

Principles for balance sheet valuation, calculation of results and consolidation

General

In drawing up the annual accounts of United Services Group the corporate profit and loss account makes use of exemption as of article 402 Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

Intangible fixed assets

Goodwill is taken to mean the difference between historic cost price and net asset value of the company acquired and/or the actual value of the assets acquired, after deduction of liabilities, with due account of the related fiscal effects insofar as these are considered feasible. Depreciation charges are deducted from the thus determined goodwill. Depreciation is linear over a period of 20 years.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are valued at purchase price less depreciation charges, determined on the basis of estimated economic life span. The depreciation charges amount to a percentage of historic cost price.

Financial fixed assets

Participations in group companies are valued at net asset value calculated in line with the company's valuation principles. Receivables from group companies are shown at nominal value. Other receivables are shown at cash value.

Receivables, cash at banks and in hand, debt and transitory assets and liabilities

Receivables cash at banks and in hand, debt and transitory assets and liabilities are included at par. Where required provisions are formed for potential bad debts.

Provisions

Pension provisions are calculated on actuarial principles. Deferred taxation is calculated at the relevant rate for the difference between commercial and fiscal capital. Other provisions are valued at par.

Result

The result is determined as the difference between net turnover and related costs for the year, with due regard to the above-mentioned valuation systems. Profit on transactions is taken into account in the year in which such profit is realised; losses are taken into account in the year in which they are foreseeable.

Net turnover

Net turnover designates the return on services supplied (exclusive of group services) after deduction of turnover tax and discounts to customers.

Taxes

Corporation tax is calculated on the basis of the result, with due account taken of definite exemptions. Determination of the tax position takes account of such fiscally compensatable losses as are present insofar as they can be settled in due course.

Translation of foreign currency

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated at the rates pertaining on balance sheet date. Resulting exchange rate differences are booked to the profit and loss account. Assets and results of non-Dutch group companies are translated at the rates pertaining on balance sheet date. Currency exchange differences on assets resulting from differences on balance sheet date between exchange rates at the start and end of the year are incorporated in other reserves.

Consolidation

In addition to the financial figures of United Services Group, the consolidated annual accounts for 2001 also comprise the financial details of most important group companies listed below (100% shareholding unless otherwise stated). The full list of participations has been submitted to the Trade Register.

Where control is gained or lost during the course of the financial year, by acquisition or disposal of shares, the financial details of the relevant company are included in the consolidation from the moment control is acquired, or the loss thereof.

- Ad Rem, Andelst
- Avenue Louise Interim, Brussels
- Call-IT, Weert
- Ecatemp, Barcelona
- Edes/Seagull, The Hague
- Fa-med, Amersfoort
- InterCollege, The Hague
- Kontek Engineering, Lelystad
- Luzac, The Hague
- Nieuw Abel Tasman College, Curaçao (51%)
- Secretary Plus, The Hague
- Secretary Plus, Brussels
- Secretary Plus, Frankfurt
- Short Track, Almere
- TdB Recruitment, Almere
- Technicum, Almere
- Telecom Direct, Almere
- Tempíber, Madrid
- Unique Interim, Brussels
- Unique Nederland Beheer, Almere
- Unique Personal, Bornheim
- United Capacity, Amsterdam
- United ICT Solutions, The Hague
- United ICT Solutions, Antwerp
- United Independent Solutions, Almere
- United Technical Solutions, Almere
- United Technical Solutions, Antwerp
- United Technical Solutions Oil & Gas, Beverwijk

United Services Group has declared several liability on behalf of the majority of its Dutch subsidiaries for debts arising from legal actions, pursuant to article 403 para 1f of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

Statement of cash flow

In principle the statement of cash flows is compiled based on the comparison between the net starting and end figures for the relevant financial year. The cash flow from operational activities is determined according to the indirect method, whereby the reported result is adjusted for result components that have not led to revenues and/or expenditures during the financial year. The item acquisition of group companies comprises the total investment in acquisition of the participating interest, hence inclusive of goodwill paid. The cash resources present in the consolidated participations are deducted from the purchase price.

The shares of Tempíber, Secretary Plus and InterCollege were acquired in July 2001. The financial data of these companies are incorporated in the consolidated figures as of 1 July 2001. The shares of Call-IT, Fa-med en Ecatemp acquired in the last quarter of 2001 are included in the consolidated figures as of 1 October 2001. The subsidiary company Mastwijk Consultancy which was sold at the start of the year was removed from the consolidated figures for 2001, retroactively, as of 1 January 2001. The activities of KPD Groep were sold as of the start of 2002. The results of this company are incorporated up to and including December 2001.

Mutual claims and debts as well as mutually provided services are eliminated for the purpose of consolidation.