

20 October 2015

**ASOS plc**  
**Global Online Fashion Destination**  
**Final Results for the year to 31 August 2015**

**Summary results**

<b>£'000</b>	<b>Year to 31 August 2015</b>	<b>Year to 31 August 2014</b>	<b>Change</b>
Group revenues <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,150,788</b>	975,470	18%
Retail sales	<b>1,119,946</b>	955,295	17%
<i>UK retail sales</i>	<b>473,884</b>	372,241	27%
<i>International retail sales</i>	<b>646,062</b>	583,054	11%
Gross profit	<b>574,799</b>	485,007	19%
<i>Retail gross margin</i>	<b>48.6%</b>	48.7%	(10bps)
<i>Gross margin</i>	<b>49.9%</b>	49.7%	20bps
Profit before tax <sup>2</sup>	<b>47,532</b>	46,901	1%
Diluted earnings per share	<b>44.4p</b>	44.5p	-
Cash and cash equivalents	<b>119,191</b>	74,340	60%

<sup>1</sup> Includes retail sales, delivery receipts and third party revenues

<sup>2</sup> For the twelve months to 31 August 2015, profit before tax includes net insurance reimbursements of £6.3m (2014: £3.1m) in respect of a warehouse fire in the prior financial year

**Highlights**

- Group revenue up 18%
- UK retail sales up 27%; International retail sales up 11% (at constant currency 17%)
- 9.9 million active customers<sup>3</sup> at 31 August 2015, up 13% on prior year
- Gross margin up 20bps
- Profit before tax<sup>2</sup> of £47.5m (2014: £46.9m)
- Cash and cash equivalents of £119.2m (2014: £74.3m)
- Continued strengthening of management team

**Nick Beighton, CEO, commented:**

"I'm pleased with these results, which show encouraging progress. We have delivered profit before tax<sup>2</sup> of £47.5m, on track with our plans. Group revenue increased 18% to £1.15bn, with UK retail sales performing well up 27%, and international retail sales improving as the year progressed. We ended the year with a cash position of £119.2m.

We are attracting more customers with a continued expansion of our delivery proposition and mobile offerings. Customer engagement has been exceptionally strong, with increases in average order frequency, basket size and value. We now have 9.9m active customers, up 13%.

During the year we invested £50m in our warehouse capability and our technology, and we are investing a further £80m in the new financial year.

Trading year to date has started well and preparations are at an advanced stage for peak season. We currently anticipate sales growth for the new financial year of c.20%, gross margin investment of up to 50bps and a similar EBIT margin to the financial year just ended. We remain focussed on achieving our next staging post of £2.5bn sales. "

<sup>3</sup> Defined as having shopped in the last twelve months

## Investor and Analyst Meeting

There will be a meeting for analysts that will take place at 9.30am today, 20 October 2015, at Greater London House, Hampstead Road, London, NW1 7FB. A webcast of the meeting will be available both live and following the meeting at [www.asosplc.com](http://www.asosplc.com). Please register your attendance in advance with Instinctif Partners using the details below.

### For further information:

#### ASOS plc

Nick Beighton, Chief Executive Officer  
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#### Numis Securities

Alex Ham / Luke Bordewich

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### Background note

ASOS is a global fashion destination for 20-somethings. We sell cutting-edge fashion and offer a wide variety of fashion-related content, making ASOS.com the hub of a thriving fashion community. We sell over 80,000 branded and own-brand products through localised mobile and web experiences, delivering from our fulfilment centres in the UK, US, Europe and China to almost every country in the world.

We tailor the mix of own-label, global and local brands sold through each of our nine local language websites: UK, US, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Australia, Russia and China.

ASOS's websites attract 89.8 million visits per month (August 2014: 71.2 million) and as at 31 August 2015 had 9.9 million active customers<sup>1</sup> (31 August 2014: 8.8 million), of which 3.9 million were located in the UK and 6.0 million were located in our international territories (31 August 2014: 3.4 million in the UK and 5.4 million internationally).

<sup>1</sup> Defined as having shopped in the last twelve months

[www.asos.com](http://www.asos.com)

[www.us.asos.com](http://www.us.asos.com)

[www.asos.fr](http://www.asos.fr)

[www.asos.de](http://www.asos.de)

[www.asos.es](http://www.asos.es)

[www.asos.it](http://www.asos.it)

[www.asos.com/au](http://www.asos.com/au)

[www.asos.com/ru](http://www.asos.com/ru)

[www.asos.com/cn](http://www.asos.com/cn)

[m.asos.com](http://m.asos.com)

[marketplace.asos.com](http://marketplace.asos.com)

[www.likes.asos.com](http://www.likes.asos.com)

**ASOS plc ("the Company")**  
**Global Online Fashion Destination**

**Final Results for the year to 31 August 2015**

**Business Review**

During the year to 31 August 2015 the Group delivered total revenue growth of 18%, comprising retail sales, delivery receipts and third party revenue. Retail sales grew to £1,119.9m (2014: £955.3m), accelerating as the year progressed, driven by strong product, delivery proposition enhancements, the successful launch of our zonal pricing capability and implementation of planned price investments to increase our price competitiveness outside the UK.

Despite these investments, the retail gross profit margin only declined by 10bps driven by a much stronger full price sales mix reflecting improved customer confidence in our product and prices. This resulted in reduced reliance on promotional activity. The Group gross margin increased by 20bps following strong growth in delivery receipts of 61% and third party revenues of 23%.

Profit before tax of £47.5m (2014: £46.9m) remained in line with last year, as we invested further in our customer proposition, warehousing and people capabilities, offset by the net insurance proceeds of £6.3m (2014: £3.1m) from the fire at our Barnsley warehouse last year, and a reduced loss in our China operation. The 2015 profit before tax is also stated after providing for a staff bonus. We enter the new financial year with a cash position of £119.2m (2014: £74.3m) and an inventory balance of £193.8m (2014: £161.5m).

