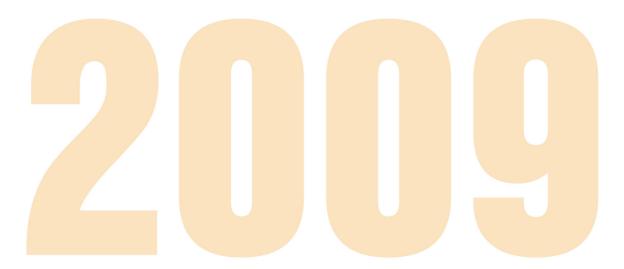
# REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD **ON BANK ZACHODNI WBK PERFORMANCE IN 2009**



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# I. Overview of the Bank's Performance

Below is a summary of the financial performance of Bank Zachodni WBK in 2009 and the external and internal factors underlying it.

# **Financial highlights**

- **Total income** increased by 8.8% y-o-y to PLN 3,088.5 m.
- **Total costs** decreased by 1.4% y-o-y to PLN 1,479.9 m, of which the staff and administrative expenses reduced by 2.5% to PLN 1,351.7 m.
- **Profit-before-tax** of PLN 1,158.9 m was up 17.4% y-o-y.
- **Profit for the period** of PLN 986.2 m was up 21.9% y-o-y.
- Capital adequacy ratio at 12.34% (9.81% as at 31 December 2008).
- **Return on Equity** at 21.9% (22.4% as at 31 December 2008).
- **Cost to income** ratio improved to 47.9% (52.8% for 2008).
- **Net impairment losses on loans and advances** amounted to PLN 449.7 m compared with PLN 351.9 m in 2008.
- **NPL ratio** increased to 5.6% (3% as at 31 December 2008), while the ratio of impairment losses to the average credit volumes was 1.35% (1.33% as at 31 December 2008).
- Loans to deposits ratio of 79.1% as at 31 December 2009 compared with 75.3% as at 31 December 2008.

#### Key factors affecting the Bank's profit and activity in 2009

#### **Business factors**

- Stable level of credit volumes compared with the end of December 2008 as a result of the increase in cash loans (+19.6% y-o-y) and home mortgages (+11.2% y-o-y) with a concurrent decrease in loans to institutional customers (-3.2% y-o-y).
- Decline in deposits from customers (-4.9% y-o-y) as the decrease in institutional deposits (-16.8% y-o-y) outpaced the growth of personal deposits (+4.9% y-o-y). Excluding several high-value short-term deposits held by institutional customers as at 31 December 2008 that did not roll over in 2009, the deposits from institutional customers decreased (-3% y-o-y) while total customer deposit base expanded (+1.6% y-o-y).
- Increase in the number of users of BZWBK24 electronic banking (+21% y-o-y) and Moja Firma Plus package (+20% y-o-y).
- Rapid expansion of the debit cards base (+20% y-o-y) due to the broad product offering and linked services.
- Deterioration of the financial standing of some borrowers in the difficult macroeconomic environment.
- Continued tightening of lending criteria since Q4 2008 and execution of risk mitigation strategies.
- Strict cost discipline reflected in the reduced staff and other administrative expenses.

#### **External factors**

- Notable deceleration of economic growth in Poland in the first half of 2009 triggered by global financial and economic crisis. Gradual improvement of the economic activity in Poland and symptoms of recovery in the main global economies in the second half of 2009.
- Decrease in industrial production in Poland and weaker performance of companies at the beginning of the year with gradual recovery in the subsequent quarters.
- Slight decrease in fixed investments (-0.3% y-o-y) as infrastructural projects were financed from the EU funds.
- Sudden decline in foreign trade transactions, with the level of trade deficit limited as the fall in imports outpaced the fall in exports.
- Slower credit delivery with lower lending to businesses and weaker personal loan growth (some recovery observed only at the year-end).
- Adverse trends in the labour market (reduced employment and lower wage bill growth), but not as negative as previously expected (decline in employment slowed towards the yearend).
- Marked increase in share prices on the Warsaw Stock Exchange after a sharp decline in 2008 and early 2009.
- Gradual reduction in deposit pricing costs (although still suffering appreciable negative margin) and stabilisation in the interbank market.
- After a significant weakening of the zloty in January and February, high FX rate volatility in the subsequent months, with a tendency to zloty appreciation.
- Reduction of the main interest rates by the Monetary Policy Council and their stabilisation at historically low level (reference rate at 3.5%) in the second half of the year.
- Moderate fall in house prices in major cities. Signs of recovery in demand and an increase in the number of transactions in the second half of the year.
- Weakening in private consumption growth, however not too rapid due to moderate scale of layoffs and improving perception of the labour market.

# II. Basic Information

# 1. History and Profile of Bank Zachodni WBK

#### **Background**

Bank Zachodni WBK S.A. (Bank Zachodni WBK, BZ WBK) was established following the merger of Bank Zachodni with Wielkopolski Bank Kredytowy. The new Wroclaw-based entity was entered into the business register in the National Court Registry on 13 June 2001 and on 23 June 2001 it debuted on the Warsaw Stock Exchange.

Both predecessors of Bank Zachodni WBK were spun off the National Bank of Poland in 1989. Subsequently, they were privatised and became members of the AIB Group under control of the same investor, i.e. AIB European Investments Ltd. from Dublin, which is a subsidiary of the Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c. (AIB). After the merger, the AIB Group became owner of a 70.5% stake in Bank Zachodni WBK. The shareholding declined to 70.4% following an increase in the share capital on 10 July 2009.

#### **Scope of Activities**

Bank Zachodni WBK is a universal bank which provides a full range of services for personal customers, SMEs and large companies. The bank's offering is modern, comprehensive and satisfies diverse customer needs with regard to current/personal accounts, credit, savings, investment, settlement, insurance and card products. The bank aligns its product structure with the requirements of individual customer segments and combines its products into packages around current/personal accounts to provide their users with a precisely defined, tailored and comprehensive service. The financial services of Bank Zachodni WBK also include trade finance and transactions in the capital, FX and money markets as well as in derivatives. The bank's own product range is complemented by specialist products offered by its connected companies, including: Dom Maklerski BZ WBK S.A., BZ WBK AIB Towarzystwo Funduszy Inwestycyjnych S.A., BZ WBK AIB Asset Management S.A., BZ WBK Leasing S.A., BZ WBK Finanse & Leasing S.A. and BZ WBK Faktor Sp. z o.o., BZ WBK - Aviva Towarzystwo Ubezpieczen Ogolnych S.A. and BZ WBK - Aviva Towarzystwo Ubezpieczen na Zycie S.A. In co-operation with all these companies, the bank offers its customers access to brokerage services, mutual funds, insurance, leasing and factoring products.

# **Distribution Network**

As at 31 December 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK operated through 512 outlets, which is the third largest branch network in Poland. As a result of the rapid expansion of the branch network in 2007-2008, the bank's branches are present in all the provinces of Poland.

High net worth individuals can also use the comprehensive investment service from the Private Banking offices in Warsaw, Poznan and Wroclaw.

For customers looking for basic, inexpensive and fast service, Bank Zachodni WBK operates a network of 89 agency outlets under the brand of "Bank Zachodni WBK Partner" located in small towns and residential districts of big cities.

Business customers are serviced through 15 Business Banking Centres located across all key markets in Poland. Corporate customers are serviced through the Corporate Business Centres in Warsaw, Poznan and Wroclaw.

Through its modern Telephone and Electronic Sales Centre equipped with specialist infrastructure, the bank provides customers with information on its products and services, offers over-the-phone access to transactions and standard products, and renders after-sales service.

Bank Zachodni WBK offers a modern package of electronic banking services called BZWBK24 which gives retail and business customers a convenient and safe access to their accounts and products via the Internet, phone or mobile. Thanks to modern technologies, the Bank ensures the highest security of electronic services.

# 2. Share capital, Ownership Structure and Share Price

## **Ownership Structure of Share Capital**

As at 31 December 2008, the share capital of Bank Zachodni WBK amounted to PLN 729,602,840 and was divided into 72,960,284 ordinary bearer shares with a nominal value of PLN 10 each.

On 10 July 2009, the share capital was increased to 73,076,013 shares, reflecting take-up of H series shares issued under the 1st BZWBK Share Incentive Scheme (by force of resolution of General Meeting of Shareholders of 4 July 2006) by the eligible employees.

According to the information held by the bank's Management Board, as at 26 February 2010 (i.e. the date of Annual Report 2009 sign-off), the shareholder having a minimum 5% of the total number of votes at the BZWBK Annual General Meeting of Shareholders was Dublin-based AIB European Investments Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Allied Irish Banks p.l.c. (AIB Bank). The company's interest in the share capital and the voting power of Bank Zachodni WBK is 70.4%. The remaining shares are in free float.

| Shareholder                   | Number of Shares Held |            | % in<br>the Share Capital |            | Number of Votes<br>at AGM |            | Voting Power at<br>AGM |            |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|
|                               | 31.12.2009            | 31.12.2008 | 31.12.2009                | 31.12.2008 | 31.12.2009                | 31.12.2008 | 31.12.2009             | 31.12.2008 |
| AIB European Investments Ltd. | 51,413,790            | 51,413,790 | 70.4%                     | 70.5%      | 51,413,790                | 51,413,790 | 70.4%                  | 70.5%      |
| Other                         | 21,662,223            | 21,546,494 | 29.6%                     | 29.5%      | 21,662,223                | 21,546,494 | 29.6%                  | 29.5%      |
| Total                         | 73,076,013            | 72,960,284 | 100%                      | 100%       | 73,076,013                | 72,960,284 | 100%                   | 100%       |

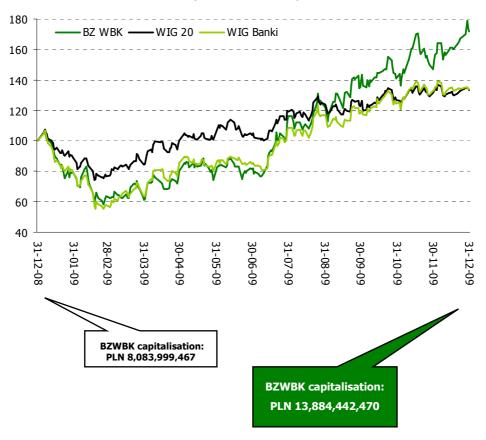
As at the date of approving Annual Report 2009, the Management Board of Bank Zachodni WBK was not aware of any agreements that in the future might lead to changes in the current ownership structure.

#### **Share Price**

In 2009, the global economy was in recession and created quite a difficult environment for the equity market. However, starting from February 2009 the world stock indices were gradually rising, reflecting an improvement in the capital market environment and stabilisation of the financial sector. The observed increases were correlated with an improvement in the Leading Indicators, growth of commodity prices and the higher risk appetite among international investors.

After many months of continued downward trend and hitting a low point on 18 February 2009, the Warsaw Stock Exchange saw a dynamic upward rise. During 2009 the WIG index increased by 46.9%, WIG20 by 33.5% and WIG-Banki index by 33.7%. The price of Bank Zachodni WBK shares, which is included in these indices, increased by 71.5% from PLN 110.80 on 31 December 2008 to PLN 190.00 on 31 December 2009.

# BZWBK Share Quotations and Indices (31-12-2008 = 100)



# 3. Composition of Bank Zachodni WBK Group

## **Subsidiary Undertakings**

Bank Zachodni WBK forms a Group with the following nine subsidiaries which are fully consolidated in accordance with IAS 27. These are:

- 1) BZ WBK AIB Asset Management S.A.
- 2) BZ WBK AIB Towarzystwo Funduszy Inwestycyjnych S.A. subsidiary of BZ WBK Asset Management S.A.
- 3) BZ WBK Inwestycje Sp. z o.o.
- 4) BZ WBK Faktor Sp. z o.o. subsidiary of BZ WBK Finanse Sp. z o.o.
- 5) BZ WBK Finanse Sp. z o.o.
- 6) BZ WBK Finanse & Leasing S.A. subsidiary of BZ WBK Finanse Sp. z o.o.
- 7) BZ WBK Leasing S.A. subsidiary of BZ WBK Finanse Sp. z o.o.
- 8) BZ WBK Nieruchomosci S.A.
- 9) Dom Maklerski BZ WBK S.A.

The entities connected with the bank are chiefly financial institutions which conduct specialised activities in securities brokerage, leasing, assets/funds management, factoring and trading in equity securities.

Compared with the end of December 2008, the Group includes an additional company – BZ WBK Finanse Sp. z o.o., formed by the bank on 18 December 2008 and registered on 14 January 2009. Bank Zachodni WBK acquired 100% stake in the company's share capital. The new entity is a holding company set up to centralise management of the bank's subsidiaries involved in provision of services to business customers, i.e. BZ WBK Leasing S.A., BZ WBK Finanse & Leasing S.A. oraz BZ WBK Faktor

Sp. z o.o. (see Chapter IV, Section "Investment Banking" and Chapter XI., Section "Changes to the Management Organisation" for more details).

#### **Joint Ventures and Associates**

In the consolidated financial statements of Bank Zachodni WBK Group for the period ending 31 December 2009, the following companies are accounted for using the equity method in accordance with IAS 28 and 31:

#### **Joint Ventures:**

- 1) BZ WBK-Aviva Towarzystwo Ubezpieczen Ogolnych S.A.
- 2) BZ WBK-Aviva Towarzystwo Ubezpieczen na Zycie S.A.

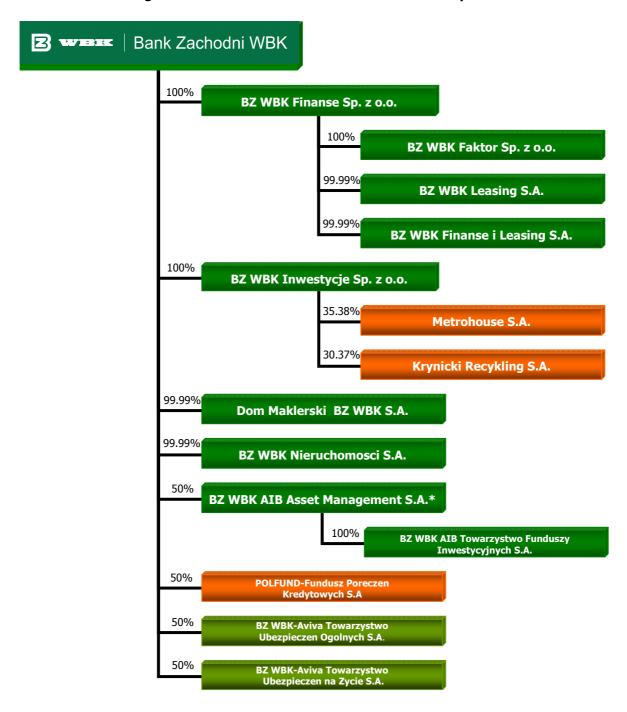
#### **Associates:**

- 1) Krynicki Recykling S.A. associated undertaking of BZ WBK Inwestycje Sp. z o.o.
- 2) Metrohouse S.A. associated undertaking of BZ WBK Inwestycje Sp. z o.o.
- 3) POLFUND Fundusz Poreczen Kredytowych S.A.

In addition to the joint ventures and POLFUND - Fundusz Poreczen Kredytowych S.A., which is the bank's investment of long standing, the equity method approach is also used to account for Metrohouse S.A. and Krynicki Recykling S.A., the associates of BZ WBK Inwestycje Sp. z o.o. (bank's subsidiary). Both companies are classified as associates as the bank has a significant impact on their operations. The respective shareholdings were acquired as part of the bank's strategy to build a portfolio of "pre-IPO" investments.

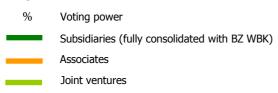
As compared with the end of 2008, the list of associated undertakings has been extended by Krynicki Recykling S.A. In December 2008, BZ WBK Inwestycje Sp. z o.o. acquired 3.1 m newly issued shares of the company, representing 30.37% of the share capital. The capital increase was registered on 2 February 2009.

## **Organisational Chart of Bank Zachodni WBK Group**



\* Bank Zachodni WBK is a co-owner of BZ WBK AIB Asset Management S.A., together with AIB Capital Markets p.l.c. Both owners are members of AIB Group and each holds an equal stake of 50% in the company's share capital. In practice, Bank Zachodni WBK exercises control over the company and its subsidiary, BZ WBK AIB Towarzystwo Funduszy Inwestycyjnych S.A., because through its agency the ultimate parent (AIB) pursues its policy in Poland. Consequently, the company is treated as a subsidiary undertaking.

## Legend:



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# 4. Other Equity Investments

As at 31 December 2009, the equity investment portfolio of Bank Zachodni WBK included minority shareholdings in 28 companies, owning more than 5% of share capital in the following entities:

| No. | Company   | Share in the Share<br>Capital | Voting Power at ATM |
|-----|---|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1.  | Krajowa Izba Rozliczeniowa S.A.                               | 11.48%                        | 11.48%              |
| 2.  | Aviva Powszechne Towarzystwo Emerytalne Aviva BZ WBK S.A.     | 10%                           | 10%                 |
| 3.  | Aviva Towarzystwo Ubezpieczen na Zycie S.A.                   | 10%                           | 10%                 |
| 4.  | Aviva Towarzystwo Ubezpieczen Ogolnych S.A.                   | 10%                           | 10%                 |
| 5.  | ARKA BZ WBK Fundusz Rynku Nieruchomości 2 Specjalistyczny FIZ | 6.48%                         | -                   |
| 6.  | AWSA Holland II B.V.  | 5.44%                         | 5.44%               |
| 7.  | Biuro Informacji Kredytowej S.A.                              | 5.14%                         | 5.14%               |
| 8.  | NFI Magna Polonia S.A.  | 5.06%                         | 5.06%               |

# III. Macroeconomic Environment in 2009

#### **Economic Growth**

After the recession that hit the world's major economies (GDP fall for 4-5 quarters in the euro-zone and the USA), the economy rebounded in the third quarter of 2009 due to fiscal and monetary stimulus packages. The serious economic downturn abroad had a strong adverse impact on the Polish economy. The economic growth in Poland decelerated strongly, but the decline was much smaller than in highly-developed countries and less severe than expected at the beginning of the year. According to the preliminary data of the Polish Central Statistical Office (GUS), the GDP growth in Poland slowed down to 1.7% y-o-y, which was the only positive figure among the other EU countries.

The figures for the whole of 2009 and the resulting estimates for the fourth quarter of 2009 (3% growth y-o-y) confirmed that the Polish economy is on a recovery path. Also, the structure of the GDP growth points to the relatively strong consumption demand and a minimal fall in investments. These are historical figures, though, and they in no way reduce the likelihood of a second wave of the global crisis, which is the key risk factor affecting the mid-term economic growth outlook for Poland.

# **Labour Market and Consumption**

Private consumption weakened (to 2.3% y-o-y in 2009 compared with 5.9% y-o-y in 2008) due to negative changes in the labour market. As a result of a decrease in employment and the marked reduction in the average wage growth, the wage bill growth slowed substantially. On the other hand, social security benefits increased in 2009. In addition, the disposable income of households was positively affected by the changes in Personal Income Tax (PIT) and Value Added Tax (VAT).

#### **Investments**

According to the preliminary data of the GUS, the growth in gross fixed investments in 2009 was -0.3%, which was much above the pessimistic forecasts from the start of the year. The growth in investments was slightly below zero only in the second and the third quarter. At the same time, the bank's estimates indicate that the investment growth in the fourth quarter was positive at 1.5% y-o-y. This is associated with the strong activity in public investments supported by the EU funds, which amply compensated for the weak investment activity in the private sector.

#### **Foreign Trade**

2009 saw a rapid decline in foreign trade turnover. Based on the preliminary NBP data, the value of exports in euro fell by ca. 17% y-o-y while imports shrank by nearly 26%. The domestic exports was supported by the weak zloty. In zloty terms, exports increased almost by 2% y-o-y (+10.5% in the fourth quarter), while imports fell by 8.2% (-2.8% in the fourth quarter). The weaker domestic demand led to a deep fall in imports, ensuring a positive contribution of the net exports to the GDP growth (ca. 2.6% in 2009). The deeper fall in imports than in exports helped to reduce Poland's deficit in foreign trade and the balance of payments. The cumulated current account deficit relative to the GDP decreased to 1.5% at the year-end, compared with 5.1% in December 2008.

