

VODAFONE GROUP PUBLIC LTD CO

Form 6-K

May 23, 2012

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 6-K

Report of Foreign Private Issuer

**Pursuant to Rules 13a-16 or 15d-16 under
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Dated May 23, 2012

Commission File Number: 001-10086

VODAFONE GROUP

PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

VODAFONE HOUSE, THE CONNECTION, NEWBURY, BERKSHIRE, RG14 2FN, ENGLAND

(Address of principal executive offices)

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

Edgar Filing: VODAFONE GROUP PUBLIC LTD CO - Form 6-K

Form 20-F

Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes

No

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

Edgar Filing: VODAFONE GROUP PUBLIC LTD CO - Form 6-K

This Report on Form 6-K contains a news release dated 22 May 2012 entitled Vodafone announces results for the year ended 31 March 2012

Vodafone announces results for the year ended 31 March 2012

22 May 2012

Robust financial performance in a difficult environment

- Group revenue up 1.2% to £46.4 billion; full year organic service revenue growth +1.5%*; Q4 +2.3%*
- EBITDA down 1.3% at £14.5 billion; EBITDA margin 31.2%, down 0.8 percentage points (0.6 percentage points before restructuring costs)
- Verizon Wireless service revenue up 7.3%*; our share of profits up 9.3%* to £4.9 billion
- Adjusted operating profit at £11.5 billion, up 2.5%* on an organic basis
- Gain on disposal of investments of £3.5 billion¹ and impairment charges of £4.0 billion
- Free cash flow £6.1 billion after capex of £6.4 billion
- Final dividend per share of 6.47 pence, giving total dividends per share for the year of 13.52 pence (including 4.0 pence special dividend), up +51.9%

Financial highlights

	Year ended 31 March 2012 £m	Reported %	Change year-on-year Organic %
Group revenue	46,417	+1.2	+2.2
Group service revenue	42,885	+0.3	+1.5
Europe	29,914	(0.6)	(1.1)
Africa, Middle East and Asia Pacific (AMAP)	12,751	+3.7	+8.0
Adjusted operating profit	11,532	(2.4)	+2.5
Free cash flow	6,105	(13.4)	
EPS	13.74p	(9.6)	
Adjusted EPS	14.91p	(11.0)	
Total ordinary dividends per share²	9.52p	+7.0	

Continued strategic progress

Edgar Filing: VODAFONE GROUP PUBLIC LTD CO - Form 6-K

- Service revenue growth driven by focus on data (+22.2%*), enterprise (+2.2%*) and emerging markets (India +19.5%*3, Vodacom +7.1%*, Turkey +25.1%*)
- Smartphone penetration in Europe 26.9%, +8.3 percentage points year-on-year; 43.2% of consumer contract revenue in our major European markets from integrated tariffs in Q4
- £14.8 billion raised from disposals since September 2010, of which £6.8 billion committed to share buybacks programme now 91% complete
- £2.9 billion income dividend received from Verizon Wireless (VZW), of which £2.0 billion was paid out as a special dividend to Vodafone shareholders

Guidance for the 2013 financial year

- On an underlying basis, we expect growth in adjusted operating profit and stability in free cash flow
- Adjusted operating profit expected to be in the range of £11.1 billion to £11.9 billion, reflecting the weaker euro offset by continued profit growth from VZW
- Free cash flow expected to be in the range of £5.3 billion to £5.8 billion, reflecting the weaker euro and the loss of the dividend from SFR

Vittorio Colao, Group Chief Executive, commented:

Our focus on the key growth areas of data, emerging markets and enterprise is positioning us well in a difficult macroeconomic environment. Our commercial performance and our ability to leverage scale continue to be strong, enabling us to gain or hold market share in most of our key markets, and reduce the rate of margin decline. Our robust cash generation and the dividend received from Verizon Wireless have enabled us to translate this operational success into good returns for shareholders.

Our goal over the next three years is to continue to strengthen our technology and commercial platforms through reliable and secure high speed data networks, significantly enhanced customer service across all channels, and improved data pricing models, to enrich customers' experience and maximise our share of value in the markets in which we operate.

Notes:

* All amounts in this document marked with an * represent organic growth which presents performance on a comparable basis, both in terms of merger and acquisition activity and movements in foreign exchange rates. At the start of Q3 the Group revised its intra-group roaming charges. Whilst neutral to Group revenue and profitability, these changes do have an impact on reported service revenue by country and regionally from Q3 onwards. Whilst prior period reported revenue has not been restated, to ensure comparability in organic growth rates, country and regional revenue in the prior financial year have been recalculated based on the new pricing structure to form the basis for our organic calculations.

1 Includes a £3.4 billion gain on disposal of the Group's 44% interest in SFR and a £0.1 billion net after tax gain on disposal of the Group's 24.4% interest in Polkomtelt.

2 Excludes the special dividend of 4.0 pence per share paid out of the VZW income dividend received.

3 Financial amounts in relation to India comprise Vodafone India Limited, the Group's share of Indus Towers Limited and certain Indian shared service functions.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S STATEMENT

Financial review

Our overall financial performance this year has been steady. Our major emerging markets operations have had a very strong year. In addition, Verizon Wireless, our 45% owned associate in the United States, combined continued good revenue growth with substantial cash flow. On the other hand, the tough macroeconomic and regulatory environment in much of Europe has made revenue growth in that region increasingly challenging.

However, on a relative basis, we have held or gained share in most of our major markets, continuing last year's trend. The quality of our network continues to improve, with high speed data now available across a growing proportion of our voice network in our European markets, and low frequency spectrum for 4G/LTE services now secured in Italy and Spain. Cash flow generation and shareholder remuneration, even after sustained network investment, continue to be significant.

Group revenue for the year was up 1.2% to £46.4 billion, with Group organic service revenue up 1.5%* and data revenue up 22.2%*. Group EBITDA margin fell 0.8 percentage points, as a result of continuing high levels of commercial costs associated with the migration to smartphones, and the difficult trading environment in Spain in particular. Group EBITDA was £14.5 billion, down 1.3% year-on-year, but flat organically before restructuring costs.

Group adjusted operating profit was £11.5 billion, down 2.4% year-on-year but at the top of our guidance range of £11.0 billion to £11.8 billion based on guidance exchange rates. The decline in adjusted operating profit was due to the sale of our interest in SFR at the start of the year; on an organic basis, adjusted operating profit was up 2.5%*, as a result of the good performance at VZW.

We recognised £3.5 billion of net gains on the disposals of our interests in SFR and Polkomtel, and we recorded impairment charges of £4.0 billion relating to our businesses in Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece primarily driven by lower projected cash flows within business plans and an increase in discount rates, resulting from adverse changes in the economic environment.

Free cash flow was £6.1 billion and within our guidance range of £6.0 billion to £6.5 billion for the year. The year-on-year decline reflected the loss of dividends from China Mobile Limited, the reduction in dividends from SFR, and the conclusion of our prior year working capital programme. Capex was up 2.3% at £6.4 billion, as we continued to maintain our significant level of investment to support our network strategy. In addition to our reported free cash flow we received an income dividend of US\$4.5 billion (£2.9 billion) from VZW.

