

SAPPI LTD

Form 6-K

November 12, 2010

FORM 6-K

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Report of Foreign Private Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16

under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of November, 2010

Commission file number: 1-14872

SAPPI LIMITED

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

48 Ameshoff Street

Braamfontein

Johannesburg 2001

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

(Address of principal executive offices)

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

X

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

X

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

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

In order to utilize the “Safe Harbor” provisions of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the “Reform Act”), Sappi Limited (the “Company”) is providing the following cautionary statement. Except for historical information contained herein, statements contained in this Report on Form 6-K may constitute “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Reform Act. The words “believe”, “anticipate”, “expect”, “intend”, “estimate”, “plan”, “assume”, “positioned”, “will”, “may”, “should”, “risk” and other similar expressions, which are predictions of or indicate future events and future trends, which do not relate to historical matters, identify forward-looking statements. In addition, this Report on Form 6-K may include forward-looking statements relating to the Company’s potential exposure to various types of market risks, such as interest rate risk, foreign exchange rate risk and commodity price risk. Reliance should not be placed on forward-looking statements because they involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which are in some cases beyond the control of the Company, together with its subsidiaries (the “Group”), and may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of the Group to differ materially from anticipated future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements (and from past results, performance or achievements). Certain factors that may cause such differences include but are not limited to: the impact of the global economic downturn, the highly cyclical nature of the pulp and paper industry (and the factors that contribute to such cyclicity, such as levels of demand, production capacity, production, input costs including raw material, energy and employee costs, and pricing), adverse changes in the markets for the group’s products, consequences of substantial leverage, including as a result of adverse changes in credit markets that affect our ability to raise capital when needed, changing regulatory requirements, unanticipated production disruptions (including as a result of planned or unexpected power outages), economic and political conditions in international markets, the impact of investments, acquisitions and dispositions (including related financing), any delays, unexpected costs or other problems experienced with integrating acquisitions and achieving expected savings and synergies and currency fluctuations. These and other risks, uncertainties and factors are discussed in the Company’s Annual Report on Form 20-F and other filings with and submissions to the Securities and Exchange Commission, including this Report on Form 6-K. Shareholders and prospective investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are made as of the date of the submission of this Report on Form 6-K and are not intended to give any assurance as to future results. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any of these forward-looking statements, whether to reflect new information or future events or circumstances or otherwise.

results for the 4
th
quarter and
year ended September 2010

sappi

Coated fine paper

64%

Uncoated fine paper

7%

Coated specialities

7%

Commodity paper

7%

Pulp

14%

Other

1%

North America

21%

Europe

55%

Southern Africa

24%

Sales by product group*

Sales by source*

North America

22%

Europe

48%

Southern Africa

13%

Asia and other

17%

Fine paper

62%

38%

Southern Africa

Sales by destination*

Net operating assets**

results

1

Financial summary for the quarter

- Operating profit US\$129 million (excluding special items);
Q4 2009 US\$38 million (excluding special items)
- EPS 16 US cents; Q4 2009 loss per share of 20 US cents
- EPS 9 US cents (excluding special items); Q4 2009 loss per
share 2 US cents (excluding special items)
- Net cash generated US\$238 million; Q4 2009 US\$225 million
- Coated paper prices increasing; pulp prices high
- Strong Demand
- Strong Liquidity

Quarter ended

Year ended

Sept 2010

Jun 2010

Sept 2009

Sept 2010

Sept 2009

Key figures: (US\$ million)

Sales

1,774

1,602 1,553

6,572 5,369

Operating profit (loss)

158

154

(129)

341

(73)

Special items – (gains) losses

1

(29)

(79)

167

(2)

106

Operating profit excluding
special items

2

129

75 38

339

33

EBITDA excluding special items

3

227

176 150

752

431

Basic earnings (loss) per share		
(US cents)		
16		
12		
(20)		
13		
(37)		
Net debt		
4		
2,221		
2,337	2,576	
2,221		
2,576		
Key ratios: (%)		
Operating profit (loss) to sales		
8.9		
9.6		
(8.3)		
5.2		
(1.4)		
Operating profit excluding		
special items to sales		
7.3		
4.7	2.4	
5.2		
0.6		
Operating profit excluding		
special items to		
Capital Employed (ROCE)		
12.6		
7.3	3.3	
8.0		
0.8		
EBITDA excluding special		
items to sales		
12.8		
11.0	9.7	
11.4		
8.0		
Return on average equity (ROE)		
5		
18.6		
15.0		
(21.4)		
3.6		
(10.4)		
Net debt to total capitalisation		
5		
53.9		
57.6	58.9	
53.9		

58.9

1

Refer to page 16 for details on special items.

2

Refer to page 16, note 9 to the group results for the reconciliation of operating profit excluding special items to operating profit (loss).

3

Refer to page 16, note 9 to the group results for the reconciliation of EBITDA excluding special items to profit (loss) before taxation.

4

Refer to page 18, Supplemental Information for the reconciliation of net debt to interest-bearing borrowings.

5

Refer to page 17, Supplemental Information for the definition of the term.

The table above has not been audited or reviewed.

