

Revenues increased by 11 percent to MSEK 13,041. The operating margin was 12.5 percent (14.4). Earnings per share increased to SEK 4.06, compared to SEK 3.71 the preceding year.



03

Income Statement

	3	months ended	9	months ended	12	months ended
MSEK	Sept. 30, 2001	Sept. 30, 2000	Sept. 30, 2001	Sept. 30, 2000	Sept. 30, 2001	Dec. 31, 2000
Revenues	13,041	11,795	38,022	33,686	50,863	46,527
Operating expenses	-11,414	-10,095	-33,240	-29,117	-44,258	-40,135
Operating profit	1,627	1,700	4,782	4,569	6,605	6,392
– as a percentage of revenues	12.5	14.4	12.6	13.6	13.0	13.7
Financial income and expenses	-340	-455	-1,136	-1,251	-1,588	-1,703
Profit after financial items	1,287	1,245	3,646	3,318	5,017	4,689
– as a percentage of revenues	9.9	10.6	9.6	9.8	9.9	10.1
Taxes	-449	-458	-1,277	-1,224	-1,776	-1,723
Minority interest	13	-9	-6	-34	-14	-42
Net profit	851	778	2,363	2,060	3,227	2,924
Earnings per share, SEK	4.06	3.71	11.27	9.83	15.40	13.95
Equity per share, SEK					131	115
Return on capital employed before tax,	%				14	15
Return on equity after tax, %					13	13
Debt/equity ratio, %					80	92
Rate of equity, %					41	39
Number of employees at end of period					25,932	26,772

Balance Sheet

MSEK	Sept. 30, 2001	Dec. 31, 2000	Sept. 30, 2000
Intangible fixed assets	22,835	20,792	21,124
Rental equipment	15,719	15,225	15,975
Other fixed assets	7,760	7,032	7,301
Inventories	6,670	5,881	6,186
Receivables	12,228	11,521	11,419
Cash, bank, and short-term investments	1,658	1,237	1,121
Total assets	66,870	61,688	63,126
Equity	27,138	23,982	23,282
Minority interest	220	219	218
Interest-bearing liabilities and provisions	23,667	23,507	24,622
Non-interest-bearing liabilities and provisions	15,845	13,980	15,004
Total liabilities and equity	66,870	61,688	63,126

Changes in Shareholders' Equity

MSEK	Jan.–Sept. 2001	Jan.–Dec. 2000	Jan.–Sept. 2000
Opening balance	23,982	20,885	20,885
Dividend to shareholders	-1,100	-996	-996
Translation differences for the period	1,893	1,169	1,333
Net profit for the period	2,363	2,924	2,060
Closing balance	27,138	23,982	23,282

Financial targets The overall objective for the Atlas Copco Group is to achieve a return on capital employed that will always exceed the Group's total cost of capital. The targets for the next business cycle are:

• to have an average operating margin of 15%, and

• to continuously challenge the operating capital efficiency in terms of stock, receivables, and rental fleet utilization.

Overall, achievement of these targets will ensure that shareholder value is created and continuously increased. The strategy for reaching these objectives will adhere to the Group's proven development process for all operational units, focusing on stability first, then profitability, and finally growth. Forward-looking statements Some statements in this report are forward-looking, and the actual outcomes could be materially different. In addition to the factors explicitly discussed, other factors could have a material effect on the actual outcomes. Such factors include but are not limited to general business conditions, fluctuations in exchange rates and interest rates, political developments, the impact of competing products and their pricing, product development, commercialization and technological difficulties, interruptions in supply, and major customer credit losses.

[•] to have annual revenue growth of 8%,

Earnings per share up despite weaker demand

Interim report at September 30, 2001 (unaudited). Note: All comparative figures are for the third quarter of 2000, unless otherwise stated.

- Order volumes 1% less than in Q3 2000.
- Lower demand in the Americas and most parts of Asia.
- · Good order intake in Europe and Middle East.
- Operating profit down 4%, at MSEK 1,627; profit after

financial items up 3%, to MSEK 1,287 including positive currency effects of MSEK 125.

- Earnings per share up 9%, at SEK 4.06 (3.71).
- Strong operating cash flow of MSEK 1,403 (453).

