



BE GROUP

Annual Report

2018

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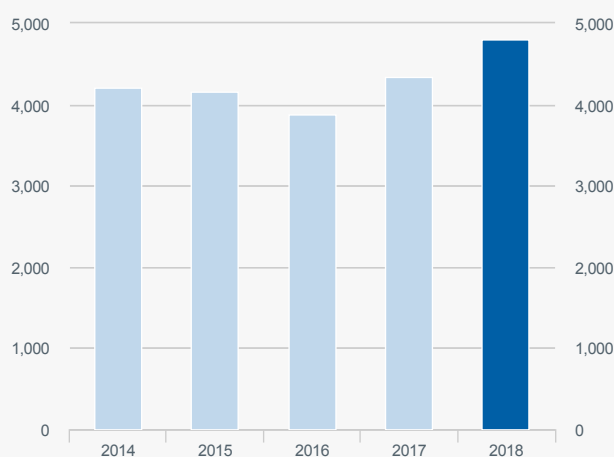
Pages 18-77 have been reviewed by the Company's Auditors and comprise the formal Annual Report.

BE Group is a trading and service company in steel, stainless steel and aluminium. Customers mainly operate in the manufacturing and construction industries in Sweden, Finland and the Baltic States, where BE Group is one of the market's leading actors.

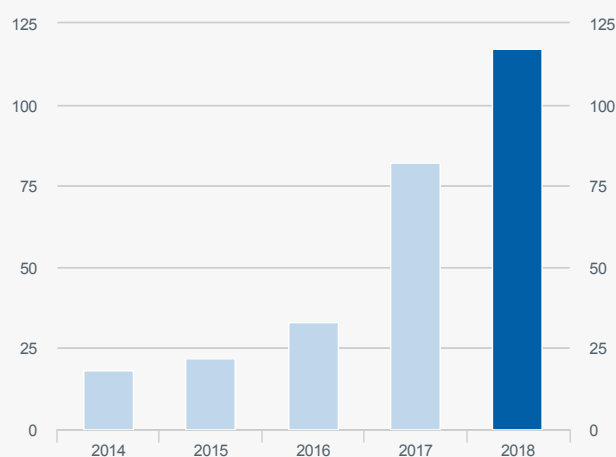
THE YEAR IN BRIEF

- Net sales increased by 10% to SEK 4,803 M (4,348), of which 4% organic tonnage growth.
- The underlying operating result increased to SEK 117 M (82).
- The operating result increased to SEK 132 M (57), including inventory gains of SEK 27 M (27).
- Result after tax increased to SEK 80 M (24).
- Cash flow from operating activities amounted to SEK 86 M (95).
- Earnings per share increased to SEK 6.13 (1.87).
- During 2018, the Group delivered the highest underlying operating result since 2011.
- The decision was taken to exit the remaining operations in Prerov, Czech Republic.
- An agreement was reached with the landlord regarding maintenance of the warehouse in Malmö and a new rental agreement was signed.
- The Board of Directors proposes dividend of SEK 1.75 per share (-) for the financial year of 2018.

NET SALES



UNDERLYING OPERATING RESULT ¹⁾



¹⁾ Operating result (EBIT) before items affecting comparability (see Note 7 and 8) and adjusted for inventory gains and losses (deductions for gains and additions for losses).

Key data	2018	2017	Change
Tonnage, thousands of tonnes	377	363	4%
Net sales, SEK M	4,803	4,348	10%
Operating result, SEK M ¹⁾	132	57	130%
Operating margin, %	2.8	1.3	1.5%
Underlying operating result ²⁾	117	82	43%
Result after tax, SEK M	80	24	229%
Result per share, SEK	6.13	1.87	229%
Return on capital employed, %	9.4	4.2	5.2%
Net debt, SEK M	440	478	-8.4%
Net debt/equity ratio, % ²⁾	49	60	-11%
Cash flow from operating activities, SEK M	86	95	-10%
Average number of employees	668	700	-5%

¹⁾ The operating result has been impacted by items affecting comparability of SEK -12 M (-52), of which, SEK 4 M is attributable to the release of part of the provision related to maintenance of the warehouse in Malmö and SEK -16 M is attributable to the exit from the operations in Czech Republic.

²⁾ Part of BE Group's alternative performance measures which you can read more about in Alternative performance measures and Financial definitions.

Sales by business solution, SEK M	2018	2017	%
Inventory sales	2,047	1,872	9%
Production service sales	2,151	1,864	15%
Direct sales	605	612	-1%
Total	4,803	4,348	10%

Sales by product area, SEK M	2018	2017	%
Long steel products	1,683	1,436	17%
Flat steel products	1,869	1,673	12%
Stainless steel	872	801	9%
Aluminium	229	212	8%
Other	150	226	-34%
Total	4,803	4,348	10%



“We deliver another year of growth, improved result and a stronger balance sheet.”

ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARDS A STRONGER GROUP

As we sum up 2018, we again note that the work of developing BE Group into a long-term profitable and successful company is continuing in the right direction. As a result of this, we can deliver another year of growth, improved result and a stronger balance sheet.

We have continued the work of strengthening the company during the year. We have closed the last part of our operations in the Czech Republic and resolved the dispute regarding the warehouse in Malmö. We also strengthened management functions and adjusted the organization after the major changes made in 2016. Among our units we still see, with varying degrees, success in improving profitability. Work was intensified with the units that are the furthest from our financial targets and will continue in the coming year.

After the successful efforts in recent years, this year we were able to focus even more on developing our core businesses in Distribution and Production in our main markets. Demand continued to be strong in the construction and manufacturing industries and there was generally a positive price development. The downward trend in housing construction only had a marginal impact on the company while currency effects were positive during the year.

Stronger result

BE Group's sales increased by 10 percent and the tonnage in our main markets, Sweden and Finland, increased by a combined 4 percent. The underlying operating result increased by more than 40 percent, which shows that our improved profitability efforts have continued to give results. Cash flow developed in line with last year and net debt thereby continued to decrease.

As a result of the improved financial position, the Board of Directors proposes a dividend of SEK 1.75 per share (-) for the financial year, which means that dividend payments are being resumed after being on hold since 2011.

Improved profitability for business area Sweden & Poland

Sales for business area Sweden & Poland increased by 18 percent during the year and the underlying operating result improved to SEK 104 M compared with SEK 72 M in the previous year.

The distribution business improved their results at the same time that the production unit in Norrköping developed strongly through continuous improvements and higher capacity utilization.

Challenging year for business area Finland & Baltics

Sales for business area Finland & Baltics increased by 9 percent in 2018, but the underlying operating result decreased to SEK 68 M compared with SEK 89 M in last year. The lower profitability is largely attributable to the provision for an anticipated bad debt and adjustment of inventory in the Baltics of SEK -12 M that affected the second quarter. New management in the Baltics was appointed during the year.

Closure of unprofitable operations

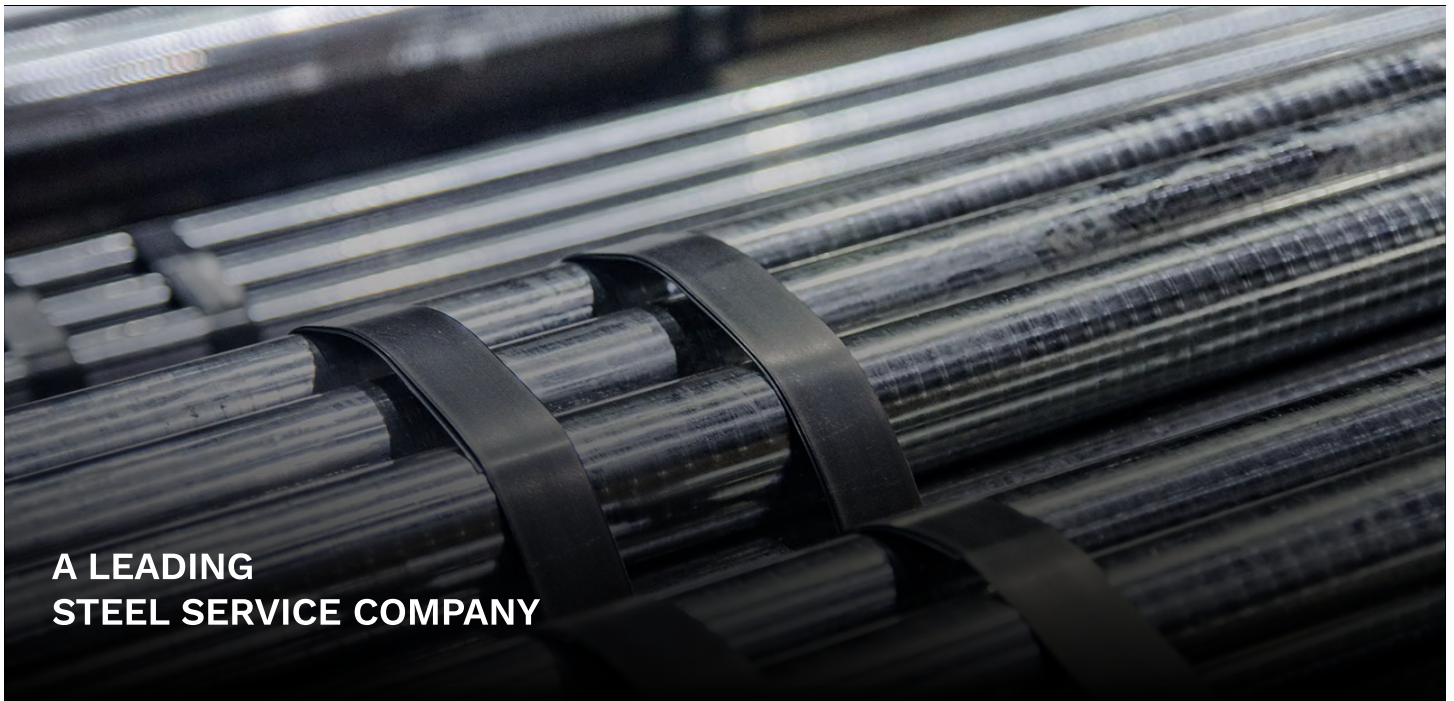
During the year, a decision was made to exit the remaining operations in Prerov, Czech Republic. The unit had been unprofitable for an extended period in spite of extensive improvement measures. Affected staff executed the closure commendably and contributed strongly to a successful process.

Focus going forward

I would like to express my gratitude to our customers who entrust us with their business every day. I would also like to take this opportunity to compliment our employees for all of their extraordinary work in the past year.

Looking forward, we see that our focus on cost control and our determined improvement work will continue to strengthen the Group. With the customer in focus, we continue towards our vision to be the most professional, respected and successful steel service company in our markets.

Anders Martinsson
President and CEO



A LEADING STEEL SERVICE COMPANY

BE Group is a trading and service company in the steel and metal industry. Customers mainly operate in the construction and manufacturing industries in Sweden, Finland and the Baltic States, where BE Group is one of the market's leading actors.

With extensive expertise and efficient processes in purchasing, logistics and production, BE Group offers inventory sales, production service and direct deliveries to customers based on their specific needs for steel and metal products. BE Group has approximately 670 employees and reported sales of SEK 4.8 billion in 2018. The head office is located in Malmö, Sweden.



CUSTOMERS

BE Group's customer base is divided into two main segments: the construction industry and the manufacturing industry. By dividing the customers in different segments, the offering is more efficiently adjusted for the customers' different needs and conditions.

Construction industry

The construction industry has four subsegments:

- Steel structure suppliers with a need for beams, construction tubes, bars and heavy plates. The steel is often cut to length, drilled or painted.
- Regional construction companies with a need for reinforcing products, steel for foundations and construction steel.
- Nationwide building enterprises with a need for reinforcing products, steel for foundations and construction steel.
- Building material chains, which consists of building material retailers and steel resellers, with a need for mainly reinforcement but also construction steel.

Manufacturing industry

In the manufacturing industry, there are three subsegments that all largely buy from BE Group's whole product range:

- Subcontractors, subsuppliers, mechanic workshops and businesses with project-oriented service and maintenance to for example the process industry.
- Local and regional steel resellers.
- OEM customers (Original Equipment Manufacturer), industrial companies with manufacturing of products under their own brand.



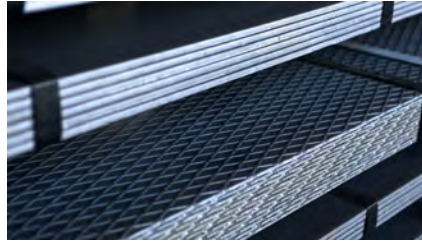
PRODUCT RANGE

BE Group's product range comprises a large number of products that meet the customers' material needs and it is constantly developing according to their needs.



Long steel products

Long steel products include beams, hollow sections, bars and tubes. Long products are used in every construction imaginable, such as steel framework, trusses, bridges, vehicles and machines.



Flat steel products

Flat steel products are represented by plates and sheets in various forms, including hot-rolled, cold-rolled or metal-coated. Plates are a base product in the manufacturing industry and is used, for example, in construction, automotive, machining and process industry.



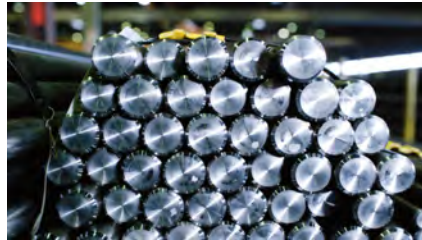
Reinforcement steel

The assortment includes reinforcement steel and reinforcement mesh, products that are used to reinforce concrete and thereby increase the concrete's strength and prevent fracturing in buildings and infrastructure.



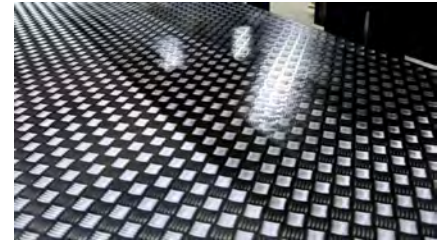
Engineering steel

Engineering steel, such as rods and hollow cast blanks, are used when there is a need for materials with improved cutting characteristics, higher strength, curability or durability. Engineering steel is used in the engineering industry, among other things, for machine parts, axles, cog wheels and hydraulic products.



Stainless steel

The stainless steel assortment includes plates, sheets, bars, tubes and tube parts. Stainless steel, which is resistant to corrosion thanks to being alloyed with chrome, is used in everything from demanding designs in the construction, machining, medical and process industry to kitchen furnishings, cutlery, tools and razor blades.



Aluminium

The aluminium range comprises plates, sheets, profiles, bars and tubes. BE Group delivers to subcontractors and OEMs that work with signs, road signs and construction or in the aviation, automotive and packaging industries.

SERVICE

Production service

BE Group offers production service of steel, stainless steel and aluminium with production resources in cutting, drilling, slitting, thermal cutting, blasting and painting. The production service offering comprises various processes in which steel and other metals are processed to meet customers' specific requirements.

Advice and services

BE Group also offers material advice, logistics solutions and timesaving IT services that include web-based e-commerce, EDI, digital notifications and electronic invoices.



BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

BE Group's sales to customers take place in three different ways: Inventory sales, production service sales and direct sales. The Company also has, for some time now, an increased focus on developing new sales channels through digitalized processes and offerings such as web-based e-commerce, EDI and digital notifications.

Production service sales

Production service sales comprise customer solutions where BE Group provides everything from the purchasing of raw material to customized processing of the product and logistics optimized to the customer's operations.

BE Group refines the products through, for example, cutting, drilling, slitting, thermal cutting or surface treatment according to customer specifications. BE Group also has the ability to use the material in an efficient manner, which means that there is less scrap. Through the Company's logistics expertise, the customer also gets more efficient transports, leading to lower environmental impact. By BE Group taking care of all or part of the material processing, the customer can focus on its core business.

In 2018, the production service sales accounted for a total of 45 percent (43) of the Group's sales.

Inventory sales

Inventory sales mean that BE Group sells and distributes materials from its own warehouses and ensures the customer's material flow by the products being delivered in the quantities and at the times that suit the customer's needs.

The products are often delivered to the customer's manufacturing unit, construction site or warehouse already the day after the order. By stocking a broad product range, BE Group can offer the customers a high level of service at competitive prices. The key is in efficient inventory management and planning.

In 2018, the inventory sales accounted for 43 percent (43) of the Group's sales.

Direct sales

Direct sales mean that BE Group sells and delivers large volumes of materials to customers directly from the production of the steel and aluminium mills.

BE Group will find the right product with the right quality and the right price on behalf of the customer. The Company can do this through its presence in key producer markets, an efficient purchasing organization and a size that provides negotiating power in relation to the producers.

In 2018, the direct sales accounted for a total of 12 percent (14) of the Group's sales.

ORGANIZATION

BE Group's organization is divided into two business areas:



Business area Sweden & Poland

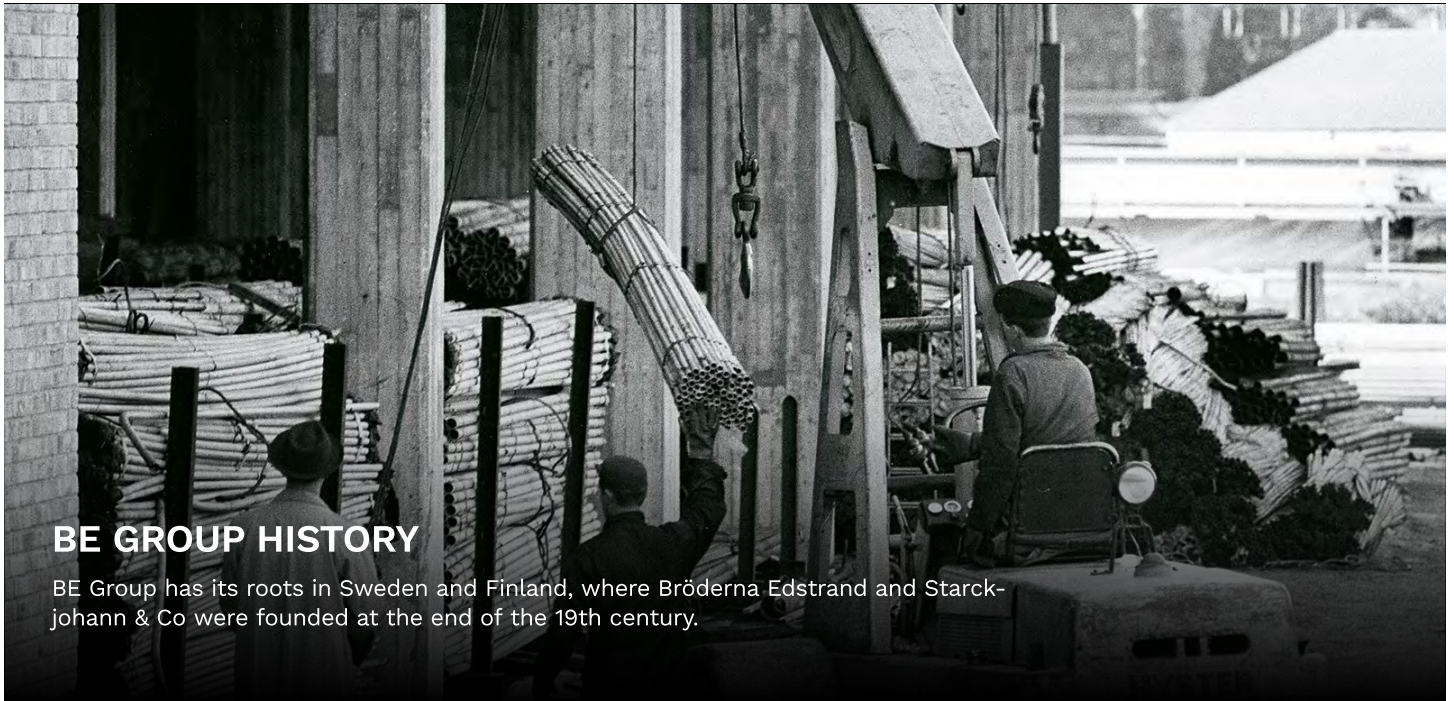
This business area consists of the business units Distribution Sweden, Production Sweden & Poland and Leacor Stålteknik (prefabricated steel constructions for building and industrial projects). BE Group also owns 50 percent of the company ArcelorMittal BE Group SSC AB, a steel service center where thin plates are cut and slit.

Business area Finland & Baltics

This business area consists of the business units Distribution Finland, Distribution Baltics and Production Finland.

The Distribution and Production businesses

Within each business area there are separate business units that focus on Distribution and Production separately. This means that BE Group can better adapt the offering to the customers' needs. In the production business, this means greater focus on "just-in-time" deliveries and improved efficiency for the customers' production, and in the distribution business, it means becoming even better at delivering the right products at the right time based on a relevant offering and efficient inventory management.



BE GROUP HISTORY

BE Group has its roots in Sweden and Finland, where Bröderna Edstrand and Starckjohann & Co were founded at the end of the 19th century.

19th century

In **1868**, Starckjohann & Co was founded by Peter Starckjohann in Viborg, Finland.

In **1885**, Bröderna Edstrand was founded by Hans and Jöns Edstrand in Malmö, Sweden.

Both of the companies are trading companies active in their national markets. Bröderna Edstrand initially also sell products like bricks, paper and technical oils, but over the years, business is increasingly concentrated on steel and metals.

20th century

In **1937**, Bröderna Edstrand inaugurates the group's head office on Spadegatan in Malmö.

At the beginning of the **1960s**, Bröderna Edstrand is a corporate group with around 2,500 employees and the company is listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange in **1974**.

In **1976**, Starckjohann takes the first steps in what we call production service today.

In **1979**, Bröderna Edstrand have sales in excess of SEK 1 billion for the first time.

In **1988**, Bröderna Edstrand is acquired by Trelleborg AB and after four generations of ownership, the Edstrand family leaves the company.

In the **1990s**, the company establishes units in Denmark, Poland, Latvia and Lithuania. In parallel, Starckjohann Steel expands through the acquisition of the company Mercantile and establishment in Estonia.

In **1999**, Nordic Capital becomes the majority shareholder in Bröderna Edstrand and Starckjohann Steel. The two companies, including subsidiaries in the countries around the Baltic Sea, now form one group.

21st century

In the **21st century**, the Group's European expansion continues with establishments in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

In **2004**, Trelleborg sells its remaining shares in the Group.

In **2006**, BE Group's share is relisted on the Stockholm Stock Exchange and the Group takes the mutual name BE Group AB.

In **2008**, BE Group forms, together with ArcelorMittal, the joint venture ArcelorMittal BE Group SSC AB.

In **2010**, the Group acquires Lecor Stålteknik in Kungälv.

In **2016**, BE Group introduces a new organization with a clearer split into two businesses Production and Distribution and the new organization consists of two business areas: Sweden & Poland and Finland & Baltic.

In **2016 – 2018**, the Group exits the operations in Czech Republic, Slovakia and Eskilstuna in Sweden.

In **2017**, 80 years after the opening of the office at Spadegatan, the Group moves the head office to Krangatan in Malmö.



VISION, BUSINESS IDEA AND VALUES

VISION

BE Group shall be the most professional, successful and respected steel service company in our markets.

Professional

BE Group shall have customer focus and the right offering to its customers and deliver at the right time at the right place.

Successful

BE Group shall be a leading steel service company that has good profitability and is growing to be able to develop its market positions.

Respected

BE Group shall be highly regarded by its customers, suppliers, employees and owners.



BUSINESS IDEA

BE Group is an independent efficient distributor of steel, stainless steel, aluminium and value adding services to Nordic manufacturing and construction companies.

Efficient distribution

BE Group offer efficient distribution through coordination in purchasing, transportation and warehousing.

Value-generating production service

With value-generating production service, the Group offers further processing of the products, such as processing through cutting and slitting, to meet the customers' specific needs. The customers' need for processed materials can be due to the need to streamline processes, free up resources, minimize their own inventories or to focus on their core business.

BE Group in the value chain

BE Group plays an important role in the value chain. The company compensates for the gap between steel producers' delivery capacity and steel consumers' needs. In general, the individual steel producers provide a limited selection of products, often in bulk and with relatively long lead times. However, many steel consumers seek a single coordinated supply of several different products in smaller quantities with short delivery times. Purchasing is then normally conducted via a steel service company, where BE Group is one of the leading producer-independent alternative in its markets. BE Group creates value to its customers through efficiency and coordination of sourcing, transportation and warehousing of a wide selection of commercial steel, engineering steel, stainless steel and aluminum.

CORE VALUES

BE Group has a strong corporate culture that is based on sound and ethical business principles. These values address how we act towards one another as employees, as well as towards customers, suppliers and others with whom we come into contact.

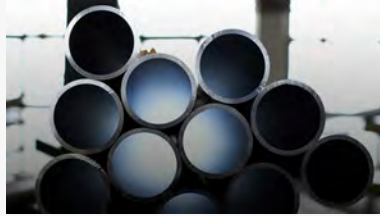


Dynamic

- Innovative
- Action-oriented

In a fast-moving environment, we need to be dynamic and continuously question how we operate and do things. We need to be innovative and seek for new ways and possibilities with curiosity.

To make things happen, we need to carry out rapid testing and be disciplined in our implementation.



Transparent

- Performance
- Leadership

Being transparent and sharing is critical in order to be able to learn from each other, expand our knowledge and find areas to improve.

Transparency also includes having clear targets and an agreement on expectations and performance. We encourage clear communication and immediate feedback.



Sustainable

- Environment
- People
- Profitability

The only way to be successful in the long-term is to be a sustainable company. This needs to be considered in every decision we make, both daily and strategically.

We need to minimize the impact that our business has on the environment. It is everyone's responsibility that we treat each other fairly and with respect.

Sustainable also includes being profitable. This is necessary in order to be able to invest in improved technology and secure our long-term operations.

FINANCIAL TARGETS

Earnings in BE Group shall be used to develop the business and generate returns for the owners. The Board of Directors of BE Group has therefore set three financial targets that should be achieved for earnings to be considered adequate. Over time, the goal completion can vary depending on various phases in the Company's development and the current business cycle.



Sales growth that exceeds the market growth

BE Group's growth is measured as delivered tonnes in the Swedish, Finnish and Baltic markets compared with the market's growth in delivered tonnes in these markets.

>5

A profit margin of at least 5 percent

Profit margin is defined as the underlying EBIT margin in the past 12 months.

>15

At least 15 percent return on capital employed

Return on capital employed is defined as operating profit in the past 12 months divided by the average capital employed (equity and interest-bearing liabilities).

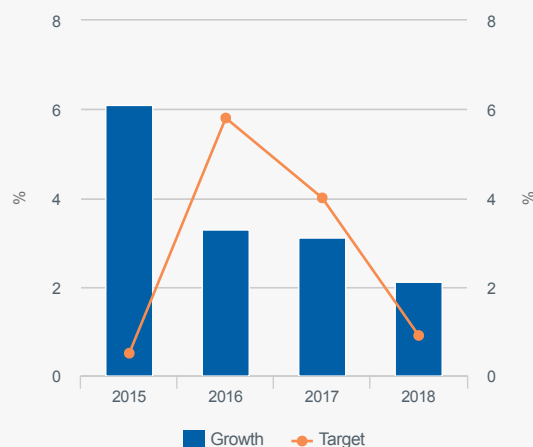
Target 1: Growth

To measure growth in BE Group's markets, the market statistics that the company receives for the distribution markets in Sweden and Finland are used. By comparing tonnage growth year on year in this data, the growth in the market is estimated. BE Group's growth is measured in delivered tonnes in the Swedish, Finnish and Baltic markets. For Sweden, deliveries for the joint venture ArcelorMittal BE Group SSC AB are included. The target is to grow more than the market.

Outcome

The market is estimated to have grown by 0.9 percent (4.0) in 2018 compared with 2017. BE Group had a growth of 2.1 percent (3.1) and thereby achieved the target for 2018. It is primarily the Swedish business that has driven the growth within reinforcement steel and long steel products.

GROWTH GREATER THAN MARKET



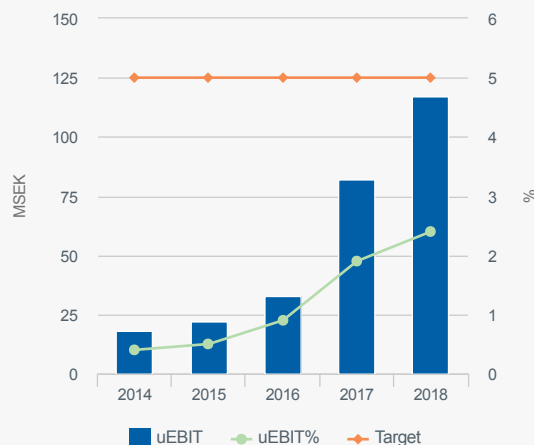
Target 2: Profit margin

Profit margin is defined as the underlying operating margin (uEBIT%) in the past 12 months. The target level is set to at least 5 percent measured over a longer period of time. This corresponds to approximately SEK 240 M in underlying operating result (uEBIT) at current sales. The underlying operating result, i.e. the operating result excluding the impact of inventory gains or losses and items affecting comparability, is used to put focus on how the operating activities perform and develop.

Outcome

The underlying operating margin amounted to 2.4 percent (1.9) for 2018. In the past five years, the operating margin has been low, and despite a clear improvement trend, there is still a long way to go to achieve the target. In 2018, a number of activities were carried out that will contribute positively to the development in the future. The improvements, including a new pricing system and savings project in direct and indirect purchasing, are expected to have an effect in the next few years.

