Atlas Copco Six months ended June 30, 1999

Q2

Atlas Copco's revenues was SEK 16,370 m. for the first six months. Operating profit decreased 17 percent to SEK 1,787 m. Earnings per share decreased to SEK 5.09, compared to SEK 6.34 the preceding year.

Income Statement

SEK m.	6 months ended June 30 1998	6 months ended June 30 1999	12 months ended June 30 1998	12 months ended Dec. 31 1998	12 months ended June 30 1999
Revenues	16,784	16,370	33,032	33,740	33,326
Operating expenses	–14,629	–14,583	–28,769	–29,395	–29,349
Operating profit	2,155	1,787	4,263	4,345	3,977
Financial income and expenses	–331	–362	–638	–708	–739
Profit after financial items	1,824	1,425	3,625	3,637	3,238
as a percentage of revenues	*10.9*	*8.7*	*11.0*	*10.8*	*9.7*
Taxes	–647	–481	–1,288	–1,322	–1,156
Minority interest	–13	–9	–29	–32	–28
Net profit	1,164	935	2,308	2,283	2,054
Earnings per share, SEK	*6.34*	*5.09*	*12.58*	*12.44*	*11.19*
Return on capital employed before tax, %			*18.8*	*17.2*	*15.4*
Return on equity after tax, %			*17.4*	*16.1*	*13.8*
Debt/equity ratio, %			*76.3*	*65.0*	*66.4*
Rate of equity, %			*38.9*	*41.6*	*41.8*
Number of employees at end of period			*23,712*	*23,393*	*22,428*

Balance Sheet

SEK m.	June 30, 1998	Dec. 31, 1998	June 30, 1999
Intangible fixed assets	11,032	11,311	11,617
Other fixed assets	9,888	10,697	10,893
Inventories	5,460	5,383	5,351
Receivables	7,640	7,657	7,903
Cash, bank, and short-term investments	1,915	2,118	1,463
Total assets	35,935	37,166	37,227
Equity	13,801	15,267	15,363
Minority interest	183	198	190
Interest-bearing liabilities and provisions	12,581	12,170	11,790
Non-interest-bearing liabilities and provisions	9,370	9,531	9,884
Total liabilities and equity	35,935	37,166	37,227

Cover

Atlas Copco's corporate positioning program uses head-hand images to symbolize knowledge and experience. Middle picture: Introducing the powerful GTG 20 turbine angle grinder from Atlas Copco. By offering impressive power, advanced ergonomic design, and consistently high performance, the GTG 20 is truly setting the standard for the tools of tomorrow.

Improvements in the second quarter

Interim report on the six months ended June 30, 1999 (unaudited)

The Atlas Copco Group's revenues for the first six months of 1999 decreased 2 percent, to SEK 16,370 m. (16,784) corresponding to a volume decrease of 5 percent. Orders received were unchanged at SEK 16,900 m. (16,913). Foreign exchange fluctuations had a positive translation effect of 3 percentage points.

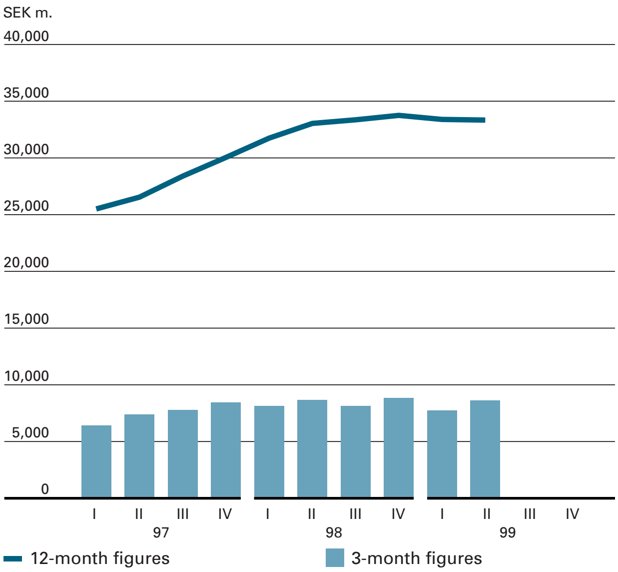
	January–June		Change
SEK m.	1999	1998	%
Revenues	16,370	16,784	–2
Operating profit	1,787	2,155	–17
– as a percentage of revenues	10.9	12.8	
Profit after financial items	1,425	1,824	–22
– as a percentage of revenues	8.7	10.9	
Earnings per share, SEK	5.09	6.34	–20

The Atlas Copco Group's profit after financial items decreased, to SEK 1,425 m. (1,824). The profit margin was 8.7 percent (10.9). The second quarter accounted for SEK 868 m. of the profit, representing a margin of 10.1 percent.