Adjusted earnings per share was 14.91 pence, down 11.0% on last year. The decline was driven by the loss of our share of SFR and Polkomtel profits, the loss of income from our interests in China Mobile Limited and SoftBank, and higher finance charges as the result of our decision to take advantage of low prevailing interest rates to fix a higher proportion of our debt. The Board is

Edgar Filing: VODAFONE GROUP PUBLIC LTD CO - Form 6-K

recommending a final dividend per share of 6.47 pence, to give total ordinary dividends per share of 9.52 pence, up 7.0% year-on-year. During the year we also paid a special dividend of 4.0 pence per share, paid out of the income dividend we received from VZW. Total dividends per share were therefore up 51.9%.

Europe

Organic service revenue in Europe was down 1.1%* year-on-year. Excluding the impact of regulated cuts to mobile termination rates (MTRs), service revenue grew by 1.4%*. As in the prior year, we saw a broad divide between the more stable major markets of northern Europe, with Germany, the UK and the Netherlands all growing; and the much weaker markets of southern Europe, with Italy and Spain suffering from strong competition and a very poor macroeconomic environment.

Data revenue growth was strong at 20.2%*, with smartphone penetration on contract customers of 44.9%, up 11.5 percentage points during the year. We have continued our major commercial push towards integrated voice, SMS and data tariffs, so that in the final quarter, 43.2% of consumer contract service revenue in our major European markets came from customers on integrated tariffs.

Organic EBITDA was down 4.5%*, and the EBITDA margin fell 1.5* percentage points. The decline in EBITDA margin was almost entirely driven by margin erosion in Spain, where we put through significant price cuts during the year. Elsewhere, we benefited from increased cost efficiency.

AMAP

Organic service revenue growth in AMAP was 8.0%*. Our two major businesses, India and Vodacom, reported growth of 19.5%* and 7.1%* respectively. In India, pricing showed clear signs of stabilisation after a prolonged price war. In South Africa, growth continued to be strong, despite significant price cuts on data tariffs. In Australia, revenue declined sharply as our network perception continued to suffer after service issues experienced more than a year ago.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S STATEMENT

Organic EBITDA was up 7.8%* with EBITDA margin down 0.1* percentage points. EBITDA margins in our two biggest AMAP businesses, Vodacom and India, increased, but this positive impact was offset by a significant decline in the EBITDA margin in Australia.

Verizon Wireless

Our share of the net income of VZW represented 42.2% of our Group adjusted operating profit. VZW enjoyed another very strong year, with organic service revenue up 7.3%* and EBITDA up 7.9%*. Our share of profits from VZW amounted to £4.9 billion, up 9.3%* year-on-year. In December 2011 VZW announced the proposed acquisition of 122 Advanced Wireless Services spectrum licenses, covering a population of 259 million, from SpectrumCo for US\$3.6 billion (£2.3 billion).

Update on strategic priorities

1) *Mobile data*

Data services offer the single biggest growth opportunity for the mobile industry since the launch of voice services over 25 years ago. Increasing data speeds, combined with the proliferation of new mobile devices and customer applications, are leading to rapid adoption. Our success in data is absolutely central to our strategy.

Data revenue was up 22.2%* year-on-year, and now represents 14.5% of Group service revenue. We have continued to stimulate data adoption by encouraging customers to upgrade to smartphones, and offering a broad portfolio of these handsets across a range of price points. Smartphone penetration in Europe is now 44.9% of contract customers, or 26.9% of the total European base. The proportion of these customers who now take some form of data inclusive bundle has reached 76.9%.

In addition, we have made good progress on integrated tariffs, which combine allowances for voice, SMS and data in one monthly fee. In Q4, 43.2% of consumer contract revenue in Europe was from customers on integrated tariffs. This gives us improved visibility of revenue and reduces our exposure to customers using data bundles to substitute voice and SMS usage.

Network quality is key to our data strategy, and we continue to make significant investments to enhance the coverage, reliability and speed of our service. 82% of our European network can now deliver speeds of up to 14.4 Mbps, compared to 66% 12 months ago. In Germany and Portugal we have launched fourth generation LTE services, offering yet higher speeds and quicker response times. During the year we spent £1.4 billion acquiring spectrum in Italy, Spain, Greece, Portugal and Hungary.

2) Enterprise and total communications

The enterprise market, where Vodafone is already a leading player, offers attractive growth opportunities. Multinationals and smaller companies alike are looking not only to manage costs but also to move to converged platforms and improve mobile connectivity and productivity for their workforces making the choice of a mobile telecoms provider an increasingly strategic one.

Group enterprise revenue growth was 2.2%* and represented 23% of our overall service revenue. Within this, Vodafone Global Enterprise, which serves our largest multinational customers, achieved revenue growth of 11%, driven by customer wins and increased penetration of existing accounts. Our broad geographical footprint, further extended through our partner market agreements, is a key differentiator for multinational accounts.

At the other end of the scale, Vodafone One Net, our converged voice proposition targeted at small-to-medium-sized businesses, is now live in six countries with over two million end users with over half a million new users this year.

3) Emerging markets

Emerging markets offer long-term growth potential for mobile operators. Voice penetration, though already high, still has further scope to grow and has been a key enabler of development and economic growth. Data remains in its infancy in most emerging markets, but we expect most customers experience of the internet to be entirely mobile given the relative lack of fixed line infrastructure. Finally, the prospects for strong GDP growth over the longer term is supportive of increased consumer wealth and spending.

Our major emerging markets operations, Vodacom, India and Turkey, saw organic service revenue growth of 7.1%*, 19.5%* and 25.1%* respectively year-on-year. We expect these and our other emerging markets to represent an increasing proportion of our revenue, profit and cash flow in the coming years.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S STATEMENT

4) *New services*

Machine-to-machine (M2M) platforms, mobile commerce and operator billing, among other new services, all offer potential for incremental growth. We made good progress in all these areas in the last 12 months. Growth in M2M, driven by the automotive and utilities sectors, has been strong, with M2M SIMs growing from 5.3 million to 7.8 million year-on-year. In mobile commerce, we continued to expand M-Pesa, our mobile money transfer service. Total active users now number 14.4 million, and the service is established in six markets. During the year we launched a trial in Rajasthan in India, with a view to a full launch in the 2012/13 financial year.

Operator billing allows customers to pay for mobile applications and other goods and services using their Vodafone monthly phone bill. During the year, we were the first to launch the service in Europe for the Android market, and it is also available on the Nokia and Blackberry platforms.

5) *Liquidity or cash flow from our non-controlled interests*

In the 2011 financial year we realised £7.2 billion from the sale of our stake in China Mobile Limited and our interests in SoftBank. This strong progress continued in the 2012 financial year with the sale of our 44% holding in SFR, the French operator, for £6.8 billion, and our 24.4% interest in Polkomtel, the Polish operator, for £0.8 billion. Furthermore, VZW paid an income dividend of US\$10 billion, of which our 45% interest equated to US\$4.5 billion (£2.9 billion).

As a result of these developments, we have now sold all our significant non-controlled interests apart from VZW, where we believe future prospects for value creation and cash generation remain strong.

