

HSBC HOLDINGS PLC
Form 6-K
April 30, 2014

FORM 6-K

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Report of Foreign Private Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a - 16 or 15d - 16 of

the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of April
HSBC Holdings plc

42nd Floor, 8 Canada Square, London E14 5HQ, England

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

Form 20-F Form 40-F

(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-.....).

30 April 2014

GRUPO FINANCIERO HSBC, S.A. DE C.V.
FIRST QUARTER 2014 FINANCIAL RESULTS - HIGHLIGHTS

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- Net income before tax for the first quarter of 2014 was MXN1,553m, a decrease of MXN477m or 23.5% compared with MXN2,030m for the first quarter of 2013.
- Net income for the first quarter of 2014 was MXN1,460m, a decrease of MXN24m or 1.6% compared with MXN1,484m for the first quarter of 2013.
- Total operating income, net of loan impairment charges, for the first quarter of 2014 was MXN6,925m, a decrease of MXN181m or 2.5% compared with MXN7,106m for the first quarter of 2013.
- Loan impairment charges for the first quarter of 2014 were MXN1,525m, a decrease of MXN43m or 2.7% compared with MXN1,568m for the first quarter of 2013.
- Administrative and personnel expenses for the first quarter of 2014 were MXN5,382m, an increase of MXN299m or 5.9% compared with MXN5,083m for the first quarter of 2013.
- The cost efficiency ratio was 63.7% for the first quarter of 2014, compared with 58.6% for the first quarter of 2013.
- Net loans and advances to customers were MXN194.4bn at 31 March 2014, an increase of MXN5.8bn or 3.1 % compared with MXN188.6bn at 31 March 2013. Total impaired loans as a percentage of gross loans and advances as at 31 March 2014 increased to 6.2% compared with 2.2% at 31 March 2013.
- At 31 March 2014, deposits were MXN269.0bn, an increase of MXN4.0bn or 1.5% compared with MXN265.0bn at 31 March 2013.
- Return on equity was 10.7% for the first quarter of 2014 compared with 11.2% for the first quarter of 2013.
- At 31 March 2014, the bank's total capital adequacy ratio was 14.4% and the tier 1 capital ratio was 11.9% compared with 16.8% and 13.7% respectively at 31 March 2013.
- In the first quarter of 2014, the bank paid a dividend of MXN576m, representing MXN0.30 per share, and Grupo Financiero HSBC paid a dividend of MXN3,781m, representing MXN1.34 per share.

2013 results have been restated to reflect HSBC Fianzas, the bonding company which has been sold, as a discontinued operation.

HSBC Mexico S.A. (the bank) is a subsidiary of Grupo Financiero HSBC, S.A. de C.V.'s (Grupo Financiero HSBC) and is subject to supervision by the Mexican Banking and Securities Commission. The bank is required to file financial information on a quarterly basis (in this case for the quarter ended 31 March 2014) and this information is publicly available. Given that this information is available in the public domain, Grupo Financiero HSBC, S.A. de C.V. has elected to file this release. HSBC Seguros, S.A. de C.V. Grupo Financiero HSBC (HSBC Seguros) is Grupo Financiero HSBC's insurance group.

Results are prepared in accordance with Mexican GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles).

Overview

After a challenging 2013 in economic terms, Mexico's full year economic growth was 1.1%. During the first quarter, the Mexican economy remained weak as external demand moderated in part because of the disruptive weather in the

US, which impacted negatively Mexican exports at the beginning of the year causing a delay in shipments, and domestic demand continued to struggle to grow. During 2013, monetary policy rate was cut several times from 4.5% to the current 3.5% rate.

For the quarter ended 31 March 2014, Grupo Financiero HSBC's net income before tax was MXN1,553m a decrease of MXN477m or 23.5% compared with the same quarter in 2013. The decrease was driven mainly by higher administrative and personnel expenses, lower net interest income and lower net fee income, partially offset by a decrease in loan impairment charges and higher other operating income.

Net income was MXN1,460m, a decrease of MXN24m or 1.6% compared with the first quarter of 2013 due to lower tax expenses, largely due to higher inflationary effects which benefited the effective tax rate in the first quarter of 2014.

Net interest income was MXN5,367m, a decrease of MXN337m or 5.9% compared with the first quarter of 2013. The decrease is mainly due to the insurance related business which accounted for MXN249m of the decrease and lower interest income in non-interest bearing deposits due to a decrease in market rates affecting spreads, partially offset by higher average portfolio balances in consumer and mortgage loans, as well as higher spreads in credit cards.

Loan impairment charges were MXN1,525m, a decrease of MXN43m or 2.7% compared with the first quarter of 2013. The decrease is mainly explained by higher loan impairment charges in 2013 related to a project finance in the commercial loan portfolio partly compensated by an increase in the impaired consumer loan portfolio arising from loan growth and portfolio deterioration, the latter being in line with general market condition. The new CNBV regulation relating to the methodology for calculating loan impairment allowances for financial entities lending was implemented in March 2014. The implementation of this new methodology increased loan loss allowances by MXN30m, which were recognised through retained earnings.