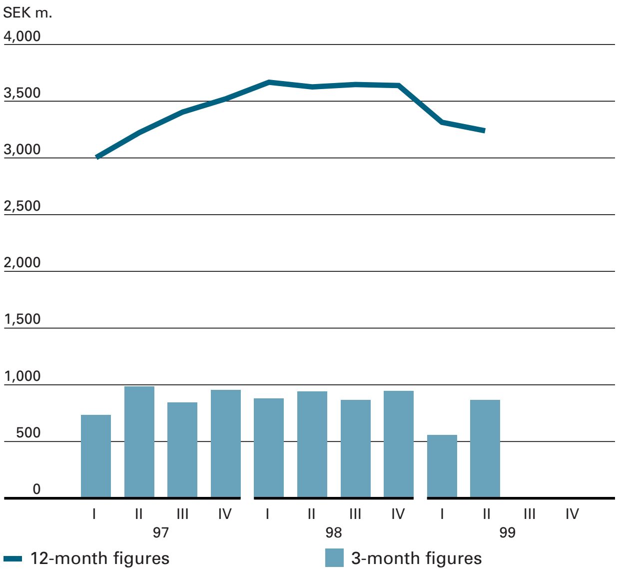
Outlook European economies are likely to fulfill current expectations of more robust growth. This should gradually improve demand in the region. Demand in North America is expected to develop positively, primarily driven by the continuing trend in the U.S. towards outsourcing for equipment, which benefits the rental service business. In South America, the generally poor business conditions are expected to continue, mainly as a result of still high interest rates and relatively low mining activity. For the Asian region, the recent growth is expected to continue in South Korea and some smaller markets, while demand in other countries is expected to be flat at best.

In summary, overall customer demand is expected to improve somewhat in the near term, mainly as a result of growth in the equipment rental industry in the U.S.

Revenues



Profit after Financial Income and Expenses



Market development

Demand in Europe was mixed in the first half of the year. The strongest development was seen in southern Europe, especially Spain, while demand in Great Britain and the Nordic countries remained weak. The situation in France and to some extent Germany, the two biggest markets in the region, improved in the second quarter. In North America, construction activity remained healthy. Demand for investment goods for the manufacturing and process industry showed signs of improvement in the second quarter from the low levels of previous quarters. Demand was very low in Latin America during the period, particularly in the beginning of the year. However, lower interest rates and a stable currency in Brazil helped to slow deterioration of demand in the second quarter. The higher oil price level started to improve demand in some African and Middle East countries, while most other markets in those regions remained weak. In Asia, only South Korea recorded any substantial improvement in economic activity. Demand in India, China, and Japan stayed relatively weak.

Sales development

Orders received were marginally less than the first half of 1998, at SEK 16,900 m. (16,913), including a positive currency effect of 3 percentage points. Sales volumes in January and February were considerably lower than in the same period the previous year but recovered by the end of the period. The sales development of the four business areas compared to the previous year was mixed, varying from an increase to a substantial decrease. Sales prices were unchanged on average.

Revenues decreased 2 percent, to SEK 16,370 m. (16,784), corresponding to a volume drop of 5 percent.

Geographic distribution of orders received (%)

January–June	1999	1998
Europe	40	41
North America	40	35
South America	4	6
Africa/Middle East	5	6
Asia/Australia	11	12

Earnings

Operating profit decreased SEK 368 m., to SEK 1,787 m. (2,155), or 17 percent from the first half of 1998. The negative effect on profit from the volume decrease and the unfavorable mix in the overall composition of sales was more than SEK 400 m., while changes in exchange rates had a marginal positive effect. The adjustments and smaller structural changes to adapt to a lower level of activity, primarily in the first part of the year, started to show results in the second quarter. Operating margins dropped, to 10.9 percent (12.8).

Net financial items amounted to SEK –362 m. (–331), of which net interest items accounted for SEK –355 m. (–327). Net interest from exchange rate hedging on foreign net assets was negative, at SEK –10 m. (1). Since the majority of the Group's loans is denominated in U.S. dollars, the higher USD/SEK exchange rate also had a negative effect on net interest.

Profit after financial items decreased 22 percent, to SEK 1,425 m. (1,824). The profit margin was 8.7 percent (10.9).

Net profit for the period totaled SEK 935 m. (1,164), or SEK 5.09 per share (6.34).

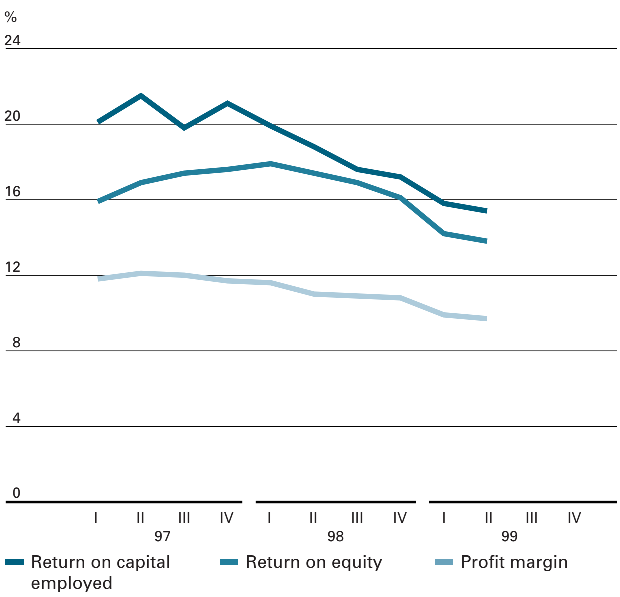
The return on capital employed during the 12 months to June 30, 1999, was 15 percent (19), and the return on shareholders' equity 14 percent (17).