Our mission remains unchanged: to be the world's no. 1 fashion destination for 20-somethings. We strive towards this mission under four strategic pillars: Great fashion, great price - Awesome on mobile - Engaging content and experience - Best-in-class service, all delivered across the globe.

**Great fashion, great price**

Our approach to fashion remains consistent: an extensive offer of appropriate product at great value for money for our global fashion-conscious 20-something customer.

The size of our range continues to grow; we now stock over 80,000 lines at any point in time offering customers a choice that remains second to none. During the year we have rebalanced our product and buy plan, focussing on tighter inventory control and improving full price sales.

Where we have grown our range it has been concentrated into new or under-potentialised product categories, as well as new brands that offer true additional choice to our customers. We carry over 800 brands and during the year have added some important names to our portfolio, including Abercrombie & Fitch, Hollister, Boohoo, Misguided, Adidas and Reebok. A key aspect of ASOS is to differentiate ourselves from other market players. We do this by supporting new or little known brands into the market, such as Rat & Boa, Jen's Pirate Booty and Hiptico, as well as collaborating on exclusive lines with those brands that are more widely distributed.

In terms of category expansion, we have continued to extend our offer of ASOS own-brand specialist ranges; Petite, Tall, Plus and Maternity. As well as broadening our own-brand range, we have added to our third party brands in this area; many of which are exclusive to ASOS.

Within our own-brand, we aim to cater for all occasions and have added a wider range of smart going out and workwear in menswear, as well as the successful launch of exclusive ASOS Red Carpet and ASOS Bridesmaid dress ranges in womenswear. We have offered specific own-brand ranges for increasingly important seasonal events such as Halloween and Valentine's, and broadened our selection in beauty, men's grooming, novelty gifts and loungewear during the year.

Offering great value for money is a critical aspect of our proposition. The launch of our zonal pricing capability early in the financial year enabled us to price brands in line with local markets. To date we have implemented this on 113 brands across Australia, the US, France, Germany, Italy and Spain, and have seen an encouraging response from customers and volume uplifts as a result. We will continue to release more brands using this functionality to further enhance our global price positioning during the new financial year.

## **Awesome on mobile**

Mobile is now a huge part of our business; we have seen 5.4m downloads of our mobile apps in the last twelve months. In August 2015, nearly 60% of our traffic came from mobile devices and 44% of orders were placed on our mobile platforms.

We launched localised versions of our Android and iOS apps in France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Russia early in the year, and in September 2015 launched a localised app in China to support our current website offer in this territory. We also launched a 'New In' app in the UK and Denmark, an Apple Watch app and a new mobile news website, 'ASOS Likes', which provides customers with daily inspiration, pop culture and lifestyle news. In addition, we ran our first ever mobile-only promotions with encouraging customer take-up.

We undertook a review of our new checkout function during the second half of the year, refocusing this project on key mobile requirements and expect to roll out this functionality on mobile apps during the next six months. We also expect to launch updated versions of our iOS apps during the new financial year.

All of these combined keep us at the forefront of where our customers are, how they consume media and how they shop.

## **Engaging content and experience**

Our customer engagement remains strong, with growth in average order frequency and average basket size. We finished the year with 9.9m active customers, an increase of 13% over last year.

We now have over 12m followers across all our social channels and we publish over 2,000 pieces of inspiring fashion and entertaining lifestyle content every month to maintain awareness and build brand engagement. In the last six months we have launched local language French and German YouTube and Instagram accounts. We have also introduced 'ASOS stylists' in these markets to inspire and help our customers via individual social accounts. The collective following of our stylists globally now exceeds 850,000 of our customers.

During the year we also introduced our 'social sign-in' functionality; simplifying our customer's journey from browsing to buying product, as well as personalised product recommendations on apps and extended our upgraded search facility to all our international websites.

Following a successful trial, we will launch our new ASOS Rewards loyalty scheme during the next six months, initially for our UK customers. This rewards programme allows customers to build up points on purchases, which become convertible into vouchers for use on our platforms. In addition to this, customers will unlock a wide variety of other rewards such as birthday discounts, free next day deliveries and exclusive content.

Uptake of our Premier Delivery membership in the UK, US, France, Germany and Australia continues to grow, with total members up 63% compared to last year.

## **Best-in-class service**

### *Delivery and returns*

Improving and expanding our delivery and returns solutions remain central to our business and we continue working towards our goal of providing a best-in-class customer proposition.

In the UK we extended next-day delivery and Saturday evening next-day delivery cut-offs to midnight and our Sunday next-day delivery cut-off from 2pm to 5pm. Our standard delivery also now operates seven days a week. Internationally, we now operate next-day delivery services in France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland and Northern Ireland. We have also introduced express delivery options in more than 20 smaller territories and offer mid-tier services in Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong, with further territories to follow.

We have also further extended customer return options during the year. In the UK we launched returns via Doodle stores and Hermes Parcel shops, home collection returns and InPost LockerBoxes, as well as introducing one-hour next-day collection slots in large cities. Internationally, we introduced labelless returns in France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg and launched free returns trials in both the Netherlands and Italy.

We continue to focus on developing our Pick-Up-Drop-Off ('PUDO') network, which allows customers to collect and return orders from a variety of convenient locations. In the UK, customers have over 5,500 deliver-to-store locations and we recently extended our click-and-collect trial with Boots into more than 30 stores, with plans to enter an additional 70 stores over the next year. Customers in France, Spain, Belgium and Luxembourg now benefit from a delivery-to-store option at over 12,500 locations and we will launch this service in Germany during the new financial year. We continue to seek further PUDO solutions in all our key strategic territories, and expect to offer this service in Italy and the US during the next 12-18 months.

