The critical factors that are driving the performance of the Group are as follows:

- Diluted HEPS at 89.76 cents increased by 21.5% over last year. However, due to the dilutive effect of issuing 20 million new shares, and the lower earnings per share attributable to this issue, the earnings per share dilution is 6.5%.

- Group turnover at R23.7 billion is 16.4% above last year. This growth comprises 15.2% in the Southern African business and 27.3% in the Australia business.

- We continued the investment in the implementation of our strategy, including:
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  - Opening of 11 new stores across all brands in the first half of the year, with a further three to be opened in the current half. The Group is currently being primarily used for tactical buy-ins of merchandise to combat the effects of hyperinflation.
  - We continued to focus on fresh foods and have increased the spend on fresh foods in the stores.
  - We commenced another roll-out of a trading format, which will commence in 2009. It is currently being primarily used for tactical buy-ins of merchandise to combat the effects of hyperinflation.
  - Participation in export partnerships.
  - Score has been presented as a discontinued operation in the financial information to 31 August 2008, and the impact on the results is included in the Group’s results for the year ended 31 August 2008.

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