6) *Disciplined capital allocation*

Our capital allocation strategy aims to balance a strong balance sheet and low financing costs with a consistent level of reinvestment into the business and attractive shareholder remuneration. During the year we maintained our low single A credit rating while at the same time investing £6.4 billion in capital expenditure to continue to deliver on our network strategy.

Our returns to shareholders have been exceptional this year. From the proceeds from our recent disposals we have committed a total of £6.8 billion to share buybacks, which we expect to complete within the next few weeks. In addition, we paid a special dividend of 4.0 pence per share from the VZW income dividend, on top of the regular dividend of 9.52 pence. Over the last four years we have returned a total of £25.9 billion in cash to shareholders – equivalent to approximately 30% of our market capitalisation as at 31 March 2012.

Prospects for the 2013 financial year

Vodafone is well positioned for the coming year. We have continued to gain revenue share in many of our markets, as we lead the migration to smartphones and the adoption of data services by the mass market. Our exposure to the enterprise segment and our emerging market assets will continue to be strategic drivers of our performance and, with VZW set for another strong year, our overall geographical exposure is a positive differentiator. We have a strong balance sheet and will continue our major focus on shareholder remuneration, while reinvesting substantially in our network to enhance the customer experience.

Nevertheless, the environment in Europe is set to remain very difficult. Weak consumer demand from poor macroeconomic conditions, a harsh regulatory backdrop and ongoing competition create material barriers to growth. MTRs alone will have a negative impact, similar in percentage terms to the 2012 financial year, on service revenue growth in the 2013 financial year.

On an underlying basis, excluding foreign exchange rate movements, we expect growth in adjusted operating profit, and stability in free cash flow, compared with the 2012 financial year.

Adjusted operating profit is expected to be in the range of £11.1 billion to £11.9 billion.

We anticipate free cash flow for the coming year of £5.3 billion to £5.8 billion. The loss of dividends from SFR following the sale of our 44% stake, as well as a weaker euro year-on-year, are the main differences from the 2012 financial year. We expect capital expenditure to remain broadly steady on a constant currency basis.

We expect the Group EBITDA margin decline to continue its improving trend, supported by continued strong growth and operating leverage in our AMAP region, and improving control of commercial costs in Europe.

We remain committed to continuing to deliver a good return to our shareholders through the achievement of our targets for free cash flow and dividend growth; our focused investment in profitable growth areas; and our ongoing capital discipline.

GROUP FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	Page	2012 £m	2011 £m	Reported	% change Organic
<u>Financial information</u> ¹					
Revenue	23	46,417	45,884	1.2	2.2
Operating profit	23	11,187	5,596	99.9	
Profit before taxation	23	9,549	9,498	0.5	
Profit for the financial year	23	7,003	7,870	(11.0)	
Basic earnings per share (pence)	23	13.74p	15.20p	(9.6)	
Capital expenditure	18	6,365	6,219	2.3	
Cash generated by operations	18	14,824	15,392	(3.7)	
<u>Performance reporting</u> ^{1 2}					
Group EBITDA	8	14,475	14,670	(1.3)	(0.6)
Group EBITDA margin		31.2%	32.0%	(0.8pp)	(0.9pp)
Adjusted operating profit	8, 31	11,532	11,818	(2.4)	2.5
Adjusted profit before tax	10, 31	9,918	11,003	(9.9)	
Adjusted effective tax rate	10	25.3%	24.5%		
Adjusted profit attributable to equity shareholders	10, 31	7,550	8,776	(14.0)	
Adjusted earnings per share (pence)	10, 31	14.91p	16.75p	(11.0)	
Free cash flow ³	18	6,105	7,049	(13.4)	
Net debt	18, 19	24,425	29,858	(18.2)	

Notes:

1 Amounts presented at 31 March or for the year then ended.

2 See page 28 for Use of non-GAAP financial information and page 33 for Definitions of terms .

3 All references to free cash flow are to amounts before licence and spectrum payments. For the year ended 31 March 2012, payments in respect of a tax case settlement, tax relating to the disposal of our 24.4% interest in Polkomtel, income dividend received from VZW in January 2012 and the return of a court deposit made in respect of the India tax case are also excluded. For the year ended 31 March 2011, other items excluded included tax relating to the disposal of China Mobile Limited, payments in respect of a tax case settlement, proceeds from the SoftBank disposal and a court deposit made in respect of the India tax case.

GUIDANCE

Please see page 28 for Use of non-GAAP financial information , page 33 for Definitions of terms and page 34 for Forward-looking statements .

Performance against 2012 financial year guidance

Based on guidance foreign exchange rates, our adjusted operating profit for the 2012 financial year was £11.8 billion, at the top end of the £11 billion to £11.8 billion range set in May 2011. On the same basis, our free cash flow was £6.2 billion, in the middle of the £6.0 billion to £6.5 billion range.

2013 financial year guidance

	Adjusted operating profit £bn		Free cash flow £bn	
2012 reported performance	11.5		6.1	
SFR/Polkomtel contribution and restructuring cost			(0.2)	
Foreign exchange ¹	(0.4)		(0.3)	
2012 financial rebased reported	11.1		5.6	
2013 financial year guidance	11.1	11.9	5.3	5.8

Guidance for the 2013 financial year is based on our current assessment of the global macroeconomic outlook and assumes foreign exchange rates of £1: 1.23 and £1:\$1.62. In addition, we will no longer receive a dividend from SFR after the sale of our stake during the 2012 financial year. We have restated the 2012 financial year adjusted operating profit and free cash flow for both these changes in the table above.

Therefore, on an underlying basis, we expect growth in adjusted operating profit, and stability in free cash flow, compared with the 2012 financial year.

Adjusted operating profit is expected to be in the range of £11.1 billion to £11.9 billion and free cash flow in the range of £5.3 billion to £5.8 billion, excluding any income dividends received from VZW.

We expect the Group EBITDA margin decline to continue its improving trend, supported by continued strong growth and operating leverage in our AMAP region, and improving control of commercial costs in Europe. We expect capital expenditure to remain broadly steady on a constant currency basis.

In November 2010 we gave annual guidance ranges for organic service revenue growth and free cash flow which were based on the prevailing macroeconomic environment, regulatory framework and foreign exchange rates. Given larger MTR reductions than previously envisaged, we now expect organic service revenue growth in the 2013 financial year to be slightly below our previous medium term guidance range. We will provide an update on revenue prospects for the 2014 financial year when we publish our results for the year ending 31 March 2013. We expect the Group EBITDA margin to stabilise by March 2014.

Our medium term free cash flow guidance is £5.5 billion to £6.5 billion per annum to March 2014. This was based on the prevailing foreign exchange rates in November 2010, including an exchange rate of £1: 1.15. Based on the £1: 1.23 foreign exchange rate used for the 2013 financial guidance, the equivalent range is £5.2 billion to £6.2 billion. This cash generation underpins the three year 7% per annum dividend per share growth target issued in May 2010. We continue to expect that total ordinary dividends per share will be no less than 10.18 pence for the 2013 financial year.

