

HSBC HOLDINGS PLC  
Form 6-K  
August 20, 2008

**FORM 6-K**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**Report of Foreign Private Issuer**

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

**the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

For the month of August, 2008

**HSBC Holdings plc**

42<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 8 Canada Square, London E14 5HQ, England

(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 whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form 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-.....).

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August 2008

*The following text is the English version of a news release issued in Germany by HSBC Trinkaus & Burkhardt AG, a 78*

*6 per cent indirectly owned subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc.*

**Press Release**

**HSBC TRINKAUS REPORTS ROBUST EARNINGS  
IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2008**

- First-half operating profit of  
€  
101.4 million
- Net interest income  
grows to  
€  
63.3 million
- Net fee income  
of  
€  
178.6 million

**HSBC Trinkaus**

produced a strong performance  
in the first half of 2008  
and despite the continuing turmoil  
in the  
financial  
markets was able to  
strengthen its position  
in the German banking sector

Overall, operating profit  
declined  
by 15.3  
per cent

on the record performance achieved in the same period last year from  
€119.7 million  
to  
€

101.4  
million

.

N  
et profit  
after tax  
also  
fell,  
by 17.7  
per cent  
to  
€  
69.5 million.

However  
, o  
perating profit and net profit  
after tax  
for the  
six months

ended 30 June 2008  
were  
consistent with the same period  
in  
2006

.

### **Financial commentary**

Net interest income  
over the period  
grew by 16.6  
per cent  
to  
€  
63.3 million  
from €54.3 million for the first half of 2007

.

N  
et loan impairment and other credit risk provisions  
totalled  
€  
0.7 million  
in the period  
compared  
to  
a net reversal of  
€

2.7 million in the  
same period in 2007

.  
Th  
is  
level of  
charge  
continues to  
demonstrate the Bank's cautious default risk assessment policy

.  
Net fee income  
for  
the first half of 2008  
increased  
8.2  
per cent  
to  
€  
178.6 million  
from €165.0 million in  
the  
same period in 2007

.  
A significant contribution to this increase came from  
International Transaction Services GmbH (ITS)

,  
the  
securities settlement subsidiary  
acquired  
on  
1 January 2008  
and consolidated  
here  
for the first time

.  
Net trading income in the first six months  
of 2008 fell  
by 4.3  
per cent  
to  
€  
62.4 million  
from €65.2 million in the same period in 2007

.  
E  
quities and equity/index derivatives trading remains the strongest contributor to net trading income

,  
growing by 3.9 per cent over the  
six month  
period  
to  
€  
48.5 million

from €46.7 million  
in the first half of 2007  
. However

,  
this was offset  
by  
a  
decline of 24.9  
per cent in income from  
interest  
rate  
product  
s  
and foreign exchange  
in the six month period to €  
13.9  
million  
from €18.5 million in the  
same period  
last year  
.

Administrative expenses  
grew by  
15.4  
per cent  
to  
€  
204.4 million. The increase in staff expenses was due to the consolidation of ITS

and

an

increase in the number of employees

from almost 2

,  
000 in the first half of 2007 to more than 2

,  
150

currently  
. At 66.7  
per cent  
,  
the  
cost: income  
ratio  
of HSBC Trinkaus  
is still within the  
target  
range of 65

to 70  
per cent  
.

### **Results by business segment**

The balanced  
nature of the  
HSBC Trinkaus  
business  
model  
proved robust  
in the first half of 2008. The Corporate Banking and Institutional  
C  
lients segments reported increases in earnings despite the  
downturn  
in  
the financial market

s  
.  
However  
,  
t  
he  
challenges  
posed by  
unfavourable market  
conditions  
prevented the Private Banking and Global  
Markets

businesses  
from repeating their  
robust  
prior-year results.

Corporate Banking recorded a  
n increase

i  
n profits  
compared to the  
same period last  
year  
. This was due  
largely

to higher net interest income as a result of  
an  
increase in sight deposits and lending volume  
as well  
as an increase in  
deposit  
margins

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T  
here was  
also  
an improvement in net  
fee income in the securities, international and foreign exchange business  
es

.  
The  
Institutional Client segment was  
again  
successful

in the  
area of  
equities, fixed income and custody.

Private Banking reported lower transaction revenues in the securities business as many investors  
continued  
to  
exercise  
e  
considerable caution  
in the  
present  
environment

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I  
ncreasing  
revenues in A  
sset Management were able to almost fully compensate  
for

this decline

.

Global Markets was the business segment most affected by unfavourable market conditions

and was therefore not able to repeat its prior-year result.

There was also a decline in the Bank's

structured

interest and credit products business

.

### **Forecast**

HSBC Trinkaus sees good earnings

o

pportunities

- derived from its balanced business model, conservative approach to credit risk and connections to the wider HSBC Group -

in the second half of

2008

, although the market environment will continue to be extremely challenging.

HSBC Trinkaus'

cooperation with the HSBC Group

,

with its presence in 85 countries

and territories

,

enable

s

the Bank

to offer its clients

local knowledge combined with global reach

.

This strategic advantage will continue to open up the opportunit

ies



for the Bank to expand market share within  
its  
clearly-defined target groups - high net worth private clients, corporate clients and institutional clients

**Media**

**e**

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**Notes for editors:**

**HSBC Trinkaus**

HSBC Trinkaus

is one of the leading private banks in  
Germany

and part of the globally-operating HSBC Group. In addition to the head office in Düsseldorf, HSBC Trinkaus is  
represented in six locations in

Germany

with over 2,1

5

0 employees and has access to the global network of the HSBC Group. With total assets of €20.6 billion\* and €88.2  
billion in funds under management and administration\*, the Bank has a Fitch rating of AA. The core target groups are  
private clients, corporate clients and  
institution  
al clients.

\*(figures as at 30 June 2008)

P

ress releases can be found

at:

**www.hsbctrinkaus.de**

in the section marked:

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About us

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**SIGNATURE**

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.

HSBC Holdings plc

By:

Name: P A Stafford

Title: Assistant Group

Secretary

Date: August 20, 2008