### *Customer Care*

We believe offering the most personal experience possible to customers is paramount for building brand loyalty, and with this in mind, we extended our local language customer care capabilities to provide 24/7 operations to our French, German, Spanish, Italian and Russian customers. We now have customer care sites in the UK (Hemel Hempstead, Gateshead, Glasgow and Camden), Lisbon and Vladimir. In addition to our existing channels of email, social and telephony, we added live chat to all our websites. We also improved our email response times to one hour, as well as responding to all social media communications made by our customers within 15 minutes, and all live chat or telephony within 30 seconds. We will continue working to improve these going forward.

### *Logistics*

Investment in our international warehouse infrastructure has continued during the year as we build capacity ahead of our next staging post of £2.5bn sales.

#### *UK*

Our Barnsley warehouse efficiency improved as the year progressed following the successful launch of our mechanised picking solution at the start of the year. We also exited our off-site storage facility at Lister Hills in February following completion of our two high bay mini-loads. These now store all our bulk stock at Barnsley and, with our new warehouse control system, automatically retrieve and maintain stock levels in the main pick-face area of the warehouse, increasing our stock management capabilities. We also increased capacity at our returns processing centre in Selby during the year.

During the second half of the year we commenced work on building an additional mezzanine level in our Barnsley warehouse to extend storage capacity by a further 1m units. In addition, we are adding another sorter to our mechanised picking solution as well as extending our despatch sorter chutes; both of which will further increase our warehouse throughput. These projects, along with installing air cooling throughout the warehouse, are expected to be completed by the end of the new financial year.

#### *International*

We have also continued the ramp up of our German Eurohub operation and exited the year holding over 2m units of stock and despatching 38% of total EU orders, ahead of where we expected to be at this stage. This has allowed us to make improvements to our Eurozone delivery proposition and we will seek further opportunities to improve this during the next twelve months. Our returns processing centre in Swiebodzin now processes nearly all returns from the Eurozone, improving refund processing times and costs to return.

We will now commence work on building our new Eurohub warehouse, close to our existing site. This new warehouse, along with automation technology, will eventually provide us with total capacity of 20m units and represents an extensive project for us over the next four years, with expected total capital expenditure of c.£60m over this period. Over the next twelve months we intend to invest £20m fitting out the warehouse infrastructure for a manual picking operation, and by early 2017 expect to accommodate 10m units. We will then be able to move out of our existing Eurohub operation into this new warehouse. Over subsequent years we will further extend, in a modular fashion, to accommodate automated picking and despatch, as well as automated mini-loads.

Our warehouse in the US consistently fulfils over 25% of US orders and we will turn focus back to US fulfilment once we have unlocked the potential of our Eurohub warehouse, in order to further drive local fulfilment in this territory.

## **Where we operate**

We are investing in our UK customer, continuously offering new, relevant product and working to ensure shopping with ASOS is an easy, seamless process. Following a period of adverse exchange rate movements, our principal international objective during the year has been to restore our price competitiveness.

Early on in the financial year, we implemented planned price investments for our Australian and Eurozone customers to begin to restore the competitiveness of our international offer and we remain committed to further investments as necessary during the new financial year. We are focussing our efforts on key European countries, particularly France and Germany, as these represent substantial opportunities to us as we unlock the full potential of our Eurohub warehouse.

We rolled out our zonal pricing capability across all our local platforms, except Russia. This allows us to sell brands which were previously restricted in certain territories and enabled us to start offering more competitive local pricing and country-specific promotions. We used this tool to reduce the price of our own-label products in Spain late in the financial year to align more closely to local competition and we will continue to improve and enhance our international product offering using this tool over the coming years.

We have also extended the duration and depth of our foreign currency hedging activities. In addition to this, we commenced the process of increasing our direct sourcing settled in Euros and US Dollars this financial year with an ultimate long term aim of maximising the natural foreign exchange hedge available to us. As part of our global fulfilment programme, we are working to restructure our supply chain to allow for direct sourcing into our international warehouses.

We incurred a loss of £5.2m (2014: £8.6m) in our China operation. During the year we invested in our local website to extend its capabilities with upgraded search functionality and added the ability to run complex promotions. Over the next twelve months we will double the number of product lines available on our website and mobile app in this territory.

## **People**

During the year, Group headcount increased by 12% to 2,038 employees at 31 August 2015 (2014: 1,813) following planned investments, predominantly within our IT and Retail teams. In addition, the Board has made a number of appointments, strengthening the senior management team of the Group.

At the start of September the founder of the Company, Nick Robertson, stood down as Chief Executive Officer after 15 years in the role and Nick Beighton was appointed as successor. Nick Beighton joined ASOS in April of 2009 as Chief Financial Officer and has since worked closely with Nick Robertson. In October last year, Nick Beighton was appointed Chief Operating Officer, widening his management responsibilities beyond finance. Nick Robertson will remain with ASOS as a Non-Executive Director.

We also welcomed Helen Ashton to the main Board of the Company as Chief Financial Officer in September. Helen has held a wide variety of senior management positions at Barclaycard, Lloyds Banking Group and most recently, debt management business Capquest. She has also held roles at ASDA Group and at GUS, amongst other companies, bringing strong financial experience and a proven track record in consumer-facing and retail businesses.

To further strengthen the Executive team, we were joined by our new People Director, Peter Collyer, in March and our new Chief Information Officer, Clifford Cohen, in May.

## **Technology**

During the year, we continued with our modular approach to the re-platforming of our legacy systems, enabling us to provide the necessary flexibility and scalability for the future. A particular focus of our IT investment remains enhancing our customer experience.

We have also scoped out our medium term key global fulfilment programme requirements, focussing initially on a new end-to-end retail merchandising system, which will optimise our global stock management capabilities alongside our European and US warehouse expansions over the coming years.

