



Summary of Consolidated Financial Results for the Second Quarter of the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2025

[Japanese GAAP]

November 11, 2024

Company name: Striders Corporation

Listing: Tokyo Stock Exchange (STANDARD)

Stock code: 9816

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Scheduled date of filing of Quarterly Report:

November 11, 2024

Scheduled date of payment of dividend:

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Preparation of supplementary materials for quarterly financial results:

Available

Holding of quarterly financial results meeting:

Yes

(All amounts are rounded down to the nearest million yen.)

1. Consolidated Financial Results for the Second Quarter of the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2025 (April 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024)

(1) Consolidated results of operations

(Percentages represent year-on-year changes.)

	Net sales		Operating profit		Ordinary profit		Profit attributable to owners of parent	
	Million yen	%	Million yen	%	Million yen	%	Million yen	%
Six months ended Sep. 30, 2024	3,814	1.7	(32)	-	(45)	-	(48)	-
Six months ended Sep. 30, 2023	3,751	4.5	(24)	-	15	(84.2)	(1)	-

Note: Comprehensive income (million yen) Six months ended Sep. 30, 2024: (38)(-)

Six months ended Sep. 30, 2023: 12 (down 70.2%)

	Net income per share	Diluted net income per share
	Yen	Yen
Six months ended Sep. 30, 2024	(5.91)	-
Six months ended Sep. 30, 2023	(0.14)	-

(2) Consolidated financial position

	Total assets	Net assets	Equity ratio	Net assets per share
	Million yen	Million yen	%	Yen
As of Sep. 30, 2024	4,194	2,388	56.9	291.91
As of Mar. 31, 2024	4,629	2,540	54.3	304.72

Reference: Shareholders' equity (million yen)

As of Sep. 30, 2024: 2,387

As of Mar. 31, 2024: 2,514

2. Dividends

	Dividend per share				
	1Q-end	2Q-end	3Q-end	Year-end	Total
	Yen	Yen	Yen	Yen	Yen
Fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 2024	-	0.00	-	5.00	5.00
Fiscal year ending Mar. 31, 2025	-	0.00	-	-	-
Fiscal year ending Mar. 31, 2025 (forecast)	-	-	-	5.00	5.00

Note: Revisions to the most recently announced dividend forecast: None

3. Consolidated Earnings Forecast for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2025 (April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025)

(Percentages represent year-on-year changes.)

	Net sales		Operating profit		Ordinary profit		Profit attributable to owners of parent		Net income per share
	Million yen	%	Million yen	%	Million yen	%	Million yen	%	Yen
Full Year	7,700	0.3	100	101.2	140	37.6	100	21.2	12.00

Note: Revisions to the most recently announced consolidated earnings forecast: None

*** Notes**

(1) Changes in significant subsidiaries during the period (changes in specified subsidiaries resulting in changes in scope of consolidation): None

Newly added: - Excluded: -

(2) Application of special accounting methods in the preparation of the quarterly consolidated financial statements: None

(3) Changes in accounting policies and accounting estimates, and restatements

1) Changes in accounting policies due to revisions in accounting standards, others: None

2) Changes in accounting policies other than 1) above: None

3) Changes in accounting estimates: None

4) Restatements: None

(4) Number of outstanding shares (common shares)

1) Number of shares outstanding at the end of the period (including treasury shares)

As of Sep. 30, 2024:	8,912,089 shares	As of Mar. 31, 2024:	8,912,089 shares
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2) Number of treasury shares at the end of the period

As of Sep. 30, 2024:	733,099 shares	As of Mar. 31, 2024:	660,359 shares
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3) Average number of shares outstanding during the period

Six months ended Sep. 30, 2024:	8,220,708 shares	Six months ended Sep. 30, 2023:	8,373,248 shares
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* The current quarterly financial report is not subject to quarterly review by certified public accountants or auditing firms.

