

Edgar Filing: RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC - Form 6-K

RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC
Form 6-K
August 03, 2004

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

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, 2004

RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC
(Translation of registrant's name into English)

c/o Ryanair Ltd Corporate Head Office
Dublin Airport
County Dublin Ireland
(Address of principal executive offices)

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

Form 20-F..X.. 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 ..X..

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

RYANAIR ANNOUNCES Q1 PROFIT INCREASE OF 21%
NET MARGIN OF 18%, AS TRAFFIC GROWS 28%

Ryanair, Europe's No. 1 low fares airline, today (Tuesday, 3rd August 2004) announced record profits for Q1 ended 30 June 2004 of EUR53.1m. Passenger volumes grew by a record 28% to 6.6m passengers whilst yields declined by 6% during the quarter and, as a result, total revenues rose by 23% to EUR302.8m. Unit costs fell by 4% and in turn the net margin after tax remains stable at an industry leading 18%.

Summary Table of Results (Irish GAAP) - in Euro

Edgar Filing: RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC - Form 6-K

| Year Ended: | 30 June 2003 | 30 June 2004 | % Increase |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Passengers | 5.1m | 6.6m | 28% |
| Revenue | EUR245.2m | EUR302.8m | 23% |
| Profit after tax (Note 1) | EUR43.8m | EUR53.1m | 21% |
| Basic EPS (Euro Cents) (Note 1) | 5.8 | 7.0 | 21% |

Note 1: Adjusted profit after tax and EPS excludes the non-recurring costs of the re-organisation of "Buzz" in April 2003 of EUR2.7m (net of tax) and goodwill charges arising of EUR0.6m in both the quarters ended 30 June 2003 and 2004. Announcing these results, Ryanair's Chief Executive, Michael O'Leary said:

"These record quarterly results reflect the continued disciplined roll out of Ryanair's low fares model. Passenger volumes grew by 28% to 6.6m in the quarter and we carried more passengers in 3 months than the total traffic carried by Aer Lingus in a full year. Our two new bases at Rome Ciampino and Barcelona Girona have performed particularly well. Ryanair's strong performance is also reflected in the recent increases in monthly traffic and load factors.

"Yields were 6% lower than last year, a decline that was towards the lower end of our -5% to -10% guidance. Our forward yield guidance remains unchanged. In Quarter 2 we anticipate a yield decline of between -5% to -10%. Next winter, we expect the yield decline to be in the -10% to -20% range as chronically loss making competitors will continue to dump prices, resulting in even more airline casualties this winter.

"The higher oil prices have continued through the summer and unlike many high fare flag competitors, we have not imposed fuel surcharges. We remain almost fully hedged until the end of Quarter 2 but largely unhedged thereafter. We believe that over the medium term prices will fall and therefore it would be unwise to lock-in at the current high rates. We anticipate that we will be able to largely offset these higher oil prices in this fiscal year by making cost savings in other areas.

"We have announced a major expansion of our London Luton base from 1 to 4 aircraft. In addition to our successful Dublin and Milan routes, we will now fly from Luton to Barcelona Girona, Barcelona Reus, and Murcia in Spain, Dinard and Nimes in France, Esbjerg in Denmark, Rome Ciampino and Venice in Italy, and Stockholm in Sweden. We have also announced two new routes from London Stansted to Santander and Zaragoza in Spain and continue to grow our base at Rome Ciampino launching new routes to Santander in Spain, Paris-Beauvais and Eindhoven in Holland. We also have launched our expansion into the new EU member countries and will start 3 routes from Riga - the capital city of Latvia - to London, Tampere and Frankfurt on 30 October next. Many more airports continue to encourage Ryanair to launch new routes and as usual we have far more offers than we can presently handle and this will drive down airport costs.