Second quarter

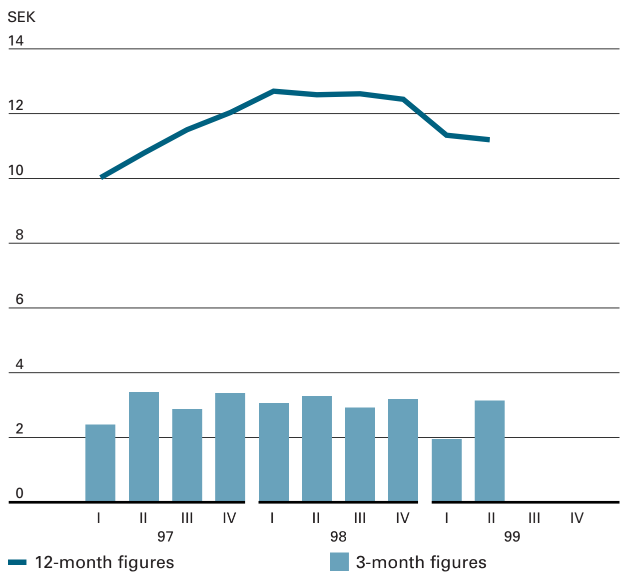
The Atlas Copco Group's revenues for the second quarter of 1999 decreased 1 percent, to SEK 8,619 m., from SEK 8,676 m. in 1998. Changes in exchange rates produced an increase of 4 percentage points, while volumes resulted in a decrease of 5 percentage points.

Operating profit decreased 4 percent, to SEK 1,062 m. (1,112), corresponding to a margin of 12.3 percent (12.8). Profit after financial items declined 8 percent, to SEK 868 m. (943), and net profit for the second quarter totaled SEK 577 m. (603), corresponding to SEK 3.14 per share (3.28). Changes in exchange rates had a small positive effect.

Return and Profit Margin, 12-month figures



Earnings per Share



Orders received amounted to SEK 8,744 m. (8,509); a 1-percent loss in volume was offset by positive exchange rate effects of 4 percent.

Cash flow and net indebtedness

The operating cash surplus after tax for the first six months of 1999 reached SEK 1,796 m. (1,717), equal to 11 percent (10) of Group revenues.

Working capital decreased SEK 169 m. (increased 502) during the period, positively affecting cash flow from operations, which increased to SEK 1,965 m. (1,215).

Investment in tangible fixed assets was SEK 1,089 m. (1,043). Dividends were paid in the second quarter and amounted to SEK 829 m. (780). Net cash flow equaled SEK 317 m. (–386).

Summary cash-flow analysis

	January–June	
SEK m.	1999	1998
Operating cash surplus after tax	1,796	1,717
of which depreciation added back	*968*	*920*
Change in working capital	169	–502
Cash flow from operations	1,965	1,215
Investments in tangible fixed assets	–1,089	–1,043
Sale of tangible fixed assets	381	497
Company acquisitions/divestments	–111	–275
Cash flow from investments	–819	–821
Dividends paid	–829	–780
Net cash flow	317	–386
Change in interest-bearing liabilities	–930	690
Cash flow after financing	–613	304
Liquid funds at year start	2,118	1,613
Translation difference	–42	–15
Liquid funds at period end	1,463	1,902

The Group's net indebtedness (defined as the difference between interest-bearing liabilities and liquid assets) amounted to SEK 10,327 m. (10,666), of which SEK 1,414 m. (2,041) was attributable to pension provisions. The decline in pension provisions reflected the creation in the first quarter of 1999 of a pension trust in Sweden that is not consolidated in the Group's accounts. Liquid assets were simultaneously reduced by the same amount, SEK 522 m., so there was no effect on reported net indebtedness. The debt/equity ratio (defined as net indebtedness divided by shareholders' equity) was 66 percent (76).

Liquid assets at the end of the period totaled SEK 1,463 m. (1,915).

Including minority interests, the Atlas Copco Group's shareholders' equity totaled SEK 15,553 m. (13,984), or SEK 85 per share (76). The equity/assets ratio was 42 percent (39).

Investments

Investments in property and machinery totaled SEK 378 m. (338). Investments in rental equipment reached SEK 711 m. (705). During the period, total depreciation on these two asset groups was SEK 761 m. (693).

Distribution of shares

Share capital amounted to SEK 918 m. at the end of the period, distributed as follows:

Class of share	Shares outstanding
A shares	122,497,590
B shares	61,018,330
Total	183,515,920

See also the comments under Equity rights issue.

Personnel

At June 30, 1999, the number of employees was 22,428 (23,712). For comparable units, the number of employees decreased by 900 in the first half of 1999.

Year 2000 readiness

In March 1996, Atlas Copco initiated a Group-wide survey of computer systems in use. Every site reported on the present status of its systems and its action plans to handle the year-2000 issue for those systems that were not judged year-2000 compliant. Year-2000 follow-up is on the agenda of the Business Board at each division and site, and status reports are mandatory items at Board Meetings. All costs for modifications to comply with the year 2000 are charged as operational costs.

Group Management believes that, based on the Group-wide survey that is continously updated, and actions already taken, the remaining costs to the Group to become year-2000 compliant will not have a material effect on the Group's financial position or the results of operations. Management further believes that remaining modifications and conversions to new systems are very limited and in line with plans. However, the operations of Atlas Copco's computer systems are vulnerable to third parties', principally suppliers', possible failure to remedy their own year-2000 issues. To the extent that systems by third parties on which Atlas Copco's systems rely are not converted in time, there can be no assurance that such third parties' non-compliance would not have a material effect upon the Group's systems.