	July–September		Change	January–September		Change
	2001	2000	%	2001	2000	%
Orders received	12,885	11,743	+10	38,573	34,451	+12
Revenues	13,041	11,795	+11	38,022	33,686	+13
Operating profit	1,627	1,700	-4	4,782	4,569	+5
– as a percentage of revenues	12.5	14.4		12.6	13.6	
Profit after financial items	1,287	1,245	+3	3,646	3,318	+10
– as a percentage of revenues	9.9	10.6		9.6	9.8	
Earnings per share*, SEK	4.06	3.71	+9	11.27	9.83	+15
Equity capital per share, SEK	131	112				
Return on capital employed (12-month values)	14	14				

*) Number of shares: 209.6 m.

Near-term development Atlas Copco is basing its near-term activities on the current demand situation, which is as follows:

Still weak in North America and relatively good in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. In South America and Asia, the demand is now declining from recent good level.

Contingency plans to cope with a more negative scenario have been implemented or are ready to be executed.



Summary of nine-month results

Atlas Copco Group

Orders received for the first nine months advanced 12%, to MSEK 38,573 (34,451), corresponding to volume growth of 1% for comparable units. The positive translation effect from foreign exchange rate fluctuations was 11 percentage points. Revenues rose 13%, to MSEK 38,022 (33,686), corresponding to volume growth of 1%.

The Group's operating profit rose 5%, to MSEK 4,782 (4,569), giving a profit margin of 12.6% (13.6). Profit after financial items amounted to MSEK 3,646 (3,318), up 10%, corresponding to a margin of 9.6% (9.8). The total impact of foreign exchange rate fluctuations was approximately MSEK +425.

Operating cash flow before acquisitions and dividends equaled MSEK 3,881 (461).

Review of third quarter

Atlas Copco Group

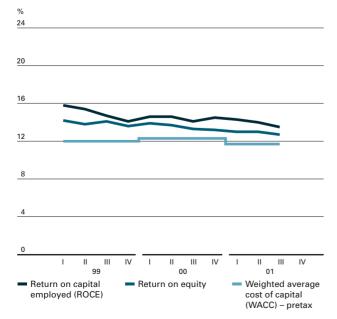
Market development

Before September 11, overall demand in North America was thin. The terrorist attacks in New York and Washington further quelled demand. Some immediate effects on equipment, accessories, and short-term rental demand were seen. Most notably affected was equipment such as industrial, professional electric, and light construction tools, driven by production and construction activity.

Construction activity in the United States, particularly in the non-residential segment, was on average less than in the preceding year, primarily affecting demand in the equipment rental business.

Demand from the mining sector in South America was relatively good, despite less favorable market conditions. This helped to compensate for the effects of the general economic slowdown in Brazil, the biggest market in the region.

In Europe, overall demand remained healthy. Many markets in Western Europe, including Germany and France, recorded robust demand for investment-related equipment like high-end industrial compressors, advanced fastening tools and systems, and surface drilling rigs. However, demand for standard compressors and tools from construction as well as manufacturing industries was generally weaker than in the first half of the year. In Central and Eastern Europe, demand for equipment, consumables, and service remained buoyant.



Return and Cost of Capital, 12-month figures

The Middle East also sustained a favorable level of demand. In Africa, the situation was mixed, with solid demand from industrial and construction customers, and somewhat softer needs from mining than in recent quarters.

In Asia, demand growth was flatter than previous quarters, mainly due to weaker economic development in Southeast Asia and more modest growth in China.

Orders and revenues

Orders received totaled MSEK 12,885 (11,743), up 10%. Order volumes were 1% lower, though, as almost the entire increase resulted from positive foreign exchange effects of about MSEK 1,200. The Compressor Technique business area achieved volume gains, while the other three business areas recorded less volume than in the same quarter of 2000.

Revenues rose 11%, to MSEK 13,041 (11,795), corresponding to unchanged volumes for comparable units.

Earnings and profitability

Operating profit declined 4%, to MSEK 1,627 (1,700), compared to the same quarter the preceding year. This corresponded to a margin of 12.5% (14.4). The lower margin resulted mostly from lower profit in the U.S.-based Rental Service business area, while the other business areas were in line with the previous year's results. Operating profit includes the positive effects of currency fluctuations, primarily arising from translation gains into a weak Swedish krona. The impact in the quarter was approximately MSEK +150, while the effect on the operating margin was only slightly positive.

Net interest expense equaled MSEK -318 (-454), and foreign exchange differences on financial items were negative for the quarter, at MSEK -22 (-1). Strong positive cash flow in the preceding 12 months and lower short-term interest rates had a positive effect on the net interest expense.