## Financial review

### Revenue

<b>Year to 31 August 2015 £'000</b>	<b>Group total</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>EU</b>	<b>RoW</b>	<b>International total</b>
Retail sales	<b>1,119,946</b>	473,884	119,530	293,983	232,549	646,062
<i>Growth</i>	<b>17%</b>	27%	29%	15%	(1%)	11%
<i>Growth at constant exchange rate</i>	<b>21%</b>	27%	22%	26%	6%	17%
Delivery receipts	<b>25,667</b>	11,496	3,660	5,085	5,426	14,171
<i>Growth</i>	<b>61%</b>	55%	106%	61%	51%	66%
Third party revenues	<b>5,175</b>	4,403	755	17	-	772
<i>Growth</i>	<b>23%</b>	4%	100%	100%	-	100%
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>1,150,788</b>	<b>489,783</b>	<b>123,945</b>	<b>299,085</b>	<b>237,975</b>	<b>661,005</b>
<b><i>Growth</i></b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12%</b>

The Group generated retail sales growth of 17% during the year, driven by continued strong growth in the UK of 27%. Our international sales growth of 11% (constant currency growth 17%) accelerated as the year progressed, as our price investments started to restore our competitiveness overseas. International retail sales accounted for 58% of total retail sales (2014: 61%).

In the UK, retail sales growth of 27% was driven by great product, introduction of new relevant brands, continuous improvements to our market-leading proposition and further engagement with customers via social media channels. We retained our first place position for unique visitors to apparel retailers in the 15-34 age range (Comscore, August 2015).

US retail sales have grown by 29% (constant currency growth 22%) following further expansion of our range of locally relevant brands and continued strong full price sales mix.

EU retail sales, despite being impacted by adverse currency movements and economic uncertainties during the year, have grown by 15% (constant currency growth 26%). This growth was underpinned by our price investments early on in the year, which have been further supported by improvements to our delivery proposition in key European countries as we have built out our Eurohub capabilities.

Our Rest of World segment continued to be affected by adverse currency movements with reported retail sales down 1% compared to last year, but sales were up 6% on a constant currency basis. We invested in prices in Australia at the start of the year and this was initially well received but further weakening of the Australian dollar eroded some of the progress made; we comfortably retained our first place Comscore position in Australia. Sales in Russia have continued to suffer due to macro-economic factors and adverse exchange rates. In China, we continue to focus on increasing our brand awareness and market share.

Delivery receipts increased by 61% driven by the introduction of global minimum free-delivery spend thresholds in late 2014 and a wider range of paid delivery options being made available to customers.

Third party revenues, which mainly comprise advertising revenues from the website and the ASOS magazine, increased by 23% as we introduced campaigns on some of our international websites for the first time.

## Customer engagement

We have continued to attract new customers, exiting the year with 9.9m active customers<sup>1</sup>, an increase of 13% over last year. Average basket value increased by 9%, driven by a 5% increase in average units per basket and a 4% increase in average selling price; reflecting customer confidence in our price points. Conversion<sup>2</sup> remained in line with prior year which is pleasing given increased mobile traffic which historically exhibits lower conversion rates.

	Year to 31 August 2015	Year to 31 August 2014	Change
Active customers <sup>1</sup> ('000)	<b>9,957</b>	8,848	13%
Average basket value (including VAT)	<b>£68.74</b>	£62.82	9%
Average units per basket	<b>2.79</b>	2.66	5%
Average selling price per unit (including VAT)	<b>£24.63</b>	£23.64	4%
Total orders ('000)	<b>29,460</b>	25,327	16%
Total visits ('000)	<b>1,102,117</b>	924,553	19%

<sup>1</sup>As at 31 August, defined as having shopped during the last twelve months

<sup>2</sup>Calculated as total orders divided by total visits

## Gross profitability

Year to August 2015	Group total	UK	US	EU	RoW	International total
Gross profit (£'000)	<b>574,799</b>	229,074	74,644	147,302	123,779	345,725
<i>Growth</i>	<b>19%</b>	30%	38%	11%	2%	12%
Retail gross margin	<b>48.6%</b>	45.0%	58.8%	48.4%	50.9%	51.2%
<i>Growth</i>	<b>(10bps)</b>	80bps	230bps	(230bps)	40bps	(30bps)
Gross margin	<b>49.9%</b>	46.8%	60.2%	49.3%	52.0%	52.3%
<i>Growth</i>	<b>20bps</b>	90bps	290bps	(200bps)	80bps	10bps

Retail gross margin decreased by 10bps to 48.6% compared with last year (2014: 48.7%) as the impact of our price investments in the Eurozone and Rest of World territories was largely offset by a strong full price sales mix during the second half of the year. The EU gross margin fell as we invested most heavily in these territories to counter adverse movements in the Euro, as well as reducing the price of our own-label brand in Spain. We maintained a tight inventory position, assisted by the launch of our Barnsley warehouse automation, which resulted in us shortening our sale periods and reducing the number of promotions compared to last year.

Gross margin (including delivery receipts and third-party revenues) increased by 20bps to 49.9% (2014: 49.7%), principally due to the increased use of paid-for delivery services.



## Operating expenses

The Group increased its investment in operating resources by 21% to £533.8m during the year, with increased spend in our distribution, warehousing and people costs. Total operating costs to sales ratio increased by 110bps over the same period.

£'000	Year to 31 August 2015	Year to 31 August 2014 <sup>1</sup>	Change
Distribution costs	(168,681)	(147,303)	(15%)
Payroll and staff costs	(107,351)	(82,074)	(31%)
Warehousing	(97,820)	(75,756)	(29%)
Marketing	(57,074)	(56,007)	(2%)
Production	(4,935)	(4,723)	(4%)
Technology costs	(19,708)	(15,136)	(30%)
Other operating costs	(55,215)	(45,051)	(23%)
Depreciation and amortisation	(23,054)	(15,361)	(50%)
<b>Total operating costs</b>	<b>(533,838)</b>	<b>(441,411)</b>	<b>(21%)</b>
<b>Operating cost ratio (% of sales)</b>	<b>46.4%</b>	<b>45.3%</b>	<b>(110bps)</b>

<sup>1</sup> Costs for the year to 31 August 2014 exclude incremental costs incurred as a result of the Barnsley fire; these have been netted against the related insurance reimbursements in a separate line item titled 'net other income'.

