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The reported net profit attributable to shareholders was £1,934m (2023: £1,781m) up 9%. Reported earnings per share were 103.6p (2023: 94.1p) up 10%.

Cash flows

Year ended 31 December

	2023 (£'000)	2022 (£'000)
Cash flow from operations	3,030A	3,199A
Depreciation and amortisation	514A	525A
Earnings before interest and tax	3,544A	3,724A
Capital expenditure	(477)A	(484)A
Repayment of lease principal (net)*A	(70)A	(61)A
Working capital and other items	(35)A	(78)A
Adjusted cash flow	2,962A	3,101A
Adjusted cash flow conversion	98%	97%
Net of subsale receipts	A£1,101m	A£1,962m
Comparison with prior period	Up 5%	-
Revenue	2023: A£477m	2022: A£464m
In respect of capitalised development costs	A£477m	A£464m
Sustained investment in new products	A£477m	A£464m
Capital expenditure as % of revenue	5.2%	5.1%
Excludes pre-publication costs	A£92m	A£93m
Current assets and principal lease repayments	A£61m	A£70m
Depreciation and other amortisation charged within adjusted operating profit	A£525m	A£514m
Represented % of revenue	2023: 5.6%	2022: 5.6%
This includes amortisation of internally developed intangible assets	A£364m	A£330m
and depreciation of property, plant and equipment	A£34m	A£43m
which combined represent	2023: 4.1%	2022: 4.1%
of revenue	A£RELX 2024   Results 11	Operating and financial review
Interest paid	A£61m	A£61m
Year ended 31 December	2023: A£204A	2022: A£204A
GBPmA	GBPMa	Free cash flow
Adjusted cash flow	2,962A	3,101A
Interest paid (net)*A	(294)A	(251)A
Cash tax paid*	(619)A	(662)A
Exceptional costs in Exhibitions	(5)A	(A&Acquisition and disposal related items)
(56)A	(62)A	Free cash flow before dividends
1,988A	2,126A	Ordinary dividends
(1,059)A	(1,121)A	Free cash flow post dividends
929A	1,005A	* Net of cash tax relief on acquisition and disposal related items and including cash tax impact of disposals
Interest paid (net)	was A£251m	(2023: A£294m), decreasing mainly as a result of the lower interest expense and timing of payments
Tax paid	of A£662m	(2023: A£619m) was higher than the income statement charge, with the difference reflecting timing of tax payments
Payments made in respect of acquisition and disposal related items	amounted to A£62m	(2023: A£56m)
Free cash flow before dividends	was A£2,126m	(2023: A£1,988m). Ordinary dividends paid to shareholders in the year, being the 2023 final dividend and 2024 interim dividend, amounted to A£1,121m
(2023: A£1,059m). Free cash flow after dividends	was A£1,005m	(2023: A£929m)
Share repurchases	in 2024 were A£1,000m	(2023: A£800m) with a further A£150m repurchased in 2025 as at 12 February. In addition, the Employee Benefit Trust purchased shares of RELX PLC to meet future obligations in respect of share based remuneration totalling A£75m (2023: A£50m). Proceeds from the exercise of share options were A£47m (2023: A£41m)
RELX 2024   Results 12	Operating and financial review	Debt
Net debt at 31 December	2024 was A£6,563m	, an increase of A£117m since 31 December 2023
Gross debt	of A£6,544m	(2023: A£6,497m) is comprised of bank and bond borrowings of A£6,441m (2023: A£6,356m) and lease liabilities of A£103m (2023: A£141m). The fair value of related derivative liabilities was A£140m (2023: A£108m), finance lease receivables totalled A£2m (2023: A£4m) and cash and cash equivalents totalled A£119m (2023: A£155m). In aggregate, these give the net debt figure of A£6,563m (2023: A£6,446m)
The effective interest rate on gross bank and bond borrowings	was 4.4% in 2024	(2023: 4.6%). As at 31 December 2024, gross bank and bond borrowings had a weighted average life remaining of 4.1 years and a total of 56% of them were at fixed rates, after taking into account interest rate derivatives. The ratio of net debt (including pensions) to EBITDA (adjusted earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation) was 1.8x (2023: 2.0x), calculated in US dollars
At 31 December 2024,	there was a net positive pension accounting balance (pension assets less pension obligations) of A£21m, compared to a net negative position of A£63m as at 31 December 2023 as liabilities have reduced due to an increase in discount rates	
Liquidity	In March 2024, ~€850m of euro denominated term debt was issued with a coupon of 3.375% and a maturity of nine years. The Group has ample liquidity and access to debt capital markets, providing the ability to repay or refinance debt as it matures and to fund ongoing requirements. This includes access to a \$3bn committed bank facility which provides security of funding for short-term debt, and which remains undrawn. In March 2024 the maturity date of the facility was extended to April 2027. The facility has pricing linked to three Corporate Responsibility performance targets, all of which were achieved in 2024	
Invested capital and returns	The post-tax return on average invested capital in the year was 14.8% (2023: 14.0%). The increase was driven by growth in adjusted operating profit, and lower average invested capital when retranslated at the average exchange rates for the year	
Adjusted effective tax rate	20.4% (2023: 22.5%)	
Adjusted operating profit after tax	2,412A	2,479A
Average invested capital	A 17,184A	16,743A
Return on invested capital	14.0% (2023: 14.8%)	
Average of invested capital at the beginning and the end of the year,	retranslated at average exchange rates for the year	Invested capital is calculated as net capital employed, adjusted to add back accumulated amortisation and impairment of acquired intangible assets and goodwill and to exclude the gross up to goodwill in respect of deferred tax
RELX 2024   Results 13	Operating and financial review	Dividends and share repurchases