* Explanation of appropriate use of earnings forecasts and other special items

Cautionary statement with respect to forecasts

Forecasts of future performance in these materials are based on assumptions judged to be valid and information available to the Company's management at the time the materials were prepared. These materials are not the promises of the Company regarding future performance. Actual results may differ significantly from these forecasts for several reasons. For discussion of the assumptions and other factors considered by the Company in preparing the above projections, please refer to page 4 of the attachments: "1. Qualitative Information on Quarterly Consolidated Financial Performance, (3) Explanation of Consolidated Earnings Forecast and Other Forward-looking Statements."

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1. Qualitative Information on Quarterly Consolidated Financial Performance

(1) Explanation of Results of Operations

During the second quarter of the current fiscal year, the Japanese economy remains sluggish in terms of consumer spending, even as Western countries show signs of gradual recovery. Moreover, the global economic situation is rapidly changing. It remains unpredictable due to various factors, including developments in national politics related to the House of Representatives election in Japan, leadership transitions such as the U.S. presidential election, and escalating tensions arising from the situations in Ukraine and Palestine.

Amid such economic conditions, our group (the company and its consolidated subsidiaries) has been restructuring to create a system that can respond to these changes. Following the sale of shares in Y.K.Masuda Seimen last fiscal year, we transferred the shares of our consolidated subsidiary, Mobile Link Inc to a third party in September, removing it from consolidation and reorganizing our business into three main segments: real estate, hotel, and investment. Second, at the annual general shareholders' meeting in June this year, we amended our articles of incorporation to move our headquarters to Nihonbashi, Chuo-ku, and integrate it with our subsidiary, Trust Advisors, thereby promoting the consolidation of systems and administrative functions. Additionally, with the transition to a company with an audit and supervisory committee, we have established a structure that enables faster decision-making with a streamlined board of directors. Third, we have implemented measures to drive restructuring, including the in-house operation of Narita Gateway Hotel since January of this year, system migration and automation since June, and proactive investment in human resources at Kurashiki Royal Art Hotel.

As a result, for the second quarter of the current fiscal year, there was a 1.7% increase year-on-year in net sales to 3,814 million yen, an operating loss of 32 million yen (compared to an operating loss of 24 million yen one year earlier), an ordinary loss of 45 million yen (compared to an ordinary profit of 15 million yen), and a net loss attributable to owners of the parent of 48 million yen (net loss of 1 million yen one year earlier).

The performance of each segment is as follows:

1) Real Estate Business

Trust Advisers Corporation currently operates residential property business that handles leasing services for condominium owners as well as rental and condominium building management on a contract basis. The company also engages in the land agency business that caters to condominium owners' needs for buying and selling properties. Furthermore, Tokyo Apartment Guarantee operates a rent guarantee business.

In the residential property business, rent levels for subleasing contracts did not change significantly compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year, and the vacancy rate remained low. However, as the number of managed units decreased, revenue fell compared to the same period of the previous year. In addition, one-time costs associated with the office integration with the headquarters put pressure on operating profit, leading to a decline in both revenue and profit.

Furthermore, by defining the residential property business as the core of our real estate business and allocating resources to strengthen our main real estate leasing management business and expand peripheral services, both revenue and operating profit from the land agency business decreased, resulting in lower revenue and profit compared to the same period of the previous year. On the other hand, with the expansion and stabilization of profitability in the rent guarantee business, which is a peripheral service of the residence business, we achieved significant year-over-year increases in both revenue and profit, making it a new pillar of our real estate business.

As a result, segment sales for the period under review decreased 1.3% year-on-year to 3,033 million yen, mainly due to a decline in revenue from the residential property and land agency businesses. Operating profit also decreased 26.0% year-on-year to 72 million yen.

2) Hotel Business

In the hotel segment, we currently operate the Narita Gateway Hotel in the Narita International Airport area and the Kurashiki Royal Art Hotel in the Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter in Okayama Prefecture.