UNDERLYING OPERATING MARGIN >5%



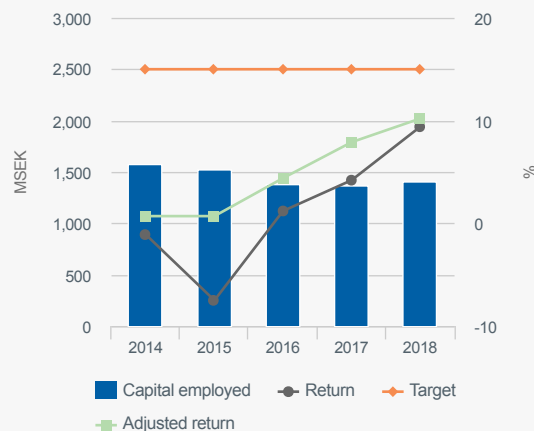
Target 3: Return

As a measure of return, return on capital employed is used, defined as operating result in the past 12 months divided by the average capital employed (equity and interest-bearing liabilities). The target level is set to at least 15 percent considering the prevailing capital structure and interest rates. The measure is calculated based on recognized operating profit, i.e. including inventory gains and losses and items affecting comparability, to put focus on the actual returns to the owners.

Outcome

The return on capital employed increased to 9.4 percent (4.2) during the year. The reason is mainly that the operating result has improved. The diagram also illustrates an adjusted return where items affecting comparability have been excluded. Calculated this way, return improved to 10.2 percent (7.9).

RETURN ON CAPITAL EMPLOYED >15%



BUSINESS AREA SWEDEN & POLAND



Anders Martinsson

Business Area Manager Sweden & Poland

Key data ¹⁾	2018	2017	%
Shipped tonnage, thousands of tonnes	187	172	9%
Net sales, SEK M	2,476	2,094	18%
Operating result (EBIT), SEK M ²⁾	123	78	57%
Operating margin, %	5.0	3.7	1.3%
Underlying operating result (uEBIT), SEK M ³⁾	104	72	45%
Underlying operating margin, %	4.2	3.4	0.8%
Investments, SEK M	16	10	52%
Average number of employees	338	312	8%

¹⁾ In the result, the intra-group expenses invoiced from the Parent Company have been eliminated.

²⁾ The operating result was impacted by items affecting comparability of SEK 4 M (-7), attributable to the release of the provision related to maintenance of the warehouse in Malmö.

³⁾ Included as a part of BE Group's alternative performance measures, see also Alternative performance measures.

Business Area Sweden & Poland accounted for 52 percent (48) of the Group's net sales in 2018. This business area includes the Group's operations in Sweden consisting of the companies BE Group Sverige and Lecor Stålteknik, as well as the Polish operations BE Group Poland. The roughly 2,000 customers in the construction and manufacturing industries receive deliveries from warehouse and production facilities in Malmö, Kungälv and Norrköping in Sweden and Trebaczew in Southern Poland. In addition to these facilities, BE Group Sweden has local sales offices in a total of seven locations. The size and needs of the customers vary widely; the ten largest customers account for about 22 percent of the business area's sales. Local presence, a high level of service and good understanding of customers are prerequisites for serving the market. The competitors in the market include SSAB-owned Tibnor and Stena Stål, which is a part of the Stena Group.

BE Group owns 50 percent of the company ArcelorMittal BE Group SSC AB in Karlstad, a steel service center where thin sheets are cut and split. The company is a modern Steel Service Center for processing of thin sheets with sales of SEK 838 M (783) in 2018.

Lecor Stålteknik offers finished prefabricated steel deliveries to construction projects, as well as bridges and industrial frames. The operations had sales of SEK 116 M (86) in 2018.

Sales and business performance

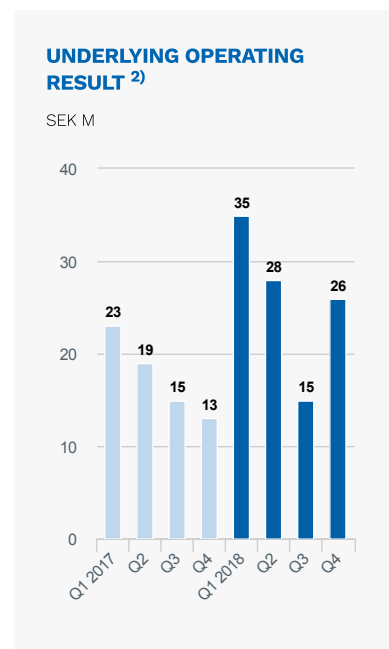
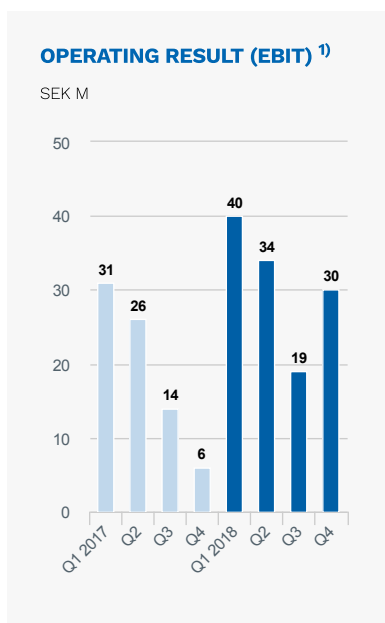
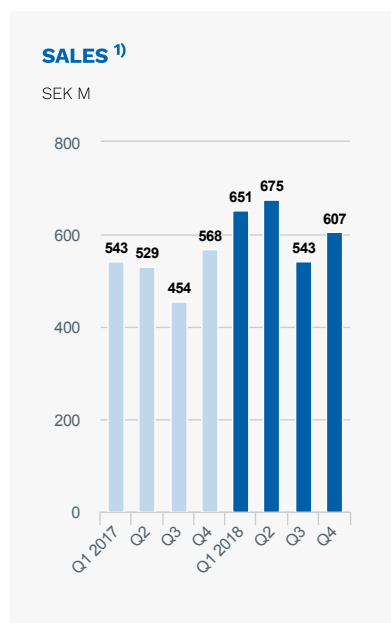
Net sales for the year increased by 18 percent compared with last year, amounting to SEK 2,476 M (2,094). Operating result amounted to SEK 123 M (78). Adjusted for inventory gains of SEK 15 M (13) and items affecting comparability of SEK 4 M (-7), the underlying operating result amounted to SEK 104 M (72).

Tonnage in the Distribution business in Sweden increased by 4 percent compared with last year and contributed to significantly improved result. The higher underlying result for the business area is, however, mainly attributable to the continued steel price increases combined with strongly improved profitability in the production unit in Norrköping.

The joint venture ArcelorMittal BE Group SSC AB is reported in accordance with the equity method, with the participation in earnings for the year amounting to SEK 4 M (11).

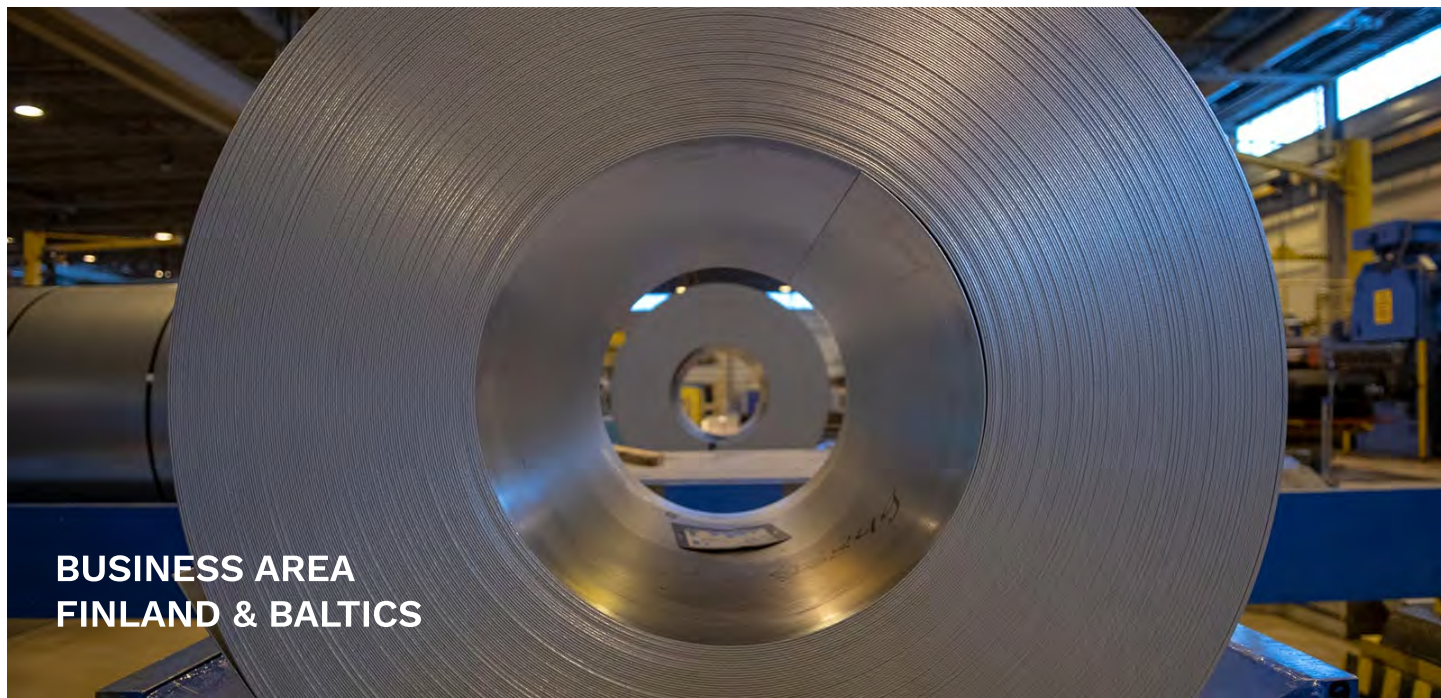
Continued development

In 2018, focus was on continuing to serve our customers in a professional manner, which provided positive effects in the form of higher sales and earnings. The continued recovery we saw in prices during the year also resulted in inventory gains. In the production business, we have seen the effect of the structure and efficiency improvement work and the unit in Norrköping developed strongly. Many things have fallen into place internally, but the work of strengthening our margins will also continue in 2019. This will be achieved through active work to increase and clarify the values we create and price them correctly, but also by streamlining the purchase processes.



¹⁾ Comparative numbers have been restated with regards to BE Group Produktion Eskilstuna.

²⁾ Underlying operating result (uEBIT) is the reported operating result (EBIT) before items affecting comparability and adjusted for inventory gains and losses (deductions for gains and additions for losses). See also Alternative performance measures.



BUSINESS AREA FINLAND & BALTICS



Lasse Levola

Business Area Manager Finland & Baltics

Key data ¹⁾	2018	2017	%
Shipped tonnage, thousands of tonnes	190	191	-1%
Net sales, SEK M	2,299	2,114	9%
Operating result (EBIT), SEK M	81	105	-23%
Operating margin, %	3.5	5.0	-1.5%
Underlying operating result (uEBIT), SEK M ²⁾	68	89	-24%
Underlying operating margin, %	2.9	4.2	-1.3%
Investments, SEK M	18	12	56%
Average number of employees	304	316	-4%

¹⁾ In the result, the intra-group expenses invoiced from the Parent Company have been eliminated.

²⁾ Included as a part of BE Group's alternative performance measures, see also Alternative performance measures.

In 2018, the business area accounted for a total of 48 percent (49) of the Group's net sales. This business area consists of the Group's operations in Finland and the three Baltic States. The operations in Finland consist of production and warehousing facilities in Lapua, Lahti and Turku and sales offices in nine locations. The operations in the Baltic States comprise warehousing and sales units in Tallinn, Riga and Kaunas.

In the Finnish market, the company has around 2,800 customers and the ten largest customers account for 13 percent of the business area's sales. Focus is on delivering value-creating services to both the construction and manufacturing industries. BE Group Finland operates a steel service center for thin sheets processing in-house, which results in a higher share of sales of these products compared with business area Sweden & Poland. The primary competitors are Tibnor, Kontino and Flinkenberg.

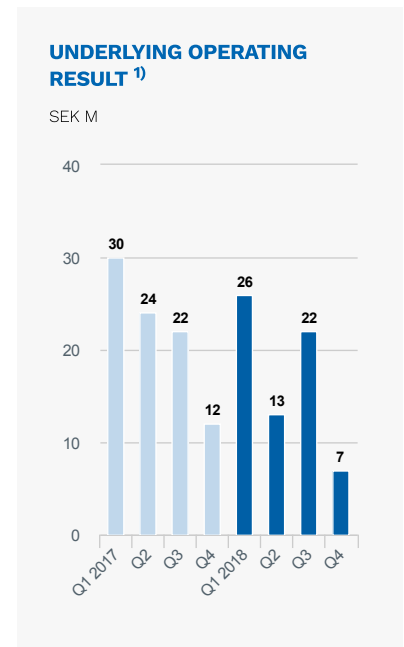
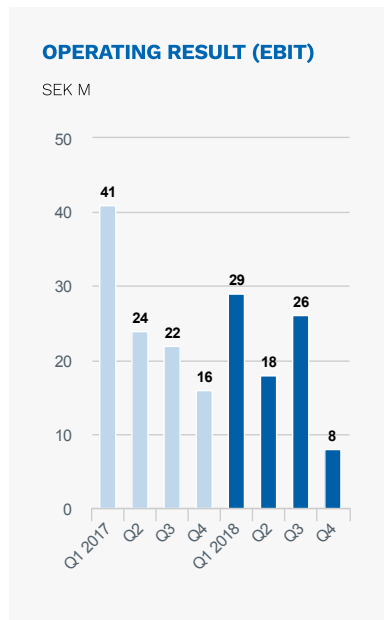
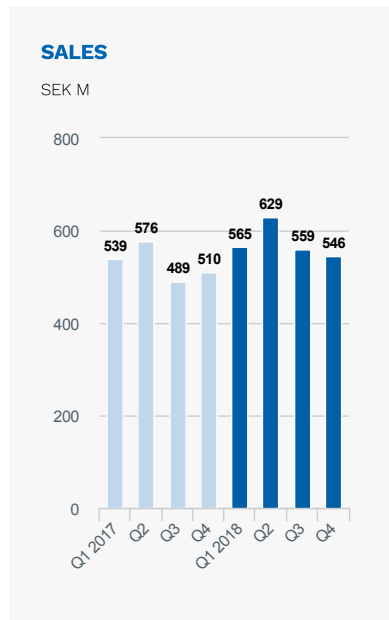
In the Baltics, the market is more fragmented and conditions vary substantially between Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, but BE Group generally has a strong position in the market.

Sales and business performance

Net sales for the year increased by 9 percent compared with last year, amounting to SEK 2,299 M (2,114). The operating result amounted to SEK 81 M (105) and, adjusted for inventory gains of SEK 13 M (16), the underlying operating result decreased to SEK 68 M (89). Shipped tonnage during the period decreased by 1 percent compared with last year mainly as a result of the tough competition in thin sheets. Sales measured in SEK were impacted positively by currency effects and the average price of steel is higher compared with last year. The positive price trend partially compensated for the anticipated bad debt and adjustment of inventory in the Baltics of SEK -12 M that impacted the second quarter. New management in the Baltics was appointed during the year.

Continued development

Demand during the year was generally very good both in the construction and the manufacturing industries. Industrial production remains at a high level, which contributes positively to the demand for steel. Steel prices also continued to increase in 2018. Extensive focus is now on improving profitability in the Finnish production operations and the Baltic operations. As before, the goal is to offer the best customer experience in our industry by providing value-creating solutions to every customer and segment that we focus on.



¹⁾ Underlying operating result (uEBIT) is the reported operating result before items affecting comparability and adjusted for inventory gains and losses (deductions for gains and additions for losses). See also Alternative performance measures.

MARKET FOR STEEL SERVICE COMPANIES

BE Group and other steel distributors play an important role in the value chain. They bridge the gap between steel producers' delivery capacity and steel consumers' needs. The individual steel producers provide a limited selection of products, often in bulk and with relatively long lead times. However, many steel consumers seek a single coordinated supply of several different products in smaller quantities with short delivery times. Purchasing is then normally conducted via a steel service company, where BE Group is one of the leading producer-independent suppliers.

The road to market – from producer to customer

The chain from production of the steel to its final use by the purchaser of the steel can mainly take place in two ways, either the tonnage is supplied directly from the steel mills to the customers or delivered through distributors and steel service centers, i.e. BE Group's market.

The steel mills most often sell directly to customers that consume large volumes of steel in, for example, the ship-building and automotive sectors. Direct deliveries are more common in the flat products segment, where volumes are often large and the need for further processing before delivery is lower.

Purchases through distributors and steel service centers meet an important need among customers by being able to offer single coordinated supply of several different products in smaller quantities with short delivery times. The materials are more often delivered in a further refined condition.



COMPETITORS

BE Group is one of the market's leading actors in both Sweden and Finland. A significant competitor in these markets is Tibnor. Other competitors are for example Stena Stål in Sweden and Kontino and Flinkenberg in Finland.

Amounts in SEK M

Company	Sales	Change 2017/2018	Operating profit	Operating margin
BE Group	4,803	+10%	132	2.8%
Tibnor	8,434	+8%	230	2.7%
Stena Stål ¹⁾	2,360	+8%	86	3.6%

¹⁾ Information refers to the financial year September 2017 to August 2018.

STEEL MARKET

In its "Economic and Steel Market Outlook – Quarter 1, 2019" from January 31, 2019, Eurofer makes the assessment that steel consumption in the EU has entered the late stage of the current business cycle. This implies that while economic fundamentals will remain mildly positive, production growth is expected to slow down in 2019 and 2020.

Demand for finished steel products is expected to increase by 0.5% to 164 million tons in 2019. Domestic demand will be driven by on-going, but weaker, investments and private consumption. The slowing growth is primarily attributable to the mechanical engineering industry and metal goods. The largest risk comes from the global economy, which has become increasingly more uncertain due to rising protectionism that can potentially lead to further escalation of the strained relationships between the U.S. and its trading partners.

Growth forecast per end user in steel for EU

EU	2014	2015	2016	2017	E 2018	F 2019	F 2020
Construction	+1.7%	+1.6%	+0.4%	+4.3%	+4.6%	+2.1%	+1.2%
Mechanical engineering	+1.5%	+0.1%	+0.7%	+4.9%	+4.5%	+1.6%	+1.5%
Automotive	+4.9%	+7.5%	+5.2%	+3.7%	+1.3%	+1.0%	+2.4%
Domestic appliances	-0.3%	+4.3%	+1.5%	+3.7%	-0.8%	+1.5%	+2.1%
Metal goods	+2.5%	+2.2%	+2.4%	+5.0%	+3.9%	+1.2%	+1.8%

Source: Eurofer "Economic and Steel Market Outlook – Quarter 1 2019"



THE SHARE

BE Group AB has been listed on NASDAQ Stockholm since the end of 2006. The share can only be traded in this marketplace. The Company trades under the ticker BEGR and is included in the Basic Resources sector with ISIN code SE0008321921.

Total turnover of BE Group shares in 2018 was 3.1 M shares with a combined value of SEK 154 M, representing an average turnover of 12,386 shares or SEK 0.6 M per trading day. On the year's last trading day, December 28, 2018, the market price for the BE Group share was SEK 35.95. The highest price paid in 2018 was SEK 61.90 and the year's lowest price paid was SEK 34.40. At the end of the year, BE Group's total market capitalization was SEK 467.7 M.

Share capital and voting rights

At December 28, 2018, the share capital in BE Group was SEK 260.2 M (260.2) allocated among 13,010,124 shares, each with a quotient value of SEK 20.00. Under the Articles of Association, minimum share capital in the Company is SEK 150,000,000 and maximum share capital SEK 600,000,000, with a minimum of 10,000,000 and a maximum of 40,000,000 shares. Each share carries one vote and there is only one class of shares.

Ownership structure

At the end of 2018, BE Group had 5,151 shareholders, compared with 5,903 at the end of the previous year. AB Traction and Catella Småbolagsfond were the two largest owners. Other major owners are listed in the table. At the end of the year, the proportion of Swedish institutional ownership (legal entities) totalled 92.5 percent and foreign ownership was 7.5 percent.

At the end of the year, the four members of Group Management together held 61,700 shares in BE Group. At the same time, the Company's directors together held 2,957,808 shares, including shares in close association, of which 40,000 were in endowment insurance. BE Group AB held 26,920 treasury shares at the close of 2018.

Dividend and dividend policy

According to BE Group's dividend policy, the Group shall distribute at least 50 percent of profit after tax, over time. BE Group's financial positions and future outlook shall be taken into account in determining the payment of dividends. The Board of Directors proposes dividend of SEK 1.75 (-) per share for the financial year of 2018, which corresponds to approximately SEK 23 M.

Shareholder contacts

CFO Daniel Fäldt is responsible for contacts with shareholders. Press releases issued by BE Group are distributed via Cision and are made available on the Group's website at www.begroup.com in connection with publication. Information on the BE Group share is updated continuously on the Group's website.

Per share data

SEK unless otherwise stated	2018	2017
Earnings per share	6.13	1.87
Earnings per share after dilution	6.13	1.87
Equity per share	68.67	61.77
Proposed dividend per share	1.75	-
Market price, December 28, latest price paid	35.95	50.00
Market capitalization, December 28, SEK M	467.7	650.5

Largest shareholders December 28, 2018

Shareholders	Number of share	Capital and votes (%)
AB Traction	2,902,526	22.3
Catella Småbolagsfond	955,476	7.3
Försäkringsaktiefbolaget, Avanza Pension	895,543	6.9
The Pure Circle AB	642,285	4.9
Swedbank Robur Sverigefond Mega	614,789	4.7
Swedbank Robur Sverigefond	316,548	2.4
Nordea Livförsäkring Sverige AB	247,122	1.9
Nordnet Pensionsförsäkring AB	192,497	1.5
Swedbank Försäkring	162,232	1.3
Old Mutual International IOM ltd	151,716	1.2
Total, 10 largest shareholders	7,080,734	54.4
BE Group's holding of treasury shares	26,920	0.2
Other shareholders	5,902,470	45.4
Total number	13,010,124	100

Shareholder structure, December 28, 2018

Holding	Number of shareholders	Number of shares	Capital and votes (%)
1 – 500	4,118	394,966	3.0
501 – 1,000	394	295,887	2.3
1,001 – 2,000	255	376,330	2.9
2,001 – 5,000	197	621,958	4.8
5,001 – 10,000	79	556,995	4.3
10,001 – 20,000	45	649,839	5.0
20,001 – 50,000	33	1,065,122	8.2
50,001 – 100,000	11	857,263	6.6
100,001 – 500,000	14	2,181,145	16.7
500,001 – 1,000,000	4	3,108,093	23.9
1,000,001 – 5,000,000	1	2,902,526	22.3
Total	5,151	13,010,124	100

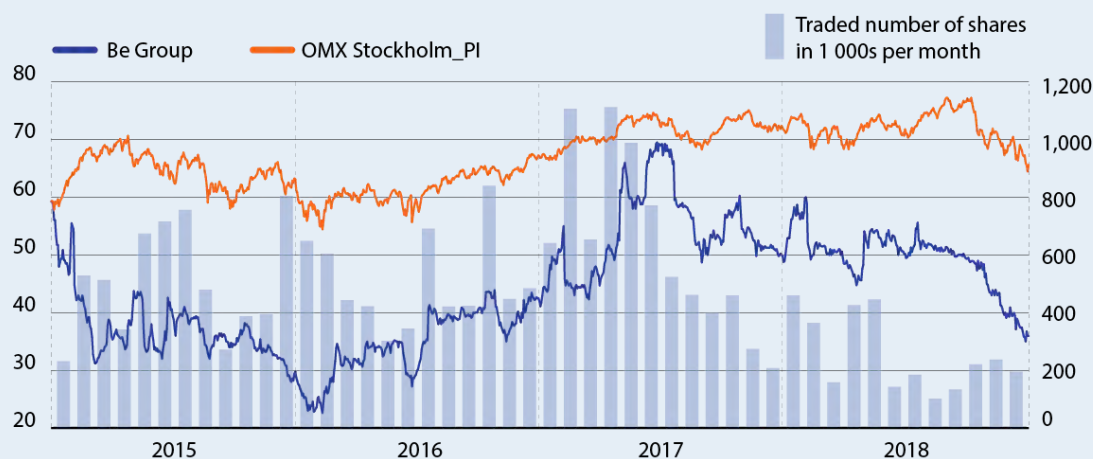
Shareholdings per country, December 28, 2018

Sweden	92.5%
USA	2.3%
Isle of man	1.2%
Finland	1.1%
Luxembourg	0.7%
Others	2.2%
Total	100%

Shareholder category, December 28, 2018

Other Swedish legal entities and persons	35.7
Swedish physical persons	25.9
Fund management companies	15.6
Insurance companies and pension institutions	11.3
Foreign ownership	7.5
Pension foundations	2.6
Non-categorized legal entities and persons	1.4
Total	100%

Share price development January 2015 – December 2018



ISIN code: SE0001852211 Ticker on NASDAQ Stockholm Exchange: BEGR Source: SIX Telekurs



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

Development over the year

Operations

BE Group AB (publ), Corp. Reg. No. 556578-4724, which is listed on the Nasdaq Stockholm exchange, is a trading and service company in steel, stainless steel and aluminium. BE Group offers efficient distribution and value-adding production services to customers primarily in the construction and manufacturing industries. In 2018, the Group reported sales of SEK 4.8 billion. BE Group has approximately 670 employees, with Sweden and Finland as its largest markets. The head office is located in Malmö, Sweden. Read more about BE Group at www.begroup.com.

Alternative performance measures

BE Group has defined a number of alternative performance measures. The alternative performance measures that BE Group considers to be significant are underlying operating result, net debt, working capital and capital employed. Under Alternative performance measures, you can read more about how these are calculated.

Market and business environment

According to the steel producers' industry organization, the World Steel Association, raw steel production decreased in Europe (EU28) by 0.3 percent in 2018 compared with last year. The largest decrease occurred in Germany, where production dropped 2 percent, mainly due to transport problems on the Rhine, which had abnormally low water levels as a result of drought. Demand continued to be high in many customer segments, including infrastructure, mining equipment, mechanical industry and automotive. In 2018, the EU introduced preliminary import quotas to avoid a large inflow of materials after the U.S. introduced protective duties of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum. There is a generally good balance between supply and demand, even if there are exceptions. The information BE Group has regarding the development of the Swedish distribution market shows a market growth of 0.9 percent and the information on the Finnish market shows a market growth of 0.8 percent. Steel prices have also increased during the year.

Group structure and organization

The Group consists of two business areas, Sweden & Poland and Finland & Baltics, with a business focus on the Group's main markets. Within respective business areas, there are separate business units that focus on Distribution and Production. The objective with this split is to get a clearer focus and higher transparency. Parent Company & consolidated items include the Parent Company, Group eliminations and also parts of the Group's operations undergoing restructuring, BE Group Czech Republic, BE Group Slovakia, BE Group Produktion Eskilstuna and RTS Estonia. The restructuring of these operations, approved by the Board of BE Group partly in the first quarter of 2016, the second quarter of 2017 and the second quarter of 2018, are in all material aspects completed.

Net sales and business performance

During 2018, consolidated net sales increased by 10 percent compared with last year, amounting to SEK 4,803 M (4,348). Tonnage in business areas Sweden & Poland increased by 9 percent compared with last year while Finland & Baltic delivered 1 percent lower than last year. Higher average steel prices and mix effects have had a positive impact on net sales of 3 percent. The price trend also resulted in inventory gains of SEK 27 M (27).

Gross profit amounted to SEK 669 M (619), with a gross margin of 13.9 percent (14.2). In total, the year was impacted by items affecting comparability of SEK -12 M (-52) relating to the exit of the unprofitable operations in Prerov and the release of part of the provision booked at the end of 2017 relating to maintenance of the warehouse in Malmö. Apart from this, additional one-off costs of SEK -12 M related to adjustment of inventory and bad debt in the Baltics have affected the underlying operating result. The operating result increased to SEK 132 M (57), which is mainly explained by the maintained gross margin and 10 percent higher net sales of which 4 percent organic tonnage growth. Sales and administration expenses are in line with last year. Adjusted for items affecting comparability and inventory gains and losses, the underlying operating result increased to SEK 117 M (82). The operating margin amounted to 2.8 percent (1.3) and the underlying operating margin was 2.4 percent (1.9).

Business area Sweden & Poland

Business Area Sweden & Poland accounted for 52 percent (48) of the Group's net sales in 2018. This business area includes the Group's operations in Sweden consisting of the companies BE Group Sverige and Lecor Stålteknik, as well as the Polish operations BE Group Poland. Net sales for the year increased by 18 percent compared with last year, amounting to SEK 2,476 M (2,094). Operating result amounted to SEK 123 M (78). Adjusted for inventory gains of SEK 15 M (13) and items affecting comparability of SEK 4 M (-7), the underlying operating result was SEK 104 M (72). In the result, the intra-group expenses invoiced from the Parent Company have been eliminated. The joint venture ArcelorMittal BE Group SSC AB is reported in accordance with the equity method, with the participation in earnings for the year amounting to SEK 4 M (11).

Business area Finland & Baltics

In 2018, the business area accounted for a total of 48 percent (49) of the Group's net sales. This business area consists of the Group's operations in Finland and the three Baltic States Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Net sales for the year increased by 9 percent compared with the previous year, amounting to SEK 2,299 M (2,114). The operating result amounted to SEK 81 M (105) and, adjusted for inventory gains of SEK 13 M (16), the underlying operating result decreased to SEK 68 M (89). In the result, the intra-group expenses invoiced from the Parent Company have been eliminated.

Parent Company

Sales for the Parent Company, BE Group AB (publ), amounted to SEK 108 M (92) during the period and derived from intra-Group services. These intra-Group services mainly include licensing fees regarding the subsidiaries' use of the BE Group brand and central expenses for IT, Finance and Purchasing, etc. These expenses are distributed and invoiced to all subsidiaries in the Group. In the result follow-up of the business areas, these intra-group expenses were eliminated. Out of the total costs for the Parent Company, of SEK 58 M, SEK 43 M was distributed to the subsidiaries.