2

Commentary on the quarter

The group had a much improved performance for the quarter, achieving the highest quarterly operating profit excluding special items for a number of years and net cash generated of US\$238 million. The performance of each of the businesses improved, particularly those of North America and Southern Africa which are net sellers of pulp and therefore benefited from high pulp prices.

Demand conditions continued to improve gradually and almost all our mills ran at full capacity for the quarter. In Europe, we implemented a price increase during September (the third since March) which has started to offset the effect of the substantial increase in pulp input costs experienced over the past year and to restore reasonable margins.

Sales increased to US\$1.8 billion, a 14% increase on sales in the equivalent quarter last year as a result of increased sales volumes and prices.

Average prices realised by the group were 3% higher than a year ago in US Dollar terms. In local currency, average prices increased by 11% in Europe, 8% in North America and, largely as a result of high pulp prices, 25% in South Africa.

Raw material input costs were up approximately US\$100 million compared to the equivalent quarter last year, mainly as a result of higher pulp prices.

Special items for the quarter amounted to a gain of US\$29 million primarily in respect of the plantation price fair value adjustment.

Operating profit excluding special items was US\$129 million for the quarter, a substantial improvement compared to US\$38 million in the equivalent quarter last year and compared to US\$75 million in the June 2010 quarter. Including special items, operating profit was US\$158 million compared to a loss of US\$129 million in the equivalent quarter last year.

Earnings per share for the quarter were 16 US cents (including a gain of 7 US cents in respect of special items including financing items), compared to a loss of 20 US cents in the equivalent quarter last year (which included a loss of 18 US cents in respect of special items including financing items).

Year ended September 2010 compared to year ended September 2009

2010 was a much improved year for Sappi. Sales for the year were 22% higher than the prior year as a result of improving demand, favourable currency movements and the inclusion of the coated paper businesses acquired from M-real for the full year in 2010 compared to 9 months in 2009.

Operating profit excluding special items was US\$339 million compared to US\$33 million in the prior year. While special items had an impact on quarterly results through the year the net effect for the full year was only US\$2 million. Accordingly, operating profit including special items for the year was therefore similar at US\$341 million compared to a loss of US\$73 million last year.

The group generated a net profit of US\$66 million for the year and earnings per share of 13 US cents (favourably impacted by 4 US cents of special items including financing items) compared to a net loss of US\$177 million and a loss per share of 37 US cents (including a loss of 13 US cents of special items including financing items) last year.

results

3

Cash flow and debt

Quarter

Net cash generated was US\$238 million for the quarter reflecting improved cash generated by operations, and cash released from working capital of US\$181 million.

Net debt decreased by US\$116 million over the quarter to US\$2,221 million as a result of the net cash generated, partly offset by unfavourable currency translation (due to the strengthening of the Euro and the Rand relative to the US Dollar in the quarter).

Year

Over the financial year, we reduced our net debt by US\$355 million largely as a result of net cash generation of US\$341 million. At year end we had cash on hand of US\$792 million and had additional liquidity in the form of a €209 million (US\$282 million) committed revolving credit facility. During the year, we used approximately US\$250 million of our cash to repay debt early. Capital expenditure of US\$188 million for the year was in line with our target of US\$200 million.

Operating Review for the Quarter

Sappi Fine Paper

Quarter

Quarter

Quarter

ended

ended

ended

Sept 2010

Sept 2009

%

June 2010

US\$ million

US\$ million

change

US\$ million

Sales

1,327

1,208

10 1,220

Operating profit

87

1

–* 36

Operating profit to sales (%)

6.6 0.1

– 3.0

Special items – (gains) losses

(11) 49

–

1

Operating profit (loss) excluding special items

76 50

52 37

Operating profit (loss) excluding

special items to sales (%)		
5.7		4.1
–		3.0
EBITDA excluding special items		
151		138
9		110
EBITDA excluding special items		
to sales (%)		
11.4		11.4
–		
9.0		
RONOA pa (%)		
10.0		5.9
–		4.8

* Comparative not meaningful.

The Fine Paper business achieved an operating profit excluding special items of US\$76 million for the quarter, a 52% improvement compared to the equivalent quarter last year as a result of improved demand levels in our major markets and improving prices.

4		
Europe		
Quarter		
Quarter		
Quarter		
ended		
ended	%	%
ended		
Sept 2010		
Sept 2009	change	
change		
June 2010		
US\$ million		
US\$ million		
(US\$)		
(Euro)		
US\$ million		
Sales		
963	868	
11		
23		
873		
Operating profit (loss)		
40	(59)	
—*		
—*		
11		
Operating profit (loss) to sales (%)		
4.2	(6.8)	
—	—	
1.3		
Special items – (gains) losses		
(6)	75	
—	—	
2		
Operating profit excluding		
special items		
34	16	
113		
133		
13		
Operating profit excluding		
special items to sales (%)		
3.5	1.8	
—	—	
1.5		
EBITDA excluding special items		
90	80	
13		
25		
68		

EBITDA excluding special items

to sales (%)

9.3 9.2

— —

7.8

RONOA pa (%)

6.5

2.7 — —

2.5

* Comparative not meaningful.

While the business performed significantly better during the quarter, it is not yet achieving an acceptable return which remains the top priority for the Sappi group.