#### **Inflation**

After CPI inflation decreased to 2.8% y-o-y in January 2009, it was gradually rising in the subsequent months due to significant increases in the prices of fuel and energy and as a result of the significant weakening of the zloty observed until February 2009. Consequently, the CPI inflation increased to 4% y-o-y in April and then started to fall. Still, until August, the CPI inflation stayed above the upper limit of allowed fluctuations around the Central Bank target (3.5%). The last months of the year brought a decline of the CPI inflation below this level and a rebound to 3.5% y-o-y in December, amid a decrease in the annual growth rate of energy prices and an increase in the annual growth rate of fuel prices. The impact of the significant zloty depreciation on inflation in the first half of the year was partly offset by the strong deceleration in economic growth, while the zloty recovery in the second half of the year supported lower prices growth. The substantial weakening of the internal demand and reduction of the tensions in the labour market acted towards weakening of the inflationary pressures.

#### **Interest Rates**

In 2009, the Monetary Policy Council (MPC) reduced the main interest rates four times (all rate cuts in the first half of the year), by a total of 1.5 pp. The monetary policy easing was a response to substantial deterioration in economic growth prospects coupled with favourable mid-term inflation outlook. The substantial reduction in the Central Bank interest rates was followed by a decline in WIBOR rates – by 2.2 pp for 1-month period and 1.9 pp for 3-month and 12-month periods. However, the WIBOR rates did not reflect the true cost of money as the inter-bank money market was liquid only for very short tenors. The MPC also decided to reduce the reserve requirement rate by 50 bps to 3% in order to increase liquidity in the banking system and revive credit activity. The high short-term overliquidity of the banking sector resulted in significant decline of the O/N and T/N rates, which stayed below the reference rate.

#### **Exchange Rate**

The first months of 2009 saw a significant weakening of the zloty, triggered by a surge in risk aversion in international financial markets and investors' negative view of the markets in the Central and Eastern Europe, resulting from serious problems of some countries in the region (Baltic states, Hungary, Ukraine). However, towards the end of the first quarter the zloty began to recover as the risk appetite returned to the global markets and the foreign investors showed more interest in buying assets in the CEE region due to support of the financial stability of the countries in the region by international institutions. Until August, the zloty remained relatively stable, with the EUR/PLN rate fluctuating in range of 4.06-4.30. The gradual appreciation of the euro versus the dollar was accompanied by a decline in the USD/PLN rate. The dollar substantially recovered in the international markets at the end of the year, though despite reduction in the risky asset positions the zloty did not suffer much.

# IV. Business Development in 2009

# 1. Review of Key Business Development Directions of Bank Zachodni WBK

In 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK continued to implement its strategy for the years 2009-2011, striving to be distinctive in the market by its customer proposition, service quality and by taking actions to improve its brand image and awareness. At the same time, the bank flexibly responded to the challenging environment, taking appropriate measures to sustain its deposit base and ensure security of its credit portfolio. Efforts were taken to reduce costs and mitigate risks in all areas of activity.

The most important areas of the bank's activity in 2009 are summarized below:

- Acquiring deposits by offering attractively structured savings and investments products.
- Encouraging the customers with "business potential" to deepen their relationship with the bank through individual contact with advisors, CRM campaigns and other sales and promotional initiatives.
- Continuing extension of the range of personal accounts, current accounts and other products and services to better align the bank's proposition to the diverse customer needs.
- Amending the retail and business lending policy to maintain a high quality of credit exposures.
- Focusing credit delivery on active and loyal customers (sales campaigns/preferential prices).
- Tightening debt monitoring as part of credit risk management.
- Expanding the existing Business Banking Centres to bring the bank closer to a wider group of businesses and establish a quality relationship with them.
- Developing further the quality and number of distribution channels and integrating them closer.
- Improving functionality and security features of e-banking and supporting development of safe internet transactions, contactless/prepaid cards and other innovative solutions.
- Enhancing continuously the customer service quality, the bank's operating efficiency and streamlining procedures for customers.
- Controlling tightly operating costs, renegotiating contracts with suppliers and implementing gradually savings initiatives.

# 2. Business Development of Bank Zachodni WBK

# 2.1. Segmentation and Customer Relationship Management (CRM)

In Bank Zachodni WBK segmentation combines two approaches: income-based and socio-demographic one. The bank's retail segments include among others young customers (aged 13 - 30), active customers above 50 years of age, Prestige and VIP customers, while the business segments are as follows: micro, small, business and corporate (see Chapter XI, "Changes to the Organisation of Management" for more details). Against the background of the volatile social and economic situation, the bank analyses customers' propensity to buy and reviews its segmentation approach on a regular basis.

The bank's CRM practices are based on segmentation of the customer base and deploy two service models responding to different customer requirements for banking products and services.

The customers who use sophisticated products and expect customised service are approached proactively by the bank in order to better understand their needs and strengthen the relationship.

Direct contact with a dedicated advisor allows for providing a tailored service, satisfaction of diverse needs and establishment of a relationship based on loyalty and trust.

Customers who require standardised products and services and focus mainly on time and effectiveness are serviced through electronic channels or the branch network in accordance with the highest quality standards.

The bank contacts both groups of customers through sales campaigns, using all available communications channels to enhance effectiveness of such initiatives. The number of customers who leave or reduce their business with the bank is tracked on an ongoing basis and actions are taken to minimise the attrition rate.

Proactive contact with customers, quality service and sales campaigns are supported by the IT infrastructure which is aligned with the information requirements resulting from segmentation and CRM.

In 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK focused on the strategy for the years 2009-2011 which aims at strengthening the bank's image as a dependable financial institution and on fostering the loyalty of its customers. Based on its experience, the bank developed and implemented "CRM Rules" which specify types and frequency of contacting retail and business customers via the main delivery channels (branches, Telephone and Electronic Sales Centre) during sales, information and service campaigns.

## 2.2. Retail Banking

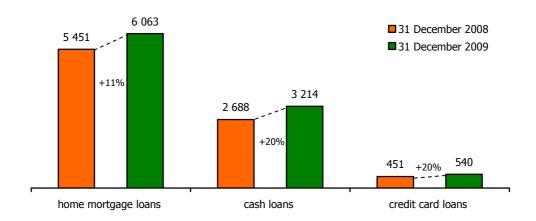
#### **Personal Loans**

Bank Zachodni WBK offers personal customers a credit product range that is both comprehensive and competitively priced. The mortgage lending offer includes a home mortgage and equity release. Customers seeking current expense funding are offered cash loans (including loans secured with liquid assets), credit cards and overdrafts. The product proposition also consists of car loans, loans for the purchase of shares on the primary market and brokerage loans.

In 2009, amid deteriorating macroeconomic environment and growing credit risk, Bank Zachodni WBK aligned its consumer finance policy and proposition. The lending focus was on the existing customers and respective sales efforts were effectively supported with incentives for customers who actively used their current accounts and other facilities.

Predictable and stable policy of the bank translated into a growth of mortgage sales above the market rate. Due to the attractive customer proposition and sales strategies, cash loan sales increased considerably and so did the entire cash loan-book. More active use of credit cards was reflected in higher receivables under this business line.

#### **Gross Personal Loans (in PLN m)**



# **Mortgage Loans**

Due to the substantial volatility of the currency market and the high cost of acquiring funds from the money market, in March 2009 the bank ceased mortgage lending in foreign currencies (CHF, EUR, USD, GBP).

In 2009, the bank decided to join the government's programme of subsidised housing loans "Rodzina na swoim" ("Family in their First Home"). The programme aims at facilitating access to home mortgage loans (for the acquisition of apartments/houses) and at alleviating the consequences of the crisis in the residential construction industry. The new preferential loan has been delivered since September 2009 under the agreement with Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego signed on 21 August 2009.

As a result of a revision of the bank's mortgage pricing policy, effective from 16 September 2009 a new pricing grid was implemented which differentiates the prices quoted to individual customers dependent on the scope and quality of their relationship with the bank. Individual pricing provides for a number of incentives (including a promotional margin at 1.35 pp) for customers who actively use their accounts and products offered by the bank. In addition, customers can choose to repay their mortgage loans at a fixed interest rate applicable for closed 5-year periods.

According to Expander's rating for Gazeta Wyborcza (14 September 2009) the mortgage loan offered by the bank was the most competitive in the Polish market. This information was leveraged during the advertising campaign at the turn of October and November 2009 ("Najtanszy kredyt mieszkaniowy" (Cheapest Mortgage Loan).

#### **Cash Loans**

In 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK was shaping its cash loan policy, pricing and sales methods to accommodate the changing market environment. The sales campaigns were mainly targeted at the internal customer base and were structured as tailored credit proposals. The bank was able to offer competitive cash loan prices with its flexible individual pricing process whereby the interest rate was adjusted to the borrower's individual risk profile. In addition, the maximum available loan amounts were increased under the pre-sanctioning processes, based on observation of cash flows in individual accounts. Also, a uniform 5% fee was applied to all customers and distribution channels. The bank's proposition was recognised as one of the most attractive in the market, which is confirmed by the cash loan rankings (e.g. the ranking published by Expander on 13 May 2009).

In December 2009, the bank's credit offer was enriched with the car loan facility. The main advantages of the product are fast turnaround time and no requirement to indicate the vehicle at the application stage.

#### **Personal Accounts**

In line with its retail strategy, Bank Zachodni WBK offers a wide array of current accounts to satisfy diverse needs of its customers. The retail proposition includes standard, prestige and "tailored" accounts for individual customer segments as well as a unique Moneyback account whose holders get back 1% of what they have paid with their Moneyback cards.

In May 2009, the range of the bank's personal accounts was expanded to include the Konto Aktywni 50+, an account designed for persons above 50 years of age who comprise an increasingly numerous and demanding customer segment. The key features of the account include an attractive maintenance fee, Visa Electron Aktywni+ card and a "medical assistance" package providing, among others, doctors' help in urgent cases and discounts in selected pharmacies of the "Dbam o Zdrowie" chain.

Since November the bank has offered Konto na Obcasach ("High Heels Account"). It is the first account in Poland designed specifically for women. The account comes with a number of additional benefits for its holders, including refund of 1% of all payments made with the accompanying card, a specialist insurance package (medical, car and home assistance) and discounts with a number of partner companies of the bank. The product was designed in response to needs voiced by women and came top in the ranking of bank accounts with features attractive for women which was organised by

Comperia.pl. This account was also recognised with prestigious "Laur Klienta 2010" award in the "Discovery of 2009" category.

In 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK promoted the sale of its products and services to the Polish abroad by enabling the opening of USD and GBP accounts through e-applications. Other projects were also continued to improve remote availability of the bank's products and services to the customers staying abroad.

Since early 2009, the bank worked on solutions to facilitate transfer of personal accounts from other banks. In February 2009, procedures on notifying Tax Office and employers of changed account numbers were put in place. In October 2009, the bank was also first to lauch e-Konwerter – a tool allowing customers to transfer beneficiaries of their payments to BZWBK24.

#### **Payment Cards**

The bank offers a wide array of credit, debit and pre-paid cards to meet the diverse needs of its customers. The bank issues payment cards of the two main organisations, i.e. Visa and MasterCard. The cards come with a chip to ensure the highest security of card transactions in accordance with the EMV standard (EuroPay, MasterCard, Visa). As a standard, cards linked to BZWBK current accounts allow for cash-back service and secure on-line payments thanks to the 3D-Secure feature (transactions confirmed with a token or text message).

#### **Debit Cards**

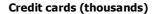
In 2009, the bank upgraded its range of debit cards with three cards coming with newly opened accounts (two personal accounts and a savings account). They include the Maestro savings card attached to the "a la Lokata" Savings Account. The card was introduced as a feature that increases attractiveness of the bank's deposit offering and makes it distinctive in the Polish market. Another new product is the Visa Electron card "Aktywni 50+" coming with the personal account "Aktywni 50+" addressed to persons above 50 years of age. The card provides its holders with extra benefits, including discounts in the "Dbam o zdrowie" pharmacy chain. The newest product is the "High-heeled" Visa card bundled with the "High-heeled Account", which facilitates contactless payments and provides 1% money back on all purchases.

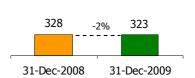
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In September 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK became the official partner of the PAYBACK Bonus Programme and introduced the MasterCard PAYBACK debit card. Card holders gain loyalty points on daily purchases (in store and online) that may be swapped for rewards under the multi-partner PAYBACK loyalty programme. The PAYBACK card is available in all distribution channels and it can be issued for any account offered by the bank.

# **Credit Cards**

Having a rich and innovative credit cards proposition, in 2009 Bank Zachodni WBK focused on the issues connected with handling these instruments and activating credit card holders. Following the review of the personal lending policy, the bank raised the minimum requirements for the customers applying for a new card or card renewal. The functionality of the BZWBK24 electronic banking system was upgraded to allow its users to manage their cards on their own, e.g. to activate their cards, set up or change the PIN, view the card blockade status or activate additional security features for on-line transactions using the 3D-Secure authentication technology.





In order to make the bank's credit card proposition more attractive for customers, the offer of Gold and Platinum cards was complemented with assistance (car, home and medical assistance in Poland), informational and concierge services.

#### **Contactless Cards**

The bank continued its strategy of development of contactless payments by increasing the volume of cards equipped with such a functionality. Debit cards, credit cards and pre-paid contactless cards issued by Bank Zachodni WBK operate in the PayPass technology and facilitate payments by simply waving the card in front of a secure reader. At the end of December 2009, the bank's customers held nearly 173 k contactless cards (including more than 120 k debit cards). The bank's efforts to expand its range of contactless cards and to promote contactless payments were recognised by the *Twoj Styl* monthly which awarded the "Alicja 2008" prize to the bank in early 2009.

## **Pre-paid Cards**

In 2009, the range of pre-paid cards was enhanced with the issue of cards with special graphics for seasonal occasions. Also, the bank introduced a pre-paid contactless card MasterCard PayPass and a pre-paid bearer card designed solely for making online payments.

The bank improved the sale of pre-paid cards in its branches and started distribution and after-sales service of the pre-paid cards through the Telephone and Electronic Sales Centre. Throughout the past year, the bank used its pre-paid cards in many sales and image-building campaigns.

#### **Deposit and Investment Products**

The customers of Bank Zachodni WBK may diversify their savings in line with their individual preferences and investment objectives, being able to choose from a number of current and term deposits, savings accounts, mutual funds and structured products.

#### **Deposit Products**

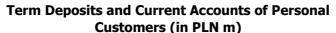
In 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK was building its deposit base with the focus on term deposits in particular. In order to make its deposit offer more attractive and to gain new financial resources, the bank introduced several new products and launched wide-ranging marketing campaigns to support their sales.

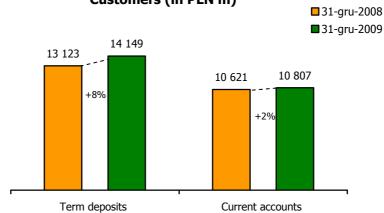
9 February 2009 saw implementation of the "a la Lokata" Savings Account coming with Maestro savings card. Holders of the account enjoy an attractive interest rate and are free to use the funds without losing accrued interest. The account is available in all the sales channels: in branches, in the BZWBK24 Internet banking tool and via the on-line or phone-based e-application. The account is accompanied by the Maestro savings card which has all the features of a traditional Maestro debit card added to personal accounts.

From 20 April to 19 June 2009, the bank was selling the "Account with a Lottery" – a 3-month deposit with the maximum interest rate of 5.5%. In addition to the attractive interest rate, the product offered an added value in the form of the chance to win the main lottery prize of PLN 2 m as well as additional prizes, including pre-paid cards and net books. The account with a lottery was supported by the campaign "Earn on your deposit and win PLN 2,000,000", including a series of TV commercials featuring the well-known actor Danny DeVito.

Another new product is the "Anti-Crisis Deposit" launched on 27 April 2009 for retail customers. This is a 12-month, non-renewable, attractively priced deposit with the deposit amount from PLN 3,000 to PLN 20,000, coming with an insurance against the loss of income source.

In early August 2009, the bank's deposit offer was expanded to include a new product "Easily Earning Deposit". This is a 4-month automatically renewable deposit that can be terminated before maturity without full loss of interest. The Easy Earning Deposit has become one of the most popular deposit products of Bank Zachodni WBK.





In the wake of initiatives delivered in 2009, the bank registered an appreciable y-o-y growth in term deposits from personal customers and kept the balance in current accounts at a similar level. This was achieved in spite of a fierce price competition on the Polish deposit market throughout most of 2009 and a strong growth trend on the Warsaw Stock Exchange which started in March.

#### **Structured Products**

For customers seeking profitable and safe investment instruments, in 2009 the bank introduced new structured products. These instruments ensure 100% capital protection at maturity and provide additional profit based on various investment strategies. The main items were as follows:

- the seventh issue of the Investment Policy;
- BZ WBK Platinium bonds;
- BZ WBK Platinium+ bonds;
- BZ WBK Nowa Era bonds;
- Two issues of BZ WBK Infrastruktura+ bonds;
- three issues of WIG20 Profit bonds;
- TOP5 Profit bonds.

Apart from large-scale issues of structured products, the bank made special offers to VIP customers, which were available in the Personal Banking network via VIP Advisors. These products combined features of a traditional deposit and investment in the FX market.

Bank Zachodni WBK is one of the leaders of the Polish structured product market, in terms of the volume of sales to retail customers.

#### **Mutual Funds**

In 2009, the bank continued distribution of the open-end mutual funds Arka BZ WBK (managed by BZ WBK AIB Towarzystwo Funduszy Inwestycyjnych S.A.), including the funds specialising in specific geographic markets and industries, such as Arka BZ WBK Akcji Środkowej i Wschodniej Europy FIO (Arka CCE Equity Fund), Arka BZ WBK Rozwoju Nowej Europy FIO (Arka New Europe Development Fund) and Arka BZ WBK Energii FIO (Arka Energy Fund). The bank also launched sales of a new investment programme called "Moja Przyszlosc" ("My Future") which offers long-term regular investments into all Arka funds in accordance with the investment strategy chosen by the client. In addition, a newly started InPlus BZWBK Investment Programme was made available to customers. This is a new product developed in co-operation with BZ WBK Aviva Towarzystwo Ubezpieczen na Zycie S.A. that combines life assurance features with investments in 21 insurance equity funds with different risk and profitability profiles.

#### **Advisory Programme**

Throughout 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK worked on the Advisory Programme in order to develop and implement an advisory model for personal customer service with respect to savings and investment products. This initiative will be supported by an innovative IT system for analysis and evaluation of customer profiles and development of tailored asset portfolios. The new system will come with advanced analytical functionalities for the advisors. The application to support the investment advisory model will be fully integrated with the branch IT platform, in line with the general concept of a standardized and user-friendly IT environment in the branches. The advisors will undergo proper training to be able to render high quality customer service and use the system to its full potential. The bank intends to make the advisory service available to its best customers in 2010, in selected branches and organizational units.

#### **Insurance Products**

The bancassurance line was further developed throughout 2009. The bancassurance joint venture companies established in 2008 (i.e. BZ WBK-Aviva Towarzystwo Ubezpieczen na Życie S.A. and BZ WBK-Aviva Towarzystwo Ubezpieczen Ogolnych S.A.) worked with the bank on the development of modern insurance products, insurance-investment products and hedging instruments, and gradually extended their product offer. Other efforts covered effective distribution of products and development of the staff skills in the insurance area.

The Investment Policy prepared by the bank jointly with BZ WBK-Aviva Towarzystwo Ubezpieczen na Zycie S.A. was offered for subscription in late January/early February. The bank has also been the first Polish financial organisation to introduce a deposit combined with an unemployment insurance policy. A new investment-and-insurance product (InPlus BZWBK) was brought to the market in August, which facilitates investments in a number of various funds (for more details on these products, see the "Deposit and Investment Product" section above). November saw the launch of a special insurance package addressed specifically to female customers, bundled with the "High-heeled account". This policy includes women's cancer cover as well as a comprehensive assistance package (health insurance, service package and assistance hotline for women). The "Payment Protection" insurance policy was introduced in December to provide a comprehensive cover against the risk of unemployment, temporary disability and a hospital treatment.

