group's adjusted EBITA margin decreased 1.5 percentage points to 11.8% (13.3). Sales costs increased in absolute terms but decreased as a share of net sales. Investments in growth increased marketing costs in absolute terms and as a share of net sales.

Adjusted operating profit before amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets (adjusted EBITA) decreased 10% (2% excluding currency translation effects, acquisitions and divestments) to SEK 3,409m (3,782).

Adjusted profit before tax decreased 7% (increased 1% excluding currency translation effects, acquisitions and divestments) and amounted to SEK 3,051m (3,291).

Profit for the period decreased 17% (9% excluding currency translation effects, acquisitions and divestments) to SEK 2,075m (2,508). Earnings per share were SEK 2.52 (2.97). The adjusted earnings per share were SEK 2.89 (3.12).

The adjusted return on capital employed was 12.4% (13.1). The adjusted return on equity was 13.5% (15.1).

CASH FLOW AND FINANCING

January–June 2021 compared with the corresponding period a year ago

The operating cash surplus amounted to SEK 10,255m (12,670). The cash flow effect of changes in working capital was SEK -2,450m (-1,019). Working capital was negatively impacted by an increase in trade receivables as a result of higher sales and a higher inventory value on account of rising raw material prices. Investments in non-current assets, net, excluding investments in operating assets through leases, amounted to SEK -3,193m (-2,338). Operating cash flow before investments in operating assets through leases amounted to SEK 4,300m (8,997). Investments in operating assets through leases amounted to SEK -64m (-170). Operating cash flow was SEK 4,236m (8,827).

Financial items decreased to SEK -335m (-602). Lower interest and lower average net debt had a positive impact.

Tax payments had an impact on cash flow of SEK -2,232m (-1,890).

The net sum of acquisitions and divestments was SEK -271m (-716). Net cash flow totaled SEK -3,619m (5,586).

Net debt increased SEK 3,709m during the period and amounted to SEK 46,397m. Excluding pension liabilities, net debt amounted to SEK 45,047m. Net cash flow increased net debt by SEK 3,619m. Fair value measurement of pension assets and updated assumptions and assessments that affect measurement of the net pension liability, together with fair value measurement of financial instruments, reduced net debt by SEK 1,099m. Exchange rate movements increased net debt by SEK 939m. Investments in non-operating assets through leases increased net debt by SEK 250m. The debt/equity ratio was 0.70 (0.75). Excluding pension liabilities, the debt/equity ratio was 0.68 (0.66). The debt payment capacity was 36% (42). Net debt in relation to adjusted EBITDA amounted to 2.12 (1.93).

EQUITY

January–June 2021

The Group's equity increased by SEK 2,943m during the period, to SEK 66,285m. Net profit for the period increased equity by SEK 4,627m. Equity decreased due to dividends to shareholders of SEK 5,178m. Equity increased net after tax by SEK 959m as a result of fair value measurement of pension assets and updated assumptions and assessments that affect the valuation of the pension liability. Fair value measurement of financial instruments increased equity by SEK 604m after tax. Exchange rate movements, including the effect of hedges of net foreign investments, after tax, increased equity by SEK 1,904m. Other items increased equity by SEK 27m.

TAX

January–June 2021

A tax expense of SEK 1,622m was reported, excluding items affecting comparability, corresponding to a tax rate of 25.7% for the period. The tax expense including items affecting comparability was SEK 1,608m, corresponding to a tax rate of 25.8% for the period.

EVENTS DURING THE QUARTER

Essity acquires distribution rights to Sorbact in Australia and New Zealand

On April 6, 2021, Essity announced that the company is acquiring the distribution rights to the wound care technology Sorbact® in Australia and New Zealand from the Australian company Bayport Brands. In 2020, sales of Sorbact® in the region amounted to AUD 1.7m (approximately SEK 11m). Sorbact® is a clinically established innovation for advanced wound care and is used in wound care products to prevent and treat infections. It does this using a natural mode of action that binds bacteria and fungi. Sorbact® does not contain antiseptics or other toxic substances, which is positive for both the patient and the environment.

Essity announces price increases

On April 7, 2021, Essity communicated that the company is announcing price increases in Consumer Tissue as a result of higher raw material costs. The price increases are announced in Essity's key markets and the percentage increases are on average in the mid-to-high single digits. In addition, Essity is preparing price increases in other product categories impacted by higher raw material costs.

Essity to increase ownership in Productos Familia S.A.

Essity announced on April 22, 2021, that the company had made an agreement to acquire approximately 44% of the Colombian hygiene company Productos Familia S.A. After closing of the transaction Essity's ownership in Familia will amount to at least 94%. Essity has been an owner in Familia since 1985, and currently owns 50% of the company. The purchase price amounts to USD 1,540m (approximately SEK 13bn) for 100% of the company on a debt free basis. With the acquisition Essity is building a stronger platform in Latin America to increase growth, profitability and efficiency as well as accelerating the digital transformation. The acquisition will be fully debt funded and Essity has committed credit facilities in place. The completion of the transaction is subject to customary regulatory approvals and is expected to be finalized in the second half of 2021.

Progress within Manufacturing Roadmap

On April 23, 2021, Essity presented additional information regarding the program Manufacturing Roadmap, including optimizing and streamlining all of the Group's approximately 60 wholly owned production facilities and logistics and distribution. The program extends until 2025 and is expected to contribute to Essity's total annual cost savings of SEK 500-1,000m through the optimization of the production structure, productivity improvements and raw material and energy savings.

Essity acquires remaining shares in ABIGO Medical AB

On April 27, 2021, Essity announced that the company had signed an agreement to acquire the remaining 25% of the shares in the Swedish medical solutions company ABIGO Medical AB. Essity acquired 75% of ABIGO Medical in February 2020. Following the acquisition, ABIGO Medical will be a wholly owned subsidiary of Essity in the product category Medical Solutions. The shares are being acquired from founder and chairman of the board Jan G. Smith at a valuation of SEK 900m for 100% of the company on a debt-free basis. The acquisition was finalized in May 2021.

Asaleo Care's shareholders accept Essity's offer to acquire remaining shares in the company

On June 1, 2021, Essity announced that the shareholders in Asaleo Care voted in favor of accepting Essity's offer to acquire all shares in the company. Essity will acquire the remaining 63.8% of the shares in Asaleo Care for AUD 1.40 cash per share. The consideration implied an equity value on a 100% basis of approximately AUD 760m (approximately SEK 4.9bn) and an enterprise value of AUD 855m (approximately SEK 5.5bn). In 2020, Asaleo Care reported sales of AUD 419m (approximately SEK 2.7bn) and underlying EBITDA of AUD 89m (approximately SEK 574m). Based on this, Asaleo Care would have contributed to Essity's net sales and EBITDA by approximately 2% for 2020.

Sahil Tesfu joins Essity's Executive Management Team

On June 2, 2021, Essity announced that Sahil Tesfu will join Essity's Executive Management Team in the newly created position of Senior Vice President Group Function Strategy & Business Development.