The European business' coated paper shipments continued to grow in the quarter. Industry coated woodfree paper shipments increased by 7%, compared to the equivalent quarter last year including a significant increase in exports. Shipments of coated mechanical paper increased 13%, almost returning to the shipment volumes of the equivalent quarter in 2008 which was prior to the global crash.

A third coated woodfree price increase was implemented in September which, together with increases in April and June, is helping offset the effect of rapidly increasing pulp prices. There was a modest price increase for coated mechanical paper in July but the margins for our coated mechanical paper remain well below acceptable levels.

Our average price realised in Europe for the quarter was 11% above the equivalent quarter last year and 5% above those realised in the June 2010 quarter.

results		
5		
North America		
Quarter		
Quarter		
Quarter		
ended		
ended		ended
Sept 2010		
Sept 2009		
%		
June 2010		
US\$ million		
US\$ million		
change		
US\$ million		
Sales		
364	340	
7	347	
Operating profit		
47		
60		
(22)		
25		
Operating profit to sales (%)		
12.9		
	17.6	
–		
7.2		
Special items – gains		
(5)		
(26)		
–		
(1)		
Operating profit excluding special items		
42		
34		
24		
24		
Operating profit excluding special items to sales (%)		
11.5		
10.0	–	
6.9		
EBITDA excluding special items		
61		
58		
5		
42		
EBITDA excluding special items		

to sales (%)

16.8

17.1

–

12.1

RONOA pa (%)

17.8

13.5 –

10.0

The North American business performed well, benefiting from its market positioning, competitive cost base, good performance from the specialities products and surplus pulp position with higher pulp pricing. Operating profit was lower than the equivalent quarter last year due to alternative fuel tax credits received in the quarter ended September 2009 which are included in special items.

Demand levels improved further, with US industry shipments of coated woodfree paper increasing 9% compared to the equivalent quarter last year.

While price increases were implemented on selected coated paper grades during the quarter, the average price increase of 8% compared to the equivalent quarter last year was largely a result of pulp price increases.

During the quarter, we built our pulp inventory at Somerset mill in preparation for a pulp mill outage which commenced in October 2010. During the outage we upgraded the chemical recovery complex at the mill which is expected to significantly reduce energy costs and increase the proportion of renewable energy used at the Somerset mill to 89%.

During October, the U.S. International Trade Commission ruled to impose anti-dumping and countervailing duties on imported coated sheet paper from Indonesia and China. The duties which range from 25.2% to 313.8% are expected to re-establish a level playing field in the US.

6				
Sappi Southern Africa				
Quarter				
Quarter				
Quarter				
ended				
ended	%	%		
ended				
Sept 2010				
Sept 2009	change			
change				
June 2010				
US\$ million				
US\$ million				
(US\$)				
(Rand)				
US\$ million				
Sales				
447	345			
30				
23				
382				
Operating profit (loss)				
84				
(125)	—*	—*		
118				
Operating profit (loss)				
to sales (%)				
18.8	(36.2)	—	—	
30.9				
Special items – (gains) losses				
(26)	115	—	—	
(83)				
Operating profit (loss) excluding				
special items				
58				
(10)				
—				
—				
35				
Operating profit (loss) excluding				
special items to sales (%)				
13.0				
(2.9)				
—	—			
9.2				
EBITDA excluding special items				
82				
15				
447				
420				

62

EBITDA excluding special items
to sales (%)

18.3

4.3

—

—

16.2

RONOA pa (%)

12.6

(2.1)

—

7.9

* Comparative not meaningful.

The performance of the Southern African business improved significantly during the quarter. We reorganised the paper and packaging paper business during the quarter to provide a more effective customer interface and to share best operating practices among the mills.

The chemical cellulose business continued to achieve higher output from the expanded Saiccor Mill. Demand was very strong and prices increased further. The majority of our sales are linked to long-term contracts and we therefore did not realise the full benefit of the record spot prices in certain markets for chemical cellulose. These spot markets represent a small proportion of the total chemical cellulose market.

Demand for packaging and fine paper products has improved in the domestic market but competition from imports has continued as a result of the strength of the Rand relative to the US dollar.

Directorate

During the quarter, it was announced that Mr H C Mamsch would be retiring from the board of directors at the end of December 2010, having served for seven years.

results

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Outlook

We expect continued gradual improvement in global economic conditions during the year ahead; however we remain cautious as a result of factors such as the volatility of exchange rates which could dampen growth.

Against that background, we expect demand for coated paper in our major markets to recover further during the year. We believe that input costs are likely to rise. We intend to reduce our costs where possible and to grow revenue through sales volume, mix and higher price levels to achieve acceptable margins across the businesses.

We expect continued strong demand and good price levels for chemical cellulose in the year ahead. The reorganisation of the paper business in Southern Africa is expected to help improve margins; however, the Rand is currently strong relative to the US dollar and remains volatile. A strengthening Rand would be unfavourable for the performance of the Southern African business.

The extended outage at Somerset pulp mill in October 2010 will reduce the potential profitability of our North American business for the quarter but we expect the pulp mill to start ramping up production in early November and for energy costs to be reduced once the rebuilt energy complex reaches optimum efficiencies.