#### **Loans for Micro, Small Companies and Other Companies**

Retail Banking Division of Bank Zachodni WBK is responsible for servicing the segment of micro and small companies, i.e. enterprises with an annual turnover up to PLN 30 m and a credit exposure up to 3 m.

A comprehensive loan offer from Bank Zachodni WBK meets the current and long-term business financing requirements from micro, small and larger companies. Available facilities include overdrafts, working capital loans, merchant loans, revolving loans, investment loans, co-financing of EU projects, factoring and leasing. The item which differentiates the bank in the market is the universal Business Express loan extended to micro, small and business enterprises within 24 hours from submission of a complete application. This facility may be allocated to any business purpose. The bank's competitive edge is also based on prompt and simplified credit delivery process in respect of borrowers whose total exposure with the bank does not exceed PLN 200k. The borrowers may also obtain an additional security cover in the form of a credit guarantee from Polfund S.A. which maintains a working relationship with the bank.

In 2009, the bank's credit delivery focused on periodic sales campaigns targeted at the existing business customers. Tailored credit offers were prepared on the basis of account history analysis and prospective borrowers were notified of the sanctioned pre-limit. This procedure enabled the customers to make an effective draw-down within 24 hours from placing a credit application.

# <u>Current accounts, Deposits and Account-Related Products for Micro, Small and Other</u> Companies

#### **Current Accounts**

On 1 March 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK introduced three Business Packages (Minimum, Optimum and Maximum) into its offer targeted at business customers. The available account options differ in terms of the account maintenance fee and transaction processing charges. Each package includes a current account, Visa Business Electron payment card and Internet services. With this solution, the Bank can better align the products and prices to the customer's requirements and scale of business. The main advantages of these packages are: constant access to funds in the account, possibility to process transactions 24h/7 (via Moja Fima Plus and BZWBK24 e-banking platforms) and assistance from the customer advisor.

The bank has also prepared a new offer for non-governmental organisations. It includes preferential maintenance terms for the current account, placement of transfer orders as well as account lodgments and withdrawals.

The bank launched a dedicated sales-and-information hotline for prospective and current customers from the small and micro company segment, supported by the Telephone and Electronic Sales Centre (T&ESC). The customers may also use the new channel to gain information as well as open current accounts (as part of the Business Package offer) via e-Wniosek. Under this procedure, the account agreement is signed in the branch or at the customer's site. In line with the strategy of enhancing the cross-channel integration, T&ESC will be acquiring product and service applications from prospective business customers and refer these clients to dedicated specialists in branches.

#### **Account-related Products and Services**

As regards cards for business customers, the bank focused on the growth of sales. The delivered initiatives included a mailing campaign targeted at current account holders without a debit card, promoting the Visa Business Electron card.

In 2009, the bank extended the scope of additional services provided to business customers in cooperation with external partners. Apart from web-based accounting and hosting services (provision of servers, development of internet portals, etc.), customers were offered remote access to the Internet, special prices for mobile phone subscription and hand-sets, car leasing products and the option to purchase notebooks with an installed operating system and ensured maintenance service.

Moreover, Bank Zachodni WBK launched a community portal <a href="www.superfirmy.pl">www.superfirmy.pl</a> where the business customers may share knowledge and experience. Another objective was to promote the bank's solutions, products and services addressed to enterprises.

#### **Deposits**

In 2009, the bank introduced Business Impet term deposits for business customers (available both in the branches and via the Internet). Apart from standard term deposits (Business Impet and short-term deposits) denominated in PLN and FX, customers may also avail of negotiable term deposits where the interest rate depends on the amount and maturity of the product.

# **Training Initiatives**

The bank's initiatives delivered under the corporate responsibility policy include EU co-financed educational programs for small and micro enterprises. In 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK finalized the first edition of the programme in the Pomorskie province and launched a consecutive one in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie province. Both consists of a series of workshops on topics in the area of economy, finance and law and will cover a total of 720 enterprises.

# 2.3. Business and Corporate Banking

#### **Business Banking**

In April 2009, a network of Business Banking Centres was established from the former structures with a purpose to pursue the bank's comprehensive services strategy in respect of business customers with an annual turnover between PLN 30 m and PLN 150 m and credit exposure below PLN 15 m. According to the adopted operating model, the Centres are designed to manage the relationship with eligible customers supported by specialists from a variety of the bank's business lines. This approach ensures high service quality through direct interaction between the advisor and the customer, and the fast decision-making process enabled by the substantial credit discretions vested in the Centres. It is the key feature of the Bank Zachodni WBK Business Banking Centres that the credit decision makers and the staff selling leasing or factoring facilities are based locally.

The Business Banking Centres offer diversified financial solutions, including working capital and project finance as well as operational support at any business activity stage. In addition to loans, guarantees, factoring and leasing products, the business customers may also avail of deposit and investment products (including overnight and negotiable deposits), trade finance and treasury transactions. With the transactional banking tools (BZWBK24 or Moja Firma Plus) as well as the alternative PC-banking Minibank24, they also have access to the solutions which facilitate mass transfers, standing orders, direct debits/credits and electronic identification of receivables.

Apart from day-to-day operating activity, most of 2009 was devoted to organisation and development of the Banking Centres, business re-orientation and consolidation of portfolios as a result of modified segmentation criteria. Also, marketing actions were launched to make the existing and new customers aware of the bank's new structure and business opportunities.

#### **Corporate Banking**

The services offered to corporate customers include a wide array of credit facilities ranging from working capital to long-term asset financing to meet general expansion needs, acquisition (leveraged buy-outs) and project finance. The bank also provides a broad range of deposit, Treasury and cash management products, including FX and interest rate management products, international trade finance, cash pooling, mass payments, electronic banking and others. In liaison with its subsidiaries, the bank also offers specialised services, including brokerage, equity and asset management services as well as leasing and factoring. In addition, the Bank Zachodni WBK branch network offers special incentive packages for staff of corporate customers.

The bank's corporate lending strategy is to actively support business development of the existing customers and to establish relations with new customers who have a strong market position and robust business strategy. Due to the deteriorating macroeconomic situation, in 2009 the bank operated a conservative credit policy focusing on providing finance to its existing, well-performing business customers and supporting the safest projects. With such an approach, the bank was able to maintain the good quality of its credit portfolio.

# 2.4. Investment Banking

## **Advisory Services**

In 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK, in liaison with Dom Maklerski BZ WBK S.A., acted as an advisor in the following initiatives:

- secondary public offering of series G shares of PBG S.A. with a value of PLN 190 m through an increase of share capital;
- private placement of the shares of Tesgas S.A. with a value of PLN 9 m through an increase of share capital (shares to be traded at the alternative stock exchange market NewConnect).

Also, together with Dom Maklerski BZ WBK S.A. – the bank became an advisor for Polish Railways (in a syndicate with McKinsey & Company and the law firm Weil Gotshal & Manges) in the process of restructure and privatisation of PKP Cargo, a railway carrier.

The bank also rendered analytical and advisory services on public offerings, mergers and acquisitions, and provided financial advice to:

- Nafta Polska S.A. (as part of a syndicate of advisors with Raiffeisen Investment AG, Raiffeisen Investment Polska and Lazard & Co. Limited) in the sale of shares of Ciech S.A., Zaklady Azotowe S.A. and ZAK S.A.;
- Petrobaltic S.A. valuation of the group of companies for the purpose of contribution by the State Treasury of a 30% shareholding in Petrobaltic S.A. to Lotos S.A.

## **Arrangement of Debt Securities Issues**

In 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK arranged the issue of non-treasury securities for 9 entities with a total value of PLN 405.6 m. These issues were taken up by the entities indicated by the issuers. At the request of a corporate client, PLN 14 m worth of bonds were issued as part of the issue programme arranged by the bank with a maximum value of PLN 15 m.

In 2009, the total value of the agreements for the issue of non-Treasury securities amounted to PLN 205.5 m.

# **Equity Portfolio Management**

In order to increase share capital in BZ WBK Finanse Sp. z o.o., in February 2009 the bank contributed to the company all its holdings in the shares of BZ WBK Leasing S.A. and BZ WBK Faktor Sp. z o.o., while in March all its shareholdings in BZ WBK Finanse & Leasing S.A. The capital increase was registered by the court in May 2009.

In March 2009, the bank sold all its 100,800 shares in MTS-CeTO S.A. The transaction generated a profit of PLN 0.3 m.

In May 2009, the bank acquired 122 registered ordinary shares of the new issue (series F) of Commercial Union Polska Towarzystwo Ubezpieczen Ogolnych S.A. (renamed to Aviva Towarzystwo Ubezpieczen Ogolnych S.A. on 1 June 2009) with a nominal share value of PLN 2,000 and the issue price of PLN 20,000. Furthermore, in June 2009 - under the new issue of shares of Aviva TUO S.A. - the bank made a subscription for 123 registered shares of series H and paid them up. The nominal value per share was PLN 2,000 with the issue price at PLN 20,000. The share capital increase was registered by the District Court in the National Court Register (KRS) in the third quarter of 2009. The bank's stake in the company's share capital remained unchanged at 10%.

In June, the bank sold all its 2,797 shares in MasterCard Inc., achieving a profit of PLN 1.5m.

In September 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK sold its 19,142 VISA Inc. shares for USD 70.735 per share. The profit from the transaction was PLN 1.5 m.

#### 2.5. Treasury

Despite the challenging external environment, 2009 witnessed continued strong Treasury performance, particularly on Wholesale markets.

Wholesale markets activity reported very strong gains, primarily through strategic interest rate positions taken in anticipation of lowering PLN interest rates. The continued reduction in interest rates has supported the strong accrual from these positions. In addition, proprietary trading activities have performed very well, producing exceptional and consistent returns from interest rate and FX trading activity in what were quite volatile markets.

The bank's Treasury Services business held up robustly despite the downturn in economic activity and the impact this had on the client base. Appropriate and prudent fair value adjustments have been made for contracts with clients who experienced difficulties in the earlier part of 2009 and since the end of Q2 the bank has seen a steady improvement in the client portfolio, which is supported by a more stable and stronger zloty and a gradual improvement in the trading outlook for many clients. Towards the end of 2009, the Treasury Services business was reorganised so as to be more closely aligned to the structure of the Business Banking activity. This is believed to support an enhanced service approach to the existing client base and to optimise the bank's ability to attract business from new clients.

Treasury has responsibility for the day-to-day funding and liquidity management of the bank Balance Sheet. Conditions, particularly in FX funding eased somewhat in H2 from what were extremely difficult conditions in Q1. However, market conditions remain somewhat fragile and therefore there continues to be a concentrated focus on managing the balance sheet conservatively in this period. As is evident in a customer loan/deposit ratio of 79% at the year-end and the holding of a large portfolio of high quality Polish Government Bonds, the bank continues to maintain a conservative liquidity and funding position that provides sufficient contingency against a liquidity shock.

#### 2.6. Electronic Services to Financial Institutions

Bank Zachodni WBK is one of the biggest service providers for banks and financial institutions with regard to payments, cash processing, card issuance/handling and ATM management. Using its own experience, the bank enhances its products and functionalities to suit the requirements of its customers. The bank proposes and implements innovative solutions, including the technologies that meet the requirements of MasterCard, Visa and SEPA standards. The bank's partners are offered a modern IT infrastructure and a real-time access to transaction data as well as the high quality and security of stripe and chip cards, confirmed by the certifications obtained from payment organisations.

As a result of the successful acquisition activities, the bank has gradually expanded its card and ATM services to financial institutions. In 2009, agreements were signed with new partners for the provision of access to the bank's ATM network and card services, including services for contactless cards. In addition, the bank implemented a new service – intermediation in card purchases for the institutions co-operating with Bank Zachodni WBK which aims to optimise the costs involved.

At the end of December 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK maintained business relations with more than 20 banks and financial institutions, handling 3.7 m of third party cards and a network of approximately 1,300 ATMs of third party institutions.

# 2.7. International Settlements

# **Payment Services**

# **International Payment Orders**

In March 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK expanded its product range with urgent and express payment orders in PLN. Currently, fast transfers can be made in EUR, USD, GBP and PLN.

In July 2009, the bank joined SEPA (Single Euro Payments Area), the paneuropean system that allows it to receive payments in favour of its own customers and those of third party banks for whom the bank acts as an intermediary via the domestic Euroelixir system. As in the case of standard payment orders, Bank Zachodni WBK does not charge fees for SEPA payments received to the credit of its customers' accounts, which makes the bank distinctive against competitors.

To meet the needs of other banks and its own customers who send EUR payments in large numbers, the bank implemented a solution that will allow the dispatch of SEPA payments through SFT (Secure File Transfer) using similar rules to those governing the settlement of Mass Direct Debits. Projects were also launched to support outgoing SEPA payments in electronic channels (BZWBK24 and Minibank24) and the bank's branch network.

With constant improvement of the clearing processes, the payment messages generated by the bank have been for many years characterised by high quality, which reduces the related costs. The efficient organisation of the payment handling process and the high quality of customer service is best proven by the bank being placed among the institutions that comply with the ISO 9001-2000 standard for international payment orders. This is additionally confirmed by the regular awards received from the key EUR and USD correspondents for the high STP (Straight Through Processing) rate of its SWIFT messages.

#### **Western Union**

The bank continues to provide Wester Union transfer services through its branch network or through subagents. At the end of 2009, the bank co-operated with 43 agents who operated a total of 109 outlets.

In October a special web site was launched (www.westernunion.bzwbk.pl) to promote Bank Zachodni WBK as the Western Union agent.

In December 2009, the users of the Western Union transfers were offered a loyalty programme with a pre-paid card dedicated to the Western Union customers.

# Cash Lodgements to the Accounts in Bank Zachodni WBK

The bank uses a network of foreign agents (in the UK, Ireland and Holland) to accept and send cash transfers to PLN accounts in Poland.

In May 2009, the bank implemented the Transcash service, i.e. cheap transfers from the UK to Poland. By means of Transcash, customers may send funds from the British post offices to a PLN or FX account in Bank Zachodni WBK using special forms ordered via the contact centre (Infolinia) and obtained by post.

#### **Trade Finance**

Bank Zachodni WBK offers a wide range of products for the settlement and funding of international trade transactions. The bank also has an extensive network of correspondent banks, which ensures smooth and cost-effective completion of transactions. The bank's pricing offer remains competitive, particularly with regard to documentary transactions and settlement of international cheques.

The constant improvement and innovation of transaction processing helps to maintain high level of customer satisfaction. The bank's dedication to the highest service standards is confirmed by the certified Management System (ISO 9001:2000), covering documentary transactions and cheques.

Due to the global crisis, in 2009 the value of documentary transactions decreased by 22%. Despite the adverse external environment, an increase was noted in the value of exports collections and the non-recourse chaques cashed by 44% and 31%, respectively.

# 3. Development of distribution channels in Bank Zachodni WBK

#### **Traditional and Specialised Channels of Distribution**

#### **Branch Network**

In 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK launched 11 branches, closed 4 outlets and moved 7 others to their new locations. Consequently, on 31 December 2009 the bank's branch network consisted of 512 branches and was the third biggest in Poland.

As a result of the rapid expansion of the bank's branch network in 2007-2008, it spans nationwide with the heaviest concentration of branches in the Poznan Region, the Lower and Upper Silesia, the

Warsaw Region and other major cities in Poland. Last year, the major development activity focused on Warsaw, Krakow and Lodz. Projects are underway to open several new branches in 2010.

In 2009, more than twenty branches were modernised to improve customer service standards and create dedicated services areas for selected customer groups. Efforts were also continued to upgrade the infrastructure, including the implementation of new solutions aimed at the cash service optimisation.

Last year the bank completed the first two stages of the strategic programme New Branch Front-End which is implemented across the branch network. The programme aims to provide the staff at branches with an integrated IT platform that will replace the several existing systems and will improve customer service. The New Front End will support CRM, sales, product service, scoring and many other processes. The first two stages covered the functionality connected with customer information quality and SME lending.

#### **Integration of Mobile Sales with the Branch Network**

As part of the Multi-Channel Integration project, in 2009 the Financial Advisors from the Mobile Sales structures were allocated to co-operation with the Branch Network and became involved in the branch sales processes.

Mobile Banking services are still mainly addressed to the external customers acquired through individual and group meetings. The Financial Advisors also manage customer requests received via the bank's website. Such sales are closed in the branch, which then becomes responsible for further relations with the customer. In 2009, the range of products available in the Mobile Sales channel was expanded, and now includes: cash loan, credit card, personal account, overdraft, savings account, business packages and SME finance.

At the end of December 2009, the bank offered services through 200 Financial Advisors.

#### **Private Banking**

Private Banking is a channel that focuses on high net worth individuals. Private Banking offices operate in Warsaw, Poznan and Wroclaw. Customers are serviced by two-person specialist teams, frequently outside of the bank premises. The channel specialises in the sale of savings and investment products. A key feature in the bank's investment offering are structured products of the bank and other financial institutions addressed to selected customers. Another key product is an umbrella of Luxembourg funds which allow affluent customers to invest into closed-end funds whose pricing compares favourably with the proposition available in Poland. The range of available products also includes tailor-made investment and financial solutions. The Private Banking customers can use a dedicated IT platform with passive access to their investment portfolio.

#### **Personal Banking**

Other affluent customers are referred to the Personal Banking channel. In 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK introduced a new Personal Banking model to provide tailored service – within the branch structure – to the possibly widest population of VIP customers. The number of VIP advisors was increased and their responsibilities were expanded to include the outlets reporting to the branches in which they are employed. In addition, the incentive scheme and the management information system have been upgraded to improve the work of the VIP advisors with regard to service quality and relationship building. The range of products addressed to the VIP customers has been expanded and individual investment solutions were introduced to allow customers to diversify the risks attaching to their savings.

# **Business & Corporate Banking Centres**

At the beginning of 2009, the bank restructured and expanded its business service model.

The number of Business Banking Centres increased to 15 units located in the key economic centres of Poland (compared with 8 Business Centres as at 31 December 2008). Their role is to provide comprehensive service to business customers, offering them efficient credit delivery through highly qualified and skilled personnel.

Corporate customers are managed by dedicated Corporate Business Centres in Warsaw, Poznan and Wroclaw. The Warsaw Centre also has departments responsible for preparation of customised structured finance.

Both the Business Banking Centres and Corporate Business Centres operate under the bank's Customer Relationship Management model, whereby a corporate customer's designated relationship manager controls the credit process and has overall responsibility for managing other areas of the relationship.

## **Electronic Distribution Channels**

#### BZWBK24

The BZWBK24 electronic banking system which gradually evolves into a multi-functional "virtual branch" has become increasingly important as a delivery channel. Its functionality includes opening of savings accounts and deposits, buying Arka fund units, obtaining information on the credit limits available under the simplified procedure as well as the possibility to top up GSM mobiles and actively support debit cards.

The bank ensures the highest security of electronic services by having transactions authorized through the text message (smsKod) or token while access to BZWBK24 Internet is safeguarded by a masked password. Besides, customers can monitor the IP addresses that are used for logging onto BZWBK24 and secure their Internet-based transactions with the 3-D Secure technology (confirming payments by means of smsKod or token).

In January 2009, the bank implemented the framework agreement called "Electronic Services Agreement", which allowed the BZWBK24 users to enter into online contracts for selected banking products without having to visit a branch. This solution is the basis of the automatic sales process in the new BZWBK24 home banking application available to users since October 2009. The new version of the application offers a "buy by click" functionality (no need to sign and return banking document), facilitates personal data management and provides customers with information on credit cards, loan repayment schedules and other items. The bank has also refreshed the look of the application, made it more ergonomic and secure and optimised the order placing process.

The new application is an important communication platform between bank and customers. It allows the bank to direct personalised messages to the users, initiate cross-sell proposals and encourage customers to strengthen their relationship with the bank. In 2009, the bank used the tools available under BZWBK24 service in the campaigns aimed to promote loans for selected customer groups, protect the bank's deposit base and activate customers to make card and electronic payments or top up their mobiles.

## **Telephone and Electronic Sales Centre**

The Telephone and Electronic Sales Centre (CSTiE) is responsible for direct sales, primarily through active sales campaigns with CRM and cross-selling objectives. In 2009, the campaigns focused on credit cards, cash loans, personal overdrafts, personal accounts, insurance and products for SMEs. Products were offered via the contact centre line and on-line. During customer service, cross-selling and up-selling opportunities were sought. Product sale initiated by the CSTiE or through the customer's online application is closed in a Bank Zachodni WBK branch chosen by the customer, or via courier.