"Unit costs fell by 4% during the quarter (excluding fuel and route charges unit costs fell by 5.4%). We continue to benefit from the ongoing introduction of the larger 737-800's as they replace the remaining thirteen 737-200's. The remaining 737-200's will be retired by December 2005. We continue to focus on lowering our cost base and pass on these lower costs in the form of even lower fares to our

Edgar Filing: RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC - Form 6-K

passengers. "The legislation recently introduced by the Irish government to break up Aer Rianta will enable (for the first time ever) all of the government owned Irish airports to compete on a level playing field. We welcome this much delayed legislation and encourage the Minister to quickly introduce competition at Dublin airport by directing the construction of a second and third competing terminals. This initiative will finally introduce competition, will result in lower prices, deliver better facilities, and bring millions more visitors to Ireland.

"We have recently filed proceedings in the High Court in London for the recovery of overcharging on fuel levies by BAA plc, the monopoly operator of London's three major airports. The BAA has been charging a fuel levy since 1991, which was agreed at the time to recover the GBP12.5m cost of the fuel hydrant system. Since that date, thanks to Ryanair's enormous growth, BAA has recovered over GBP39m in fuel levies or more than three times the original cost and yet this extortionate levy remains unchanged. BAA have also issued Court proceedings arising out of the fuel levy dispute and we look forward to the Court's ruling on the BAA overcharging. Ryanair continues to oppose anti-consumer charges at these monopoly airports. It is untenable for the BAA airport monopoly to impose fuel levies in excess of 300% of cost on its low fare consumers, whilst at the same time providing free of charge car parking to politicians. This anti-consumer rip-off must end.

"We continue to be cautious in our outlook for the remainder of the year. We expect to achieve passenger volume growth this fiscal year in the order of 20% and deliver increased load factors. We believe that yield attrition this winter will be within our forecast range of -10% to -20%. The reality is that the high cost, high fare airlines, and those so called low fare loss makers are unable to compete with Ryanair's low fares, low cost base and industry leading customer service. As Southwest has repeatedly demonstrated in the US for many years, the lowest cost carrier always wins."

ENDS.

Tuesday, 3rd August 2004

For further information please
contact:

Howard Millar

Ryanair Holdings plc

Pauline McAlester

Murray Consultants

www.ryanair.com

Tel: 353 1 8121212

Tel: 353 1 4980300

Certain of the information included in this release is forward looking and is subject to important risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially. It is not reasonably possible to itemise all of the many factors and specific events that could affect the outlook and results of an airline operating in the European economy. Among the factors that are subject to change and could significantly impact Ryanair's expected results are the airline pricing environment, fuel costs, competition from new and existing carriers, market prices for replacement aircraft, costs associated with environmental, safety and security measures, actions of the Irish, UK, European Union ("EU") and other governments and their respective regulatory agencies, fluctuations in currency exchange rate and interest rates, airport access and charges, labour relations, the economic environment of the airline industry, the general economic environment in Ireland, the UK and Continental Europe, the general willingness of passengers to travel and other economics, social and political factors.

Ryanair is Europe's largest low fare airline with 161 low fare routes across 17 countries. Ryanair operates a fleet of 72 aircraft, and firm

Edgar Filing: RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC - Form 6-K

orders for up to a further 102 new 737-800's which will be delivered over the next 5 years. Ryanair currently employs a team of 2,600 people and expect to carry approximately 27.5 million scheduled passengers in the current year.

Ryanair Holdings plc and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Profit & Loss Accounts in accordance with UK & Irish GAAP
(unaudited)