Assumptions

Guidance for the 2013 financial year and the medium term is based on our current assessment of the global macroeconomic outlook and assumes foreign exchange rates of £1: 1.23 and £1:\$1.62. It excludes the impact of licence and spectrum purchases, income dividends from VZW, material one-off tax-related payments, restructuring costs and any fundamental structural change to the eurozone. It also assumes no material change to the current structure of the Group.

With respect to the 7% per annum dividend per share growth target, as the Group's free cash flow is predominantly generated by companies operating within the eurozone, we have assumed that the euro to sterling exchange rate remains within 5% of the above guidance foreign exchange rate.

Actual foreign exchange rates may vary from the foreign exchange rate assumptions used. A 1% change in the euro to sterling exchange rate would impact adjusted operating profit by £40 million and free cash flow by approximately £30 million and a 1% change in the dollar to sterling exchange rate would impact adjusted operating profit by approximately £50 million.

Note:

1. Impact of rebasing the 2012 reported performance using the 2013 financial year guidance foreign exchange rates of £1: 1.23 and £1:\$1.62.

GUIDANCE

	Page
Financial results	8
Liquidity and capital resources	18
Other significant developments	22
Consolidated financial statements	23
Use of non-GAAP financial information	28
Additional information	29
Other information (including forward-looking statements)	33

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Group¹

	Europe	Africa, Middle East and Asia Pacific	Non- Controlled Interests and Common Functions ²	Eliminations	2012 £m	2011 £m	% change £	Organic
Voice revenue	16,445	9,074	175		25,694	27,213		
Messaging revenue	4,310	931	35		5,276	5,082		
Data revenue	4,690	1,520	23		6,233	5,122		
Fixed line revenue	3,178	440			3,618	3,402		
Other service revenue	1,291	786	39	(52)	2,064	1,919		
Service revenue	29,914	12,751	272	(52)	42,885	42,738	0.3	1.5
Other revenue	2,267	1,117	151	(3)	3,532	3,146		
Revenue	32,181	13,868	423	(55)	46,417	45,884	1.2	2.2
Direct costs	(7,589)	(3,661)	(74)	52	(11,272)	(11,322)		
Customer costs ³	(7,192)	(2,289)	(37)		(9,518)	(8,951)		
Operating expenses ³	(6,955)	(3,803)	(397)	3	(11,152)	(10,941)		
EBITDA	10,445	4,115	(85)		14,475	14,670	(1.3)	(0.6)
Depreciation and amortisation:								
Acquired intangibles	(96)	(736)	(3)		(835)	(1,106)		
Purchased licences	(1,100)	(201)	(1)		(1,302)	(1,177)		
Other	(3,992)	(1,742)	(35)		(5,769)	(5,684)		
Share of result in associates	3	36	4,924		4,963	5,115		
Adjusted operating profit	5,260	1,472	4,800		11,532	11,818	(2.4)	2.5
Impairment loss					(4,050)	(6,150)		
Other income and expense ⁴					3,705	(72)		
Operating profit					11,187	5,596		
Non-operating income and expense ⁵					(162)	3,022		
Net (financing costs)/investment income					(1,476)	880		
Income tax expense					(2,546)	(1,628)		
Profit for the financial year					7,003	7,870		

Edgar Filing: VODAFONE GROUP PUBLIC LTD CO - Form 6-K

Notes:

- 1 Current year results reflect average foreign exchange rates of £1: 1.16 and £1:US\$1.60.
- 2 Common Functions primarily represent the results of the partner markets and the net result of unallocated central Group costs.
- 3 Commercial operating expenses have been reallocated from customer costs to operating expenses. The prior year comparatives have been restated.
- 4 Other income/(expense) for the year ended 31 March 2012 includes a £3,419 million gain on disposal of the Group's 44% interest in SFR and a £296 million gain on disposal of the Group's 24.4% interest in Polkomtel. The year ended 31 March 2011 included £56 million representing the net loss on disposal of certain Alltel investments by VZW. This is included within the line item 'Share of results in associates' in the consolidated income statement.
- 5 Non-operating (expense)/income for the year ended 31 March 2011 included £3,019 million profit arising on the sale of the Group's 3.2% interest in China Mobile Limited.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Revenue

Group revenue was up 1.2% to £46.4 billion, with service revenue of £42.9 billion, an increase of 1.5%* on an organic basis. Our overall performance reflects continued strong demand for data services and further voice penetration growth in emerging markets, offset by regulatory changes, on-going competitive pressures and challenging macro economic conditions in a number of our mature markets. As a result of the leap year, service revenue growth of 2.3%* in Q4 benefited from the additional day by around 1 percentage point.

AMAP service revenue was up by 8.0%*, with a strong performance in India, Qatar, Ghana and Vodacom and a return to growth in Egypt offset by a decline in Australia.

In Europe, service revenue was down by 1.1%* reflecting challenging macroeconomic conditions in Southern Europe partially offset by growth in Germany, the UK, the Netherlands and Turkey.

EBITDA and profit

Group EBITDA was down 1.3% to £14.5 billion, as revenue growth was offset by higher customer investment due to increased smartphone penetration.

Adjusted operating profit was down 2.4% to £11.5 billion, driven by a reduction in our share of profits from associates following the disposal of our 44% interest in SFR in June 2011. Our share of profits of VZW grew by 9.3%* to £4.9 billion.

Operating profit increased by 100% to £11.2 billion, primarily due to the gain on disposal of the Group's 44% interest in SFR and 24.4% interest in Polkomtel, and lower impairment losses compared to the prior year.

An impairment loss of £4.0 billion was recorded in relation to Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece, primarily driven by lower projected cash flows within business plans and an increase in discount rates, resulting from adverse changes in the economic environment.

Net (financing costs)/investment income

	2012 £m	2011 £m
Investment income	456	1,309
Financing costs	(1,932)	(429)
Net (financing costs)/investment income	(1,476)	880
Analysed as:		
Net financing costs before income from investments	(1,642)	(852)
Potential interest charges arising on settlement of outstanding tax issues ¹	9	(46)
Income from investments	19	83
	(1,614)	(815)
Foreign exchange ²	138	256
Equity put rights and similar arrangements ³		95
Interest related to the settlement of tax cases		872
Disposal of SoftBank Mobile Corp. financial instruments		472
	(1,476)	880

Notes:

- 1 Excluding interest credits related to a tax case settlement.
- 2 Comprises foreign exchange rate differences reflected in the income statement in relation to certain intercompany balances and the foreign exchange rate differences on financial instruments received as consideration on the disposal of Vodafone Japan to SoftBank in April 2006.
- 3 Includes foreign exchange rate movements, accretion expense and fair value charges.

Net financing costs before income from investments increased from £852 million to £1,642 million, primarily due to the decision to increase the fixed rate debt mix, which is expected to result in lower interest in future periods, and the subsequent recognition of mark-to-market losses. Income from investments decreased by £64 million as a result of the disposal of the Group's 3.2% interest in China Mobile Limited and the Group's interests in SoftBank Mobile Corp. Limited during the 2011 financial year.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Taxation

	2012 £m	2011 £m
Income tax expense	2,546	1,628
Tax on adjustments to derive adjusted profit before tax	(242)	(232)
Tax benefit related to settlement of tax cases		929
Adjusted income tax expense	2,304	2,325
Share of associates' tax	302	519
Adjusted income tax expense for purposes of calculating adjusted tax rate	2,606	2,844
Profit before tax	9,549	9,498
Adjustments to derive adjusted profit before tax ¹	369	1,505
Adjusted profit before tax	9,918	11,003
Add: Share of associates' tax and non-controlling interest	382	604
Adjusted profit before tax for the purpose of calculating adjusted effective tax rate	10,300	11,607
Adjusted effective tax rate	25.3%	24.5%

Note:

¹ See Earnings per share below.