With the expected improvement in the performance of our businesses and reduced uncertainty in financial markets we will gradually reduce our cash on hand with further repayment of debt. This, together with our targeted continued reduction in net debt, will help reduce finance costs in the year ahead.

In our first financial quarter, we expect the group's operating profit (excluding special items) to continue the improving trend relative to the equivalent quarter last year.

On behalf of the board

R J Boëttger

M R Thompson

Director

Director

08 November 2010

sappi limited

(Registration number 1936/008963/06)

Issuer Code: SAVVI

JSE Code: SAP

ISIN: ZAE000006284

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Forward-looking statements

Certain statements in this release that are neither reported financial results nor other historical information, are forward-looking statements, including but not limited to statements that are predictions of or indicate future earnings, savings, synergies, events, trends, plans or objectives. The words 'believe', 'anticipate', 'expect', 'intend', 'estimate', 'plan', 'assume', 'positioned', 'will', 'may', 'should', 'risk' and other similar expressions, which are predictions of or indicate future events and future trends, which do not relate to historical matters, identify forward-looking statements. Undue reliance should not be placed on such statements because, by their nature, they are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties and can be affected by other factors that could cause actual results and company plans and objectives to differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements (or from past results). Such risks, uncertainties and factors include, but are not limited to, the impact of the global economic downturn, the highly cyclical nature of the pulp and paper industry (and the factors that contribute to such cyclicity, such as levels of demand, production capacity, production, input costs including raw material, energy and employee costs, and pricing), adverse changes in the markets for the group's products, consequences of substantial leverage, including as a result of adverse changes in credit markets that affect our ability to raise capital when needed, changing regulatory requirements, possible early termination of alternative fuel tax credits, unanticipated production disruptions (including as a result of planned or unexpected power outages), economic and political conditions in international markets, the impact of investments, acquisitions and dispositions (including related financing), any delays, unexpected costs or other problems experienced with integrating acquisitions and achieving expected savings and synergies and currency fluctuations. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any of these forward-looking statements, whether to reflect new information or future events or circumstances or otherwise.

results

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Group income statement

Reviewed

Reviewed

Reviewed

Quarter

Quarter

Year

Year

ended

ended

ended

ended

Sept 2010

Sept 2009

Sept 2010

Sept 2009

Note

US\$ million

US\$ million

US\$ million

US\$ million

Sales

1,774	1,553
-------	-------

6,572	5,369
-------	-------

Cost of sales

1,498

1,519

5,786

5,029

Gross profit

276

34

786

340

Selling, general and administrative

expenses

119

112

448

385

Other operating expenses

1

56

10

39

Share of profit from

associates and joint ventures

(2)

(5)

(13)
(11)
Operating profit (loss)
3
158
(129)
341
(73)
Net finance costs
63
14
255
145
Net interest
67
21
293
137
Net foreign exchange gains
(1)
(5)
(17)
(17)
Net fair value (gains) losses on
financial instruments
(3)
(2)
(21)
25
Profit (loss) before taxation
95
(143)
86
(218)
Taxation
11
(40)
20
(41)
Current
(7)
(3)
(6)
4
Deferred
18
(37)
26
(45)
Profit (loss) for the period
84

(103)
66
(177)
Basic earnings (loss) per share
(US cents)
16
(20)
13
(37)
Weighted average number of
shares in issue (millions)
519.5
515.8
516.7
482.6
Diluted basic earnings (loss)
per share (US cents)
16
(20)
13
(37)
Weighted average number
of shares on fully
diluted basis (millions)
524.0
515.8
520.8
482.6
Group statement of comprehensive income
Reviewed
Reviewed
Reviewed
Quarter
Quarter
Year
Year
ended
ended
ended
ended
Sept 2010
Sept 2009
Sept 2010
Sept 2009
US\$ million
US\$ million
US\$ million
US\$ million
Profit (loss) for the period
84
(103)

66
(177)
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax
86
(154)
8
(197)
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations
121
57
52
14
Actuarial losses in post- employment benefits
(71)
(229)
(71)
(229)
Movements in hedging reserves
23
(14)
14
(14)
Movement on available for sale financial assets
2
-
2
-
Deferred tax effects on above
11
32
11
32
Total comprehensive income (loss) for the period
170
(257)
74
(374)

10	
Group balance sheet	
Reviewed	
Reviewed	
Sept 2010	
Sept 2009	
US\$ million	
US\$ million	
ASSETS	
Non-current assets	
4,653	
4,867	
Property, plant and equipment	
3,660	
3,934	
Plantations	
687	
611	
Deferred taxation	
53	
56	
Other non-current assets	
253	
266	
Current assets	
2,531	
2,430	
Inventories	
836	
792	
Trade and other receivables	
903	
868	
Cash and cash equivalents	
792	
770	
Total assets	
7,184	
7,297	
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	
Shareholders' equity	
Ordinary shareholders' interest	
1,896	
1,794	
Non-current liabilities	
3,249	
3,662	
Interest-bearing borrowings	
2,317	
2,726	
Deferred taxation	

