

The Business



In association with www.tradearabia.com



NBK posts 12.6pc rise in net profit

MANAMA: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has reported a 12.6 per cent year-on-year growth in net profits at \$514 million for the first half of the year compared with \$456m for the same period last year.

As at end of June, NBK Group's total assets reached \$71.1 billion, up 11.7pc compared with June last year, while total shareholders' equity increased by 5.3pc year-on-year to \$8.9bn.

Customer loans and advances reached \$40bn as of end of June, growing at 9.6pc year-on-year, while customer deposits grew by 7.7pc for the same period to \$38.7bn.

NBK asset quality remained exceptionally strong with non-performing loans (NPLs)/gross loans improving to 1.81pc as of end of June and NPL coverage reaching 229.6pc.

"With net profits growing at 12.6pc year-on-year, NBK continues to deliver

solid results," NBK Group chief executive Isam Al Sager said.

"NBK's conservative management practices and its strong financial position helped the bank sustain its profitability and resilient market position," he added.

Mr Al Sager said the operating environment in Kuwait continues to show strong signs of improvement, reflecting a pickup in economic activity and accordingly better banking sector performance.

"There is a noticeable improvement in the process of tendering, award and execution of the large infrastructure projects, which has also reflected positively on the overall private sector sentiment and accordingly on banks' credit growth.

This is a trend we hope will continue,"



■ Mr Al Sager

he said.

"NBK continued to focus on core banking activities in and outside Kuwait as the main driver of income growth.

In the first half, net operating income grew 6.2pc year-on-year to \$1,177m," he added.

NBK's strategic aim is to further diversify its income sources.

Regionally, the performance of NBK's international and regional operations continued to deliver healthy performance.

In the first half, NBK's international operations contributed 23pc to the group's profits despite the ongoing political challenges in some of the locations.

NBK regional coverage extends to Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Turkey.



■ The Human Performance Improvement (HPI) Institute in Segaiya has signed a strategic agreement with Cambridge Training College (CTC) to be an accredited regional representative and an examination centre for the Middle East and Africa. HPI chief executive Dr Emad Al Zaidani and CTC professor Dr Nabil Hejab signed the agreement, which offers new accredited international programmes to participants. The deal was signed at the English Language and Management Institute in Segaiya. Above, Dr Hejab, left, with Dr Al Zaidani at the signing ceremony.

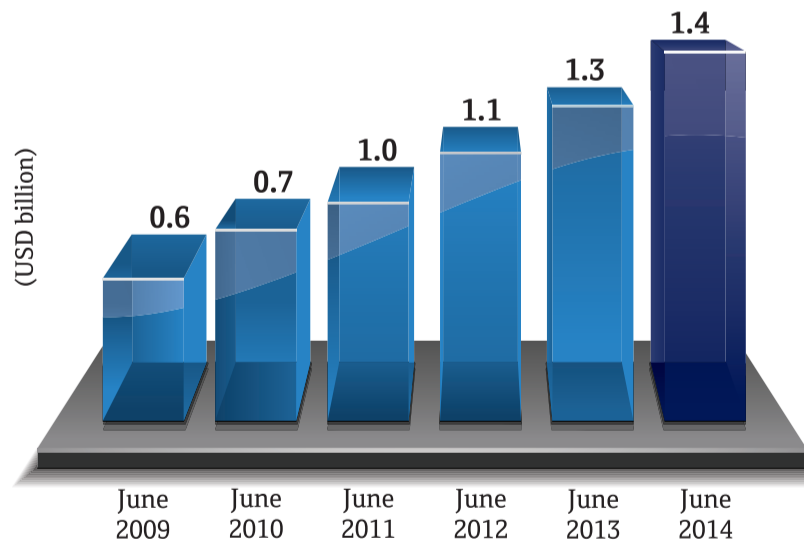
Savola gains up 32pc

DUBAI: Saudi food producer Savola Group reported a higher than expected 32.4 per cent jump in second-quarter net profit yesterday, beating analyst forecasts as it benefited from higher sales especially in its retail business.

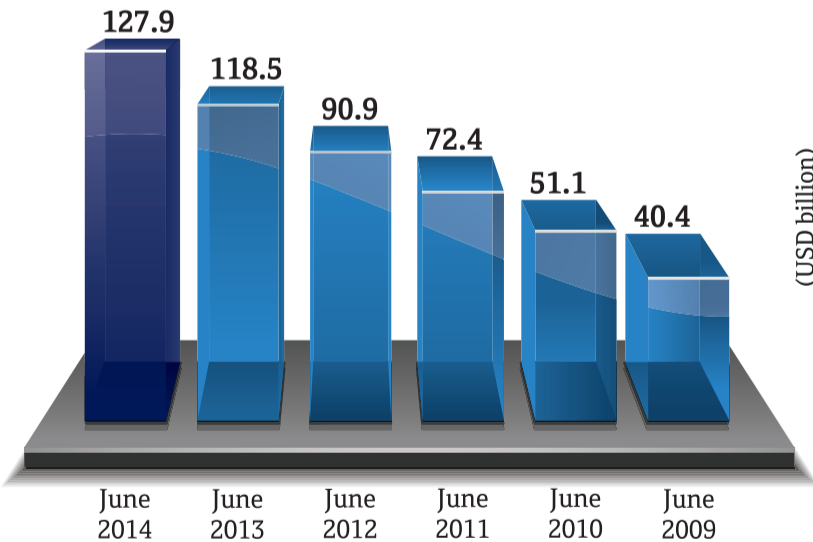
The company, a producer of cooking oil, sugar and other foodstuffs, made a net profit in the three months to June 30 of 513.3 million riyals (\$136.9m), compared with 387.8m in the same period a year earlier, according to a bourse filing.

Six analysts polled by Reuters had forecast, on average, that Savola would record a net profit for the quarter of 435m riyals.

Net Profit US\$1.4 billion up by 7.0% on June 2013



Total Assets US\$127.9 billion up by 7.9% on June 2013



QNB Group - June 2014 Financial Results.

Another set of impressive results reinforcing QNB Group's position as a leading bank in the MENA region, with an international network and presence in 26 countries. Credit ratings: Capital Intelligence AA-, Fitch A+, Moody's Aa3, Standard & Poor's A+.

Call +974 4425 2444 or visit qnb.com.qa