EVENTS AFTER THE QUARTER

Australian hygiene company Asaleo Care becomes Essity

On July 1, 2021, Essity announced that it had finalized its acquisition of Australian hygiene company Asaleo Care. Essity AustralAsia, which is the name of the regional unit going forward, will be consolidated into Essity's accounts as of July 1, 2021.

Essity invests in improved recycling of food and beverage cartons in France

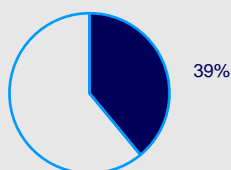
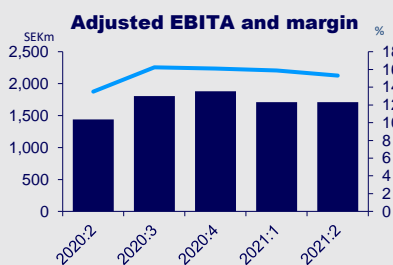
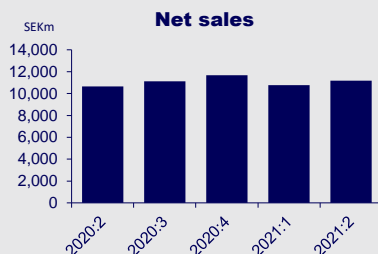
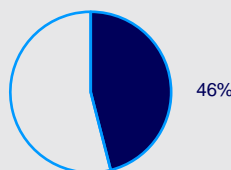
On July 6, 2021, Essity announced that the company is investing approximately EUR 11m (approximately SEK 110m) in its Hondouville tissue mill in France, allowing the extraction of 98% of paper fibers contained in food and beverage cartons. Since 2008, Essity's Hondouville mill has been the leading recycler in France of food and beverage cartons. This new investment will allow Essity to increase the recycling capacity of cartons to 24,000 tons a year. The fibers from these cartons are used in the fiber mix to manufacture Tork-branded products within Professional Hygiene. The improved recycling system will be operational during the first half of 2022.

Essity commits to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050

On July 16, 2021, Essity announced new and updated sustainability targets including a commitment to develop targets to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 at the latest. This includes raising the ambition level of Essity's current Science Based Targets. Other updated targets include sustainable innovations, occupational safety and responsible sourcing.

The net-zero ambition means that Essity will join the U.N. Global Compact's "Business Ambition for 1.5°C" to develop targets to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 for the entire value chain, in line with Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) criteria. This includes an upgraded target in line with "Well-below 2°C" scenario and means the company commits to reducing its Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions with 35% by 2030 from 2016. Essity will reach the net-zero emissions target and reduce its environmental impact by increasing focus on energy efficiency, removal of fossil fuels, and increasing the use of renewable energy.

In addition, Essity has increased its ambition for sustainable innovations. The new target is that at least 50% of all innovations should yield a social and/or environmental improvement. Sustainable innovations are measured as share of revenue from innovations launched in the last three years. For occupational safety, Essity has an updated target to reduce the total recordable injuries rate by 75% by 2025 compared to 2019. Essity has also updated its responsible sourcing target to 95% of Essity's total purchase cost is to be from suppliers that comply with Essity's Global Supplier Standard by 2025.

Share of Group, net sales
2106Share of Group, adjusted EBITA
2106

Change in net sales (%)

	2106 vs 2006	21:2 vs 20:2
Total	-6.0	4.8
Volume	1.2	11.0
Price/mix	1.4	1.7
Currency	-7.9	-7.0
Acquisitions	0.4	0.2
Divestments	-1.1	-1.1

Change in adjusted EBITA (%)

	2106 vs 2006	21:2 vs 20:2
Total	-2	19
Volume	5	36
Price/mix	7	11
Raw materials	-3	-13
Energy	-1	-1
Currency	-10	-10
Other	0	-4

PERSONAL CARE

SEKm	2106	2006	%	2021:2	2020:2	%
Net sales	21,922	23,320	-6	11,163	10,651	5
Adjusted gross profit margin, %*	41.9	40.8		41.1	40.6	
Adjusted EBITA*	3,418	3,477	-2	1,710	1,438	19
Adjusted EBITA margin, %*	15.6	14.9		15.3	13.5	
Adjusted operating profit*	3,059	3,091	-1	1,531	1,241	23
Adjusted operating margin, %*	14.0	13.3		13.7	11.7	
Adjusted return on capital employed, %*	16.7	15.5		16.1	12.8	
Operating cash flow	2,621	3,336		1,238	1,646	

*) Excluding restructuring costs, which are reported as items affecting comparability outside of the business area.

January–June 2021 compared with the corresponding period a year ago

Net sales declined 6.0% to SEK 21,922m (23,320). Organic net sales increased 2.6%, of which volume accounted for 1.2% and price/mix for 1.4%. Organic net sales in mature markets increased 1.0%. In emerging markets, which accounted for 35% of net sales, organic net sales increased 4.5%. Exchange rate effects reduced net sales by 7.9%. Acquisitions and divestments reduced net sales by 0.7%.

For Incontinence Products, with Essity's globally leading TENA brand, organic net sales decreased 0.2%. In Medical Solutions, organic net sales increased 13.5%. For Baby Care, organic net sales declined 1.4%. For Feminine Care, organic net sales increased 5.0%.

The adjusted gross margin increased 1.1 percentage points to 41.9% (40.8). The gross margin was positively impacted by higher volumes, higher prices, an improved mix and cost savings. Higher costs for raw materials and distribution had a negative impact on the margin. The adjusted EBITA margin increased 0.7 of a percentage point to 15.6% (14.9). Sales costs decreased in absolute terms but increased as a share of net sales. Investments in growth increased marketing costs in absolute terms and as a share of net sales. Adjusted EBITA decreased 2% (increased 8% excluding currency translation effects, acquisitions and divestments) to SEK 3,418m (3,477).

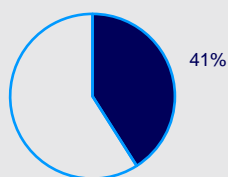
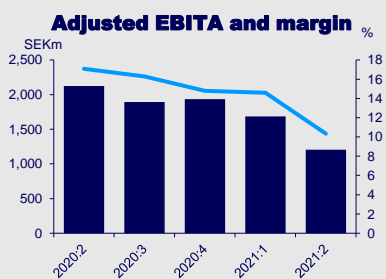
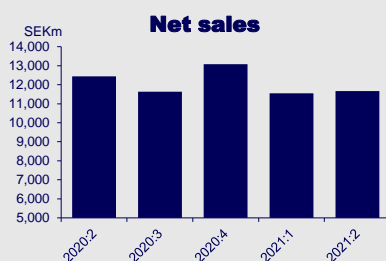
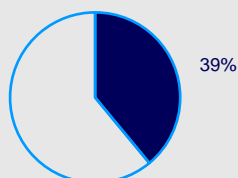
The operating cash surplus amounted to SEK 4,269m (4,454).

