

SpareBank 1

Third quarter 2017

26. October 2017

SpareBank 1 SMN, the region's most important financial institution

SpareBank 1 SMN



218,000 retail customers



14,380 corporate customers



Market leader in the region



Loan volume NOK 147bn



Finance house offering a wide range of products



A substantial co-owner of SpareBank 1 Alliance



Norway's largest equity-certificate-issuing bank

History



Established in 1823



Sparebanken Midt-Norge since 1985



Listed on Oslo Børs since 1994



SpareBank 1 Alliance since 1996



Acquired Romsdals Fellesbank in 2005



Acquired BN Bank/Sunnmøre in 2009



Strong financial results over time



Good profits 3rd quarter 2017



Net profit NOK 1,250m (1,185m), return on equity 10.8 % (11.0 %)



CET1 14.7 % (14.3 %). Leverage ratio 7.5 % (6.8 %)



Result of core business NOK 1,064m (713m) exclusive of loan losses. Loan losses NOK 263m (NOK 417m)



Growth in lending RM 10.3 % (10.8 %) and CM 7.9 % (minus 0.4 %), deposits 10.3 % (4.2 %) last 12 months



Decrease in FTEs parent bank and very low cost growth in parent bank



Booked equity capital per ECC NOK 76.21 (71.17), profit per ECC NOK 6.06 (NOK 5.70)





Economic barometer – main results for the year. Optimism is back



smn.no/konjunkturbarometeret





Oljenedturen som startet i 2014 delte regionen i to. Nå ser vi tydelige tegn på at forskjellene jevnes ut. Trøndelag er fortsatt i

særlig gått utover offsh Sammen med dem ha i fellesskap har klart å tiden vise om det komi

godt dry, mens Møre et øyner bedringe teter det. Avære en velkykket om

Det viser makroestimal hentet inn i årets konjunturbarometer. Vi har ogs regnskapene til 40 000 bedrifter. De viser at Trø Møre og Romsdal har en robust næringsstruktur so

Arets konjunkturbarometer e oppløftende lesning. Oljepris sjokket i 2014 gjorde oss usikre på om regjonen kunne bli ramme av et stort antall store konkurse – med negative følger for leverandører, tapte arbeidsplasser og mindre inntekt med dertil reduser

mindre inntekt med dertil redusert etterspørsel ettervarer og tjenester som gir nye negative ringvirkninger til andre bransjer. Det har heldlovis ikke pått så ille.

Deg har ved flere anledninger prøvd meg på å fremstille nærings-

ter er anlegg er det stor aktivitet særlig på ir Dljeprissikre på tross for at førstnevnte viser en noe ner

> bedriftsbarometer, hvor optimismen tilbakeslag i vår. Bedriftsledere ser bet for de neste 12 månedene nå enn i fortsetter på den positive stemningsl forrige bunn ble nådd i 2015.

Like fullt er det noe som bekynne s- flere privatpersoner har probleme

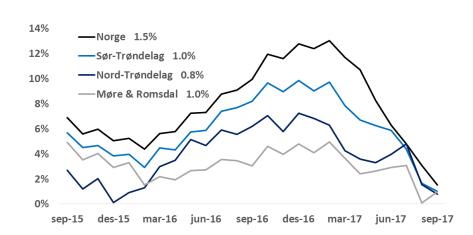
- The oil slump appears to be over this time round, and optimism is growing once again in all three counties in Trøndelag and Møre and Romsdal
- We have analysed the accounts of some 40,000 businesses in our region. The conclusion is clear: We have a robust industry structure which holds its own in challenging as well as in good times
- The 2016 accounts show sound growth and improved profitability in Trøndelag. In Møre and Romsdal overall turnover is declining, but profitability remains stable
- The sea gives and the sea takes away: Seafarming and fisheries flourish as never before, while maritime industry and offshore find the going tough

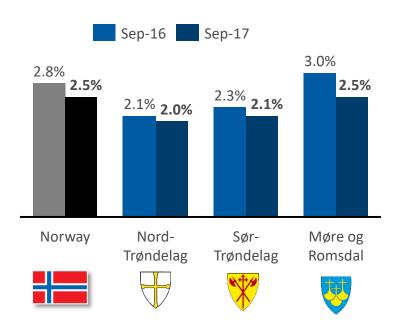
More moderate house price development. Unemployment remains low

12-month growth in house prices. September 2015 to September 2017

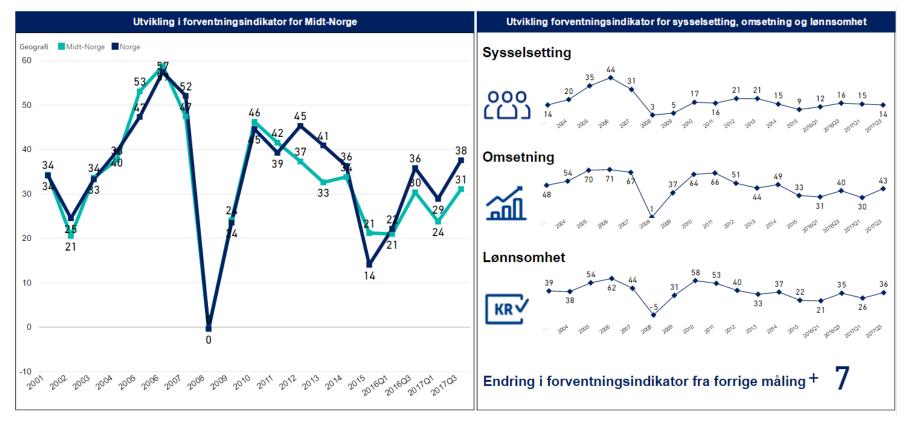
Unemployed in per cent of the labour force (NAV)