| | Quarter ended June 30, 2004 EUR'000 | Quarter ended June 30, 2003 EUR'000 |
|--|---|---|
| Operating Revenues | | |
| Scheduled revenues | 259,059 | 214,031 |
| Ancillary revenues | 43,689 | 31,125 |
| Total operating revenues-continuing operations | 302,748 | 245,156 |
| Operating expenses | | |
| Staff costs | 34,075 | 29,902 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | 23,571 | 23,037 |
| Other operating expenses | | |
| Fuel & Oil | 51,842 | 40,658 |
| Maintenance, materials and repairs | 14,073 | 11,184 |
| Marketing and distribution costs | 7,266 | 7,683 |
| Aircraft rentals | 8,084 | 1,506 |
| Route charges | 33,205 | 25,149 |
| Airport and Handling charges | 44,270 | 34,517 |
| Other | 21,574 | 18,446 |
| Total operating expenses | 237,960 | 192,082 |
| Operating profit before non-recurring items, and goodwill | 64,788 | 53,074 |
| Buzz re-organisation costs | - | (3,012) |
| Amortisation of goodwill | (586) | (584) |
| | (586) | (3,596) |
| Operating profit after non-recurring items, and goodwill | 64,202 | 49,478 |
| Other income/(expenses) | | |
| Foreign exchange gains | 115 | 193 |
| Gain on disposal of fixed assets | 6 | - |
| Interest receivable and similar income | 6,059 | 6,470 |
| Interest payable and similar charges | (12,630) | (11,076) |
| Total other income/(expenses) | (6,450) | (4,413) |

Edgar Filing: RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC - Form 6-K

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Profit before taxation | 57,752 | 45,065 |
| Tax on profit on ordinary activities | (5,197) | (4,545) |
| Profit for the period | 52,555 | 40,520 |
| Earnings per ordinary share | | |
| -Basic (Euro cent) | 6.92 | 5.37 |
| -Diluted (Euro cent) | 6.90 | 5.30 |
| Adjusted earnings per ordinary share* | | |
| -Basic (Euro cent) | 7.00 | 5.80 |
| -Diluted (Euro cent) | 6.97 | 5.73 |
| Number of ordinary shares (in 000's) | | |
| -Basic | 759,280 | 755,204 |
| -Diluted | 762,162 | 764,469 |

*Calculated on Profit for the period before non-recurring items (net of tax), and goodwill.

Ryanair Holdings plc and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Balance Sheets in accordance with UK and Irish GAAP (unaudited)

| | June 30, 2004 EUR'000 | March 31, 2004 EUR'000 |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Fixed assets | | |
| Intangible Assets | 43,914 | 44,499 |
| Tangible assets | 1,612,800 | 1,576,526 |
| Total fixed assets | 1,656,714 | 1,621,025 |
| Current assets | | |
| Cash and liquid resources | 1,327,012 | 1,257,350 |
| Accounts receivable | 14,002 | 14,932 |
| Other assets | 19,269 | 19,251 |
| Inventories | 27,116 | 26,440 |
| Total current assets | 1,387,399 | 1,317,973 |
| Total assets | 3,044,113 | 2,938,998 |
| Current liabilities | | |
| Accounts payable | 79,341 | 67,936 |
| Accrued expenses and other liabilities | 392,122 | 338,208 |
| Current maturities of long term debt | 81,350 | 80,337 |
| Short term borrowings | 1,637 | 345 |
| Total current liabilities | 554,450 | 486,826 |
| Other liabilities | | |
| Provisions for liabilities and charges | 100,018 | 94,192 |
| Other creditors | 29,529 | 30,047 |
| Long term debt | 852,119 | 872,645 |
| Total other liabilities | 981,666 | 996,884 |

Edgar Filing: RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC - Form 6-K

| | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Shareholders' funds - equity | | |
| Called - up share capital | 9,644 | 9,643 |
| Share premium account | 560,559 | 560,406 |
| Profit and loss account | 937,794 | 885,239 |
| Shareholders' funds - equity | 1,507,997 | 1,455,288 |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' funds | 3,044,113 | 2,938,998 |