Second quarter of 2021 compared with the corresponding period a year ago

Net sales increased 4.8% to SEK 11,163m (10,651). Organic net sales increased 12.7%, of which volume accounted for 11.0% and price/mix for 1.7%. The negative effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and the related lockdowns and restrictions was less severe in the second quarter of 2021 compared with the preceding year. Sales in the second quarter of 2020 were negatively impacted by inventory adjustments among consumers. Organic net sales in mature markets increased 12.3%. In emerging markets, which accounted for 35% of net sales, organic net sales increased 11.0%. Exchange rate effects reduced net sales by 7.0%. Acquisitions and divestments reduced net sales by 0.9%.

For Incontinence Products, with Essity's globally leading TENA brand, organic net sales increased 6.4%. The increase was attributable to Europe and emerging markets. In Medical Solutions, organic net sales increased 35.4% and all product categories demonstrated strong sales growth. For Baby Care, organic net sales increased 12.4%, primarily related to Europe. For Feminine Care, organic net sales increased 11.0% related to Europe and emerging markets.

The adjusted gross margin increased 0.5 of a percentage points to 41.1% (40.6). The gross margin was positively impacted by higher volumes, higher prices, an improved mix and cost savings. Higher raw material and distribution costs had a negative impact on the margin. The adjusted EBITA margin increased 1.8 percentage points to 15.3% (13.5). Sales costs increased in absolute terms but decreased as a share of net sales. Investments in growth increased marketing costs in absolute terms and as a share of net sales. Adjusted EBITA increased 19% (29% excluding currency translation effects, acquisitions and divestments) to SEK 1,710m (1,438).

Share of Group, net sales
2106Share of Group, adjusted EBITA
2106

Change in net sales (%)

	2106 vs 2006	21:2 vs 20:2
Total	-9.0	-6.2
Volume	1.6	3.2
Price/mix	-3.2	-3.4
Currency	-6.4	-5.1
Acquisitions	0.0	0.0
Divestments	-1.0	-0.9

Change in adjusted EBITA (%)

	2106 vs 2006	21:2 vs 20:2
Total	-31	-43
Volume	5	5
Price/mix	-20	-19
Raw materials	2	-8
Energy	-3	-5
Currency	-6	-5
Other	-9	-11

CONSUMER TISSUE

SEKm	2106	2006	%	2021:2	2020:2	%
Net sales	23,223	25,517	-9	11,669	12,437	-6
Adjusted gross profit margin, %*	24.5	27.2		22.6	28.2	
Adjusted EBITA*	2,892	4,216	-31	1,207	2,124	-43
Adjusted EBITA margin, %*	12.5	16.5		10.3	17.1	
Adjusted operating profit*	2,889	4,212	-31	1,205	2,122	-43
Adjusted operating margin, %*	12.4	16.5		10.3	17.1	
Adjusted return on capital employed, %*	14.4	15.4		10.1	18.1	
Operating cash flow	1,750	4,522		444	2,429	

*) Excluding restructuring costs, which are reported as items affecting comparability outside of the business area.

January–June 2021 compared with the corresponding period a year ago

Net sales decreased 9.0% to SEK 23,223m (25,517). Organic net sales decreased 1.6%. Volumes accounted for an increase of 1.6% and the price/mix a decrease of 3.2%. Organic net sales decreased 10.0% in mature markets. In emerging markets, which accounted for 50% of net sales, organic net sales increased by 7.4%. Exchange rate effects decreased net sales by 6.4%. Divestments and deconsolidation decreased net sales by 1.0%.

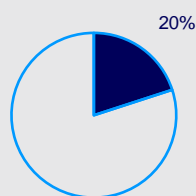
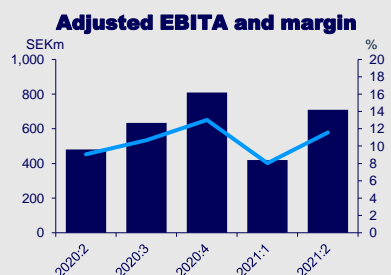
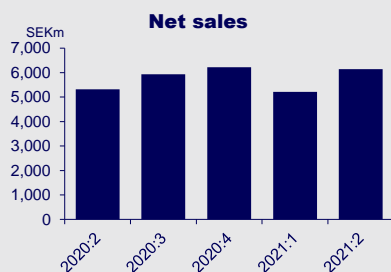
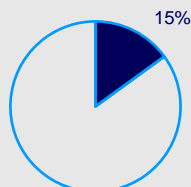
The adjusted gross margin decreased by 2.7 percentage points to 24.5% (27.2). The gross margin was positively impacted by higher volumes, an improved mix, cost savings and lower raw material costs related to Asia. Higher energy and distribution costs and lower prices had a negative impact on the margin. The adjusted EBITA margin decreased 4.0 percentage points to 12.5% (16.5). Sales and marketing costs increased in absolute terms and as a share of net sales. Adjusted EBITA decreased 31% (25% excluding currency translation effects, acquisitions and divestments) to SEK 2,892m (4,216).

The operating cash surplus totaled SEK 4,187m (5,632).

Second quarter of 2021 compared with the corresponding period a year ago

Net sales decreased 6.2% to SEK 11,669m (12,437). Organic net sales decreased 0.2%. Volumes accounted for an increase of 3.2% and the price/mix a decrease of 3.4% as a result of lower prices but an improved mix. Organic net sales decreased 4.1% in mature markets. In emerging markets, which accounted for 51% of net sales, organic net sales increased by 3.3%. Exchange rate effects decreased net sales by 5.1%.

The adjusted gross margin decreased by 5.6 percentage points to 22.6% (28.2). The gross margin was positively impacted by higher volumes, an improved mix and cost savings. Higher raw material and energy costs reduced the margin by 2.3 percentage points. Higher distribution costs and lower prices had a negative impact on the margin. The lower prices were primarily the result of higher campaign activity compared with a low level in the preceding year as well as price adjustments in Europe in the second half of 2020. Price increases announced and agreed in Europe had a certain effect at the end of the second quarter, but the majority will be realized in the second half of 2021. The adjusted EBITA margin decreased 6.8 percentage points to 10.3% (17.1). Sales and marketing costs increased in absolute terms and as a share of net sales. Adjusted EBITA decreased 43% (39% excluding currency translation effects, acquisitions and divestments) to SEK 1,207m (2,124).

Share of Group, net sales
2106Share of Group, adjusted EBITA
2106

Change in net sales (%)

	2106 vs 2006	21:2 vs 20:2
Total	-14.4	-15.5
Volume	-6.8	-23.5
Price/mix	0.7	2.6
Currency	-8.2	-10.5
Acquisitions	0.0	0.0
Divestments	-0.1	-0.1

Change in adjusted EBITA (%)

	2106 vs 2006	21:2 vs 20:2
Total	-40	48
Volume	-19	75
Price/mix	10	28
Raw materials	-7	-17
Energy	3	-8
Currency	-6	-13
Other	-15	-17

PROFESSIONAL HYGIENE

SEKm	2106	2006	%	2021:2	2020:2	%
Net sales	11,356	13,272	-14	6,140	5,315	16
Adjusted gross profit margin, %*	24.8	28.1		25.7	24.7	
Adjusted EBITA*	1,129	1,874	-40	710	481	48
Adjusted EBITA margin, %*	9.9	14.1		11.6	9.0	
Adjusted operating profit*	1,124	1,855	-39	709	472	50
Adjusted operating margin, %*	9.9	14.0		11.5	8.9	
Adjusted return on capital employed, %*	11.6	19.1		12.7	8.1	
Operating cash flow	626	1,631		655	769	

*) Excluding restructuring costs, which are reported as items affecting comparability outside of the business area.