To expand direct banking, 2009 saw implementation of the initiatives that optimised the sales process in the customer-facing environment. New tools were put in place (e.g. SMS channel and chat) to increase the activity of the existing customers and to acquire new ones.

#### **ATMs**

Bank Zachodni WBK also has a wide-ranging network of ATMs in convenient and most frequented locations. As at 31 December 2009, the ATM network of Bank Zachodni WBK comprised 1,042 machines, i.e. 38 more than 12 months before. All the machines complied with the technical requirements of the EMV (Europay, MasterCard, Visa) standard for microchip cards.

August 2009 saw implementation of the Dynamic Currency Converter in the entire Bank Zachodni WBK ATM network. With this innovative solution funds withdrawn by third party banks' customers from GBP, EUR or USD accounts are immediately converted into PLN with an indication of the exchange rate and debit amount.

In September 2009, the ATMs were equipped with the latest software to support implementation of new services and improve security of the transactions. All the machines had the RKL (Remote Key Loading) service implemented to eliminate the manual loading of ATM encryption keys. This ensures remote and easy replacement of keys, increases security and reduces workload. In addition, 350 antiskimming devices were installed, and a number of ATM bunkers were equipped with centrally-managed combination locks. Audits conducted last year confirmed the quality certificates awarded to the bank for its ATM network.

#### **External Distribution Channels**

#### **Bank Zachodni WBK Partner - Agency Outlets Network**

At the end of December 2009, the bank's agency network consisted of 89 outlets compared with the 56 outlets operating a year before. To enhance the profile of this network and to improve its market position, the bank's Management Board decided to give its own brand support and rename it to "Bank Zachodni WBK Partner" (previously "Minibank"). The rebranding process started in November 2008 and was completed in April 2009 across the network.

The agency outlets provide customers with an increasing range of basic banking products and services. In 2009, their customer proposition was expanded to include the standard cash loan, retail deposits, credit cards, personal accounts (BZWBK24, BZWBK24 Prestige, Account<30, Moneyback Account, Active 50+, High-Heeled Account) and electronic banking services. The agents also accept cash lodgements (including Western Union transfers) and act as intermediaries in the sale of home and business loans. The pace of development of the agency outlets is going to be maintained.

# 4. Service Quality Improvement

# **Customer Excellence**

Last year, Bank Zachodni WBK continued its Customer Excellence programme, whose objective is to become distinctive in the banking market and to maintain competitive edge in terms of service quality.

The Programme was developed based on customer expectations and feedback from customer satisfaction surveys. Its objective is to exceed customer expectations in the areas that are critical to loyalty-building. The Programme included 4 groups of objectives for 2009 ensuring the highest standards of direct customer service, i.e. reducing wait times, simplifying delivery of the key products, and giving special treatment to long-standing customers. These objectives involve several dozens of corrective and improvement initiatives whose progress is monitored by a steering committee.

# "Service Standards+: Be Ready to Go the Extra Mile"

In the period from April to June 2009, the new "Service Standards+" were implemented in the bank's branch network and in its subsidiaries. The idea behind these standards is encapsulated in the very strap-line "Be Ready to Go the Extra Mile". The standards promote personal commitment in dealing with customers, giving more than expected and managing customer experience in difficult situations. Each branch undergoes a monthly mystery shopping with feedback provided to individual staff members.

# **Highest Customer Satisfaction Index (CSI)**

In 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK recorded the highest Customer Satisfaction Index in its history. The global CSI, including all the measured quality attributes, amounted to 89.2%, which is higher than the CSI achieved by the bank's competitors under the same methodology. At the same time, the bank exceeded its CSI-based targets for all the areas covered by the Customer Excellence Programme. The most spectacular score was recorded in face-to-face customer service with the branch index coming in at 91.2%.

#### **Position in Rankings**

In 2009, the service quality of Bank Zachodni WBK was highly rated in independent external rankings (see Chapter X "Awards and Recognitions" for more details).

# V. Human Resources and Corporate Values

# 1. Human Resources Management

#### **Human Resources**

As at 31 December 2009, the number of FTEs in Bank Zachodni WBK was 8,809 and lower by 706 y-o-y. This comes in the wake of the Management Board decision to freeze employment and not to fill in natural vacancies. The decision was driven by the sharp slowdown in economy and the need to align the resources (much expanded as a result of the dynamic growth in 2007-2008) to the new market conditions. Regardless of the economic climate, the lower y-o-y employment is also related to the continued centralization of certain functions and processes as well as IT changes progressed in Bank Zachodni WBK.

# **HR Initiatives**

In 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK focused on reduction of staff costs, keeping high HR management standards and supporting staff relations and team spirit in compliance with corporate values.

The senior management of the bank was committed to ensure maximum protection of jobs and minimize redundancies. With this mindset, a number of tailored solutions were implemented to curb staff costs, including: reduction of working hours, career breaks and unpaid leaves. These were applied dependent on staff preferences and capacities of individual organisational units and brought appreciable staff cost savings without having to resort to more significant reductions.

The agenda of the management in 2009 gave high priority to initiatives aimed to keep the staff motivated and engaged, and also to maintain quality two-way communication to make employees well aware of the impact of the prevalent situation on the bank and increase their sense of participation in the affairs of the organisation. With a view to ensuring efficient management at all levels, newly promoted managers across the organisation went through dedicated training to prepare them for their new roles including, among others, staff support and development processes.

The bank continues its Performance Management Process (PMP), based on objectives set in three performance areas: business focus, customer focus and people focus. The process includes individual objectives performance monitoring and assessment. Due to regular performance reviews, the staff understand their role in the overall strategy and receive support and feedback. Based on the analysis of strengths and weaknesses of the PMP process, at the beginning of 2009 new IT tools were implemented to facilitate it.

#### **Training**

The bank places a great emphasis on the improvement of staff knowledge and skills. Training courses are organised in response to the business needs and in keeping with the bank's strategic priorities. Compliance with the strategic and training objectives is ensured through the central planning and coordination of training, a process actively supported by the branch banking and other business units. The integrated training plan facilitates the logistics and monitoring of training quality and costs.

In 2009, most of the training projects were addressed to the branch banking staff with frequent use of e-learning (90% of all trainings). Training for branches covered the following topics: flagship products, sales techniques, SME lending, hands-on training for the users of the New Front End in the branches. The Bank also supported the professional development of BZ WBK Partner staff through induction programs as well as training on products and sales techniques.

In 2009, the bank launched two training projects co-financed by the European Social Fund, aimed at the customer service improvement. Both initiatives ("BZ WBK Advisor – towards professional excellence" and "Professional sale – development programme for the sales staff and customer service staff in BZ WBK") are scheduled for the years 2009-2010 and target the Branch Banking employees.

The bank continued to invest in the development of management skills of its leaders by pursuing such programmes as Talent Management (selected branch directors) and Leaders of the Future (top

performers with leadership potential). In line with its leadership development strategy, the bank also carried out programmes addressed to the management at particular levels, e.g. Development Programme for Microbranch Managers, Programme for Newly Appointed Managers.

The total number of participants in the development programmes held in 2009 exceeded 130 k and was 54% higher than in 2008. Training costs were reduced by 61% y-o-y due to the wider use of e-learning system and internal resources (e.g. bank experts) in the training process.

#### **Performance Share Programme**

Every year from 2006 through to 2008, Bank Zachodni WBK launched a 3-year incentive scheme for the key employees of Bank Zachodni WBK Group, allowing them to purchase the bank's shares on preferential terms, subject to achievement of performance targets in the years covered by the scheme.

The incentive schemes have been designed to motivate the key employees of the bank and its subsidiaries to continue their efforts, inspire strong dedication to the organisation's strategic objectives and thus to ensure high competitiveness and financial efficiency of Bank Zachodni WBK in the long-term perspective as well as to bring benefit to the shareholders.

The first two editions of the Performance Share Programme entitled its participants (max. 100 employees) to buy bonds with pre-emptive rights and in the next stage to take up – at nominal prices – the bank's shares issued as part of the conditional increase of the share capital. Performance Programme no. 3 is targeted at maximum 600 managers. The candidates signed "Participation Agreement" defining the number of shares and the conditions for their acquisition at the nominal value. Under all incentive schemes, the shares vest subject to achievement of a minimum compounded EPS growth over the 3 years of each scheme's duration (2006-2008, 2007-2009, 2008-2010).

On 21 April 2009, the Supervisory Board of Bank Zachodni WBK passed a resolution stipulating that conditions for the first Incentive Scheme of 2006 were met. In May 2009, subscription of H series shares issued by the bank under resolution of the General Meeting of Shareholders of 4 April 2009 on the conditional increase of share capital was completed. In total, 115,729 shares were allocated to 86 employees. On 10 July 2009, the H series shares were registered with the National Depository of Securities.

The long term programme is monitored to ensure if any of the employees might have lost their participant status. As of 31 December 2009, the number of shares vested under the 2nd and 3rd edition of the Programme was 341,701 compared with 361,200 a year before.

# 2. Corporate Values

#### **Code of Business Ethics**

Bank Zachodni WBK follows the Code of Business Ethics, which sets out the general standards of behaviour which underpin the bank's corporate culture.

According to the Code, in all aspects of its activities, the bank will comply with the business ethics requirements, conform with the law and act in accordance with the best corporate governance and risk management models. The bank seeks to create a climate of trust in its dealings with customers, employees, shareholders and other stakeholders, promoting such values as integrity, professionalism, prudence and competence. The perception of being a dependable organisation is seen as a prerequisite for further development and success, but the bank also has the ambition to be recognised for being engaging and pioneering. As a responsible corporate citizen, the bank supports corporate-giving and sponsorship programmes.

The Code of Business Ethics is supported by detailed policies and procedures which are regularly reviewed and updated. In 2009, stricter regulations were introduced with a view to preventing the conflicts of interest.

## **Corporate Culture**

Bank Zachodni WBK S.A. attaches a great importance to compliance with the law, internal regulations and best practice in all aspects of its activities.

The bank constantly seeks to reinforce the professional and ethical behaviour of its employees. Training on business ethics is mandatory for all new entrants. Also, an ongoing Compliance and Business Ethics training programme (COMeT) addressed to all employees from the bank has been continued. The programme is designed to raise awareness of the staff and to encourage proper behaviours should they be faced with a conflict of interest, suspected fraud or situations which may raise ethical dilemmas. Throughout 2009, employees of the bank were required to participate in further training (e-learning) on ethical issues, fraud prevention, personal data protection and best practice in bancassurance.

# 3. Corporate Responsibility

As per the declaration in the Code of Business Ethics, the bank is involved in the matters of local communities by participating in various social programmes

One of the areas which Bank Zachodni WBK is committed to is promotion of entrepreneurship. Bank Zachodni WBK co-operates with the Fundacja Polska Przedsiebiorcza (Entrepreneurial Poland Foundation) and the National Bank of Poland organising conferences, workshops and seminars for young and active people from selected academic centres. The co-operation is a part of the "Polish Entrepreneurship Days" programme, which seeks to encourage business initiatives and entrepreneurship in Poland. In 2009, the cities covered by the programme included Poznan, Bialystok, Slupsk and Torun.

In 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK started an educational project called "Your Modern Firm" targeted at the owners and employees of micro and small companies from the Kujawsko-Pomorskie and Pomorskie provinces (for more details see Chapter IV, section "Current Accounts and Other Products for Micro, Small and Other Companies").

In collaboration with the Civil Development Foundation, the bank helps disseminate economic knowledge through comic books selected in a competition procedure. Based on the works received through the competition, an anthology of comic books was created, which was then used to devise lessons on entrepreneurship for primary and secondary schools.

Corporate responsibility manifests itself through social consultations. In 2009, a cycle of meetings were organised between Bank Zachodni WBK employees and the Friends of Integration Association. The consultations led to starting a pilot project whereby 57 Branches will be audited by the Association's experts in terms of their accessibility to the disabled. Bank Zachodni WBK also issued 40 thousand internet cards coming with the "Integration Magazine". The card holders can make on-line payments without having an account with Bank Zachodni WBK. A part of the interchange fee earned by the bank is donated to the Association. As part of the social consultations, the bank also developed a banking proposition dedicated to non-governmental organizations.

Charity programmes are carried out by the Bank Zachodni WBK Foundation with the main focus on projects dedicated to children from destitute families. In the first half of 2009, the Foundation initiated an educational subsidy programme for destitute children. The bank subsidised such initiatives as computer training, language courses, educational tours, training for volunteers working with children. 200 organisations, schools and local day-care centres across Poland benefited from the programme. Financial support was also provided to employees and their relatives who suffered major accidents.

The Foundation granted scholarships to and promoted gifted students from destitute families. Music scholarship holders took part in the concert "Young Talents" as part of the international festival, "Pearl of Baroque", and Chopin concerts during Warsaw Fashion Street. Science scholarship winners were invited to an international project in the Institute of Physical Chemistry at the Polish Academy of Science.

In July 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK started the "Orlik Academy" in Warsaw. This is a programme designed to find 6-8-year old children gifted in sports and offer them participation in a professional football school for 12 months. In 2009, the Orlik Academy programme was run as a pilot in the four provinces: Dolnoslaskie, Lodzkie, Mazowieckie and Pomorskie. The programme is led together with the Polish Association of Former Footballers, including Dariusz Dziekanowski. The Ministry of Sport and Tourism became a patron of the programme.

Bank Zachodni WBK has been supporting football in Poland for several years, notably as a sponsor of the Polish national team. The bank also provides organisational and financial assistance (purchase of equipment) to the local youth clubs.

In the summer of 2009, the bank arranged a series of free music concerts under the name "Rest with Chopin" in six Polish cities. The concerts started in Warsaw and were performed, among others, by the artists sponsored by Bank Zachodni WBK. This gave them an opportunity to make a pubic appearance among recognised pianists. This is an example of how the bank's sponsoring and corporate-giving activity can be combined. All the concerts provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen or build the awareness of the bank's brand and proposition.

# VI. Financial Situation

# 1. Profit and Loss Account

The table below presents major developments in key categories of the profit and loss account of Bank Zachodni WBK in 2009 compared with the previous year.

PLN m

| Condensed Profit and Loss Account       | 2009      | 2008      | Change |
|---|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Total income                            | 3,088.5   | 2,839.7   | +8.8%  |
| Total costs                             | (1,479.9) | (1,500.4) | -1.4%  |
| Impairment losses on loans and advances | (449.7)   | (351.9)   | +27.8% |
| Profit-before-tax                       | 1,158.9   | 987.4     | +17.4% |
| Tax                                     | (172.7)   | (178.2)   | -3.1%  |
| Net profit for the period               | 986.2     | 809.2     | +21.9% |

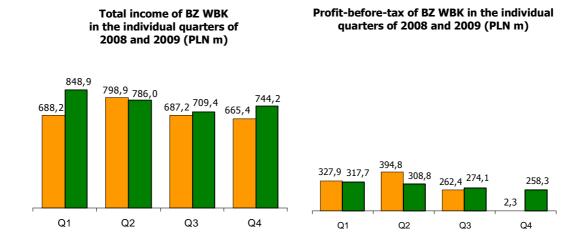
Despite the accumulation of the adverse developments in the macroeconomic environment, the income of Bank Zachodni WBK for the 12 months of 2009 increased by 8.8% y-o-y. Excluding the gains on disposal of equity investments (PLN 3.4 m in 2009 vs. PLN 66.3 m in 2008), the total income increased by 11.2% y-o-y.

The income earned reflects the diversification of the income streams and enhancement of the Bank's sales potential in the previous years as well as the effective strategy and strong business activity of the bank in the individual product areas in 2009.

With the implementation of further savings projects, optimisation of procurement processes and tight monitoring of cost efficiency in each business area, in 2009 the bank's cost base decreased by 1.4% y-o-y, including 4.9% reduction of administrative expenses.

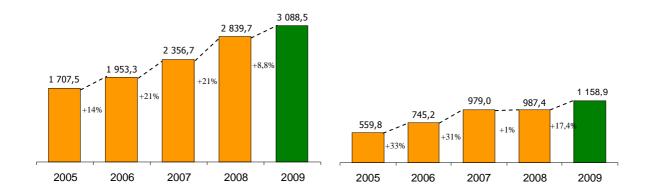
However, the cost of credit risk increased as a result of deteriorating financial standing of borrowers in the difficult macroeconomic environment.

In the end, Bank Zachodni WBK posted a profit-before-tax of PLN 1,158.9 m, an increase of 17.4% on the previous year. The profit-after-tax attributable to the shareholders of Bank Zachodni WBK was PLN 986.2 m and was higher by 21.9% y-o-y.



# Total income of BZWBK in the years 2005-2009 (PLN m)

# Profit-before-tax of BZWBK in the years 2005-2009 (PLN m)



#### **Income**

In 2009, the income of Bank Zachodni WBK was PLN 3,088.5 m and 8.8% up y-o-y. The main constituents of the total income were as follows:

PLN m

| E                                  |         |         |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total Income                       | 2009    | 2008    | Change  |
| Net interest income                | 1,415.5 | 1,491.5 | -5.1%   |
| Net commission income              | 1,022.9 | 974.1   | +5.0%   |
| Dividend income                    | 337.6   | 218.3   | +54.6%  |
| Net trading income and revaluation | 268.9   | 45.3    | +493.6% |
| Other non-interest income *        | 43.6    | 110.5   | -60.5%  |
| Total                              | 3,088.5 | 2,839.7 | +8.8%   |

<sup>\*</sup> other non-interest income includes: 1) profit on disposal of subsidiaries and associates; 2) profit on other financial instruments; 3) other operating income

#### **Net Interest Income**

Net interest income amounted to PLN 1,415.5 m and decreased by 5.1% y-o-y despite the favourable changes in the bank's balance sheet structure resulting from the growth of the personal deposit and credit base. The decrease was caused by the negative impact of deposits which in 2009 were usually priced higher than the inter-bank rates. This in turn reflects the sharp price competition that has been a feature of the deposits market since September 2008. Further downward pressure on deposit margins was caused by a series of interest rate cuts which commenced in November 2008 and continued until June 2009. The higher costs of raising deposits were partly offset by increased credit margins.

Taking into account other interest-related income from FX Swaps and Basis Swaps (PLN 215.4 m for 2009 and PLN 91.2 m in the corresponding period), which are disclosed under "net trading income and revaluation", the underlying net interest income increased by 3.1% y-o-y.

#### **Net Commission Income**

PLN m

| Net Commission Income                     | 2009    | 2008  | Change |
|---|---------|-------|--------|
| Direct banking *                          | 273.2   | 236.8 | +15.4% |
| FX fees                                   | 226.5   | 235.0 | -3.6%  |
| Account maintenance and cash transactions | 251.6   | 233.7 | +7.7%  |
| Credit fees **                            | 144.3   | 103.1 | +40.0% |
| Insurance fees                            | 66.9    | 71.5  | -6.4%  |
| Fund distribution                         | 59.0    | 92.1  | -35.9% |
| Other ***                                 | 1.4     | 1.9   | -26.3% |
| Total                                     | 1,022.9 | 974.1 | +5.0%  |

<sup>\*</sup> includes fees for foreign and mass payments, Western Union transfers and trade finance, credit cards and services for third party institutions as well as other electronic and telecommunication services

Net commission income amounted to PLN 1,022.9 m and increased by 5% y-o-y as a result of income growth in several major business lines. Credit fees increased by 40% y-o-y, mainly due to alignment of the bank's pricing policy to the changing external environment. This growth was also aided by the falling credit intermediation costs as a result of modification of the Mobile Sales structures. The net commission income from e-business and payments increased by 15.4% y-o-y as a result of strong growth of two product lines: "services to third-party financial institutions" and "debit cards". The account maintenance and cash transactions fees increased by 7.7% y-o-y driven by personal accounts which generated a higher level of income following acquisition of new customers and modification of selected items of the schedule of fees and charges of Bank Zachodni WBK.