Ryanair Holdings plc and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Cashflow Statements in accordance in accordance with UK & Irish GAAP (unaudited)

| | Quarter ended June 30, 2004 EUR'000 | Quarter ended June 30, 2003 EUR'000 |
|---|---|---|
| Net cash inflow from operating activities | 155,935 | 113,486 |
| Returns on investments and servicing of finance | (6,584) | (3,842) |
| Taxation | - | - |
| Capital expenditure (including aircraft deposits) | (60,457) | (128,145) |
| Acquisitions | (1,164) | (20,704) |
| Net cash inflow/(outflow) before financing and management of liquid resources | 87,730 | (39,205) |
| Financing | (19,360) | 56,250 |
| (Increase) in liquid resources | (69,984) | (66,371) |
| (Decrease) in cash | (1,614) | (49,326) |
| Analysis of movement in liquid resources | | |
| At beginning of year | 1,231,572 | 982,352 |
| Increase in period | 69,984 | 66,371 |
| At end of period | 1,301,556 | 1,048,723 |
| Analysis of movement in cash | | |
| At beginning of year | 25,433 | 76,550 |
| Net cash (outflow) during period | (1,614) | (49,326) |
| At end of period | 23,819 | 27,224 |

Ryanair Holdings plc and Subsidiaries

Edgar Filing: RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC - Form 6-K

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Shareholders' Funds - Equity in accordance with UK and Irish GAAP (unaudited)

| | Ordinary shares EUR'000 | Share premium account EUR'000 | Profit and loss account EUR'000 | Total EUR'000 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|------------------|
| Balance at April 1, 2004 | 9,643 | 560,406 | 885,239 | 1,455,288 |
| Issue of ordinary equity shares | 1 | 153 | - | 154 |
| Profit for the period | - | - | 52,555 | 52,555 |
| Balance at June 30, 2004 | 9,644 | 560,559 | 937,794 | 1,507,997 |

Reconciliation of adjusted earnings per share (unaudited)

| | Quarter ended June 30, 2004 EUR'000 | Quarter ended June 30, 2003 EUR'000 |
|---|---|---|
| Profit for the period under UK and Irish GAAP | 52,555 | 40,520 |
| Adjustments | | |
| Buzz re-organisation costs | - | 3,012 |
| Amortisation of goodwill | 586 | 584 |
| Taxation adjustment for above | - | (305) |
| Adjusted profit under UK and Irish GAAP | 53,141 | 43,811 |
| Number of ordinary shares (in 000's) | | |
| - Basic | 759,280 | 755,204 |
| - Diluted | 762,162 | 764,469 |
| Adjusted earnings per ordinary share | | |
| - Basic (EUR cent) | 7.00 | 5.80 |
| - Diluted (EUR cent) | 6.97 | 5.73 |

Ryanair Holdings plc and Subsidiaries

Edgar Filing: RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC - Form 6-K

Consolidated Profit & Loss Accounts in accordance with US GAAP
(unaudited)

| | Quarter ended June 30, 2004 EUR'000 | Quarter ended June 30, 2003 EUR'000 |
|---|---|---|
| Operating Revenues | | |
| Scheduled revenues | 259,059 | 214,031 |
| Ancillary revenues | 43,689 | 31,125 |
| Total operating revenues - continuing operations | 302,748 | 245,156 |
| Operating expenses | | |
| Staff costs | 34,035 | 29,682 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | 23,571 | 23,037 |
| Other operating expenses | | |
| Fuel & Oil | 51,842 | 40,658 |
| Maintenance, materials and repairs | 14,073 | 11,184 |
| Marketing and distribution costs | 7,266 | 7,683 |
| Aircraft rentals | 8,084 | 1,506 |
| Route charges | 33,205 | 25,149 |
| Airport and handling charges | 44,270 | 34,517 |
| Other | 21,552 | 18,424 |
| Total operating expenses | 237,898 | 191,840 |
| Operating profit before non-recurring items | 64,850 | 53,316 |
| Buzz re-organisation costs | - | (3,012) |
| Operating profit after non-recurring items | 64,850 | 50,304 |
| Other income/(expenses) | | |
| Foreign exchange gains | 115 | 193 |
| Gain on disposal of fixed assets | 6 | - |
| Interest receivable and similar income | 6,059 | 6,470 |
| Interest payable and similar charges | (10,730) | (9,253) |
| Total other income/(expenses) | (4,550) | (2,590) |
| Profit on ordinary activities before taxation | 60,300 | 47,714 |
| Tax on profit on ordinary activities | (5,439) | (4,800) |
| Net income | 54,861 | 42,914 |
| Net income per ADS | | |
| - Basic (Euro cent) | 36.13 | 28.41 |