Monthly figures. September 2016 and September 2017





Sentiment has turned around both in North Trøndelag and in Møre and Romsdal



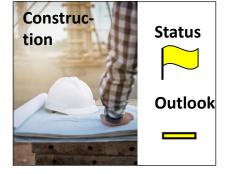
Industry indicators

















A considerable readjustment, in both organisational and technological terms

Traditional bank digitalised



Digital bank with a personal and local signature

Clear planning and design of distribution model will ensure increased selling power and cost effectiveness



Increased sales across all channels

- from a total of 120,000 in 2016 to 170,000 to 200,000 in 2020



Increased share of digital sales and increased sales effectiveness

- from 20,000 in 2016 til 80,000–100,000 in 2020



Strong physical presence, with focus on cost and efficiency



Efficiency gain through removal of 100 FTEs

- from 630 in 2016 to 530 in 2020



Sparebank 1 SMN key in start up of FinTech Incubator – F3 «Finance For the Future»



- Financial technology challenges traditional financial services, and revolutionises our way of thinking
- New solutions and business ideas are in heavy demand, and the pace of technological development is high
- The aim is to create an innovative locale for entrepreneurs, established businesses, investors, public authorities and academia
- Digital solutions for tomorrow's banking and financial industry at centre stage
- Partnered by NTNU (Norwegian University of Science and Technology)
- The incubator is located in SMN's head office in Trondheim and can accommodate 6-14 start-up companies, and a total of 35-40 workplaces

SpareBank 1

DRIV

Banking and accounts in a single service



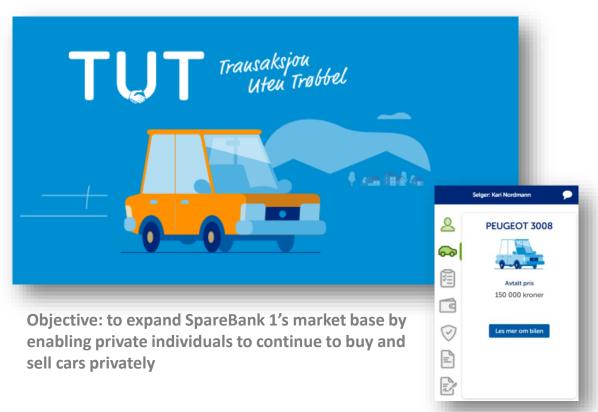




DRIV - Digital financial assistant from SpareBank 1

- DRIV is a portal for SMB clients offering an easy overview of banking and accounts
- Driv is a client-oriented system designed to give management a better overview of the the company's various bank accounts and cash position

We have launched «TUT»: a new digital ecosystem for a safer, simpler way to buy or sell a car, and it pays



Safe for both buyer and seller

Electronic identification using «BankID»

Designated digital purchase agreement

Insurance for both buyer and seller

Easy car loan application; instant loan decision

Access to a secure payment solution

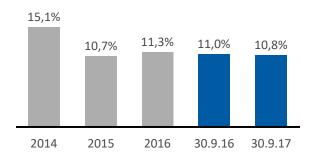
Digital notification of sale to Public Roads

Administration

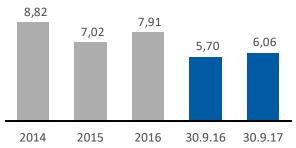


Key figures

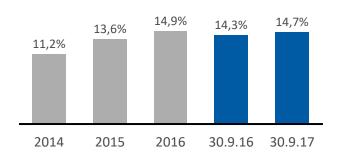
Return on equity



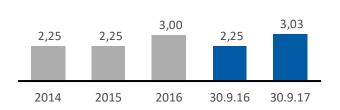
Earnings per ECC



CET1



Dividend



Figures for 30.9.16 are ¾ av the year's dividend. 30.9.17 are 50 % of earnings per ECC



3rd quarter 2017

Strengthened focus on income diversification through subidiaries

SpareBank 1 Finans Midt-Norge



- Pre-tax profit of NOK 94m (75m)
- Solid market position
- Leasing NOK 2.7bn, car loans 3.3bn
 - Strong growth in car loans

EiendomsMegler 1 Midt-Norge



- Pre-tax profit of NOK 13m (60m). The profit performance is weakened by startup costs of NOK 16m at BN Bolig
- 40% market share, strong synergy with the bank

SpareBank 1 Regnskapshuset SMN



- Pre-tax profit of NOK 45m (33m)
- Stable and high growth in turnover
- Consolidating and digitalizing the industry
- The acquisition of Økonomisenteret in Molde has had a positive profit effect.