386
355
Other non-current liabilities
546
581
Current liabilities
2,039
1,841
Interest-bearing borrowings
691
601
Bank overdraft
5
19
Other current liabilities
1,307
1,165
Taxation payable
36
56
Total equity and liabilities
7,184
7,297
Number of shares in issue at balance sheet date (millions)
519.5
515.7

results
11
Group cash flow statement
Reviewed
Reviewed
Reviewed
Quarter
Quarter
Year
Year
ended
ended
ended
ended
Sept 2010
Sept 2009
Sept 2010
Sept 2009
US\$ million
US\$ million
US\$ million
US\$ million
Profit (loss) for the period
84
(103)
66
(177)
Adjustment for:
Depreciation, fellings and amortisation
119
131
484
467
Taxation
11
(40)
20
(41)
Net finance costs
63
14
255
145
Post-employment benefits
(25)
(30)
(73)
(62)
Plantation price fair value adjustment
(29)
111

(31)
67
Other non-cash items
(41)
78
16
33
Cash generated from operations
182
161
737
432
Movement in working capital
181
127
(5)
152
Net finance costs
(66
) (27)
(194)
(81)
Taxation paid
(1)
-
(9)
(5)
Dividends paid
-
-
-
(37)
Cash retained from operating activities
296
261
529
461
Cash utilised in investing activities
(58)
(36)
(188)
(762)
Capital expenditure and other
non-current assets
(58)
(34)
(188)
(172)
Acquisition
-
(2)

	–
	(590)
Net cash generated (utilised)	238
	225
	341
	(301)
Cash effects of financing activities	(12)
	(272)
	(256)
	707
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents	226
	(47)
	85
	406
Group statement of changes in equity	
Reviewed	
Reviewed	
Year	
Year	
ended	
ended	
Sept 2010	
Sept 2009	
US\$ million	
US\$ million	
Balance – beginning of period	1,794
	1,605
Total comprehensive income (loss) for the period	74
	(374)
Dividends paid	–
	(37)
Rights offer	–
	575
Costs directly attributable to the rights offer	–
	(31)
Issue of new shares	17
	45
Transfers (to) from the share purchase trust	(6)
	2
Share-based payment reserve	

17

9

Balance – end of period

1,896

1,794

12

Notes to the group results

1. Basis of preparation

The condensed financial information has been prepared in accordance with the framework concepts and the measurement and recognition requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) issued by the International Accounting Standards Board, the AC 500 standards issued by the Accounting Practices Board and the information required by IAS 34 “Interim Financial Reporting”. The report has been prepared using accounting policies that comply with IFRS which are consistent with those applied in the financial statements for the year ended September 2009, except for the adoption of IFRS 8 “Operating Segments”. The preliminary results for the year ended September 2010 as set out on pages 9 to 16 have been reviewed in terms of the International Standard on Review Engagements 2410 by the group’s auditors, Deloitte & Touche. Their unmodified review report is available for inspection at the company’s registered office.

2. Adoption of IFRS 8 “Operating Segments”

The adoption of IFRS 8 “Operating Segments” did not have an impact on the group’s reported results or financial position.

IFRS 8 requires an entity to report financial and descriptive information about its reportable segments. Reportable segments are components of an entity for which separate financial information is available that is evaluated regularly by the chief operating decision maker in deciding how to allocate resources and assessing performance. Prior year segment disclosure has been restated as reflected in note 9.

Reviewed

Reviewed

Reviewed

Quarter

Quarter

Year

Year

ended

ended

ended

ended

Sept 2010 Sept 2009

Sept 2010

Sept 2009

US\$ million US\$ million

US\$ million

US\$ million

3. Operating profit (loss)

Included in operating profit (loss) are the following non-cash items:

Depreciation and amortisation

98

112

413

398

Fair value adjustment on plantations
(included in cost of sales)

Changes in volume

Fellings

21

19

71
69
Growth
(19)
(21)
(67)
(73)
2
(2)
4
(4)
Plantation price fair value
adjustment
(1)
(29)
111
(31)
67
(27)
109
(27)
63
Included in other operating expenses
are the following:
Asset impairments (impairment reversals)
2
73
(10)
79
Profit on disposal of property,
plant and equipment
(6)
—
(5)
(1)
Loss on disposal of investment
1
—
—
—
Restructuring provisions raised
—
24
46
34
Integration costs
—
—
—
3

Black Economic Empowerment
transactions charge

(2)

–

–

23

–

Fuel tax credit

–

(50)

(51)

(87)

(1)

In the third quarter of fiscal 2010 the group changed the estimates used to derive the prices of timber that are used to calculate the fair value of its plantations. The change impacts the estimate of the expected future cash flows that are used in calculating the present value of mature and immature timber except for the timber that is expected to be felled in the next twelve months from balance sheet date. Before the change, Sappi used period end spot prices to estimate the fair value of the above timber; the group now uses a twelve quarter rolling average price, as this reflects the fair value of the plantations more accurately.