The adjusted effective tax rate for the year ending 31 March 2012 was 25.3%. This is in line with our mid 20s adjusted effective tax rate guidance range.

The Group's share of associates' tax declined due to the absence of the tax related to SFR following the disposal of our 44% interest in June 2011.

Income tax expense has increased in the year ended 31 March 2012 largely due to the favourable impact of a tax settlement in the 2011 financial year.

Earnings per share

Adjusted earnings per share was 14.91 pence, a decline of 11.0% year-on-year, reflecting the loss of our 44% interest in SFR and Polkomtel's profits, the loss of interest income from investment disposals and mark-to-market items charged through finance costs, partially offset by a reduction in shares arising from the Group's share buyback programme. Basic earnings per share was 13.74 pence (2011: 15.20 pence), reflecting the profit on disposal of our 44% interest in SFR and 24.4% interest in Polkomtel and lower

Edgar Filing: VODAFONE GROUP PUBLIC LTD CO - Form 6-K

impairment charges compared to the prior financial year, all of which are excluded from adjusted earnings per share.

	2012 £m	2011 £m
Profit attributable to equity shareholders	6,957	7,968
Pre-tax adjustments:		
Impairment loss ¹	4,050	6,150
Other income and expense ^{1 2}	(3,705)	72
Non-operating income and expense ^{1 3}	162	(3,022)
Investment income and financing costs ⁴	(138)	(1,695)
	369	1,505
Taxation ¹	242	(697)
Non-controlling interests	(18)	
Adjusted profit attributable to equity shareholders	7,550	8,776
	Million	Million
Weighted average number of shares outstanding basic	50,644	52,408
Weighted average number of shares outstanding diluted	50,958	52,748

Notes:

- 1 Taxation for the 2012 financial year includes a £206 million charge in respect of the disposal of the Group's 24.4% interest in Polkomtel. The 2011 financial year included £929 million credit in respect of a tax settlement and a £208 million charge in respect of the disposal of the Group's 3.2% interest in China Mobile. The impairment charges of £4,050 million and £6,150 million in the 2012 and 2011 financial years respectively do not result in any tax consequences. The disposal of our 44% interest in SFR did not give rise to a tax charge.
- 2 Other income and expense for the 2012 financial year includes a £3,419 million gain on disposal of the Group's 44% interest in SFR and a £296 million gain on disposal of the Group's 24.4% interest in Polkomtel. The 2011 financial year includes £56 million representing the net loss on disposal of certain Alltel investments by Verizon Wireless. This is included within the line item 'Share of results in associates' in the consolidated income statement.
- 3 Non-operating income and expense for the 2011 financial year includes £3,019 million profit arising on the sale of the Group's 3.2% interest in China Mobile Limited.
- 4 See notes 2 and 3 in 'Net (financing costs)/investment income' on page 9.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Europe

	Germany £m	Italy £m	Spain £m	UK £m	Other £m	Eliminations £m	Europe £m	% change £	Organic
31 March 2012									
Voice revenue	3,116	2,981	2,895	2,395	5,058		16,445		
Messaging revenue	906	851	284	1,259	1,010		4,310		
Data revenue	1,536	713	646	872	923		4,690		
Fixed line revenue	1,849	620	342	45	322		3,178		
Other service revenue	262	164	190	425	467	(217)	1,291		
Service revenue	7,669	5,329	4,357	4,996	7,780	(217)	29,914	(0.6)	(1.1)
Other revenue	564	329	406	401	572	(5)	2,267		
Revenue	8,233	5,658	4,763	5,397	8,352	(222)	32,181	0.5	(0.1)
Direct costs	(1,781)	(1,248)	(1,006)	(1,473)	(2,298)	217	(7,589)		
Customer costs ¹	(1,803)	(788)	(1,570)	(1,576)	(1,460)	5	(7,192)		
Operating expenses ¹	(1,684)	(1,108)	(994)	(1,054)	(2,115)		(6,955)		
EBITDA	2,965	2,514	1,193	1,294	2,479		10,445	(3.5)	(4.5)
Depreciation and amortisation:									
Acquired intangibles				(4)	(92)		(96)		
Purchased licences	(519)	(106)	(9)	(331)	(135)		(1,100)		
Other	(955)	(673)	(618)	(557)	(1,189)		(3,992)		
Share of result in associates					3		3		
Adjusted operating profit	1,491	1,735	566	402	1,066		5,260	(8.1)	(9.6)
EBITDA margin	36.0%	44.4%	25.0%	24.0%	29.7%		32.5%		
31 March 2011									
Voice revenue	3,466	3,237	3,319	2,545	5,318	(1)	17,884		
Messaging revenue	790	849	345	1,148	974		4,106		
Data revenue	1,250	602	537	762	720		3,871		
Fixed line revenue	1,813	574	314	31	271		3,003		
Other service revenue	152	170	220	445	504	(258)	1,233		
Service revenue	7,471	5,432	4,735	4,931	7,787	(259)	30,097		
Other revenue	429	290	398	340	466	(5)	1,918		
Revenue	7,900	5,722	5,133	5,271	8,253	(264)	32,015		
Direct costs	(1,729)	(1,305)	(1,050)	(1,548)	(2,398)	259	(7,771)		
Customer costs ¹	(1,684)	(695)	(1,555)	(1,460)	(1,374)	5	(6,763)		
Operating expenses ¹	(1,535)	(1,079)	(966)	(1,030)	(2,048)		(6,658)		
EBITDA	2,952	2,643	1,562	1,233	2,433		10,823		
Depreciation and amortisation:									
Acquired intangibles			(1)		(127)		(128)		
Purchased licences	(472)	(102)	(7)	(333)	(136)		(1,050)		
Other	(932)	(638)	(639)	(552)	(1,158)		(3,919)		
Adjusted operating profit	1,548	1,903	915	348	1,012		5,726		
EBITDA margin	37.4%	46.2%	30.4%	23.4%	29.5%		33.8%		
Change at constant exchange rates									
	%	%	%	%	%				
Voice revenue	(11.6)	(9.5)	(14.2)	(5.9)	(3.1)				
Messaging revenue	12.9	(1.3)	(19.0)	9.7	5.6				
Data revenue	21.3	16.8	18.4	14.4	28.7				
Fixed line revenue	0.4	6.6	7.3	45.2	20.6				
Other service revenue	70.2	(4.2)	(15.1)	(4.5)	(7.1)				
Service revenue	1.1	(3.4)	(9.5)	1.3	1.5				
Other revenue	30.5	12.9	0.7	17.9	23.3				