Distribution costs increased by 15% during the year but decreased as a percentage of sales by 40bps to 14.7% as proposition improvement costs, such as free returns for both the Netherlands and Italy, were offset by negotiation of more favourable rates with a number of carriers.

Staff costs increased by 90bps to 9.3% of sales due to headcount increases and achievement of the Company bonus, which was not paid in the previous financial year.

Warehousing costs increased by 70bps to 8.5% of sales across the full year. During the first half of the year, warehousing costs represented 9.1% of sales due to dual running costs from Lister Hills and one-off short-term additional running costs at our Barnsley warehouse following the launch of our automation technology. However, during the second half of the year, warehousing costs fell to 8.0% of sales, despite increased investment in our European warehousing infrastructure. We expect to see further leveraging of these costs during the new financial year to 31 August 2016 as efficiencies from our Barnsley automation annualise.

Marketing costs have decreased by 70bps to 5.0% of sales as spend on international marketing campaigns was reduced during the year whilst we focused on restoring the price competitiveness of our products. We did run a local campaign in France, where our price investments have been particularly well received and delivery proposition improvements are driving sales.

IT costs increased by 10bps to 1.7% of sales as a result of increased traffic across our expanded range of global platforms and increased spend on maintenance to support these.

Other operating costs have increased by 20bps to 4.8% of sales following a one-off £4.9m write-off of some IT projects following the refocus of our checkout project towards mobile optimisation.

Depreciation has increased by 40bps to 2.0% of sales following last year's accelerated investment in our warehouse and IT infrastructure, particularly in our mechanised picking solution.

Costs incurred by our China operation, related largely to warehousing and staff costs, are included in the above.

### ***Net other income***

We received final business interruption insurance reimbursements during the first half of the year of £6.3m as a result of a fire in our Barnsley warehouse in June 2014. This amount is included within a separate line item titled 'net other income' in the Income Statement.

<b>£'000</b>	<b>Year to 31 August 2015</b>	<b>Year to 31 August 2014</b>
Stock loss and other incremental costs	-	(8,486)
Insurance reimbursements	<b>6,299</b>	11,536
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,299</b>	3,050

### ***Income statement***

The Group generated profit before tax of £47.5m, marginally ahead of prior year (2014: £46.9m), due to maintaining our gross profit margin despite international price investments, offset by additional operating expenses related to our warehousing infrastructure, delivery proposition and people costs.

<b>£'000</b>	<b>Year to 31 August 2015</b>	<b>Year to 31 August 2014</b>	<b><i>Change</i></b>
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>1,150,788</b>	975,470	18%
Cost of sales	<b>(575,989)</b>	(490,463)	
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>574,799</b>	485,007	19%
Distribution expenses	<b>(168,681)</b>	(147,303)	(15%)
Administrative expenses	<b>(365,157)</b>	(294,108)	(24%)
Net other income	<b>6,299</b>	3,050	
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>47,260</b>	46,646	1%
Net finance income	<b>272</b>	255	
<b>Profit before tax</b>	<b>47,532</b>	46,901	1%
Income tax expense	<b>(10,680)</b>	(10,313)	
<b>Profit after tax</b>	<b>36,852</b>	36,588	1%

### ***Taxation***

The effective tax rate increased by 50bps to 22.5% (2014: 22.0%). Last year's effective tax rate was reduced by the one-off reversal of permanently disallowable charges in respect of the ASOS Long-Term Incentive Plan which has not been repeated. The current year increase as a result of this was offset in part by a reduction in the prevailing rate of UK corporation tax rate in 2015. Going forward, we expect the effective tax rate to be approximately 100bps higher than the prevailing rate of UK corporation tax due to permanently disallowable items.

### ***Earnings per share***

Basic earnings per share of 44.4p (2014: 44.6p) and diluted earnings per share of 44.4p (2014: 44.5p) remained in line with last year.

## Statement of financial position

The Group continues to enjoy a robust financial position including a cash balance of £119.2m (2014: £74.3m). Net assets increased by £44.3m to £237.3m during the year (2014: £193.0m), driven principally by the Group's profit after tax.

The Group's inventory balance increased by £32.3m to £193.8m (2014: £161.5m), partly due to the increased size of our operations but also as a result of a number of our suppliers changing to 'free on board' terms. This reduces our supplier costs and allows us to manage our shipping costs and associated foreign exchange risk internally. This resulted in £14.8m inventory-in-transit over the year end being recognised within Group inventory at 31 August 2015 (2014: nil). The summary statement of financial position is shown below.

<b>£'000</b>	<b>At 31 August 2015</b>	<b>At 31 August 2014</b>
Goodwill and other intangible assets	<b>76,164</b>	63,901
Property, plant and equipment	<b>64,379</b>	55,400
Derivative financial assets	<b>256</b>	-
<b>Non-current assets</b>	<b>140,799</b>	119,301
Stock	<b>193,769</b>	161,480
Net current payables	<b>(214,487)</b>	(165,154)
Cash and cash equivalents	<b>119,191</b>	74,340
Derivative financial assets	<b>6,083</b>	2,240
Current tax (liability)/asset	<b>(3,600)</b>	2,217
Deferred tax liability	<b>(4,440)</b>	(1,393)
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>237,315</b>	193,031

## Statement of cash flows

The Group's cash balance increased by £44.9m to £119.2m (2014: £74.3m) as working capital improvements, particularly timing in creditor's payments, ensured capital expenditure of £50.4m on our warehousing and technology infrastructure was exceeded by the cash inflow from operating activities. The summary statement of cash flows is shown below.

