

LUXOTTICA GROUP SPA
Form 6-K
July 26, 2011

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 6-K

**REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16 UNDER
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

July 26, 2011

COMMISSION FILE NO. 1 - 10421

LUXOTTICA GROUP S.p.A.

VIA C. CANTÙ 2, MILAN, 20123 ITALY
(Address of principal executive office)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F. Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):

Indicate by check mark whether by furnishing the information contained in this Form, the registrant is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Yes No

If Yes is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82-

Press release

Set forth below is the text of a press release issued on July 25, 2011.

Luxottica continues on its strong growth path

Net sales for the second quarter of 2011 exceeded 1.6 billion (+9%), net income in U.S.\$ +22%

Milan, Italy, July 25, 2011 The Board of Directors of **Luxottica Group S.p.A. (MTA: LUX; NYSE: LUX)**, a leader in the design, manufacture and distribution of fashion, luxury and sports eyewear, met today and approved the consolidated results for the second quarter and six months ended June 30, 2011 in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IAS/IFRS).

Second quarter of 2011¹

<i>(In millions of Euro)</i>	2Q 2011	2Q 2010	Change
			<i>(at current exchange rates)</i>
Net sales	1,633.5	1,595.1	+9.5% at constant exchange rates ² +2.4%
Operating income	276.8	258.3	+7.2%
Net income attributable to Luxottica Group stockholders	162.1	150.1	+8.0%
Earnings per share	0.35	0.33	+7.6%
Earnings per share in U.S.\$	0.51	0.42	+21.9%

First half of 2011¹

<i>(In millions of Euro)</i>	1H 2011	1H 2010	Change
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(at current exchange rates)

Net sales	3,189.6	2,986.8	+9.3% at constant exchange rates ²	+6.8%
Operating income	484.2	429.6		+12.7%
Net income attributable to Luxottica Group stockholders	276.8	245.1		+12.9%
Earnings per share	0.60	0.53		+12.5%
Earnings per share in U.S.\$	0.84	0.71	+19.0%	

Operating performance for the second quarter of 2011

During the second quarter of 2011, both the growth trend and Luxottica's investments in its future continued. In a macroeconomic environment that was, as a whole, positive, the Group

has successfully achieved results that show great improvement in all the major geographic areas where it operates, with particularly solid performance recorded in Europe, North America and the emerging markets. Despite the significant depreciation of the U.S. dollar against the Euro, going from 1.2708 during the second quarter of 2010 to 1.4391 (-12%) during the second quarter of 2011, net sales for the second quarter of 2011 exceeded Euro 1.6 billion and net income stood at Euro 162 million, the best results ever recorded in the history of Luxottica.

The results of the second quarter of 2011 are truly strong, commented Andrea Guerra, Chief Executive Officer of Luxottica. *We worked with great determination and passion in both divisions and in all the countries where we operate, on the one hand achieving excellent performance and on the other laying the basis for an even more solid growth. During the period, in fact, we were able to grow significantly in key markets such as India, China, Brazil, Mexico and Turkey, countries where we are building a strong Luxottica presence. Performance was also excellent in Europe, the Middle East, South East Asia and Latin America, where we have continued to invest in our future, opening new stores, strengthening our presence in the most promising markets and increasing our commitment to relating even more closely to the consumer through constant dialogue.*

As always, our brands are at the heart: the premium and luxury brands have confirmed the positive trends seen during the first quarter of the year, posting double-digit growth, and brands such as Chanel, Prada, Burberry, Tiffany and Ralph Lauren performed extremely well. Ray-Ban, Oakley, LensCrafters and Sunglass Hut continued to record very positive performance and, thanks to the great commitment of the entire Group, comparable store sales of OPSM in Australia were back to positive, despite the fact that the Australian environment continues to be challenging.

Despite the weakening of the U.S. dollar exchange rate, our net sales in U.S. dollars in the fundamental region of North America were strong growing by 7.5% during the quarter.

We strongly believe that these results provide an excellent basis for us to look with confidence to the second half of the year.

In the second quarter of the year, Luxottica achieved positive performances in most geographic regions where it is present. The results recorded by the Wholesale Division are worthy of note, improving on the best-ever sales of previous quarters, recording strong growth in net sales (+11.6% at constant exchange rates²). Emerging markets made a key contribution to this performance, along with Europe, particularly France, Germany, Spain and Italy, which enjoyed an especially positive sun season.