The operating result amounted to SEK 50 M (38). Net financial items amounted to SEK 2 M (-22). The result before tax amounted to SEK 85 M (0) and the result after tax was SEK 69 M (-1). At the end of the year, Parent Company equity amounted to SEK 626 M (557). Investments in the Parent Company amounted to SEK 1 M (0). At the end of the year, cash and equivalents in the Parent Company amounted to SEK 71 M (44).

Net financial items and tax

Consolidated net financial items amounted to SEK -16 M (-23), of which net interest accounted for SEK -12 M (-17). On an annual basis, the consolidated net interest corresponded to 2.5 percent (3.2) of the average interest-bearing net debt. Tax amounted to SEK -36 M (-10). Result after tax increased to SEK 80 M (24) including items affecting comparability of SEK -12 M (-52). As the Group's profitability continues to improve the capitalized deferred tax assets referring to loss carryforwards are utilized. The deferred tax asset has decreased during the year, amounting to SEK 33 M (56).

Cash flow

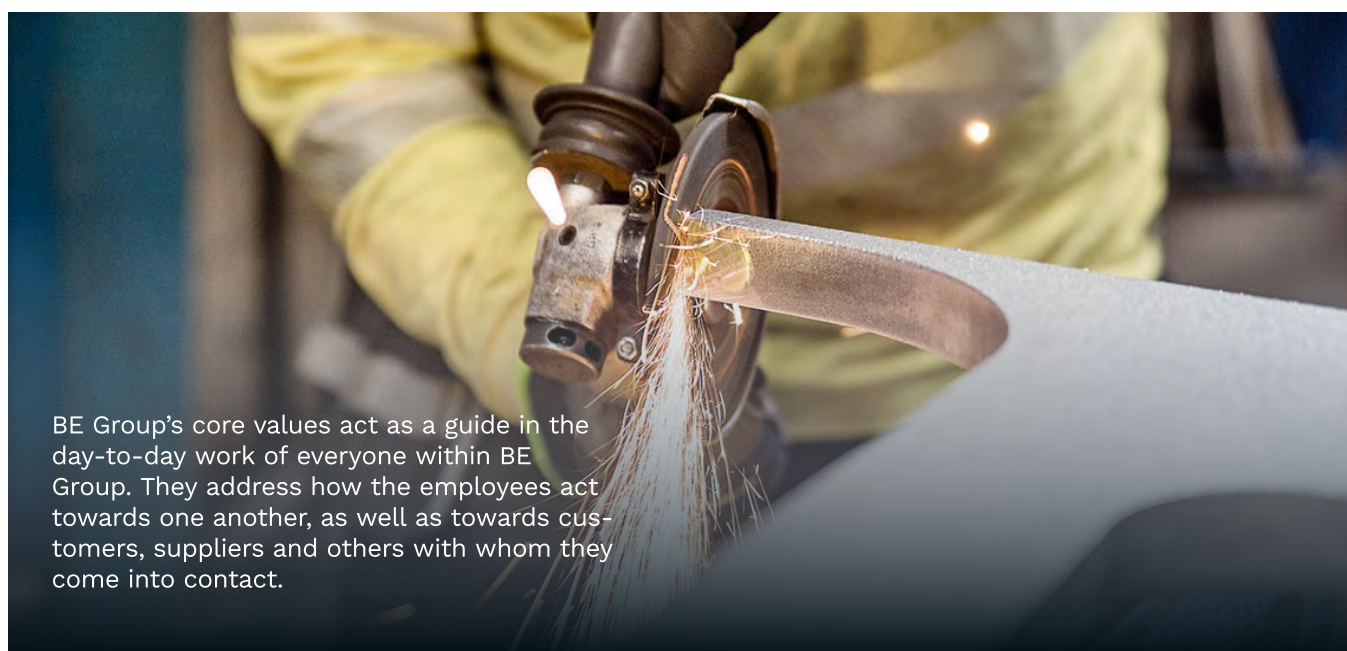
Cash flow from operating activities amounted to SEK 86 M (95). The cash flow from investing activities amounted to SEK -32 M (5). Cash flow after investments thereby amounted to SEK 54 M (100).

Capital, investments and return

At the end of the period, consolidated working capital amounted to SEK 572 M (492) and average working capital tied-up was 11.7 percent (11.8). Of the year's investments, totalling SEK 35 M (22), investments in intangible assets accounted for SEK 2 M (0) and investments in tangible assets for SEK 33 M (22). The return on capital employed increased in comparison with that in last year and amounted to 9.4 percent (4.2).

Financial position and liquidity

At the end of the period, consolidated cash and equivalents, including overdraft facilities, were SEK 208 M (161) and consolidated interest-bearing net debt amounted to SEK 440 M (478). At the end of the period, equity totalled SEK 892 M (802) and the debt/equity ratio improved to 49 percent (60).



BE Group's core values act as a guide in the day-to-day work of everyone within BE Group. They address how the employees act towards one another, as well as towards customers, suppliers and others with whom they come into contact.

Employees

BE Group considers the employees to be the Group's most important resource. They are the face towards customers and suppliers and it is therefore important that everyone who works at BE Group contributes to the Company being perceived as an economical, socially and ethically responsible company. It is the people at BE Group who make things happen and make it possible for the Company to keep its promises. The corporate culture is based, among other things, on what BE Group has defined as its core values. These values act as guidance in the day-to-day work of everyone within BE Group. They address how the employees behave towards one another, as well as towards customers, suppliers and others with whom they come into contact. These are: Dynamic, Transparent and Sustainable. Read more in Vision, Business Idea and Values. The number of employees amounted to 667 compared with 665 at the same time last year and the average number of employees during the year amounted to 668 (700).

Environmental policy and environmental work

BE Group is working with environmental issues as an integrated part of its operations. With its position between steel producers and customers, it is in the area of transport in particular that BE Group is able to help lessen the environmental impact. In addition, BE Group works continuously to improve its own facilities' energy consumption, emissions and waste management.

Overarching environmental policy

A comprehensive environmental policy forms the basis of BE Group's environmental work. The policy states that BE Group shall

- As a minimum comply with current environmental legislation and requirements from local authorities.
- Be economical in the use of energy and natural resources.
- Work to decrease the amount of waste and emissions from the facilities.
- Identify opportunities to make adjustments benefiting the environment when making investments and changes in processes and facilities.
- Maintain a high level of awareness on environmental issues through ongoing training.
- Document and communicate environmental work to employees and provide open and objective information to external stakeholders.

BE Group is engaged in operations at two sites in Sweden for which environmental permits are required. In Finland, operations in one site require environmental permits. Group companies have obtained special permits to engage in operations in the countries where such permits are required. All operations within the Group, with the exception of the operations in Lithuania and Lecor Stålteknik, are certified under the ISO 14001 environmental management system.

Risks and risk management in BE Group

BE Group's profits and financial position are affected by a large number of factors. Several of these are beyond the Company's own control. The Group operates in several countries and is therefore exposed to various risks as a consequence of differences in legislation, regulations and guidelines. Risk management within the Group is guided by established policies and procedures that are revised by the Board of Directors and/or Group Management on an ongoing basis. The most important risks and factors of uncertainty for BE Group can be divided between:

- Market risks (economic and steel price trend)
- Operational risks (suppliers, customers, contractual relationships, personnel, product liability, legal and environmental liability)
- Financial risks (currency risk, interest risk, refinancing risk and credit risk)

Market risks

Economic trend

BE Group has a large number of customers in different industries and is therefore affected by the general economic climate. A weak economic trend increases the risk of lower demand for the Group's products, resulting in lower sales revenues. In addition, a weaker economy can lead to low inventory turnover, falling prices and inventory losses on existing inventories. BE Group's strategy regarding inventory levels is to warehouse products based on estimated customer demand. The various companies in BE Group strive to maintain a level of inventory turnover suited to the market and local conditions of each company. The operational control of inventory levels is exerted by means of targets for the number of inventory days.

Steel price trend

The steel industry is influenced by economic developments. As a consequence, steel price trends are volatile and are affected by the balance between the production offering and demand for steel at the different points along the value chain. Steel prices affect BE Group such that higher market prices provide a greater contribution towards covering the Group's costs given a constant gross margin. The steel price trend also affects final sales prices for products held in inventory, which for BE Group entails a financial impact in the form of inventory gains and losses. To limit these inventory effects, BE Group is working actively to reduce the number of inventory days while maintaining its level of service towards customers. Consequently, falling steel prices have a negative impact on BE Group's operations and earnings, while increased prices have a positive impact. The table below shows the estimated effect on underlying operating result of changes in steel prices and sold tonnage. The sensitivity analysis is based on the outcome for 2018 and assumes a constant underlying gross margin.

	Change	Operating result effect
Steelprice	+/-5 %	+/-24 MSEK
Tonnage	+/-5 %	+/-26 MSEK

Operational risks

Insufficient deliveries

BE Group's product range consists of materials from several different suppliers. The Group strives to establish relations with the best steel producers and to maintain sustainable, long-term cooperation. To safeguard access to materials on each individual occasion, the Group seeks to always maintain relations with several suppliers in each product group. Over the year, BE Group has cooperated with more than 500 suppliers. Before establishing new business relationships and entering into agreements, suppliers' capacity to meet BE Group's demands in terms of finance, quality, logistics, the environment and other aspects is ascertained.

In BE Group's assessment, it is not dependent on any single supplier and all major suppliers are considered fully interchangeable, so disruption to deliveries by any one of them does therefore not entail long-term consequences for operations. In 2018, the largest single supplier accounted for 21 percent (15) of the Group's purchases. Combined, the ten largest suppliers accounted for 56 percent (53) of the Group's total purchasing. BE Group is exposed to the risk that deliveries from suppliers could be substantially delayed in the event of interrupted production, capacity shortage or transport issues, outside the control of BE Group. This can mean loss of income and/or more expensive actions to meet our commitments to customers.

Customers

BE Group's operations are conducted in several different markets and to numerous customer categories. The ten largest customers accounted for 13 percent (13) of total sales in 2018. BE Group has a large number of customers in different industries and consequently, a good risk diversification. The Company actively works to manage credit risks (see Note 31 for further information) by setting credit limits and focusing on collecting overdue debts.

Increased direct deliveries from steel producers

Users of steel have mainly two sources of purchases: directly from steel producers or from trading and service companies. Traditionally, many large-scale users have bought directly from producers, while small and medium-sized users have often made use of trading and service companies. There is, however, a risk that producers will try to extend their direct sales, reducing the use of trading and service companies as agents.

Contractual relations

The Group is custom to rely primarily on its good and often long-term relations with customers and suppliers, and on the normal practices that have been established between the parties. There are specific agreements with some of BE Group's larger customers and suppliers.

Human Resources

BE Group depends on competent employees for its future development and success. The ability to recruit, retain and develop qualified employees and to be an attractive employer is important. The effect on the operations would be negative if key individuals were to quit and without it being possible to recruit suitable replacements. BE Group has compiled a number of values that reflect the spirit of the Group and pervade its management. BE Group's commercial competence is continuously developed through training and recruitment. Training efforts include broad programs aimed at many employees, as well as specialized solutions for individuals.

Product liability

In the event of defect products, some of the products that BE Group sells could cause personal injury or other harm, thereby incurring a risk of claims for damages in accordance with the product liability laws of the country concerned. BE Group has taken out the conventional liability insurance policies on its operations.

Legal

Since BE Group maintains operations in several countries, the Group is exposed to different laws, regulations, agreements and guidelines, as well as to changes in the stipulations within these. Among other things, regulations include trade restrictions, such as customs duties and tariffs, requirements for import and export licenses, restrictions on movements of capital and tax regulations. In all commercial operations, disputes may arise as a consequence of differences of opinion on issues of responsibility and interpretations of contract terms. From a risk perspective, BE Group is not dependent on any individual commercial agreement that could significantly limit the Group's operations.

Environmental legislation and responsibility for the environment

BE Group's operations are subject to legislation pertaining to the environment, as well as regulations on emissions to the atmosphere and water, waste management and the workplace environment. BE Group could become liable for environmental damage caused by operations conducted, or that have previously been conducted by the Company. According to Swedish law, certain environmental liability is not subject to limitations of time. It cannot be ruled out that operations such as those that are conducted, or have been conducted, by BE Group could lead to liability for environmental impacts that do not appear until much later.

Financial risks

For an account of financial risks, see Note 31.

Share-related information

Ownership structure

The BE Group share has been listed on the Nasdaq Stockholm Exchange since the end of 2006. At the end of the financial year, BE Group had 5,151 shareholders, compared with 5,903 at the end of last year. AB Traction and Catella Småbolagsfond were the two largest owners with 22.3 percent and 7.3 percent of the shares, respectively. Information regarding other major owners is available under The Share. At the end of the year, the proportion of institutional ownership (legal entities) totalled 67 percent and foreign ownership was 7.5 percent.

At the end of the year, the four members of Group Management together held 61,700 shares in BE Group. At the same time, the Company's directors together held 2,957,808 shares, including shares in close association. The disclosures regarding shareholdings in BE Group for the Board of Directors and Group Management refers to own and physically related owned shares, endowment insurance and legally owned shares which directly or indirectly is controlled by the person or its relatives. BE Group held 26,920 treasury shares at the close of 2018.

Share capital, shares outstanding and rights

The registered share capital amounted to 13,010,124 (13,010,124) common shares on December 31, 2018. Each share has a quotient value of SEK 20.00 (20.00). According to the Articles of Association, minimum share capital in the Company is SEK 150,000,000 and maximum share capital SEK 600,000,000, with a minimum of 10,000,000 and a maximum of 40,000,000 shares. Share capital is determined in Swedish kronor.

All shares convey equal rights to a percentage of the Company's net assets, profits and any surplus upon liquidation. Each share carries one vote and there is only one class of shares. There is no limit to the number of votes a shareholder may cast at the Annual General Meeting or with respect to transfer of shares. The Company is aware of no agreements between shareholders which may limit the right to transfer shares. Further information about the BE Group share is provided on www.begroup.com.

Authorization to the Board of Directors

The Annual General Meeting resolved to authorize the Board of Directors, on one or several occasions and not later than the 2019 Annual General Meeting, to make decisions regarding the transfer of treasury shares for the purpose of financing smaller corporate acquisitions. Transfers of at most 26,920 shares, corresponding to the company's existing holding of treasury shares, may deviate from shareholders' preferential rights. Transfers may be applied as payment of all or part of the purchase consideration in the acquisition of companies or operations or parts of companies or operations, in which case the payment shall correspond to the assessed market value of the shares. Alongside share transfers, payment may be effectuated through capital contributed in kind or by setting off claims against BE Group. Transfers may also be made on cash payment through sales on the Nasdaq Stockholm Exchange at a price within the price interval registered at any given time – that being the interval between the highest bid price and lowest asking price at the time of sale. The Board of Directors shall have the right to decide on other conditions for the transfer. However, the conditions shall be market-based. During the year, no treasury shares were transferred and BE Group held 26,920 treasury shares, corresponding to 0.2 percent of the share capital, which was acquired for a total amount of SEK 21 M.

Dividend and dividend policy

According to BE Group's dividend policy, the Group will distribute at least 50 percent of profit after tax, over time. BE Groups financial positions and future outlook shall be taken into account in determining the payment of dividends. The Board of Directors proposes dividend of SEK 1.75 (-) per share for the financial year of 2018 which corresponds to approximately SEK 23 M.

Corporate governance

The Corporate Governance Report is presented on pages 84–88.

Remuneration principles for senior executives

The 2018 Annual General Meeting adopted guidelines for executive remuneration. The policies apply to remuneration and other terms of employment for the individuals who, while the policies are in effect, are members of Group management for BE Group. Group management consist of four persons: the President and CEO, the CFO, Business Area Manager for Finland & Baltics and the Group Sourcing Director. The policies apply for agreements entered in accordance with Annual General Meeting resolutions and to amendments to existing agreements made after this date. The guidelines are reviewed annually.

The guidelines mainly state that remuneration for senior executives shall consist of fixed base pay, variable remuneration, pension benefits and other benefits. Total remuneration shall be market-based. Fixed pay shall be individual and differentiated based on the individual's responsibilities and performance and set annually. Variable remuneration shall be related to the degree of meeting the annual predetermined, well-defined goals and shall amount to a maximum of 50 percent of fixed salary. Pension is to be defined-contribution-based and correspond to a maximum of 30 percent of fixed annual salary. Where notice of termination is issued by BE Group, fixed salary and severance pay shall not exceed an amount equivalent to 12 months' fixed pay. The actual remunerations agreed during the year are detailed in Note 3.

The Board of Directors' preparation and resolutions in business related to salaries and other terms of employment for senior executives

Due to its small size, the Board has found it suitable not to appoint a remuneration committee. This decision was made at the 2018 statutory meeting. Salaries and other terms of employment, pension benefits and the bonus system for the CEO and immediately subordinate managers are handled by the Chairman of the Board in dialogue with the CEO. The Chairman of the Board reports back to the Board who drafts the executive remuneration policies to propose to the Annual General Meeting for resolution. The Board has also been tasked with monitoring and assessing variable remuneration programs for senior executives that were ongoing or terminated during the year and with monitoring and assessing the application of the guidelines for remunerations for senior executives.

Provisions of the Articles of Association on appointment and discharge of directors and amendment of the Articles of Association

There are no provisions in the Articles of Association on appointment and discharge of directors and amendment of the Articles of Association. In accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act, directors are elected by the Annual General Meeting for the period extending until the close of the first Annual General Meeting after that at which they were elected, and amendments to the Articles of Association are determined by the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the regulations set out in the Companies Act.

Contingent liabilities

Consolidated contingent liabilities amounted to SEK 14 M (30).

Significant events after the end of the financial year

No significant events have taken place after the end of the period.

Accounting principles

As of January 2005, the consolidated accounts are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as adopted by the European Commission for application within the European Union. A more detailed explanation of accounting principles is available under "Accounting principles".

Appropriation of earnings

The Board of Directors' proposal for the appropriation of earnings is detailed under Appropriation of Earnings and in note 24.

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

BE Group's sustainability work is based on the ambition to create corporate social responsibility, which permeates the entire business.

BE Group's sustainability work is based on the ambition to create corporate social responsibility, which permeates the entire business. BE Group shall work to limit the organization's environmental impact and be an economically, socially and ethically responsible actor.

BE Group has a team working with sustainability issues, comprised of representatives from the Group Management Team, HR and HSEQ from Sweden and Finland. The team discusses current issues in the focus areas deemed especially important for the Group. The focus areas have been evaluated based on the UN Global Compact's 10 principles that build on international conventions in human rights, labor law, the environment and anti-corruption.

BE Group's key stakeholders

In both the long term and in the daily work, BE Group affect and are affected as a company by various stakeholders, including these key stakeholders:

Stakeholder	Expectations on BE Group	Example of dialogue
Customers	BE Group shall add value to all customer segments in accordance with its business model and acts with responsiveness to customer needs and in a manner that promotes trust, strengthening relations with existing customers and attracting new ones.	Dialogue is conducted for example through personal interaction, daily contacts, trade fairs, customer surveys and the website.
Employees	BE Group shall act responsibly both internally and externally to attract, develop and retain competent employees. Our core values guide us in how we behave towards one another in our day-to-day work.	Dialogue is conducted for example in everyday discussions, workplace meetings, employee surveys, union collaboration, internal training, incident follow-up, performance and guidance talks.
Shareholders	BE Group is to generate value for its shareholders through responsible and profitable company based on the Group's business model and strategies for profitability.	Dialogue is conducted for example through the Annual General Meeting, annual reports, sustainability reports, interim reports, the website and investor meetings.
Suppliers	BE Group shall add value by providing efficient distribution, warehousing, pre-processing services and knowledge about our markets. The Group strives to strengthen sustainability work among suppliers through dialogue and by setting requirements.	Dialogue is conducted for example through personal interaction, daily contacts, quarterly meetings and cooperation projects.
Society	BE Group wants to contribute to positive social development by generating job opportunities in its own operations and among partners. BE Group shall be an open and easily accessible actor that communicates with the greatest possible transparency within the regulatory framework regarding market-sensitive information.	Dialogue is conducted for example through study visits, collaborative projects, networks and sponsorship.

Risk and risk management

BE Group has identified a number of risks and uncertainty factors for the operations. These were divided into three areas: Market risks, Operational risks and Financial risks. Read more about this in Risks and risk management in the Board of director's report.

Focus areas

BE Group has identified a number of areas that are especially important for the Group and they are divided into three focus areas: the People, the Operations and the Environment.

The People

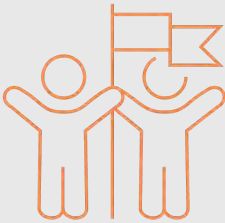
BE Group respect its employees and their human rights. All of the workplaces shall be free from harassment and discrimination. BE Group strive to create and be an attractive workplace where everyone is treated with equal respect and dignity and encourage a culture with equal opportunities and diversity.

The Group has had a whistle-blower policy for several years, which means that all employees have the possibility to anonymously report when they see problems, inaccuracies, illegal behavior or improprieties with regard to BE Group's interests or the individuals' lives and health.

In 2018, the Group Management Team started the Safety First project. This is to put further focus on the safety at the workplaces. There have been initial mappings of some of the largest workplaces in the Group and the work will continue in 2019 with more mappings, action plans and courses, among other efforts.

BE Group is dependent on skilled employees in order to be a successful company. The ability to recruit, retain and develop qualified employees and to be an attractive employer is important. BE Group's commercial competence is continuously developed through training and recruitment. Training efforts include broad programs aimed at many employees, as well as specialized solutions for individuals.

BE Group conducts a Group-wide employee survey once a year. The goal is to introduce a more systematic and transparent approach and to ensure that the strengths and improvement areas are known to the company. The results are presented by department and are used in a process where every group can work on preparing an action plan for the improvement areas established.



Recruitment and integration project in Norrköping, Sweden

BE Group works on diversity at its workplaces and in 2018 started a recruitment and integration project together with the Public Employment Service in Norrköping with the goal of offering permanent employment to recently arrived individuals who had difficulty establishing themselves in the labor market. The project means that employment would begin with a four-week internship, which would then transform into a six-month probationary employment with the goal that all participants would be offered permanent employment. A job description was prepared and the Public Employment Service identified some 20 suitable candidates. After interviewing them, 11 people began their employments at the beginning of summer 2018.

The Operations

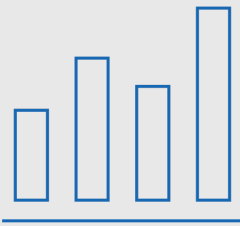
BE Group is a trading and service company that offers efficient distribution and value-generating production service in steel, stainless steel and aluminum to the construction and manufacturing industries in Europe. The Group offers efficient distribution through coordination in purchasing, transportation and warehousing.

The corporate culture is based, among other things, on what is defined as the Group's core values. These values act as a guide in the day-to-day work of everyone within BE Group. They address how to behave towards one another, as well as towards customers, suppliers and others they come into contact with. The core values are Dynamic, Transparent and Sustainable. Read more in Vision, Business Idea and Values.

BE Group strive to be a reliable partner to its business partners, suppliers and customers. BE Group complies with rules and laws that apply in the respective countries in which the Group have operations. This is complemented by the Code of Conduct, updated in 2018, which the employees were informed of and

given the opportunity to ask questions about. BE Group's Code of Conduct details the Group's responsibilities towards its business partners, owners, employees and society. The Code addresses issues of business ethics, anti-corruption, child labor, equality, work environment, career issues and skills development. The ethical guidelines included in the Code of Conduct cover all employees in BE Group and every unit manager is responsible for ensuring that the employees are familiar with and follow them.

BE Group requires honesty and integrity from all of the units in BE Group and expects the same from all business relationships, such as customers, suppliers and partners. BE Group works against all forms of corruption, including bribes and all kinds of compensation to agents, suppliers and partners must accordingly be based solely on relevant products and services. More information on this is available in the Code of Conduct and in the Code of Conduct for Suppliers, both of which are available on the website www.begroup.com.



Customer in focus

Every year, BE Group conducts customer surveys in the main markets to find out how the customers perceive the deliveries and service. The results are then followed up and analyzed by region and by customer segment and are important input in the Group's strive to constantly improve its operations.

The Environment

BE Group works to limit its environmental impact and has identified the areas in which the company has the greatest impact and can make improvements. These are purchased steel and aluminum products, transportation, energy consumption, emissions from production and waste management.

Reducing carbon dioxide emissions is a major global environmental challenge. In the processing chain from the steel producers to its customers, it is at the producer level that the majority of carbon dioxide emissions take place. It is estimated that BE Group's facilities account for around 1 percent of the total carbon dioxide emissions in the value chain, while transportation to and from the facilities accounts for around 5 percent. The remaining 94 percent of the emissions originate in the producer level. Nonetheless, there are things that BE Group can do to reduce emissions in their part of the chain.

In 2012, BE Group began making estimates of carbon dioxide emissions according to recommendations in the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG) standard. This work has continued and improved ever since. The emissions of carbon dioxide in BE Group's operations (GHG Scope 1-2) have been reduced through less use of fossil-based energy, shifting to more sustainable energy carriers and a continuous transition to greater use of "carbon dioxide-free

electricity" and biogas in the facilities during the period. BE Group also continuously work to improve the efficiency of its energy use.

BE Group will now take the next step in the ambition to understand and reduce the carbon dioxide footprint. Continued development and adaptation of emission estimates according to the GHG standard will take place and also be expanded with components in the GHG Scope 3 area. The Group follow up and calculate the development for the transports used in freight from suppliers to the company and from the company to the customers.

BE Group's own operations cause only limited emissions. Emissions primarily originate from the production units in Malmö, Norrköping and Turku where operations such as painting and blasting are carried out. The filtration of solvents (VOCs) from painting facilities and dust from blasting and cutting equipment is efficient and is continuously followed up.

Residual materials in BE Group's operations are principally metals, wood and cardboard. These are sorted and recycled to the greatest possible extent. The Group also carefully follows up the work of its recycling service providers.

BE Group have actively worked for many years to reduce the environmental impact and the majority of its operations are certified according to the international environmental standard ISO 14001.



Examples of BE Group's on-going environmental work

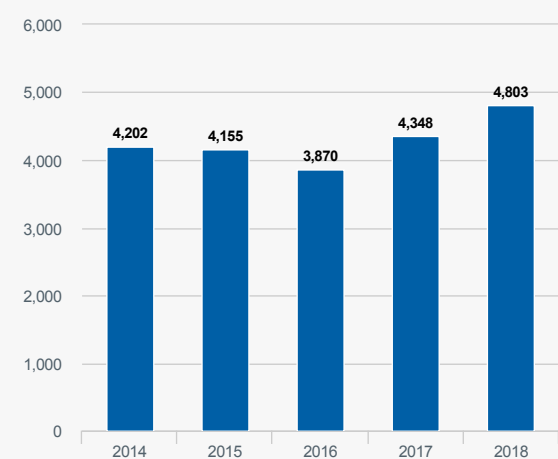
In a decision on new investments, there is a focus on taking into consideration the Group's environmental impact. For example, during the year, investments have been made in a new laser cutting machine and forklifts in Finland that are more environmentally efficient. LED lights have been installed in Norrköping, Sweden, and Trebaczew, Poland. BE Group also strives to find suitable and profitable solutions/investments based on the detailed energy survey in Sweden and Finland to further reduce the energy consumption.