In 2009, the net income from the Arka funds distribution fees decreased by 35.9%, which is due to the sharp downturn in the capital markets which persisted until March 2009 and investors' uncertainty about continuation of the growth trends observed in the equity market in the subsequent months. Despite the rising sale of insurance products, the bancassurance line was lower by 6.4% y-o-y. The figure was impacted by the Bank's decision to make a provision for the likely reimbursement of insurance premiums to customers, which is primarily related to the early repayment of loans. At the same time, the income from FX fees decreased by 3.6% due to the tightening of FX exposure limits and significantly reduced customer FX activity in the market place.

#### **Dividend Income**

Dividend income of PLN 337.6 m increased by 54.6% y-o-y. This change was mainly influenced by the dividend allocated to the bank by BZ WBK AIB Asset Management S.A. (PLN 187.3 m in 2009 compared with PLN 90.2 m in 2008) and Aviva Towarzystwo Ubezpieczen na Zycie S.A. (PLN 70.3 m in 2009 versus PLN 44 m in 2008).

#### **Net trading Income and Revaluation**

Net trading income and revaluation amounted to PLN 268.9 m, up by 493.6% y-o-y. The movement in this line was most strongly affected by the wholesale FX Swaps transacted, among others, as part of the management of the EUR- and CHF-denominated credit portfolio. In addition to income from FX Swap transactions, this line includes income from the Basis Swap transactions. Both items are treated as interest-like income and in 2009 they added up to PLN 215.4 m versus PLN 91.2 m achieved in the comparable period. Net trading income and revaluation also includes a write-down of derivative instruments of PLN 28.8 m related to counterparty risk. In 2008, the write-down of PLN 81 m was posted. The heading also contains PLN 38 m representing the positive fair value adjustment to Cross Currency Swaps based on the revised estimate of such instruments which was prompted by a substantial increase in market spreads observed since 2008 year-end. The mark-to-market valuation

<sup>\*\*</sup> includes selected fees related mainly to lending which are not amortised to interest income (e.g. credit cards, overdrafts)

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> other net income includes, among others, fees for distribution of structured products

of these derivatives will continue to revert to zero on a case-by-case basis over their remaining life. No similar correction to the net trading income and revaluation occurred in 2008.

#### **Other Non-interest Income**

Other non-interest income totalled PLN 43.6 m and was 60.5% lower y-o-y due to large once-off items recognised in the comparable period, such as profit on the disposal of the shareholding in Mastercard Inc. (PLN 22.4 m) and Commercial Union PTE BPH CU WBK S.A. (PLN 20.6 m) as well as the income from the transactions connected with Visa Inc. (PLN 23.2 m). In addition, the income for 2008 was characterised by higher revenues from the sale of services, including IT services to the AIB Group.

## **Impairment**

After the 12 months of 2009, the loan impairment charge to the profit and loss account was PLN 449.7 m compared with PLN 351.9 m in the corresponding period.

PLN<sub>m</sub>

| Impairment Losses on Loans and Advances   | 2009    | 2008    |
|---|---------|---------|
| Impairment recognised on incurred and reported losses (individual and collective) | (402.3) | (179.4) |
| Impairment recognised on incurred but not reported losses (IBNR)                  | (61.4)  | (176.3) |
| Recovered debts   | 17.5    | 10.2    |
| Impairment recognised on off-balance sheet items                                  | (3.5)   | (6.4)   |
| Total   | (449.7) | (351.9) |

The impairment level has been driven by the deteriorating macroeconomic environment. Slowdown has affected most sectors of the Polish economy, resulting in the reduced ability of businesses to meet their liabilities. Developments in the macroeconomic environment also adversely affected the labour market and thus impaired debt repayment capacity within the personal customer segment.

Under the individual approach, credit exposures are reviewed quarterly whereas under the collective approach impairment charges are updated on a monthly basis. This procedure ensures timely and adequate recognition of individual and collective impairment provisions, including IBNR. Every effort is made to reduce the risks identified and pursue effective restructure/recovery of impaired debts.

#### **Costs**

In 2009, the total costs of Bank Zachodni WBK amounted to PLN 1,479.9 m and decreased by 1.4% y-o-y as a result of the HR policy and intensified implementation of administrative, technological and procedural measures aimed to reduce the Bank's costs. This is also due to the development of cost-saving mindset among employees.

PLN m

| Total Costs   | 2009      | 2008      | Change |
|---|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Staff and other administrative expenses, including: | (1,351.7) | (1,386.8) | -2.5%  |
| - staff costs                                       | (780.4)   | (785.9)   | -0.7%  |
| - other administrative expenses                     | (571.3)   | (600.9)   | -4.9%  |
| Depreciation/amortisation                           | (112.2)   | (97.6)    | +15.0% |
| Other operating costs                               | (16.0)    | (16.0)    | 0.0%   |
| Total   | (1,479.9) | (1,500.4) | -1.4%  |

Staff costs decreased by 0.7% y-o-y to PLN 780.4 m primarily due to reduction in the average employment in the bank by 96 FTEs y-o-y. Training costs were appreciably reduced by limiting

training courses to those that were critical to the bank's business and by placing heavy reliance of e-learning and internal training resources, including in-house experts. The effects of the savings initiatives were partly absorbed by the higher accruals for staff bonuses for the performance in 2009.

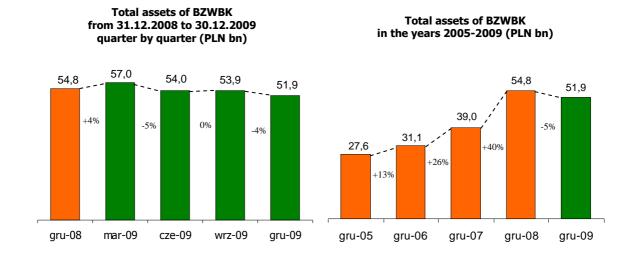
The bank's other administrative expenses decreased by 4.9% y-o-y to PLN 571.3 m. This change was most apparent in the reduced advertising and marketing spend and reflected the smaller scale of promotional campaigns held in 2009. Savings were also achieved in consultancy costs which went down with completion of projects requiring third party expert support. The slower development of the Bank Zachodni WBK branch network led to a substantial reduction of the branch fit-out costs. In addition, efforts were increased to rationalise the cost base. Following a review of the existing policies, procedures, processes and contracts, a number of cost-saving initiatives were implemented and non-cost effective processes were improved.

After the four quarters of 2009, depreciation totalled PLN 112.2 m and increased by 15% y-o-y due to the increase in the value of fixed assets as a result of expansion and upgrade of the bank's branch network.

#### 2. Financial Position

#### **Assets**

As at 31 December 2009, total assets of Bank Zachodni WBK amounted to PLN 51,939.6 m and were 5.2% down on 31 December 2008.



The table below presents major developments in key categories of total assets of Bank Zachodni WBK at the end of December 2009 versus December 2008.

PLN m

| Assets                                    | 31.12.2009 | Structure<br>31.12.2009 | 31.12.2008 | Structure<br>31.12.2008 | Zmiana |
|---|------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Loans and advances to customers*          | 32,626.2   | 62.8%                   | 32,654.3   | 59.6%                   | -0.1%  |
| Investment securities                     | 13,265.8   | 25.6%                   | 12,894.4   | 23.5%                   | +2.9%  |
| Cash and operations with the Central Bank | 2,660.6    | 5.1%                    | 3,178.1    | 5.8%                    | -16.3% |
| Financial assets held for trading         | 1,301.0    | 2.5%                    | 3,222.4    | 5.9%                    | -59.6% |
| Loans and advances to banks               | 647.6      | 1.3%                    | 1,347.8    | 2.5%                    | -52.0% |
| Fixed and intangible assets               | 743.8      | 1.4%                    | 774.2      | 1.4%                    | -3.9%  |
| Other assets                              | 694.6      | 1.3%                    | 739,9      | 1.3%                    | -6.1%  |
| Total                                     | 51,939.6   | 100.0%                  | 54,811.1   | 100.0%                  | -5.2%  |

<sup>\*</sup> net of impairment losses

The downward movement in total assets throughout 2009 was mainly affected by the "financial assets held for trading", which decreased (-59.6% y-o-y) due to a strategic reduction in the volumes of FX derivative business traded and the maturity of a significant number of transactions that were not replaced. The reduction in the "loans and advances to banks" (-52% y-o-y) was a reflection of the prudent liquidity management of the bank's balance sheet and the increased demand for State Treasury debt securities. The bank's investments into Treasury bonds were only partly reflected in the increase in "investment securities" (+2.9% y-o-y) due to the decision by the NBP Management Board which permitted early redemption of the NBP bonds with a nominal value of PLN 573 m at the beginning of 2009. The decrease in the "cash and operations with the Central Bank" (-16.3% y-o-y) is, among other things, a sign of stabilisation of the liquidity position of the banking sector after the disruptions occurring late in 2008. Net "loans and advances to customers" were similar to 2008.

#### **Credit portfolio**

PLN m

| . =  |            |            |        |
|--|------------|------------|--------|
| Gross Loans and Advances to Customers                      | 31.12.2009 | 31.12.2008 | Change |
| Loans and advances to business and public sector customers | 23,078.7   | 23,843.0   | -3.2%  |
| Loans and advances to personal customers                   | 10,600.1   | 9,208.0    | +15.1% |
| Other*   | 22.8       | 453.1      | -95.0% |
| Total  | 33,701.6   | 33,504.1   | +0.6%  |

<sup>\*</sup> other receivables include, e.g. repo transactions (PLN 10.1 m as of 31.12.2009 vs. PLN 441.8 m as of 31.12.2008)

In 2009, the strong credit delivery to personal customers was accompanied by a decrease in loans and advances to business and public sector customers. In effect, at the end of December 2009, gross loans and advances to customers increased by 0.6% y-o-y to PLN 33,701.6 m.

In 2009, the loans and advances to personal customers increased by 15.1% to PLN 10,600.1 m due to the attractive credit proposition and effective sales campaigns. The strongest growth in this portfolio was recorded in cash loans (+19.6%), which amounted to PLN 3,214.4 m, while home mortgages increased by 11.2% y-o-y to PLN 6,062.5 m.

Loans and advances to business and public sector customers amounted to PLN 23,078.7 m, falling by 3.2% y-o-y. Included in this loan-book are property loans which amounted to PLN 11 490 m as at 31 December 2009 and remained stable y-o-y. The decline in total loans and advances to institutional

customers was a result of the reduced business activity of companies, pro-active approach of the bank to the sectoral risk and revision of its risk assessment methods to reflect the new economic realities.

At the end of December 2009, the impaired loans accounted for 5.6% of the gross portfolio versus 3% recorded 12 months before. The provision cover ratio for the impaired loans was 39.4% compared with 56.5% as at 31 December 2008, reflecting the higher share of well-collateralized property loans in the total non-performing loan-book.

#### Structure of Loans and Advances to Customers of Bank Zachodni WBK



#### **Equity and liabilities**

The table below presents major developments in key categories of the equity and liabilities of Bank Zachodni WBK at the end of December 2009 versus December 2008.

PLN m

| Equity and Liabilities                 | 31.12.2009 | Structure<br>31.12.2009 | 31.12.2008 | Structure<br>31.12.2008 | Zmiana |
|--|------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Deposits from customers                | 41,262.2   | 79.4%                   | 43,381.9   | 79.1%                   | -4.9%  |
| Deposits from banks                    | 2,301.5    | 4.4%                    | 1,957.6    | 3.6%                    | +17.6% |
| Amounts owed to the Central Bank       | 1,519.2    | 3.0%                    | 1,242.6    | 2.3%                    | +22.3% |
| Financial liabilities held for trading | 812.9      | 1.6%                    | 3,253.3    | 5.9%                    | -75.0% |
| Other liabilities                      | 550.3      | 1.0%                    | 555.1      | 1.0%                    | -0.9%  |
| Total equity                           | 5,493.5    | 10.6%                   | 4,420.6    | 8.1%                    | +24.3% |
| Total                                  | 51,939.6   | 100.0%                  | 54,811.1   | 100.0%                  | -5.2%  |

On the liabilities side, a significant decrease was noted in the "financial liabilities held for trading" (-75% y-o-y) as a result of a strategic reduction in the volumes of FX derivative business traded and the maturity of a significant number of transactions that were not replaced. The "deposits from customers" decreased by 4.9% y-o-y. Adjusting however for large short-term deposits held at the end of 2009 by institutional customers and not rolled-over on maturity, the bank's deposit base increased by 1.6%. Compared with the end of 2008, there was a 22.3% increase in the amounts owed to the Central Bank in respect of the reverse repo transactions. The increase in the volume of such transactions made with commercial banks and the value of deposits from the inter-bank market is reflected under the line "deposits from banks" (+17.6% y-o-y). The Bank's "total equity" increased by 24.3% in the wake of the decision made by the General Meeting of Shareholders of 21 April 2009 on allocating the entire profit earned by Bank Zachodni WBK for 2008 to reserve funds and general reserve.

#### **Deposit base**

PI N m

| Deposits from Customers                             | 31.12.2009 | 31.12.2008 | Change |
|---|------------|------------|--------|
| Deposits from retail customers                      | 24,988.9   | 23,817.1   | +4.9%  |
| Deposits from business and public sector customers* | 16,273.3   | 19,564.8   | -16.8% |
| Total   | 41,262.2   | 43,381.9   | -4.9%  |

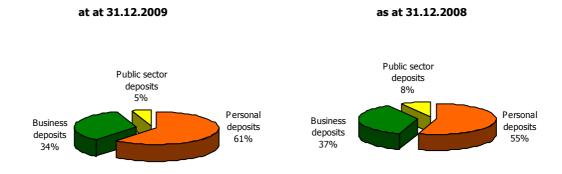
<sup>\*</sup> Deposits from business and public sector as at 31 December 2008 include PLN 2,786 m of short-term deposits which were not rolled-over on maturity.

Deposits from customers, which represent 79.4% of the bank's total equity and liabilities are the primary source of funding of the bank's lending business. Compared with the end of the previous year, customer deposits decreased by 4.9% to PLN 41,262.2 m as at 31 December 2009. This value comprises the funds deposited in current accounts (PLN 16,944.1 m, up 4.3% y-o-y), term deposits (PLN 24,031.9 m, down 10.3% y-o-y) and other liabilities.

Excluding a number of high-value short-term deposits held by business and public sector customers at the end of 2008 (PLN 2,786 m in total), which - in accordance with the Bank's expectations - were not rolled over on their respective maturities, the deposits from both sectors decreased by 3% y-o-y to PLN 16,273.3 m, while the total customer deposit base increased by 1.6% y-o-y. In 2009, businesses suffered from a tighter liquidity and had to resort to a greater extent to cash inflows and balances in banking accounts to fund their regular activities and investments.

Concurrently, the bank's deposits from retail customers increased by 4.9% y-o-y to PLN 24,988.9 m, which is attributable to the bank's attractive deposit offer for this segment, both with regard to current accounts and term deposits.

#### **Deposits from Customers of Bank Zachodni WBK**



#### 3. Key financial ratios

| Selected Financial Ratios                               | 31.12.2009 | 31.12.2008 |
|---|------------|------------|
| Total costs/Total income                                | 47.9%      | 52.8%      |
| Net interest income/Total income                        | 45.8%      | 52.5%      |
| Net commission income/Total income                      | 33.1%      | 34.3%      |
| Customer deposits/ Total equity & liabilities           | 79.4%      | 79.1%      |
| Customer loans/Total assets                             | 62.8%      | 59.6%      |
| Customer loans/Customer deposits                        | 79.1%      | 75.3%      |
| NPL ratio   | 5.6%       | 3.0%       |
| NPL coverage ratio                                      | 39.4%      | 56.5%      |
| Impairment losses on loans and advances / Average loans | 1.35%      | 1.33%      |
| ROE*  | 21.9%      | 22.4%      |
| ROA**   | 1.9%       | 1.7%       |
| Capital adequacy ratio                                  | 12.34%     | 9.81%      |
| Book value per share (in PLN)                           | 75.18      | 60.59      |
| Earnings per share (PLN)                                | 13.50      | 11.09      |

The following were used in computations:

#### 4. Interest Rates on Loans and Deposits

In principle, in 2009 Bank Zachodni WBK continued its policy to offer interest rate corresponding to inter-bank interest rates and risk attaching to individual transaction/customer. However, with limited supply in wholesale inter-bank markets, the demand for retail and business deposits increased considerably which was reflected in substantially higher deposit interest rates offered by competitive banks. This had a major impact on the relation between interest rates offered by Bank Zachodni WBK versus the inter-bank market and the National Bank of Poland. While in 2008 interest rates on deposits were close to or below the inter-bank market, in 2009 they were above that threshold for the majority of deposits.

Development of the credit risk assessment models permitted diversification of credit pricing for the majority of credit facilities. Currently, the credit margin reflects both the cost of risk and funding. In the case of sizable transactions, a tailored pricing and risk assessment process is used. A portfolio-based approach is applied to retail exposures so that the similar prices are applied for customers with similar risk profiles.

<sup>\*</sup> profit for the 12-month period and equity as at the end of the reporting period, net of current year's profit;

<sup>\*\*</sup> net profit for the 12-month period and average assets derived from the two comparative periods.

#### 5. Bank Zachodni WBK Rating

Bank Zachodni WBK has a bilateral credit rating agreement with Fitch Ratings Ltd.

In 2009, the agency released three rating announcements on the bank which are summarised below along with the 2008 rating:

| Fich Ratings Announcements on BZWBK        |                                |                               |                               |                                 |  |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Rating                                     | Rating<br>as of<br>25.09.2009* | Rating<br>as of<br>13.02.2009 | Rating<br>as of<br>15.01.2009 | Rating<br>as of<br>17.07.2008** |  |
| Long-term Issuer Default Rating            | BBB+                           | BBB+                          | BBB+                          | A+                              |  |
| Short-term Issuer Default Rating           | F2                             | F2                            | F2                            | F1                              |  |
| Long-term and Short-term Rating<br>Outlook | negative                       | negative                      | stable                        | negative                        |  |
| Individual Rating                          | С                              | С                             | С                             | С                               |  |
| Support Rating                             | 3                              | 3                             | 2                             | 1                               |  |

<sup>\*</sup> valid as of 31 Dec 2009

Reduction of the Long-term IDR, Short-term IDR, Support Rating and Rating Outlook results from lower rating of the bank's controlling shareholder (AIB) and reflects its lower ability to provide potential support to its subsidiaries. The AIB's individual rating was changed in 2009 from "B" to "C" and "D" due to the fall of its asset quality as a result of the deteriorating macroeconomic conditions and the negative outlook for further economic development in the Republic of Ireland.

The Long-term IDR, Short-term IDR and Individual Rating of Bank Zachodni WBK are now based on the stand-alone strength of the bank and reflect its strong market position, solid balance sheet, profitability and liquidity as well as adequate capitalisation. The support rating reflects the moderate likelihood of potential support from the Polish government. The negative rating outlook is indicative of the less favourable macroeconomic environment and its negative impact on operating margin, NPL level, cost of risk and the provision coverage of the NPL portfolio.

<sup>\*\*</sup> valid as of 31 Dec 2008

## **VII. Future Growth Prospects**

#### 1. Strategic Directions for 2009-2011

#### Mission Statement of Bank Zachodni WBK: The 3rd Largest Banking Institution in Poland

Bank Zachodni WBK intends to strengthen its position in the financial market, as a universal bank which offers a full array of financial services in the retail, business and investment banking segment. The mission statement of Bank Zachodni WBK assumes the following:

- growth of the share in specific market segments;
- high prestige and awareness of bank brand, based on attractive offers;
- customer proposition that is distinctive by its competitiveness and service quality;
- strong and stable financial base for the development of credit delivery operations, including the adequate level of liquidity and a strong capital position;
- numerous and diversified sources of income in three basic segments: retail banking, business banking and investment banking area;
- efficient risk management as required by stakeholders;
- shareholders satisfied with the volume and sustainability of generated profits.

Bank Zachodni WBK aspires to leverage off its extended delivery network (third biggest in Poland) to achieve 10% share in the banking sector and a higher position in terms of assets, equity and number of customers.

#### **Strategic Priorities for 2009-2011**

Key priorities of Bank Zachodni WBK include generating high and sustainable profits from diversified income sources, growth of the market share and consistent development of a strong national brand.