Profit after financial items increased 3%, to MSEK 1,287 (1,245), corresponding to a margin of 9.9% (10.6). The effects of foreign exchange fluctuations were about MSEK +125.

Net profit totaled MSEK 851 (778), or SEK 4.06 per share (3.71). The return on capital employed for the 12 months to September 30, 2001, was 14% (14), and the return on shareholders' equity 13% (13). The Group's weighted average cost of capital (WACC) was about 7.5% (8), for a pretax cost of capital of about 11.5%.



Cash flow and investments

The operating cash surplus after tax for the third quarter reached MSEK 1,692 (1,834), corresponding to 13% (16) of Group revenues.

Working capital decreased MSEK 78 (109) during the quarter, leading to a cash flow from operations before investing activities of MSEK 1,770 (1,943).

Net investment in tangible fixed assets was MSEK 357 (1,469) for the quarter. The sharp decrease primarily reflected less need for investment in the rental fleet because of the decrease in rental revenue.

Operating cash flow before acquisitions and dividends equaled MSEK 1,403 (453).

Summary cash-flow analysis

	July–Sept		January–Sept.	
MSEK	2001	2000	2001	2000
Operating cash surplus after tax	1,692	1,834	5,146	4,565
of which depreciation added back	1,154	1,074	3,332	2,886
Change in working capital	78	109	27	-75
Cash flow from operations	1,770	1,943	5,173	4,490
Investments in tangible fixed assets	-964	-2,034	-2,795	-5,584
Sale of tangible fixed assets	607	565	1,613	1,612
Company acquisitions/divestments	-106	-123	-241	-407
Other investments, net	-10	-21	-110	-57
Cash flow from investments	-473	-1,613	-1,533	-4,436
Dividends paid	0	0	-1,122	-1,007
Net cash flow	1,297	330	2,518	-953
Change in interest-bearing liabilities -	-2,101	-236	-2,179	762
Cash flow after financing activities	-804	94	339	-191
Liquid funds at beginning of period	2,470	1,001	1,237	1,286
Translation difference	-8	26	82	26
Liquid funds at end of period	1,658	1,121	1,658	1,121

The Group's net indebtedness (defined as the difference between interest-bearing liabilities and liquid assets) amounted to MSEK 22,009 (23,501), of which MSEK 1,766 (1,456) was attributable to pension provisions. The debt/equity ratio (defined as net indebtedness divided by shareholders' equity) was 80% (100).

Investments

Gross investments in property and machinery totaled MSEK 147 (183). Gross investments in rental equipment reached MSEK 817 (1,851). Depreciation on these two asset groups was MSEK 241 (219) and MSEK 729 (689), respectively, while amortization of intangible assets equaled MSEK 184 (166).

People

At September 30, 2001, the number of employees was 25,932 (26,592). For comparable units, there were 1,017 fewer employees than at September 30, 2000, and 1,130 fewer than at December 31, 2000.

Distribution of shares

Share capital equaled MSEK 1,048 (1,048) at the end of the period, distributed as follows.

Class of share	Shares outstanding
A shares	139,899,016
B shares	69,703,168
Total	209,602,184

Previous near-term demand outlook

(Published July 19, 2001)

In North America, demand for our products and services is not expected to improve in the nearterm. Demand for equipment rental

is affected by the general economic situation, and we now expect flat to moderate growth. In Europe, we expect demand to weaken somewhat from recent good levels. In Asia, we expect growth to continue, mainly due to continued strong growth in China.

In summary, overall demand for Atlas Copco's products and services is expected to be somewhat lower or at best unchanged.

Accounting principles

This interim report has been prepared in accordance with the Swedish Financial Accounting Standards Council's recommendation RR20, Interim reports. A number of new accounting standards were implemented in Sweden at January 1, 2001. The application of these new standards did not have any material effect on the Group's financial statements.

Compressor Technique Business Area

The Compressor Technique business area consists of five divisions in the following product areas: industrial compressors, portable compressors, generators, and gas and process compressors.

	July	/-Sept.	Change	Jan	.–Sept.	Change
MSEK	2001	2000	%	2001	2000	%
Orders received	4,249	3,693	+15	12,725	11,313	+12
Revenues	4,324	3,643	+19	12,441	10,613	+17
Operating profit	829	698	+19	2,398	1,942	+23
– as a percentage of revenues	19.2	19.2		19.3	18.3	
Return on capital employed						
(12-month values) 67	57				

· Good order intake for large industrial compressors.

• Overall strong quarter in Europe, Middle East, and China.