Structural changes affecting the reporting period

On January 1, 1999, Rental Service became the fourth business area, and Prime Service its only division. Prime Service constituted a separate division in the Compressor Technique business area throughout 1998.

Effective January 1, 1999, Rand-Air Ltd., South Africa, was acquired by Atlas Copco. Rand-Air is a compressor rental company. The company has about 200 employees and annual sales of roughly SEK 90 m. and is part of the Portable Air division.

Effective November 1998, Atlas Copco acquired JKS Boyles, a Canadian manufacturer of exploration drilling rigs. The company has 79 employees and annual sales of about SEK 115 m. JKS Boyles is part of the Atlas Copco Craelius division.

Effective October 1, 1998, Atlas Copco combined the operations of its U.S. subsidiaries Atlas Copco Rental, Inc., and Prime Service, Inc., to better meet the needs of industrial companies for rental equipment.

During 1998, the Prime Service division acquired three equipment rental companies in the U.S. and Mexico, with aggregate annual revenues of roughly SEK 340 m.

Subsequent events

Effective July 29, Atlas Copco acquired Rental Service Corporation, a company publicly traded on the New York Stock

Exchange. Rental Service Corporation had revenues in the last reported twelve-month period of approximately SEK 5,520 m. and an operating margin of 17 percent.

Total consideration included approximately SEK 5,990 m. in cash paid for all shares in the company and SEK 7,790 m. of assumed debt. The acquisition is expected to have a positive impact on earnings for the first full year. Synergies are expected to be approximately SEK 160 m. in the first full calendar year and to increase as the business grows.

Rental Service Corporation has 3,600 employees, operates more than 270 equipment rental locations in 29 states, and has a base of more than 50,000 customers. Rental Service Corporation and Prime Service Inc. are now the two divisions constituting the Rental Service business area.

Effective July 1, 1999, ABIRD Holding BV, the Netherlands, was acquired by Atlas Copco. ABIRD is a specialty rental company. The company has 25 employees and had annual sales of about SEK 40 m. in 1998. ABIRD is part of the Atlas Copco Portable Air division.

Equity rights issue

To strengthen the Group's capital base and enhance financial flexibility following the acquisition of Rental Service Corporation, the Board of Directors' have decided to launch an issue of new shares with preferential rights to existing shareholders, subject to any restrictions that may be imposed by applicable local laws outside of Sweden. The new shares will be issued at a subscription price of SEK 160 per share at a ratio of 1:7 and will provide the company with proceeds of approximately SEK 4,190 m. The decision is subject to the approval of the Extraordinary General Meeting, which is scheduled to be held on September 6, 1999.

Business areas

Starting in 1999, orders and revenues reported by business area also include intercompany sales to other business areas. Figures for 1998 have been adjusted accordingly.

Revenues by Business Area

SEK m. (January–June)	1997	1998	1999
Compressor Technique	6, 089	6,844	6,393
Construction and Mining Technique	3,201	3,295	2,830
Industrial Technique	4,494	4,955	5,093
Rental Service	–	1,847	2,284
Eliminations *	–	–157	–230
Atlas Copco Group	13,784	16,784	16,370

				1998		1999
SEK m. (by quarter)	1	2	3	4	1	2
Compressor Technique	3,384	3,460	3,230	3,466	2,971	3,422
Construction and Mining Technique	1,479	1,816	1,492	1,650	1,353	1,477
Industrial Technique	2,445	2,510	2,425	2,679	2,448	2,645
Rental Service	878	969	1,012	1,151	1,082	1,202
Eliminations *	–78	–79	–48	–101	–103	–127
Atlas Copco Group	8,108	8,676	8,111	8,845	7,751	8,619

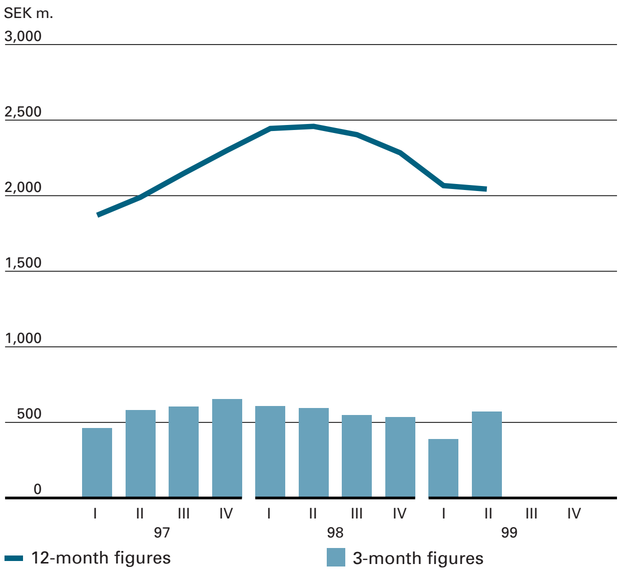
*) Starting in 1999, revenues reported by business area also include intercompany sales to other business areas. Figures for 1998 have been adjusted accordingly.