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

Amounts in SEK M	Note	2018	2017
Net sales	1	4,803	4,348
Cost of goods sold	2	-4,134	-3,729
Gross profit/loss		669	619
Selling expenses	2	-402	-395
Administrative expenses	2	-125	-123
Participation in earnings of joint venture	17	4	11
Other operating income	7	4	24
Other operating expenses	2, 8	-18	-79
Operating result	3, 4, 5, 14, 15	132	57
Financial income	9	3	3
Financial expenses	10	-19	-26
Result before tax		116	34
Tax	11	-36	-10
Result for the year attributable to Parent Company shareholders	12	80	24
Earnings per share before dilution	12	6.13	1.87
Earnings per share after dilution	12	6.13	1.87

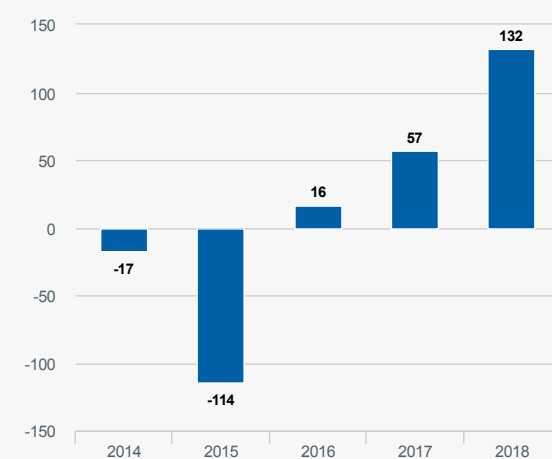
NET SALES, GROUP

SEK M



OPERATING RESULT, GROUP (EBIT)

SEK M



CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Amounts in SEK M	2018	2017
Result for the year	80	24
Other comprehensive income		
Translation differences	21	16
Hedging of net investments in foreign subsidiaries	-15	-12
Tax attributable to items in other comprehensive income	4	3
Items that will not be reclassified to profit/loss for the period	-	-
Total other comprehensive income	10	7
Comprehensive income for the year attributable to Parent Company shareholders	90	31

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

Amounts in SEK M	Note	2018	2017
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
<i>Intangible assets</i>			
Goodwill	13	563	552
Other intangible assets	14	6	11
		569	563
Tangible assets	15	111	115
		111	115
Participations in joint ventures	17	113	117
		113	117
<i>Financial assets</i>			
Other securities held as non-current assets	18	0	0
Non-current receivables		0	0
		0	0
Deferred tax assets	25	33	56
		33	56
Total non-current assets		826	851
Current assets			
<i>Inventories</i>			
Goods for resale	20	651	599
		651	599
<i>Current receivables</i>			
Accounts receivable		470	489
Tax receivables		11	6
Other receivables		23	14
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	21	29	15
		533	524
<i>Cash and equivalents</i>			
Cash and equivalents		108	61
		108	61
Assets held for sale		–	0
		–	0
Total current assets		1,292	1,184
TOTAL ASSETS		2,118	2,035

Amounts in SEK M	Note	2018	2017
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity	22		
Share capital		260	260
Other capital contributions		251	251
Translation reserve		41	31
Retained earnings including result for the year		340	260
Equity attributable to Parent Company shareholders		892	802
Non-current liabilities			
Non-current interest-bearing liabilities	26, 31	543	519
Provisions	23	0	0
Deferred tax liabilities	25	44	43
Total long-term liabilities		587	562
Current liabilities			
Current interest-bearing liabilities	26, 27, 31	5	20
Accounts payable		468	479
Tax liabilities		0	0
Other liabilities		69	70
Accrued expenses and deferred income	28	76	82
Provisions	23	21	20
Total current liabilities		639	671
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		2,118	2,035

CHANGES IN CONSOLIDATED EQUITY

Amounts in SEK M	Share capital	Other capital contributions	Translation reserve	Retained earnings	Total equity
2017					
Equity, opening balance, January 1, 2017	260	251	24	236	771
Result for the year	-	-	-	24	24
Other comprehensive income	-	-	7	0	7
Comprehensive income for the year	-	-	7	24	31
Equity, closing balance, December 31, 2017	260	251	31	260	802

Amounts in SEK M	Share capital	Other capital contributions	Translation reserve	Retained earnings	Total equity
2018					
Equity, opening balance, January 1, 2018	260	251	31	260	802
Result for the year	-	-	-	80	80
Other comprehensive income	-	-	10	-	10
Comprehensive income for the year	-	-	10	80	90
Equity, closing balance, December 31, 2018	260	251	41	340	892

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Amounts in SEK M	Note	2018	2017
Operating activities			
Operating result		132	57
Adjustment for non-cash items	29	42	63
Interest paid/received and other financial items		-13	-21
Income tax paid/received		-16	-19
Cash flow from operating activities before changes in working capital		145	80
<i>Cash flow from changes in working capital</i>			
Increase (-)/decrease (+) in inventories		-34	-75
Increase (-)/decrease (+) in operating receivables		6	-25
Increase (+)/decrease (-) in operating liabilities		-31	115
Cash flow from operating activities		86	95
Investing activities			
Acquisitions of intangible assets	14	-2	0
Acquisitions of tangible assets	15	-32	-22
Divestments of tangible assets		2	27
Investments in financial assets		0	0
Cash flow from investing activities		-32	5
Cash flow after investments		54	100
Financing activities			
Amortization of loan liabilities		-10	-69
Cash flow from financing activities		-10	-69
Cash flow for the year		44	31
Cash and equivalents at January 1		61	27
Translation differences in cash and equivalents		3	3
Cash and equivalents at December 31		108	61

INCOME STATEMENT – PARENT COMPANY

Amounts in SEK M	Note	2018	2017
Net sales	1	108	92
		108	92
Administrative expenses		-58	-54
Other operating income and expenses	7, 8	0	0
Operating profit/loss	3, 4, 5, 14, 15	50	38
Profit/loss from participations in Group companies	6	20	-5
Other interest income and similar profit/loss items	9	18	21
Interest expense and similar profit/loss items	10	-36	-38
Profit/loss after financial items		52	16
Appropriations		33	-16
Profit/loss before tax		85	0
Tax	11	-16	-1
Profit/loss for the year		69	-1

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME – PARENT COMPANY

Amounts in (SEK M)	2018	2017
Profit/loss for the year	69	-1
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Comprehensive income for the year	69	-1

BALANCE SHEET – PARENT COMPANY

Amounts in SEK M	Note	2018	2017
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
<i>Intangible assets</i>			
Capitalized expenditure for development work and similar	14	1	8
		1	8
<i>Tangible assets</i>			
Equipment, tools, fixtures and fittings	15	1	0
		1	0
<i>Financial assets</i>			
Participations in Group companies	16	872	876
Interest-bearing receivables from Group companies	19	98	97
		970	973
Deferred tax receivable	25	27	43
Total non-current assets		999	1,024
Current assets			
<i>Current receivables</i>			
Current interest-bearing receivables from Group companies	19	81	97
Receivables from Group companies		112	110
Tax receivables		2	2
Other receivables		4	3
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	21	1	1
		200	213
Cash and equivalents		71	44
		71	44
Total current assets		271	257
TOTAL ASSETS		1,270	1,281

Amounts in SEK M	Note	2018	2017
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity	22		
Restricted equity			
Share capital		260	260
Statutory reserve		31	31
		291	291
Non-restricted equity			
Share premium reserve		240	240
Profit brought forward		26	27
Profit/loss for the year		69	-1
		335	266
Total equity		626	557
Non-current liabilities			
Non-current interest-bearing liabilities	26, 31	531	512
Provisions		0	0
		531	512
Current liabilities			
Current interest-bearing liabilities	31	–	15
Current interest-bearing liabilities to Group companies		70	128
Accounts payable		2	2
Liabilities to Group companies		28	59
Other liabilities		5	1
Accrued expenses and deferred income	28	8	7
Provisions		0	0
		113	212
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		1,270	1,281

CHANGES IN EQUITY – PARENT COMPANY

Amounts in SEK M	Share capital	Statutory reserve	Share premium reserve	Profit brought forward	Profit/loss for the year	Total equity
2017						
Equity, opening balance, January 1, 2017	260	31	240	84	-57	558
Profit/loss brought forward from previous year	-	-	-	-57	57	-
Total transactions reported directly in Equity	-	-	-	-57	57	-
Profit/loss for the year	-	-	-	-	-1	-1
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-	-1	-1
Equity, closing balance, December 31, 2017	260	31	240	27	-1	557
2018						
Equity, opening balance, January 1, 2018	260	31	240	27	-1	557
Profit/loss brought forward from previous year	-	-	-	-1	1	-
Total transactions reported directly in Equity	-	-	-	-1	1	0
Profit/loss for the year	-	-	-	-	69	69
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	0
Comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-	69	69
Equity, closing balance, December 31, 2018	260	31	240	26	69	626

CASH FLOW STATEMENT – PARENT COMPANY

Amounts in SEK M	Note	2018	2017
Operating activities			
Operating result		50	38
Adjustment for non-cash items	29	7	7
Interest paid/received and other financial items		-2	-5
Income tax paid/received		0	0
Cash flow from operating activities before changes in working capital		55	40
<i>Cash flow from changes in working capital</i>			
Increase (-)/decrease (+) in operating receivables		-1	-43
Increase (+)/decrease (-) in operating liabilities		5	21
Cash flow from operating activities		59	18
Investing activities			
Acquisitions of intangible assets		-	-
Acquisitions of tangible assets		-1	0
Lending to subsidiaries		45	4
Cash flow from investing activities		44	4
Financing activities			
Net change in borrowing/lending in cash pool		-61	47
Loans from subsidiaries		-	-
Amortization of loan liabilities		-15	-34
Cash flow from financing activities		-76	13
Cash flow for the year		27	35
Cash and equivalents at January 1		44	9
Cash and equivalents at December 31		71	44

ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

Amounts stated in millions of SEK (SEK M) unless specified otherwise.

BE Group AB (publ), company registration number 556578-4724, is a Swedish limited liability company. The registered office is in Malmö, Sweden.

Consolidated accounting principles

Compliance with legislation and standards

The consolidated accounts have been prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) published by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and the interpretations issued by the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) as approved by the Commission of the European Communities for application in the European Union. The Group also applies the Swedish Financial Reporting Board's recommendation RFR 1 Supplementary accounting rules for groups.

The Parent Company applies the same accounting principles as the Group except in the cases stated in the section "Parent Company accounting principles."

Significant accounting principles applied

Other than the exceptions explained in detail, the accounting principles set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in BE Group's financial statements. The accounting principles applied in the consolidated accounts have also been applied consistently by the individual companies within the Group.

Changes in accounting principles

Changes to accounting principles necessitated by new or amended IFRS-rules

Amendments to IFRS applicable effective from January 1, 2018 have had no material effect on the consolidated accounts.

IFRS 9 – Financial Instruments

IFRS 9 implied changes in how financial assets are classified and measured. An impairment model has been introduced that is based on anticipated credit losses instead of occurred losses and changes in principles for hedge accounting for the purpose, among other things, of simplifying and increasing agreement with the company's internal risk management strategies. The standard replaced IAS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and measurement.

Classification of financial assets and liabilities

Financial assets

The new categories of financial assets introduced with IFRS 9 have not had any material impact on the reporting of accounts receivable, loans receivable, investments in securities and shares managed on a fair value basis. As at December 31, 2018, there were no financial assets held for long-term purposes. According to IFRS 9, these assets are qualified in the category fair value through other comprehensive income. The consequence of this is that all restatements are recognized in other comprehensive income, no impairment losses are recognized in the result and no restatements are reclassified to the result at divestment.

Impairment of financial assets and contract assets

IFRS 9 replaced the "incurred loss model" with an "expected credit loss model". The new impairment model is applied on financial assets valued at amortised cost or at fair value through other comprehensive income besides investments in equity instruments (shares and participations) and contract assets.

According to IFRS 9, loss reservations are made according to one of the following:

- expected to occur within 12 months: booked for loss events that can be expected to occur within 12 months.
- expected to occur during the asset's entire lifetime: booked for loss events that can be expected to occur during the asset's entire lifetime.

Loss risk reservation for the asset's entire lifetime is made if the credit risk for the financial asset on the closing date increased significantly since the initial recognition and a loss risk reservation within 12 months is made if this is not the case. However, a loss risk reservation is always made for the assets entire lifetime for accounts receivable and contract assets without significant financing components.

The Group has gone through the valuation of its assets and assesses that no further reservation need is required.

Hedge accounting

The Group has chosen to retain its hedge accounting as per IAS 39. For further information, also see under the section Hedge accounting on page 44.

IFRS 15 – Revenue from Contracts with Customers

IFRS 15 is a comprehensive standard for deciding how much revenue shall be recognized and when these revenues are to be recognized. It replaced IAS 18 Revenues, IAS 11 Construction Contracts and IFRIC 13 Customer Loyalty Programmes.

Sales of goods

In sales of goods, the revenue is reported when the goods have been delivered to the customer, which is the time when the customer accepts the goods and risks and benefits are transferred to the customer. The revenue is recognized at this time given that income and expenses can be reliably calculated, it is probable that the financial benefits associated with the transaction will accrue to the company and that no commitment linked to the goods is kept.

According to IFRS 15, the revenue is recognized when the customer gains control over the goods. For some special orders of goods, the customer gains control already in connection with the production of the goods. Revenues from these contracts are recognized in pace with the goods being made.

The Group's has made the assessment that this means that the revenues and some costs attributable to them will be recognized over time, i.e. before the goods are delivered to the customer, which is in accordance with how these kinds of deliveries were handled before which is why no change arises in the accounting principles in this respect.

For some contracts where the customer has the right to return the goods, the revenue is recognized when a reasonable estimate of the returns can be made, given that other criteria for recognizing a revenue are met. Unless a reasonable estimate can be made, the revenue is recognized only when the period for returning the goods expires or a reasonable estimate can be made.

Under IFRS 15, revenue is recognized for these contracts to the extent that it is likely that a reversal of the accumulated revenues need not be done. As a result of this, for the contracts where the Group cannot make a reasonable estimate of the returns, the revenues are expected to be recognized earlier compared with the period for returning expiring or a reasonable estimate being able to be made.

The Group has chosen to apply IFRS 15 retrospectively with the combined effect of the transfer recognized on January 1, 2018. The effect on the opening balance was not material.

New IFRS-rules that have not yet begun to be applied

A number of new standards and interpretations will not enter into effect until future financial years and have not been applied in advance in the preparation of these financial statements. None of the IFRS or IFRIC interpretations that have not yet entered into effect are expected to have any material impact on the Group except from those below.

IFRS 16 Leases

IFRS 16 Leases replaces existing IFRS standards related to recognition of leases, such as IAS 17 Leases and IFRIC 4 Determining whether an arrangement contains a lease. The Group applies the standard from January 1, 2019.

IFRS 16 mainly affects lessees and the central effect is that all leases that are today recognized as operating leases shall be recognized in a way that is similar to the current recognition of finance leases. This means that even for operating leases, assets and liabilities must be recognized, with associated recognition of costs for depreciation and interest – in contrast to today when no recognition is made of lease assets and related liabilities, and when the leasing fees are allocated to periods linear as a leasing cost. Except for recognition of the right of use asset and leasing liability for leases of minor value and contracts of a duration of no more than 12 months. The Group has chosen not to apply the exemption rules.

The Group has assessed the leasing period for leases and then taken into account any extension or cancellation options according to the regulations in IFRS 16. If it is reasonably certain that the option will be exercised, this has been taken into account in the determination of the leasing period. Leases with a remaining duration of less than 12 months at the time of the transition to IFRS 16 are classified as short-term leases in accordance with the relief rule and are expensed. According to the main rule in IFRS 16, non-leasing components shall be recognized separately from the leasing component in a lease. However, a lessee can opt to not separate non-leasing components from the leasing component and this choice is made based on the asset class. The Group has chosen to apply this relief rule.

At January 1, 2019, the Group is expected to report rights of use, related to outstanding leasing commitments, of approximately SEK 600 M and leasing liabilities of approximately SEK 600 M. The effect of the introduction of IFRS 16 on the financial statements will depend on future financial circumstances, including the Group's loan interest, the composition of the Group's leasing portfolio and the Group's latest assessment regarding whether or not they want to use any options to extend leases. The Group expects that EBITDA will improve at the same time that interest expenses will increase. The change is due to the costs for the operating leases previously being included in EBITDA, while amortization on rights of use and interest on the leading liability do not.

The Group applies the relief rule to inherit the earlier definition of leasing at the transition. This means that it is applied on all contracts entered into before January 1, 2019 and identified as leases under IAS 17 and IFRIC 4.

As a lessee, the Group can choose to apply the standard either:

- retroactively; or
- with a modified retroactive approach

The selected method is applied to all leases.

The Group will apply the modified retroactive approach, which means that the accumulated effect of the transition to IFRS 16 will be recognized in the retained earnings in the opening balance at January 1, 2019. No comparative figures will be restated.

The reconciliation between commitments regarding operating leases as of December 31, 2018 and the lease liability at the beginning of 2019 is presented below:

Commitments for operating leases at December 31, 2018	617
Discounting with application of the Group's marginal interest on loans	-50
Other adjustment	-2
Lease liability at January 1, 2019	565
Liabilities for finance leases at January 1, 2018	18

Conditions applied to Parent Company and consolidated financial statements

Functional currency and reporting currency

The functional currency of the Parent Company is SEK and this is also the reporting currency of the Parent Company and the Group. Consequently, the financial accounts are presented in SEK. All amounts are rounded off to the nearest million unless otherwise stated.

Valuation principles

Assets and liabilities are reported at historical cost with the exception of certain financial assets and liabilities, which are reported at fair value. Financial assets and liabilities recognized at fair value consist of derivative instruments. Fixed assets and disposal groups held for sale are reported at their carrying amount or fair value less sales expenses, whichever is lowest.

Assessments and estimates

Preparation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRS requires management making assessments, estimations and assumptions that affect the application of the accounting principles and the figures reported for assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses. The estimates and assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that seem reasonable under current conditions. The results of these estimates and assumptions are then used to assess the carrying amount of assets and liabilities not otherwise evident from other sources. The actual outcome may deviate from these estimations and assessments. The estimations and assessments are reviewed regularly. Changes in estimations are reported in the period in which they are made if they only affect that period, or in the period in which they are made and future periods if they affect both the period concerned and future periods.

Management's assessments in connection with application of IFRS that have significant effect on the financial statements and estimates that may cause material adjustments to the financial statements of subsequent years are described in greater detail in Note 33, Significant estimates and assessments.

Basis for consolidation

Subsidiaries

The Parent Company BE Group AB (publ) directly or indirectly owns all shares and votes in its subsidiaries and therefore has a controlling influence over these.

In the consolidated accounts, subsidiaries are reported in accordance with the acquisition method. The method entails acquisitions of subsidiaries being viewed as transactions through which the Group indirectly acquires the subsidiary's assets and assumes its liabilities and contingent liabilities. Consolidated cost is determined by means of an acquisition analysis in connection with the transaction. The acquisition analysis determines, in part, the cost of the holdings or operations and, in part, the fair value of the identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities assumed on the date of acquisition. Possible transaction fees due to the acquisition of a subsidiary are reported directly in the profit/loss for the period, except for transaction fees that arose prior to January 1, 2010. The latter has been included in the cost. Subsidiaries' financial accounts are included in the consolidated accounts from the point of acquisition and until the Group no longer has a controlling influence.

Payment in connection with the acquisitions does not include payments settling prior business transactions. Settlements of this type are made against profit/loss for the period. The classification and accounting of business acquisitions that took place before January 1, 2004 has not been reassessed in accordance with IFRS 3 in connection with the determination of the consolidated opening balance sheet on January 1, 2004 in accordance with IFRS.

Joint venture

For purposes of accounting, joint ventures are companies for which the Group has joint control over operational and financial management through a contractual arrangement with one or more parties. Interests in joint ventures are consolidated using the equity method of accounting. The equity method entails the value of holdings in joint ventures reported in the consolidated accounts being equivalent to the Group's share of the joint ventures' shareholders' equity, as well as consolidated goodwill and any other consolidated surplus or deficit. In consolidated profit/loss for the period, "Participations in earnings of joint venture" is reported as the Group's share of a company's earnings adjusted for any impairment, amortization or reversals of acquired surpluses or deficits. These shares in earnings less any dividends received from joint ventures comprise the main change in the carrying amount of interests in joint ventures. Any discrepancy at the point of acquisition between the cost of the holding and the owning company's share of the identifiable assets and liabilities of the joint venture is reported in accordance with the same principles that apply for acquisitions of subsidiaries.

Transactions eliminated on consolidation

Intra-group receivables and liabilities, income and expenses and unrealized gains or losses arising from intra-group transactions between Group companies are eliminated in full when preparing the consolidated accounts. Unrealized gains and losses arising from transactions with joint ventures are eliminated to a degree corresponding to the Group's ownership of those companies, however, unrealized losses are eliminated only to the extent that there is no indication that any impairment should be recognized.

Foreign currency

Transactions in foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into the functional currency corresponding to the exchange rate in force on the transaction date. The functional currency is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Group's companies carry out their business. Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rate in effect on the balance sheet date. Exchange differences arising from translation are recognized against profit/loss for the period. Non-monetary assets and liabilities recognized at their historical costs are translated at the exchange rate applicable at the time of the transaction. Exchange differences referring to operating assets and liabilities are recognized in the operating result, while exchange rate movements referring to financial assets and liabilities are recognized in net financial income.

Foreign businesses' financial statements

Assets and liabilities in foreign operations, including goodwill and other Group surplus and deficit values, are translated from the foreign operations' functional currency to the Group's reporting currency. Translation is applied at the exchange rate in effect on the balance sheet date. Income and expenses in a foreign operation are translated at an average exchange rate approximating the currency exchange rates applicable on the relevant transaction dates. Translation differences arising in connection with the translation of a foreign net investment and accompanying effects of hedges of net investments are recognized under other comprehensive income and are accumulated in an equity component entitled separate translation reserve. Non-current internal loans are considered to form part of the net investment in the foreign operation. On the sale of a foreign operation, the accumulated translation differences attributable to the operation are recognized, less any currency hedging against profit/loss for the period.

Classification

Non-current assets and liabilities essentially consist of amounts that are expected to be recovered or paid later than 12 months after the balance sheet date. Current assets and current liabilities essentially consist of amounts that are expected to be recovered or paid within 12 months of the balance sheet date.

Intangible assets

Goodwill

Consolidated goodwill consists of acquired goodwill and goodwill arising in connection with investments in subsidiaries. Goodwill represents the difference between the cost of the business combination and the fair value of acquired assets, assumed liabilities and contingent liabilities. After the acquisition, goodwill is reported at cost less any impairment losses. Goodwill is distributed to cash generating units and is tested at least once annually to determine possible impairment needs; see Note 13 Goodwill.

Other intangible assets

Customer relations consist of acquired assets that have been identified in the acquisition analysis in connection with the acquisition of shares in subsidiaries. At the time of acquisition, customer relations are valued at fair value, which is considered to be equivalent to the cost. After the acquisition, customer relations are recognized at cost less accumulated amortization and impairment losses.

Computer programs and licenses are reported at cost less accumulated amortization and impairment. Costs incurred for internally generated goodwill and internally generated brands are recognized against profit/loss for the period when the cost is incurred. Additional expenditures for capitalized intangible assets are recognized as assets on the Balance Sheet only when they increase the future economic benefit associated with the specific asset. All other expenditures are expensed as they are incurred.

Amortization principles for customer relations and other intangible assets

Amortization is recognized in profit/loss for the period on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset. Intangible assets which can be amortized are amortized from the date on which they are available for use. The useful lives of assets are reassessed on an ongoing basis, although at least once per year.

The estimated useful lives are:

	Useful life	
	Group	Parent Company
Licenses	3–10 years	3–10 years
Software	3–10 years	3–10 years
Customer relationships	6–10 years	–
Other intangible assets	3–10 years	–

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are recognized in the Group at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment. The cost includes the purchase price plus expenses directly attributable to the asset in order to put it in place and make it appropriate for use in accordance with the purpose of the acquisition. Examples of directly related expenses included in the cost of an asset are expenses for shipping, handling, installation, legal title, consultant services and legal services.

Additional expenditures are only added to the cost if it is probable that the future economic benefits associated with the asset will flow to the Company and the cost can be measured reliably. All other subsequent expenses are expensed in the period they arise.

Depreciation principles for tangible assets

Depreciation is recognized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset. Land is not depreciated. The useful lives and residual values of assets on an annual basis at the least.

	Useful life	
	Group	Parent Company
Buildings	15–50 years	–
Plant and machinery	3–15 years	–
Equipment, tools, fixtures and fittings	3–10 years	3–10 years

Impairment of tangible and intangible assets as well as holdings in a joint venture

IAS 36 is applied to identify impairments for assets other than financial instruments reported according to IAS 39, deferred tax assets reported according to IAS 12 and inventories reported according to IAS 2. Assets held for sale and disposal groups are tested in accordance with IFRS 5. The carrying amounts for the exempted assets are measured according to the respective standards.

If there is any indication of impairment, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. The asset's recoverable amount is the highest of the value in use and fair value minus selling expenses. In measuring value in use, future cash flows are discounted at the pre-tax rate that shall reflect current market assessments of risk-free interest and the risks specific to the asset. In the event that the asset's carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount, the carrying amount is impaired down to the recoverable amount. Impairments are charged against profit/loss for the period.

Impairment testing of goodwill is carried out annually, regardless of whether an indication of an impairment requirement exists or not. Impairment losses on assets within the scope of IAS 36 are reversed if there is both indication that the impairment no longer exists and there has been a change in the assumptions on which the recoverable amount was measured. A reversal is only made to

the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been reported if no impairment had taken place. However, impairments of goodwill are not reversed.

Inventories

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net sales value. The cost of inventories includes expenses incurred to acquire inventory assets and transport them to their current site and condition. The cost figure is based on weighted average prices. The cost of manufactured goods and work in progress includes a reasonable share of indirect expenses based on normal capacity. Net sales value is the estimated selling price in current operations less the estimated expenses to make the asset ready for sale and to effect a sale. Net sale value is estimated based on estimates of the current market price.

Provisions

Provisions differ from other liabilities in the uncertainty that prevails regarding the time of payment or the amount required to settle the obligation. Provisions are recorded in the Balance Sheet when the Group has an existing legal or informal obligation as a result of an event occurring and when it is likely that an outflow of financial resources will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate of the amount can be made. Provisions are made in the amount corresponding to the best estimate of that required to settle present obligations on the balance sheet date. If the payment date has a significant effect, provisions are calculated through discounting of the expected future cash flow at a pre-tax interest rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and, where applicable, the risks associated with the liability.

Financial instruments

Financial instruments that are reported in the balance sheet include receivables, liquid funds and accounts payable.

A financial asset or financial liability is recognized in the balance sheet when the Company becomes party to the instrument's contractual terms. Accounts receivable are recognized in the balance sheet once the invoice has been sent, which normally occurs in connection with delivery of the Group's goods and services and the associated transfer of risk. Liabilities are recognized once the counter party has completed its task and there is a contractual obligation to pay, even though an invoice may not yet have been received. A financial asset or part thereof is derecognized when the contractual rights are realized, mature or are no longer under the Company's control. The same also applies for parts of a financial asset. A financial liability or part thereof is derecognized in the balance sheet when contractual obligations are met or otherwise extinguished. The same applies for part of a financial liability. Purchases and sales of financial assets are recognized using trade date accounting. The trade date is the date the Company enters into a contractual obligation to buy or sell the asset. A financial asset and a financial liability are offset and the net amount recognized in the balance sheet only when the Company has a legally enforceable right to set off the amounts and intends either to settle on a net basis or to realize the asset and settle the liability simultaneously. At initial recognition, financial instruments are classified based on the purpose for which the instrument was acquired, which affects subsequent measurement. The measurement categories BE Group uses are as follows.

Classification and measurement of financial instruments

Amortized cost – financial assets

The Group only classifies its financial assets as assets recognized at amortized cost when the following requirements are met:

- the asset is included in a business model where the goal is to collect contractual cash flows, and
- contractual terms give rise to cash flows at specific times that only consist of principal and interest on the outstanding principal.

Cash and cash equivalents and accounts receivable are recognized at amortized cost.

Accounts receivable

Accounts receivable are amounts attributable to customers for goods sold in the operating activities. Accounts receivable generally fall due for payment within 30-60 days and all accounts receivable have therefore been classified as current assets. Accounts receivable are initially recognized at fair value. The Group holds accounts receivable for the purpose of collecting contractual cash flows and therefore measures them at subsequent recognition times at amortized cost with application of the effective interest method. The Group's method for the calculation of impairment losses/provisions for accounts receivable is described below.

Other receivables

In addition to accounts receivable, there are also non-current receivables and some other receivables recognized at amortized cost. The receivables are classified as current receivables if they fall due for payment within 12 months of the reporting date; otherwise they are classified as non-current receivables.

Amortized cost – financial liabilities

All of the Group's financial liabilities are measured at amortized cost after the initial recognition. Liabilities measured at amortized cost are comprised of interest-bearing liabilities, accounts payable and other liabilities. Financial liabilities are classified as current liabilities if they fall due for payment within 12 months of the reporting date; otherwise they are classified as non-current liabilities.

Impairment of financial assets

The Group evaluates the anticipated future credit losses related to investments in debt instruments recognized at amortized cost. At each reporting date, the Group recognizes a provision for anticipated credit losses. The measurement of the anticipated credit losses reflects an objective and probability-weighted amount that is determined by evaluating an interval of possible outcomes; the time value of money and reasonable and verifiable information that is available without unnecessary costs or efforts on the balance sheet date for earlier events, current conditions and forecasts of future financial conditions.

The Group applies the simplified method for the calculation of anticipated credit losses on accounts receivable. This method means that anticipated losses during the entire term of the receivable are used as the starting point for accounts receivable. See Note 31 for more information on the impairment model.

Hedge accounting

In order to fulfill the requirements on hedge accounting in accordance with IAS 39, there must be a clear link to the hedged item. Moreover, the hedging must effectively protect the hedged item, the hedging documentation must be drawn up and the effectiveness must be quantifiable. Upon entering into the transaction, the Group documents the relationship between the hedge instrument and the hedged item, as well as the Group's objective for the risk management and the risk management strategy regarding the hedge. The Group also documents its assessment, both when the hedge is initiated and thereafter on an on-going basis, of whether the instruments used in the hedging transactions have been and will continue to be effective in counteracting changes attributable to the hedged items.

Investments in foreign subsidiaries (net assets including goodwill) have been hedged for currency risk to a certain extent through borrowing in the same currency as the investments. At the close of the period, these currency loans are entered at the rate applicable on the balance sheet date and the effective portion of the period's exchange rate differences are recognized in other comprehensive income. The accumulated changes are classified as translation reserves in equity; the ineffective part is recognized in net financial items in the income statement and accordingly affects the profit or loss for the period. Accumulated gains and losses in equity are reclassified to the income statement when foreign operations are divested in part or in whole.

Applied accounting principles regarding financial instrument before 2018

Valuation category, loans and accounts receivable

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with determined or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. These assets are measured at amortized cost in accordance with the effective interest method. Accrued historical cost is determined from the effective interest rate that is calculated at the date of acquisition.

Trade receivables are recognized at the amounts expected to be recovered, that is, after deductions for doubtful receivables. Trade receivables have a short expected maturity and are accordingly measured at nominal value and not discounted.

Liquid assets include cash and cash equivalents as well as immediately available balances with banks and similar institutions as well as short-term liquid placements with maturity of less than three months, counted from the acquisition date, and that are exposed to only insignificant risk of fluctuations in value.

Valuation category financial assets available for sale

This category covers financial assets not classified in any other category or financial assets designated on initial recognition as available for sale. In accordance with the main principle, assets belonging to this category are continuously recognized at fair value with changes in value recognized in other comprehensive income. When the assets are derecognized from the Balance Sheet, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognized in equity is transferred to profit/loss for the period. However, the Other securities held as that BE Group reports in this valuation category have been valued at cost since their type, nature and insubstantial amounts make it impractical in terms of benefit to calculate their fair value.

The valuation category, Financial liabilities measured at fair value in profit/loss for the period

This category consists of financial assets held for trading, that is, derivatives with negative fair value. The fair value of listed financial instruments corresponds to their listed market price on the balance sheet date. The fair value of financial liabilities for which there is no active market is determined using discounted cash flow analysis. Fair value changes are recognized in profit/loss for the period.