Edgar Filing: RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC - Form 6-K

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| - Diluted (Euro cent) | 35.99 | 28.07 |
| Adjusted net income per ADS * | | |
| - Basic (Euro cent) | 36.13 | 30.20 |
| - Diluted (Euro cent) | 35.99 | 29.84 |
| Weighted Average number of shares | | |
| - Basic | 759,280 | 755,204 |
| - Diluted | 762,162 | 764,469 |

* Calculated on Net Income before non-recurring items (net of tax).

Ryanair Holdings plc and Subsidiaries

Summary of significant differences between UK, Irish & US generally accepted accounting principles (unaudited)

(A) Net income under US GAAP

| | ----Quarter ended---- | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | June 30, 2004 EUR'000 | June 30, 2003 EUR'000 |
| Profit as reported in the consolidated profit and loss accounts in accordance with UK and Irish GAAP | 52,555 | 40,520 |
| Adjustments | | |
| Pension | 40 | 220 |
| Amortisation of goodwill | 586 | 584 |
| Capitalised interest regarding aircraft acquisition programme | 1,900 | 1,823 |
| Darley Investments Limited | 22 | 22 |
| Taxation- effect of above adjustments | (242) | (255) |
| Net income under US GAAP | 54,861 | 42,914 |

(B) Consolidated Cashflow Statements in accordance with US GAAP

| | ----Quarter ended---- | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | June 30, 2004 EUR'000 | June 30, 2003 EUR'000 |
| Cashflow from operating activities | 149,351 | 109,644 |
| Cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities | 93,697 | (23,999) |
| Cash (outflow)/inflow from financial activities | (18,068) | 56,465 |
| Increase in cash and cash equivalents | 224,980 | 142,110 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | 744,605 | 658,366 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | 969,585 | 800,476 |

Edgar Filing: RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC - Form 6-K

| | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents under US GAAP | 969,585 | 800,476 |
| Restricted cash | 200,000 | 120,890 |
| Deposits with a maturity of between three and six months | 157,427 | 156,112 |
| Cash and liquid resources under UK and Irish GAAP | 1,327,012 | 1,077,478 |

Ryanair Holdings plc and Subsidiaries

Summary of significant differences between UK, Irish & US generally accepted accounting principles (unaudited)

(C) Shareholders' funds - equity

| | June 30, 2004 EUR'000 | June 30, 2003 EUR'000 |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Shareholders' equity as reported in the consolidated balance sheets (UK and Irish GAAP) | 1,507,997 | 1,285,116 |
| Adjustments: | | |
| Pension | 3,240 | 3,331 |
| Amortisation of goodwill | 2,928 | 584 |
| Capitalised interest regarding aircraft acquisition programme | 19,402 | 12,112 |
| Darley Investments Limited | (129) | (217) |
| Minimum pension liability (net of tax) | (2,631) | (2,656) |
| Unrealised losses on derivative financial instruments (net of tax) | (91,730) | (95,505) |
| Tax effect of adjustments (excluding pension & derivative adjustments) | (2,830) | (1,930) |
| Shareholders' equity as adjusted to accord with US GAAP | 1,436,247 | 1,200,835 |
| Opening shareholders' equity under US GAAP | 1,356,281 | 1,177,187 |
| Comprehensive Income | | |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) on derivative financial instruments (net of tax) | 24,951 | (22,134) |
| Net income in accordance with US GAAP | 54,861 | 42,914 |
| Total Comprehensive Income | 79,812 | 20,780 |
| Stock issued for cash | 154 | 2,868 |
| Closing shareholders' equity under US | | |

Edgar Filing: RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC - Form 6-K

GAAP

1,436,247

1,200,835

Ryanair Holdings plc Management Discussion and Analysis of Results

Introduction

For the purposes of the MD&A all figures and comments are by reference to the adjusted profit and loss account excluding the non-recurring costs and goodwill referred to below.