The global financial crisis and spreading recession have changed the prospects for macroeconomic development in Poland, shifting a sharper focus to the following key objectives:

- strengthening the Bank's capital base and maintaining appropriate capital adequacy ratio;
- active management of credit, operational and market risk;
- further diversification of income sources and search for new ones;
- diversification of the deposit base;
- credit/deposit ratio maintained at the level confirming adequate liquidity;
- active management of costs and low cost/income ratio;
- maximum leverage of the potential generated by 2007 and 2008 investments;
- expanding the capacity of the organisation to respond to customer needs and market demands;
- continued embedding of "compliance culture".

# Brand Image: A dependable Nationwide Bank Giving More to its Customers than its Competitors

The Bank Zachodni WBK image will combine advantages of a large and secure financial organization with the distinguishing features of young dynamic banks which fight for their market share by presenting attractive offers. Thanks to expansion of the branch network and brand communication the bank will be recognised as a national brand.

Customers will see Bank Zachodni WBK as a large nationwide organization, which:

- provides more value to the customer compared to other financial institutions and strives to outperform its market competitors;
- guarantees financial stability and protection of funds;
- offers products which are easy to understand and use;
- stands out in the market, with its modern and innovative solutions.

#### **Corporate Values**

Bank Zachodni WBK focuses on providing value to its customers through increased focus on:

- building the relationship based on trust and ethical values;
- performance focus;
- professional and timely delivery of tasks;
- readiness to learn;
- demonstrating respect for work and sense of ownership for the actions taken;
- ethical conduct, compliance with law, internal regulations and best practice.

The organisational culture of the bank is based on engaged, qualified and motivated staff. It also promotes teamwork, as well as continuous professional and personal development with due respect for individual employee needs and the demands of their family life. The bank always maintains the strictest ethical standards in its operational activity.

#### **Customer Acquisition and Retention**

#### Retail Banking: Increased Customer Acquisition and a Distinctive Customer Service

The retail segment will focus on the acquisition of customers entering the banking market: young customers (mainly students and university graduates) and persons who are starting business. The bank will also acquire active customers from other sections of the retail segment. An excellent bank account offer will be among the main tools used to attract these customers.

The bank will also mobilise its resources to strengthen loyalty of the existing customers and increase the scope and value of its customer relations. To this effect, the bank will use its IT capability, CRM and customer information systems to ensure above-average quality of service, and will offer a wide scope of savings, credit and settlement products. It will also strengthen its leadership position on innovative savings products market, based on deposits, investment and insurance products.

Selected retail customers, e.g. from VIP or Private Banking segment, will be offered top-quality service. Such service will involve the offering of innovative and tailored savings and credit products, as well as the assistance provided by expert advisors.

Retail customers will be serviced by a nationwide network of Bank Zachodni WBK branches. Supplementary service will be available from Partner outlets, a call centre, Internet, mobile agents and other distribution channels.

The priority of the bank is to integrate the distribution channels so that its customers can choose and fully avail of such method of contact with the bank that works best for them. The integration means wider access to products and processes as well as standardized customer information in all distribution channels.

# Business and Corporate Banking: Diversified Business and Development of Corporate and Business Centres

Business customers will be serviced by a nationwide network of Business Banking Centres operating in all major cities. Strategic corporate customers will be serviced by dedicated units in Warsaw, Poznan and Wroclaw. All business customers will be serviced by professional advisors, on an individual basis. Bank Zachodni WBK will pursue two strategic objectives: business diversification and take-over of the entire relationship with business customers by business advisors.

Diversification will be achieved in three dimensions:

- diversification of the loan portfolio by industry;
- diversification of the income streams geographically;
- diversification of income streams by products, in particular by increasing revenues from non-credit products.

Such diversification involves extension of the offer, further improvement of processes and continued building of the competences of business customer advisors in order to provide more effective customer service.

#### **Investment Banking: Maintained Financial Performance and New Income Sources**

In the time of economic slowdown, Bank Zachodni WBK focuses on probing new income sources, continued strengthening of the prestige of the brand, raising the service quality, attaining competitive investment performance and expanding the share in individual capital market segments (mutual funds, asset management, brokerage service) as well as on growing business in other lines such as advisory services, M&A (Mergers and Acquisitions) and LBOs (Leveraged Buy-outs).

#### **Operational Efficiency and Cost Savings: A Leaner Organisation and Faster Changes**

Bank Zachodni WBK will continue its cost optimisation initiatives, in particular it will:

- streamline the operating processes and customer service processes;
- centralize and automate control and back-office processes in the branches;
- seize any opportunity to reduce costs, through the implementation of savings programs, more efficient management, monitoring of contracts with key suppliers, utilization of advanced IT technologies, etc.

#### 2. Business Growth Environment Expected in 2010

The following factors are expected to impact the financial performance and operations of Bank Zachodni WBK in 2010:

- Gradual economic recovery in the world, including Poland's key trading partners, which will lead to an improvement in Polish exports and investment activity, stimulating the demand for credit and other banking products.
- The increasing unemployment will continue to have an adverse impact on personal loan portfolio.
- The uncertainty around the global economic revival with concerns that the downturn trend might reappear as governments and central banks gradually withdraw from stimulus policies.
- The new Monetary Policy Council is unlikely to change the basic interest rates of the National Bank of Poland throughout most of the year given the falling inflation and uncertainty about the further developments in the global and Polish economy (interest rate increases possible towards the end of 2010).
- Gradual reduction of the Central Bank actions supporting liquidity of the Polish banking sector.
- Continued significant volatility in the global financial markets, constraining investors' interest in mutual funds accompanied by a moderate increase in deposits due to the improvement in the performance of companies and despite the still difficult financial position of households.
- Moderate appreciation of the zloty against the main foreign currencies as a result of relatively good assessment of the Polish economy and the gradual rebuilding of the risk appetite in the global financial markets.
- Gradual increase in demand for properties and home loans given the improved outlook for the economy and the labour market.

## **VIII. Risk Management**

#### 1. Risk Management Structure

The main objective of risk management in Bank Zachodni WBK is to ensure effective operations to support development within the approved risk parameters. Risk management practice is in keeping with the industry benchmark and Basel II guidance, and covers operational risk as well as the three main financial risk areas: credit risk, market risk and liquidity risk.

Risk is managed within the predetermined acceptable risk level, which is reflected in the internal limit system. The applicable risk management policies govern the process of identifying, measuring and reporting the risk level and the process of setting limits for individual risks on a regular basis. The bank modifies and expands its risk management procedures on a regular basis, taking into account changes of market conditions, product offer, regulatory environment and evolving best practice in the sector.

The Bank Zachodni WBK Management Board, which is responsible for shaping and implementing the risk management structure, sets up committees, which are directly accountable for developing risk management methods and monitoring risk levels in specific areas. The activities of these committees are supervised by Bank Zachodni WBK Risk Management Committee which defines the risk management strategy in Bank Zachodni WBK, in particular identifies key risks, specifies the acceptable risk levels and methods of their measurement, controlling, monitoring and reporting. The following Committees report to Risk Management Committee: Credit Policy Forum, Credit Committee, Provisions Committee, ORMCo, Market Risk Committee, Assets and Liabilities Management Committee (ALCO/ICAAP Forum), Equity Investment and Underwriting Committee, Interbank Limits Committee, Disclosure Committee, Deposit Working Group and Private Banking Investment Committee.

#### 2. Credit Risk Management

#### **Credit Policy**

In its lending activity Bank Zachodni WBK focuses on a balanced growth of a high quality profitable loan-book and on customer satisfaction.

High quality credit exposure is ensured by applying principles of loan sanctioning and monitoring, which mitigate the credit risk.

Bank credit policy is composed of a set of principles and guidelines, which constitute credit policies and procedures introduced by Management Board resolutions, ordinances of Management Board Members and ordinances of the Chairman of Credit Policy Forum, and guidance communicated internally in response to changes in the business environment.

The bank's lending manuals set out credit delivery and collateral management processes in retail, SME, business and corporate banking areas.

The business lending policy sets a direction for lending and conditions under which the bank would finance specific groups of customers. The policy governs, inter alia, financing of specific segments, lending purposes and mitigation of acceptable risk.

Internal limits are crucial components of the bank lending policy. They facilitate monitoring of exposure concentration within individual sectors, geographical regions and foreign currencies.

Each lending regulation is reviewed at least once a year in order to ensure it is topical and complies with other internal procedures and laws.

Discretionary limits applied across the bank are governed by the guidelines on 'Discretionary Limits in Bank Zachodni WBK'. The guidelines define roles and responsibilities of individual units and staff members involved in the credit delivery process.

The bank's lending policies and procedures, credit grading and risk assessment systems are subject to approval of the Credit Policy Forum, which is chaired by the Chief Credit Officer.

The "Risk Appetite Statement", as approved by the Risk Management Committee and the Supervisory Board, is the fundamental document which defines the credit risk profile of the bank. The document sets out strategic limits and their acceptable levels within business operations of the bank.

#### **Credit Risk Management**

#### **Credit Risk**

Credit risk is defined as the possibility of suffering a loss if the borrower fails to meet their credit obligation, including payment of interest and fees. Credit risk arises from the impairment of credit assets and contingent liabilities as a consequence of the borrower's worsening credit quality. Credit risk measurement is based on the estimation of credit risk weighted assets, with the relevant risk weights representing both the probability of default and the potential loss given default of the borrower.

The bank's credit risk arises mainly from lending activities on the retail, corporate and inter-bank markets. This risk is managed as part of the policy approved by the Management Board on the basis of the adopted credit delivery procedures as well as on the basis of discretionary limits. The bank's internal system of credit grading and monitoring allows for an early identification of likely defaults that might impair the loan portfolio.

The bank's credit risk management involves actions taken as a result of the on-going analysis of the macroeconomic environment and the internal review of the particular credit portfolios. The advanced credit risk assessment tools allow quick remedial action to be taken in response to the first signals of changes in the portfolio quality or structure. In 2009, due to the economic slowdown, the bank tightened its already conservative lending policies and implemented new risk assessment models, adjusting the credit management process to the volatile market conditions. The high quality of the credit portfolio confirms that these actions have been effective.

#### **Credit Grading**

Intensive work has been undertaken for further development of the credit risk assessment tools to conform to the Basel requirements and International Accounting Standards/International Financial Reporting Standards (IAS/IFRS). The bank uses credit risk grading models for its key credit portfolios, including corporate customers, SMEs, home loans, income-producing real estates, cash loans, credit cards and personal overdrafts.

In 2009, new risk assessment models were implemented for credit cards and cash loans to incorporate customers' behavioural features established on the basis of data available from BIK (the National Credit Bureau), and a new SME model for external customers.

The bank runs a systematic monitoring of credit grading pursuant to the rules described in the lending manuals. In 2009, the monitoring was intensified and adjusted to the current situation. Additionally, for selected models automated process of credit grade verification is carried out based on the number of days past due or behavioural features analysis. Credit grade may also be verified at subsequent sanctions.

#### **Calculation of Impairment**

In Bank Zachodni WBK, impairment charges are recognised in accordance with the IAS/IFRS. The charges reflect credit impairment which is recognised if there is an objective evidence that such amounts cannot be recovered in line with the signed loan agreement. Objective indications of

impairment were defined in accordance with recommendation of Basel Committee and with the International Accounting Standards (IAS 39).

Impairment is calculated on the basis of the estimated recoverable amount. Impairment analysis is performed using both the individual (for individually significant exposures with objectively evidenced impairment) and collective approach (individually insignificant exposures with objectively evidenced impairment, and incurred but not reported losses).

The bank compares the assumptions and parameters used for impairment calculations with the actual situation every year. The comparison includes changes of economic conditions, amendments to bank credit policies and recovery process. The process provides assurance that impairment charges are recognized correctly. The responsibility for ensuring an adequate level of charges rests with the Provisions Committee.

#### **Credit Risk Stress Testing**

Stress testing is a part of the credit risk management process used to evaluate potential effects of specific events or movement of a set of financial and macroeconomic variables or change in risk profile on the bank's condition. Stress tests are composed of assessment of potential changes in credit portfolio quality when faced with adverse conditions. The process also delivers management information about adequacy of agreed limits and internal capital allocation.

#### **Return on Risk**

The bank continues to develop and improve risk based methods of pricing loans, allocating capital and measuring returns. Currently, for all significant portfolios, risk assessment models based on EVA are being implemented.

#### **Credit Decision Making Process**

The credit decision-making process as part of the risk management policy is based upon Individual Discretionary Limits vested in credit officers, commensurate with their knowledge and experience relating to particular activities (retail, business and corporate banking). Credit exposures in excess of PLN 25 m are referred to the Credit Committee composed of senior management and top executives.

Bank Zachodni WBK continually strives to ensure best quality credit services to meet the borrowers' expectations and relevant risk policy standards. To this end, the credit risk approval function has been separated from the sales function. Credit decision making functions and sales functions are combined only at the Branch Banking level and these are limited to exposures up to a pre-defined ceiling. The responsibility for credit decisions and loan portfolio quality assurance lies with the Chief Credit Officer and reporting managers.

In order to ensure better risk management, the bank implemented scoring techniques for retail customers, SME and home loans. The scoring systems are continuously refined to enhance the quality of risk management and the decision-making process.

#### **Credit Reviews**

The bank performs regular reviews to determine the actual quality of the credit portfolio, to confirm that adequate credit grading and provisioning processes are in place and to objectively assess professionalism in credit management. The reviews are performed by the Credit Review Department and the Quality Assurance Department, which are independent of the risk-taking units.

#### 3. Market Risk and Liquidity Risk Management

The key objective of the Bank Zachodni WBK market risk policy is to reduce the impact of interest and FX rates volatility on the bank's profitability and market value, increase income within the strictly defined risk limits and ensure the bank's liquidity.

The market risk associated with the bank's operations stems mainly from services provided to customers and related debt instruments, FX and equity transactions.

#### **Market Risk**

The Risk Management Committee approves strategies and policies on market risk management and limits that define the maximum acceptable exposure to individual risk types, in accordance with the Risk Appetite Statement.

The Management Board makes its strategic decisions on the basis of recommendations put forward by the ALCO Committee or the Market Risk Committee. The Management Board delegated the direct supervision of market risk management to the two above-mentioned Committees.

The direct market risk management is centralised within the Treasury Division.

#### **Identification and Assessment of Market Risk**

Qualified staff, using appropriate systems and controls, identifies, on an on-going basis, the market risk connected with retail and commercial activities and transfers it to the Treasury Division. The Treasury Division then executes relevant transactions (e.g. in the inter-bank market, in securities, derivatives, etc.) in order to maintain the risk at an acceptable level.

Market risk is measured and its compliance with the stated risk limits is monitored by qualified personnel independent of the unit which manages and generates the risk. Exposure to market risk is regularly reviewed by ALCO. Risk limits are periodically reviewed to align them with the bank's strategy and current objectives.

Interest rate and FX risks are monitored using the Value at Risk (VaR) methodology which is a standard industry tool for the measurement of interest rate and FX risk. VaR methodology uses a statistical process to determine the Probable Maximum Loss (PML) in economic value of a transaction or a portfolio of transactions as a result of an adverse change in market parameters. The bank applies the VaR methodology to both the trading and banking portfolio.

#### **Liquidity Risk**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the bank fails to meet its contingent and non-contingent commitments made to its customers and contractors.

The bank's liquidity policy is to counter-balance the expected outflows with expected inflows and/or sale of liquid assets (mainly debt securities) to resist any extraordinary or crisis situations triggered by internal factors (e.g. sudden increase in the value of facilities drawn under the sanctioned credit lines) or external ones (e.g. material liquidity contraction on the inter-bank market). The policy covers all assets and liabilities as well as off-balance sheet items impacting the liquidity level.

In order to manage liquidity in a challenging economic environment in 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK focused on keeping its loan-to-deposit ratio at a safe level and on maintaining a significant level of unencumbered liquid assets to provide an appropriate liquidity buffer (mainly government debt securities). Actions taken by the bank to keep customer deposits at an appropriate level through large scale marketing campaigns and tailored product offer ensured high stability of customer deposits (the main source of funding for Bank Zachodni WBK) despite fierce competition among banks.

#### **Liquidity Risk Management**

ALCO has overall responsibility for the supervision of liquidity risk on behalf of the Management Board. ALCO makes recommendations to the Management Board on appropriate strategies and policies for strategic liquidity management.

Also, direct liquidity management is centralised within the Treasury Division in order to keep the risk within the set limits. Compliance with the limits is measured and monitored on a daily basis by qualified staff, who are independent of risk-generating units and the managing unit.

Liquidity risk reports and results of stress tests are regularly reviewed by the senior management and by ALCO.

Bank Zachodni WBK has a scenario-based contingency plan approved by the Management Board to cater for unexpected liquidity problems, whether caused by external or internal factors. The plan is updated on a regular basis.

#### **Identification and Assessment of Liquidity Risk**

Liquidity risk is identified and measured daily, mainly using modified liquidity gap reports and regulatory reports. Regular liquidity measurement reports are supported by stress test results.

According to the policy pursued, the bank should have funds sufficient to cover outflows expected over one-month time horizon in full. The liquidity position over a longer time horizon and the level of easily marketable assets are monitored as well.

In 2009, the bank's funds significantly exceeded the level required to cover the expected outflows.

At the same time, the bank complied with Resolution no. 386/2008 of the Polish Financial Supervision Authority (KNF) on liquidity management, in respect of, inter alia, liquidity monitoring, measurement and reporting.

The bank met the regulatory quantitative requirements for liquidity throughout 2009. Key regulatory indicators (i.e. short term liquidity ratio and ratio of coverage of non-liquid assets and assets of limited liquidity with own funds and core external funds) comfortably exceeded the required levels.

#### 4. Operational Risk Management

According to the definition agreed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, operational risk is the risk of loss resulting from external factors or inadequacy or failure of internal processes, human resources and systems.

Operational risk is inherent in all the bank's business processes, including the outsourced functions or services delivered jointly with third parties. Each organisational unit in the bank is fully responsible for identification and management of the operational risks pertaining to its operations. The objective of the operational risk management is to minimise the likelihood and/or reduce the impact of unexpected adverse events.

Bank Zachodni WBK applies "Operational Risk Management Policy" and "Operational Risk Management Framework". In addition, detailed procedures and guidelines are used to define how risks are identified, estimated, monitored and mitigated.

The Operational Risk Management Committee (ORMCo) created by the Management Board sets the strategic direction for operational risk activities, in relation to, inter alia, BCM, information security and fraud prevention. ORMCo is a forum for official discussions on operational risk and it determines and monitors operational risk management objectives and sets priorities with regard to high risks. The effects of this work are reported to the Management Board.

To ensure adequate risk management and identification of the key threats, the following processes are employed:

• Identification and assessment of operational risk

In their self-assessment process, organisational units identify risks present in their processes, systems or products, assess inherent and residual risks in terms of their likelihood and impact, and describe the existing controls. The risks with high residual

rating have proper action plans developed with progress against them reviewed quarterly by ORMCo.

• Reporting on operational incidents and lessons learned

Each organizational unit is required to report operational incidents on a monthly basis. The data are used to carry out a root-cause analysis of the incidents with a view to ensuring that lessons learned are captured and preventive and corrective measures are taken.

Analysis of risk indicators

Risk indicators are financial and operational indicators which depict the risk level present in Bank Zachodni WBK and provide early warning of emerging threats and operational losses.

Business continuity management (BCM)

Each organizational unit is required to develop and update their business continuity management plans to ensure that critical business processes remain uninterrupted following an unplanned disruption. Business continuity plans must be tested at least annually to ensure that it is possible to restore critical business processes at the required service level and within the agreed timeframe. There are backup locations where critical processes can be restored and continued should an incident occur.

• Regular reporting to the Risk Management Committee and Supervisory Board

Operational risk reports include, inter alia: operational risk incidents, risk indicators, operational risk self-assessment.

Insurance

The bank's insurance cover includes the following insurance lines: Bankers' Bond, Computer Crime and Professional Indemnity.

#### 5. Legal and Regulatory Risk Management

#### **Legal and Regulatory Risk**

According to the guidelines of the Basel Committee, legal and regulatory risk is the risk of sanctions imposed by supervision authorities, significant financial loss or reputation damage which the bank may be exposed to whenever the regulations, standards and codes of conduct applicable to the bank's business operations are breached.

#### **Identification and Assessment of Risk**

Accountabilities of the Compliance Area include ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements applicable to business operation, including prevention of money laundering, protection of confidential information and protection of personal data. Tasks of identifying, interpreting and propagating knowledge of other legal and regulatory requirements across the bank were assigned to units having competence in such areas.