The results for Sunglass Hut were also exceptional, for the fourth consecutive quarter, benefitting from the continuous actions aimed at attracting and creating meaningful relationships with new consumers, as well as the opening of the first stores in Brazil and China. LensCrafters once again proved to be the point of reference for the optical sector in North America, thanks in part to the major investments made in new technologies and laboratories.

Consolidated results

In the second quarter of 2011, net sales for the Group rose by 9.5% at constant exchange rates² (+2.4% at current exchange rates), to Euro 1,633.5 million from Euro 1,595.1 million in the second quarter of 2010. During the half-year period, net sales rose by 9.3% at constant exchange rates² to Euro 3,189.6 million (Euro 2,986.8 million in the first half of 2010).

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EBITDA³ for the second quarter of 2011 grew over the previous year by 5.0% to Euro 352.2 million, from Euro 335.4 million in the second quarter of 2010. For the first half of the year, EBITDA³ increased to Euro 635.1 million from Euro 578.0 million posted for the first half of 2010.

Operating income for the second quarter of 2011 settled at Euro 276.8 million (Euro 258.3 million for the same period last year, +7.2%), while the Group's operating margin grew from 16.2% in the second quarter of 2010 to 16.9% in the second quarter of 2011. For the first half of the year, the operating income amounted to Euro 484.2 million, up 12.7% over the Euro 429.6 million posted for the same period last year.

Net income for the second quarter of 2011 increased to Euro 162.1 million, up by 8.0% from Euro 150.1 million for the same period of 2010, resulting in earnings per share (EPS) of Euro 0.35 (at an average Euro/U.S. dollar exchange rate of 1.4391). The EPS in U.S. dollars grew by 21.9% from U.S. \$0.42 in the second quarter of 2010 to U.S. \$0.51 in the second quarter of 2011.

For the second quarter of 2011, the Group increased the investments in its future, opening new stores and investing in new technologies. By carefully controlling working capital, Luxottica once again generated excellent positive free cash flow³ (Euro 154 million). Thanks to this excellent performance and after having paid dividends during the quarter of approximately Euro 200 million, net debt as of June 30, 2011 came to Euro 2,118 million (Euro 2,111 million at the end of 2010), with a ratio of net debt to EBITDA³ of 1.9x as of June 30, 2011 as compared with 2.0x at the end of 2010.

Overview of performance at the Wholesale Division

For the second quarter of 2011, the Wholesale Division recorded its best ever results, both in terms of net sales and of profitability. The Division confirmed its ability to grow significantly in all the geographic areas where the Group is present, exploiting opportunities across the board. Underlying this performance is the excellent feedback on our new collections, the ability of the organization to build and maintain strong relationships with customers, the success in promoting Luxottica's brands by highlighting their core values and providing excellent customer service.

During the quarter, Ray-Ban and Oakley results confirmed once again that they are truly exceptional brands. Additionally, the growth trends of the premium and luxury brands and of the STARS program were also confirmed.

The Division's net sales rose to Euro 704.0 million in the second quarter of 2011 from Euro 651.2 million in the second quarter of 2010 (+11.6% at constant exchange rates² and +8.1% at current exchange rates). For the first half of 2011, net sales settled at Euro 1,345.1 million, up 12.5% at constant exchange rates² over the Euro 1,204.7 million recorded for the first half of 2010 (+11.7% at current exchange rates).

Operating income for the Wholesale Division therefore amounted to Euro 188.5 million for the second quarter of 2011, up 19.9% over the 157.2 million recorded for the second quarter of 2010. The operating margin went from 24.1% in the second quarter of 2010 to 26.8% for the second quarter of 2011. In the first six months of 2011, the operating margin came to 25.0% (23.0% in the first half of 2010).