January–June 2021 compared with the corresponding period a year ago

Net sales declined 14.4% to SEK 11,356m (13,272). Organic net sales declined 6.1%, of which volume accounted for -6.8% and price/mix for 0.7%. Sales were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdowns and restrictions. This has mainly had a negative impact on demand in the customer segments of hotel, restaurant, catering, commercial buildings as well as schools and universities. Organic net sales declined 9.8% in mature markets. In emerging markets, which accounted for 21% of net sales, organic net sales increased by 10.0%. Exchange rate effects reduced net sales by 8.2%. Divestments decreased net sales by 0.1%.

The adjusted gross margin decreased 3.3 percentage points to 24.8% (28.1). The gross margin was positively impacted by higher prices, an improved mix and cost savings. Lower volumes and higher raw material, energy and distribution costs had a negative impact on the margin. The adjusted EBITA margin decreased 4.2 percentage points to 9.9% (14.1). Sales and marketing costs decreased in absolute terms but increased as a share of net sales. Adjusted EBITA decreased 40% (33% excluding currency translation effects, acquisitions and divestments) to SEK 1,129m (1,874).

The operating cash surplus was SEK 2,113m (2,963).

Second quarter of 2021 compared with the corresponding period a year ago

Net sales increased 15.5% to SEK 6,140m (5,315). Organic net sales, which excludes currency effects, acquisitions and divestments, increased 26.1%. Volumes accounted for an increase of 23.5% and price/mix of 2.6%. The negative effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and the related lockdowns and restrictions was less severe in the second quarter of 2021 compared with the preceding year. Sales in the second quarter of 2020 were negatively impacted by inventory adjustments among distributors. Organic net sales increased 23.1% in mature markets. In emerging markets, which accounted for 21% of net sales, organic net sales increased by 37.4%. Exchange rate effects reduced net sales by 10.5%. Divestments decreased net sales by 0.1%.

The adjusted gross margin increased 1.0 percentage points to 25.7% (24.7). The gross margin was positively impacted by higher volumes, higher prices, an improved mix and cost savings. Higher raw material, energy and distribution costs had a negative impact on the margin. The adjusted EBITA margin increased 2.6 percentage points to 11.6% (9.0). Sales and marketing costs increased in absolute terms but decreased as a share of net sales. Adjusted EBITA increased 48% (61% excluding currency translation effects, acquisitions and divestments) to SEK 710m (481).

The Board of Directors and President certify that the interim report gives a true and fair view of the Parent Company's and Group's operations, financial position and results of operations, and describes material risks and uncertainties facing the Parent Company and the companies included in the Group.

Stockholm, July 16, 2021

Essity Aktiebolag (publ)

Ewa Björling Board member	Pär Boman Chairman of the Board	Annemarie Gardshol Board member	Magnus Groth President and CEO, Board member	Susanna Lind Board member, appointed by the employees
Torbjörn Lööf Board member	Bert Nordberg Board member	Louise Svanberg Board member	Örjan Svensson Board member, appointed by the employees	Lars Rebien Sørensen Board member
	Barbara Milian Thoralfsson Board member		Niclas Thulin Board member, appointed by the employees	

Review report

Essity Aktiebolag (publ), corporate identity number 556325-5511

Introduction

We have reviewed the condensed interim report for Essity Aktiebolag (publ) as at June 30, 2021 and for the six months period then ended. The Board of Directors and the President are responsible for the preparation and presentation of this interim report in accordance with IAS 34 and the Swedish Annual Accounts Act. Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on this interim report based on our review.

Scope of the review

We conducted our review in accordance with the International Standard on Review Engagements, ISRE 2410 *Review of Interim Financial Statements Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity*. A review consists of making inquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and other generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden.

The procedures performed in a review do not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the interim report is not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with IAS 34 and the Swedish Annual Accounts Act regarding the Group, and in accordance with the Swedish Annual Accounts Act regarding the Parent Company.

Stockholm, July 16, 2021

Ernst & Young AB

Hamish Mabon
Authorized Public Accountant

DISTRIBUTION OF SHARES

June 30, 2021	Class A	Class B	Total
Registered number of shares	61,734,372	640,608,117	702,342,489

At the end of the period, the proportion of Class A shares was 8.8%. During the second quarter, 100 Class A shares were converted into Class B shares at the request of shareholders. The total number of votes in the company amounts to 1,257,951,837.

FUTURE REPORTS

In 2021, interim reports will be published on October 22. The 2021 Year-end report will be published on January 26, 2022.

CAPITAL MARKETS DAY 2021

Essity will arrange a capital markets day on November 3, 2021.

INVITATION TO PRESENTATION OF THE HALF-YEAR REPORT FOR 2021

In conjunction with publication, a telephone and web presentation will be held where President and CEO Magnus Groth will present the report and answer questions.

Presentation

Date: Friday, July 16, 2021

Time: 9:00 a.m. CET

Link to web presentation: <https://essity.videosync.fi/2021-07-16-q2>

To participate by telephone, call: +44 (0)207 192 80 00, +1 631 510 74 95 or +46 (0)8 506 921 80. Please call well in advance of the start of the presentation. Specify "Essity" or conference ID no. 2896420.

For further information, please contact:

Fredrik Rystedt, CFO and Executive Vice President, +46 (0)8 788 51 31

Johan Karlsson, Vice President Investor Relations, Group Function Communications, +46 (0)8 788 51 30

Joséphine Edwall Björklund, Senior Vice President, Group Function Communications, +46 (0)8 788 52 34

Per Lorentz, Vice President Corporate Communications, Group Function Communications, +46 (0)8 788 52 51

NB:

This information is such information that Essity Aktiebolag (publ) is obligated to make public pursuant to the EU Market Abuse Regulation and the Swedish Securities Markets Act. This report has been prepared in both Swedish and English versions. In case of variations in the content between the two versions, the Swedish version shall govern. The information was submitted for publication, through the agency of the contact person set out below, at 7:00 a.m. CET on July 16, 2021.