The HR Management Division is responsible for compliance with the labour law, the Finance Division is responsible for compliance with the tax law, and the Finance and Risk Management Divisions are responsible for compliance with prudential regulations.

The Compliance Area coordinates the semi-annual process of assessing key legal and regulatory risks in Bank Zachodni WBK. The process includes estimating risk weights, potential impact of risk on business and effectiveness of controls, which are in place to mitigate the risks. Legal and regulatory risk reviews focus on threats to which the bank may be exposed to over the coming three years, including risks associated with implementation of new regulations, enhanced controls carried out by supervision authorities (so called regulators) and increased requirements of the shareholders.

The risks to which Bank Zachodni WBK is exposed are discussed by the Risk Management Committee and the Audit Committee of the Supervisory Board. As regards the above-mentioned process, the Compliance Area, in liaison with business units, uses the risk management model to identify, assess and control key non-compliance risks at the level of individual units. The identified legal and regulatory risks are included in operational risk self-assessment of the units.

#### **Risk Management and Controls**

The policy for ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements was adopted by the Bank Management Board and, subsequently, approved by the Supervisory Board. Under the policy, the Compliance Area has been established and vested with appropriate powers, as a unit which supports senior managers in effective management of non-compliance risk. Key compliance risks are reviewed by the Audit Area every six months to get assurance that the risks are managed appropriately.

The Bank Risk Management Committee is responsible for ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements and approves principles of internal control and the compliance policy framework, ensuring that the Compliance Area is independent of business units and has adequate resources.

The Compliance Area is responsible, in particular, for:

- independent identification, assessment and monitoring of the non-compliance risk to which the bank is exposed to,
- advising and reporting to the Risk Management Committee, the Bank Management Board and the Audit Committee of the Supervisory Board in respect of effectiveness of compliance with legal and regulatory requirements which fall within its remit,
- providing the management and staff with guidance on the non-compliance risk and non-compliance risk management policies and procedures,
- monitoring, at the request of specialist units, of high non-compliance risks in respect of legal
  and regulatory requirements which are not related to the business profile, i.e. in respect of
  tax law, commercial law, labour law, environmental protection law and health and safety at
  work regulations.

In Bank Zachodni WBK, the legal and regulatory risk management is coordinated by the Compliance Area, which reports to the Management Board Member in charge of the Legal and Compliance Division.

#### 6. Capital Management

#### Introduction

It is the policy of Bank Zachodni WBK to maintain capital at a level appropriate to the type and scale of its business and the risk it is exposed to, in accordance with the applicable Banking Law and regulations of the Polish Financial Supervision Authority, which transposed the New Capital Accord of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (Basel II) to the Polish law.

The New Basel Capital Accord revised the approach to measurement of the minimum regulatory capital requirement (Pillar 1) and introduced measurement of internal capital (Pillar 2), where in-house models are applied by banks in day-to-day risk management.

The Management Board is accountable for capital management, calculation and maintenance processes, including assessment of capital adequacy in different economic conditions. Responsibility for general oversight over estimation of internal capital rests with the Supervisory Board.

The Bank Management Board delegated the day-to-day capital management to ALCO/ICAAP Forum. The Committee assesses capital adequacy, including capital adequacy under stressed scenarios, on an ongoing basis. Also, the Committee monitors the capital level and initiates transactions which affect

the capital held (recommending, e.g. dividend pay-out level). ALCO/ICAAP Forum defines the capital policy, principles of capital management, principles of capital adequacy assessment in the bank, reviews and approves capital plans, and sets out principles of capital allocation to individual business segments when assessing their profitability.

#### **Capital Policy**

Solvency ratio, which is the ratio of capital requirements for individual risks to total capital, after obligatory deductions recognised in accordance with the Banking Law and resolutions of the Polish Financial Supervision Authority, is one of the key measures used by Bank Zachodni WBK to manage capital. Under the Banking Law, the minimum capital adequacy ratio is 8%.

Under the Bank Zachodni WBK capital management policy, the target minimum solvency ratio is 10%.

At the same time, the Tier 1 capital ratio (which is the ratio of core equity capital to risk-weighted assets for credit, market and operational risks) may not be lower than 8% (additional requirement may be also applied as part of Supervisory Review and Evaluation Process in Pillar 2).

#### **Solvency Ratio**

Pillar 1 risks and capital required for such risks are assessed quantitatively. The bank uses regulatory approaches to the measurement of these risks. In 2009 and 2008, with regard to:

- credit risk the bank used the standardised approach for all portfolios,
- operational risk the bank used the standardised approach,
- market risk the bank used the basic measurement methods.

The capital requirement for individual risks is aggregated directly to determine the overall capital requirement (Pillar 1).

The table below shows rates used to calculate the solvency ratio for the bank as of 31 December 2009 and 31 December 2008.

| DI | N   | m |
|----|-----|---|
| PL | .IV | П |

|                                    | 31.12.2009 | 31.12.2008 |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Total capital requirement          | 3,042.1    | 3,220.7    |
| Capital and funds after deductions | 4,693.4    | 3,948.1    |
| Solvency ratio                     | 12.34%     | 9.81%      |

Until the end of 2008, regulations of the Banking Supervisory Commission (KNB) applied. The regulations were binding for 2008 year-end financial statements.

#### **Internal Capital**

The bank defines internal capital as the capital required to safeguard the bank against the impact of major unexpected losses which may jeopardise the bank's solvency.

A key element of Pillar 2 is the internal capital adequacy assessment process (ICAAP). Under this process, the bank is required to estimate, allocate and maintain the required level of internal capital to ensure secure conduct of its banking business, taking into account the bank's risk profile set out in the Risk Appetite Statement.

The key objective of the ICAAP is to create a link between the risk profile, risk management, risk mitigation and internal capital level. The bank has an appropriate process in place to assess all the key elements of capital planning and management (including aggregation of capital for different risk types). The process ensures that the bank's capital will be sufficient to cover all the particular risks.

The internal capital estimation process is adjusted to the type, scale and complexity of the bank's business.

The current approach is to aggregate the capital for Pillar 1 risks and then to add the estimated capital for actual and potential Pillar 2 risks. Quantitative risk measurement methods are applied where feasible and practicable. Other Pillar 2 risks are assessed and managed qualitatively, by way of adequate processes for risk management, tracking and mitigation. This is a very conservative approach as it assumes that there are no correlations between risks.

### IX. Corporate Governance

#### 1. Compliance with Best Practice

In 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK complied with all the corporate governance rules contained in the document "Best Practice in Public Companies" which was implemented by the Warsaw Stock Exchange Board on 4 July 2007 (Resolution no. 12/1170/2007) and became effective from 1 January 2008. The practices were transposed to the bank's regulations by virtue of Management Board resolution no. 87/2007 of 5 December 2007 and Supervisory Board resolution no. 1/2008 of 22 January 2008. The practices are available from the bank's website ("Investor Relations" section).

The bank's corporate documents, including the Statutes, General Meeting Regulations and the Terms of Reference of the Management Board and the Supervisory Board fully comply with the existing version of the "Best Practice". Compliance with the best practice and external relations standards are supported by the bank's internal procedures which specify the roles of individual units in this regard.

In the previous years, the bank adhered to the rules set out in the "Best Practice in Public Companies 2005" (in the years 2005-2007) and the "Best Practice in Public Companies in 2002" (in the years 2002-2004).

#### 2. Equity Securities Issued by the Bank

#### **Significant Shareholding**

According to the information held by the bank's Management Board, at the sign-off date of Annual Report 2009 of Bank Zachodni WBK (26 February 2010), the only significant shareholder of the bank was Dublin-based AIB European Investments Ltd. (see Chapter II, part 2 "Share Capital, Ownership Structure and Share Price" for more details).

#### **Rights and Restrictions Attaching to the Issuer's Securities**

Bank Zachodni WBK did not issue any securities that would give its holders any special control rights or would limit their equity rights. Likewise, there are no restrictions on the transfer of title to the issuer's shares.

#### 3. Governing Bodies

#### **General Meeting of Shareholders**

General Meeting of Bank Zachodni WBK Shareholders is held as provided for in the Commercial Companies Code of 15 September 2000, Bank Zachodni WBK Statutes and Bank Zachodni WBK General Meeting Regulations (GM Regulations). The Statutes as well as the GM Regulations are available at the bank's website.

General Meeting takes decisions on issues within its remit, as defined by the Commercial Companies Code, Banking Law and the bank's Statutes.

#### **Shareholders' Rights**

Shareholders' rights and the way they are exercised are provided for in the bank's GM Regulations and pursue the Commercial Companies Code.

#### **The Last Annual General Meeting of Shareholders**

The Annual General Meeting of BZWBK Shareholders (AGM) held on 21 April 2009, approved the 2008 financial statements submitted by the Management Board and the Supervisory Board, resolved on

distribution of the net profit and dividend payment and granted discharge to the Management and Supervisory Board members for the performance of their duties in the previous year. The AGM approved changes to the bank's Statutes and adopted its consolidated version. The changes resulted from the need to adjust the Statutes to the existing operations of the bank and the powers of its executive directors. The amended Statutes also reinforce independence of the internal audit by extending the Supervisory Board's oversight of the bank's internal control system, in accordance with the Banking Law and the Resolution of the Polish Financial Supervision Authority no. 383/2008 of 17 December 2008. The changes to the bank's Statutes were approved by the Polish Financial Supervision Authority and recorded in the National Court Registry on 13 May 2009.

#### **Method of Changing the Statutes**

Bank Zachodni WBK changes its Statutes in a method prescribed by the applicable law.

#### **Composition of the Supervisory Board**

As at 31 December 2009, the composition of the Bank Zachodni WBK Supervisory Board was as follows:

| Role                               |    | Composition as at 31.12.2009 |
|------------------------------------|----|------------------------------|
| Chairman of the Supervisory Board: | 1. | Aleksander Szwarc            |
| Members of the Supervisory Board:  | 2. | Gerry Byrne                  |
|                                    | 3. | Waldemar Frąckowiak          |
|                                    | 4. | Aleksander Galos             |
|                                    | 5. | Maeliosa OhOgartaigh         |
|                                    | 6. | John Power                   |
|                                    | 7. | Jacek Ślotała                |

The persons listed above were appointed by the AGM of 18 April 2008 for a new 3-year term of office. The original composition included James O'Leary, who stepped down from the Supervisory Board on 21 April 2009.

#### **Role of the Supervisory Board**

The Supervisory Board of Bank Zachodni WBK operates particularly under the Banking Law of 29 August 1997, the Commercial Companies Code of 15 September 2000, the bank's Statutes and the Terms of Reference of the Supervisory Board, available at the bank's website.

The Supervisory Board exercises on-going supervision over all the aspects of the bank's activities. The Supervisory Board takes decisions in the form of resolutions which are adopted by absolute majority of votes in an open voting. Resolutions are voted upon in a secret ballot in the cases stipulated by law, in personal matters or at the request of any Supervisory Board member accepted by the Supervisory Board in a secret ballot. The Supervisory Board meetings are held as needed, however at least 3 times in any financial year. The Supervisory Board Members convene at the same time in a single location or in different locations communicating via telephone or video links.

#### **Supervisory Board Committees**

The Supervisory Board may establish committees and designate individuals responsible for managing the work of such committees. The following Supervisory Board committees operate in the bank: Social Responsibility Committee, Remuneration and Nominations Committee and Audit Committee.

Composition of Supervisory Board Committees as at 31 December 2009:

| Supervisory Board Committee            |    | Role     | Composition          |
|--|----|----------|----------------------|
| Social Responsibility Committee        | 1. | Chairman | Gerry Byrne          |
|  | 2. | Member   | Jacek Ślotała        |
| Remuneration and Nominations Committee | 1. | Chairman | Gerry Byrne          |
|  | 2. | Members: | Aleksander Szwarc    |
|  | 3. |          | Jacek Ślotała        |
| Audit Committee                        | 1. | Chairman | John Power           |
|  | 2. | Members: | Waldemar Frąckowiak  |
|  | 3. |          | Aleksander Galos     |
|  | 4. |          | Maeliosa OhOgartaigh |

The Social Responsibility Committee supervises the efforts aimed to achieve the desired perception and awareness of the bank's brand. It also monitors the bank's CSR policy as well as the budget for marketing, promotion and corporate giving.

The Remuneration and Nominations Committee develops succession plans for the Management Board, recommends Management Board members and performs annual reviews of their remuneration. The Committee reviews and monitors the policies and practices governing the remuneration system in the bank and its subsidiaries.

The Audit Committee supervises the bank's financial reporting, risk management and internal control processes and monitors independence of chartered auditor. The Audit Committee was composed mostly of independent Supervisory Board members.

As at 31 December 2009, the following members of the Supervisory Board held an independent status: Waldemar Frackowiak, Aleksander Galos, John Power, Aleksander Szwarc and Jacek Ślotała.

The annual Reports on Activities of the Supervisory Board and its Committees as well as the Supervisory Board's reports on Examination of the bank's and the Group's annual reports along with the assessment of their operations are published in current reports which convey the resolutions passed by the AGMs. As of the date of the sign-off of Annual Report 2009, such information was last published in the current report no. 10/2009 on AGM held on 21 April 2009 and concerned the operations of the bank, Bank Zachodni WBK Group and Supervisory Board in 2008.

#### **Composition of the Management Board**

As at 31 December 2009, the composition of the Bank Zachodni WBK Management Board was as follows:

| Role                               |     | Composition as at 31.12.2009 |
|------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------|
| President of the Management Board: | 1.  | Mateusz Morawiecki           |
| Members of the Management Board:   | 2.  | Paul Barry                   |
|                                    | 3.  | Andrzej Burliga              |
|                                    | 4.  | Declan Flynn                 |
|                                    | 5.  | Justyn Konieczny             |
|                                    | 6.  | Janusz Krawczyk              |
|                                    | 7.  | Jacek Marcinowski            |
|                                    | 8.  | Michael McCarthy             |
|                                    | 9.  | Marcin Prell                 |
|                                    | 10. | Mirosław Skiba               |
|                                    | 11. | Feliks Szyszkowiak           |

The persons listed above were appointed by the Supervisory Board on 21 April 2009 for a joint 3-year term of office.

Compared with 31 December 2008, one new member joined the Management Board. On 16 December 2008, the Bank Zachodni WBK Supervisory Board nominated Michael McCarthy as Management Board Member in charge of the newly created Business and Corporate Banking Division effective from 1 February 2009.

#### **Appointment and Removal of Executives**

The members of the Bank Zachodni WBK Management Board are appointed and removed in accordance with the Commercial Companies Code, the Banking Law and the bank's Statutes.

The bank's Management Board consists of at least three persons (including the Management Board President) appointed by the Supervisory Board for a joint three-year term of office. At least half of the Management Board members should be Polish citizens. Two Management Board members, including the Management Board President, are appointed with the approval of the Polish Financial Supervision Authority (KNF). Management Board members may be removed by the Supervisory Board or the General Meeting at any time.

#### **Powers of Executives**

The Bank Zachodni WBK Management Board manages and represents the bank. The Management Board has all powers that are not restricted by law or Statutes to the remit of other governing bodies of the bank.

The Management Board takes decisions to raise obligations or transfer assets whose total value for one entity exceeds 5% of the bank's own funds. The Management Board can also, by way of resolution, delegate its powers to take such decisions to other committees or persons in the bank. The Management Board members run the bank's affairs jointly, and in particular: define the bank's mission, set long-term action plans and strategic objectives, prepare assumptions for the bank's business and financial plans, approve the plans and monitor their performance, regularly report to the Supervisory Board on the bank's position in the scope and at the dates agreed with the Supervisory Board, appoint permanent and ad hoc committees and designate individuals responsible for managing the work of such committees. The committees are composed of both Management Board members and persons from outside the Management Board. Permanent committees operative in the bank include: Risk Management Committee, Credit Committee, Provisions Committee, Credit Policy Forum, Assets and Liabilities Management Committee, Operational Risk Management Committee, Market Risk Management Committee, Interbank Limits Committee, Value Management Committee, Deposit Working Group.

Management Board members acting severally do not have any specific powers. They cannot take decisions on issuing or redeeming shares.

#### **Role of the Management Board**

The Management Board operations are primarily governed by the Banking Law, the Commercial Companies Code, the bank's Statutes and the Terms of Reference of the Management Board, available on the bank's website.

According to the bank's Statutes, the following individuals are authorized to represent and bind the bank: a) the Management Board President acting individually, and b) two members of the Management Board acting jointly, or a member of the Management Board acting jointly with a commercial representative (prokurent), or two commercial representatives acting jointly. Representatives authorized to act severally or jointly with any of the persons listed in letter b) or with another authorized representative can be appointed.

The Management Board takes decisions in the form of resolutions which are adopted by absolute majority of votes in an open voting. Secret ballot is held in the cases stipulated by law, in personal matters or at the request of any Management Board member accepted by the Management Board in a secret ballot. The Management Board meetings are held as needed. The Management Board Members

convene at the same time in a single location or in different locations communicating via telephone or video links.

#### **Other Executive and Non-Executive Information**

#### **Remuneration of the Supervisory and Management Board Members**

Information on the remuneration of the Bank Zachodni WBK Supervisory and Management Board members for 2009 and the comparable period is presented in Note 44 to the "Financial Statements of Bank Zachodni WBK for 2009".

#### Agreements between Bank Zachodni WBK and its Executive Directors

The Bank Zachodni WBK Management Board members signed agreements prohibiting competition after termination of their role on the Management Board. A Management Board member who is not appointed for a new term of office or is removed from the Management Board is entitled to a once-off severance pay. The severance pay does not apply if the Management Board member accepts a new job role in the bank.

#### **Shares in Possession of the Supervisory and Management Board Members**

As at the date of Annual Report 2009 of Bank Zachodni WBK, none of the members of the Supervisory Board held any shares of Bank Zachodni WBK. Changes in shareholdings held by Supervisory Members:

| Member of the<br>Supervisory Board | No. of BZWBK shares |            |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Supervisory Bourd                  | 31.12.2009          | 31.12.2008 |
| Waldemar Frąckowiak                | =                   | 278        |
| Other Members                      | -                   | -          |

Under the 1<sup>st</sup> BZWBK Share Incentive Scheme, launched in 2006, Members of the Management Board were allocated 23,084 out of 115,729 of H series shares issued as part of the conditional increase of the share capital (the shares were registered by the National Depository of Securities/Krajowy Depozyt Papierow Wartosciowych S.A. on 10 July 2009). On top of that, the Management Board members have a conditional right to acquire shares under the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Incentive Scheme. Below are shares and rights held by the Management Board Members as of the date of this report.

| Member of the      | 31.12.2009             |        | 31.12.2008          |        |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|
| Supervisory Board  | No. of BZWBK<br>shares | Rights | No. of BZWBK shares | Rights |
| Mateusz Morawiecki | 3,591                  | 9,961  | <u>-</u>            | 13,552 |
| Paul Barry         | -                      | -      | -                   | -      |
| Andrzej Burliga    | 1,606                  | 4,417  | -                   | 6,023  |
| Declan Flynn       | -                      | -      | -                   | -      |
| Justyn Konieczny   | 3,591                  | 7,847  | -                   | 11,438 |
| Janusz Krawczyk    | 3,397                  | 6,661  | -                   | 10,058 |
| Jacek Marcinowski  | 3,397                  | 6,661  | -                   | 10,058 |
| Michael McCarthy   | -                      | -      | -                   | -      |
| Marcin Prell       | 2,530                  | 6,661  | -                   | 9,191  |
| Mirosław Skiba     | 1,575                  | 2,813  | -                   | 4,388  |
| Feliks Szyszkowiak | 3,438                  | 6,661  | -                   | 10,058 |
| Total              | 23,125                 | 51,682 | -                   | 74,766 |

#### 4. Control System of Financial Statements

#### **Internal Control System and Risk Management**

Bank Zachodni WBK operates an internal control system which supports the decision-making processes and contributes to efficient operation of the organisation, reliability of financial reporting and compliance with the internal and external regulations. The internal control system is adjusted to the organisational structure and risk management system and includes the Business Support Centre, branches and subsidiaries. Development, implementation and maintenance of the written strategies and procedures of the internal control system is the responsibility of the bank's Management Board. The Supervisory Board has oversight over implementation of the internal control system and evaluates its adequacy and effectiveness.