The valuation category, financial liabilities, measured at the accrued cost

Other financial liabilities are measured at amortized cost in accordance with the effective interest method. They are initially recognized at the obtained amount with deductions for transactions expenses. Loans and other financial liabilities, such as account payables, are included in this category. Accounts payables have a short expected maturity and are accordingly measured at nominal value and not discounted.

Impairment of financial assets

At each balance sheet date, the Company assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or group of assets needs to be impaired. The recoverable amount is calculated as the current value of future cash flows discounted by the effective interest that applied when the asset was initially recognized. Impairment is recognized as an expense in profit/loss for the period. Impairment is reversed if the previous reason for impairment no longer exists and the asset is expected to be recovered in its entirety.

Hedge accounting

In order to fulfill the requirements on hedge accounting in accordance with IAS 39, there must be a clear link to the hedged item. Moreover, the hedging must effectively protect the hedged item, the hedging documentation must be drawn up and the effectiveness must be quantifiable.

Investments in foreign subsidiaries (net assets including goodwill) have been hedged for currency risk to a certain extent through borrowing in the same currency as the investments. At the close of the period, these currency loans are entered at the rate applicable on the balance sheet date and the effective portion of the period's exchange rate differences are recognized in other comprehensive income. The accumulated changes are classified as translation reserve in equity. When hedging is ineffective, the ineffective portion is recognized in profit/loss for the period.

Warranties

A warranty provision is recognized when an agreement has been made including stipulations of future commitments that are deemed likely to materialize.

A warranty provision may also be recognized when the underlying products or services are sold. The provision is based on historical data concerning warranties and consideration of possible outcomes in relation to the probabilities associated with the outcomes. However, such warranty commitments do not represent a significant item in the Group's financial statements.

Onerous contracts

A provision for an onerous contract is recognized when anticipated benefits that the Group expects to receive from a contract are less than the unavoidable expenses to fulfill the obligations as set out in the contract.

Revenues

The Group generates revenues from the sale of goods. There is normally a performance commitment in the form of goods in contracts with customers for finished products. Revenue is recognized at the time when control over the asset has been transferred to the customer. To assess when control is transferred, the transfer of risks and benefits is the indicator assigned the greatest importance in the Group for determining when control has been transferred to the customer. The time at which control over the goods is transferred to the customer thereby depends mostly on what freight terms are stated in the customer contract.

The Group takes into account variable compensation in the form of volume discounts when the transaction price is determined. The revenue from the sale of goods is recognized based on the price in the contract less estimated volume discounts. Historical data is used to estimate the discounts' anticipated value and the revenue is only recognized to the extent that it is very likely that a material reversal will not arise. A liability (which is included in the item Accrued expenses and deferred income) is recognized for anticipated volume discounts in relation to the sales up to the balance sheet date.

A receivable is recognized when the goods have been delivered as the compensation at this time is certain since only the passing of time is required before payment is made. No financing component is deemed to exist at the time of sale as the credit period is normally 30-60 days.

Since the Group's performance commitment originates from contracts that have an original anticipated term of less than one year, information is not provided on the transaction price for unfulfilled performance commitments.

The Group's commitment to repair or replace defective products in accordance with normal guarantee rules is recognized as a provision. Guarantee commitments beyond this do not occur.

It happens that the Group sells goods with a right of return. For these contracts, a repayment liability (which is included in the item Other liabilities) and an asset for the right to receive back the product from the customer (included in Other current assets) are recognized for goods the Group expects to receive in return. In order to assess the scope of the returns, historical data is used at a portfolio level at the time of sale. As the scope of the returns have been stable in recent years, it is very probable that a material reversal of the recognized revenues will not occur. The validity of the assumption and the estimated amount of returns are revalued at each balance sheet date.

Applied accounting principles regarding income before 2018

Income from the sale of goods is reported in the period's profit/loss when the goods are delivered and the inherent risk has been transferred to the customer. In normal cases, the following conditions are considered to be fulfilled; the company has transferred to the buyer the significant risks and rewards of ownership; the Company retains neither continuing managerial involvement nor effective control over the goods sold; the amount of revenue can be measured reliably; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Company; and the expenses incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured in a reliable way.

The Company measures revenue at the fair value of consideration received or receivable. Accordingly, the Company measures revenue at nominal value (invoice amount) if the Company receives consideration in cash or cash equivalents upon delivery on customary credit terms. Discounts provided are deducted.

Income from service assignments is recognized in profit/loss for the period based on the degree of completion on the balance sheet date. The degree of completion is determined on the basis of the expenses hitherto incurred in relation to the total calculated expenses for the assignment.

Employee benefits

Short-term employee benefits

Short-term employee benefits such as wages and salaries, including bonuses, paid leave, sick leave and social security benefits are recognized in the period in which the employee has performed services in exchange for the benefit.

Pensions

The Group's pension agreements are mainly defined contribution plans. The defined benefit plan for retirement pensions and survivors' pensions for white collar employees in Sweden are secured through an insurance policy provided by Alecta. According to a statement (UFR 3) from the Swedish Financial Reporting Board, this is a multiple-employer defined benefit plan. The Company has not had access to information that would permit recognition of the plan as a defined benefit which is why the pension plan in accordance with ITP is secured through insurance with Alecta such as a defined contribution plan.

Under a defined contribution plan, the enterprise pays fixed contributions into a fund (a separate legal entity) and has no further legal or constructive obligation to make further payments. The pension expense to be recognized in the period is the contribution payable in exchange for service rendered by employees during the period.

Termination benefits

When the Company terminates employment, benefits to the employee are recognized as an ongoing expense for as long as the employee performs work for the Company. When the employee is immediately discharged from duty, the entire benefit amount is immediately recognized as an expense.

Provisions are recognized in connection with terminations only if the Company is demonstrably obligated to terminate employment prior to the normal date or when compensation is offered to encourage voluntary departure and it is likely that the offer will be accepted and that the number of employees who will accept the offer can be reliably estimated.

Financial income and expenses

Financial income and expenses consist mainly of interest income on bank balances, receivables and fixed income securities, interest expense on loans, exchange differences and allocated transaction expenses for raised loans.

Transaction expenses for raised loans and credits are accrued over the life of the loans and credits by applying the effective interest method.

Tax

Income taxes are recognized in profit/loss for the period except where an underlying transaction is recognized directly in other comprehensive income, whereupon the related tax effect is likewise recognized in other comprehensive income. Current tax is tax to be paid or refunded in the current year, which includes adjustment of current tax attributable to previous periods. Deferred tax assets are measured using the balance sheet method based on temporary differences between the carrying amount of an asset or liability and its tax value on assets and liabilities. Deferred tax assets are measured based on how temporary differences are expected to even out and applying the tax rates and regulations that have been enacted or announced at the balance sheet date.

Temporary differences are not taken into consideration for consolidated goodwill.

Deferred tax assets pertaining to deductible temporary differences and loss carryforwards are recognized only if it is considered probable they will result in lower tax payments in the future.

Leases

Leases are classified in the consolidated accounts as financial or operating leases. BE Group is the lessee in all leases.

Operating leasing agreements

Leases of assets where the lessor retains the financial risks and rewards normally associated with ownership of the asset are classified as operating leases. Lease payments related to operating leases are recognized as an expense in the Income Statement on a straight line basis over the lease term. Incentives received in connection with the signing of a new agreement are recognized in profit/loss for the period on a straight line basis over the lease term. Variable payments are recognized as an expense in the periods in which they arise.

Financial leasing agreements

Leases of assets where the financial risks and rewards normally associated with ownership of the asset are transferred to BE Group are classified as finance leases. The lease asset is recognized as a tangible asset, with the same depreciation rates applied as for tangible assets, while the future obligation to pay lease fees to the lessor is recognized as a liability in the Balance Sheet. Leased assets are depreciated according to the same principles that apply to other assets of the same type. Future lease obligations are apportioned between non-current and current liabilities. Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and amortization of the outstanding liability. The interest expense is allocated over the leasing period so that every reporting period is charged with an amount corresponding to a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability. Variable payments are recognized as an expense in the periods in which they arise.

Segment reporting

An operating segment is a component of the Group that conducts business operations from which it can derive revenues and incur expenses, including intra-group transactions and whose operating result is reviewed regularly by the Group's senior executives as a basis for the allocation of resources to the segment and the assessment of its results. Independent financial information shall also be available for components of the Group defined as segments. BE Group has defined the concept of "senior executives" as Group Management.

The Group's primary basis for identifying segments is geographical areas. The Internal management is based primarily on reporting and follow-up of returns from the Group's geographical areas. The geographical areas are grouped by country or group of countries, based on similarities with regard to risks and returns. For additional information on operating segments, please see Note 1 Operating segments.

Earnings per share

The calculation of earnings per share is based on the profit for the period within the Group which is attributable to the Parent Company's shareholders and on the weighted average number of outstanding shares during the year. In calculating earnings per share before and after dilution, the average number of shares is adjusted to take into consideration the effects of the Share Savings program.

Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement is prepared using the indirect method. Reported cash flow covers only transactions that result in incoming and outgoing payments.

Parent Company accounting principles

The Parent Company has prepared its Annual Report in accordance with the annual accounts act (1995:1554) and the Swedish Financial Reporting Board's recommendation RFR 2 Accounting for legal entities (Sept. 2012). Published statements by the Swedish Financial Reporting Board for listed companies are also applied. RFR 2 means that the Parent Company, in the annual report for the legal entity, must apply all EU-approved IFRS and statements as far as this is possible within the framework of the Swedish law on the safeguarding of pension commitments and taking the connection into account between reporting and taxation. The recommendation specifies exemptions and additions to IFRS that shall be made.

Classification and presentation

The Parent Company's Income Statement and Balance Sheet are prepared in accordance with the model detailed in the Annual Accounts Act, while the report on comprehensive profit/loss, Statement of Changes in Equity and the Statement of Cash Flows are based on IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements and IAS 7 Statement of Cash Flows respectively. The differences in the Income Statement and Balance Sheet of the Parent Company compared with the consolidated accounts mainly involve the reporting of financial revenues and expenses, assets and equity.

Participations in subsidiaries

Participations in subsidiaries are reported in the Parent Company in accordance with the cost method. This means that transaction expenses are included in the carrying amount of holdings in subsidiaries. In the consolidated accounts, transaction expenses are charged directly against profit/loss when they are incurred. Anticipated dividends from subsidiaries are recognized when the Parent Company has the sole right to decide the amount of the distribution and the Parent Company has decided on the size of the distribution before the subsidiary published its financial statements. Dividends received from Group companies are recognized in their entirety as income in the Income Statement.

Shareholder contributions

Shareholders' contributions paid are reported as an increase in shares and participations in Group companies, to the extent that impairment is not required. In the receiving Company, shareholder contributions are reported directly in equity.

Financial instruments

In accordance with the rules in the Swedish Financial Reporting Board's recommendation RFR 2 and the connection between accounting and taxation, the rules on financial instruments and hedge accounting in IAS 39 are not applied in the Parent Company as a legal entity. In the future, IAS 39 will continue to be applied only to the consolidated accounts. Financial assets in the Parent Company are measured at cost less impairment losses, if any and current financial assets are measured at the lower of cost and fair value. Liabilities that do not constitute derivative liabilities are measured at the accrued cost. Possible derivative assets are measured in accordance with the lower of cost and fair value, while contingent derivative liabilities are measured according to the highest value principle.

Taxes

Untaxed reserves in the Parent Company are recognized including deferred tax liability. Untaxed reserves are apportioned in the consolidated accounts between deferred tax liability and equity.

Leasing

In the Parent Company, all leases are recognized as operating leases.

Financial guarantees

The Parent Company's financial guarantee contracts consist of guarantees on behalf of subsidiaries. A financial guarantee contract is a contract that requires the issuer to make specified payments to reimburse the holder for a loss it incurs because a specified debtor fails to make payment as contractually agreed. The Parent Company applies RFR 2 p. 72, which is an easing of regulations compared to the rules in IAS 39 with regard to financial guarantee contracts issued on behalf of subsidiaries. The Parent Company recognizes financial guarantee contracts as provisions in the Balance Sheet when it has an obligation for which payment will probably be required to achieve settlement.

Group contributions in the Parent Company

Group contributions paid or received are reported as appropriations.

Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities primarily comprise liabilities to credit institutions. Liabilities to credit institutions are initially valued at amounts received, less any setup fees, and are then valued at the accrued acquisition value. Interest expenses are reported on a rolling basis in the Income Statement. Capitalised set-up fees are reported directly against the loan liability to the extent that the loan agreement's underlying loan guarantee has been utilised, and are periodised in the Income Statement (under Other financial expenses) over the contractual term of the loan. If a loan agreement is terminated or otherwise ceases to obtain at a point in time prior to the end of the original contractual term, capitalised set-up fees are taken up as income. If a current agreement is renegotiated during the contractual term, any additional fees in connection with the renegotiation are periodised over the remaining contractual term of the loans.

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NOTE 1 – OPERATING SEGMENTS

	Sweden & Polen	Finland & Baltics	Parent Company & consolidated items	Group
2018				
External sales	2,466	2,290	47	4,803
Internal sales	10	9	-19	–
Net sales	2,476	2,299	28	4,803
Participation in earnings of joint venture	4	–	–	4
Underlying operating result	104	68	-55	117
Inventory gains/losses	15	13	-1	27
Items affecting comparability ¹⁾	4	–	-16	-12
Operating result	123	81	-72	132
Net financial items				-16
Profit/loss before tax				116
Taxes				-36
Profit/loss for the year				80
Underlying operating margin	4.2%	2.9%	neg	2.4%
Operating margin	5.0%	3.5%	neg	2.8%
Shipped tonnage (thousands of tonnes)	187	190	0	377
Operating capital	749	581	2	1,332
Investments	16	18	1	35
Depreciation/amortization of tangible/intangible assets	13	18	7	38
Other non-cash flow items	1	2	1	4
Total non-cash flow items	14	20	8	42

¹⁾ During the year, the result has been impacted by items affecting comparability totaling SEK -12 M, of which, SEK -16 M is attributable to the exit from the business in Czech Republic and SEK 4 M is attributable to the release of part of the provision related to maintenance of the warehouse in Malmö.

	Sweden & Polen	Finland & Baltics	Parent Company & consolidated items	Group
2017				
External sales	2,090	2,107	151	4,348
Internal sales	4	7	-11	–
Net sales	2,094	2,114	140	4,348
Participation in earnings of joint venture	11	–	–	11
Underlying operating result	72	89	-79	82
Inventory gains/losses	13	16	-2	27
Items affecting comparability ¹⁾	-7	–	-45	-52
Operating result	78	105	-126	57
Net financial items				-23
Profit/loss before tax				34
Taxes				-10
Profit/loss for the year				24
Underlying operating margin	3.4%	4.2%	neg	1.9%
Operating margin	3.7%	5.0%	neg	1.3%
Shipped tonnage (thousands of tonnes)	172	191	0	363
Operating capital	693	531	55	1,279
Investments	10	12	0	22
Depreciation/amortization of tangible/intangible assets	14	16	11	41
Other non-cash flow items	-6	0	28	22
Total non-cash flow items	8	16	39	63

¹⁾ During the year, write-down of assets and restructuring costs totaling SEK -52 M have been made.

BE Group is a trading and service company in steel, stainless steel and aluminium. Customers are primarily in the construction and manufacturing industries. Since customers' needs vary widely, BE Group offers different sales solutions: inventory sales, production service sales, and direct sales. The cooperation between BE Group and a particular customer can comprise of one or more of these sales solutions.

BE Group's basic products are of a similar nature, regardless of the customers or markets to which they are distributed. Part of BE Group's strategy is also to further process materials at its own production facilities through various types of production services, which in some cases result in completed components being delivered straight into customers' production lines.

BE Group's risks and opportunities differ between the different geographical markets to which its products are distributed. For that reason, BE Group has chosen geographical areas as its primary segments.

The operating structure and internal reporting to Group management and the Board of Directors are therefore based primarily on reporting of geographical business areas. Each segment's result, assets and liabilities include operating items attributable to the ongoing activities of the segment.

The allocation of operating capital per segment is based on the location of the business and includes items directly attributable and items that can be allocated by segment in a reasonably reliable manner. Operating capital allocated by segment comprises tangible assets, goodwill and other intangible assets, participations in joint ventures, deferred tax assets and working capital less deferred tax liability and provisions. Financial assets and liabilities have not been divided by segment but are reported as other assets/liabilities. Capital expenditures for the segment include investments in intangible and tangible assets.

The financial information per segment is based on the same accounting principles as those that apply for BE Group. The Group is using a number of alternative performance measures (see Alternative performance measures for more information). One of those is the underlying operating result which is the operating result adjusted for items affecting comparability and inventory gains and losses. These represent the difference between the cost of goods sold at acquisition cost and the cost of goods sold at replacement value. BE Group applies an internal calculation model. The model has not been reviewed by the Company's auditors. Internal prices between BE Group's segments are based on the principle of "arm's-length transactions", that is, transactions between parties that are mutually independent, thoroughly informed and have an interest in the transactions. Prices of goods are based on current purchase prices plus an internal markup margin.

Data on products, services and geographical regions

BE Group consists of two business areas – Sweden & Poland and Finland & Baltics. BE Group's other operations are gathered within Parent Company and consolidated items.

Sweden & Poland

Business area Sweden & Poland includes BE Group's operations in Sweden, which are conducted under the name BE Group Sverige AB and Lecor Stålteknik AB and the operations in Poland under the name BE Group Sp.z o.o.. BE Group Sverige AB offers sales and distribution of BE Group's products, such as commercial steel, stainless steel and aluminium. In addition to distribution of materials, production service is also provided, whereby the Company processes materials in various ways to meet specific customer requirements. Examples include cutting to length, shot blasting, painting, drilling and cutting in various forms. The Company provides additional services including advanced logistics solutions and material advisory services. In addition, BE Group Sverige AB owns 50 percent of the thin plate processing company ArcelorMittal BE Group SSC AB. Lecor Stålteknik AB provides steel construction solutions to customers in the Swedish construction sector and the polish operations are providing production services to Polish and Nordic customers.

Finland & Baltics

Business area Finland & Baltics includes BE Group's operations in Finland, which are conducted under the name BE Group Oy Ab, and the operations in the Baltic States under the names BE Group AS, Estonia, BE Group SIA, Latvia and UAB BE Group, Lithuania. Sales and distribution of BE Group's products, such as commercial steel, stainless steel and aluminium, are offered in all operations. In Finland, production services are also provided on a large scale. Examples include cutting to length, shot blasting, painting, drilling and cutting in various forms. In addition, the company in Finland offers its customers logistics solutions, advisory services and financing of working capital.

Parent Company & consolidated items

Parent Company & consolidated items include the Parent Company, Group eliminations and also parts of the Group's operations undergoing restructuring (BE Group Czech Republic, BE Group Slovakia, BE Group Produktion Eskilstuna and RTS Estonia) are reported under Parent Company & consolidated items. The restructuring of these operations, approved by the Board of BE Group in the first quarter of 2016, the second quarter of 2017 and the second quarter of 2018, are largely completed.

Group

Sales by business area and product group	Sweden & Poland		Finland & Baltics		Parent company & consolidated items		Total	
	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017
Long steel Products	1,096	915	587	527	0	-6	1,683	1,436
Flat steel Products	730	641	1,139	1,034	0	-2	1,869	1,673
Stainless steel	419	363	423	410	30	28	872	801
Aluminium	88	82	126	117	15	13	229	212
Other	143	93	24	26	-17	107	150	226
Total	2,476	2,094	2,299	2,114	28	140	4,803	4,348

Sales by country based on customer's domicile	2018	2017
Sweden	2,431	2,170
Finland	1,935	1,756
Other countries	437	422
Total	4,803	4,348

Tangible, intangible and financial assets by country	2018	2017
Sweden	476	490
Finland	308	296
Other countries	9	9
Total	793	795

Parent company

Sales of intra-group services by country based on domicile of subsidiary	2018	2017
Sweden	50	42
Finland	45	39
Other countries	13	11
Total	108	92

NOTE 2 – COSTS DIVIDED BY TYPE OF EXPENSE

Group	2018	2017
Material costs	3,763	3,372
Salaries, other remuneration and social security expenses	396	402
Other external costs	476	451
Depreciation, amortization and write-downs	38	74
Other operating expenses	6	27
Total	4,679	4,326

The specification of costs divided by type of expense refers to items included in the Income Statement under cost of goods sold, selling expenses, administrative expenses and other operating expenses.

NOTE 3 – EMPLOYEES, PERSONNEL COSTS AND EXECUTIVE REMUNERATION

In this note, amounts are given in SEK thousands unless otherwise stated.

Average number of employees	2018	of whom men	2017	of whom men
Parent Company				
Sweden	10	51%	8	50%
Total in the Parent Company	10	51%	8	50%
Subsidiaries				
Sweden	309	83%	329	91%
Finland	263	94%	272	91%
Estonia	20	68%	21	68%
Latvia	11	70%	11	70%
Lithuania	10	76%	10	70%
Poland	29	92%	27	86%
Czech Republic	16	68%	20	64%
Slovakia	–	–	2	50%
Total for subsidiaries	658	86%	692	88%
Group total	668	86%	700	88%

Specification of gender distribution in Group management

Gender distribution, Group management	2018	2017
	Percentage women	Percentage women
Parent Company		
Board	18%	17%
Other senior executives	25%	25%
Group		
Board	10%	9%
Other senior executives	11%	9%

Salaries, other remuneration and social security expenses

Group	2018	2017
Salaries and remunerations	294,914	298,257
Pension expense, defined-contribution plans	36,484	34,421
Social security contributions	64,689	69,612
	396,087	402,290

Parent Company	2018		2017	
	Salaries and remunerations	Social security expenses	Salaries and remunerations	Social security expenses
Parent Company	12,099	7,114	10,734	6,168
<i>(of which, pension expenses)¹⁾</i>		<i>(2,490)</i>		<i>(2,254)</i>

¹⁾ Of the Parent Company's pension expenses, 1,473 (1,420) KSEK refers to senior executives. There are no outstanding pension commitments.

Salaries and other remunerations distributed between the Parent Company and its subsidiaries and between senior executives and other employees ¹⁾

	2018		2017	
	Senior executives ²⁾	Other employees	Senior executives ²⁾	Other employees
Parent Company	7,641	4,458	7,710	3,024
<i>(of which, bonuses, etc.)</i>	<i>(967)</i>	<i>(215)</i>	<i>(1,074)</i>	<i>(165)</i>
Subsidiaries	6,488	271,227	6,313	276,260
<i>(of which, bonuses, etc.)</i>	<i>(314)</i>	<i>(7,675)</i>	<i>(824)</i>	<i>(11,520)</i>
Group total	14,129	275,685	14,023	279,284
<i>(of which, bonuses, etc.)</i>	<i>(1,281)</i>	<i>(7,890)</i>	<i>(1,898)</i>	<i>(11,685)</i>

¹⁾ Salaries and other remuneration include base salary and supplementary vacation pay.

²⁾ Senior executives include Board members, members of Group Management and company presidents.

Defined benefit plans

Pension obligations for retirement pensions and family pensions for white-collar employees in Sweden are secured through an insurance policy provided by Alecta. According to a statement (UFR 10) from the Swedish Financial Reporting Board, this is a multiple-employer defined benefit plan. The Company has not had access to information that would permit recognition of its proportional share of the plan's commitments, plan assets and costs that meant that the plan could not be recognized as a defined-benefit plan. The ITP 2 pension plan secured through insurance provided by Alecta is accordingly recognized as a defined contribution plan. The premium for the defined-benefit retirement pension and family pension is calculated individually, depending on salary, already earned pension and anticipated remaining period of service. Anticipated fees for the next reporting period for ITP 2 insurance subscribed with Alecta amounts to SEK 5.6 M (5.5).

The collective funding ratio is comprised of the fair value of Alecta's assets as a percentage of insurance obligations computed according to Alecta's actuarial assumptions, which do not accord with IAS 19. The collective consolidation level shall normally be allowed to vary between 125 and 155 percent. If Alecta's collective consolidation level is below 125 percent or exceeds 155 percent, action should be taken with the aim of creating conditions for the consolidation level to return to the normal interval. In the event of low consolidation, one action may be to raise the agreed price for new subscription and expansion of existing benefits. In the event of high consolidation, one action may be to introduce premium reductions. At the end of 2018, Alecta's surplus expressed as the collective funding ratio amounted to 142 percent (154).

Defined contribution pension plans

The Group has defined contribution pension plans for employees in Sweden for which expenses are fully paid by the companies. Pension plans in Finland and other countries are treated as defined contribution plans. For defined contribution plans, pension contributions are paid to a pension insurance company and recognized as an expense in profit and loss for the accounting period in which they occur. There are defined contribution plans in other countries for which the expenses are paid partially by the subsidiaries and partially by employee contributions. Payments are made regularly to these plans according to plan rules.

Executive remuneration

Total remuneration to the President and CEO and other senior executives consists of base pay, variable remuneration, pension and other benefits. These remuneration components are based on the guidelines for executive remuneration adopted by the 2018 Annual General Meeting, which are detailed in the Board of Directors' Report. The following tables provide details of actual remunerations and other benefits paid in financial years 2018 and 2017 to Board members, the President (who is also the CEO) and other senior executives. The latter are those individuals who, alongside the President and CEO, are members of Group Management.

Remunerations and benefits 2018	Basic salary/Board fee	Variable remuneration	Others benefits ⁶⁾	Pension expenses	Other remuneration	Total	Pension commitments
Chairman of the Board							
Petter Stillström	460	–	–	–	–	460	–
Directors							
Charlotte Hansson ¹⁾	70	–	–	–	–	70	–
Carina Andersson ²⁾	140	–	–	–	–	140	–
Lars Olof Nilsson	280	–	–	–	–	280	–
Jörgen Zahlin	250	–	–	–	–	250	–
Esa Niemi ³⁾	70	–	–	–	–	70	–
Mikael Sjölund ⁴⁾	210	–	–	–	51	261	–
President and CEO							
Anders Martinsson	2,364	624	289	751	20	4,048	–
Other senior executives ⁵⁾	4,253	426	492	1,166	3	6,340	–
Total	8,097	1,050	781	1,917	74	11,919	–
Recognized as an expense in the Parent Company	6,292	967	578	1,473	23	9,333	–

¹⁾ Charlotte Hansson withdrew from the Board of Directors in connection with the Annual General Meeting in April, 2018.

²⁾ Carina Andersson became board member in connection with the Annual General Meeting in April, 2018.

³⁾ Esa Niemi withdrew from the Board of Directors in connection with the Annual General Meeting in April, 2018.

⁴⁾ Mikael Sjölund has during the year had a separate assignment for Lecor Stålteknik AB. This has not been related to his assignment at the Board.

⁵⁾ Other senior executives consist of three persons.

⁶⁾ Other benefits include supplementary vacation pay.

Remunerations and benefits 2017	Basic salary/Board fee	Variable remuneration	Others benefits ³⁾	Pension expenses	Other remuneration	Total	Pension commitments
Chairman of the Board							
Petter Stillström	460	–	–	–	–	460	–
Directors							
Charlotte Hansson	210	–	–	–	–	210	–
Lars Olof Nilsson	280	–	–	–	–	280	–
Jörgen Zahlin	250	–	–	–	–	250	–
Esa Niemi	210	–	–	–	–	210	–
Mikael Sjölund ²⁾	210	–	–	–	35	245	–
President and CEO							
Anders Martinsson	2,280	671	210	713	39	3,913	–
Other senior executives ¹⁾	4,089	817	448	1,066	9	6,429	–
Total	7,989	1,488	658	1,779	83	11,997	–
Recognized as an expense in the Parent Company	6,336	1,074	470	1,420	46	9,346	–

¹⁾ Other senior executives consist of three persons.

²⁾ Mikael Sjölund has during the year had a separate assignment for Lecor Stålteknik AB. This has not been related to his assignment at the Board.

³⁾ Other benefits include supplementary vacation pay.

Detailed below are the agreed terms for remuneration to the Board, the President and CEO and other senior executives. For an account of guidelines approved by the Annual General Meeting, see the Board of Directors' Report.

Board remuneration

The Chairman and other Board members are paid Board member fees as resolved by the Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting resolved that Board member fees totaling SEK 1,260 thousands (1,470) will be distributed among the Board members as follows: SEK 420 thousands (420) to the Chairman of the Board and SEK 210 thousands (210) to each of the remaining Board members who are not employees of the Company. In addition, remuneration of SEK 70 thousands (70) will be paid to the Chairman of the Audit Committee and SEK 40 thousands (40) for each of the other members of the Audit Committee. No fees are paid to members of the Remunerations Committee. Other remuneration has been paid in the form of taxable travel expense reimbursements.

Remuneration to the President and CEO

Remuneration

In accordance with a decision by the Board of Directors, remuneration to the President and CEO normally takes the form of base salary, variable remuneration, pension and other benefits. The base salary of the President and CEO amounted to SEK 2,364 M (2,280). For the President and CEO, maximum variable remuneration payable is 50 percent of base salary. Potential bonus payments and the size of them are related to targets defined in advance and set by the Board.

Term of notice and severance pay

The President and CEO has a 12-month period of notice in the event of termination by the company and six months upon resignation. During the term of notice, the President and CEO is entitled to full pay and other benefits of employment, regardless of whether there is a duty to work or not. Members of Group management are not entitled to severance pay.

Pension benefits

In addition to benefits in accordance with the National Income Replacement Pension Act, pension contributions are made corresponding to 30 percent (30) of fixed annual salary plus vacation pay, which constitutes pensionable pay. BE Group AB's commitment is limited to paying the annual premium. Pension rights are not conditional on future employment.

Remunerations for other senior executives of the Parent Company and Group

Remuneration

Remuneration consists of base salary, variable remuneration, pensions and other benefits. The maximum variable remuneration payable to other senior executives is 30 percent of base salary. Whether or not bonuses are distributed and bonus amounts are determined by the CEO based on fulfillment of financial and individual targets.