<b>£'000</b>	<b>Year to 31 August 2015</b>	<b>Year to 31 August 2014</b>
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>47,260</b>	46,646
Depreciation and amortisation	<b>23,054</b>	15,361
Losses on disposal of assets	<b>4,893</b>	150
Working capital	<b>17,804</b>	13,326
Share-based payments charge/(credit)	<b>2,245</b>	(2,813)
Other non-cash items	<b>637</b>	(297)
Tax paid	<b>(2,837)</b>	(3,714)
<b>Cash inflow from operating activities</b>	<b>93,056</b>	68,659
Capital expenditure	<b>(50,396)</b>	(62,377)
Proceeds from issue of ordinary shares	-	563
Net cash inflow/(outflow) relating to Employee Benefit Trust	<b>912</b>	(3,914)
Acquisition of subsidiary	-	182
Net finance income received	<b>252</b>	231
<b>Total cash inflow</b>	<b>43,824</b>	3,344
Opening cash and cash equivalents	<b>74,340</b>	71,139
Effect of exchange rates on cash and cash equivalents	<b>1,027</b>	(143)
<b>Closing cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>119,191</b>	74,340

Cash generated from operating activities increased by £24.4m, due principally to EBITDA improvements of £8.3m, working capital improvements of £4.5m and a £5.1m movement in share-based payments charge, as the one-off ALTIP credit was not repeated in the current year.

We renewed our credit facility for a further three years to October 2018, although the Group had no bank borrowings at any point during the current or prior financial year.

*Fixed asset additions*

<b>£'000</b>	<b>Year to August 2015</b>	<b>Year to August 2014</b>
IT	<b>33,665</b>	31,317
Office fixtures and fit-out	<b>1,146</b>	1,218
Warehouse	<b>14,649</b>	32,066
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,460</b>	64,601

We continue to invest in our warehousing and IT infrastructure to support our next staging post of £2.5bn sales. The majority of our warehousing spend related to our automation technology at Barnsley while our IT spend continued to focus on our modular approach to re-platforming our legacy systems and IT enhancements for our customer experience.

We plan to invest £80m during the new financial year, increasing our previous guidance by an additional £20m. This acceleration is principally due to the commencement of building our new Eurohub site.

**Outlook**

We have started the new financial year well and preparations are at an advanced stage for peak season. We intend to make further investments in our prices where required during the year, as well as continuing to invest in our global logistics infrastructure and technology.

We currently anticipate sales growth for the new financial year of c.20%, gross margin investment of up to 50bps and a similar EBIT margin to the financial year just ended.

**Nick Beighton**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Helen Ashton**  
Chief Financial Officer

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
For the year to 31 August 2015

	Year to 31 August 2015 £'000	Year to 31 August 2014 £'000
Revenue	1,150,788	975,470
Cost of sales	(575,989)	(490,463)
Gross profit	574,799	485,007
Distribution expenses	(168,681)	(147,303)
Administrative expenses	(365,157)	(294,108)
<i>Warehouse fire: stock loss and other incremental costs</i>	-	(8,486)
<i>Warehouse fire: insurance reimbursements</i>	6,299	11,536
Net other income	6,299	3,050
<b>Operating profit</b>	47,260	46,646
Finance income	353	312
Finance expense	(81)	(57)
<b>Profit before tax</b>	47,532	46,901
Income tax expense	(10,680)	(10,313)
<b>Profit for the period</b>	36,852	36,588
Net translation movements offset in reserves	(83)	(176)
Net fair value gain on derivative financial assets	4,099	2,015
<b>Other comprehensive income for the period<sup>1</sup></b>	4,016	1,839
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	40,868	38,427
<b>Profit/(loss) attributable to:</b>		
Owners of the parent company	36,866	36,950
Non-controlling interest	(14)	(362)
	36,852	36,588
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) attributable to:</b>		
Owners of the parent	40,882	38,789
Non-controlling interest	(14)	(362)
	40,868	38,427
<b>Earnings per share</b>		
Basic	44.4p	44.6p
Diluted	44.4p	44.5p

<sup>1</sup> All items of other comprehensive income may subsequently be reclassified to profit or loss.

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**  
For the year to 31 August 2015

	Called up share capital £'000	Share premium £'000	Retained earnings <sup>1</sup> £'000	Employee Benefit Trust reserve £'000	Hedging reserve £'000	Translation reserve £'000	Equity attributable to owners of the parent £'000	Non- controlling interest £'000	Total equity £'000
At 1 September 2013	2,890	6,368	152,133	(1,770)	225	(45)	159,801	(2)	159,799
Profit/(loss) for the period	-	-	36,950	-	-	-	36,950	(362)	36,588
Other comprehensive income/(loss) for the period	-	-	-	-	2,015	(176)	1,839	-	1,839
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the period	-	-	36,950	-	2,015	(176)	38,789	(362)	38,427
Shares allotted in the year	30	533	-	-	-	-	563	-	563
Net purchase of shares by Employee Benefit Trust	-	-	-	(3,914)	-	-	(3,914)	-	(3,914)
Transfer of shares from Employee Benefit Trust on exercise	-	-	(354)	354	-	-	-	-	-
Share-based payments credit	-	-	(2,813)	-	-	-	(2,813)	-	(2,813)
Acquisition of subsidiary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(42)	(42)
Deferred tax on share options	-	-	(8,730)	-	-	-	(8,730)	-	(8,730)
Current tax on items taken directly to equity	-	-	9,741	-	-	-	9,741	-	9,741
Balance as at 31 August 2014	2,920	6,901	186,927	(5,330)	2,240	(221)	193,437	(406)	193,031

