

Note 27 - Measurement of fair value of financial instruments

Financial instruments at fair value are classified at various levels.

Level 1: Valuation based on quoted prices in an active market

Fair value of financial instruments that are traded in the active markets is based on market price on the balance sheet date. A market is considered active if market prices are easily and regularly available from a stock exchange, dealer, broker, industry group, price-setting service or regulatory authority, and these prices represent actual and regularly occurring market transactions at an arm's length. This category also includes quoted shares and Treasury bills.

Level 2: Valuation based on observable market data

Level 2 consists of instruments that are valued by the use of information that does not consist in quoted prices, but where the prices are directly or indirectly observable for the assets or liabilities concerned, and which also include quoted prices in non-active markets.

Level 3: Valuation based on other than observable data

If valuation data are not available for level 1 and 2, valuation methods are applied that are based on non-observable information.

The following table presents the Group's assets and liabilities measured at fair value at 31 December 2016:

Assets (NOKm)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Financial assets at fair value through profit/loss				
- Derivatives	44	4,708	-	4,752
- Bonds and money market certificates	2,511	15,046	-	17,557
- Equity instruments	959	-	524	1,483
- Fixed interest loans	-	43	3,783	3,826
Financial assets available for sale				
- Equity instruments	-	-	60	60
Total assets	3,514	19,796	4,367	27,676
Liabilities	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Financial liabilities through profit/loss				
- Derivatives	48	4,026	-	4,074
- Equity instruments	173	8	-	181
Total liabilities	221	4,034	-	4,255

The following table presents the Group's assets and liabilities measured at fair value at 31 December 2015:

Assets (NOKm)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Financial assets at fair value through profit/loss				
- Derivatives	39	7,485	-	7,524
- Bonds and money market certificates	2,207	13,545	-	15,752
- Equity instruments	803	-	574	1,377
- Fixed interest loans	-	43	4,405	4,447
Financial assets available for sale				
- Equity instruments	-	-	108	108
Total assets	3,048	21,073	5,087	29,207
Liabilities	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Financial liabilities through profit/loss				
- Derivatives	44	5,371	-	5,414
- Equity instruments	385	9	-	394
Total liabilities	429	5,380	-	5,808

The following table presents the changes in the instruments classified in level 3 as at 31 December 2016:

(NOKm)	Fixed interest loans	Equity instruments through profit/loss	Equity instruments available for sale	Total
Opening balance 1 January	4,405	574	108	5,087
Investment in periode	770	28	1	799
Disposals in the periode	-1,347	-66	-	-1,413
Gain or loss on financial instruments	-44	-13	-50	-106
Closing balance	3,783	524	60	4,367

The following table presents the changes in the instruments classified in level 3 as at 31 December 2015:

(NOKm)	Fixed interest loans	Equity instruments through profit/loss	Equity instruments available for sale	Total
Opening balance 1 January	3,277	625	35	3,937
Investment in periode	2,224	20	-	2,244
Disposals in the periode	-1,000	-63	-2	-1,065
Gain or loss on financial instruments	-33	-7	75	34
Change in valuation model for fixed interest loans	-64	-	-	-64
Closing balance	4,405	574	108	5,087

Valuation method

The valuation method applied is adapted to each financial instrument, and is intended to utilise as much of the information that is available in the market as possible.

The method for valuation of financial instruments in level 2 and 3 is described in the following:

Loans to customers (level 3)

The loans consist for the most part of fixed interest loans denominated in Norwegian kroner. The value of the fixed interest loans is determined such that agreed interest flows are discounted over the term of the loan by a discount factor that is adjusted for margin requirements. The discount factor is raised by 10 points when calculating sensitivity.

Short-term paper and bonds (level 2 and 3)

Valuation on level 2 is based for the most part on observable market information in the form of interest rate curves, exchange rates and credit margins for the individual credit and the bond's or certificate's characteristics. For paper valued under level 3 the valuation is based on indicative prices from a third party or comparable paper.

Equity instruments (level 3)

Shares that are classified to level 3 include essentially investments in unquoted shares. The owner interests in Nordito Property and Bank 1 Oslo Akershus are valued each quarter by SpareBank 1 Gruppen and distributed to all Alliance banks. The valuations are based on an average of five different methods in which the last known transaction price, earnings per share, dividend per share and EBITDA are inputs in the valuations. Determination of fair value for the shares of Polaris Media is based on valuation undertaken by SpareBank 1 Markets. The latter is based on value-adjusted equity capital.

Shares that are classified to level 3 also include a total of NOK 226 million in Private Equity investments, property funds, hedge funds and unquoted shares through the company SpareBank 1 Invest. The valuations are in all essentials based on reporting from managers of the funds who utilise cash flow based models or multiples when determining fair value. The Group does not have full access to information on all the elements in these valuations and is therefore unable to determine alternative assumptions.

The owner interest in Visa Norge FLI is considered to be a financial asset and is classified to the category 'available for sale'. SpareBank 1 SMN has calculated the fair value of its portion of Visa Norge FLI at NOK 22.7 million. Sensitivity at level 3 measurement: Since the estimated value of Visa Norge is calculated by the association we do not have access to all significant inputs, but SpareBank 1 SMN has taken into account a liquidity discount on the shares of Visa Inc. of 20 per cent. Had this been adjusted to 25 per cent, the fair value measurement would have been 1 million lower.

Financial derivatives (level 2)

Financial derivatives at level 2 include for the most part currency futures and interest rate and exchange rate swaps. Valuation is based on observable interest rate curves. In addition the item includes derivatives related to FRAs. These are valued with a basis in observable prices in the market. Derivatives classified to level 2 also include equity derivatives related to SpareBank 1 Markets' market-making activities. The bulk of these derivatives refer to the most sold shares on Oslo Børs, and the valuation is based on the price of the actual/underlying share and observable or calculated volatility.

Sensitivity analyses, level 3

(NOK million)	Book value	Effect from change in reasonable possible alternative assumptions
Fixed interest loans	3,783	-9
Equity instruments through profit/loss*)	524	-
Equity instruments available for sale	60	-1

*) As described above, the information to perform alternative calculations are not available