Term of notice and severance pay

Other senior executives have a period of notice of up to 12 months when notice of termination is issued by BE Group. The senior executives are required to give six months' notice when resigning. During the term of notice, the senior executives are entitled to full pay and other benefits of employment. Members of Group management are not entitled to severance pay.

Pension benefits

For other senior executives, contribution-defined pension solutions are applied. BE Group's commitment is limited to paying the annual premium. Pension rights are not conditional on future employment. Pensionable pay consists of fixed annual salary plus average bonus for the past three years.

Remuneration Committee

Please see the Corporate Governance Report for more information about BE Group's preparation and decision process regarding executive remuneration.

NOTE 4 – AUDITORS' FEES AND REIMBURSEMENTS

Group	2018	2017
PwC		
Audit assignments	2	2
Audit activities in addition to the audit assignment	–	0
Consultation on taxation	0	–
Other services	0	0
Total fees and compensation for expenses	2	2
Parent Company	2018	2017
PwC		
Audit assignments	1	1
Audit activities in addition to the audit assignment	–	–
Consultation on taxation	–	–
Other services	0	–
Total fees and compensation for expenses	1	1

The total fee to PwC and its international network amounts to SEK 2 M (2) for the fiscal year 2018. The fee to the audit firm Öhrlings PricewaterhouseCoopers AB amounts to SEK 1 M (1).

NOTE 5 – LEASE FEES FOR OPERATIONAL LEASING

The Group's operating lease expenses for the year were SEK 100 M (104), of which SEK 2 M (1) refers to the Parent Company.

	Group		Parent Company	
	2018		2018	
	Minimum lease fees	Variable fees	Minimum lease fees	Variable fees
Lease fees, operational leasing				
Buildings and land	92	–	2	–
Other	8	0	0	–
Total lease fees	100	0	2	–

Operational lease liabilities fall due for payment as follows:

	Group		Parent Company	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Future maturities of minimum lease fees				
Within one year	91	96	2	2
One to five years	288	304	6	9
Later than five years	238	316	–	–
Total	617	716	8	11

Significant leases

Most Group operating leases refer to leases of operating sites.

NOTE 6 – PROFIT/LOSS FROM PARTICIPATIONS IN GROUP COMPANIES

Parent Company	2018	2017
Dividend	26	98
Write-down of shares in subsidiaries	-4	-90
Write-down of interest-bearing receivables from Group companies	-2	-13
Capital gain/loss due to divestment/liquidation of Group companies	–	–
Total	20	-5

NOTE 7 – OTHER OPERATING INCOME

Group	2018	2017
Net movements in exchange rates on receivables/liabilities of an operating nature	–	–
Capital gains on sales of fixed assets	1	1
Rental income	3	3
Reversal of write-downs Joint Venture ¹⁾	–	20
Other	–	0
Total	4	24

Parent Company	2018	2017
Net movements in exchange rates on receivables/liabilities of an operating nature	0	0
Other	0	0
Total	0	0

¹⁾ Items affecting comparability.

NOTE 8 – OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

Group	2018	2017
Net movements in exchange rates on receivables/liabilities of an operating nature	3	0
Capital loss on sales of fixed assets	–	2
Restructuring expenses ¹⁾	12	28
Write-down of assets ¹⁾	–	27
Write-down of goodwill ¹⁾	–	17
Other	3	5
Total	18	79

Parent Company	2018	2017
Net movements in exchange rates on receivables/liabilities of an operating nature	–	–
Restructuring expenses	–	–
Total	–	–

¹⁾ During the year, the result has been impacted by items affecting comparability totaling SEK -12 M, of which, SEK -16 M is attributable to the exit from the business in Czech Republic and SEK 4 M is attributable to the release of part of the provision related to maintenance of the warehouse in Malmö.

NOTE 9 – FINANCIAL INCOME

Group	2018	2017
Interest income from credit institutions	0	0
Other interest income	0	0
Other	3	3
Total	3	3

Parent Company	2018	2017
Interest income, Group companies	18	21
Other interest income	–	–
Total	18	21

All interest income is attributable to financial assets measured at the amortized cost.

NOTE 10 – FINANCIAL EXPENSES

Group	2018	2017
Interest expense to credit institutions	12	17
Other interest expense	0	0
Net movements in exchange rates	1	1
Other expenses	6	8
Total	19	26

Parent Company	2018	2017
Interest expense to credit institutions	12	17
Interest expense, Group companies	7	9
Net movements in exchange rates	17	12
Other expenses	–	–
Total	36	38

All interest expense is attributable to financial liabilities measured at amortized cost.

NOTE 11 – TAXES

Group	2018	2017
Current tax expense (-)/tax asset (+)		
Tax expense/tax asset for the period	-13	-15
Adjustment of tax attributable to prior years	0	0
Total	-13	-15
Deferred tax expense (-)/tax asset (+)		
Deferred tax attributable to temporary differences	-3	0
Deferred tax attributable to tax loss carryforwards	-18	5
Deferred tax attributable to change in tax rate	-1	-
Deferred tax expense attributable to impairment of capitalized tax value attributable to tax-loss carryforwards	-1	-
Others	-	0
Total	-23	5
Total consolidated reported tax expense (-)/tax asset (+)	-36	-10
Parent Company	2018	2017
Current tax expense (-)/tax asset (+)		
Tax expense/tax asset for the period	0	0
Adjustment of tax attributable to prior years	-	-
Total	0	0
Deferred tax expense (-)/tax asset (+)		
Deferred tax attributable to tax loss carryforwards	-16	-1
Total	-16	-1
Total reported tax expense (-)/ tax asset (+) Parent Company	-16	-1
Reconciliation of effective tax	2018	2017
Group		
Profit/loss before tax	116	34
Tax at prevailing rate for the Parent Company (22%)	-26	-8
Effect of different tax rates for foreign subsidiaries	0	0
Non-deductible expenses	-2	-7
Non-taxable revenues	1	4
Increase of loss carryforward without corresponding capitalization of deferred tax	-8	-3
Taxes attributable to previous years	-	-
Share in earnings of joint venture	1	2
Other	-3	0
Recognized effective tax	-36	-10
Reconciliation of effective tax	2018	2017
Parent Company		
Profit/loss before tax	85	0
Tax at prevailing rate for the Parent Company (22%)	-19	0
Non-deductible expenses	-1	-24
Non-taxable revenues	5	23
Other	-1	-
Recognized effective tax	-16	-1
Tax items recognized in other comprehensive income	2018	2017
Group		
Current tax for currency risk hedging in foreign operations	4	3
Total tax in other comprehensive income	4	3

Reconciliation of the effective tax rate for the Group is based on a weighted average of the nominal tax rates that apply to each of the companies within the Group included in continuing operations.

Tax items recognized directly in equity

Group	2018	2017
Tax items recognized directly in equity	-	-

NOTE 12 – EARNINGS PER SHARE

Group	2018	2017
Earnings per share before dilution (SEK)	6.13	1.87
Earnings per share after dilution (SEK)	6.13	1.87

The calculation of the numerator and denominator used in the calculation of earnings per share is detailed below.

Profit/loss for the year	2018	2017
Profit/loss for the year (SEK M)	80	24

Weighted average number of common shares outstanding before dilution (individual shares)

	2018	2017
Total ordinary shares at January 1	12,983,204	12,983,204
Weighted common shares outstanding during the year, before dilution	12,983,204	12,983,204

Weighted average number of common shares outstanding after dilution (individual shares)

	2018	2017
Weighted average ordinary shares outstanding, before dilution	12,983,204	12,983,204
Weighted common shares outstanding during the year, after dilution	12,983,204	12,983,204

NOTE 13 – GOODWILL**Cash-generating units with goodwill**

Goodwill	Sweden	Lecor	Finland	Group total
Opening balance, January 1, 2017	314	17	231	562
Impairment	-	-17	-	-17
Exchange differences	-	-	7	7
Closing balance, December 31, 2017	314	-	238	552
Opening balance, January 1, 2018	314	-	238	552
Impairment	-	-	-	-
Exchange differences	-	-	11	11
Closing balance, December 31, 2018	314	-	249	563

Impairment testing**Cash generating units**

The cash generating unit Sweden consists of the company BE Group Sverige AB and Lecor consists of Lecor Stålteknik AB. Both of these companies are included in business area Sweden & Poland. The Finland cash generating unit consists of the company BE Group Oy Ab, which is a part of business area Finland & Baltics.

Recoverable amounts

Goodwill is tested for impairment at least once annually. This testing compares the recoverable amount with the carrying amount. Impairment testing was updated at December 31 and no impairment requirement in other cash-generating units was identified. In 2017, it was noted that Lecor Stålteknik would not achieve the set targets for the year. In light of this, a new assessment was done regarding the development for the coming years and the overall conclusion was that an impairment requirement existed. Goodwill in Lecor Stålteknik was fully impaired by SEK 17 M.

The recoverable amount of the cash generating units is determined by calculating their value in use. In calculating the value in use, a model is applied that is based on established business plans for 2019. These plans have then been adjusted so that any non-recurring effects or other exceptional effects are compensated with the aim of estimating a normalized cash flow. This has then been assumed to grow by 2 percent per year, which is expected to be in line with inflation.

For the calculation of value in use, estimated cash flows are discounted by a factor of 10.8 percent (10.2) before tax. The discount factor was determined using a model where the capital cost of the Company's equity is weighed together with the cost of the Company's interest bearing liability based on the debt/equity ratio. The cost of equity is assessed based on the risk-free interest rate, market and company-specific risk premium, and the Company's assessed Beta value, which is a measurement of how the Company's risk correlates to market risk. The Company has deemed that the same discount factor is applicable to all units in the Group.

Sensitivity analysis

A sensitivity analysis has been done where the variables included in the value-in-use model were changed and the effect on the recoverable amount was analysed. For the forecasted cash flow, growth, growth margin, working capital tied-up and investments are important factors. For the valuation, the discount rate is also an important parameter. For the model, investments have been assumed to be in line with depreciation and working capital tied-up is assumed to be in line with the outcome for 2018. The profit margin assumed in the model is also in line with the outcome for 2018. For growth and discount factor, a negative change of 1 per cent entailed no further impairment requirements. The sensitivity for lower underlying profit margins is slightly higher.

NOTE 14 – OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Group	Other intangible assets		Customer relations		Software and licenses		Total	
	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017
Accumulated cost								
At January 1	5	6	34	31	145	143	184	180
Acquisitions	–	–	–	–	2	0	2	0
Disposals and scrappings	-5	-1	–	–	–	–	-5	-1
Reclassification	3	–	–	–	–	1	3	1
Exchange differences for the year	1	–	–	3	1	1	2	4
Total accumulated closing balance	4	5	34	34	148	145	186	184
Accumulated scheduled depreciation								
At January 1	-5	-5	-25	-23	-135	-126	-165	-154
Disposals and scrappings	5	–	–	–	–	–	5	–
Reclassification	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Scheduled amortization for the year	-1	–	–	0	-8	-8	-9	-8
Exchange differences for the year	-1	–	-1	-2	-1	-1	-3	-3
Total accumulated depreciation	-2	-5	-26	-25	-144	-135	-172	-165
Accumulated impairment								
At January 1	–	–	-8	-8	–	–	-8	-8
Impairment losses for the year	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total accumulated impairment	–	–	-8	-8	–	–	-8	-8
Carrying amount at end of period	2	–	–	1	4	10	6	11
Amortization for the year is reported on the following lines in the income statement								
Selling expenses	–	–	–	0	0	0	0	0
Administrative expenses	-1	–	–	0	-8	-8	-9	-8
Total	-1	–	–	0	-8	-8	-9	-8
Parent Company								
Accumulated cost								
At January 1	–	–	–	–	108	108	108	108
Acquisitions	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Reclassification	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total accumulated closing balance	–	–	–	–	108	108	108	108
Accumulated scheduled depreciation								
At January 1	–	–	–	–	-100	-93	-100	-93
Scheduled amortization for the year	–	–	–	–	-7	-7	-7	-7
Total accumulated depreciation	–	–	–	–	-107	-100	-107	-100
Carrying amount at end of period	–	–	–	–	1	8	1	8
Amortization for the year is reported on the following lines in the income statement								
Administrative expenses	–	–	–	–	-7	-7	-7	-7
Total	–	–	–	–	-7	-7	-7	-7

NOTE 15 – TANGIBLE ASSETS

Group	Buildings and land		Plant and machinery		Equipment, tools, fixtures and fittings		New construction progress and advance payments for tangible assets		Total	
	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017
Accumulated cost										
At January 1	21	94	507	522	159	158	14	1	701	775
Acquisitions	–	0	24	5	5	3	4	14	33	22
Disposals and scrappings	-2	-76	-15	-32	-6	-3	–	–	-23	-111
Reclassification	–	–	7	1	3	–	-14	-1	-4	–
Exchange differences for the year	0	3	14	11	1	1	0	–	15	15
Total accumulated closing balance	19	21	537	507	162	159	4	14	722	701
Accumulated scheduled depreciation										
At January 1	-17	-25	-415	-403	-148	-144	–	–	-580	-572
Disposals and scrappings	1	10	13	24	4	3	–	–	18	37
Reclassification	–	–	-2	–	–	–	–	–	-2	–
Scheduled depreciation for the year	-1	-2	-24	-25	-4	-6	–	–	-29	-33
Exchange differences for the year	–	–	-12	-11	-1	-1	–	–	-13	-12
Total accumulated depreciation	-17	-17	-440	-415	-149	-148	–	–	-606	-580
Accumulated impairment										
At January 1	–	-41	-2	-2	-4	-4	–	–	-6	-47
Disposals and scrappings for the year	–	42	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	42
Impairment losses for the year	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Exchange differences for the year	–	-1	0	0	0	0	–	–	–	-1
Total accumulated impairment	–	–	-2	-2	-3	-4	–	–	-5	-6
Carrying amount at end of period	2	4	95	90	10	7	4	14	111	115
Financial lease										
Group										
Properties held under financial leases are included at a carrying amount of	1	2	17	10	0	1	–	–	18	13

Future minimum lease payments attributable to financial lease agreements maturing for payment as follows:

Group										
Within one year	1	2	5	4	–	–	–	–	6	6
One to five years	–	1	11	6	–	–	–	–	11	7
Later than five years	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	2	–
Total future minimum lease fees	1	3	18	10	–	–	–	–	19	13
Amount representing interest	–	0	-1	-1	–	–	–	–	-1	-1
Total carrying value of lease liability	1	3	17	9	–	–	–	–	18	12

At the end of 2018 the carrying amount of leased assets was SEK 18 M. Variable fees included in the result of SEK 0 M.

See Note 31, Financial risk management and Note 33, Key estimates and assessments, for additional disclosures and assessments concerning lease liabilities.

**Equipment, tools, fixtures
and fittings**

Parent Company	2018	2017
Accumulated cost		
At January 1	1	1
Acquisitions	1	–
Total accumulated closing balance	2	1
Accumulated scheduled depreciation		
At January 1	-1	-1
Scheduled depreciation for the year	–	0
Total accumulated depreciation	-1	-1
Carrying amount at end of period	1	0

NOTE 16 – PARTICIPATIONS IN GROUP COMPANIES

Parent Company	2018	2017
Accumulated cost		
At January 1	1,630	1,612
Acquisitions and capital contributions	–	18
Divestment and liquidation	–	–
Total accumulated cost	1,630	1,630
Accumulated impairment		
At January 1	-754	-664
Divestment and liquidation	–	–
Impairment losses for the year	-4	-90
Total accumulated impairment	-758	-754
Carrying amount at end of period	872	876

Specification of the Parent Company and Group's holdings of investments in Group companies

Subsidiaries/Reg. No./Domicile	Participating interests	%	Carrying amount
BE Group Sverige AB, 556106-2174. Sweden	20,000	100	709
BE Group Oy Ab, 1544976-7. Finland	204,000	100	147
BE Group AS,10024510. Estonia	40	100	0
BE Group SIA, 40003413138. Latvia	100	100	0
UAB BE Group, 211685290. Lithuania	100	100	4
BE Group Sp. z o.o, 0000006520. Poland	20,216	100	–
BE Group CZ s.r.o., 282 43 781. Czech Republic			–
BE Group Slovakia s.r.o., 36595659. Slovakia			–
Lecor Stålteknik AB, 556584-6382. Sweden	1,000	100	12
BE Group Produktion Eskilstuna AB, 556788-2344. Sweden	5,000	100	–
RTS Eesti OÜ, 11657766. Estonia			–
			872

Acquisitions, capital contributions and impairments during the year	2018	2017
BE Group Sp. z o.o	-4	–
BE Group Produktion Eskilstuna AB	–	-10
BE Group CZ s.r.o.	–	-7
Lecor Stålteknik AB	–	-55
	-4	-72

The impairments during the year is related to participations in Group companies.

NOTE 17 – PARTICIPATIONS IN JOINT VENTURES

BE Group owns 50 percent of ArcelorMittal BE Group SSC AB (company registration number 556192-8770, domiciled in Karlstad, Sweden). The interest in the joint venture company is reported in the consolidated accounts using the equity method, by which 50 percent of profit after tax for the joint venture company will be reported as a share in earnings included in the consolidated operating result of BE Group.

Earnings in joint venture ArcelorMittal BE Group SSC AB	2018	2017
Profit/loss before tax	11	28
Tax	-2	-6
Profit/loss after tax	9	22
Dividends received	9	-
Overview of income statements and balance sheets for the joint venture	2018	2017
Net sales	838	784
Operating result	12	28
Net financial items	-1	0
Tax	-2	-6
Profit/loss for the year	9	22
	2018	2017
Non-current assets	200	204
Current assets excl. cash and equivalents	248	254
Cash and equivalents	2	17
Total assets	450	475
	2018	2017
Equity	279	288
Provisions	20	20
Interest-bearing liabilities	70	30
Other non-interest-bearing liabilities	81	137
Total equity and liabilities	450	475
Participations in joint ventures	2018	2017
Opening balance, cost	117	87
Dividends received	-9	-
Share in earnings of joint venture	4	11
Reversal of write-down of participation in joint venture	-	20
Rounding	1	-1
Carrying amount at year-end	113	117
Transactions with joint venture ArcelorMittal BE Group SSC AB	2018	2017
Receivables due from joint venture	-	-
Debts owed to joint venture	7	5
Sales to joint venture	-	0
Purchases from joint venture	98	74
Dividends received	9	-

Transactions with the joint venture are conducted at market prices and terms.

Impairment testing

Through BE Group Sverige AB, the Group is the owner of 50 percent of the shares in ArcelorMittal BE Group SSC AB and the value of the company's proportion was tested by the recoverable amount being compared with the carrying amount. The carrying amount consists of the book value.

The recoverable amount was estimated using a value in use based on cash flow forecasts for five years forward and an end value based on an annual rate of growth of 2 percent. Cash flows were calculated at present value with a discount rate of 10.8 percent before tax. The discount rate was determined based on the same methodology as in the testing of Goodwill (see Note 13) with the difference that the capital structure in joint ventures was used to weight together capital and interest expenses. The carrying amount is SEK 113 M.

NOTE 18 – OTHER SECURITIES HELD AS NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Group	2018	2017
Accumulated cost		
At January 1	0	0
Divestments for the year	-	-
Exchange differences for the year	0	0
Carrying amount at end of period	0	0

NOTE 19 – INTEREST-BEARING RECEIVABLES, GROUP COMPANIES

Parent Company	2018	2017
Accumulated cost		
At January 1	194	226
New receivables	72	38
Settled receivables	-89	-47
Impairment of receivables	-1	-25
Exchange rate differences for the year	3	2
Carrying amount at end of period	179	194
<i>Of which recognized as non-current</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>97</i>
<i>Of which recognized as current</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>97</i>

NOTE 20 – INVENTORIES

Group	2018	2017
Inventories		
Finished goods	329	306
Raw materials	303	269
Work in progress	19	24
Other	-	-
Total	651	599

Group	2018	2017
Obsolescence reserve, inventories		
Carrying amount at January 1	-24	-6
Translation difference	0	0
Change for the year	3	-18
Total obsolescence reserve, inventory	-21	-24

NOTE 21 – PREPAID EXPENSES AND ACCRUED INCOME

Group	2018	2017
Rent for premises	9	8
Insurance fees	4	0
Other items	16	7
Total prepaid expenses and accrued income	29	15
Parent Company	2018	2017
Other items	1	1
Total prepaid expenses and accrued income	1	1

NOTE 22 – EQUITY

Share capital and shares outstanding

Group	2018	2017
Issued capital at January 1	13,010,124	13,010,124
Issued capital at December 31	13,010,124	13,010,124

At December 31, 2018, registered share capital amounted to 13,010,124 (13,010,124) common shares. The quotient value per share is SEK 20.00 (20.00). Holders of common shares are entitled to dividends, the amount of which is set each financial year and share-holdings convey voting rights at the Annual General Meeting of one vote per share. All shares convey equal rights to the Company's remaining net assets.

Other capital contributions

Refers to capital contributions from shareholders. Includes share premium reserves transferred to the statutory reserve at December 31, 2005. Share premium reserve provisions are also reported as capital contributions as of January 1, 2006.

Reserves

Translation reserve

The translation reserve comprises of exchange differences arising from translation of the financial statements of foreign operations that have prepared their financial statements in a currency other than the currency in which consolidated financial statements are presented. The Parent Company and Group present their financial statements in Swedish kronor (SEK).

Hedging of net investments in foreign subsidiaries is also recognized in the translation reserve. This consists of exchange rate differences arising from the revaluation of liabilities recognized as hedging instruments of a net investment in a foreign operation. The amount is based on tax consequences.

Group	2018	2017
Carrying amount at January 1	31	24
Exchange rate difference for the year	21	16
Hedging of net investments in foreign subsidiaries	-15	-12
Tax attributable to hedging of net investment in foreign subsidiary	4	3
Carrying amount at end of period	41	31

Retained earnings including profit/loss for the year

Retained earnings including profit for the year include earnings in the Parent Company and its subsidiaries. This equity item includes prior provisions to the statutory reserve, excluding transferred share premium reserves.

Treasury shares

Group	2018		2017	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
Balance at January 1	26,920	21	26,920	21
Closing balance at end of period	26,920	21	26,920	21

Acquisition of treasury shares are recognized directly in retained earnings.

Parent Company

Restricted equity

Restricted reserves

Dividends that reduce restricted reserves are prohibited.

Statutory reserve

The purpose of the statutory reserve has been to save a portion of net profits not used to cover retained losses. The statutory reserve also includes the amount transferred to the share premium reserve prior to January 1, 2006.

Non-restricted equity

Retained earnings

Comprises of prior years' non-restricted equity after distribution of profits, if any. Combined with profit for the year, the total makes up non-restricted equity, which is the amount available for distribution to shareholders.

Share premium reserve

When shares are issued at a premium, that is, when more must be paid for the shares than their quotient value, an amount equal to the amount received in excess of the quotient value of the shares must be transferred to the share premium reserve. The amount transferred to the share premium reserve from January 1, 2006 is included in non-restricted equity.

NOTE 23 – PROVISIONS

Group	2018	2017
Restructuring costs	17	8
Other	4	12
Total	21	20
Of which:		
Non-current	0	0
Current	21	20
Total	21	20

2018	Restructuring costs	Other
Carrying amount at January 1	8	12
New provisions	16	–
Amount used during the period	–7	–8
Carrying amount at end of period	17	4

Expected date of outflow of resources:

2019	17	4
2020–2023	–	–
Total	17	4

Parent Company

The Parent Company currently holds no provisions (0).

NOT 24 – APPROPRIATION OF EARNINGS

The Board of Director's proposal for the appropriation of earnings

The Board of Directors proposes to the Annual General Meeting that a dividend of SEK 1.75 per share be paid to shareholders, which corresponds to approximately SEK 23 M.

Funds available		
Share premium reserves	239,719,829	SEK
Retained earnings	26,380,922	SEK
Loss for the year	68,990,729	SEK
Total	335,091,480	SEK
The Board of Directors proposes that the following amount are distributed to shareholders	22,720,607	SEK
Balance carried forward	312,370,873	SEK
Total	335,091,480	SEK

NOTE 25 – DEFERRED TAX ASSETS AND TAX LIABILITIES

2018

Group	Deferred tax assets	Deferred tax liabilities	Net
Intangible assets	0	-21	-21
Buildings and land	0	0	0
Machinery and equipment	0	-2	-2
Inventory	0	0	0
Accounts receivable	1	-	1
Other provisions	0	0	0
Interest-bearing liabilities	0	-	0
Loss carryforwards	30	-	30
Other ¹⁾	2	-21	-19
	33	-44	-11
Offset	0	0	0
Net deferred tax liabilities	33	-44	-11

2017

Group	Deferred tax assets	Deferred tax liabilities	Net
Intangible assets	0	-20	-20
Buildings and land	0	-1	-1
Machinery and equipment	0	-3	-3
Inventory	0	0	0
Accounts receivable	1	-	1
Other provisions	0	0	0
Interest-bearing liabilities	1	-	1
Loss carryforwards	49	-	49
Other ¹⁾	5	-19	-14
	56	-43	13
Offset	0	0	0
Net deferred tax assets	56	-43	13

¹⁾ Mostly related to a deferred tax liability in Estonia. In Estonia, the tax is paid first when the dividend is paid to the Parent Company.

2018

Parent Company	Deferred tax assets	Deferred tax liabilities	Net
Loss carryforwards	27	-	27
	27	-	27
Offset	-	-	-
Net deferred tax assets	27	-	27

2017

Parent Company	Deferred tax assets	Deferred tax liabilities	Net
Loss carryforwards	43	-	43
	43	-	43
Offset	-	-	-
Net deferred tax assets	43	-	43

Change of deferred tax in temporary differences and loss carryforwards

Group	Carrying amount at beginning of period	Recognized in profit or loss	Recognized in equity ¹⁾	Carrying amount at end of period
2018				
Intangible assets	-20	0	-1	-21
Buildings and land	-1	-1	0	-2
Machinery and equipment	-3	1	0	-2
Inventory	0	0	0	0
Accounts receivable	1	0	0	1
Other provisions	0	0	0	0
Interest-bearing liabilities	2	0	0	2
Loss carryforwards	49	-19	0	30
Other	-15	-4	0	-19
	13	-23	-1	-11

Group	Carrying amount at beginning of period	Recognized in profit or loss	Recognized in equity ¹⁾	Carrying amount at end of period
2017				
Intangible assets	-19	0	-1	-20
Buildings and land	-1	0	0	-1
Machinery and equipment	-4	1	0	-3
Inventory	0	0	0	0
Accounts receivable	1	0	0	1
Other provisions	0	0	0	0
Interest-bearing liabilities	2	0	0	2
Loss carryforwards	47	2	0	49
Other	-18	3	0	-15
	8	6	-1	13

Change of deferred tax in temporary differences and loss carryforwards

Parent Company	Carrying amount at beginning of period	Recognized in profit or loss	Recognized in equity	Carrying amount at end of period
2018				
Loss carryforwards	43	-16	-	27
	43	-16	-	27

Parent Company	Carrying amount at beginning of period	Recognized in profit or loss	Recognized in equity	Carrying amount at end of period
2017				
Loss carryforwards	44	-1	-	43
	44	-1	-	43

Of the Group's capitalized deferred tax assets on tax loss carryforwards, assets of SEK 1 M (3) are limited to a period of five years. These assets refers to Poland.

Unrecognized deferred tax assets

In the balance sheet, deferred tax assets have not been recognized for tax loss carryforwards for a deferred tax value of SEK 2 M (29). Unrecognized tax-loss carryforwards for the year are attributable to the loss making companies in Poland, Czech Republic and Estonia. The unrecognized amounts are equivalent to the portion of such carryforwards considered unlikely to be utilizable against future taxable results.

NOTE 26 – PLEDGED ASSETS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Pledged assets to credit institutions

Group	2018	2017
Liens on assets	1,172	1,141
Property mortgages	–	–
Shares in subsidiaries	1,018	986
Total	2,190	2,127
Parent Company	2018	2017
Promissory notes receivable	326	316
Shares in subsidiaries	856	856
Total	1,182	1,172

Financial assets pledged as collateral

The Parent Company has promissory notes receivable from BE Group Sverige AB and BE Group Oy Ab pledged as collateral for external loan agreements. The carrying amount is equal to the amount reported as pledged collateral. Please see Note 31 Financial risk management with regard to significant terms and conditions of external loan agreements.

Contingent liabilities

Group	2018	2017
Guarantees	6	26
Other items	8	4
Total	14	30
Parent Company	2018	2017
Guarantee obligations for the benefit of subsidiaries	14	26
Total	14	26

The Parent Company provides a joint and several guarantee covering subsidiaries' payment of receivables to materials suppliers. In addition to these reported commitments, the Parent Company has also provided customary guarantees for subsidiaries' obligations to pay rent to property owners.

NOTE 27 – CURRENT INTEREST-BEARING LIABILITIES

Group	2018	2017
Overdraft facility		
Credit limit	100	100
Unutilized part of credit limit	-100	-100
Utilized credit amount	–	–
Other current interest-bearing liabilities	5	20
Total current interest-bearing liabilities	5	20

Disclosures concerning collateral are provided in Note 26 Pledged assets and contingent liabilities

NOTE 28 – ACCRUED EXPENSES AND DEFERRED INCOME

Group	2018	2017
Accrued salaries	42	50
Accrued social security expenses	10	10
Bonuses to customers	4	3
Other items	20	19
Total accrued expenses and deferred income	76	82

Parent Company	2018	2017
Accrued salaries	2	2
Accrued social security expenses	1	1
Other accrued expenses	5	4
Total accrued expenses and deferred income	8	7

NOTE 29 – SUPPLEMENTARY DISCLOSURES TO CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Group	2018	2017
Interest paid and dividends received		
Dividends received	–	–
Interest received	0	0
Interest paid	-12	-17
Adjustment for non-cash items		
Depreciation, amortization and write-down of assets	38	74
Unrealized exchange rate differences	–	–
Capital gain/loss on sale of fixed assets	2	4
Difference between participation in joint venture and dividends received	5	-31
Provisions and other items not affecting liquidity	-3	16
Total	42	63

Parent Company	2018	2017
Interest paid and dividends received		
Dividends received	26	98
Interest received	18	21
Interest paid	-20	-26
Adjustment for non-cash items		
Depreciation and write-down of assets	7	7
Unrealized exchange rate differences	–	0
Total	7	7

Reconciliation of debt

Group	Cash flow		Items not affecting cash flow			31/12/18
	31/12/17		Acquisitions	New lease agreements	Exchange rate differences	
Overdraft facility	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bank loan	526	-13	–	–	17	530
Lease liability	13	-5	–	10	0	18
Total	539	-18	–	10	17	548

NOTE 30 – RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Group

During the year, the Group had transactions with joint venture company ArcelorMittal BE Group SSC AB. See Note 17 for further details. In other regards, no transactions have taken place between BE Group and related parties that have had a material impact on the Company's position and results. See Note 3 for disclosures on remuneration and benefits paid to senior executives and Board members.