Net fee income for the first quarter of 2014 was MXN1,552m, a decrease of MXN76m or 4.7% compared with the first quarter of 2013. This decrease is mainly explained by lower account services, alternative channels and investment funds fees, partially offset by MXN50m commissions related to the exclusive distribution agreement for general insurance sales in branches signed in April 2013.

Trading income of MXN726m was largely unchanged from the first quarter of 2013. The reduction in Cetes and TIIIE rates during February 2014 generated gains in the rate business that were offset by a decrease in derivatives, bonds and foreign exchange unrealized gains.

Other operating income was MXN805m, an increase of MXN184m or 29.6% compared with the first quarter of 2013. This increase is mainly due to higher recoveries recognition from previous years, higher releases of loan impairment charges recognised in 2014 and an increase in gains on sale of foreclosed assets.

Administrative and personnel expenses were MXN5,382m, an increase of MXN299m or 5.9% compared with the first quarter of 2013. This increase is mainly due to investment in the compliance and risk functions in line with the implementation of Global Standards funded by sustainable cost savings that had been generated in previous years.

The cost efficiency ratio was 63.7% for the quarter ended 31 March 2014, compared with 58.6% for the quarter ended 31 March 2013.

The effective tax rate was 7.5% for the quarter ended 31 March 2014, compared with 30.7% for the quarter ended 31 March 2013. This variance is largely due to higher inflationary effects which benefited the effective tax rate in the first quarter of 2014.

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Discontinued operations include the general insurance manufacturing businesses sold in April 2013, with a gain following adjustments at the completion of the sale recognised in the first quarter of 2014, and HSBC Fianzas, the bonding company, which was sold in December 2013.

Grupo Financiero HSBC's insurance subsidiary, HSBC Seguros, reported net income before tax of MXN361m for the quarter ended 31 March 2014, excluding discontinued operations and one-offs, a decrease of 35.0% compared with the first quarter 2013. This was mainly due to an increase in the claims ratio compared with the same period of 2013, mainly due to an increase in maturity of the Becahorro (endowment) insurance product portfolio. Gross written premiums for life insurance products performance is lower compared with the same period in 2013 due to reduced life insurance (T5) sales, while Becahorro insurance product gross written premiums increased 14.4% compared with the same period in 2013.

Net loans and advances to customers were MXN194.4bn at 31 March 2014, an increase of MXN5.8bn or 3.1% compared with MXN188.6bn at 31 March 2013. The performing mortgage loan portfolio increased by 24.0% and the performing consumer loan portfolio increased by 4.7%, primarily in personal loans and credit cards, compared to the position at 31 March 2013. The performing commercial loan portfolio decreased by 0.9%, while government loans decreased 29.1% mainly due to a repayment of one significant loan during 2013, compared to the position at 31 March 2013.

At 31 March 2014, total impaired loans increased by 194.7% to MXN12.7bn compared with MXN4.3bn at 31 March 2013. The higher impaired loan portfolio is largely associated with increased impaired commercial loans related to the performance of certain home builders during 2013. Total impaired loans as a percentage of total loans and advances to customers increased to 6.2% compared with 2.2% at 31 March 2013. The non-performing loan ratio of mortgage and consumer impaired loan portfolios increased to 3.7% compared with 3.3% at 31 March 2013, as a result of the Mexican economic performance.

Total loan loss allowances at 31 March 2014 were MXN11.8bn, an increase of MXN2.3bn or 23.7% compared with 31 March 2013. The total coverage ratio (allowance for loan losses divided by impaired loans) was 92.5% at 31 March 2014 compared with 220.5% at 31 March 2013. This decrease was primarily a result of the increase in impaired commercial loans. The new CNBV regulation relating to the methodology for calculating loan impairment allowances for financial entities lending were implemented in March 2014. The implementation of this new methodology increased loan loss allowances by MXN30m, which were recognised through retained earnings.

Total deposits were MXN269.0bn at 31 March 2014, an increase of MXN4.0bn or 1.5% compared with 31 March 2013. Demand deposits decreased by 1.7% while time deposits increased by 5.0%, mainly due to better customer acquisition following the "Gran Venta" campaign launched in January 2014.

At 31 March 2014, the bank's total capital adequacy ratio was 14.4% and the tier 1 capital ratio was 11.9% compared with 16.8% and 13.7% respectively at 31 March 2013.

In the first quarter of 2014, the bank paid a dividend of MXN576m representing MXN0.30 per share and Grupo Financiero HSBC paid a dividend of MXN3,781m representing MXN1.34 per share.

Business highlights

Retail Banking and Wealth Management (RBWM)

RBWM increased average time deposit balances for the first quarter of 2014 by 1.7% compared with the first quarter of 2013 mainly due to better customer acquisition following the "Gran Venta" Campaign launched in January 2014.

RBWM increased average performing loan balances by 12.6% compared with the same quarter of 2013 mainly due to personal loans, mortgages and credit card. Personal loans average balances increased by 19.9% compared with the same period of 2013. Average mortgage balances increased by 25.4% compared to the same period of 2013 as a result of competitive rate products in the.

Credit card average balances increased 9.2% compared to the same quarter of 2013 mainly due to a higher number of transactions.