Edgar Filing: VODAFONE GROUP PUBLIC LTD CO - Form 6-K

Revenue	2.7	(2.6)	(8.7)	2.4	2.7
Direct costs	(1.3)	5.8	5.8	(4.8)	1.4
Customer costs ¹	(5.8)	(12.0)	0.4	7.9	(7.7)
Operating expenses ¹	(8.0)	(1.1)	(1.3)	2.3	(5.6)
EBITDA	(1.1)	(6.4)	(25.1)	4.9	1.6
Depreciation and amortisation:					
Acquired intangibles				Nm	23.8
Purchased licences	(8.3)	(1.9)	(25.7)	(0.6)	(0.7)
Other	(1.1)	(4.1)	4.8	0.9	(4.0)
Share of result in associates					Nm
Adjusted operating profit	(5.2)	(10.4)	(39.5)	15.5	2.4
EBITDA margin movement (pps)	(1.4)	(1.8)	(5.5)	0.6	(0.3)

Note:

- Commercial operating expenses have been reallocated from customer costs to operating expenses. The prior year comparatives have been updated to reflect the change.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Revenue increased by 0.5% including a 0.5 percentage point impact from favourable foreign exchange rate movements. On an organic basis service revenue declined by 1.1%* primarily due to the impact of MTR cuts, competitive pricing pressures and continued economic weakness, partially offset by growth in data revenue. Growth in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands and Turkey was offset by declines in most other markets, in particular, Italy, Spain and Greece.

EBITDA declined by 3.5%, including a 1.1 percentage point favourable impact from foreign exchange rate movements. On an organic basis EBITDA decreased by 4.5%*, resulting from higher customer investment due to the increased penetration of smartphones, and a reduction in service revenue in most markets, partially offset by direct cost efficiencies.

	Organic change %	Other activity ¹ pps	Foreign exchange pps	Reported change %
Revenue Europe	(0.1)	0.1	0.5	0.5
Service revenue				
Germany	1.2	(0.1)	1.6	2.7
Italy	(3.4)		1.5	(1.9)
Spain	(9.4)	(0.1)	1.5	(8.0)
UK	1.6	(0.3)		1.3
Other Europe	1.7	(0.2)	(1.6)	(0.1)
Europe	(1.1)		0.5	(0.6)
EBITDA				
Germany	(1.1)		1.5	0.4
Italy	(6.4)		1.5	(4.9)
Spain	(24.9)	(0.2)	1.5	(23.6)
UK	5.0	(0.1)		4.9
Other Europe	1.7	(0.1)	0.3	1.9
Europe	(4.5)	(0.1)	1.1	(3.5)
Adjusted operating profit				
Germany	(5.3)	0.1	1.5	(3.7)
Italy	(10.4)		1.6	(8.8)
Spain	(39.2)	(0.3)	1.4	(38.1)
UK	15.7	(0.2)		15.5
Other Europe	3.0	(0.6)	2.9	5.3
Europe	(9.6)	(0.2)	1.7	(8.1)

Note:

1 Other activity includes the impact of M&A activity and the revision to intra-group roaming charges from 1 October 2012 (see page 33).

Germany

Edgar Filing: VODAFONE GROUP PUBLIC LTD CO - Form 6-K

Service revenue increased by 1.2%* as strong growth in data and enterprise revenue more than offset the impact of an MTR cut effective from 1 December 2010 and increasing competitive pressures. Data revenue grew by 21.3%* driven by a higher penetration of smartphones, an increase in those sold with a data bundle and the launch of prepaid integrated tariffs. Enterprise revenue grew by 5.6%* driven by significant customer wins and the success of converged service offerings. A number of innovative products were launched during the second half of the 2012 financial year, including OfficeNet, a cloud based solution.

The roll out of LTE has continued, following the launch of services in the prior financial year. Nearly 2,700 base stations had been upgraded to LTE at 31 March 2012, providing approximately 35% household coverage.

EBITDA declined by 1.1%* as the higher revenue was offset by restructuring costs and regulation changes.

Italy

Service revenue declined by 3.4%* as a result of weak economic conditions, intense competition and the impact of an MTR cut effective from 1 July 2011. Strong data revenue growth of 16.8%* was driven by mobile internet which benefited from a higher penetration of smartphones and an increase in those sold with a data bundle. From Q3, all new consumer contract customers are now on an integrated tariff. Enterprise revenue grew by 5.1%* with a strong contribution from Vodafone One Net, a converged fixed and mobile solution, and growth in the customer base. Fixed line growth benefited from strong customer additions although slowed in Q4 due to intense competition.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

EBITDA decreased by 6.4%*, and EBITDA margin fell by 1.9* percentage points resulting from the decline in service revenue partially offset by operating cost efficiencies such as site sharing agreements and outsourcing of network maintenance to Ericsson.

Spain

Service revenue declined by 9.4%*, impacted by intense competition, continuing economic weakness and high unemployment during the year, which have driven customers to reduce or optimise their spend on tariffs. Data revenue increased by 18.4%*, benefiting from the penetration of integrated voice, SMS and data tariffs initially launched in October 2010. Improvements were seen in fixed line revenue which increased by 7.3%*, resulting from a competitive proposition leading to good customer additions. Mobile customer net additions were strong as a result of our more competitive tariffs and a focus on improving the retention of higher-value customers.

EBITDA declined by 24.9%*, with a 5.5* percentage point fall in EBITDA margin, primarily due to lower revenue with sustained investment in acquisition and retention costs. This was partially offset by operating cost efficiencies.

UK

Service revenue increased by 1.6%* driven by an increase in data and consumer contract revenue supported by the success of integrated offerings. This was partially offset by the impact of an MTR cut effective from 1 April 2011 and lower consumer confidence leading to reduced out-of-bundle usage. Data revenue grew by 14.5%* due to higher penetration of smartphones and an increase in those sold with a data bundle.

EBITDA increased by 5.0%*, and EBITDA margin improved by 0.6* percentage points due to a number of cost saving initiatives, including acquisition and retention efficiencies.

Other Europe

Service revenue increased by 1.7%* as growth in Albania, Malta, the Netherlands and Turkey more than offset a decline in the rest of the region, particularly in Greece, Portugal and Ireland, which continued to be impacted by the challenging macroeconomic environment and competitive factors. Service revenue in Turkey grew by 25.1%*, driven by strong growth in consumer contract and data revenue resulting from an expanding contract customer base and the launch of innovative propositions. In the Netherlands

Edgar Filing: VODAFONE GROUP PUBLIC LTD CO - Form 6-K

service revenue increased by 2.1%*, driven by an increase in the customer base, partially offset by MTR cuts, price competition and customers optimising tariffs.

