



Financial Overview

Grafton Group plc, the builders merchants and DIY Group with operations in the UK and Ireland, announces its interim results for the six months ended 30 June 2008.

	2008	2007	Change
Revenue	€1.44 bn	€1.61 bn	- 11 %
Operating profit*	€72.9 m	€124.4 m	- 41 %
Profit before tax	€53.4 m	€106.4 m	- 50 %
Adjusted earnings per share *	20.6 c	39.1 c	- 47 %
Basic earnings per share	20.2 c	38.7 c	- 48 %
Share purchase	10.0 c	10.0 c	
Cash flow per share**	33.4 c	50.4c	- 34%

* *Before intangible amortisation*

** *Based on profit after tax, plus depreciation and intangible amortization*

Commenting on the results today, Michael Chadwick, Executive Chairman said:

“The first half brought the most challenging trading conditions encountered in over 15 years. With a healthy balance sheet and strong cash flows, the Group is focused on emerging from this downturn a stronger and more competitive organisation. Grafton’s current focus on cash generation, cost control, efficiency improvements and market development should leave the Group strongly positioned for profitable growth when the Irish and UK economies recover and trading conditions improve. Both economies are fundamentally sound and should return to more sustainable levels of growth when the restraining effects of higher inflation and tighter credit conditions ease.”