After transitioning from a facility for COVID-19 patients to regular operations in June 2023, Narita Gateway Hotel has been working to improve occupancy rates gradually. Compared to the same period of the previous year, which was during the initial ramp-up phase, both the room occupancy rate and the average room rate increased, resulting in higher revenue. However, several factors exerted pressure on the operating profit. These included the shift from outsourced management to in-house operations in January this year and investments in refreshing core systems to enhance customer acquisition and improve operational efficiency. In July, automated check-in machines were introduced, and room keycards were upgraded to reduce and streamline front desk operations. Additionally, we implemented measures such as restricting some guest access to repurpose a detached building in the Japanese garden into a restaurant. Furthermore, the rising costs of labor and utilities, driven by recent inflation, also impacted profit margins.

On the other hand, although Kurashiki Royal Art Hotel experienced an increase in room occupancy rates, it was unable to avoid the price-cutting trends of competing hotels in the Kurashiki area in September. As a result, the average room rate was temporarily lowered, leading to only a slight increase in revenue compared to the same period of the previous year. Operating profit declined year over year as temporary increase in costs. This was due to several factors: prioritizing hiring new graduates in line with mid- to long-term staffing plans, purchasing and replacing equipment, and the significant rise in labor and utility costs.

The combined performance of both hotels resulted in increased revenue; however, higher selling, general, and administrative expenses were the primary reason for a decline in profit despite overall revenue growth. For the period under review, net sales rose by 13.5% year-on-year to 551 million yen, while the operating loss increased to 25 million yen, compared to an operating loss of 17 million yen the previous year.

3) Investment Business

Regarding our group's investment business, M&A Global Partners Co., Ltd. is engaged in domestic investment activities, while Striders Global Investment Pte. Ltd. is responsible for overseas investment activities.

During the period under review, M&A Global Partners Co., Ltd., we have begun providing business support to the resort hotel Hotel Arrowle. in Kaga City, Ishikawa Prefecture. Additionally, Striders Global Investment Pte. Ltd., based in Singapore, is in the process of forming a fund built on its previous track record of investments. As part of this initiative, the company committed to investing in ViewMind, a U.S.-based healthcare tech company, under an investment commitment agreement associated with the "Planet43" accelerator program operated by R3i Ventures.

As a result, no revenue from the investment business was recorded during this consolidated interim period. (30 million yen one year earlier).

(2) Explanation of Financial Position

1) Financial Position

Assets

Current assets at the end of the period under review totaled 2,232 million yen, down 476 million yen from the end of the previous fiscal year. This is mainly due to a decrease of 575 million yen in cash and deposits and an increase of 126 million yen in inventories.

Non-current assets amounted to 1,961 million yen, up 40 million yen from the end of the previous fiscal year. This is mainly due to a 21 million yen increase in buildings and structures,(net).

As a result, total assets amounted to 4,194 million yen, down 435 million yen from the end of the previous fiscal year.

Liabilities

Current liabilities at the end of the period under review were 789 million yen, down 312 million yen from the end

of the previous fiscal year. This is mainly due to a 223 million yen decrease in the current portion of long-term borrowings.

Non-current liabilities totaled 1,016 million yen, up 29 million yen from the end of the previous fiscal year. This is mainly due to an increase of 57 million yen in long-term borrowings.

As a result, total liabilities amounted to 1,805 million yen, a decrease of 283 million yen from the end of the previous fiscal year.

Net assets

Net assets as of the end of the period under review were 2,388 million yen, down 152 million yen compared to the end of the previous fiscal year. This was mainly due to recording an interim net loss attributable to owners of the parent amounting to 48 million yen, while also distributing dividends of 40 million yen from retained earnings.

As a result, the equity ratio was 56.9%.

2) Cash flows

The balance of cash and cash equivalents (hereinafter referred to as "net cash") during the period under review was 1,502 million yen, down 426 million yen compared to the end of the previous fiscal year.