Overview of performance at the Retail Division

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During the second quarter of 2011, the Division continued to grow, with LensCrafters and Sunglass Hut in particular achieving excellent results: at constant exchange rates², net sales for the Division grew by 8.0%. The depreciation of the U.S. dollar against the Euro did, however,

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affect the translation of net sales, since approximately 80% derive from sales in North America. Net sales at current exchange rates therefore came to Euro 929.6 million for the second quarter of 2011 (Euro 944.0 million in the second quarter 2010, -1.5% at current exchange rates). During the first six months of 2011, net sales settled at Euro 1,844.5 million, up 7.2% at constant exchange rates² on the Euro 1,782.1 million recorded for the first half of 2010 (+3.5% at current exchange rates).

In terms of comparable store sales⁴, the prescription business in North America made good progress (+3.1%), with LensCrafters recording a 5.7% increase in comparable store sales⁴, continuing to benefit from the action and investments made during recent months, and Pearle Vision is back to positive.

Thanks to the efforts made by the whole organization, comparable store sales⁴ of OPSM in Australia rose by 1.2% in the second quarter of 2011, after 6 quarters of negative performance, over the same period last year, despite the Australian environment continuing to be challenging.

Once again, Sunglass Hut, the Group's sun specialty chain that operates in a number of geographical areas, posted exceptional results, with overall comparable store sales⁴ up 7.8% in the second quarter of 2011 and a particularly positive performance in the United States (+9.7%).

Due to the exchange rate effect, operating income of the Division went from Euro 136.6 million in the second quarter of 2010 to 129.8 million in the second quarter of 2011 (-5.0%). The operating margin for such periods therefore went from 14.5% to 14.0%, respectively. On a half-yearly basis, the operating margin was 12.3% (12.6% in the first half of 2010).

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Results for the first quarter and first half of 2011 will be discussed today in a conference call with the financial community starting at 6:30 PM CET. The audio portion and related presentation will be available to all via live webcast at www.luxottica.com.

The officer responsible for preparing the Company's financial reports, Enrico Cavatorta, declares, pursuant to Article 154-bis, Section 4, of the Consolidated Law on Finance, that the accounting information contained in this press release is consistent with the data in the supporting documents, books of accounts and other accounting records.

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Notes on the press release

1 All comparisons, including percentage changes, refer to the three- and six-month periods ended June 30, 2011 and June 30, 2010, respectively.

2 2011 figures at constant exchange rates have been calculated using the average exchange rates in effect for the corresponding period in the previous year. For further information, please refer to the attached tables.

3 EBITDA, EBITDA margin, free cash flow, net debt and the ratio of net debt to EBITDA are not measures in accordance with IAS/IFRS. For additional information on non-IAS/IFRS measures, please see the attached tables.

4 Comparable store sales reflect the change in sales from one period to another that, for comparison purposes, includes in the calculation only stores open in the more recent period that also were open during the comparable prior period, and applies to both periods the average exchange rate for the prior period and the same geographic area.

Luxottica Group S.p.A.

Luxottica Group is a leader in premium, luxury and sports eyewear with approximately 7,000 optical and sun retail stores in North America, Asia-Pacific, China, South Africa, Latin America and Europe, and a strong, well-balanced brand portfolio. House brands include Ray-Ban, the world's most famous sun eyewear brand, Oakley, Vogue, Persol, Oliver Peoples, Arnette and REVO, while licensed brands include Bvlgari, Burberry, Chanel, Dolce & Gabbana, Donna Karan, Polo Ralph Lauren, Prada, Tiffany and Versace. In addition to a global wholesale network involving 130 different countries, the Group manages leading retail chains in major markets, including LensCrafters, Pearle Vision and ILORI in North America, OPSM and Laubman & Pank in Asia-Pacific, LensCrafters in China, GMO in Latin America and Sunglass Hut worldwide. The Group's products are designed and manufactured at its six manufacturing plants in Italy, two wholly-owned plants in the People's Republic of China and one plant in the United States devoted to the production of sports eyewear. In 2010, Luxottica Group posted net sales of almost 5.8 billion. Additional information on the Group is available at www.luxottica.com.

Safe Harbor Statement

Certain statements in this press release may constitute "forward looking statements" as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements involve risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those which are anticipated. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the ability to manage the effects of the current uncertain international economic outlook, the ability to successfully acquire and integrate new businesses, the ability to predict future economic conditions and changes to consumer preferences, the ability to successfully introduce and market new products, the ability to maintain an efficient distribution system, the ability to achieve and manage growth, the ability to negotiate and maintain favourable license agreements, the availability of correction alternatives to prescription eyeglasses, fluctuations in exchange rates, changes in local conditions, the ability to protect intellectual property, the ability to maintain relations with those hosting our stores, computer system problems, inventory-related risks, credit and insurance risks, changes to tax regimes as well as other political, economic and technological factors and other risks and uncertainties referred to in Luxottica Group's filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. These forward looking statements are made as of the date hereof and Luxottica Group does not assume any obligation to update them.