Earnings by Business Area

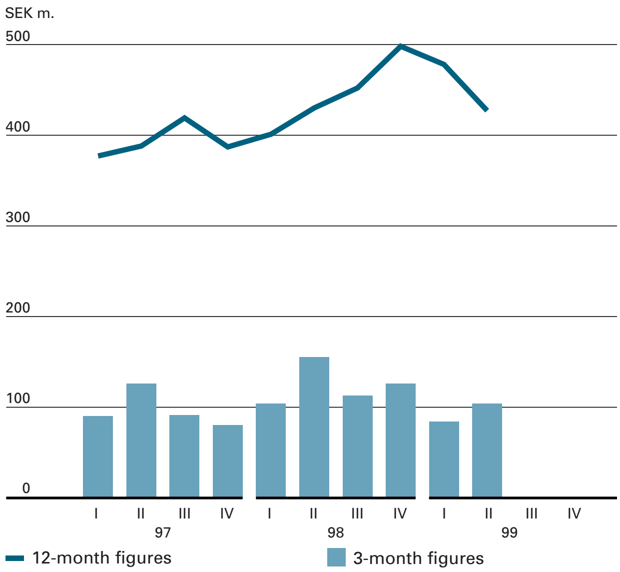
SEK m. (January–June)	1997	1998	1999
Compressor Technique	1,043	1,202	962
Construction and Mining Technique	216	259	188
Industrial Technique	476	524	473
Rental Service	–	220	229
Corporate items	–30	–50	–65
Operating profit	1,705	2,155	1,787
Financial income and expenses	14	–331	–362
Profit after financial items	1,719	1,824	1,425

				1998		1999
SEK m. (by quarter)	1	2	3	4	1	2
Compressor Technique	607	595	548	533	390	572
Construction and Mining Technique	104	155	113	126	84	104
Industrial Technique	260	264	241	281	216	257
Rental Service	97	123	171	175	83	146
Corporate items	–25	–25	–7	9	–48	–17
Operating profit	1,043	1,112	1,066	1,124	725	1,062
Financial income and expenses	–162	–169	–199	–178	–168	–194
Profit after financial items	881	943	867	946	557	868

Compressor Technique, Operating Profit



Construction and Mining Technique, Operating Profit



Compressor Technique

The Compressor Technique business area consists of five divisions in the following product areas: Industrial compressors, Portable compressors, and Gas and process compressors.

Orders received during the period declined 4 percent, to SEK 6,604 m. (6,868), down 6 percent by volume. However, in the second quarter volumes were on a par with those of the same quarter in 1998. Sales in Europe continued to be mixed, with strong trends in the Alpine region and southern Europe and weak demand in northern Europe. Orders in North America were down for the six-month period, primarily because of weak demand from the energy sector. A significant sales drop was recorded in Brazil and most other Latin American markets, particularly due to the very low activity in the first quarter. In Asia, sales in South Korea improved from a low level, while most other markets remained weak or declined.

Sales of small industrial compressors were stable at a good level, while the previous negative trend in demand for large investment-related industrial compressors flattened out in the second quarter. Portable compressors continued to enjoy healthy demand from the equipment rental industry, while other segments declined. The rental industry was also the main reason behind strong sales development of heavy-duty generators.

Revenues decreased 7 percent, to SEK 6,393 m. (6,844). The problems in the first quarter related to the new logistics system, that negatively affected invoicing of mainly spare parts, were solved in the second quarter.

Operating profit fell 20 percent, to SEK 962 m. (1,202), resulting in an operating margin of 15.0 percent (17.6). The profit and margin weakened as a result of lower volumes and changes in the product and market mix.

Construction and Mining Technique

The Construction and Mining Technique business area consists of five divisions in the following product areas: Drilling rigs, Rock drilling tools, Construction tools, and Loading equipment.

Orders received during the period were SEK 3,027 m. (3,365), down 10 percent in total and 9 percent in volume. Activity in the mining industry stayed low, affecting primarily sales of drill rigs and loaders. The lack of new big construction projects in Asia further reduced sales to this region. Good orders for drilling rigs from the construction sector in Europe, primarily Germany, and North America partly compensated for the overall weak market conditions for the business area.

Revenues ended at SEK 2,830 m. (3,295), down 14 percent in total and 12 percent in volume.

Operating profit decreased SEK 71 m., to SEK 188 m., corresponding to a margin of 6.6 percent (7.9). The effect of substantially lower volumes was partly offset by efficiency gains.

Industrial Technique

The Industrial Technique business area consists of four divisions in the following product areas: Electric and pneumatic power tools, Assembly systems, and Motion control products.

Orders received during the period increased 6 percent, to SEK 5,274 m. (4,991), including a positive currency effect of 4 percent. The level of orders from the automotive industry in Western Europe and North America was favorable, while demand from automakers in Brazil was very weak. In the United States, sales of electric power tools remained strong, while sales of industrial tools to general manufacturing decreased. Orders for electric power tools in Europe showed healthy improvement in the second quarter. With few exceptions, Asian markets were weak.