SpareBank 1 Markets

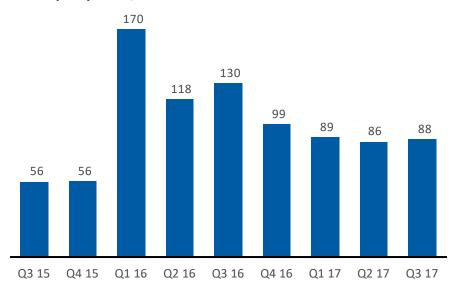


- Pre-tax profit minus NOK 6m (plus NOK 11m)
- Complete range of capital market services in cooperation with the owner banks
- Staff taken over from Swedbank will strengthen profit in the company
- Asset management companies in SMN and SNN taken over by SpareBak 1 Markets

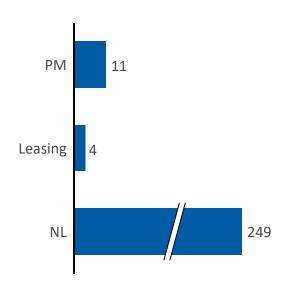
SpareBank 1

Lower loan losses

Losses per quarter, NOKm



Distribution at 3rd quarter 2017



Loan losses including collective losses provisions 0.25 % (0.42 %) of gross lending as of 30.9.2017

SpareBank 1

Considering sale of head office, Søndre gt nos. 4 - 10

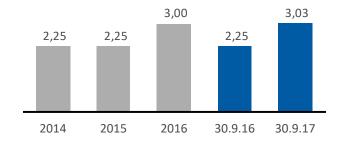
- SpareBank 1 SMN is considering the sale of parts of the bank's head office in Trondheim. The property is situated in the city centre, Søndre gt. nos. 4 -10
- The property was completed in 2010 and has a total floorage of about 18,200 sqm, distributed on offices, shops and stores, and parking
- In the event of a sale, the intention is to lease back the area currently occupied by SpareBank 1 SMN and subsidiaries
- The process has started and the interest is good
- SpareBank 1 SMN has engaged SpareBank 1 Markets as its adviser in the process



SpareBank 1 SMN is fully focused on creating value for its owners

- Ambitious ROE targets
- Dividend policy revised to permit payouts above 50 per cent
- Payout policy that prevents negative dilution effects
- Changes to statutes have given EC holders greater influence
- Substantial equity participation in the bank by the bank's top management

Dividend per ECC



Figures for 30.9.16 are ¾ av the year's dividend. 30.9.17 are 50 % of earnings per ECC

50 per cent of the net profit to be paid out as dividend in 2017

SpareBank 1 SMN intends to be one of the best performing banks



Customer oriented

Best for customer experience

Continuing to strengthen market position



Efficient

Nominal costs at the parent bank unchanged from 2014 to 2018



Profitable

Return on equity among the best performing Norwegian banks: 12 per cent annually



Utbytte

Payout ratio in the region of 50 per cent



Solid

15 per cent CET1 capital ratio

Financial information 3rd quarter 2017



Very good profit



Very good profit at 3rd quarter 2017



The bank is gaining efficiency, the target is zero cost growth



Growth and high customer influx



Dividend 50 per cent



Strong financial position



Good results at subsidiaries, product companies and BN Bank. Satisfactory return on financial assets

Good profits and strong capitalization. Lower loan losses

Return on equity



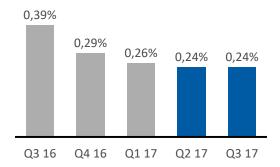
Earnings per ECC



CET 1



Loan losses as a percentage of total loans



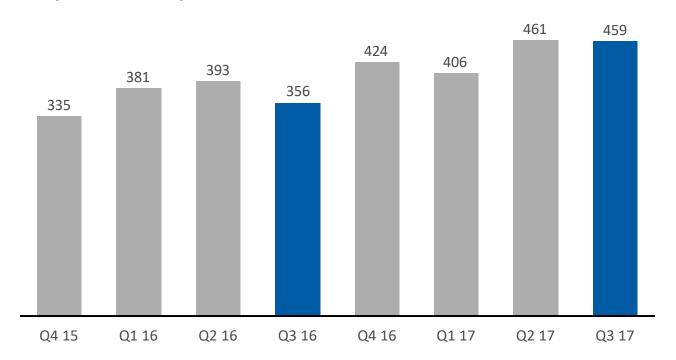
Strengthened profits from core business

NOK will	January to September	January to September						
NOK mill	2017	2016	Change	Q3 17	Q2 17	Q1 17	Q4 16	Q3 16
Net interest	1.603	1.391	212	559	521	522	493	449
Commission income and other income	1.475	1.260	215	482	538	455	414	412
Operating income	3.078	2.651	427	1.041	1.059	977	907	860
Total operating expenses	1.751	1.521	230	582	598	571	482	504
Pre-loss result of core business	1.327	1.130	196	459	461	406	424	356
Losses on loans and guarantees	263	417	-154	88	86	89	99	130
Post-loss result of core business	1.064	713	350	372	375	317	326	227
Related companies	290	349	-58	126	96	71	82	102
Securities, foreign currency and derivates	214	368	-154	109	38	67	154	170
Result before tax	1.568	1.430	138	607	509	454	561	499
Tax	318	242	76	115	109	96	99	85
Net profit	1.250	1.188	62	491	401	358	462	414
Return on equity	10,8 %	11,0 %		12,5 %	10,5 %	9,4 %	12,2 %	11,3 %