	Called up share capital £'000	Share premium £'000	Retained earnings <sup>1</sup> £'000	Employee Benefit Trust reserve £'000	Hedging reserve £'000	Translation reserve £'000	Equity attributable to owners of the parent £'000	Non- controlling interest £'000	Total equity £'000
At 1 September 2014	2,920	6,901	186,927	(5,330)	2,240	(221)	193,437	(406)	193,031
Profit/(loss) for the period	-	-	36,866	-	-	-	36,866	(14)	36,852
Other comprehensive income/(loss) for the period	-	-	-	-	4,099	(83)	4,016	-	4,016
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the period	-	-	36,866	-	4,099	(83)	40,882	(14)	40,868
Net cash received on exercise of shares from Employee Benefit Trust	-	-	-	912	-	-	912	-	912
Transfer of shares from Employee Benefit Trust on exercise	-	-	(780)	780	-	-	-	-	-
Share-based payments charge	-	-	3,530	-	-	-	3,530	-	3,530
Acquisition of non-controlling interest in Covetique Ltd	-	-	(394)	-	-	-	(394)	394	-
Deferred tax on share options	-	-	(1,323)	-	-	-	(1,323)	-	(1,323)
Current tax on items taken directly to equity	-	-	297	-	-	-	297	-	297
Balance as at 31 August 2015	2,920	6,901	225,123	(3,638)	6,339	(304)	237,341	(26)	237,315

<sup>1</sup> Retained earnings includes the share-based payments reserve

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
At 31 August 2015

	At 31 August 2015 £'000	At 31 August 2014 £'000
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Goodwill	1,060	1,325
Other intangible assets	75,104	62,576
Property, plant and equipment	64,379	55,400
Derivative financial assets	256	-
	<b>140,799</b>	119,301
<b>Current assets</b>		
Inventories	193,769	161,480
Trade and other receivables	18,055	20,385
Derivative financial assets	6,083	2,240
Current tax asset	-	2,217
Cash and cash equivalents	119,191	74,340
	<b>337,098</b>	260,662
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	(232,542)	(185,539)
Current tax liability	(3,600)	-
Deferred tax liability	(1,156)	-
	<b>(237,298)</b>	(185,539)
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>99,800</b>	75,123
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Deferred tax liability	(3,284)	(1,393)
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>237,315</b>	193,031
<b>Equity attributable to owners of the parent</b>		
Called up share capital	2,920	2,920
Share premium	6,901	6,901
Employee Benefit Trust reserve	(3,638)	(5,330)
Hedging reserve	6,339	2,240
Translation reserve	(304)	(221)
Retained earnings	225,123	186,927
	<b>237,341</b>	193,437
<b>Non-controlling interests</b>	(26)	(406)
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>237,315</b>	193,031

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
For the year to 31 August 2015

	Year to 31 August 2015 £'000	Year to 31 August 2014 £'000
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>47,260</b>	46,646
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	8,294	5,860
Amortisation of other intangible assets	14,760	9,501
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	4,893	150
Increase in inventories	(32,111)	(18,352)
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables	2,300	(1,844)
Increase in trade and other payables	47,615	33,522
Share-based payments charge/(credit)	2,245	(2,813)
Other non-cash items	637	(297)
Income tax paid	(2,837)	(3,714)
<b>Net cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>93,056</b>	68,659
<b>Investing activities</b>		
Payments to acquire other intangible assets	(32,470)	(32,627)
Payments to acquire property, plant and equipment	(17,926)	(29,750)
Finance income	339	296
Acquisition of subsidiary, net of cash acquired	-	182
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(50,057)</b>	(61,899)
<b>Financing activities</b>		
Proceeds from issue of ordinary shares	-	563
Net cash inflow/(outflow) relating to Employee Benefit Trust	912	(3,914)
Finance expense	(87)	(65)
<b>Net cash generated/(used in) from financing activities</b>	<b>825</b>	(3,416)
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>43,824</b>	3,344
Opening cash and cash equivalents	74,340	71,139
Effect of exchange rates on cash and cash equivalents	1,027	(143)
<b>Closing cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>119,191</b>	74,340



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### For the year to 31 August 2015

#### 1. Preparation of the audited condensed consolidated financial information

##### **a) Basis of preparation**

The condensed consolidated financial information for the year to 31 August 2015 has been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement criteria of International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") as adopted for use in the European Union and with those parts of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies reporting under IFRS. The accounting policies applied are consistent with those set out in the ASOS Plc Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2014.

The financial information contained within this preliminary announcement for the years to 31 August 2015 and 31 August 2014 does not comprise statutory financial statements within the meaning of section 434 of the Companies Act 2006. Statutory accounts for the year to 31 August 2014 have been filed with the Registrar of Companies and those for the year to 31 August 2015 will be filed following the Company's annual general meeting. The auditors' report on the statutory accounts for each of the years to 31 August 2015 and 31 August 2014 is unqualified, does not draw attention to any matters by way of emphasis, and does not contain any statement under section 498 of the Companies Act 2006.

##### *Going concern*

The Directors have reviewed current performance and forecasts, combined with expenditure commitments, including capital expenditure. After making enquiries, the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Group has adequate financial resources to continue its current operations, including contractual and commercial commitments for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they have continued to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

In preparing the preliminary announcement, the Directors have also made reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates and prepared the preliminary announcement on the going concern basis. The preliminary announcement and management report contained herein give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit and loss of the Group.

##### *Changes to accounting standards*

There have been no changes to accounting standards during the year which have had or are expected to have any significant impact on the Group.

## 2. Segmental analysis

IFRS 8 'Operating Segments' requires operating segments to be determined based on the Group's internal reporting to the Chief Operating Decision Maker. The Chief Operating Decision Maker has been determined to be the Executive Board and has determined that the primary segmental reporting format of the Group is geographical by customer location, based on the Group's management and internal reporting structure.

The Executive Board assesses the performance of each segment based on revenue and gross profit after distribution expenses, which excludes administrative expenses.