Parent Company

The Parent Company has decisive control over its subsidiaries (see Note 16) and has had the following transactions with related parties:

Parent Company's transactions with subsidiaries	2018	2017
Sales of services	108	92
Purchases of services	-7	-8
Interest income	18	21
Interest expense	-7	-9
Dividend received (+)/paid (-)	26	98
Group contributions received(+)/paid (-)	33	-16
Claims on related parties on balance day	291	304
Debt to related parties on balance day	-98	-187

NOTE 31 – FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

In its operations, BE Group is exposed to a number of financial risks. The management of these risks is regulated through the Group's finance policy. The finance policy is established by the Board and provides a framework for BE Group's management of the financial risks in its operations. BE Group maintains a centralized finance function that is responsible for identifying and managing the financial risks in accordance with the established policy. The finance function reports to the President and CEO of BE Group.

BE Group's ongoing operations cause a number of financial risks. These consist of market risk (currency and interest risk), refinancing risk (liquidity risk) and credit risk. The goals that have been established in the finance policy are stated under the respective heading below.

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that fluctuations in market rates, such as interest and exchange rates, will impact the Group's profits or financial position.

Currency risk

By reason of its international operations, BE Group is exposed to currency risk through exchange rate fluctuations. BE Group's currency exposure comprises both transaction exposure and translation exposure.

Transaction exposure

Transaction exposure arises when the Group conducts purchasing in one currency and sales in another, meaning that the transaction exposure is attributable to accounts receivable and payable. BE Group's purchases are denominated mainly in SEK and EUR, while sales are denominated in local currency. BE Group's objective is to minimize the short-term and long-term impact of movements in foreign exchange rates on the Company's profit and equity. This is mainly achieved by matching revenues and expenses in business transactions with currencies other than SEK. When matching cannot be achieved, the Group sometimes utilizes forward contracts for currency hedging. All currency hedging is performed by the Group's central finance function in the Parent Company. At year-end, BE Group had no outstanding forward contracts relating to transaction exposure.

During 2018, BE Group's transaction exposure in EUR amounted to EUR 51 M (53), consisting of the difference between actual purchasing and sales in EUR. The Group mainly makes its purchases in EUR while sales are in local currency. The real effect of the transaction exposure affected operating profit/loss by SEK -2 M (0). Based on income and expenses in foreign currency for 2018, it is estimated that a change of +/- 5 percent in the SEK against the EUR would give an effect of about +/- SEK 3 M in the operating result. On the balance sheet date, the Group had operating liabilities of EUR 2 M net and financial liabilities of EUR 43 M.

Translation exposure

As of the balance sheet date, net assets are allocated among the following currencies:

Amount	SEK M	
SEK	475	53%
EUR	440	49%
Others	-23	-2%
Total	892	100%

When the net assets of foreign Group companies are restated in SEK, translation differences arise in connection with exchange rate fluctuations that affect consolidated equity. The Parent Company, BE Group AB, has loans in EUR to reduce translation exposure arising from the Finnish and Estonian operations, respectively. In the consolidated financial statements, hedge accounting is applied

in accordance with the principles for hedging net investments in foreign currency. No hedge accounting has been applied in the Parent Company. Translation exposure for other countries has been judged immaterial and accordingly not hedged. See also "Accounting principles" concerning management of hedge accounting for net investments.

Net investment in foreign operations	2018
Carrying amount (bank loans)	441
Carrying amount in EUR	43
Hedging quota	1:1
Change in the loans carrying amount due to changes in exchange rates since January 1	18
Changes in value of the hedged item to determine effectiveness	18

The Group's earnings are affected by the currency rates used in the translation of the results of its foreign units. Based on conditions in 2018, it is estimated that a 5 percent strengthening of the SEK against the EUR would entail an effect of SEK -1 M on operating result in the translation of the earnings of foreign units.

Interest risk

Interest risk is attributable to fluctuations in market interest rates and their effect on the Group's loan portfolio. Consolidated interest-bearing liabilities are mainly subject to variable interest or short terms of fixed interest. In accordance with the finance policy, BE Group works to minimize the effect on the Group's profit/loss before tax due to fluctuations in market interest rates. BE Group's objective is to maintain the average fixed rate term of one to twelve months. The fixed rate term was kept short during the year and was approximately three months (three) as of the balance sheet date. At the end of the year, the total interest-bearing debt was SEK 548 M (539). Interest-bearing assets in the form of cash and bank balances amounted to SEK 108 M (61). A change in interest rates of one percent would affect consolidated net financial items by approximately SEK +/- 5 M and consolidated equity by approximately SEK +/- 4 M. The sensitivity analysis has been conducted on the basis of current net debt at the end of the period. The table below details the consolidated interest-bearing liabilities outstanding at December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2018.

Loan terms, maturity structure/fixed rate terms and fair value

(SEK M)		Nominal amount in original currency		Carrying amount (SEK M)		Fixed interest terms number of days		Maturity	
		2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017
Financial lease, SEK	SEK M	2	5	2	5	-	-	2019- 2022	2018- 2019
Financial lease, EUR	EUR M	2	1	16	8	-	-	2019- 2024	2018
<i>accrued interest</i>				-	-				
Total financial leasing liability				18	13				
<i>Of which, current liability</i>					5	5			
Parent Company ¹⁾									
Bank loan, SEK	SEK M	90	105	89	103	-	90	2020	2019
Bank loan, EUR	EUR M	43	43	441	423	-	90	2020	2019
<i>accrued interest</i>				-	-				
Total interest-bearing liabilities, Parent Company				530	526				
<i>Of which, current liability</i>					-	15			
Total interest-bearing liabilities, Group				548	539				
<i>Of which, current liability</i>					5	20			

¹⁾ In addition to its external interest-bearing liabilities, the Parent Company has Group-internal liabilities amounting to EUR 4 M (4). The recognized amount totals SEK 41 M (39). The liabilities mature on December 31, 2019 with interest rates based on three-month EURIBOR. There is no accrued interest on the balance sheet date. In addition to these liabilities, the Parent Company has interest-bearing liabilities related to the intra-group cash pool that amount to SEK 29 M (37) as per the balance sheet date. The interest applied in the cash pool is based on STIBOR T/N.

The recognized amount for interest-bearing liabilities constitutes a good approximation of the fair value.

Refinancing risk (liquidity risk)

BE Group is a net borrower and a refinancing risk arises in connection with the extension of existing loans and the raising of new loans. Access to external financing, which is affected by factors such as the general trend in the capital and credit markets, as well as the borrower's creditworthiness and credit capacity, may be limited and there may be unforeseen events and costs associated with this. The borrowing strategy focuses on securing the Group's borrowing needs, both with regard to long-term financing needs and day-to-day payment commitments. BE Group works to maintain satisfactory payment capacity by means of unutilized credit facilities and through active control of its working capital, which is the main item affecting the Group's liquidity.

Maturity structure, financial liabilities

	Financial liabilities	
	2018	2017
Maturity within 90 Days	513	560
Maturity within 91–180 Days	4	6
Maturity within 181–365 Days	8	10
Maturity within 1–5 years	543	522
Maturity later than 5 years	0	0
Total	1,068	1,098

The table above details the maturity structure for financial liabilities and shows the undiscounted future cash flows. BE Group has an overdraft facility of SEK 100 M, of which SEK 0 M had been utilized as of December 31, 2018, see Note 27. Of the financial liabilities that fall due for payment within one to five years, the largest part relate to the Parent Company's credit facility maturing in 2020.

Credit agreement

Current credit agreement with Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken och Svenska Handelsbanken was signed 2015 and have a maturity of three years. During 2018 an extension of existing credit agreement was signed which matures end of March 2020.

The key figures measured are net debt/equity ratio and interest coverage ratio. The covenants are measured quarterly, and the interest coverage ratio is based on the trend over the past 12-month period. In addition, the Group is subject to limitations with regard to investments during the duration of the agreement. On the balance sheet date, the Group has unutilized credit facilities in an amount of SEK 143 M (including overdraft facilities).

Credit risk

When entering into new business relations and extending existing ones, BE Group makes a commercial assessment.

The risk that payment will not be received on accounts receivable represents a customer credit risk. BE Group applies credit policies to manage this risk by limiting the outstanding credit extended and terms for various customers. Short credit terms and the absence of risk concentrations towards individual customers and specific sectors contribute to reducing credit risk in Business Area Sweden & Poland and Finland & Baltics. In certain countries within Other Units, credit and payment terms are normally longer than in other markets. Intensive efforts are being made here to ensure payment, which involve assessments of creditworthiness and negotiations about payment plans when payment has not been timely. In these countries, BE Group also applies extensive factoring solutions, reducing the time over which credit is provided and risk.

The spread of risk among the customer base is satisfactory as no individual customer accounted for more than 5 percent (5) of sales in 2018. The ten largest customers combined accounted for about 13 percent (13) of sales.

Provisions for credit losses have been assessed on an individual basis. The total cost of bad debts in 2018 was SEK 4 M, and at December 31, 2018, provisions for bad debts amounted to SEK 13 M (19), corresponding to 3 percent (4) of the gross of total accounts receivable.

Credit exposure arises in conjunction with placements of cash and cash equivalents and derivatives trading. BE Group manages the risk that a counterparty will default by selecting creditworthy counterparties and limiting the commitment per counterparty.

In all material respects, the Group's credit exposure coincides with the carrying amount of each class of financial instrument.

Provision for accounts receivable 2018

In order to calculate anticipated credit losses, accounts receivable have been grouped based on credit risk characteristics and the number of days of delay. The anticipated credit loss levels are based on the customers' loss history. Historical losses are then adjusted to take into consideration current and prospective information about macroeconomic factors that can affect the customers' possibilities of paying the receivable. The historical loss level is adjusted based on the anticipated changes in these factors. Accounts receivable are written off when there is no reasonable expectation of repayment. Indicators that there is no reasonable expectation of repayment include that the debtor fails with the repayment plan or that contractual payments are more than 90 days delayed. Credit losses on accounts receivable are recognized as credit losses – net within the operating result. Reversals of amounts previously written off are recognized in the same line in the income statement.

December 31, 2018	Overdues				Total
	Not overdue	Overdues 1-30 days	Overdues 31-90 days	Overdues more than 90 days	
Accounts receivable – gross	397	67	6	13	483
Loss	-1	-1	0	-12	-13
<i>Expected loss %</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>89%</i>	3%

Provision for accounts receivable 2017

Provisions for credit losses have been assessed on an individual basis. The total cost of bad debt in 2017 was SEK 0 M, and at December 31, 2017, provisions for doubtful receivables amounted to SEK 19 M, corresponding to 4 percent of the gross of total accounts receivable.

Accounts receivable	Gross	Impairment	Net
	2017	2017	2017
Not yet due	410	0	410
Unimpaired, past due			
< 30 Days	62	–	62
30–90 Days	12	–	12
>90 Days	5	–	5
Total	79	–	79
Impaired, past due			
< 30 Days	2	-2	0
30–90 Days	2	-2	0
>90 Days	15	-15	0
Total	19	-19	0
Total	508	-19	489
Loss reserve as per 31 December according to IAS 39			
Restated amount accounted for in balance carried forward		2018	2017
		0	
Loss reserv as per 1 January according to IFRS 9			
		19	16
Increase of loss reserve, change accounted for in income statement		2	7
Reversals of reserves		-3	2
Realized losses		-6	-7
Exchange rate differences		1	1
Provision at December 31		13	19

Impairments 2018

The Group has two kinds of financial assets that are in the application area for the model for anticipated credit losses:

- Accounts receivable attributable to sales of goods
- Cash and equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are within the application area for impairments according to IFRS 9; the impairment that would come into question has been deemed immaterial. See above for information on anticipated credit losses regarding accounts receivable.

Impairments 2017

At each balance sheet date, the Company assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or group of assets is impaired. Objective evidence is made up of two components: observable circumstances that impair the capacity to recover the carrying amount of the asset and significant or prolonged decline in fair value for financial investments classified as financial assets available for sale. A decline in value of 20 percent is classified as significant and a decline in value is classified as prolonged when it lasts for more than 9 months.

Valuation of financial assets and liabilities

In all material respects, fair value coincides with the carrying amount in the Balance Sheet for financial assets and liabilities. The total carrying amounts and fair value as per asset class are shown in the table below:

Group	Measurement category 2018
A	Financial assets and liabilities valued at fair value via profit and loss for the period
B	Amortized cost
C	Financial assets available for sale
D	Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost

	Carrying value according to balance sheet	Of which, financial instruments covered by the disclosure requirements in IFRS 7	Group				Total carrying value	Fair value
			A	B	C	D		
2018								
Assets								
Other securities held as non-current assets	0	0	–	–	0	–	0	E/T
Non-current receivables	0	0	0	–	–	–	0	0
Accounts receivable	470	470	–	470	–	–	470	470
Other receivables	23	18	–	18	–	–	18	18
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	29	14	–	14	–	–	14	14
Cash and equivalents	108	–	–	108	–	–	108	108
Liabilities								
Non-current interest-bearing liabilities	543	543	–	–	–	543	543	543
Current interest-bearing liabilities	5	5	–	–	–	5	5	5
Accounts payable	468	468	–	–	–	468	468	468
Other liabilities	68	5	–	–	–	5	5	5
Accrued expenses and deferred income	76	32	–	–	–	32	32	32

Group	Measurement category 2017
A	Financial assets and liabilities valued at fair value via profit and loss for the period
B	Investments held to maturity
C	Loans and receivables
D	Financial assets available for sale
E	Financial liabilities measured at accrued cost

	Carrying value according to balance sheet	Of which, financial instruments covered by the disclosure requirements in IFRS 7	Group					Total carrying value	Fair value
			A	B	C	D	E		
2017									
Assets									
Other securities held as non-current assets	0	0	–	–	–	0	–	0	E/T
Non-current receivables	0	0	–	0	–	–	–	0	0
Accounts receivable	489	489	–	–	489	–	–	489	489
Other receivables	14	9	–	–	9	–	–	9	9
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	15	2	–	–	2	–	–	2	2
Cash and equivalents	61	61	–	–	61	–	–	61	61
Liabilities									
Non-current interest-bearing liabilities	519	519	–	–	–	–	519	519	519
Current interest-bearing liabilities	20	20	–	–	–	–	20	20	20
Accounts payable	479	479	–	–	–	–	479	479	479
Other liabilities	70	3	–	–	–	–	3	3	3
Accrued expenses and deferred income	82	57	–	–	–	–	57	57	57

The assessment of the fair value of the financial assets and liabilities has been carried out in accordance with level 2, with the exception of cash and cash equivalents, which are valued in accordance with level 1. The Group also holds shares/participations in unlisted companies, which in 2018 are included in the assessment category of “Financial assets valued at fair value via profit and loss for the period” and in 2017 in the assessment category “Financial assets available for sale”. As it is difficult to reliably measure the fair value of these assets, they are recognized at cost.

Risk management and insurance

The responsibility for risk management within BE Group lies with the Group’s central finance function. The objective of these efforts is to minimize the total cost of the Group’s loss risks. This is accomplished by continually improving loss prevention and loss limitation in operations and through a Group-wide insurance solution.

NOTE 32 – INVESTMENT COMMITMENTS

BE Group has no principal investments in progress, nor future investments regarding which the Board of Directors has made a clear commitment.

NOTE 33 – KEY ESTIMATES AND ASSESSMENTS

Certain assumptions about the future and certain estimates and assessments as of the balance sheet date are particularly significant to measurement of assets and liabilities in the balance sheet. According to management assessment, none of the asset and liability amounts reported are associated with risk that material adjustment will be required in the next year.

Impairment of goodwill

The value of recognized goodwill is tested at least once a year to determine whether the asset may be impaired. The test requires assessment of the value in use of the cash generating unit, or groups of cash generating units, to which the goodwill has been allocated. This in turn requires that the expected future cash inflows from the cash generating units must be estimated and a relevant discount rate determined to calculate the present value of cash inflows.

See Note 13 for a description of impairment testing and assumptions used in the process.

Financial and operational leasing agreements

The largest and most important portion of the Group's signed lease agreements involves properties. Consequently, in its classification, the Group has assessed whether the leasing agreements are financial or operational in nature. The leasing agreements contain no clauses to the effect that the ownership of the properties will transfer to the Company on the expiration of the agreements. Since the lease fees that the Group pays to the lessor are index-adjusted on a regular basis to correspond to market rent levels and since the Group assumes no risk for the residual value of the properties, it is deemed that largely all financial risks and advantages associated with the properties accrue to the lessor. Based on these qualitative factors, the agreements have been classified as operational leasing agreements. However, there is one agreement that has been classified as financial and its recognized amount amounted to SEK 1 M on the balance sheet date.

In addition to the above, the Group has a number of financial leasing agreements associated with leases of machinery and equipment, whose carrying value amounted to SEK 17 M as per the balance sheet date.

For additional information on the Group's leasing agreements, please see Notes 5, 15 and 31.

Inventories

The cost of inventory is tested upon each close of books against estimated and assessed future selling prices. In the judgment of BE Group's management, necessary impairments have been recognized based on the information available when the closing accounts were prepared.

NOTE 34 – SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AFTER BALANCE SHEET DATE

No significant events have taken place after the end of the period.

APPROPRIATION OF EARNINGS

The Board of Directors' proposal for the appropriation of earnings

The Board of Directors proposes to the Annual General Meeting that a dividend of SEK 1.75 per share (-) be paid to shareholders, corresponding to approximately SEK 23 M.

Funds available		
Retained earnings	266,100,751	SEK
Profit for the year	68,990,729	SEK
Total	335,091,480	SEK
<hr/>		
The Board of Directors proposes that the following amount are distributed to shareholders	22,720,607	SEK
Balance carried forward	312,370,873	SEK
Total	335,091,480	SEK

The consolidated financial statements and the annual report were prepared in compliance with the International Financial Reporting Standards defined in Regulation (EC) 1606/2002 of the European Parliament and the Council of July 19, 2002 concerning application of International Financial Reporting Standards and generally accepted accounting principles and give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Group and the Parent Company.

The Board of Directors' Report provides a true and fair view of the Parent Company and the Group's operations, financial position and performance and describes the significant risks and uncertainty factors relevant to the Parent Company and other BE Group companies.

The annual and consolidated accounts are subject to approval by the Annual General Meeting on April 25, 2019.

Malmö, March 13, 2019

Petter Stillström
Chairman of the Board

Jörgen Zahlin
Member of the Board

Carina Andersson
Member of the Board

Lars Olof Nilsson
Member of the Board

Mikael Sjölund
Member of the Board

Mikael Törnros
Employee Representative

Anders Martinsson
President and CEO

Our Audit Report was submitted on March 13, 2019
Öhrlings PriceWaterhouseCoopers AB

Eva Carlsvi
Authorized Public Accountant
Auditor-in-Charge

Tomas Hilmarsson
Authorized Public Accountant

The information in the Annual Report is such that BE Group AB (publ) is required to publish pursuant to the Securities Markets Act. The information was submitted for publication on March 27, 2019.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the general meeting of the shareholders of BE Group AB (publ), corporate identity number 556578-4724.

Report on the annual accounts and consolidated accounts

Opinions

We have audited the annual accounts and consolidated accounts of BE Group AB (publ) for the year 2018 except for the statutory sustainability report on pages 23-26. The annual accounts and consolidated accounts of the company are included on pages 18-77 in this document.

In our opinion, the annual accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act and present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of parent company and the group as of 31 December 2018 and its financial performance and cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act. The consolidated accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act and present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the group as of 31 December 2018 and their financial performance and cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as adopted by the EU, and the Annual Accounts Act. Our opinions do not cover the statutory sustainability report on pages 23-26.

The statutory administration report is consistent with the other parts of the annual accounts and consolidated accounts.

We therefore recommend that the general meeting of shareholders adopts the income statement and balance sheet for the parent company and the group.

Our opinions in this report on the annual accounts and consolidated accounts are consistent with the content of the additional report that has been submitted to the parent company's audit committee in accordance with the Audit Regulation (537/2014) Article 11.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities section. We are independent of the parent company and the group in accordance with professional ethics for accountants in Sweden and have otherwise fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. This includes that, based on the best of our knowledge and belief, no prohibited services referred to in the Audit Regulation (537/2014) Article 5.1 have been provided to the audited company or, where applicable, its parent company or its controlled companies within the EU.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions.

Our audit approach

Audit scope

We designed our audit by determining materiality and assessing the risks of material misstatement in the consolidated financial statements. In particular, we considered where management made subjective judgements; for example, in respect of significant accounting estimates that involved making assumptions and considering future events that are inherently uncertain. As in all of our audits, we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including among other matters consideration of whether there was evidence of bias that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

We tailored the scope of our audit in order to perform sufficient work to enable us to provide an opinion on the consolidated financial statements as a whole, taking into account the structure of the Group, the accounting processes and controls, and the industry in which the group operates.

Materiality

The scope of our audit was influenced by our application of materiality. An audit is designed to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. Misstatements may arise due to fraud or error. They are considered material if individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the consolidated financial statements.

Based on our professional judgement, we determined certain quantitative thresholds for materiality, including the overall group materiality for the consolidated financial statements as a whole. These, together with qualitative considerations, helped us to determine the scope of our audit and the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and to evaluate the effect of misstatements, both individually and in aggregate on the financial statements as a whole.

Key audit matters

Key audit matters of the audit are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the annual accounts and consolidated accounts of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of, and in forming our opinion thereon, the annual accounts and consolidated accounts as a whole, but we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Key audit matter**How our audit addressed the Key audit matter***Valuation of intangible assets*

With reference to Note 1 and Note 13.

The value of goodwill with indefinite useful lives amounts to MSEK 563 as at 31 December 2018. In accordance with IFRS, management is to annually execute an impairment test.

No impairment requirement was identified by management in conjunction with this testing as at year end closing.

Certain of the assumptions and judgments made by management refer to future cash flows and the circumstances are complex and have a major impact on the calculation of the value in use. This applies, in particular, to the assessment of the future growth rate, profit margins, working capital tied up, investments and the discount rate. Changes in these assumptions could lead to a change in the reported value of intangible assets and goodwill.

In our audit, we have assessed the calculation models applied by management and have concluded that the most important assumptions in the models agree with the company's budgets and strategic plan.

In our audit we have focused on determining if impairment requirement exists for intangible assets.

We have also taken a position as regards the reasonability of company management's assumptions and judgments. This has been carried out through an analysis of how well previous years' assumptions have been achieved, and effects of any possible adjustments in assumptions compared with the previous year due to changes arising as a result of the development of the operations and external factors.

We have also executed independent sensitivity analyses to test the safety margin for the cash-generating units in order to determine the extent of changes required in key variables before an impairment requirement would arise.

We have also assessed the correctness in the related disclosures in the Annual Report.

Inventory- valuation and existence

With reference to Note 1 and Note 20.

The group reports inventories at a value of SEK 651 million.

The inventory reporting is based on the number of articles, either in the physical inventory or as goods in transit, based on the weighted average cost model applied by the Group also considering write down effects for obsolescence or slow moving inventory.

This is an essential area for the financial statements and also due to the fact that the accounting of these assumptions involve, to a certain degree, complex calculations and judgments on behalf of management.

We have assessed documentation for the routines of physical stock count procedures at the inventory site in order to ensure the existence of the inventory articles. In addition, we have also executed independent inventory counts against reported inventory levels in the inventory system and against the Group's physical stock counts to ensure that the reported articles exist.

We have also evaluated the mathematical calculation model applied to the pricing of inventory according to the weighted average costs method. As support for our audit, specific data analyses have been performed to focus the audit on the inventory articles of specific interest, which were then subject for further examination measures against supporting documentation.

Furthermore, we have also performed an analysis and testing of the group's impairment model for obsolete and slow moving articles through control calculations applied to the group's calculation models and assumptions.

Other Information than the annual accounts and consolidated accounts

This document also contains other information than the annual accounts and consolidated accounts and is found on pages 1-17, the sustainability report on page 23-26, pages 81-83 and the pages 89-93. The Board of Directors and the Managing Director are responsible for this other information.

Our opinion on the annual accounts and consolidated accounts does not cover this other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion regarding this other information.

In connection with our audit of the annual accounts and consolidated accounts, our responsibility is to read the information identified above and consider whether the information is materially inconsistent with the annual accounts and consolidated accounts. In this procedure we also take into account our knowledge otherwise obtained in the audit and assess whether the information otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If we, based on the work performed concerning this information, conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Board of Director's and the Managing Director

The Board of Directors and the Managing Director are responsible for the preparation of the annual accounts and consolidated accounts and that they give a fair presentation in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act and, concerning the consolidated accounts, in accordance with IFRS as adopted by the EU. The Board of Directors and the Managing Director are also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of annual accounts and consolidated accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the annual accounts and consolidated accounts, The Board of Directors and the Managing Director are responsible for the assessment of the company's and the group's ability to continue as a going concern. They disclose, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting. The going concern basis of accounting is however not applied if the Board of Directors and the Managing Director intend to liquidate the company, to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Audit Committee shall, without prejudice to the Board of Director's responsibilities and tasks in general, among other things oversee the company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibility

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual accounts and consolidated accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs and generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these annual accounts and consolidated accounts.

A further description of our responsibility for the audit of the annual accounts and consolidated accounts is available on Revisorsinspektionen's website: www.revisorsinspektionen.se/revisornsansvar. This description is part of the auditor's report.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

Opinions

In addition to our audit of the annual accounts and consolidated accounts, we have also audited the administration of the Board of Director's and the Managing Director of BE Group AB (publ) for the year 2018 and the proposed appropriations of the company's profit or loss.

We recommend to the general meeting of shareholders that the profit be appropriated in accordance with the proposal in the statutory administration report and that the members of the Board of Director's and the Managing Director be discharged from liability for the financial year.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted the audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities section. We are independent of the parent company and the group in accordance with professional ethics for accountants in Sweden and have otherwise fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions.

Responsibilities of the Board of Director's and the Managing Director

The Board of Directors is responsible for the proposal for appropriations of the company's profit or loss. At the proposal of a dividend, this includes an assessment of whether the dividend is justifiable considering the requirements which the company's and the group's type of operations, size and risks place on the size of the parent company's and the group's equity, consolidation requirements, liquidity and position in general.

The Board of Directors is responsible for the company's organization and the administration of the company's affairs. This includes among other things continuous assessment of the company's and the group's financial situation and ensuring that the company's organization is designed so that the accounting, management of assets and the company's financial affairs otherwise are controlled in a reassuring manner. The Managing Director shall manage the ongoing administration according to the Board of Directors' guidelines and instructions and among other matters take measures that are necessary to fulfill the company's accounting in accordance with law and handle the management of assets in a reassuring manner.

Auditor's responsibility

Our objective concerning the audit of the administration, and thereby our opinion about discharge from liability, is to obtain audit evidence to assess with a reasonable degree of assurance whether any member of the Board of Directors or the Managing Director in any material respect:

- has undertaken any action or been guilty of any omission which can give rise to liability to the company, or
- in any other way has acted in contravention of the Companies Act, the Annual Accounts Act or the Articles of Association.

Our objective concerning the audit of the proposed appropriations of the company's profit or loss, and thereby our opinion about this, is to assess with reasonable degree of assurance whether the proposal is in accordance with the Companies Act.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden will always detect actions or omissions that can give rise to liability to the company, or that the proposed appropriations of the company's profit or loss are not in accordance with the Companies Act.

A further description of our responsibility for the audit of the administration is available on Revisorsinspektionen's website: www.revisorsinspektionen.se/revisornsansvar. This description is part of the auditor's report.

The auditor's opinion regarding the statutory sustainability report

The Board of Directors is responsible for the statutory sustainability report on pages 23–26, and that it is prepared in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act. Our examination has been conducted in accordance with FAR:s auditing standard RevR 12 The auditor's opinion regarding the statutory sustainability report. This means that our examination of the statutory sustainability report is different and substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden. We believe that the examination has provided us with sufficient basis for our opinion. A statutory sustainability report has been prepared.

Öhrlings PricewaterhouseCoopers AB was appointed auditor of BE Group AB (publ) by the general meeting of the shareholders on the 26 April 2018 and has been the company's auditor since the 7 May 2015.

Malmö, 13 March 2019

Öhrlings PricewaterhouseCoopers AB

Eva Carlsvi

Authorised Public Accountant
Auditor-in-Charge

Tomas Hilmarsson

Authorised Public Accountant

GROUP MANAGEMENT



Group Management consists of Lasse Levola, Sandra Eriksson, Daniel Fäldt and Anders Martinsson.

Anders Martinsson

President and CEO
Born 1968
Employed since 2015

Previous experience

Area Manager and Managing Director within WILO Group (2008-2015), Director Business Development Indutrade AB (2006-2008), Director Sales and Marketing NAF AB (2000-2006)

Education

B.Sc. Engineering Lund Institute of Technology, Diploma in Strategy and Innovation at Oxford University, Management training

Number of shares

60,000

Daniel Fäldt

CFO
Born 1976
Employed since 2017

Previous experience

Finance Director Region Americas and Region South Europe / MEA at Bombardier Transportation (2013-2017), Finance Director Propulsion & Controls, Bombardier Transportation AB (2009-2013), Finance Director Gunnebo Entrance Control UK (2007-2009), various positions within the Gunnebo Group (2002-2007)

Education

B.Sc. in Business Administration, Bryant University. Industrial Management at KTH Executive School.