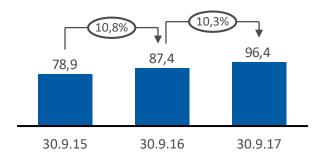
Pre-loss results of core business

Per qaurter last two years

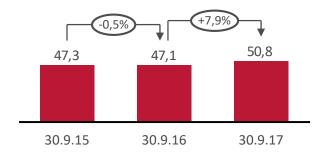


Total growth lending 9.4 % last 12 months

Lending RM +10.3 % last 12 months



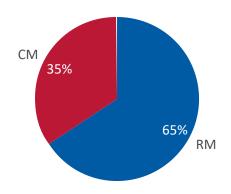
Lending CM + 7.9 % last 12 months,



High growth in home mortgage lending

- Of the growth in home mortgage lending, 2/3 refers to established customers and 1/3 to new customers
- Share of retail lending increased from 61 to 65 % last three years
- Stable LTV in mortgages portfolio

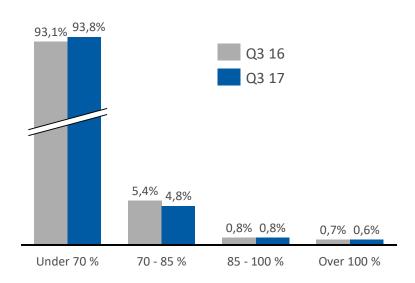
Share of lending





Loan to value mortgages

Last two years

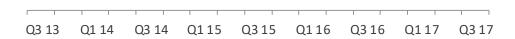


LTV mortgages

- 98.5 % of the exposure has an LTV of less than 85 %
- Exposure with LTV higher than 85 % points 1.5 %

Lending margins

Increased lending margins Retail and Corporate



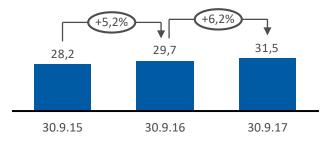
Comments

- Mortgage lending rates raised as from January 2017
- Repricing of loans to corporates are carried out
- Reduced Nibor in 2017

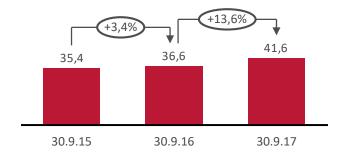


Total growth deposits 10.3 % last 12 months

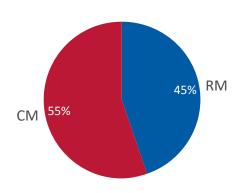
Deposits RM + 6.2 %



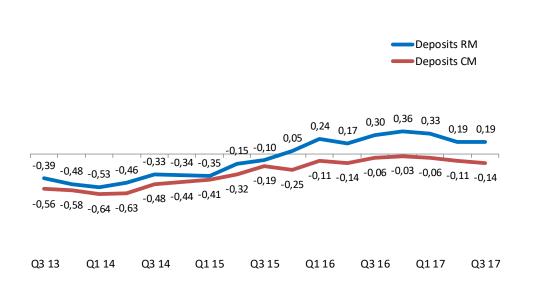
Deposits CM + 13.6 %



Share of deposits



Deposit margins Retail and Corporate



Comments

- Margins improved due to repricing last two years
- Decreased Nibor has weakened the margins in 2017



Change in net interest income

30.9.2017 compared with 30.9.2016

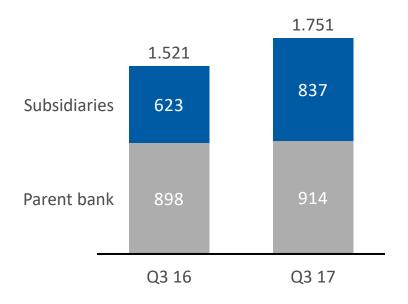
Net interest this quarter	1.603			
Net interest at same period last year	1.391			
Change	212			
Obtained as follows:				
Fees on lending	-10			
Lending volume	114			
Deposit volume	3			
Lending margin	74			
Deposit margin	-22			
Equity capital	7			
Funding and liquidity buffer	8			
Subsidiaries	37			
Change	212			

Comments

 Increased lending volume and ledning margins the main reason for higher net interest income



More efficient banking operations and increased activity in the subsidiaries



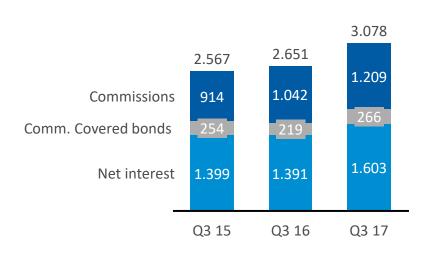
- Cost growth in the subsidiaries
 - SMN Regnskapshuset's acquisition substantially increases cost base
 - Stronger business focus at SpareBank 1 Markets
 - Start-up costs for BN bolig
- Some cost growth at parent bank due to new tax on financial institutions and technology developments
- Goal of zero growth in costs at parent bank

SpareBank 1

Robust income platform and increased commission income

Net interest and other income

Commissions at 30.9.2017 and 30.9.2016



mill kr	2017	2016	Change
Payment transmission income	157	149	9
Creditcards	44	46	-3
Commissions savings and asset management	64	66	-2
Commissions insurance	128	119	9
Guarantee commissions	54	60	-6
Estate agency	289	301	-12
Accountancy services	271	161	110
Securities Broking	156	86	70
Other commissions	47	54	-7
Commissions ex. Bolig/Næringskreditt	1.209	1.042	168
Commissions Boligkreditt (cov. bonds)	254	211	43
Commissions Næringskreditt (cov. bonds)_	12	8	5
Total commission income	1.475	1.260	215