Non-recurring costs consisted of Buzz re-organisation costs of EUR2.7m (net of tax), and goodwill of EUR0.6m amounting to EUR3.3m (net of tax) in the quarter ended June 30, 2003 compared to EUR0.6m of goodwill in the quarter ended June 30, 2004. Profit after tax increased by 30% to EUR52.6m during the quarter compared to last year. The adjusted profit for the quarter, excluding non-recurring costs and goodwill, increased by 21% to EUR53.1m.

Summary Quarter Ended June 30, 2004

Profit after tax increased by 21% to EUR53.1m, compared to EUR43.8m in the previous quarter ended June 30, 2003. These results were achieved by strong growth in passenger volumes and continued tight cost control. Total operating revenues increased by 23% to EUR302.8m, which is slower than the growth in passenger volumes of 28%, and reflects the competitive fare environment, and the company's objective of continuing to drive down average fares. The combination of lower fares and the successful launch of new routes and the slower rate of growth resulted in the Passenger Load Factor increasing from 78% to 83% during the period.

Total operating expenses increased by 24% to EUR238.0m, due to the increased level of activity, and the increased costs, primarily fuel, maintenance, route charges and airport & handling costs associated with the growth of the airline. Operating margins have remained stable due to the continuing tight control on costs, which in turn resulted in Operating profit increasing by 22% from EUR53.1m to EUR64.8m. Profit after tax has increased by 21%, slightly less than the growth in Operating profit and reflects the higher net interest charge in the period arising due to the increased level of debt and lower deposit interest earned. Net Margins have remained at 18% for the quarter.

Earnings per share have risen in line with profit growth by 21% to 7.0 cent for the quarter.

Balance Sheet

The strong profit growth continues to positively impact the balance sheet with Cash and Liquid Resources growing despite funding an additional EUR60.5m in capital expenditure from internal resources. Cash balances at June 30, 2004 were EUR1,327.0m, an increase of EUR69.7m from March 31st 2004. No additional debt was drawn down in the quarter whilst loan repayments resulted in debt levels declining by EUR19.5m to EUR933.5m. Shareholders' Funds at June 30, 2004 have increased to EUR1,508.0m, compared to EUR1,455.3m at March 31, 2004.

Detailed Discussion and Analysis Quarter Ended June 30, 2004

Profit after tax, increased by 21% to EUR53.1m driven by strong growth in passenger volumes and continued tight cost control. Operating margins have remained stable at 21%, which has resulted in Operating profit increasing by EUR11.7m to EUR64.8m compared to quarter ended June 30, 2003.

Edgar Filing: RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC - Form 6-K

Total operating revenues increased by 23% to EUR302.84m whilst passenger volumes increased by 28% to 6.6m.

Scheduled passenger revenues increased by 21% to EUR259.1m due to a combination of increased passenger numbers on existing routes, the successful launch of new bases at Rome-Ciampino and Barcelona-Girona, and the commencement of 7 new routes in April '04, primarily offset by a 6% reduction in average fares. The strong growth in passenger volumes is also reflected in the improvement in the load factor achieved, which rose from 78% to 83% in the quarter.

Ancillary revenues increased by 40% to EUR43.7m, reflecting strong growth in non-flight scheduled revenues, car rentals and other ancillary products. Ancillary revenues continue to grow at a faster rate than passenger volumes and accounted for 14% of total revenues during the period compared to 13% last year. Total operating expenses increased by 24% to EUR238.0m due to the increased level of activity, and the increased costs primarily maintenance, fuel, aircraft rentals, route charges and airport and handling costs associated with the growth of the airline. Increases in total operating expenses due to the higher level of activity were partly offset by the positive impact of the strength of the euro exchange against the US\$.