(2)

IFRS 2 non-cash charges associated with Black Economic Empowerment transactions, the majority of which relates to the unwinding of the 2006 Black Economic Empowerment deal with the remaining charge relating to the issue of shares to employees and local communities.

results

13

Reviewed

Reviewed

Reviewed

Quarter

Quarter

Year

Year

ended

ended

ended

ended

Sept 2010

Sept 2009	Sept 2010	Sept 2009	US\$ million
US\$ million	US\$ million	US\$ million	US\$ million

4. Headline earnings (loss) per share *

Headline earnings (loss) per share (US cents)

16

(6)

10

(21)

Weighted average number of shares in issue
(millions)

519.5

515.8

516.7

482.6

Diluted headline earnings (loss) per share
(US cents)

16

(6)

10

(21)

Weighted average number of shares
on fully diluted basis (millions)

524.0

515.8

520.8

482.6

Calculation of headline earnings (loss) *

Profit (loss) for the period

84

(103)

66

(177)

Asset impairments (impairment reversals)

2

73

(10)

79

Profit on disposal of property,
plant and equipment

(5)

—

(4)

(1)

Loss on disposal of investment

1

—

—

—

Tax effect of above items

—

—

—

—

Headline earnings (loss)

82

(30)

52

(99)

*Headline earnings disclosure is required by the JSE Limited.

5. Capital expenditure

Property, plant and equipment

81

37

201

184

Reviewed

Reviewed

Sept 2010

Sept

2009

US\$ million

US\$ million

6. Capital commitments

Contracted

62

62

Approved but not contracted

109

126

171

188

7. Contingent liabilities

Guarantees and suretyships

48

44

Other contingent liabilities

8

8

56

52

8. Material balance sheet movements

Early repayment of interest-bearing borrowings

The North American Municipal Bonds of US\$106 million were repaid in March 2010 at par value.

An amount of US\$29 million of our 7.5% Guaranteed Notes due 2032 was repurchased in the open market early in the third quarter for US\$24 million.

An early repayment of the first instalment on a syndicated loan with Österreichische Kontrollbank of €80 million (US\$99 million), due in December 2010, was made in June 2010.

Transfers from assets held for sale and liabilities associated with assets held for sale

The Usutu pulp mill was permanently closed at the end of January 2010. The future of the site and plantations was discussed with potential investors and the Government of Swaziland. The disposal group consisting mainly of plantations had been classified as held for sale since December 2009. The Sappi board subsequently took a decision to continue with its forestry operations in Swaziland, and is investigating the establishment of various timber processing operations at the Usutu mill site. As a result, the assets are no longer classified as held for sale.

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9. Segment Information

Restatement of prior year disclosures

Fine Paper Southern Africa is now reported as part of the Southern African segment (previously referred to as "Forest Products") in accordance with the geographical management of our business. The table below shows the effect of this change for the quarter and year ended September 2009:

Restated

Reviewed

Quarter ended

Sept 2009

US\$ million

As previously

reported Adjustment Restated

Fine Paper

Sales

1,300 (92)

1,208

Operating (loss) profit

(1)

2

1

Net operating assets

3,526

(205)

3,321

Southern Africa

Sales

253 92

345

Operating loss

(123)

(2)

(125)

Net operating assets

1,686

205

1,891

Restated

Reviewed

Year ended

Sept 2009

US\$ million

As previously

reported Adjustment Restated

Fine Paper

Sales

4,508 (318)

4,190

Operating loss

(17)

3

(14)
Net operating assets
3,526
(205)
3,321
Southern Africa
Sales
861 318
1,179
Operating loss
(52)
(3)
(55)
Net operating assets
1,686
205
1,891

results

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The information below is presented in the way that it is reviewed by the chief operating decision maker as required by IFRS 8 “Operating Segments”.

Restated

Restated

Quarter

Quarter

Year

Year

ended

ended

ended

ended

Sept 2010

Sept 2009

Sept 2010

Sept 2009

Metric tons

Metric tons

Metric tons

Metric tons

(000’s)

(000’s)

(000’s)

(000’s)

Sales volume

Fine Paper –

North America

352

355

1,354

1,274

Europe

994

895

3,796

2,956

Total

1,346

1,250

5,150

4,230

Southern Africa –

Pulp and paper

460

470

1,751

1,660

Forestry

289

168

993
 817
 Total
 2,095
 1,888
 7,894
 6,707
 Reviewed
 Reviewed
 Reviewed
 US\$ million
 US\$ million
 US\$ million
 US\$ million
 Sales
 Fine Paper –
 North America
 364
 340
 1,373
 1,295
 Europe
 963
 868
 3,638
 2,895
 Total 1,327
 1,208
 5,011
 4,190
 Southern Africa –
 Pulp and paper
 426
 331
 1,488
 1,124
 Forestry
 21
 14
 73
 55
 Total
 1,774
 1,553
 6,572
 5,369
 Operating profit excluding special items
 Fine Paper –
 North America
 42
 34

124	
(2)	
Europe	
34	
16	
76	
12	
Total	76
50	
200	
10	
Southern Africa	
58	
(10)	
134	
17	
Corporate and other	
(5)	
(2)	
5	
6	
Total	
129	
38	
339	
33	
Special items – (gains) losses	
Fine Paper –	
North America	
(5)	
(26)	
(56)	
(55)	
Europe	
(6)	
75	
4	
79	
Total	(11)
49	
(52)	
24	
Southern Africa	
(26)	
115	
22	
72	
Corporate and other	
8	
3	
28	