The final dividend proposed by the Board	is 44.8p per share. This gives total dividends for the year of 63.0p (2023: 58.8p), 7% higher than the prior year	
The dividend policy of RELX PLC is,	over the longer term, to grow dividends broadly in line with adjusted earnings per share, paying out approximately half of adjusted earnings in dividend each year	
During 2024,	a total of 28.9m RELX PLC shares were repurchased at an average price of 3.461p. Total consideration for these repurchases was A£1,000m. A further 2.2m (2023: 2.0m) shares were purchased by the Employee Benefit Trust. As at 31 December 2024, total shares in issue, net of shares held in treasury and shares held by the Employee Benefit Trust, amounted to 1,855.9m. A further 3.8m shares have been repurchased in 2025 as at 12 February	
Alternative performance measures	RELX uses a range of alternative performance measures (APMs) in the reporting of financial information, which are not defined by generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) such as IFRS. These APMs are used by the Board and management as they believe they provide relevant information in assessing the Group's performance, position and cash flows, enable investors to track more clearly the core operational performance of the Group, and provide a clear basis for assessing RELX's ability to raise debt and invest in new business opportunities	
Management also uses these financial measures,	along with IFRS financial measures, in evaluating the operating performance of the Group as a whole and of the individual business areas. These measures should not be considered in isolation from, or as a substitute for, financial information presented in compliance with IFRS. The measures may not be directly comparable to similarly reported measures by other companies	
Definitions of alternative performance measures can be found on page 30	Corporate responsibility	
We progressed our unique contributions to society in a number of ways, including by increasing the amount of content on the free RELX SDG Resource Centre by 20% in the year. This encompassed 14 special issues		
"curated articles, book chapters and other content on key topics; among them was an artificial intelligence collection to coincide with the 2024 RELX SDG Inspiration Day. In the Age of AI, a virtual programme featuring 8th UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and founder of The Futurewise Institute, Dr. Mark van Rijmenam among other speakers"		
The CFO chairs our Environmental Checkpoint group which met regularly in 2024 to advance key metrics including Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions. We maintained 100% of electricity from renewable sources, green tariffs, and certified renewable energy certificates. As we progress net zero plans, our total Scope 1 and Scope 2 (location-based) emissions were 32,692 tCO2e (40,933 tCO2e in 2023), continuing a downward trend. We increased the number of suppliers who are signatories to our Supplier Code of Conduct by 13.8% and our employees volunteered 16,149 days in company time		
Refer to page 33 for further information on 2024 key corporate responsibility data		
RELX 2024   Results 15	Principal risks	
PRINCIPAL RISKS		
The Audit Committee and Board have considered the principal risks and uncertainties which could affect the Group for the financial year as summarised below		
Data Privacy		
In the course of our business, we process personal data from customers, end users, employees and other sources. Certain business areas rely extensively upon content that includes personal data from public records, governmental authorities, publicly available information and media, and other information companies, including competitors. Changes in data privacy legislation, regulation, and/or enforcement could impact our ability to collect and use personal data, potentially affecting the availability and effectiveness of our products. Failure or perceived failure, by us, our customers or suppliers, to comply with requirements for proper collection, use, sharing, storage, transfer and other processing of personal data may damage our reputation, divert time and effort of management and other resources, increase cost of operations and expose us to risk of loss, fines and penalties, litigation and increased regulation		
Intellectual property rights		
Our products and services include and utilise intellectual property. We rely on trademark, copyright, patent, trade secret and other intellectual property laws to establish and protect our proprietary rights in this intellectual property. There is a risk that our proprietary rights could be challenged, limited, invalidated, infringed or circumvented, including by AI technologies, which may impact demand for and pricing of our products and services. Copyright laws are subject to national legislative initiatives, as well as cross-border initiatives such as those from the European Commission and increased judicial scrutiny in several jurisdictions in which we operate. This creates additional challenges for us in protecting our proprietary rights in content delivered through the internet and electronic platforms		
Geopolitical, economic and market conditions		
Demand for our products and services, and our ability to operate internationally, may be adversely impacted by geopolitical, economic and market conditions beyond our control. These include acts of war and civil unrest; political conflicts and tensions; international sanctions; economic cycles; the impact of the effect of changes in inflation and interest rates in major economies; trading relations between the United States,		

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