Karl Stoltz, Media Relations Manager, +46 (0)8 788 51 55

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

SEKm	2021:2	2020:2	2021:1	2106	2006
Net sales	28,968	28,407	27,528	56,496	62,119
Cost of goods sold ^{1,2}	-20,149	-19,260	-18,660	-38,809	-41,923
Items affecting comparability - cost of goods sold ²	-43	-100	-10	-53	-109
Gross profit	8,776	9,047	8,858	17,634	20,087
Sales, general and administration ^{1,2}	-5,446	-5,381	-5,272	-10,718	-11,130
Items affecting comparability - sales, general and administration ²	-93	161	66	-27	153
Share of profits of associated companies and joint ventures	36	16	12	48	49
Operating profit before amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets (EBITA)	3,273	3,843	3,664	6,937	9,159
Amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets	-181	-208	-186	-367	-409
Operating profit	3,092	3,635	3,478	6,570	8,750
Financial items	-177	-283	-158	-335	-602
Profit before tax	2,915	3,352	3,320	6,235	8,148
Income taxes	-840	-844	-768	-1,608	-2,030
Profit for the period	2,075	2,508	2,552	4,627	6,118
Earnings attributable to:					
Owners of the Parent company	1,770	2,088	2,132	3,902	5,323
Non-controlling interests	305	420	420	725	795
Earnings per share - owners of the Parent company					
Earnings per share before and after dilution effects, SEK	2.52	2.97	3.04	5.56	7.58
Average numbers of shares before and after dilution, million	702.3	702.3	702.3	702.3	702.3
¹ Of which, depreciation and amortization	-1,725	-1,857	-1,706	-3,431	-3,741
² Of which, impairment	-26	-112	-1	-27	-116
Gross margin	30.3	31.8	32.2	31.2	32.3
EBITA margin	11.3	13.5	13.3	12.3	14.7
Operating margin	10.7	12.8	12.6	11.6	14.1
Financial net margin	-0.6	-1.0	-0.6	-0.6	-1.0
Profit margin	10.1	11.8	12.0	11.0	13.1
Income taxes	-2.9	-3.0	-2.8	-2.8	-3.3
Net margin	7.2	8.8	9.2	8.2	9.8
Excluding items affecting comparability:					
Gross margin	30.4	32.2	32.2	31.3	32.5
EBITA margin	11.8	13.3	13.1	12.4	14.7
Operating margin	11.1	12.6	12.4	11.8	14.0
Financial net margin	-0.6	-1.0	-0.6	-0.6	-1.0
Profit margin	10.5	11.6	11.8	11.2	13.0
Income taxes	-2.9	-2.9	-2.8	-2.9	-3.2
Net margin	7.6	8.7	9.0	8.3	9.8

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

SEKm	2021:2	2020:2	2021:1	2106	2006
Profit for the period	2,075	2,508	2,552	4,627	6,118
Other comprehensive income for the period					
Items that will not be reclassified to the income statement					
Actuarial gains/losses on defined benefit pension plans	761	-1,226	337	1,098	-3,121
Fair value through other comprehensive income	1	5	0	1	-2
Income tax attributable to components in other comprehensive income	54	302	-193	-139	661
	816	-919	144	960	-2,462
Items that have been or may be reclassified subsequently to the income statement					
Cash flow hedges					
Result from remeasurement of derivatives recognized in equity	772	55	195	967	-292
Transferred to profit or loss for the period	-93	176	-53	-146	297
Translation differences in foreign operations	-925	-4,578	3,205	2,280	-2,066
Gains/losses from hedges of net investments in foreign operations	223	702	-690	-467	76
Other comprehensive income from associated companies	11	-22	1	12	-10
Income tax attributable to components in other comprehensive income	-237	-200	106	-131	-5
	-249	-3,867	2,764	2,515	-2,000
Other comprehensive income for the period, net of tax	567	-4,786	2,908	3,475	-4,462
Total comprehensive income for the period	2,642	-2,278	5,460	8,102	1,656
Total comprehensive income attributable to:					
Owners of the Parent company	2,496	-2,107	4,616	7,112	1,146
Non-controlling interests	146	-171	844	990	510

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN EQUITY

SEKm	2106	2006
Equity attributable to owners of the Parent company		
Value, January 1	54,352	54,125
Total comprehensive income for the period	7,112	1,146
Dividend	-4,741	0
Private placement to non-controlling interests	9	17
Transferred to cost of hedged investments	4	-8
Revaluation effect upon acquisition of non-controlling interests	-3	-1
Value, end of period	56,733	55,279
Non-controlling interests		
Value, January 1	8,990	8,676
Total comprehensive income for the period	990	510
Dividend	-437	-222
Private placement to non-controlling interests	9	16
Divestment of non-controlling interests	0	35
Value, end of period	9,552	9,015
Total equity, value end of period	66,285	64,294

CONSOLIDATED OPERATING CASH FLOW STATEMENT

SEKm	2106	2006
Operating cash surplus	10,255	12,670
Change in working capital	-2,450	-1,019
Investment in non current assets, net	-3,193	-2,338
Restructuring costs, etc.	-312	-316
Operating cash flow before Investments in operating assets through leases	4,300	8,997
Investments in operating assets through leases	-64	-170
Operating cash flow	4,236	8,827
Financial items	-335	-602
Income taxes paid	-2,232	-1,890
Other	72	26
Cash flow from current operations	1,741	6,361
Acquisitions of Group companies and other operations	-242	-715
Divestments of Group companies and other operations	-29	-1
Cash flow before transactions with shareholders	1,470	5,645
Private placement to non-controlling interest	18	32
Dividend to non-controlling interests	-366	-91
Dividend	-4,741	0
Net cash flow	-3,619	5,586
Net debt at the start of the period	-42,688	-50,940
Net cash flow	-3,619	5,586
Remeasurements to equity	1,099	-3,123
Investments in non-operating assets through leases	-250	-292
Translation differences	-939	665
Net debt at the end of the period	-46,397	-48,104
Debt/equity ratio	0.70	0.75
Debt payment capacity, %	36	42
Net debt / EBITDA	2.12	1.95
Net debt / Adjusted EBITDA	2.12	1.93

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

SEKm	2106	2006
Operating activities		
Operating profit	6,570	8,750
Adjustment for non-cash items ¹	3,705	3,941
Interest paid	-454	-579
Interest received	44	53
Other financial items	-18	-171
Change in liabilities relating to restructuring programs, etc.	-261	-501
Paid tax	-2,232	-1,890
Cash flow from operating activities before changes in working capital	7,354	9,603
Cash flow from changes in working capital		
Change in inventories	-1,403	-2,328
Change in operating receivables	-871	1,336
Change in operating liabilities	-176	-28
Cash flow from operating activities	4,904	8,583
Investing activities		
Acquisitions of Group companies and other operations	-242	-635
Divestments of Group companies and other operations	-44	0
Investments in intangible assets and property, plant and equipment	-3,195	-2,340
Sale of property, plant and equipment	29	10
Loans granted to external parties	-3,227*	-122
Paid interest capitalized in intangible asset and property, plant and equipment	-26	-7
Cash flow from investing activities	-6,705	-3,094
Financing activities		
Private placement to non-controlling interests	18	32
Dividend	-4,741	0
Proceeds from borrowings	11,777	5,143
Repayment of borrowings	-2,028	-7,894
Dividend to non-controlling interests	-366	-91
Cash flow from financing activities	4,660	-2,810
Cash flow for the period	2,859	2,679
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	4,982	2,928
Translation differences in cash and cash equivalents	48	-107
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	7,889	5,500
Cash flow from operating activities per share, SEK	6.98	12.22
Reconciliation with consolidated operating cash flow statement		
Cash flow for the period	2,859	2,679
Repayment of borrowings	2,028	7,894
Proceeds from borrowings	-11,777	-5,143
Loans granted to external parties	3,227	122
Impact from settlement of pension liability	0	190
Investment in operating assets through leases	-65	-170
Net debt in acquired and divested operations	15	-81
Accrued interest	94	95
Net cash flow according to consolidated operating cash flow statement	-3,619	5,586
¹⁾ Adjustment for non-cash items		
Depreciation/amortization and impairment of non-current assets	3,458	3,857
Gain/loss on asset sales	-9	8
Change in provision for ongoing competition case	-56	0
Impact from settlement of pension liability	0	-190
Gain/loss on divestments and liquidation	1	8
Non-cash items relating to efficiency program	-6	-6
Change, one-time foreign tax on non-current assets	-19	0
Other	336	264
Total	3,705	3,941