The cash flow conditions and their factors for the period under review are as follows:

Cash flows from operating activities

Net cash used in operating activities amounted to 49 million yen (compared to 140 million yen provided in the same period of the previous fiscal year). This is mainly due to income taxes paid of 785 million yen, an increase in inventories of 13567 million yen, and income taxes refund of 4956-million-yen, depreciation of 6348 million yen, and an increase in accounts receivable of 2732 million yen.

Cash flows from investing activities

Net cash used in investing activities was 103 million yen (compared to 68 million yen used in the same period of the previous fiscal year). This is mainly due to a purchase of property, plant and equipment of 11840 million yen and expenditure of 6228 million yen due to the sale of subsidiary shares, resulting in a change in the scope of consolidation.

Cash flows from financing activities

Net cash used in financing activities amounted to 266 million yen (compared to 163 million yen used in the same period of the previous fiscal year). This was mainly due to expenditures of 20 million yen for redemption of bonds, 33676 million yen for repayment of long-term borrowings, and a payment of 40 million yen for dividends.

(3) Explanation of Consolidated Earnings Forecast and Other Forward-looking Statements

There is no change to the earnings forecast in the "Summary of Consolidated Financial Results for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2024," published on May 15, 2024.

2. Quarterly Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes

(1) Quarterly Consolidated Balance Sheet

(Thousands of yen)

	FY3/24 (As of Mar. 31, 2024)	Second quarter of FY3/25 (As of Sep. 30, 2024)
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and deposits	2,108,737	1,532,907
Accounts receivable trade	211,919	166,889
Securities	130	159
Operating investment securities	191,384	196,600
Inventories	25,895	152,877
Other	175,926	187,029
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(4,930)	(3,616)
Total current assets	2,709,063	2,232,848
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment		
Buildings and structures, net	875,103	896,764
Land	515,733	515,733
Other, net	77,100	92,074
Total property, plant and equipment	1,467,937	1,504,572
Intangible assets		
Goodwill	83,252	79,191
Other	8,054	14,944
Total intangible assets	91,306	94,135
Investments and other assets		
Investment securities	10,000	10,000
Shares of subsidiaries and associates	56,511	52,417
Long-term loans	100,000	100,000
Deferred tax assets	28,728	23,700
Other	169,869	181,423
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(3,827)	(4,763)
Total investments and other assets	361,282	362,778
Total non-current assets	1,920,527	1,961,486
Total assets	4,629,590	4,194,334
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable trade	82,690	63,130
Short-term borrowings	3,340	—
Current portion of bonds	40,000	20,000
Current portion of long-term borrowings	372,025	148,368
Unearned revenue	86,919	93,316
Accrued expenses	245,055	250,147
Accounts payable-other	75,086	64,090
Income taxes payable	8,135	11,475
Provision for bonuses	25,500	22,361
Deposits received	108,008	91,284
Interest rate swaps	690	—
Other	54,719	25,045
Total current liabilities	1,102,171	789,221
Non-current liabilities		
Long-term borrowings	660,308	717,818
Retirement benefit liability	11,918	—
Long-term leasehold and guarantee deposits received	130,785	118,287
Deferred tax liabilities	142,065	139,220
Other	41,490	40,986
Total non-current liabilities	986,567	1,016,312
Total liabilities	2,088,739	1,805,534

	(Thousands of yen)	
	FY3/24 (As of Mar. 31, 2024)	Second quarter of FY3/25 (As of Sep. 30, 2024)
Net assets		
Shareholders' equity		
Share capital	1,585,938	1,585,938
Capital surplus	109,730	109,730
Retained earnings	996,308	877,872
Treasury shares	(196,453)	(211,452)
Total shareholders' equity	2,495,524	2,362,089
Accumulated other comprehensive income		
Valuation difference on available-for-sale securities	(415)	—
Deferred gains or losses on hedges	(690)	—
Foreign currency translation adjustment	20,061	25,411
Total accumulated other comprehensive income	18,955	25,411
Share acquisition rights	1,200	1,200
Non-controlling interests	25,170	99
Total net assets	2,540,850	2,388,800
Total liabilities and net assets	4,629,590	4,194,334