Number of shares

0

Sandra Eriksson

Group Sourcing Director
Born 1974
Employed since 2016

Previous experience

Purchasing Manager Strategic Sourcing, Purchasing Manager Indirect Material & Services, Purchasing Manager Mechanics, Senior Purchaser at Toyota Material Handling Europe / BT Products AB (2006-2016)

Education

Executive MBA, Stockholm School of Economics

Number of shares

1,700

Lasse Levola

Business Area Manager Finland & Baltics
Born 1959
Employed since 2005

Previous experience

Sales Director in BE Group Finland (2005-2012), Sales Director in Hollming Works Oy (2003-2005), General Manager Materials Management & Distribution in Wärtsilä (1995-2003).

Education

B.Sc. (Eng), Finland

Number of shares

0

The information regarding Board members' and Group Management's holding of shares and other financial instruments in BE Group refers to the conditions as per 31 December 2018 and includes own and closely associated natural persons' holdings, as well as holdings by legal persons that are directly or indirectly controlled by the person or its closely associated persons. For CEO, information regarding potential essential shareholdings or partnerships in companies that BE Group has significant business relations with is also included. For updated shareholding, please see our website, www.begroup.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS



Petter Stillström

Chairman
Born 1972
Member of the Board since 2012 (Chairman since 2015)

Other assignments

President and board member of AB Traction. Chairman of the Board of Nilörngruppen, OEM International and Softronic. Also board member within Traction Group and private holding companies

Previous experience

Active within corporate finance, AB Traction since 1999 and its President since 2001

Education

Master's degree in Economics, Stockholm University

Number of shares

40,000 (via endowment insurance)

Shares in close association

2,902,526



Carina Andersson

Member
Born 1964
Member of the Board since 2018

Other assignments

Board member of Beijer Alma, Gränges and Systemair.

Previous experience

Leading positions at Sandvik, Ramnäs Bruk and Fagersta Stainless among others.

Education

Mining Engineer

Shares

2 000



Lars Olof Nilsson

Member
Born 1962
Member of the Board since 2006

Other assignments

Partner Evli Corporate Finance AB. Chairman of the Board of Kaptensbacken (own company) and NSS Group AB. Board member of JLL Treasury Support AB and JLL Transaction Services AB.

Previous experience

Positions within the Trelleborg Group, including as CFO and Head of Group Finance and Head of Group Business Development

Education

B.Sc. Economics, Umeå University

Number of shares

3,282



Mikael Sjölund

Member
Born 1971
Member of the Board since 2016

Other assignments

Owner of Kvarnsvik, as well as President of Effso Construction AB. Board member of Airteam A/S (within Ratos AB) and Libitum AB.

Previous experience

Deputy CEO Imtech Nordic AB, Purchasing Manager at Skanska Sverige AB, Head of Strategic Sourcing at Skanska Nordic countries as well as various senior positions within Skanska.

Education

Bachelor's degree in engineering

Number of shares

5,000

Shares in close association

5,000

AUDITORS

Öhrlings PricewaterhouseCoopers AB



Jörgen Zahlin

Member
Born 1964
Member of the Board
since 2013

Other assignments

President and CEO in OEM International. Chairman and board member in a number of companies within the OEM Group

Previous experience

Active in the OEM Group since 1985. President since 2000 and CEO since 2002

Education

Engineer

Number of shares

0



Mikael Törnros

Employee Representative
Born 1972
Member of the Board
since 2016

Other assignments

Purchasing Coordinator at BE Group Sverige AB. Trade chairman of Union members in BE Group's office in Malmö and Gothenburg. Process- and quality specialist Product & Supply.

Previous experience

Experience in purchasing and logistics, project planning, production in the manufacturing industry since 1998.

Number of shares

0



Photo: Charlotte Carlberg Bårg

Eva Carlsvi

Authorized Public Accountant,
Öhrlings PricewaterhouseCoopers AB
Born 1968

Auditor-in-Charge for the Company since 2015



CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

This Corporate Governance Report has been prepared as an independent document in relation to the Annual Report. Information in accordance with Chapter 6, Section 6 of the Annual Accounts Act, Paragraphs 3-6, can be found in the Board of Director's Report's sections on share-related information and corporate governance in the Annual Report.

Operations and governance of BE Group

BE Group AB (publ) is a Swedish limited liability company listed on Nasdaq Stockholm. Governance of BE Group is based on the Swedish Companies Act and Annual Accounts Act, Nasdaq Stockholm's rules and regulations, the Swedish Code of Corporate Governance (the "Code"), BE Group's Articles of Association and other relevant regulations. Information on the Company's operations is available on the Company's website, www.begroup.com.

Shareholders exercise their decision-making rights at the Annual General Meeting (as well as at possible extraordinary meetings), which is the Company's highest decision-making authority. The Board of Directors and the Chairman of the Board of Directors are appointed by the Annual General Meeting while the President is appointed by the Board of Directors. The Company's accounts as well as the administration of the Board of Directors and the President are reviewed by auditors appointed by the Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting adopts principles for the appointment of the Nomination Committee, which formulates proposals to the Annual General Meeting prior to the election and setting of fees for the Board of Directors and auditors. In addition to laws, regulations and the Code, BE Group applies internal governance instruments such as a code of conduct and information policy.

Shareholders

Ownership and share capital

On December 31, 2018, BE Group's share capital amounted to SEK 260,202,480 allocated among 13,010,124 shares. All shares in the Company convey equal rights in every respect. At the end of the year, BE Group had 5,151 shareholders. The Company's largest shareholders were AB Traction, Catella Småbolagsfond, Avanza Pension, The Pure Circle AB and Swedbank Robur Fonder. The proportion of foreign ownership totalled 7,5 percent. At the end of the year, the Company held 26,920 treasury shares (0.2 percent of share capital). More information on the ownership structure of BE Group is available at www.begroup.com.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting considers resolutions regarding: dividends, adoption of the Income Statement and Balance Sheet, discharge of liability for Board members and the President, election of Board members, the Chairman of the Board of Directors and auditors, approval of fees to the Board members and auditors, adoption of executive remuneration guidelines, and, when applicable, adoption of principles for appointing the Nomination Committee. At the Annual General Meeting, shareholders have the opportunity to ask questions about the Company. All Board members, management and the auditors are normally present at the meeting to answer such questions.

The 2018 Annual General Meeting was held on April 26 in Malmö, Sweden. At the Annual General Meeting, 3,824,006 shares were represented, divided among 23 shareholders who participated in person or through a proxy. The shares represented corresponded to 29,5 percent of the total number of shares in BE Group. The Annual General Meeting re-elected Board members Petter Stillström, who was also elected as the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Lars Olof Nilsson, Jörgen Zahlin and Mikael Sjölund and new election of Carina Andersson. The accounting firm Öhrlings PricewaterhouseCoopers AB was re-elected as the auditor for the Company.

Some of the Annual General Meeting's other resolutions were that:

- in accordance with the proposal by the Board of Directors, not to pay a dividend for financial year 2017;
- to pay Board fees totaling SEK 1,260,000, of which an unchanged SEK 420,000 was to the Chairman of the Board of Directors and SEK 210,000 each to the other members elected by the Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting decided that remuneration for work in the audit committee shall be paid in an amount of SEK 150,000 and that no remuneration will be paid for work on the Remuneration Committee;

- to adopt guidelines for remuneration of senior executives, which primarily entail that salaries and other remuneration conditions for management shall be market-based and that variable remuneration should be at most 50 percent of fixed salary. Where notice of termination is issued by BE Group, fixed salary during the period of notice shall not exceed an amount equivalent to at most 12 months' fixed salary;
- to authorize the Board of Directors, on one or several occasions and not later than the 2019 Annual General Meeting, to make decisions regarding the transfer of treasury shares for the purpose of financing smaller corporate acquisitions.

Nomination Committee

As resolved by the Annual General Meeting, the Nomination Committee must consist of four members, who, in addition to the Chairman of the Board of Directors, shall include representatives for each of the three largest shareholders in the Company in terms of voting rights, as of August 31 each year. The names of the three shareholder representatives and the shareholders they represent shall be announced as soon as the Nomination Committee has been appointed and at least six months before the Annual General Meeting. Unless the members agree otherwise, the member who represents the largest shareholder in terms of voting rights shall be Chairman of the Nomination Committee. If a member of the Nomination Committee resigns before the process is complete, a substitute nominated by the same shareholder may take that member's place. If a significant change takes place in the Company's ownership structure after August 31, rules are in place regarding how the composition of the Nomination Committee can be changed. Prior to the 2019 Annual General Meeting, the Nomination Committee consists of Bengt Stillström (AB Traktion), chairman, Petter Stillström, (Chairman of the Board of BE Group), Johan Ahldin, The Pure Circle AB and Alf Svedulf, private incl. companies.

The Nomination Committee is tasked with: submitting to the Annual General Meeting its nominations for Chairman of the Board of Directors and other Board members accompanied by a justified statement regarding the proposal, proposing fees for the Board of Directors and the auditors and any remuneration for committee work, proposing auditors and nominating an individual to serve as the chairman of the Annual General Meeting. The Nomination Committee is also charged with assessing the independence of Board members in relation to the Company and major shareholders.

When preparing its proposal for the Board of Directors before the Annual General Meeting 2018, the Nomination Committee applied the following diversity policy. As a whole, the Board of Directors must have an appropriate combined competence and experience for the activities that are conducted to be able to identify and understand the risks that the business entails. The Nomination Committee strives to achieve diversity on the Board. The objective of the diversity policy is that the Board of Directors shall consist of members with varying industry experience, competence, geographical background and with a varying educational and professional background, which together contribute to an independent and critical questioning of the Board, and an even gender distribution shall be sought. The Annual General Meeting decided to appoint Board members in accordance with the Nomination Committee's proposal, which means that five members were elected, of which one woman and four men. As far as the Nomination Committee's ambitions of a more even gender distribution are concerned, it has not been possible to achieve this, but the Nomination Committee's continued ambition is to create a more even gender distribution on the Board.

As a basis for its proposals to the 2019 Annual General Meeting, the Nomination Committee assessed whether the Board of Directors has a suitable composition and meets the requirements on the Board of Directors imposed by the Company's operations, position and conditions in other regards. The assessment was based on material including relevant sections of the evaluation of the Board's work performed under the Chairman's guidance.

The Board of Directors and its work

Composition

Under the Articles of Association, the Board of Directors of BE Group must consist of at least three and no more than ten Board members elected by the Annual General Meeting for a term that lasts until the end of the next Annual General Meeting. Over the year, the Board of Directors of the Company consisted of five members elected by the 2018 Annual General Meeting: Petter Stillström (Chairman), Carina Andersson, Lars Olof Nilsson, Mikael Sjölund and Jörgen Zahlin, as well as employee representative Mikael Törnros. Please refer to the Annual Report for a more detailed presentation of the Board members. All members are independent in relation to BE Group and executive management. With the exception of Petter Stillström, all Board members are considered independent in relation to BE Group's principal owners.

From Group Management, the President and the CFO normally attend Board meetings and report on the Group's development. Apart from the members of the Board of Directors, other officers of BE Group and external parties participated in Board meetings to present reports on particular issues. The Company's CFO served as the secretary of the Board in 2018.

Rules of procedure of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is appointed by BE Group's shareholders to have ultimate responsibility for the Group's organization and administration of the Group's interests. At the statutory Board of Directors meeting directly following the Annual General Meeting, the Board of Directors adopted rules of procedure that closely regulates its work and responsibility as well as the special work tasks that are the responsibility of the Chairman of the Board.

The Chairman of the Board, Petter Stillström, leads the Board's work and monitors the operation through a continuous dialogue with the President. Through monthly reports and Board meetings, the Board of Directors obtains information about BE Group's economic and financial status. Prior to every Board meeting, the Chairman and the President review those issues that shall be addressed at the meeting. Documentation for the Board's handling of the issues is sent to the Board members approximately one week before every Board of Directors meeting. The Board of Directors has also established sets of instructions for the President and for financial reporting to the Board of Directors and has adopted other special policies.

The Board has an Audit Committee. The members of the committee are appointed annually by the Board of Directors at its statutory meeting following its election by the Annual General Meeting. Instructions to the Committee is included in the rules of procedure of the Board of Directors.

Work of the Board of Directors in 2018

During 2018, the Board of Directors held nine meetings. According to the rules of procedure, the Board of Directors shall meet on five occasions per year, in addition to its statutory meeting. Additional meetings shall be held as necessary. One of the meetings during the year is regularly held at one of BE Group's operative units. The table provides a report of attendance by Board members at the four meetings prior to the Annual General Meeting and the five meetings after the Annual General Meeting. As shown, attendance at Board meetings during the year was excellent.

The Board of Directors, attendance 2018

	Elected	Attendance 2018	Committee work	Attendance 2018	Board- fees	Fee audit- committee	Fee remuneration committee	Independent from the company and Independent of larger owners	Independent of larger owners
Petter Stillström, chairman	2012	9 of 9	Audit Committee Remuneration Committee	8 of 8 1 of 1	420,000	40,000	–	Yes	No
Carina Andersson ¹⁾	2018	4 of 9			140,000			Yes	Yes
Lars Olof Nilsson	2006	9 of 9	Audit Committee	8 of 8	210,000	70,000		Yes	Yes
Jörgen Zahlin	2013	9 of 9	Audit Committee Remuneration Committee	8 of 8 1 of 1	210,000	40,000	–	Yes	Yes
Mikael Sjölund	2016	9 of 9			210,000			Yes	Yes
Charlotte Hansson ²⁾	2014	4 of 9			70,000			Yes	Yes
Esa Niemi ²⁾	2016	4 of 9			70,000			Yes	Yes
Mikael Törnros (E)	2018	9 of 9							

¹⁾ Carina Andersson became board member in connection with the Annual General Meeting in April, 2018.

²⁾ Charlotte Hansson and Esa Niemi withdrew from the Board of Directors in connection with the Annual General Meeting in April, 2018.

Evaluation of the Board of Directors' work

The Chairman ensures that the Board of Directors and its work are evaluated annually and that the result of the evaluation is passed on to the Nomination Committee. The evaluation is made by the Board of Directors itself using a questionnaire where their work within a number of areas are judged. The Chairman of the Board summarizes the evaluation used as the base for a discussion within the Board of Directors regarding the development of the Board of Directors' work. The purpose is to examine how the Board of Directors' work can be more efficient and to clarify potential need of additional skills in the Board of Directors.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee meets prior to every reporting date and where there is a need for additional meetings. The committee prepares a number of questions for the Board of Directors' decision and supports the Board of Directors in its work to carry out its responsibility within the areas, auditing and internal control as well as to quality-assure BE Group's financial reporting, which requires that the Company have a satisfactory organization and appropriate processes. Each year, the Company's auditors formulate a proposed audit policy and present this to the Audit Committee. Once the proposal has been reviewed and commented on by the Committee, a final proposal is submitted for approval by the Board of Directors. The work is focused on assuring the quality and accuracy of financial accounting and reporting, internal financial control efforts, as well as the Group's compliance with applicable regulations. In addition, the Audit Committee has repeated contact with the Company's auditor with the purpose of generating an ongoing exchange of information and to assess the auditor's efforts. The Committee may establish guidelines concerning what services, other than auditing services, which BE Group may procure from the auditor.

The Audit Committee consists of Lars Olof Nilsson (Chairman), Petter Stillström and Jörgen Zahlin and meets the requirements imposed in terms of expertise in accounting or auditing. The work of the Committee is regulated by a special set of instructions adopted by the Board of Directors as part of its agenda. The Audit Committee met eight times in 2018. Meetings of the Audit Committee are minuted and reported orally at Board meetings.

Remuneration Committee

Due to its small size, the Board has found it suitable not to appoint a remuneration committee. This decision was made at the 2018 statutory meeting.

Remuneration to senior executives

Salaries and other terms of employment, pension benefits and the bonus system for the CEO and immediately subordinate managers are handled by the Chairman of the Board in dialogue with the CEO. The Chairman of the Board reports back to the Board who drafts the executive remuneration policies to propose to the Annual General Meeting for resolution. The Board has also been tasked with monitoring and assessing variable remuneration programs for senior executives that were ongoing or terminated during the year and with monitoring and assessing the application of the guidelines for remunerations for senior executives.

Board remuneration

The fees for the Board members elected by the Annual General Meeting are determined by the Annual General Meeting on the basis of the Nomination Committee's proposal. Employee representatives to the Board of Directors do not receive Board members' fees. In accordance with a resolution by the 2018 Annual General Meeting, a fee of SEK 420,000 was paid to the Chairman of the Board for the period extending from the 2018 Annual General Meeting until the 2019 Annual General Meeting. The other Board members were each paid SEK 210,000 for the same term of office. In addition, the members of the Audit Committee were paid fees totaling SEK 150,000, of which SEK 70,000 was paid to the Chairman of the Committee and SEK 40,000 each to the other two members.

Group management

Group management of BE Group have consisted of the President and CEO, the CFO, the Business Area Manager for Finland & Baltics and the Group Sourcing director. The President leads operations within the parameters set by the Board of Directors. BE Group's Group management meets continuously under the leadership of the President in order to follow-up the operations and discuss Group-wide issues and also to formulate proposals for a strategic plan, business plan and investment documentation that the President thereafter presents to the Board of Directors for a decision. A more detailed presentation of Group management is provided in the Annual Report.

Auditors

At the 2018 Annual General Meeting, the auditing firm Öhrlings PricewaterhouseCoopers AB was reelected to be the auditor for a period of one year. Eva Carlsvi, Authorized Public Accountant, is the Auditor-in-Charge. The auditor maintains regular contact with the Audit Committee and Group Management. The auditor works according to an audit plan, into which the opinions of the Board of Directors have been incorporated, and has reported its observations to the Board of Directors. Reports have been submitted during the progress of the audit and in connection with the adoption of the 2018 Year-end Report. The auditor also participates in the Annual General Meeting, where she outlines the audit process and her observations in an audit report. Remuneration to auditors is paid based on calculations in accordance with agreements that have been made. Information regarding remuneration in 2018 is provided in Note 4 of the Annual Report.

Board of Directors' report regarding internal control

The purpose of internal control of financial reporting is to provide reasonable assurance regarding quality and reliability in the external financial reporting and to ensure that the reports are prepared in accordance with accepted accounting standards, applicable laws and provisions and other requirements for listed companies. To ensure this, the Company had the COSO (Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission) framework as a starting point.

Internal control function

The Board of Directors and the Audit Committee follow up BE Group's assessment of internal control by means including discussions with BE Group's auditors. Given the above, the Board of Directors has elected not to maintain a special internal audit unit. To test the internal control environment, a self-assessment is conducted, among other efforts, based on a Group-wide control framework. The Group's CFO reports the results of the test done of the internal control to the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors. BE Group's internal control of financial reporting covers five main areas: establishment of a control environment, risk assessment, control activities, information and communications and follow-up.

Control environment

BE Group has a simple legal and operational structure and an established governance and internal control system. This allows the organization to react quickly to external changes. Operational decisions are made at the Group or business area level, while decisions on strategy, business direction, acquisitions and general financial issues are made by the Board of Directors and Group Management of BE Group. Internal control of financial reporting at BE Group is designed to work within this organization. Clear regulations on delegation of authority and responsibilities are followed within BE Group, which follow Group structure.

Since 2012, the Board of Directors has applied a so-called "whistle blower" policy, which means that all employees have the possibility to anonymously report if they discover improprieties or illegal actions that affect vital interests for BE Group or the life and health of individual persons. The policy applies to improprieties committed by people in executive positions or other key personnel within the Company.

Risk assessment

The risk assessment is based on a risk review that is updated annually and reported to the Audit Committee. Based on the results of this review, focus is set for the internal control work in the future.

Control activities

The risks identified with regard to financial reporting are managed through the Company's control activities, such as authorization controls in IT systems and signature authentication. Detailed economic analysis of business performance including follow-up against business plans and forecasts supplements operations-specific controls and provides an overall assessment of reporting quality.

Information and communication

The Group maintains channels of information and communication that serve to safeguard completeness and accuracy in financial reporting. Policies, manuals and job descriptions are available on the Company intranet and/or in printed form.

Follow-up

The President is responsible for internal control being organized and followed up in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the Board of Directors. Financial control is exercised by the Corporate Finance Department. Financial reporting is analyzed monthly at a detailed level. The Board of Directors has followed up financial reporting at Board meetings and BE Group's auditor has reported its observations to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors has received monthly financial reports and the Company's financial situation was discussed at every Board meeting.

AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

To the general meeting of the shareholders in BE Group AB (publ), corporate identity number 556578-4724.

Engagement and responsibility

It is the board of directors who is responsible for the corporate governance statement for the year 2018 and that it has been prepared in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act.

The scope of the audit

Our examination has been conducted in accordance with FAR's auditing standard RevU 16 The auditor's examination of the corporate governance statement. This means that our examination of the corporate governance statement is different and substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden. We believe that the examination has provided us with sufficient basis for our opinions.

Opinions

A corporate governance statement has been prepared. Disclosures in accordance with chapter 6 section 6 the second paragraph points 2-6 the Annual Accounts Act and chapter 7 section 31 the second paragraph the same law are consistent with the annual accounts and the consolidated accounts and are in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act.

Malmö, 13 March 2019

Öhrlings PricewaterhouseCoopers AB

Eva Carlsvi

Authorised Public Accountant
Auditor-in-Charge

Tomas Hilmarsson

Authorised Public Accountant

ALTERNATIVE PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The Group uses a number of alternative performance measures in its report.

The alternative performance measures that BE Group considers significant are the following:

Underlying operating result (uEBIT)	2018	2017
Operating result	132	57
Reversal of inventory gains (-)/losses (+)	-27	-27
Adjustment for items affecting comparability	12	52
Group	117	82

Net debt	2018	2017
Non-current interest-bearing liabilities	543	519
Current interest-bearing liabilities	5	20
Deduction financial assets	0	0
Deduction cash and equivalents	-108	-61
Group	440	478

Net debt/equity ratio is calculated as net debt divided by equity.

Working capital	2018	2017
Inventories	651	599
Accounts receivables	470	489
Other receivables	63	35
Deduction accounts payables	-468	-479
Deduction other current liabilities	-145	-152
Rounding	1	-
Group	572	492

Average working capital is an average for each period based on quarterly data.

Capital employed	2018	2017
Equity	892	802
Non-current interest bearing liabilities	543	519
Current interest bearing liabilities	5	20
Group	1,440	1,341

Average capital employed is an average for each period based on quarterly data.

MULTI-YEAR SUMMARY

(SEK M unless otherwise stated)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Sales	4,355	4,202	4,155	3,870	4,348	4,803
Earnings measurements						
Gross profit/loss	547	527	524	561	619	669
Underlying gross profit/loss	561	533	536	536	596	643
Operating result (EBIT)	-8	-17	-114	16	57	132
Underlying operating result (uEBIT)	36	18	22	33	82	117
Margin measurements						
Gross margin (%)	12.6	12.5	12.6	14.5	14.2	13.9
Underlying gross margin (%)	12.9	12.7	12.9	13.9	13.7	13.4
Operating margin (%)	-0.2	-0.4	-2.8	0.4	1.3	2.8
Underlying operating margin (%)	0.8	0.4	0.5	0.9	1.9	2.4
Cash flow						
Cash flow from operating activities	-30	-25	-93	78	95	86
Capital structure						
Net debt	851	754	609	562	478	440
Net debt/equity ratio (%)	136	105	78	73	60	49
Working capital at end of period	388	426	525	506	492	572
Working capital (average)	404	439	505	488	514	562
Capital employed at end of period	1,537	1,542	1,427	1,361	1,341	1,440
Capital employed (average)	1,542	1,581	1,523	1,383	1,373	1,408
Working capital tied-up (%)	9.3	10.4	12.2	12.6	11.8	11.7
Return						
Return on capital employed (%)	-0.5	-1.1	-7.5	1.2	4.2	9.4
Per share data ¹⁾						
Earnings per share (SEK)	-20.48	-21.49	-19.47	-1.56	1.87	6.13
Earnings per share after dilution (SEK)	-20.48	-21.49	-19.47	-1.56	1.87	6.13
Proposed dividend per share (SEK)	-	-	-	-	-	1.75
Equity per share (SEK)	253.64	192.78	60.44	59.41	61.77	68.67
Cash flow from operating activities per share (SEK)	-12.12	-7.46	-7.14	5.99	7.35	6.60
Average number of shares outstanding (thousands)	2,472	3,400	8,681	12,983	12,983	12,983
Average number of shares outstanding after dilution (thousands)	2,473	3,401	8,681	12,983	12,983	12,983
Growth						
Sales growth (%)	-13	-4	-1	-7	12	10
of which, organic tonnage growth (%)	-6	-10	-1	-8	-3	4
of which, price and mix changes (%)	-6	4	-2	0	14	3
of which, currency effects (%)	-1	2	2	1	1	3
Other						
Average number of employees	853	782	768	739	700	668
Inventory gains and losses	-14	-6	-12	28	27	27
Shipped tonnage (thousands of tonnes)	455	411	406	374	363	377

¹⁾ A reverse share split 1:20 was carried out in 2016. Comparable figures has therefore been restated.

FINANCIAL DEFINITIONS

Earnings measurements	
Gross profit/loss	Profit after deduction for cost of goods sold.
Underlying gross profit/loss	Underlying gross profit/loss is the reported gross profit/loss adjusted for inventory gains and losses (deductions for gains and additions for losses).
Operating result (EBIT)	Operating result before financial items.
Underlying operating result (uEBIT)	Operating result (EBIT) before items affecting comparability and adjusted for inventory gains and losses (deductions for gains and additions for losses).
Items affecting comparability	Items that do not have any link to the normal operations of the Group or that are of a non-recurring nature, where a reporting together with other items in the consolidated comprehensive income statement would have given a comparison distortion effect that would have made it difficult to judge the development of the ordinary operations for an outside viewer. Replaces previous concept "non-recurring items".
Margin measurements	
Gross margin	Gross profit/loss as a percentage of net sales.
Underlying gross margin	Underlying gross profit/loss as a percentage of net sales.
Operating margin	Operating result as a percentage of net sales
Underlying operating margin	Underlying operating result (uEBIT) as a percentage of net sales.
Capital structure	
Net debt	Interest-bearing liabilities less cash and equivalents and financial assets.
Net debt/equity ratio	Net debt divided by equity.
Working capital	Inventories and current receivables less current liabilities, excluding provisions and interest-bearing liabilities.
Working capital (average)	Inventories and current receivables less current liabilities, excluding provisions and interest-bearing liabilities. This measure represents an average for each period based on quarterly data.
Capital employed	Equity plus interest-bearing liabilities.
Capital employed (average)	Equity plus interest-bearing liabilities. This measure represents an average for each period based on quarterly data.
Working capital tied-up	Average working capital, as a percentage of annual net sales.
Return	
Return on capital employed	Annual operating result, as a percentage of average capital employed.
Per share data	
Earnings per share	Profit/loss for the period divided by the average number of shares outstanding during the period.
Earnings per share after dilution	Profit/loss for the period divided by the average number of shares outstanding during the period after dilution.
Equity per share	Equity divided by the number of shares outstanding at the end of the period.
Cash flow per share from operating activities	Cash flow from operating activities divided by the average number of shares for the period.
Shares outstanding at the end of the period	Shares outstanding at the end of the period adjusted for rights issues and share splits.
Shares outstanding at the end of the period after dilution	Number of shares at the end of the period adjusted for rights issues and share splits. Any dilution has been taken into account.
Average number of shares	Weighted average number of shares outstanding during the period, adjusted for rights issues and share splits.
Average number of shares after dilution	Weighted average number of shares outstanding during the period, adjusted for rights issues and share splits. Any dilution has been taken into account.
Growth	
Sales growth	Change in the net sales of the business compared with the previous period, in percent.
Other	
Average number of employees	The number of employees recalculated as full-time positions and as an average for reporting period.
Shipped volumes	BE Group products sold during the period in thousands of tonnes.
Inventory gains and losses	The difference between the cost of goods sold at acquisition value and the cost of goods sold at replacement price.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 3.00 p.m. on Thursday 25 April 2019, at Malmö Börshus, Skeppsbron 2 in Malmö.

Notice of attendance

Shareholders who wish to attend the Annual General Meeting must:

- be recorded in the share register kept by Euroclear Sweden AB on Friday 17 April 2019 and
- notify the company of their intention to attend the meeting no later than on Friday 17 April 2019, preferably before 12.00 noon.

Notice of attendance shall be made by telephone +46 40 38 42 00 or on the company website, www.begroup.com. The notice of attendance shall state name, personal identity number/corporate identity number, address, telephone number, shareholding and number of advisors. Shareholders represented by proxy must issue a power of attorney for the proxy. A proxy form is available at the company and on the company website. Representative of a legal entity shall submit a copy of the certificate of registration or similar papers of authorization indicating persons authorized to sign on behalf of the legal entity. In order to facilitate the entrance to the meeting, the original power of attorney and documents of authorization should be provided to the company at the address BE Group AB, Box 225, SE 201 22 Malmö, Sweden, on Wednesday 24 April 2019 at the latest.

Nominee-registered shares

In order to participate in the meeting, shareholders with nominee-registered shares should request their bank or broker to have the shares temporarily owner-registered with Euroclear Sweden AB. Such registration must be effected by Friday 17 April 2019. Shareholders must, well in advance of this date, instruct their nominees to carry out such registration.

Notice

The notice has been published in Post och Inrikes Tidningar (The Official Swedish Gazette) and is available at the Company website, www.begroup.com. An announcement of notice publication was also published in Svenska Dagbladet and Sydsvenskan.

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