*) 3,104 of the amount relates to cash and cash equivalents set aside for payment of 64% of the shares in Asaleo Care on July 1, see Note 4.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

SEKm	June 30, 2021	December 31, 2020
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Goodwill	33,216	32,324
Other intangible assets	18,814	18,574
Property, plant and equipment	55,087	53,631
Participation in joint ventures and associates	789	847
Shares and participations	7	7
Surplus in funded pension plans	2,199	2,817
Non-current financial assets	459	738
Deferred tax assets	1,924	1,823
Other non-current assets	1,001	768
Total non-current assets	113,496	111,529
Current Assets		
Inventories	18,284	16,383
Trade receivables	18,938	17,825
Current tax assets	912	760
Other current receivables	3,040	2,173
Current financial assets	3,630	993
Cash and cash equivalents	7,889	4,982
Total current assets	52,693	43,116
Total assets	166,189	154,645
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Share capital	2,350	2,350
Reserves	2,821	581
Retained earnings	51,562	51,421
Attributable to owner of the Parent	56,733	54,352
Non-controlling interests	9,552	8,990
Total equity	66,285	63,342
Non-current liabilities		
Non-current financial liabilities	42,701	38,202
Provisions for pensions	3,549	5,328
Deferred tax liabilities	6,944	6,150
Other non-current provisions	447	445
Other non-current liabilities	84	105
Total non-current liabilities	53,725	50,230
Current liabilities		
Current financial liabilities	14,324	8,688
Trade payables	15,326	14,791
Current tax liabilities	1,516	2,301
Current provisions	580	748
Other current liabilities	14,433	14,545
Total current liabilities	46,179	41,073
Total liabilities	99,904	91,303
Total equity and liabilities	166,189	154,645

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (cont.)

SEKm	June 30, 2021	December 31, 2020
Debt/equity ratio	0.70	0.67
Equity/assets ratio	34%	35%
Equity	66,285	63,342
Equity per share	94	90
Return on equity	15.8%	18.2%
Return on equity excluding items affecting comparability	16.1%	18.3%
Capital employed	112,682	106,030
- of which working capital	10,410	7,146
Return on capital employed*	14.0%	15.6%
Return on capital employed* excluding items affecting comparability	14.1%	15.7%
Net debt	46,397	42,688
Provisions for restructuring costs are included in the balance sheet as follows		
-Other non-current provisions	133	137
-Other current provisions	186	263

*) rolling 12 months

NET SALES (business area reporting)

SEKm	2106	2006	2021:2	2021:1	2020:4	2020:3	2020:2	2020:1
Personal Care	21,922	23,320	11,163	10,759	11,660	11,115	10,651	12,669
Consumer Tissue	23,223	25,517	11,669	11,554	13,070	11,634	12,437	13,080
Professional Hygiene	11,356	13,272	6,140	5,216	6,216	5,930	5,315	7,957
Other	-5	10	-4	-1	10	-2	4	6
Total net sales	56,496	62,119	28,968	27,528	30,956	28,677	28,407	33,712

ADJUSTED EBITA (business area reporting)

SEKm	2106	2006	2021:2	2021:1	2020:4	2020:3	2020:2	2020:1
Personal Care	3,418	3,477	1,710	1,708	1,879	1,805	1,438	2,039
Consumer Tissue	2,892	4,216	1,207	1,685	1,935	1,894	2,124	2,092
Professional Hygiene	1,129	1,874	710	419	809	634	481	1,393
Other	-422	-452	-218	-204	-231	-214	-261	-191
Total adjusted EBITA	7,017	9,115	3,409	3,608	4,392	4,119	3,782	5,333

ADJUSTED OPERATING PROFIT (business area reporting)

SEKm	2106	2006	2021:2	2021:1	2020:4	2020:3	2020:2	2020:1
Personal Care	3,059	3,091	1,531	1,528	1,690	1,614	1,241	1,850
Consumer Tissue	2,889	4,212	1,205	1,684	1,933	1,894	2,122	2,090
Professional Hygiene	1,124	1,855	709	415	801	624	472	1,383
Other	-422	-452	-217	-205	-231	-214	-261	-191
Total adjusted operating profit¹	6,650	8,706	3,228	3,422	4,193	3,918	3,574	5,132
Financial items	-335	-602	-177	-158	-172	-184	-283	-319
Profit before tax¹	6,315	8,104	3,051	3,264	4,021	3,734	3,291	4,813
Income taxes	-1,622	-2,012	-849	-773	-993	-1,049	-823	-1,189
Net profit for the period²	4,693	6,092	2,202	2,491	3,028	2,685	2,468	3,624
¹ Excluding items affecting comparability before tax amounting to:	-80	44	-136	56	-2	-101	61	-17
² Excluding items affecting comparability after tax amounting to:	-66	26	-127	61	1	-85	40	-14

ADJUSTED EBITA MARGIN (business area reporting)

%	2106	2006	2021:2	2021:1	2020:4	2020:3	2020:2	2020:1
Personal Care	15.6	14.9	15.3	15.9	16.1	16.2	13.5	16.1
Consumer Tissue	12.5	16.5	10.3	14.6	14.8	16.3	17.1	16.0
Professional Hygiene	9.9	14.1	11.6	8.0	13.0	10.7	9.0	17.5

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS

SEKm	2021:2	2021:1	2020:4	2020:3	2020:2
Net sales	28,968	27,528	30,956	28,677	28,407
Cost of goods sold	-20,149	-18,660	-20,820	-19,389	-19,260
Items affecting comparability - cost of goods sold	-43	-10	22	-94	-100
Gross profit	8,776	8,858	10,158	9,194	9,047
Sales, general and administration	-5,446	-5,272	-5,777	-5,181	-5,381
Items affecting comparability - sales, general and administration	-93	66	-24	-7	161
Share of profits of associates and joint ventures	36	12	33	12	16
EBITA	3,273	3,664	4,390	4,018	3,843
Amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets	-181	-186	-199	-201	-208
Operating profit	3,092	3,478	4,191	3,817	3,635
Financial items	-177	-158	-172	-184	-283
Profit before tax	2,915	3,320	4,019	3,633	3,352
Income taxes	-840	-768	-990	-1,033	-844
Net profit for the period	2,075	2,552	3,029	2,600	2,508