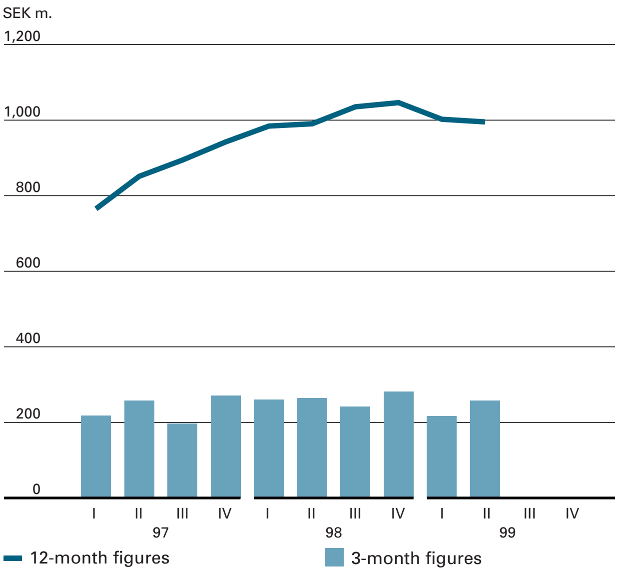
Revenues increased 3 percent, to SEK 5,093 m. (4,955), on volumes relatively unchanged from one year previous.

Operating profit decreased 10 percent, to SEK 473 m. (524), as a result of unfavorable changes in the product mix and the unsatisfactory development of sales and costs for parts of the industrial tools business. The profit resulted in a margin of 9.3 percent (10.6).

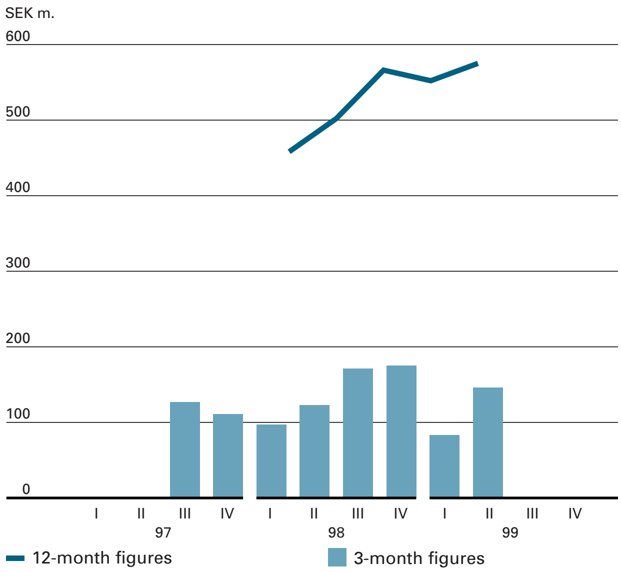
Rental Service

The Rental Service business area consists of one division in the equipment rental industry, providing services to the construction and industrial markets.

Industrial Technique, Operating Profit



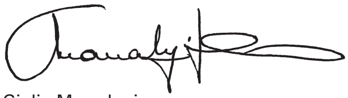
Rental Service, Operating Profit



Revenues during the period rose 24 percent, to SEK 2,284 m. (1,847). Growth for comparable units was 5 percent when adjusted for currency effects. Demand from the energy sector was weak, as were revenues from oil-free compressor rental for industrial applications. The important non-residential building sector remained active and generated increased revenues.

Operating profit, which includes all related goodwill amortization, was SEK 229 m. (220), corresponding to an operating margin of 10.0 percent (11.9). The weaker margin resulted from a lower fleet utilization rate than in the first half of 1998. The margin was particularly weak in the first quarter but recovered to 12.1 percent in the second quarter.

Stockholm, August 12, 1999



Giulio Mazzalupi
President and Chief Executive Officer

The interim report on the Atlas Copco Group's operations for the nine-month period January to September 1999 will be published on October 26, 1999.

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Overhead presentations from Atlas Copco

For your convenience, an overhead presentation of Atlas Copco's half-year 1999 results will be published on Atlas Copco's Internet site. Please go to www.atlascopco.com > Investor Relations > Presentations > Investor Presentations.

More information is available at www.atlascopco.com.

Atlas Copco Fortifies Position

Consolidation in the U.S. equipment rental industry has accelerated, and a number of mergers and acquisitions have taken place in the past few years. In 1997, Atlas Copco made its first major move into the equipment rental business by acquiring Prime Service, Inc. With the acquisition of Rental Service Corporation, Atlas Copco is taking its second large step to consolidate its position in the U.S. equipment rental industry.

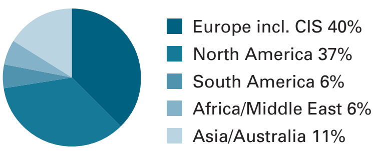
The acquisition of Rental Service Corporation is well in line with Atlas Copco's strategic direction to get closer to customers' processes and increase revenues from activities when the products are in use, such as service accessories, consumables, spare parts, and rental.

The acquisition will result in a number of important synergy gains with Atlas Copco's existing operations. Increased purchasing power and better utilization of the rental fleet, combined with certain economies of scale, will result in even better service to customers. There is a good fit between Rental Service and Prime Service as sister divisions. The two organizations have similar customer bases and competencies. Geographically, there is limited overlap but quite a substantial complementary effect.

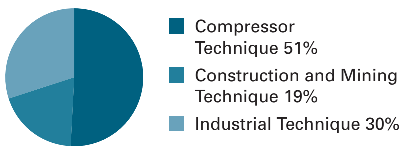
"It is a strategic goal for Atlas Copco to increase its revenues from the use of products. By consolidating two of the most well established companies under the same umbrella, we can offer even better service to our customers in the fast-growing equipment rental business in North America," says Giulio Mazzalupi, President and CEO of Atlas Copco.