Year to 31 August 2015					
	UK	US	EU	RoW	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Retail sales</b>	<b>473,884</b>	<b>119,530</b>	<b>293,983</b>	<b>232,549</b>	<b>1,119,946</b>
<b>Delivery receipts</b>	<b>11,496</b>	<b>3,660</b>	<b>5,085</b>	<b>5,426</b>	<b>25,667</b>
<b>Third party revenues</b>	<b>4,403</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,175</b>
<b>Internal revenues</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>3,067</b>	<b>3,442</b>
<b>Total segment revenue</b>	<b>489,822</b>	<b>123,945</b>	<b>299,421</b>	<b>241,042</b>	<b>1,154,230</b>
<b>Eliminations</b>	<b>(39)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(336)</b>	<b>(3,067)</b>	<b>(3,442)</b>
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>489,783</b>	<b>123,945</b>	<b>299,085</b>	<b>237,975</b>	<b>1,150,788</b>
<b>Cost of sales</b>	<b>(260,709)</b>	<b>(49,301)</b>	<b>(151,783)</b>	<b>(114,196)</b>	<b>(575,989)</b>
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>229,074</b>	<b>74,644</b>	<b>147,302</b>	<b>123,779</b>	<b>574,799</b>
<b>Distribution expenses</b>	<b>(52,825)</b>	<b>(38,382)</b>	<b>(40,761)</b>	<b>(36,713)</b>	<b>(168,681)</b>
<b>Segment result</b>	<b>176,249</b>	<b>36,262</b>	<b>106,541</b>	<b>87,066</b>	<b>406,118</b>
<b>Administrative expenses</b>					<b>(365,157)</b>
<b>Net other income</b>					<b>6,299</b>
<b>Operating profit</b>					<b>47,260</b>
<b>Finance income</b>					<b>353</b>
<b>Finance expense</b>					<b>(81)</b>
<b>Profit before tax</b>					<b>47,532</b>

Internal revenues relate largely to sale of stock by ASOS.com to ASOS (Shanghai) Commerce Co. Limited.

Year to 31 August 2014					
	UK	US	EU	RoW	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Retail sales	372,241	92,311	256,385	234,358	955,295
Delivery receipts	7,412	1,773	3,162	3,604	15,951
Third party revenues	4,224	-	-	-	4,224
Internal revenues	111	-	-	7,654	7,765
<b>Total segment revenue</b>	<b>383,988</b>	<b>94,084</b>	<b>259,547</b>	<b>245,616</b>	<b>983,235</b>
<b>Eliminations</b>	<b>(111)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(7,654)</b>	<b>(7,765)</b>
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>383,877</b>	<b>94,084</b>	<b>259,547</b>	<b>237,962</b>	<b>975,470</b>
<b>Cost of sales</b>	<b>(207,853)</b>	<b>(40,137)</b>	<b>(126,460)</b>	<b>(116,013)</b>	<b>(490,463)</b>
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>176,024</b>	<b>53,947</b>	<b>133,087</b>	<b>121,949</b>	<b>485,007</b>
<b>Distribution expenses</b>	<b>(39,618)</b>	<b>(28,804)</b>	<b>(37,062)</b>	<b>(41,819)</b>	<b>(147,303)</b>
<b>Segment result</b>	<b>136,406</b>	<b>25,143</b>	<b>96,025</b>	<b>80,130</b>	<b>337,704</b>
<b>Administrative expenses</b>					<b>(294,108)</b>
<b>Net other income</b>					<b>3,050</b>
<b>Operating profit</b>					<b>46,646</b>
<b>Finance income</b>					<b>312</b>
<b>Finance expense</b>					<b>(57)</b>
<b>Profit before tax</b>					<b>46,901</b>

Due to the nature of its activities, the Group is not reliant on any individual major customers.

No analysis of the assets and liabilities of each operating segment is provided to the Chief Operating Decision Maker in the monthly management accounts therefore no measure of segments assets or liabilities is disclosed in this note. There are no material non-current assets located outside the UK.

### 3. Net other income

Net other income recognised during the year to 31 August 2015 relates to final business interruption reimbursements as a result of the fire in our main distribution hub in June 2014. Amounts recognised during the year to 31 August 2014 related to insurance reimbursements related to stock loss and other incremental costs plus a portion of business interruption losses.

	<b>Year to 31 August 2015 £'000</b>	Year to 31 August 2014 £'000
Stock loss and other incremental costs	-	(8,486)
Insurance reimbursements	<b>6,299</b>	11,536
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,299</b>	3,050

At 31 August 2014, the Group disclosed a contingent asset in relation to these expected final business interruption reimbursements. This contingent asset no longer exists as at 31 August 2015 as a result of the reimbursements received above.

### 4. Earnings per share

Basic earnings per share is calculated by dividing the profit attributable to the owners of the parent company by the weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue during the year. Own shares held by the Employee Benefit Trust and Capita Trust are eliminated from the weighted average number of ordinary shares.

Diluted earnings per share is calculated by dividing the profit attributable to the owners of the parent company by the weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue during the period, adjusted for the effects of potentially dilutive share options.

	<b>Year to 31 August 2015 No. of shares</b>	Year to 31 August 2014 No. of shares
<b>Weighted average share capital</b>		
Weighted average shares in issue for basic earnings per share	<b>82,963,517</b>	82,845,587
Weighted average effect of dilutive options	<b>70,742</b>	279,864
Weighted average shares in issue for diluted earnings per share	<b>83,034,259</b>	83,125,451
	<b>Year to 31 August 2015 £'000</b>	Year to 31 August 2014 £'000
<b>Earnings</b>		
Underlying earnings attributable to owners of the parent	<b>36,866</b>	36,950
	<b>Year to 31 August 2015 Pence</b>	Year to 31 August 2014 Pence
<b>Earnings per share</b>		
Basic earnings per share	<b>44.4</b>	44.6
Diluted earnings per share	<b>44.4</b>	44.5

### 5. Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents

	<b>Year to 31 August 2015 £'000</b>	Year to 31 August 2014 £'000
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents	<b>43,824</b>	3,344
Opening cash and cash equivalents	<b>74,340</b>	71,139
Effect of exchange rates on cash and cash equivalents	<b>1,027</b>	(143)
<b>Closing cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>119,191</b>	74,340

The Group has a £20m revolving loan credit facility which includes an ancillary £10m guaranteed overdraft facility and which is available until October 2018.