CONDENSED INCOME STATEMENT PARENT COMPANY

SEKm	2106	2006
Administrative expenses	-338	-391
Other operating income	107	17
Operating loss	-231	-374
Financial items	3,915	-541
Profit before tax	3,684	-915
Income taxes	206	182
Profit for the period	3,890	-733

CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET PARENT COMPANY

SEKm	June 30, 2021	December 31, 2020
Intangible assets	0	0
Property, plant and equipment	13	14
Financial non-current assets	176,186	176,401
Total non-current assets	176,199	176,415
Total current assets	440	2,140
Total assets	176,639	178,555
Restricted equity	2,350	2,350
Non-restricted equity	85,338	86,189
Total equity	87,688	88,539
Untaxed reserves	5	5
Provisions	886	874
Non-current liabilities	35,957	31,710
Current liabilities	52,103	57,427
Total equity, provisions and liabilities	176,639	178,555

NOTES

1 ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

This interim report has been prepared in accordance with IAS 34 and recommendation RFR 1 of the Swedish Financial Reporting Board (RFR), and with regards to the Parent Company, RFR 2.

Effective January 1, 2021, Essity applies the following new and amended IFRS:

Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39, IFRS 7, IFRS 4 and IFRS 16

All other applied accounting principles and calculation methods correspond to those presented in Essity Aktiebolag's (publ) Annual and Sustainability Report for 2020.

Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39, IFRS 7, IFRS 4 and IFRS 16

Amendments were introduced due to the transition from Interbank Offered Rates (IBORs) to alternative benchmark interest rates. The amendments address issues that may arise when an existing interest rate benchmark is replaced with an alternative benchmark interest rate and describe how any effects resulting from the change of interest rate benchmark is to be recognized. The amendments also include disclosures related to the transition. Essity is monitoring all changes concerning the development of alternative interest rate benchmarks and is continuously evaluating the effects on the financial statements. The EU endorsed the amendments on January 13, 2021 and they came into effect on January 1, 2021.

The assessment is that the above amendments will not have any material effect on the Group's or the Parent Company's earnings or financial position.

Amendment to the consolidation principle for ProNARO

Essity has previously recognized ProNARO as a joint operation according to the proportional method. ProNARO's principal task is to negotiate better prices and optimize inventory levels by pooling timber purchases. ProNARO has expanded its operations and now also sells to external customers other than Essity and Sappi (the other owner). This change of focus means that the company is more independent and Essity has thus made the assessment that the company is to be recognized according to the equity method as of January 1, 2021. This change means that Essity's participation in ProNARO's assets and liabilities is deconsolidated from the accounts. ProNARO's reported net sales amounted to SEK 435m and EBITA to SEK 0m in Essity's accounts for 2020.

2 RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

Processes for risk management

Essity's Board of Directors determines the Group's strategic direction based on recommendations from the Executive Management Team. Responsibility for the long-term, overall management of strategic risks corresponds to the company's delegation structure, from the Board of Directors to the CEO and from the CEO to the business unit presidents. This means that most operational risks are managed by Essity's business units at the local level, but that they are coordinated when considered necessary. The tools used in this coordination consist primarily of the business units' regular reporting and the annual strategy process, where risks and risk management are a part of the process.

Essity's financial risk management is centralized, as is the Group's internal bank for the Group companies' financial transactions and management of the Group's energy risks. Financial risks are managed in accordance with the Group's finance policy, which is adopted by Essity's Board of Directors and which – together with Essity's energy risk policy – makes up a framework for risk management. Risks are aggregated and monitored on a regular basis to ensure compliance with these guidelines. Essity has also centralized other risk management.

Essity has a staff function for internal audit, which monitors compliance in the organization with the Group's policies.

Essity's risk exposure and risk management are described on pages 36–41 of Essity's Annual and Sustainability Report 2020. No significant changes have taken place that have affected the reported risks. This also relates to the uncertainty and risks that have arisen on account of the COVID-19 pandemic that may affect Essity's sales, earnings and financial position.

Risks in conjunction with company acquisitions are analyzed in the due diligence processes that Essity carries out prior to all acquisitions. In cases where acquisitions have been carried out that may affect the assessment of Essity's risk exposure, these are described under the heading "Events during the quarter" in the interim and year-end reports.

3 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS PER CATEGORY

Distribution by level for measurement at fair value

SEKm	Carrying amount in the balance sheet	Measured at fair value through profit or loss	Derivatives used for hedge accounting	Measured at fair value through OCI	Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost	Of which fair value by level ¹	
						1	2
June 30, 2021							
Derivatives	1,695	323	1,372	-	-	-	1,695
Non-current financial assets	98	-	-	98	-	98	-
Total assets	1,793	323	1,372	98	0	98	1,695
Derivatives	549	309	240	-	-	-	549
Financial liabilities							
Current financial liabilities	13,918	41	-	-	13,877	-	41
Non-current financial liabilities	42,570	15,169	-	-	27,401	-	15,169
Total liabilities	57,037	15,519	240	-	41,278	-	15,759
December 31, 2020							
Derivatives	1,650	571	1,079	-	-	-	1,650
Non-current financial assets	96	-	-	96	-	96	-
Total assets	1,746	571	1,079	96	0	96	1,650
Derivatives	753	682	71	-	-	-	753
Financial liabilities							
Current financial liabilities	7,895	5,038	-	-	2,857	-	5,038
Non-current financial liabilities	38,199	10,615	-	-	27,584	-	10,615
Total liabilities	46,847	16,335	71	-	30,441	-	16,406

¹ No financial instruments have been classified to level 3

The total fair value of the above financial liabilities, excluding lease liabilities, is SEK 53,789m (43,947). The fair value of trade receivables, other current and non-current receivables, cash and cash equivalents, trade payables and other current and non-current liabilities is estimated to be equal to their carrying amount.

No transfers between level 1 and 2 were made during the period.

4 Acquisitions and divestments

On May 14, Essity Aktiebolag acquired the remaining 25% of the shares of ABIGO Medical AB, making the company a wholly owned subsidiary. The purchase consideration paid for the remaining 25% amounted to SEK 228m. As per the terms of the transaction, ABIGO Medical's pharma business has been divested and sold to the company's founder Jan G. Smith on July 1.

On July 1, Essity acquired the remaining 63.8% of the shares in hygiene company Asaleo Care. Up until June 30, Essity – with its holding of 36.2% of the shares – has been the largest shareholder of Asaleo Care, which prior to the acquisition was listed on the Australian Securities Exchange. Up until the acquisition of the remaining shares, Asaleo Care was recognized as an associate according to the equity method.