Staff costs have increased by 14% to EUR34.1m. This increase primarily reflects a 12% increase in average employee numbers to 2,444 and the impact of pay increases of 3% granted during the period.

Depreciation and amortisation increased by 2% to EUR23.6m. There are an additional five 'owned' 737-800 aircraft in the fleet in Quarter 1 this year compared to last year, however during the same period the company has retired six 737-200 aircraft. At the end of June the company operated 56 owned aircraft compared to 57 at the same time last year. The total operated fleet increased by 15 to 72 due to the purchase of five and the lease of ten 737-800's.

Fuel costs rose by 28% to EUR51.8m due to a 26% increase in the number of hours flown, an increase in the average US\$ cost per gallon of fuel offset by the positive impact of the strengthening of the Euro to the US dollar during the period.

Maintenance costs increased by 26% to EUR14.1m reflecting an increase in the size of the fleet operated, and an increase in the number of hours flown offset by maintenance savings due to improved reliability arising from the higher proportion of 737-800 operated. In addition the introduction of ten aircraft under operating lease has resulted in accruals for future overhaul costs being recognised in maintenance costs. If the aircraft were owned, such costs would instead be capitalised and amortised.

Marketing and distribution costs decreased by 5% to EUR7.3m due to the smaller number of new routes launched in the period compared to last year. In addition the advertising spend last year was significantly higher than normal due to the acquisition of Buzz and the re-launch of its route network in May 2003.

Aircraft rental costs increased by EUR6.6m to EUR8.1m reflecting a full quarter of costs associated with the acquired 'Buzz' aircraft and the lease of ten 737-800 aircraft which were delivered in the quarter to March 31, 2004.

Route charges increased by 32% to EUR33.2m due to an increase in the number sectors flown, an increase in the average sector length and an increase in the weight of the aircraft operated (which incur a higher charge), and the negative impact of the strengthening of sterling against the Euro.

Airport and handling charges increased in line with passenger volume growth of 28% to EUR44.3m. The positive impact of lower charges on our new European routes and bases was offset by the movement in the sterling/euro exchange rate in the

Edgar Filing: RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC - Form 6-K

period.

Other expenses increased by 17% to EUR21.6m, which is less than the growth in ancillary revenues due to improved margins on some new and existing products, and cost reductions achieved on indirect costs.

Operating margins have remained very strong, in excess of 21%, due to the reasons outlined above which has resulted in Operating profits increasing by 22% to EUR64.8m during the quarter.

Interest receivable declined despite an increase in the level of cash and liquid resources and highlights the lower deposit interest rates earned in the quarter compared to last year. Interest payable increased by EUR1.6m due to the drawdown of debt to part fund the purchase of new aircraft.

The Company's Balance Sheet continues to strengthen due to the strong growth in profits during the period. The Company generated cash from operating activities of EUR155.9m, which funded additional capital expenditure of EUR60.5m, primarily comprised of advance payments for future aircraft deliveries. Long term Debt declined in the last quarter due to the repayment of EUR19.4m. No additional debt was drawn down in the period. Cash and liquid resources continued to reflect the strong trading performance of the company during the quarter and at June 30, 2004 stood at EUR1,327.0m compared to EUR1,257.4 at March 31, 2004.

Shareholders' Funds at June 30, 2004 have increased to EUR1,508.0m compared to EUR1,455.3m at March 31, 2004.

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

The accounting policies followed in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements for the quarter ended June 30, 2004 are consistent with those set out in the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2004.

2. Approval of the Financial Statements

The Audit Committee approved the consolidated financial statements for the Quarter ended June 30, 2004 on July 30th, 2004.

3. Generally Accepted Accounting Policies

The Management Discussion and Analysis of Results for the Quarter ended June 30, 2004 are based on the results reported under Irish and UK GAAP.

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, hereunto duly authorized.

RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC

Date: 3 August 2004

By:____/s/ Howard Millar____

H Millar

Edgar Filing: RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC - Form 6-K

Company Secretary & Finance Director