- Robust income platform
- A wide range of products both from the parent bank, the subsidiaries, and the SpareBank 1 Group

Subsidiaries

Pre tax profit subsidiaries

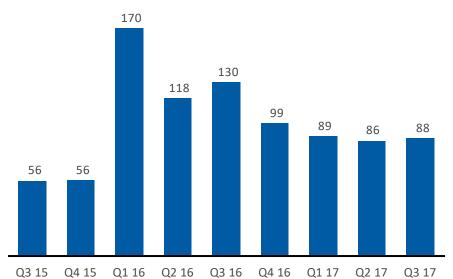
mNOK, SMN's share in parentheseis	January to September 2017	January to September 2016	Change	Q3 17	Q2 17	Q1 17	Q4 16	Q3 16
EiendomsMegler 1 Midt-Norge (87 %)	12	59	-47	-11	19	4	7	16
SpareBank 1 Regnskapshuset SMN (95 %)	45	33	12	9	20	15	10	7
SpareBank 1 Finans Midt-Norge (65 %)	94	75	19	36	30	28	29	26
SpareBank 1 Markets, proforma incl. SB1 Kapitalforaltning (71 %)	-6	11	-17	-26	17	3	9	1
SpareBank 1 SMN Invest (100%)	31	37	-5	15	15	1	37	14
Other companies	16	5	11	5	6	5	15	9

The results refer to the respective company accounts

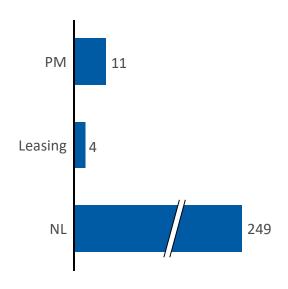
SpareBank 1

Lower loan losses

Losses per quarter, NOKm

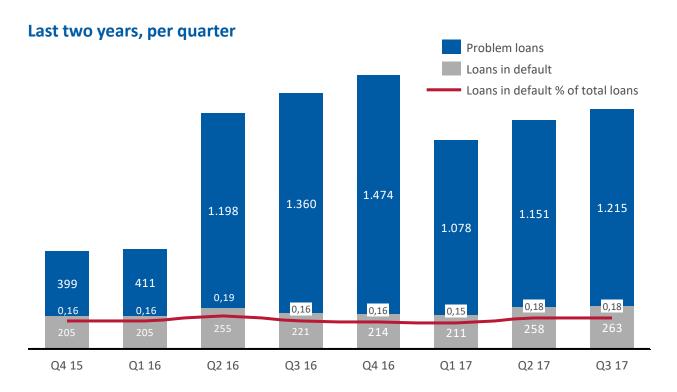


Distribution at 3rd quarter 2017



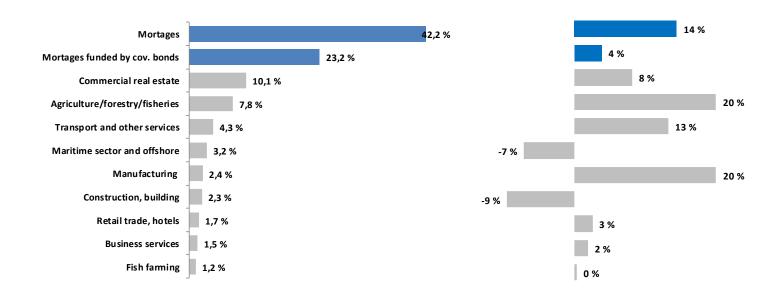
Loan losses including collective losses provisions 0.25 % (0.42 %) of gross lending as of 30.9.2017

Very low levels on loans in default (0,19 %)



High share mortgages and diversified portfolio SMEs

Lending by sector as a share of total lending and change last 12 months, per cent

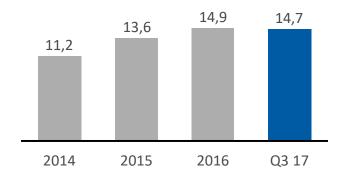


SpareBank 1

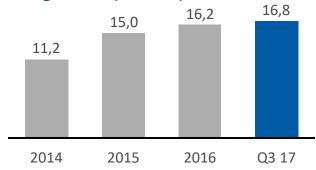
Strong capitalization

Reduction in third quarter ascribable to a changed understanding of the calculation of capital charges under the transitional arrangement

Development CET1



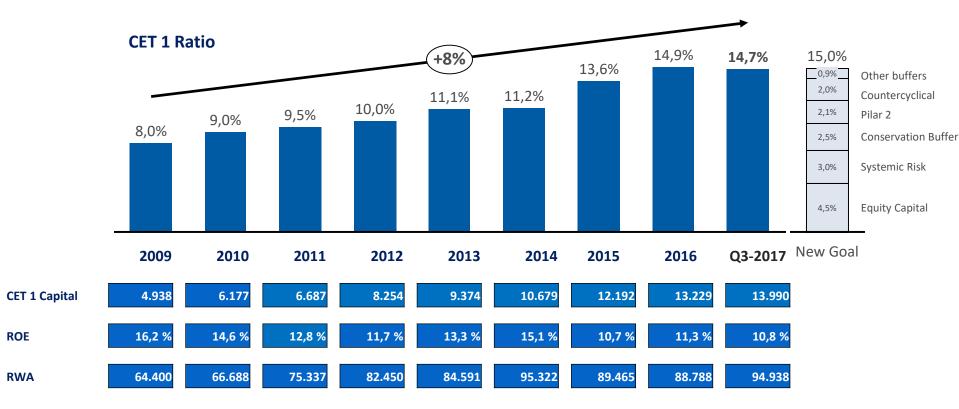
Development CET 1 without transitional arrangements (Basel III)