Essity has paid 1.40 cash per share, a total of AUD 485m. The consideration entails an implicit value for all shares, including the previous holding, of AUD 760m (approximately SEK 4.9bn) and assumed net debt amounts to approximately AUD 195m. Essity's previous holding in Asaleo Care of 36.2% will, according to IFRS, be remeasured on July 1, resulting in a positive extraordinary remeasurement effect of AUD 110m (approximately SEK 710m) in the third quarter 2021. The remeasurement effect was calculated on the basis of the cash offer, less the assessed control premium contained therein.

Had Asaleo Care been consolidated as of January 1, 2021, the company would have contributed to Essity's net sales in the amount of AUD 171m, to Essity's adjusted EBITDA in the amount of AUD 31m and adjusted EBITA in the amount of AUD 18m.

Purchase price allocation, Asaleo Care	Preliminary
SEKm	
Intangible assets	2,429
Non-current assets	1,113
Current assets	1,098
Cash and cash equivalents	159
Loan liabilities	-1,405
Provisions and other non-current liabilities	-663
Operating liabilities	-621
Net identifiable assets and liabilities	2,110
Goodwill	2,265
Carrying amount of share in associate	-565
Revaluation of previously owned share	-706
Consideration transferred	3,104
Consideration transferred	-3,104
Cash and cash equivalents in acquired operations	159
Effect on Group's cash and cash equivalents (Consolidated cash flow statement)	-2,945
Acquired net debt excluding cash and cash equivalents	-1,405
Acquisition of operation including assumed net debt (Consolidated operating cash flow statement)	-4,350

5 Use of non-IFRS performance measures

Guidelines for Alternative Performance Measures (APMs) for companies with securities listed on a regulated market in the EU have been issued by the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA). These guidelines are to be applied for APMs not supported under IFRS.

This interim report refers to a number of performance measures not defined in IFRS. These performance measures are used to help investors, management and other stakeholders analyze the company's operations. These non-IFRS measures may differ from similarly titled measures among other companies. Essity's 2020 Annual Report, pages 71–76, describes the various non-IFRS performance measures that are used as a complement to the financial information presented in accordance with IFRS. Tables are presented below that show how the performance measures have been calculated.

Capital employed

SEKm	2106	2012
Total assets	166,189	154,645
-Financial assets	-14,177	-9,530
-Non-current non-interest bearing liabilities	-7,475	-6,700
-Current non-interest bearing liabilities	-31,855	-32,385
Capital employed	112,682	106,030

SEKm	2021:2	2021:1	2020:4	2020:3	2020:2
Personal Care	42,165	42,644	40,505	43,268	44,150
Consumer Tissue	48,493	47,084	45,283	46,464	45,524
Professional Hygiene	22,305	22,607	20,915	22,221	23,051
Other	-281	-5,092	-673	-322	-327
Capital employed	112,682	107,243	106,030	111,631	112,398

Working capital

SEKm	2106	2012
Inventories	18,284	16,383
Trade receivables	18,938	17,825
Other current receivables	3,040	2,173
Trade payables	-15,326	-14,791
Other current liabilities	-14,433	-14,545
Other	-93	101
Working capital	10,410	7,146

Net debt

SEKm	2106	2012
Surplus in funded pension plans	2,199	2,817
Non-current financial assets	459	738
Current financial assets	3,630	993
Cash and cash equivalents	7,889	4,982
Financial assets	14,177	9,530
Non-current financial liabilities	42,701	38,202
Provisions for pensions	3,549	5,328
Current financial liabilities	14,324	8,688
Financial liabilities	60,574	52,218
Net debt	46,397	42,688

EBITDA

SEKm	2106	2006	2021:2	2020:2
Operating profit	6,570	8,750	3,092	3,635
-Amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets	367	409	181	208
-Depreciation/amortization	2,617	2,874	1,321	1,415
-Depreciation right-of-use asset	447	458	223	234
-Impairment	-2	46	-2	42
-Items affecting comparability - impairment net	29	70	28	70
EBITDA	10,028	12,607	4,843	5,604
-Items affecting comparability excluding depreciation/amortization and impairment	51	-114	108	-131
Adjusted EBITDA	10,079	12,493	4,951	5,473

EBITA

SEKm	2106	2006	2021:2	2020:2
Operating profit	6,570	8750	3092	3635
-Amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets	367	409	181	208
-Operating profit before amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets (EBITA)	6,937	9,159	3,273	3,843
EBITA margin (%)	12.3	14.7	11.3	13.5
-Items affecting comparability - cost of goods sold	53	109	43	100
-Items affecting comparability - sales, general and administration	27	-153	93	-161
Adjusted EBITA	7,017	9,115	3,409	3,782
Adjusted EBITA margin (%)	12.4	14.7	11.8	13.3

Operating cash flow

SEKm	2106	2006	2021:2	2020:2
Personal Care				
Operating cash surplus	4,269	4,454	2,109	1,932
Change in working capital	-874	-524	-413	-36
Investment in non-current assets, net	-688	-641	-417	-355
Restructuring costs, etc.	-64	77	-37	119
Operating cash flow before investments in operating assets through leases	2,643	3,366	1,242	1,660
Investment in operating assets through leases	-22	-30	-4	-14
Operating cash flow	2,621	3,336	1,238	1,646
Consumer Tissue				
Operating cash surplus	4,187	5,632	1,892	2,843
Change in working capital	-683	181	-385	297
Investment in non-current assets, net	-1,651	-1,105	-1,032	-690
Restructuring costs, etc.	-64	-87	-3	36
Operating cash flow before investments in operating assets through leases	1,789	4,621	472	2,486
Investment in operating assets through leases	-39	-99	-28	-57
Operating cash flow	1,750	4,522	444	2,429
Professional Hygiene				
Operating cash surplus	2,113	2,963	1,190	1,017
Change in working capital	-885	-493	-185	93
Investment in non-current assets, net	-354	-490	-224	-223
Restructuring costs, etc.	-244	-308	-127	-104
Operating cash flow before investments in operating assets through leases	630	1,672	654	783
Investment in operating assets through leases	-4	-41	1	-14
Operating cash flow	626	1,631	655	769

Organic net sales

SEKm	2106	2021:2
Personal Care		
Organic net sales	600	1,351
Exchange rate effect ¹	-1,837	-744
Acquisition/Divestments	-161	-94
Recognized change	-1,398	513
Consumer Tissue		
Organic net sales	-420	-20
Exchange rate effect ¹	-1,623	-643
Acquisition/Divestments	-252	-106
Recognized change	-2,295	-769
Professional Hygiene		
Organic net sales	-805	1,385
Exchange rate effect ¹	-1,098	-557
Acquisition/Divestments	-13	-3
Recognized change	-1,916	825
Essity		
Organic net sales	-639	2,708
Exchange rate effect ¹	-4,557	-1,944
Acquisition/Divestments	-426	-203
Recognized change	-5,622	561

¹Consists only of currency translation effects