10	
Total	
(29)	
167	
(2)	
106	
Operating profit (loss)	
Fine Paper –	
North America	
47	
60	
180	
53	
Europe	
40	
(59)	
72	
(67)	
Total	87
1	
252	
(14)	
Southern Africa	
84	
(125)	
112	
(55)	
Corporate and other	
(13)	
(5)	
(23)	
(4)	
Total	
158	
(129)	
341	
(73)	
EBITDA excluding special items	
Fine Paper –	
North America	
61	
58	
201	
98	
Europe	
90	
80	
310	
226	
Total	151
138	

511
324
Southern Africa
82
15
236
101
Corporate and other
(6)
(3)
5
6
Total
227
150
752
431

16				
Restated				
Restated				
Reviewed				
Reviewed				
Reviewed				
Quarter				
Quarter				
Year				
Year				
ended				
ended				
ended				
ended				
Sept 2010				
Sept 2009				
Sept 2010				
Sept 2009				
US\$ million	US\$ million	US\$ million	US\$ million	US\$ million
Net operating assets				
Fine Paper –				
North America				
935				
981				
935				
981				
Europe				
2,109				
2,340				
2,109				
2,340				
Total		3,044		
3,321				
3,044				
3,321				
Southern Africa				
1,887				
1,891				
1,887				
1,891				
Corporate and other				
65				
38				
65				
38				
Total				
4,996				
5,250				
4,996				
5,250				
Reconciliation of operating profit excluding special items to operating profit (loss)				

Special items cover those items which management believe are material by nature or amount to the operating results and require separate disclosure. Such items would generally include profit or loss on disposal of property, investments and businesses, asset impairments, restructuring charges, non-recurring integration costs related to acquisitions, financial impacts of natural disasters, non-cash gains or losses on the price fair value adjustment of plantations and alternative fuel tax credits receivable in cash.

Operating profit excluding special items	129
	38
	339
	33
Special items	29
	(167)
	2
	(106)
Plantation price fair value adjustment	29
	(111)
	31
	(67)
Restructuring provisions raised	–
	(24)
	(46)
	(34)
Profit on disposal of property, plant and equipment	6
	–
	5
	1
Loss on disposal of investment	(1)
	–
	–
	–
Asset (impairments) impairment reversals	(2)
	(73)
	10
	(79)
Fuel tax credit	–
	50
	51
	87
Integration costs	–
	–
	–
	(3)
Black Economic Empowerment transactions charge	

-	
-	
(23)	
-	
Fire, flood, storm and related events	
(3)	
(9)	
(26)	
(11)	
Operating profit (loss)	
158	
(129)	
341	
(73)	
Reconciliation of EBITDA excluding special items and operating profit excluding special items to profit (loss) before taxation	
EBITDA excluding special items	
227	
150	
752	
431	
Depreciation and amortisation	
(98)	
(112)	
(413)	
(398)	
Operating profit excluding special items	
129	
38	
339	
33	
Special items – gains (losses)	
29	
(167)	
2	
(106)	
Net finance costs	
(63)	
(14)	
(255)	
(145)	
Profit (loss) before taxation	
95	
(143)	
86	
(218)	
Reconciliation of net operating assets to total assets	
Net operating assets	
4,996	
5,250	
4,996	

5,250
Deferred tax
53
56
53
56
Cash and cash equivalents
792
770
792
770
Other current liabilities
1,307
1,165
1,307
1,165
Taxation payable
36
56
36
56
Total assets
7,184
7,297
7,184
7,297

results

17

Supplemental Information (this information has not been reviewed)

General definitions

Average – averages are calculated as the sum of the opening and closing balances for the relevant period divided by two

Fellings – the amount charged against the income statement representing the standing value of the plantations harvested

NBSK – Northern Bleached Softwood Kraft pulp. One of the main varieties of market pulp, produced from coniferous trees (i.e. spruce, pine) in Scandinavia, Canada and northern USA. The price of NBSK is a benchmark widely used in the pulp and paper industry for comparative purposes

SG&A – selling, general and administrative expenses

Non-GAAP measures

The group believes that it is useful to report certain non-GAAP measures for the following reasons:

- these measures are used by the group for internal performance analysis;
- the presentation by the group's reported business segments of these measures facilitates comparability with other companies in our industry, although the group's measures may not be comparable with similarly titled profit measurements reported by other companies; and
- it is useful in connection with discussion with the investment analyst community and debt rating agencies.

These non-GAAP measures should not be considered in isolation or construed as a substitute for GAAP measures in accordance with IFRS

Capital employed – shareholders' equity plus net debt

EBITDA excluding special items – earnings before interest (net finance costs), taxation, depreciation, amortisation and special items

Headline earnings – as defined in circular 3/2009 issued by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants, separates from earnings all separately identifiable re-measurements. It is not necessarily a measure of sustainable earnings. It is a listing requirement of the JSE Limited to disclose headline earnings per share

Net assets – total assets less total liabilities

Net asset value per share – net assets divided by the number of shares in issue at balance sheet date

Net debt – current and non-current interest-bearing borrowings, and bank overdraft (net of cash, cash equivalents and short-term deposits)