Rental Service will be part of Atlas Copco's Rental Service business area, where it will operate as a separate division. The business area will have annual revenues of more than USD 1.2 billion pro forma, making Atlas Copco the second largest company in the North American rental industry. The new area will have more than 100,000 customers, served by more than 450 stores all together, operating mainly in the industrial and construction sectors.

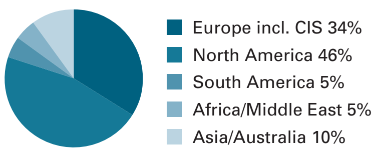
Revenues by geographic region
1998



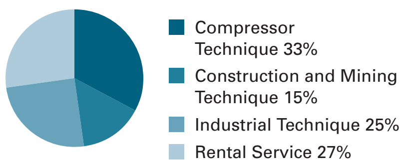
Revenues by Business Area
1998

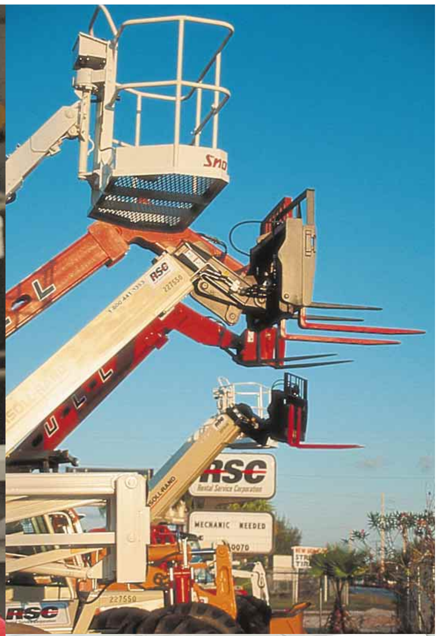


Revenues by geographic region
1999 (Pro forma 1st quarter)



Revenues by Business Area
1999 (Pro forma 1st quarter)





Rental Service Corporation

One of Atlas Copco's strategic goals is to increase the revenues from the use-of-products, and on July 29, 1999, the company made another major important acquisition in the fast-growing equipment rental business in the United States, through the purchase of Rental Service Corporation.

Rental Service Corporation (RSC) is one of the largest companies in the fast-growing and highly fragmented equipment rental industry in the United States. Reflecting the combination of both strong internal growth and acquisitions, 1998 revenues rose 121 percent to USD 578 million; operating profit for the year was 17.5 percent.

Headquartered in Scottsdale, Arizona, the company operates through more than 270 locations in 29 states in the United States (primarily in the Midwest, southwest, south central and southeast regions) and two provinces in Canada. In 1998, 76 new locations were added, through the acquisition of 24 companies with 56 net locations and 20 "cold starts." The company, with more than 3,600 employees, is highly committed to customer service.

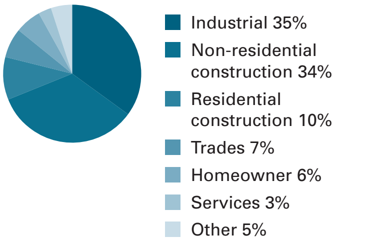
Equipment rental represents approximately 70 percent of RSC's revenues. With a young fleet averaging less than 2 years, RSC rents equipment to the construction, manufacturing, industrial and petrochemical industries. A wide range of products are offered, including aerial manlifts, compressors and generators, forklifts and light earthmoving equipment, as well as small equipment such as power tools. In addition to rental equipment, most RSC locations also offer a full range of items ancillary to rental equipment.

Strategic focus on growth

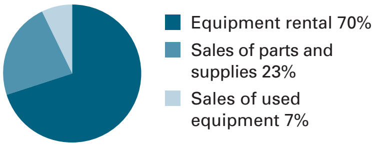
RSC's corporate objective is to consistently increase revenues by 20 percent per year through a combination of acquisitions and internal growth. The strategy is focused on two major market segments, non-metropolitan markets and major industrial concerns.

Through a unique "hub and satellite" approach, the company strives to be the major player in non-metropolitan markets throughout the United States. Typically, these markets have a population level of between 10,000 and 100,000 residents and lower competitive intensity than metropolitan areas. The "hub and satellite" approach involves the establishment of a "hub" location within or on the perimeter of a metropolitan area, with up to 10 "satellite" locations in smaller communities within a 150-mile radius from the hub.