- APPENDIX FOLLOWS -

LUXOTTICA GROUP

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
FOR THE THREE-MONTH PERIODS ENDED
JUNE 30, 2011 AND JUNE 30, 2010

In accordance with IAS/IFRS

	2011	2010	% Change
KEY FIGURES IN THOUSANDS OF EURO (1)			
NET SALES	1,633,544	1,595,124	2.4%
NET INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO LUXOTTICA GROUP STOCKHOLDERS	162,087	150,052	8.0%
BASIC EARNINGS PER SHARE (ADS)(2):	0.35	0.33	7.6%
	2011	2010	% Change
KEY FIGURES IN THOUSANDS OF U.S. DOLLARS (1) (3)			
NET SALES	2,350,833	2,027,084	16.0%
NET INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO LUXOTTICA GROUP STOCKHOLDERS	233,259	190,686	22.3%
BASIC EARNINGS PER SHARE (ADS) (2):	0.51	0.42	21.7%

Notes :

(1) Except earnings per share (ADS), which are expressed in Euro and U.S. Dollars, respectively

	2011	2010
(2) Weighted average number of outstanding shares	460,302,612	458,696,583
(3) Average exchange rate (in U.S. Dollars per Euro)	1.4391	1.2708

LUXOTTICA GROUP

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FOR THE SIX-MONTH PERIODS ENDED

JUNE 30, 2011 AND JUNE 30, 2010

In accordance with IAS/IFRS

	2011	2010	% Change
KEY FIGURES IN THOUSANDS OF EURO (1)			
NET SALES	3,189,646	2,986,811	6.8%
NET INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO LUXOTTICA GROUP STOCKHOLDERS	276,781	245,143	12.9%
BASIC EARNINGS PER SHARE (ADS) (2)	0.60	0.53	12.5%
	2011	2010	% Change
KEY FIGURES IN THOUSANDS OF U.S. DOLLARS (1) (3)			
NET SALES	4,475,711	3,962,901	12.9%
NET INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO LUXOTTICA GROUP STOCKHOLDERS	388,379	325,256	19.4%
BASIC EARNINGS PER SHARE (ADS)(2)	0.84	0.71	19.0%

Notes :

(1) Except earnings per share (ADS), which are expressed in Euro and U.S. Dollars, respectively

(2) Weighted average number of outstanding shares

(3) Average exchange rate (in U.S. Dollars per Euro)

LUXOTTICA GROUP

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE THREE-MONTH PERIODS ENDED
JUNE 30, 2011 AND JUNE 30, 2010

In accordance with IAS/IFRS

	2Q 2011	% of sales	2Q 2010	% of sales	% Change
KEY FIGURES IN THOUSANDS OF EURO (1)					
NET SALES	1,633,544	100.0%	1,595,124	100.0%	2.4%
COST OF SALES	(542,674)		(529,756)		
GROSS PROFIT	1,090,871	66.8%	1,065,367	66.8%	2.4%
<i>OPERATING EXPENSES:</i>					
SELLING EXPENSES	(488,101)		(484,763)		
ROYALTIES	(28,509)		(27,632)		
ADVERTISING EXPENSES	(113,260)		(115,345)		
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	(164,482)		(157,875)		
TRADEMARK AMORTIZATION AND OTHER	(19,701)		(21,422)		
TOTAL	(814,053)		(807,037)		
OPERATING INCOME	276,819	16.9%	258,330	16.2%	7.2%
<i>OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE):</i>					
INTEREST EXPENSES	(31,172)		(26,932)		
INTEREST INCOME	5,148		1,245		
OTHER - NET	(1,152)		(3,934)		
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)-NET	(27,175)		(29,622)		
INCOME BEFORE PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES	249,642	15.3%	228,708	14.3%	9.2%
PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES	(85,822)				