EBITDA grew by 1.7%*, with strong growth in Turkey, driven by a combination of service revenue growth and cost efficiencies, partially offset by declines in the majority of the other markets.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Africa, Middle East and Asia Pacific

	India £m	Vodacom £m	Other Africa, Middle East and Asia Pacific £m	Eliminations	Africa, Middle East and Asia Pacific £m	% change £	Organic
31 March 2012							
Voice revenue	3,253	3,452	2,369		9,074		
Messaging revenue	207	289	435		931		
Data revenue	347	690	483		1,520		
Fixed line revenue	15	225	200		440		
Other service revenue	393	252	141		786		
Service revenue	4,215	4,908	3,628		12,751	3.7	8.0
Other revenue	50	730	337		1,117		
Revenue	4,265	5,638	3,965		13,868	4.2	8.4
Direct costs	(1,303)	(1,152)	(1,206)		(3,661)		
Customer costs ¹	(226)	(1,396)	(667)		(2,289)		
Operating expenses ¹	(1,614)	(1,160)	(1,029)		(3,803)		
EBITDA	1,122	1,930	1,063		4,115	2.9	7.8
Depreciation and amortisation:							
Acquired intangibles	(331)	(358)	(47)		(736)		
Purchased licences	(85)	(1)	(115)		(201)		
Other	(646)	(487)	(609)		(1,742)		
Share of result in associates			36		36		
Adjusted operating profit	60	1,084	328		1,472	15.7	22.4
EBITDA margin	26.3%	34.2%	26.8%		29.7%		
31 March 2011							
Voice revenue	3,041	3,528	2,467		9,036		
Messaging revenue	171	285	448		904		
Data revenue	247	577	392		1,216		
Fixed line revenue	7	216	176		399		
Other service revenue	338	233	167	(1)	737		
Service revenue	3,804	4,839	3,650	(1)	12,292		
Other revenue	51	640	321		1,012		
Revenue	3,855	5,479	3,971	(1)	13,304		
Direct costs	(1,114)	(1,168)	(1,202)	1	(3,483)		
Customer costs ¹	(185)	(1,303)	(617)		(2,105)		
Operating expenses ¹	(1,571)	(1,164)	(982)		(3,717)		
EBITDA	985	1,844	1,170		3,999		
Depreciation and amortisation:							
Acquired intangibles	(357)	(554)	(55)		(966)		
Purchased licences	(5)		(117)		(122)		
Other	(608)	(463)	(619)		(1,690)		
Share of result in associates			51		51		
Adjusted operating profit	15	827	430		1,272		
EBITDA margin	25.6%	33.7%	29.5%		30.1%		
Change at constant exchange rates							
	%	%	%				
Voice revenue	15.4	3.4	(4.3)				
Messaging revenue	30.2	6.6	(7.9)				
Data revenue	51.3	27.7	18.5				
Fixed line revenue	128.8	6.1	15.0				
Other service revenue	25.2	14.0	(16.0)				
Service revenue	19.4	7.1	(1.9)				

Edgar Filing: VODAFONE GROUP PUBLIC LTD CO - Form 6-K

Other revenue	4.1	21.1	1.1
Revenue	19.2	8.7	(1.7)
Direct costs	(26.1)	(3.3)	0.7
Customer costs ¹	(31.8)	(13.9)	(2.6)
Operating expenses ¹	(10.7)	(4.7)	(3.4)
EBITDA	22.7	11.3	(9.2)
Depreciation and amortisation:			
Acquired intangibles		31.9	16.5
Purchased licences	Nm	Nm	0.2
Other	(14.4)	(10.6)	2.0
Share of result in associates		Nm	(21.0)
Adjusted operating profit	348.7	41.1	(22.6)
EBITDA margin movement (pps)	0.7	0.8	(2.3)

Note:

- Commercial operating expenses have been reallocated from customer costs to operating expenses. The prior year comparatives have been updated to reflect the change.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Revenue grew by 4.2% after a 4.2 percentage point adverse impact from foreign exchange rate movements. On an organic basis service revenue grew by 8.0%* driven by customer and data growth, partially offset by the impact of MTR reductions. Growth was driven by strong performances in India, Vodacom, Ghana and Qatar and a return to growth in Egypt, offset by service revenue declines in Australia and New Zealand.

EBITDA grew by 2.9% after a 4.8 percentage point adverse impact from foreign exchange rate movements. On an organic basis, EBITDA grew by 7.8%* driven primarily by strong growth in India and Vodacom and improved contributions from Ghana and Qatar, offset in part by declines in Egypt and Australia.

	Organic change %	Other activity 1 pps	Foreign exchange pps	Reported change %
Revenue AMAP	8.4		(4.2)	4.2
Service revenue				
India	19.5	(0.1)	(8.6)	10.8
Vodacom	7.1		(5.7)	1.4
Other Africa, Middle East and Asia Pacific	(1.8)	(0.1)	1.3	(0.6)
AMAP	8.0		(4.3)	3.7
EBITDA				
India	22.9	(0.2)	(8.8)	13.9
Vodacom	11.3		(6.6)	4.7
Other Africa, Middle East and Asia Pacific	(9.1)	(0.1)	0.1	(9.1)
AMAP	7.8	(0.1)	(4.8)	2.9
Adjusted operating profit				
India	389.3	(40.6)	(48.7)	300.0
Vodacom	41.1		(10.0)	31.1
Other Africa, Middle East and Asia Pacific	(22.4)	(0.2)	(1.1)	(23.7)
AMAP	22.4	(0.3)	(6.4)	15.7

India

Service revenue grew by 19.5%*, driven by an 11.8% increase in the customer base, strong growth in incoming and outgoing voice minutes and 51.3%* growth in data revenue. 3G services were available to Vodafone customers in 860 towns and cities across 20 circles at 31 March 2012. Growth also benefited from mobile operators starting to charge for SMS termination during the second quarter of the 2012 financial year. At 31 March 2012 the customer base had increased to 150.5 million, with data customers totaling 35.4 million, a year-on-year increase of 81.5%. This was driven by an increase in data enabled handsets and the impact of successful marketing campaigns. Whilst the market remains highly competitive, the effective rate per minute remained broadly stable during the year, with promotional offers offsetting headline price increases.

Edgar Filing: VODAFONE GROUP PUBLIC LTD CO - Form 6-K

EBITDA grew by 22.9%* driven by the increase in revenue and economies of scale, partially offset by higher customer acquisition costs and increased interconnection costs. Full year EBITDA margin increased 0.8* percentage points to 26.3%, driven by cost efficiencies and scale benefits.

Vodacom

Service revenue grew by 7.1%*, driven by service revenue growth in South Africa of 4.4%*, where strong net customer additions and growth in data revenue was partially offset by the impact of MTR cuts (effective 1 March 2011 and 1 March 2012). Despite competitive pricing pressures, data revenue in South Africa grew by 24.3%*, driven by higher smartphone penetration and data bundles leading to a 35.4% increase in active data customers to 12.2 million at 31 March 2012.

Vodacom's mobile operations outside South Africa delivered strong service revenue growth of 31.9%*², driven by customer net additions and the simplification of tariff structures in Mozambique and Tanzania. M-Pesa, our mobile phone based money transfer service, continues to perform well in Tanzania with over 3.1 million active users.

EBITDA increased by 11.3%*, driven by robust service revenue growth and continued focus on operating cost efficiencies.