• Profits up 19%, supported by currency effects.

Order intake advanced 15%, to MSEK 4,249 (3,693), corresponding to 3% real volume growth. The positive impact of currency translation was about 10%, and the net effect of structural changes was +2%.

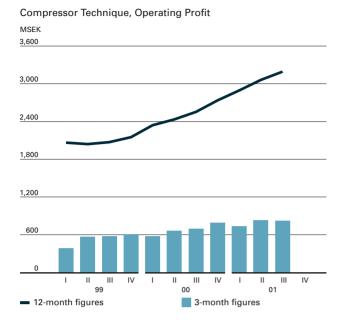
Slower economic growth in most geographic markets negatively affected order volumes for small, standardized industrial compressors. At the same time, orders for large investment-related machines continued to grow. Recently introduced products with customer-oriented features are still recording particularly good sales. The volume of orders for portable compressors and generators grew despite rather weak construction activity in many markets. Overall, the after-market business continued to grow.

Good performance was recorded in Europe, as Germany remained strong and growth continued in Eastern Europe. A slowdown was noted in Southern Europe, though. The order level in North America clearly remained below the preceding year's, but the difference was narrower than in recent quarters. A decline was recorded in Asia, with the exception of China and India. The Middle East showed a healthy order intake.

To further enhance product development and innovation, the business area completed a large investment in new laboratory facilities in Antwerp, Belgium. A second extension of the assembly plant in Wuxi, China, was inaugurated to support growth in that region.

Revenues grew 19% in the quarter, to MSEK 4,324 (3,643), corresponding to volume growth of 7%.

Operating profit improved 19%, to MSEK 829 (698), for an operating margin of 19.2% (19.2). The increase in profits resulted mainly from a higher invoicing volume, efficiency measures taken, and currency translation effects because of the weak Swedish krona. The return on capital employed (preceding 12 months) was 67% (57).



Construction and Mining Technique Business Area

The Construction and Mining Technique business area consists of five divisions in the following product areas: drilling rigs, rock-drilling tools, exploration equipment, construction tools, and loading equipment.

	July	/-Sept.	Change	Jan.	-Sept.	Change
	2001	2000	%	2001	2000	%
Orders received	1,701	1,591	+7	5,481	5,168	+6
Revenues	1,766	1,726	+2	5,422	5,185	+5
Operating profit	178	164	+9	545	479	+14
– as a percentage of revenues	10.1	9.5		10.1	9.2	
Return on capital employed						
(12-month values)) 22	20				

• Volume down 2%, despite growth in Europe.

Use-of-product expanded to 57% of revenues.

Acquisition of U.S. exploration drilling operation.

Orders received increased 7%, to MSEK 1,701 (1,591), a decrease in volume of 2%. The currency translation effect was +6%, and the net effect of structural changes was +3%.

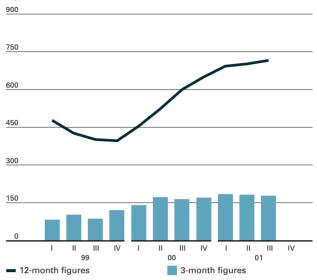
Investments in the mining industry slowed during the quarter, while production levels stayed relatively high. Order intake was good in Chile, Peru, Russia, and Australia, while order intake in southern Africa softened somewhat compared to the preceding quarter's high level. Orders in the United States were up, despite generally sluggish mining activity in North America.

Sales expanded to certain construction-related applications, such as quarries. However, equipment demand for large construction projects was weak with a few exceptions, notably Japan and the Middle East. Sales of light construction equipment suffered from weak building activity in many countries, among them Germany, as well as weak demand from rental companies because of depressed investment in fleet.

Revenues from consumables, service, spare parts, and accessories continued to increase overall, reaching 57% of total revenues in the quarter.

In line with its strategy to become a world leader in the exploration drilling business, the Group acquired U.S.-based Christensen Products. The company has annual revenues of about MSEK 160.





Revenues were MSEK 1,766 (1,726), up 2% overall thanks to positive currency translation effects but down 5% in real volume.

Operating profit for the quarter rose 9%, to MSEK 178 (164), corresponding to a margin of 10.1% (9.5). Efficiency improvements explained the better margin, while the negative effect of lower invoicing volume was offset by changes in exchange rates compared to 2000. The return on capital employed (preceding 12 months) was 22% (20).