Financial data preparation for the purpose of statutory reporting is automated and based on the General Ledger and Data Warehouse. Data inputs in the source systems are subject to formal operational and approval procedures which state responsibilities of individual staff members. A set of specialist controls is also applicable to the data processing for the financial reporting purposes. Any manual corrections or management overrides are under strict control.

The bank follows any legal and regulatory changes related to reporting in the law and updates in accounting rules and disclosures. The bank, through its representatives sitting on supervisory boards of individual subsidiaries, exercises oversight of its consolidated subsidiaries.

The financial statements are formally approved by the Disclosure Committee which is responsible for ensuring that the data are true and compliant with law. The Disclosure Committee recommends the financial statements to the Management Board for ratification.

In addition, the effectiveness of controls is assessed annually as part of the certification process for compliance with Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

#### **Internal Control Compliant with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act**

Bank Zachodni WBK as a subsidiary of the AIB Group must fulfill the requirements arising from the Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) Act insofar as it relates to the Group. This regulation introduced strict rules with respect to exercising internal control over the company's financial reporting. As part of AIB Group SOX certification for 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK Management has confirmed that no events have occurred which could materially impact relevant processes or effectiveness of internal controls over the financial reporting.

#### **Selection of Auditor**

In accordance with §32 point 10 of the Statutes of Bank Zachodni WBK and the industry practice, on 24 June 2009 the bank's Supervisory Board passed a resolution appointing KPMG Audyt Sp. z o.o. as an auditor to review the bank's stand-alone and consolidated financial statements for 2009 and to audit the full accounts for 2009. KPMG Audyt Sp. z o.o. audited the bank's financial statements for the prior years and through other KPMG companies provided consulting services permitted by law and the bank's internal regulations, in a manner that ensured impartiality and independence of the auditor.

#### **Remuneration of Auditor**

The table below shows the remuneration paid to KPMG Audyt Sp. z o.o. for its audit/review of the financial statements of Bank Zachodni WBK under the relevant agreements:

PINk

| Remuneration of KPMG Audyt Sp. z o.o.  | Reporting Year<br>ended on<br>31.12.2009 | Reporting Year<br>ended on<br>31.12.2008 |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Audit fees in respect of the parent bank *   | 1 019                                    | 1 158                                    |  |
| Audit fees related to the assurance services, including the review of the parent bank $\ast\ast$ | 360                                      | 563                                      |  |
| Total  | 1 379                                    | 1 721                                    |  |

based on the Agreement on Audit of Financial Statement and Group Report of 15 December 2009
 based on the Agreement on Review of Financial Statement and Group Report of 25 June 2009

## X. Awards and Recognitions

In 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK received a number of awards. The key ones are presented below.

| Award | c for | Ran | レフコム  | hod | mi V | NBK |
|-------|-------|-----|-------|-----|------|-----|
|       |       | -1- | N Edu |     |      |     |

Second position in the ranking of accuracy of projections

The economists of Bank Zachodni WBK came second in the ranking of accuracy of macroeconomic forecasts for 2008 published by the stock newspaper Parkiet (January 2009).

The best managed company in the financial sector

The stock exchange newspaper Parkiet awarded the Bull and Bear statuettes to the leaders of capital markets. The award for the "best managed company in the financial sector" went to Bank Zachodni WBK.

Award in the competition "Mother Friendly Company" In February 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK received one of the three main awards in the nation-wide competition "Mother Friendly Company".

"Service Quality" accolade

In the prestigious ranking of Newsweek (March 2009) Bank Zachodni WBK was given the "Service Quality" accolade for taking the third position in the "banks, finance and insurance" sector. Quality assessment was based on observation and feedback from consumers.

**Highly trusted bank** 

On 25 March 2009, the Rzeczpospolita daily published a ranking showing the banks that customers trust most. 33% of the respondents said they trust Bank Zachodni WBK as a depositor. The bank took the third position in the ranking after PKO BP and Pekao S.A.

"Alicja 2008" award

For the fourth time, Bank Zachodni WBK received the "Alicja" award presented by the Twój Styl monthly to financial institutions for their most interesting and innovative products and services that are both favourable and safe for customers – in this case, the award was given for the contactless cards proposition.

One of the most-valued companies in Poland

In April 2009, Newsweek Poland and the consulting firm A.T. Kearney placed Bank Zachodni WBK in the thirteenth position among the most-valued Polish companies (and third among banks).

One of the top three banks for SMEs

In a survey conducted by the INDICATOR Marketing Research Institute and the Warsaw Institute of Banking, Bank Zachodni WBK was indicated as the third most popular bank for small and medium-sized enterprises (Rzeczpospolita, 5 May 2009).

"Partner of the Year" title

The judging panel of the 4<sup>th</sup> Electronic Economy Congress awarded Bank Zachodni WBK with the "Partner of the Year" title (May 2009) for its contribution to building the electronic economy and information society in Poland (contactless and pre-paid cards, 3D Secure service).

"Support Leader" title

Help Desk Institute Poland awarded the bank's Department of IT Service Support and Development with the title "Support Leader 2008" (June 2009) in the category "Project of the Year". The recognised project was "Optimisation and improvement of BZ WBK business through consolidation of IT services".

**HR Management Leader** 

Bank Zachodni WBK was recognised in the 10th edition of the Poland-wide competition "HR Management Leader" for "promoting equal opportunities" (June 2009). The recognition was accorded to the bank for a number of projects which create the company's image as a learning organisation, supporting expecting and new mothers and encouraging staff innovation.

**Senior-friendly Bank** 

In the Newsweek's ranking "Friendly Bank" (September 2009), Bank Zachodni WBK was awarded for its second position in the category "Senior-Friendly Bank". In the general category of friendly banks, the bank ranked 5<sup>th</sup> out of 23 banks. This is the highest position among its peers.

"Customer Friendly Firm" accolade

The bank received another accolade "Customer Friendly Firm" (October 2009) as a result of the positive assessment of its customer service in a three-stage certification procedure that covered: quality management policy, knowledge of the quality procedures among the front-line staff and customer satisfaction.

# Responsible companies ranking – employee relations

In the ranking of "responsible companies" organised by the Responsible Business Forum, PriceWaterhouseCoopers and Gazeta Prawna, Bank Zachodni WBK achieved the  $23^{rd}$  position in the overall category and the  $4^{th}$  in the category "Banking and Insurance". As the only financial institution the bank scored top in the category "Employee Relations".

#### "Effie Awards"

Bank Zachodni WBK (together with Universal McCann Media House) received the highest award in the category "Financial Services" and a silver statuette for its cash loan campaign featuring John Cleese in a competition organized by the Marketing Communications Association and Management Department of the Warsaw University (October 2009).

## "Bank keeping close to customers"

In the ranking of the Gazeta Prawna daily (December 2009), Bank Zachodni WBK came first in the category "Friendly Website".

#### "Innovative Card of 2009"

The internet card of Bank Zachodni WBK was awarded at the conference "Central European Electronic Card – Warsaw" as the innovative card of 2009" (December 2009).

#### **Oracle Innovation Awards**

As the only Polish company, Bank Zachodni WBK received the Oracle Innovation Award in the category of system integration (December 2009). The award goes to the international companies that are distinctive by their innovative approach to system integration using Oracle products.

## XI. Other Events and Supplementary Information

#### 1. Changes to the Management Organisation

#### **Business Support Centre of Bank Zachodni WBK**

#### **Business & Corporate Banking Division**

Following the adoption of new rules of business customer segmentation, early in 2009 the bank commenced the process of implementing changes to its business functions. On 1 February 2009, the Business and Corporate Division was established with a responsibility for managing the relations with the companies that meet the following criteria:

- business customers, i.e. companies with a turnover from PLN 30 m to 150 m and credit exposure up to PLN 15 m;
- corporate customers, i.e. companies with a turnover higher than PLN 150 m and credit exposure greater than PLN 15 m.

The Business Banking Centres took over the relationship with all the business customers while the Corporate Business Centres retained responsibility for corporate customers.

#### **Retail Banking Division**

Following the separation of the Corporate and Business Banking Division, the Customer Relationship and Sales Division was transformed into the Retail Banking Division. Its structures include, among others, the Small Enterprise Department responsible for the support of companies with an annual turnover up to PLN 30 m and a credit exposure up to PLN 3 m.

In May 2009, the Direct Banking Area, which was previously outside of the divisional structure, was merged with the Retail Banking Division. The Direct Banking Area is responsible for the card and ATM business, and for development of distribution channels such as: phone banking, electronic banking, intermediaries, BZWBK24 and mobile advisors. The merger aims to enhance the capacity of the two units to develop the bank's offering and sales across all distribution channels.

#### **Branch Network Management Structure**

As part of reorganization of the branch network management structures (initiated in 2008) further modifications were prepared and implemented to make the management more efficient and improve the operating processes. On 1 October 2009, the number of regions was reduced from 12 to 10. Their administrative boundaries and branch reporting lines were accordingly adjusted.

#### 2. Strategic IT Programmes

At the end of 2008, Bank Zachodni WBK revised its action plans for upcoming years in view of the global economic crisis. A Strategic Programme Portfolio was developed, including projects considered as vital for the delivery of the bank's business objectives.

The Strategic Programme Portfolio for 2009 covered the following initiatives:

• **New Front End** – creation of a new integrated branch environment based on business processes, specifically: development of automated sale processes within a single application, improvement of the data density and quality, optimization of processes; two out of the three Programme stages have been delivered.

- **Loan Factory** creation of a central unit to provide end-to-end operating support for the credit delivery process; effective separation of operating and decision-making functions in the credit delivery process; centralisation, standardisation and further automation of tasks in order to improve process quality; the programme is underway.
- **Securities Centre** centralisation and optimisation of the establishment and management of collateral by the Securities Centre; improvement of respective processes in all business lines across Bank Zachodni WBK; consecutive deployments planned for 2010–2011.
- **Parasol** establishment of insurance companies (BZ WBK-Aviva Towarzystwo Ubezpieczen Ogolnych S.A. and BZ WBK-Aviva Towarzystwo Ubezpieczen na Zycie S.A.) with all of the required functions and structures, including the IT infrastructure interfaced with the bank; most implementations are completed.
- **BZWBK Partner** further development of the partner branch network; introduction of deposits and loans into the product offer; development of the platform to support the operating activity of BZWBK Partner; some of these projects have been finalized while others are underway.
- **Direct Banking** extension of the product offer in DBB channels addressed to private and business customers, changes to the bank's website (new layout and more user-friendly navigation), including the launch of a new version of the BZWBK24 transaction portal; most of the products were implemented in 2009.
- Arrears Management Future customisation and optimisation of the monitoring and collection
  process in line with the "Best in Class" model; improvement of the efficiency of the customer
  communication process by means of new tools; introduction of MIS reports and operating reports
  to track the key ratios in the monitoring and collection process; project in place.
- **Branch without Back Office** supporting initiatives for New Front End and Loan Factory programs; aimed to simplify, optimize and centralize the branch operations as well as reduce workload and operating costs in the branches; most of them are scheduled for 2010.

#### 3. Capital Expenditure

In 2009, Bank Zachodni WBK focused on completion of the investments started in the previous years. The capital expenditure throughout the year amounted to PLN 83.1 m (PLN 235.5 m in 2008).

Apart from the above-listed "strategic IT programs", the key initiatives also covered the improvement of ATM security as well as enhancement of stability, reliability and security of bank systems, which included implementation of the Payment Card Industry security standard designed to ensure better protection of card holders (payment card numbers are now stored, sent and displayed on the screen in an encrypted format). Also, investments were made into increased production of contactless cards.

The remaining capital expenditures were connected with development of the bank's delivery channels. 11 new branches were launched, more than twenty outlets were modernised and 7 others were moved to their new locations. The bank also started to install in branches new devices to optimise the cash desk service. In April 2009, the process of rebranding Bank Zachodni WBK agency outlets network from "Minibank" to "Bank Zachodni WBK Partner" was brought to completion.

#### 4. Supplementary information

#### **Deposits by Geographies**

PLN m

| Bank Zachodni WBK |                     |                         |            |  |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------|--|
| Ref.              | Province            | Deposits from Customers |            |  |
| Kei.              | Province            | 31.12.2009              | 31.12.2008 |  |
| 1.                | Dolnoslaskie        | 9,805.4                 | 9,744.6    |  |
| 2.                | Kujawsko-Pomorskie  | 1,392.6                 | 1,238.8    |  |
| 3.                | Lubelskie           | 160.4                   | 172.6      |  |
| 4.                | Lubuskie            | 1,985.4                 | 2,030.2    |  |
| 5.                | Lodzkie             | 849.7                   | 858.4      |  |
| 6.                | Malopolskie         | 1,159.7                 | 983.2      |  |
| 7.                | Mazowieckie         | 5,657.7                 | 6,388.3    |  |
| 8.                | Opolskie            | 1,359.8                 | 1,336.4    |  |
| 9.                | Podkarpackie        | 173.6                   | 149.6      |  |
| 10.               | Podlaskie           | 255.2                   | 246.8      |  |
| 11.               | Pomorskie           | 1,904.9                 | 1,940.8    |  |
| 12.               | Slaskie             | 1,656.6                 | 1,666.9    |  |
| 13.               | Swietokrzyskie      | 324.8                   | 327.4      |  |
| 14.               | warminsko-Mazurskie | 213.8                   | 211.0      |  |
| 15.               | Wielkopolskie       | 11,660.9                | 11,365.5   |  |
| 16.               | Zachodniopomorskie  | 1,551.7                 | 1,607.5    |  |
|                   | Non-allocated       | 1,150.0                 | 3,113.9    |  |
|                   | Total               | 41,262.2                | 43,381.9   |  |

#### **Garnishee Orders and Value of Collateral**

The table below shows the number and value of the garnishee orders issued by Bank Zachodni WBK in 2009 compared to 2008.

PLN m

| TEN III                   | 2009   | 2009  |        | 2008  |  |
|---------------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--|
| Facility                  | Volume | Value | Volume | Value |  |
| Cash loans and overdrafts | 24,073 | 188.9 | 11,975 | 81.0  |  |
| Credit cards              | 12,699 | 44.7  | 5,521  | 15.6  |  |
| Business loans            | 476    | 394.0 | 172    | 22.5  |  |
| Mortgage loans            | 53     | 18.3  | 63     | 6.7   |  |
| Total                     | 37,301 | 645.9 | 17,731 | 125.8 |  |

As at 31 December 2009, the value of collateral on customer's accounts or assets amounted to PLN 27,534.4 m compared with PLN 28,024.8 m as at 31 December 2008.

#### **Transactions with Connected Entities**

Transactions between the bank and its subsidiaries are banking operations carried out on the arms length basis as part of the ordinary business and represent mainly loans, deposits and guarantees.

As at 31 December 2009, total exposure originating from loans to subsidiaries (mainly BZ WBK Leasing S.A., BZ WBK Finanse & Leasing S.A., BZ WBK Faktor Sp. z o.o., Dom Maklerski BZ WBK S.A.) was PLN 1,121.9 m versus PLN 852.8 m as at 31 December 2008. Guarantees to subsidiaries

(BZ WBK Finanse & Leasing S.A., BZ WBK Leasing S.A., BZ WBK AIB Towarzystwo Funduszy Inwestycyjnych S.A.) totalled PLN 254.8 m versus PLN 50,3 m as at 31 December 2008.

As at 31 December 2009, the deposits held by all the subsidiaries with Bank Zachodni WBK totalled PLN 1,033.0 m versus PLN 1,103.1 m a year before.

#### **Guarantees**

As at 31 December 2009, guarantees sanctioned by Bank Zachodni WBK amounted to PLN 1,130 m as compared with PLN 951.0 m a year before.

Bank Zachodni WBK guarantees obligations arising from customers' operating activities. These are: payment guarantees, performance bonds, warranty bonds, bid bonds, loan repayment guarantees and customs guarantees. In accordance with the Bank Zachodni WBK Regulations for provision of nonconsumer credit services, the bank provides civil law guarantees (mainly: loan repayment guarantees, guarantees of payments for goods or services, advance payment guarantees, performance bonds, customs guarantees) as well as guarantees under Bills of Exchange Law (mainly: loan repayment quarantees, guarantees of payment for goods or services).

The process and information required in the case of guarantees are similar to the lending process. Relevant regulations are contained in the SME Lending Manual and the Corporate and Business Lending Manual.

#### **Selected off-Balance Sheet Items**

#### **Commitments and Derivatives**

Guarantees and commitments of Bank Zachodni WBK and nominal amounts of derivative transactions are as follows:

PLN m

| Guarantees and Commitments | 31.12.2009 | 31.12.2008 |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Financial commitments:     | 7,317.4    | 9,848.0    |
| - credit lines             | 6,414.7    | 8,726.1    |
| - credit cards             | 845.5      | 879.9      |
| - other                    | 57.2       | 242.0      |
| Guarantees                 | 1,130.0    | 951.0      |
| Total                      | 8,447.4    | 10,799.0   |

#### PLN m

| Derivatives by Nominals         | 31.12.2009 | 31.12.2008 |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Derivatives - Forward (hedging) | 1,773.7    | 2,704.7    |
| Derivatives - Forward (trading) | 51,914.7   | 140,560.0  |
| Current FX transactions         | 1,119.6    | 957.3      |
| Total                           | 54,808.0   | 144,222.0  |

#### **Operating Leases**

Bank Zachodni WBK leases offices in compliance with operating lease agreements. Total payments of all the non-cancellable operating leases (including land perpetual usufruct) are as below:

PLN m

| Lease Payments by Maturity | 31.12.2009 | 31.12.2008 |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| up to 1 year               | 142.3      | 119.3      |
| 1 - 5 years                | 456.5      | 374.4      |
| over 5 years               | 325.9      | 311.1      |
| Total                      | 924.7      | 804.8      |

#### **Significant Court Proceedings**

As at 31 December 2009, no case was pending before any court or state administration agencies with relation to any claims made by or against the bank that would equal or exceed 10% of its equity.

The value of all litigations totalled PLN 225.2 m which is ca. 4.1% of the bank's equity as at end December 2009 (compared to PLN 244.7 m as at 31 December 2008 which is ca. 5.5% of the bank's equity). This amount includes PLN 26.7 m claimed by the bank, PLN 70.5 m in claims against the bank and PLN 128 m of the bank's receivables due to bankruptcy or arrangement cases.

## XII. Representations of the Management Board

#### **True and Fair Presentation of the Financial Statements**

According to the Management Board's best knowledge and belief, the financial figures and the comparable data presented in the Financial Statements of Bank Zachodni WBK for 2009 were prepared in keeping with the applicable accounting policies and give a true and fair view of the state of affairs and earnings of Bank Zachodni WBK. The Management Board's Report contained in this document shows a true picture of the bank's development, achievements and position (including the underlying risks) in 2009.

#### **Selection of Auditor**

The auditing firm responsible for reviewing the financial statements of Bank Zachodni WBK for 2009 was selected in compliance with the applicable legislation. The auditing firm and its auditors satisfied the necessary conditions to ensure they provide an unbiased and independent report compliant with Polish law and professional standards.

#### **Corporate Governance**

In 2009, the bank's duly complied with the corporate governance rules contained in the document "Best Practice in Public Companies" adopted by the Warsaw Stock Exchange Supervisory Board on 4 July 2007. No corporate governance breaches were reported.

| Date       | Name & Surname     | Role                   | Signature |
|------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| 26-02-2010 | Mateusz Morawiecki | President of the Board |           |
| 26-02-2010 | Paul Barry         | Member of the Board    |           |
| 26-02-2010 | Andrzej Burliga    | Member of the Board    |           |
| 26-02-2010 | Declan Flynn       | Member of the Board    |           |
| 26-02-2010 | Justyn Konieczny   | Member of the Board    |           |
| 26-02-2010 | Janusz Krawczyk    | Member of the Board    |           |
| 26-02-2010 | Jacek Marcinowski  | Member of the Board    |           |
| 26-02-2010 | Michael McCarthy   | Member of the Board    |           |
| 26-02-2010 | Marcin Prell       | Member of the Board    |           |
| 26-02-2010 | Mirosław Skiba     | Member of the Board    |           |
| 26-02-2010 | Feliks Szyszkowiak | Member of the Board    |           |