Notes:

- 1 Other activity includes the impact of M&A activity and the revision to intra-group roaming charges from 1 October 2012 (see page 33).
- 2 Excludes Gateway and Vodacom Business Africa.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Other Africa, Middle East and Asia Pacific

Organic service revenue, which now includes Australia, declined by 1.8%* with both New Zealand and Australia being impacted by MTR cuts effective from 6 May 2011 and 1 January 2012, respectively. In Australia, despite improvements in network and customer operations performance, service revenue declined by 8.8%* driven by the competitive market and weakness in brand perception following the network and customer service issues experienced from late 2010 to early 2011 and further accelerated by MTR cuts. On 22 March 2012, Vodafone Hutchison Australia appointed Bill Morrow as its new CEO. In Egypt service revenue was suppressed by the challenging economic and political environment, however, organic growth of 1.4%*, was achieved as a result of an increased customer base and strong data usage. In Qatar an increase in the customer base delivered service revenue growth of 27.1%*, despite a competitive pricing environment. Service revenue in Ghana grew by 29.2%* through strong gains in customer market share.

EBITDA margin declined 2.2* percentage points, driven by the service revenue decline in Australia and the challenging economic and competitive environment in Egypt, partially offset by growth in Qatar and Ghana.

Safaricom, Vodafone's associate in Kenya, grew service revenue by 13.6%*, driven by increases in customer base, voice usage and M-Pesa activity. EBITDA margin improved in the second half of the 2012 financial year through a tariff increase in October, operating cost efficiencies and a strengthening of the local currency to take the margin for the 2012 financial year to 35.0%.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Non-Controlled Interests

Verizon Wireless^{1 2 3}

	2012 £m	2011 £m	% change £	Organic
Service revenue	18,039	17,238	4.6	7.3
Revenue	20,187	18,711	7.9	10.6
EBITDA	7,689	7,313	5.1	7.9
Interest	(212)	(261)	(18.8)	
Tax ²	(287)	(235)	22.1	
Group's share of result in VZW	4,867	4,569	6.5	9.3
KPIs (100% basis)				
Customers ('000) ⁴	92,988	88,414		
Average monthly ARPU (US\$)	58.7	57.2		
Churn	14.8%	16.3%		
Messaging and data as a percentage of service revenue	37.7%	32.9%		

In the United States VZW reported 4.6 million net mobile customer additions bringing its closing mobile customer base to 93.0 million, up 5.2%.

Service revenue growth of 7.3%* continues to be driven by the expanding customer base and robust growth in data ARPU driven by increased penetration of smartphones.

EBITDA margin remained strong despite the competitive challenges and macroeconomic environment. Efficiencies in operating expenses and lower acquisition costs resulting from lower volumes have been partly offset by a higher level of customer retention costs reflecting the increased demand for smartphones.

VZW's net debt at 31 March 2012 totalled US\$6.4 billion⁵ (31 March 2011: net debt US\$9.8 billion⁵), after paying a dividend to its shareholders of US\$10 billion on 31 January 2012.

Edgar Filing: VODAFONE GROUP PUBLIC LTD CO - Form 6-K

Notes:

- 1 All amounts represent the Group's share based on its 45% equity interest, unless otherwise stated.
- 2 The Group's share of the tax attributable to VZW relates only to the corporate entities held by the VZW partnership and certain state taxes which are levied on the partnership. The tax attributable to the Group's share of the partnership's pre-tax profit is included within the Group tax charge.
- 3 Organic growth rates include the impact of a non-cash revenue adjustment which was recorded to defer previously recognised data revenue that will be earned and recognised in future periods. Excluding this the equivalent organic growth rates for service revenue, revenue, EBITDA and the Group's share of result in VZW would have been 6.8%*, 10.1%*, 6.7%* and 7.5%* respectively.
- 4 In order to align with the customer numbers reported externally by VZW, customers were restated to reflect retail customers only. Comparatives are presented on the revised basis.
- 5 Net debt excludes pending credit card receipts. Comparatives are presented on the comparable basis.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Cash flows and funding

	2012 £m	2012 £m	2011 £m	2011 £m	%
EBITDA		14,475		14,670	(1.3)
Working capital		206		566	
Other		143		156	
Cash generated by operations		14,824		15,392	(3.7)
Cash capital expenditure ¹		(6,423)		(5,658)	
Capital expenditure	(6,365)		(6,219)		
Working capital movement in respect of capital expenditure	(58)		561		
Disposal of property, plant and equipment		117		51	
Operating free cash flow		8,518		9,785	(12.9)
Taxation		(1,969)		(2,597)	
Dividends received from associates and investments ²		1,171		1,509	
Dividends paid to non-controlling shareholders in subsidiaries		(304)		(320)	
Interest received and paid		(1,311)		(1,328)	
Free cash flow		6,105		7,049	(13.4)
Tax settlement ³		(100)		(800)	
Licence and spectrum payments		(1,429)		(2,982)	
Acquisitions and disposals ⁴		4,872		(183)	
Equity dividends paid		(6,643)		(4,468)	
Purchase of treasury shares		(3,583)		(2,087)	
Foreign exchange		1,283		709	
Income dividend from VZW		2,855			
Disposal of the Group's 3.2% interest in China Mobile Limited				4,269	
Disposal of the Group's SoftBank Mobile Corp. interests				1,409	
Other ⁵		2,073		542	
Net debt decrease		5,433		3,458	
Opening net debt		(29,858)		(33,316)	
Closing net debt		(24,425)		(29,858)	(18.2)

Notes:

1 Cash capital expenditure comprises the purchase of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets, other than licence and spectrum payments, during the year.

2 Dividends received from associates and investments for the year ended 31 March 2012 includes £965 million (2011: £1,024 million) tax distribution from the Group's 45% interest in VZW and a final dividend of £178 million (2011: £383 million) from SFR prior to the completion of the disposal of the Group's 44% interest. It does not include the £2,855 million income dividend from VZW received in January 2012.

3 Related to a tax settlement in the year ended 31 March 2011.

4 Acquisitions and disposals for the year ended 31 March 2012 primarily includes £6,805 million proceeds from the sale of the Group's 44% interest in SFR, £784 million proceeds from the sale of the Group's 24.4% interest in Polkomtel and £2,592 million payment in relation to the purchase of non-controlling interests in Vodafone India.

Edgar Filing: VODAFONE GROUP PUBLIC LTD CO - Form 6-K

5 Other for the year ended 31 March 2012 primarily includes £2,301 million movement in the written put options in relation to India and the return of a court deposit made in respect of the India tax case (£310 million). Other for the year ended 31 March 2011 primarily includes £356 million in relation to a court deposit made in respect of the India tax case.

Cash generated by operations decreased by 3.7% to £14.8 billion primarily driven by working capital movements and lower EBITDA.

Free cash flow decreased by 13.4% to £6.1 billion primarily due increased cash capital expenditure, working capital movements and lower dividends from associates, offset by lower payments for taxation.

Cash capital expenditure increased by £0.8 billion, driven by a reduction in working capital creditors and increased investment, particularly in Vodacom and Germany.

Payments for taxation decreased by 24.2% to £2.0 billion primarily due to accelerated tax depreciation in the United States and the timing of tax payments in Italy.

Dividends received from associates and investments decreased by £0.3 billion due to the loss of dividends resulting from the disposal of the Group's interest in SFR and China Mobile Limited. Net interest payments were stable at £1.3 billion.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Analysis of net debt:

	2012 £m	2011 £m
Cash and cash equivalents¹		