Commercial Banking (CMB)

CMB results for the first quarter 2014 were impacted by lower performing loan balances, mainly related to exposure to home builders' portfolios and a strategic reduction in the business banking loan balances, coupled with lower spreads in deposits.

Aligned to our global strategy of becoming the leading international trade and business bank, CMB continues to increase connectivity with global customers throughout the world. It is important to highlight the following points:

- Further action continues to support international SMEs through the US\$1bn International Growth Fund; approximately one third of the Fund has been authorized to customers nine months after launch and 28.5% of that has been deployed. The International Growth Fund has played an important role in delivering overall SMEs loan growth of 26.4% over the prior year.
- Continued progress in collaboration with Global Banking and Markets (GBM) and Global Private Banking. Closer coordination with GBM expertise has delivered growth in more complex products with sophisticated clients.

Global Banking and Markets

Global Banking continued to grow average performing loan portfolios, which increased by 6.8% compared with the same period of 2013, notwithstanding there were significant prepayments during 2013. Higher loan balances resulted in 14% higher fees related to financial structuring services compared with the same period of 2013.

During the first quarter of 2014, total Global Markets revenues were particularly strong in the rate and foreign exchange businesses, due to increased activity and market participation, as well as an appropriate positioning. The reduction in Cetes and TIE rates (-24bps and -22bps respectively) on average during February 2014, generated gains of MXN680.8m, an increase of MXN914.5m compared with a loss of MXN233.7m in the first quarter of 2013, offset by a decrease in derivatives, bonds and foreign exchange unrealized gains of MXN917.1m, or 96% compared with the same period of 2013.

As a result of the increased business in the bond and interest rate markets, during the first quarter of 2014 HSBC was placed third in the ranking of Market Makers for the Mexican Ministry of Finance (SHCP).

Grupo Financiero HSBC's first quarter 2014 financial results as reported to HSBC Holdings plc, our ultimate parent company, are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

For the quarter ended 31 March 2014, on an IFRS basis, Grupo Financiero HSBC reported a net income before tax of MXN842m, a decrease of MXN884m or 51.2% compared with MXN1,726m for the quarter ended 31 March 2013.

The higher net income before tax reported under Mexican GAAP is largely due to higher loan impairment charges under IFRS as a result of the different provisioning methodologies, coupled with a reduction of the present value of in-force long-term insurance business, a concept which is only recognised under IFRS, as well as with higher deferral of fees paid on the origination of loans and other effective interest rate adjustments. A reconciliation and explanation

between the Mexican GAAP and IFRS results is included with the financial statements of this document.

About HSBC

Grupo Financiero HSBC is one of the leading financial groups in Mexico with 987 branches, 6,045 ATMs and approximately 17,500 employees. For more information, visit www.hsbc.com.mx.

Grupo Financiero HSBC is a 99.99% directly owned subsidiary of HSBC Latin America Holdings (UK) Limited, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc, and a member of the HSBC Group. With around 6,300 offices in 75 countries and territories in Europe, Hong Kong, Rest of Asia-Pacific, North and Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa and with assets of US\$2,671bn at 31 December 2013, the HSBC Group is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.

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Consolidated Balance Sheet

Figures in MXN millions	GROUP		BANK	
	31 Mar 2014	31 Mar 2013	31 Mar 2014	31 Mar 2013
Assets				
Cash and deposits in banks	39,657	55,703	39,657	55,703
Margin accounts	-	-	-	-
Investment in securities	177,021	157,690	161,642	141,915
Trading securities	54,731	37,225	50,216	30,589
Available-for-sale securities	105,138	104,803	105,138	104,803
Held to maturity securities	17,152	15,662	6,288	6,523
Repurchase agreements	-	3,229	-	3,229
Derivative transactions	48,873	54,171	48,873	54,171
Performing loans				
Commercial loans	106,105	107,067	106,105	107,067

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Loans to financial intermediaries	7,358	5,427	7,358	5,427
Consumer loans	36,497	34,848	36,497	34,848
Mortgage loans	24,538	19,784	24,538	19,784
Loans to government entities	18,903	26,670	18,903	26,670
Total performing loans	193,401	193,796	193,401	193,796
Impaired loans				
Commercial loans	10,347	2,460	10,347	2,460
Loans to financial intermediaries	-	-	-	-
Consumer loans	1,634	1,194	1,634	1,194
Mortgage loans	699	673	699	673
Loans to government entities	70	-	70	-
Total impaired loans	12,750	4,327	12,750	4,327
Gross loans and advances to customers	206,151	198,123	206,151	198,123
Allowance for loan losses	(11,798)	(9,539)	(11,798)	(9,539)
Net loans and advances to customers	194,353	188,584	194,353	188,584
Accounts receivable from insurers and bonding companies	28	3	-	-
Premium receivables	38	55	-	-
Accounts receivable from reinsurers and rebonding companies	69	74	-	-
Benefits to be received from trading operations	176	292	176	292
Other accounts receivable	54,654	53,246	53,582	52,631
Foreclosed assets	152	201	152	201
Property, furniture and equipment, net	6,822			