Industrial Technique Business Area

The Industrial Technique business area consists of four divisions in the following product areas: industrial power tools, professional electric tools, and assembly systems.

	lub	(Sont	Change	lon	Sont	Change
	Juiy	-Sept.	0	Jan.	-Sept.	0
	2001	2000	%	2001	2000	%
Orders received	2,987	2,915	+2	9,071	8,549	+6
Revenues	3,002	2,869	+5	8,894	8,293	+7
Operating profit	305	298	+2	885	860	+3
– as a percentage						
of revenues	10.2	10.4		10.0	10.4	
Return on						
capital employed						
(12-month values)) 15	15				

• Orders in the U.S. plummeted, primarily after September 11.

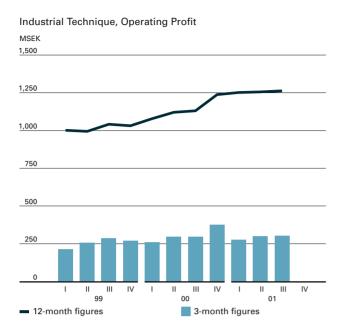
• Demand slowed for professional electric tools in Europe.

• Margins eased slightly lower, supported by currency fluctuations.

Orders received increased 2%, to MSEK 2,987 (2,915), corresponding to a drop in volume of 6%. The positive currency translation effect was 10%, and the average price level rose 1%. Structural changes in India had a negative effect of 2% in the quarter.

Orders for industrial tools for most customer segments in the United States – the motor vehicle industry, aerospace, and general industry – weakened in the quarter and suffered further from a "waitand-see" reaction by customers after September 11. In Europe, industrial tool sales continued to grow, although some hesitation was noted among customers following the events in the United States. Orders from the motor vehicle industry sustained a healthy level, primarily in Germany and France.

Sales of professional electric tools declined year-on-year. In the United States, order intake was noticeably positive in July and August,



but that pattern was broken in September. Positive contributions came from strong sales for accessories and an extended product offering through home centers. In Europe, demand continued to weaken, mainly affecting the northern part of the region, including Germany.

With few exceptions, volume outside Europe and North America (accounting for less than 10% of sales) contracted in the third quarter.

Revenues were up 5%, to MSEK 3,002 (2,869), a drop in real volume of 4%.

Operating profit rose 2%, to MSEK 305 (298), and the profit margin was 10.2% (10.4). The margin suffered from lower invoicing volume but benefited from the weak Swedish krona, a strong USD, and some rationalization gains. Return on capital employed (preceding 12 months) was 15% (15).

Rental Service Business Area

Since January 1, 2001, the Rental Service business area has consisted of a single division in the equipment rental industry in North America, providing services to construction and industrial markets.

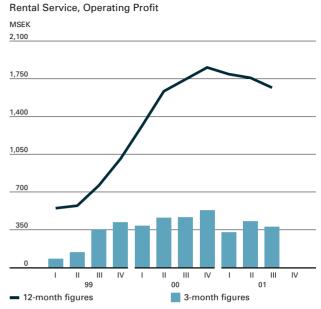
	July	-Sept. C	Change	Jan.–Sept.	Change
	2001	2000	%	2001 2000	%
Revenues	4,094	3,751	+9	11,693 10,106	+16
Operating profit	378	469*	-19	1,136** 1,323*	-14
– as a percentage of revenues	9.2	12.5*		9.7** 13.1*	÷
Return on capital employed					
(12-month values) 5	6			

*) Operating profit in 2000 included a non-recurring cost of MSEK 127.

**) Operating profit in 2001 included MSEK 60 in restructuring costs.

- Sluggish U.S. economy hit rental revenue, before and after September 11.
- Rationalization projects continued.
- Strong cash flow generated.

Revenues were up 9%, at MSEK 4,094 (3,751), corresponding to a volume decrease of 4%. Rental revenues (71% of total revenues) recorded a volume drop of 10%. On average, rental rates were slightly higher than in the same quarter of 2000. Revenues from sales of new equipment, parts, and merchandise (16% of total revenues) were down about 10% from 2000, while sales of used



equipment (13% of total revenues) surged more than 50%.

Lower rental revenues resulted from less than normal seasonal pick-up in construction activity in the third quarter, the effects of price increases on certain product categories, and some short-term effects of the September 11 terrorist attacks. The industrial business grew, while the construction business declined in most regions. Rental revenue continued to grow in Canada and Mexico.