Development leverage ratio



Strong development in CET 1 (capital and ratio)





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Financial calendar 2017

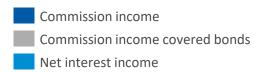
Q3 2017 27. October 2017

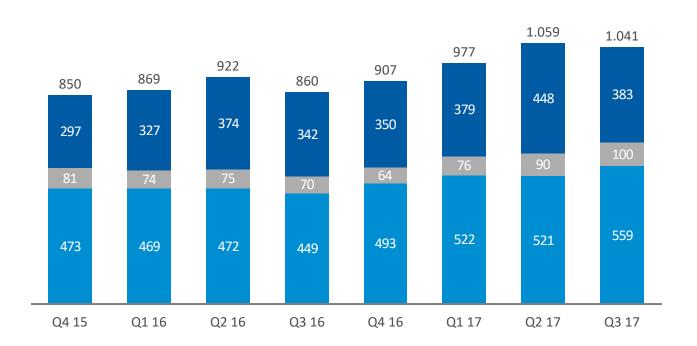
Appendix



Operating income

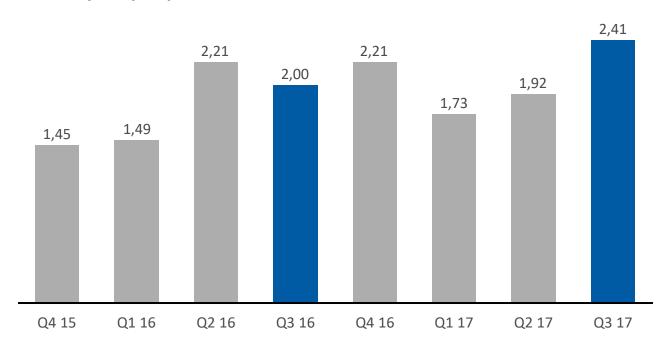
Operating income per quarter last two years





Earnings per ECC

Last two years per quarter



Associated companies in the SpareBank 1 Alliance

Profit share after tax

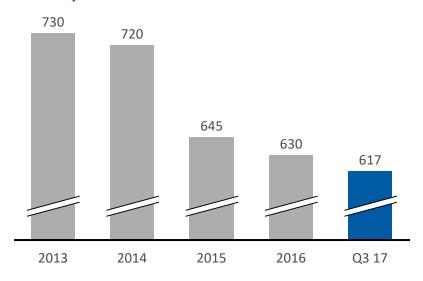
	January to September 2017	January to September 2016	Change	Q3 17	Q2 17	Q1 17	Q4 16	Q3 16
SpareBank 1 Gruppen (19,5 %)	214	220	-6	80	68	66	97	79
SpareBank 1 Boligkreditt (19,0 %)	-26	9	-36	11	-13	-24	-26	-13
SpareBank 1 Næringskreditt (36,5 %)	18	20	-2	5	5	8	8	5
BN Bank (33 %)	70	79	-8	21	20	29	7	28
SpareBank 1 Kredittkort (17,9 %)	11	20	-10	3	5	2	3	6
SpareBank 1 Mobilbetaling (19,7 %)	-14	-19	5	0	-1	-13	-8	-9

Return on financial investments

NOKm	Januar - September 2017	Januar - September 2016	Endring	Q3 17	Q2 17	Q1 17
Capital gains shares	79	100	-22	45	26	8
Gain/(loss) on derivatives	32	52	-19	36	2	-6
Gain/(loss) on other financial instruments at fair value	11	26	-16	-5	5	11
Foreign exchange gain / (loss)	29	53	-24	10	13	6
Gain/(Loss) on sertificates and bonds	206	138	67	19	75	112
Gain/(loss) on financial instruments related to hedging	-147	-89	-59	4	-87	-65
of which basis-swap	-56	-4	-52	37	-39	-55
Net return on financial instruments	209	281	-72	108	35	66

FTEs reduced at the parent bank. Group FTEs rising in keeping with established strategy for the subsidiaries

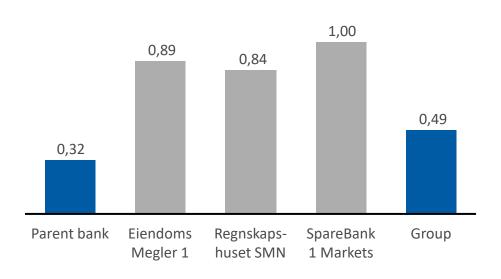
FTEs at parent bank



- Considerable reduction in the number of FTEs at the parent bank in recent years, primarily through natural wastage
- By the end of 2017 number of FTEs at parent bank will be 590

SpareBank 1 SMN will come across as cost-efficient not just on an individual basis but also as a group

