

Summary - Group half year results for the six months to 31 January 2021

The Close Brothers Group plc half year results for the six months to 31 January 2021 are now available. Please find a summary of the key information below. The full report can be found at [closebrothers.com](https://www.closebrothers.com).

Our Group purpose

Our purpose is to help the people and businesses of Britain thrive over the long term. 'Our Responsibility' is also a core component of our model, whether it be through attracting and bringing out the very best of our people, being there when it matters for our customers and clients, or continuing with our efforts towards reducing our impact on the environment.

Our specialist businesses

Close Brothers Group provides lending, wealth management services and securities trading. Operating principally in the UK, we employ over 3,700 people.

- **Banking** – specialist finance, lending and deposit taking services for over three million customers and intermediaries
- **Asset Management** – financial advice and investment management services to private clients across the UK
- **Securities** – trading and execution services through Winterflood

Group highlights

- Adjusted operating profit: **£128.5 million**
- Return on opening equity: **13.2%**
- Adjusted basic earnings per share: **64.0p**
- Ordinary dividend per share: **18.0p**

Financial strength

- Capital base remains strong: common equity tier 1 ratio at 15.3% (increase from 14.1% at 31 July 2020)
- The group generates income from a diverse range of activities, not relying on one profit centre or sector
- Our loans are predominantly secured and conservatively underwritten, with a deep expertise and relationship driven approach present through our lending, securities and asset management businesses

Credit ratings

Strong credit ratings have been affirmed by Moody's Investors Services and Fitch Ratings:

- Moody's rates Close Brothers Group A3/P2 and Close Brothers Limited Aa3/P1 with "negative" outlook
- Fitch rates Close Brothers Group and Close Brothers Limited A-/F2 with "negative" outlook

Fundamental strengths of Close Brothers remain unchanged

Chief Executive, Adrian Sainsbury, said "We are navigating a challenging external environment successfully by supporting our customers and clients and maintaining the key strengths of our business model, whilst maximising the opportunities available to us."

He highlights:

- The fundamental strengths of our business model have been evidenced throughout the current COVID-19 crisis and our operational resilience leaves us well placed to continue helping the people and businesses of Britain thrive as they emerge from the crisis and over the long term
- Our responsible approach is key to positioning us well for the long term, whether it be through attracting and bringing out the very best of our people, being there when it matters for our customers and clients, or continuing with our efforts towards reducing our impact on the environment

Close Brothers Savings

Close Brothers Savings provides a range of savings accounts to UK residents and businesses. With competitive interest rates, these include fixed term deposits, fixed rate cash ISAs, notice accounts and SIPP and SSAS pension accounts. Highlights in our area this year include:

- Deposits overall increased 9% to £6.4 billion (from £5.9 billion in 2020)
- Our new customer deposit platform has enabled us to now offer a wider range of deposit products, as well as improve customer experience
- Expanded our product offering, including the launch of a 35 Day Retail Notice Account and Fixed Rate Cash ISAs
- Continued positive feedback and good level of take up of our online channel with c.11,000 customers now registered