Sales of new equipment and merchandise plummeted immediately after September 11. The sharp rise in sales of used equipment reflects management's strategy and commitment to adjust the mix of the rental fleet and the fleet size to current demand.

Internal efficiency-enhancing projects continued, with benefits appearing in operating expenses. The total number of employees decreased by 91 in the third quarter and by 906 since December 31, 2000. Also, the "re-balancing" of store locations to current demand patterns continued. Another 16 rental stores were consolidated, and three new stores were opened (now 547 in total). The need for investment in the rental fleet remained substantially less than in 2000. Combined with better management of receivables, this resulted in yet another quarter of healthy cash flow.

Operating profit, which includes all related goodwill amortization, was MSEK 378 (469), corresponding to a margin of 9.2% (12.5). The preceding year's profit included MSEK 127 in restructuring costs. The weaker operating margin primarily arose from lower rental revenue, and a bigger share of sales of used equipment at lower than average profit margins. The return on capital employed (preceding 12 months), including goodwill on acquisitions, was 5% (6).

Stockholm, October 23, 2001

Giulio Mazzalupi

President and Chief Executive Officer

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Time	Acquisitions	Divestments	Business Area S	Sales* MSEK	No. of employees*
2001 Aug. 31	Christensen Products		Construction & Mining	160	7
2001 May 1	Masons		Compressor Technique	140	50
2001 Q1	Various small rental cos.		Rental Service	36	30
2000 Q4	Various small rental cos.		Rental Service	49	41
2000 Oct. 31		JKS Lamage	Construction & Mining Techni	que 50	35
2000 Sep. 6	Hobic Bit Industries		Construction & Mining Techni	que 60	85
2000 Q3	Various small rental cos.		Rental Service	115	
2000 Q2	Various small rental cos.		Rental Service	130	
2000 Apr. 24		Atlas Copco Rotoflow	Compressor Technique	300	140
2000 Q1	Various small rental cos.		Rental Service	80	

*) Annual revenues and number of employees at time of acquisition/divestment.

Internal Structural Changes 2001

Time	Company/ business	From Business area	To Business area	Sales* MSEK			
2001 Jan. 1	Chicago Pneumatic Brand Construction Tools – India	Industrial Technique	Construction & Mining T.	175			
2001 Jan. 1	Chicago Pneumatic Brand Compressors – India	Industrial Technique	Compressor Technique	90			
*) Annual revenues at time of transfer.							

Revenues by Business Area

			July-September			January-September	
MSEK		1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001
Compressor Technique		3,288	3,643	4,324	9,681	10,613	12,441
Construction and Mining Technique		1,323	1,726	1,766	4,153	5,185	5,422
Industrial Technique		2,522	2,869	3,002	7,615	8,293	8,894
Rental Service		2,335	3,751	4,094	4,619	10,106	11,693
Eliminations		-111	-194	-145	-341	-511	-428
Atlas Copco Group		9,357	11,795	13,041	25,727	33,686	38,022
				2000			2001
MSEK (by quarter)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3
Compressor Technique	3,345	3,625	3,643	4,107	3,928	4,189	4,324
Construction and Mining Technique	1,650	1,809	1,726	1,898	1,828	1,828	1,766
Industrial Technique	2,619	2,805	2,869	3,161	2,838	3,054	3,002
Rental Service	3,023	3,332	3,751	3,849	3,659	3,940	4,094
Eliminations	-120	-197	-194	-174	-152	-131	-145

11,374

11,795

12,841

10,517

Earnings by Business Area

Atlas Copco Group

Earnings by Basiliess Area							
		July–September				January–September	
MSEK		1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001
Compressor Technique		579	698	829	1,541	1,942	2,398
Construction and Mining Technique		88	164	178	276	479	545
Industrial Technique		288	298	305	761	860	885
Rental Service		359	469	378	588	1,323	1,136
Corporate items		-31	71	-63	-96	-35	-182
Operating profit		1,283	1,700	1,627	3,070	4,569	4,782
– as a percentage of revenues		13.7	14.4	12.5	11.9	13.6	12.6
Financial income and expenses		-318	-455	-340	-680	-1,251	-1,136
Profit after financial items		965	1,245	1,287	2,390	3,318	3,646
– as a percentage of revenues		10.3	10.6	9.9	9.3	9.8	9.6
				2000			2001
MSEK (by quarter)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3
Compressor Technique	580	664	698	795	738	831	829
Construction and Mining Technique	142	173	164	171	185	182	178
Industrial Technique	263	299	298	378	277	303	305





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