Net debt to total capitalisation – net debt divided by capital employed

Net operating assets – total assets (excluding deferred taxation and cash and cash equivalents) less current liabilities (excluding interest-bearing borrowings and bank overdraft)

ROCE – return on average capital employed. Operating profit excluding special items divided by average capital employed

ROE – return on average equity. Profit for the period divided by average shareholders' equity

RONOA – return on average net operating assets. Operating profit excluding special items divided by average net operating assets

Special items – special items cover those items which management believe are material by nature or amount to the operating results and require separate disclosure. Such items would generally include profit or loss on disposal of property, investments and businesses, asset impairments, restructuring charges, non-recurring integration costs related to acquisitions, financial impacts of natural disasters, non-cash gains or losses on the price fair value adjustment of plantations and alternative fuel tax credits receivable in cash

The above financial measures are presented to assist our shareholders and the investment community in interpreting our financial results.

These financial measures are regularly used and compared between companies in our industry

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Supplemental Information (this information has not been reviewed)

Summary Rand convenience translation

Quarter

Quarter

Year

Year

ended

ended

ended

ended

Sept 2010

Sept 2009

Sept 2010

Sept 2009

Key figures: (ZAR million)

Sales

13,042

11,985

49,235

48,393

Operating profit (loss)

1,162

(996)

2,555

(658)

Special items – (gains) losses *

(213)

1,289

(15)

955

Operating profit excluding special items *

948

293

2,540

297

EBITDA excluding special items *

1,669

1,158

5,634

3,885

Basic earnings (loss) per share (SA cents)

118

(154)

97

(333)

Net debt *

15,589

19,091

15,589

19,091

Key ratios: (%)

Operating profit (loss) to sales

8.9

(8.3)

5.2

(1.4)

Operating profit excluding

special items to sales

7.3

2.4

5.2

0.6

Operating profit excluding

special items to

Capital Employed (ROCE) *

12.7

3.3

8.3

0.9

EBITDA excluding special items to sales

12.8

9.7

11.4

8.0

Return on average equity (ROE)

19.3

(21.6)

3.7

(12.1)

Net debt to total capitalisation *

53.9

58.9

53.9

58.9

*Refer to page 17, Supplemental Information for the definition of the term.

The above financial results have been translated into Rands from US Dollars as follows:

- Assets and liabilities at rates of exchange ruling at period end; and
- Income, expenditure and cash flow items at average exchange rates.

Reconciliation of net debt to interest-bearing borrowings

Sept 2010

Sept 2009

US\$ million

US\$ million

Interest-bearing borrowings

3,013

3,346

Non-current interest-bearing borrowings

2,317

2,726

Current interest-bearing borrowings

691

601
 Bank overdraft
 5
 19
 Cash and cash equivalents
 (792)
 (770)
 Net debt
 2,221
 2,576
 Exchange rates
 Sept
 Jun Mar
 Dec
 Sept
 2010
 2010 2010 2009
 2009

Exchange rates:
 Period end rate: US\$1 = ZAR
 7.0190
 7.6250 7.4298 7.5315
 7.4112

Average rate for the Quarter: US\$1 = ZAR
 7.3517
 7.5821 7.5597 7.5009
 7.7174

Average rate for the YTD: US\$1 = ZAR
 7.4917
 7.5610 7.5302 7.5009
 9.0135

Period end rate: EUR 1 = US\$
 1.3491
 1.2377 1.3413 1.4397
 1.4688

Average rate for the Quarter: EUR 1 = US\$
 1.2871
 1.2937 1.3891 1.4737
 1.4317

Average rate for the YTD: EUR 1 = US\$
 1.3658
 1.3845 1.4302 1.4737
 1.3657

The financial results of entities with reporting currencies other than the US Dollar are translated into US Dollars as follows:

- Assets and liabilities at rates of exchange ruling at period end; and
- Income, expenditure and cash flow items at average exchange rates.

results

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Sappi ordinary shares* (JSE: SAP)

0

20

40

60

80

100

Oct 04

Dec 04

Mar 05

Jun 05

Sep 05

Dec 05

Mar 06

Jun 06

Sep 06

Dec 06

Mar 07

Jun 07

Sep 07

Dec 07

Mar 08

Jun 08

Sep 08

Dec 08

Mar 09

Jun 09

Sep 09

Dec 09

Jun 10

Mar 10

Oct 10

ZAR

US Dollar share price conversion*

0

3

6

9

12

15

Oct 04

Dec 04

Mar 05

US\$

Jun 05

Sep 05

Dec 05

Mar 06

Jun 06

Sep 06
Dec 06
Mar 07
Jun 07
Sep 07
Dec 07
Mar 08
Jun 08
Sep 08
Dec 08
Mar 09
Jun 09
Sep 09
Dec 09
Jun 10
Mar 10
Oct 10

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Other interested parties can obtain printed copies of this report from:

South Africa:

United States:

Computershare Investor

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Sappi has a primary listing on the JSE Limited and a secondary listing on the New York Stock Exchange

this report is available on the Sappi website
www.sappi.com

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www.sappi.com

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Date: November 10, 2010

SAPPI LIMITED,

Name:

M. R. Thompson

Title:

Chief Financial Officer

M. R. Thompson

By:

/s/