High operating margins in EM1 and Regnskapshuset SMN



Profitable and non-capital-intensive subsidiaries:

- Both EM1 and Regnskapshuset SMN are companies making a sound profit – and requiring little equity capital compared with the group's other businesses
- In their respective segments they are highly cost-efficient
- But pose a challenge to the group's cost / income ratio

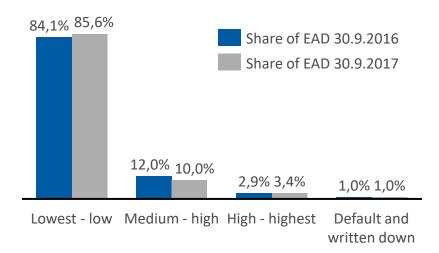
Balance sheet

Last three years

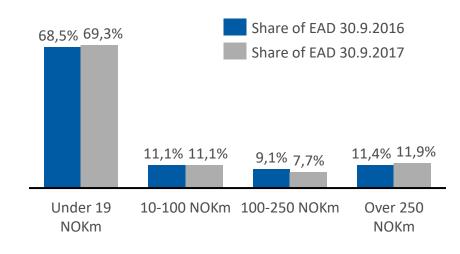
	30.9.17	30.9.16	30.9.15
Funds available	21,6	24,6	18,5
Net loans	109,6	98,6	94,4
Securities	1,6	1,3	1,2
Investment in related companies	5,9	5,9	5,2
Goodwill	0,7	0,6	0,5
Other assets	7,5	8,8	9,4
Total Assets	146,9	139,8	129,2
Capital market funding	47,6	47,7	41,9
Deposits	73,1	66,3	63,6
Othe liabilities	6,5	7,4	6,8
Subordinated debt	3,5	3,5	3,5
Equity	16,3	14,9	13,5
Total Debt and Equity	146,9	139,8	129,2
in addition loans sold to Boligkreditt and Næringskreditt	36,5	34,9	30,4

Stable credit risk

SpareBank 1 SMN's loans distributed on risk class and share of Exposure At Default



SpareBank 1 SMN's loans distributed on size of customer engagement and share of Exposure At Default



Offshore risk still mainly related to the PSV segment Most exposures financially restructured

The Offshore segment

1. Expsoure (EAD) to offshore is 5.6 bill (5.5)

- Offshore constitutes 3.5% of the total SMN exposure
- 93 vessels in 6 segments
- 5.1 bill with collateral in vessels, 0.5 in other assets

2. Expsoure reduced by 0.5 bill last 12 months (9%)

- Sale of vessels
- Extraordinary installmenst
- Financial restructuring/negotiations/sustainable solutions

3. Offshore related losses of 223 bill year to date in 2017

128 mill Lower compared to losses as of 3q 2016

Segment and exposure (share of offshore in %) Subsea 2.367 (42%) PSV 1.487 (26%) AHTS 505 (9%) Standby 132 (2%) Seismic 401 (7%) Barges 262 (5%) Other 495 (9%)

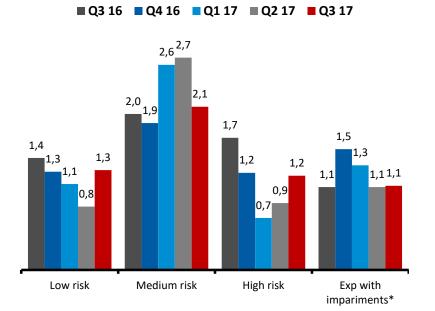
EAD Offshore: 5.648 mill

Default risk class distribution Low risk 1.278 Medium risk 2.088 High risk 1.206 **Impairments** 1.076

High impairment share for problem exposures

Default risk class distribution

3rd quarter 2016 – 3rd quarter 2017 (bill NOK)



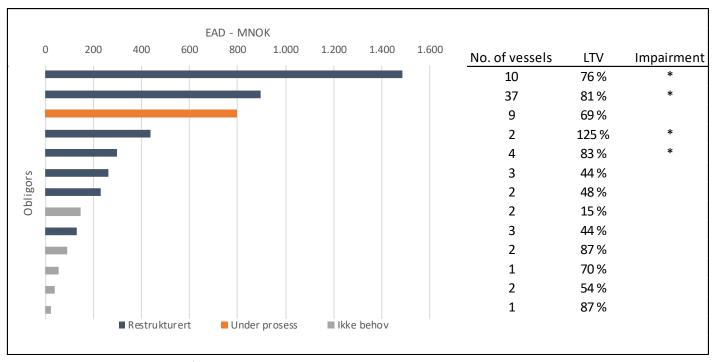
Impairments per default rick class and share of EAD 30. September 2017

				Total	
		Indi-		impair-	Share of
mill kr	EAD	vidual	Group	ments	EAD
Low risk	1.278		1	1	0,1 %
Medium risk	2.088		27	27	1,3 %
High risk	1.206		37	37	3,0 %
Obligors with impariments / defaulted	1.076	573		573	53,2 %
Total	5.648	573	65	638	11,3 %

Total losses on the offshore segment 810 mNOK from 2015 – 3d quarter 2017



Financial restructuring implemented for most shipowners Offshore Service Vessels – Largest customer groups



LTV = Exposure with collateral in vessels / Market value of vessels Barges not included