Customer segments



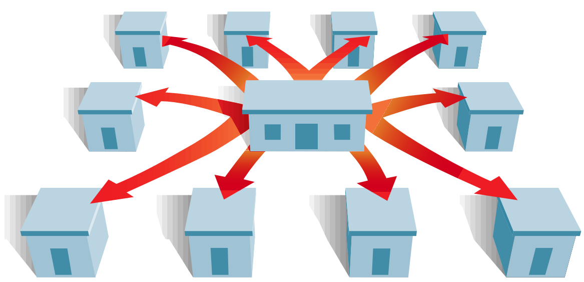
Distribution of revenues 1998



Next day delivery

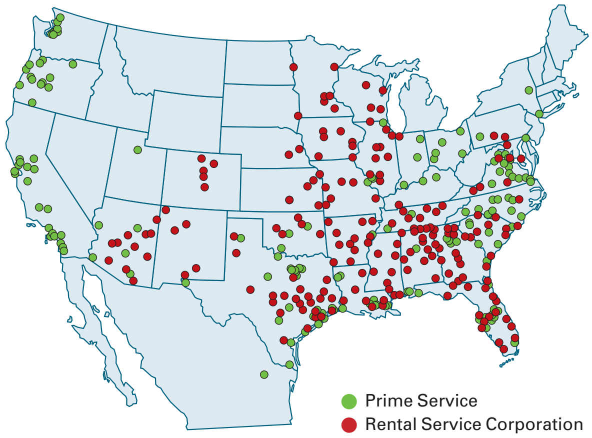
The hub location has a centralized pool of rental equipment, mechanical maintenance and administration. Satellites are typically smaller locations with 4–8 employees and a small rental fleet. A centralized computer system allows for complete visibility of fleet at all locations, while an on-line equipment reservation system enables any satellite to draw on the resources of the larger hub fleet when needed. The equipment is delivered from the hub to the satellite using company-owned vehicles for delivery to the customer the next day. This approach provides RSC with a cost position consistent with the size of the market being served, but rental fleets that are broader and deeper than those of competitors in such small markets.

In 1997, RSC's various industrial businesses were consolidated into one industrial division. The continued outsourcing trend, in which companies tend to rent a larger portion of their equipment needs, has opened an opportunity to aggressively pursue "on site" services to major industrial concerns. RSC has chosen to serve this market through developing proprietary information systems capabilities to provide fleet tracking and comprehensive management reporting. The company also seeks to expand its industrial business base through selective acquisitions.



The hub and satellite system enables a better utilization of the rental fleet, as well as a cost position consistent with the size of the market.

Rental Service Business Area



Business Concept

The goal of the Rental Service Business Area is to be the best choice in the equipment rental business, offering a comprehensive range of products, always performing at optimum efficiency, and providing services with proven benefits to customers. Availability, quality and price are three important success factors.

Customers and Applications

The Rental Service business area serves a balanced, diversified, customer base of contractors, industrial firms, and homeowners with different needs and profiles. Larger multi-regional industrial firms, in the petrochemical sector for example, form an important customer segment.

Characteristics

The Rental Service business area operates in a fast-growing industry in the United States that is undergoing consolidation. The business area cultivates its strong market position with a superior service concept, special hub and satellite system, efficient information systems and logistics, economies of scale in purchasing, and strong brands.

Divisions

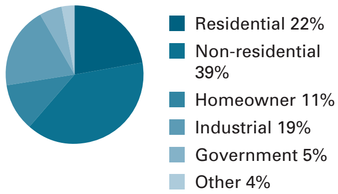
The Rental Service Business Area's divisions are Prime Service, operating as PRIME Equipment and PRIME Energy Systems, and Rental Service Corporation. For a more efficient customer service, the two operational divisions will develop synergies derived from economies of scale as well as continuous benchmarking to achieve the goal of being perceived as the best choice by our customers. While keeping the operational integrity of Prime Service and Rental Service Corporation distinct, the two divisions jointly develop common services, such as administration and finance.

Additional information is available on the Internet:
For Prime Service, Inc., go to www.prime-equip.com
For Rental Service Corporation, go to www.rentalservice.com

The U.S. equipment rental industry

The U.S. equipment rental industry is vast and has had a high growth rate in the 1990s, of approximately 25 percent annually, mainly as a result of outsourcing. In 1998, industry analysts estimated the U.S. rental industry at USD 20–25 billion. The main market segments are construction (non-residential building, specifically) and manufacturing. The outsourcing trend is significant in both segments. The industry is fragmented, with the 100 largest companies accounting for less than 22 percent of total revenue. Major competitors are United Rentals, National Equipment, NationsRent, Neff, and Hertz. United Rentals will remain the largest player in the U.S. market. Atlas Copco's market share after the acquisition will be 4–5 percent.

Market Structure
Mix of Business by End Users



Source: Merrill Lynch, Equipment Rental Industry – 11 January 1999.

Investor Relations on the Web

For Atlas Copco's investor relations, the Internet is an increasingly important tool. It lowers communication thresholds and reaches more people than ordinary media.

The Internet provides a great opportunity to supply initiated people with detailed and prompt information. However, the greatest advantage of the Internet is the speed with which information can be provided to people interested in Atlas Copco.

On the Investor Relations pages, the Company strives to give a clear picture of the Atlas Copco Group as an investment alternative, with the emphasis on financial data. For example, visitors to the web site can follow the Atlas Copco share, see where it is traded, and get extensive per share data.

Detailed financial data from the preceding nine years are in Excel sheets, making it easy to download a large amount of data for doing in-depth analyses. You will also find press releases, annual reports, and CEO Giulio Mazzalupi's speech at the Annual General Meeting.

On the Internet, Atlas Copco also publishes presentation material in connection to conference calls and press conferences to enable journalists and analysts to get the maximum benefit from dialogue with senior management.

Atlas Copco is constantly working on making the pages more comprehensive and displaying the information better. Visit our Investor Relations pages at www.atlascopco.com.

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