^{* =} individual impairments

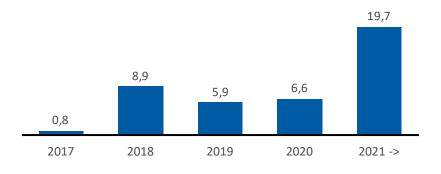
Strengthened capital adequacy

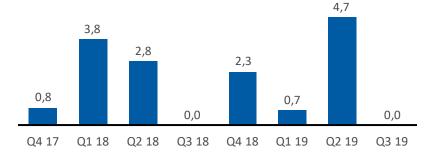
As at Q3 2017 and Q3 2016

NOKm	30.9.17	30.9.16
Core capital exclusive hybrid capital	13.990	12.895
Hybrid capital	1.817	1.840
Core capital	15.807	14.736
Supplementary capital	2.286	2.275
Total capital	18.093	17.011
Total credit risk IRB	4.084	4.080
Exposures calculated using the standardised approa	1.870	1.828
Debt risk, Equity risk	42	30
Operational risk	510	479
CVA	134	88
Transitional arrangements	956	723
Minimum requirements total capital	7.595	7.228
RWA	94.938	90.351
CET 1 ratio	14,7 %	14,3 %
Core capital ratio	16,6 %	16,3 %
Capital adequacy ratio	19,1 %	18,8 %
Leverage ratio	7,5 %	7,1 %

Satisfying access to capital market funding

Funding maturity 30. September 2017





Comments

- SpareBank 1 Boligkreditt is the main funding source through covered bonds.
 NOK 34 billion transferred as of 30.
 September 2017
- Maturities next two years NOK 15.1 bn:
 - NOK 0.8 bn in Q4 2017
 - NOK 8.3 bn in 2018
 - NOK 5.4 bn in Q1 and Q2 19
- LCR 124 % as at 30. September 2017

SpareBank 1

3rd quarter 2017

Key figures ECC

Last five years

	30.9.17	30.9.16	2016	2015	2014	2013
ECC ratio	64,0 %	64,0 %	64,0 %	64,0 %	64,6 %	64,6 %
Total issued ECCs (mill)	129,83	129,83	129,83	129,83	129,83	129,83
ECC price	81,25	55,75	64,75	50,50	58,50	55,00
Market value (NOKm)	10.549	7.238	8.407	6.556	7.595	7.141
Booked equity capital per ECC	76,21	71,17	73,26	67,65	62,04	55,69
Post-tax earnings per ECC, in NOK	6,06	5,70	7,91	7,02	8,82	6,92
Dividend per ECC	-	-	3,00	2,25	2,25	1,75
P/E	10,05	7,33	8,19	7,19	6,63	7,95
Price / Booked equity capital	1,07	0,78	0,88	0,75	0,94	0,99

Key figures

Last three years

	30.9.17	30.9.16	30.9.15
CET 1 ratio	14,7 %	14,3 %	13,2 %
Core capital ratio	16,6 %	16,3 %	15,2 %
Capital adequacy	19,1 %	18,8 %	17,9 %
Leverage ratio	7,5 %	7,1 %	6,7 %
Growth in loans (incl.Boligkreditt and Næringskreditt)	9,4 %	6,6 %	8,3 %
Growth in deposits	10,3 %	4,2 %	9,5 %
Deposit-to-loan ratio	66,0 %	66,6 %	67,0 %
RM share loans	65,5 %	65,0 %	63,0 %
Cost-income ratio	48,9 %	45,2 %	49,0 %
Return of equity	10,8 %	11,0 %	11,5 %
Impairment losses ratio	0,25 %	0,42 %	0,12 %

Increased influence for equity certificate capital owners - amendment to the Articles of **Association**

The Supervisory Board decided to amend Article 10-1 of the Articles of Association from

Article 10-1 Redemption in the event of merger. Transitional provision

• The Regulations on Equity Certificates, section 10, shall apply to equity certificate capital (primary-capital-certificate capital) held by the savings bank as of 1 July 2009, unless a resolution in favour of a merger is passed by the Supervisory Board by the same majority as that required to amend the Articles of Association and which includes at least two-thirds of the votes cast by, or on behalf of, the equity certificate holders.

to

Article 10-1 Special proprietary rights of equity certificate holders

In the following matters support from at least two-thirds of the votes cast by members elected by the equity certificate holders is required in addition to support from at least two-thirds of the votes cast in the Supervisory Board.

- (a) Increase of equity certificate capital

- (b) Decrease of equity certificate capital
 (c) Issuance of subscription rights
 (d) Loans conferring right to demand issuance of equity certificates
 (e) Resolution to convert the savings bank
- (f) Resolution to merge or demerge the savings bank

3rd guarter 2017

SpareBank 1 SMN – adjustment to the dividend policy

The following wording applied prior to the adjustment:

• "SpareBank 1 SMN assumes and expects up to one-half of the owner capital's share of the net profit to be paid out as dividend and the same proportion of the ownerless capital's share of the net profit to be paid out as gifts or transferred to a foundation".

The new wording is as follows:

• "SpareBank 1 SMN assumes and expects about one-half of the owner capital's share of the net profit to be paid out as dividend and the same proportion of the ownerless capital's share of the net profit to be paid out as gifts or transferred to a foundation"

The resolution entails removal of a cap on the dividend payout ratio.