(2) Quarterly Consolidated Statements of Income and Comprehensive Income

Quarterly Consolidated Statement of Income

(For the Six-month Period)

	(Thousands of yen)	
	First six months of FY3/24 (Apr. 1, 2023 – Sep. 30, 2023)	First six months of FY3/25 (Apr. 1, 2024 – Sep. 30, 2024)
Net sales	3,751,045	3,814,144
Cost of sales	2,875,465	2,838,348
Gross profit	875,580	975,796
Selling, general and administrative expenses	899,686	1,008,552
Operating profit	(24,106)	(32,755)
Non-operating income		
Interest income	242	3,810
Dividend income	1	—
Commission income	21,352	23,644
Foreign exchange gains	18,012	—
Share of profit of entities accounted for using equity method	4,082	2,240
Subsidy income	3,574	—
Other	2,875	2,301
Total non-operating income	50,142	31,997
Non-operating expenses		
Interest expenses	5,850	6,308
Interest on bonds	704	45
Foreign exchange loss	—	34,204
Provision of allowance for doubtful accounts	3,125	—
Other	1,268	4,143
Total non-operating expenses	10,948	44,702
Ordinary profit	15,087	(45,461)
Extraordinary income		
Gain on the sale of shares in affiliated companies	—	18,265
Gain on sales of non-current assets	212	—
Total extraordinary income	212	18,265
Extraordinary losses		
Loss on sales of non-current assets	—	0
Loss on retirement of non-current assets	74	0
Total extraordinary losses	74	0
Profit before income taxes	15,224	(27,195)
Income taxes-current	20,901	20,932
Income taxes-deferred	(3,554)	(2,798)
Total income taxes	17,346	18,133
Profit(loss)	(2,121)	(45,329)
Profit(loss) attributable to non-controlling interests	(940)	3,226
Profit(loss) attributable to owners of parent	(1,180)	(48,555)

Quarterly Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income
(For the Six-month Period)

(Thousands of yen)

	First six months of FY3/24 (Apr. 1, 2023 – Sep. 30, 2023)	First six months of FY3/25 (Apr. 1, 2024 – Sep. 30, 2024)
Profit	(2,121)	(45,329)
Other comprehensive income		
Valuation difference on available-for-sale securities	8,116	—
Deferred gains or losses on hedges	1,524	690
Foreign currency translation adjustment	4,370	5,349
Remeasurements of defined benefit plans, net of tax	486	415
Total other comprehensive income	14,498	6,455
Comprehensive income	12,376	(38,873)
Comprehensive income attributable to:		
Owners of parent	13,317	(42,099)
Non-controlling interests	(940)	3,226

(3) Quarterly Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

(Thousands of yen)

	First six months of FY3/24 (Apr. 1, 2023 – Sep. 30, 2023)	First six months of FY3/25 (Apr. 1, 2024 – Sep. 30, 2024)
Cash flows from operating activities		
Profit before income taxes	15,224	(27,195)
Depreciation	48,599	63,450
Amortization of goodwill	4,061	4,061
Increase (decrease) in allowance for doubtful accounts	2,711	233
Increase (decrease) in other provisions	3,372	(238)
Interest and dividend income	(244)	(3,810)
Interest expenses on borrowings and bonds	6,554	6,354
Foreign exchange losses (gains)	(18,012)	33,819
Share of loss (profit) of entities accounted for using equity method	(4,082)	(2,240)
Subsidy income	(3,574)	—
Loss(gain) on sale of non-current assets	(212)	0
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	74	0
Increase or decrease in accounts receivable.	32,093	(27,268)
Increase (decrease) in operating investment securities	(138,752)	(15,411)
Transfer from investment securities to operating investment securities	158,123	—
Increase (decrease) in inventories	67,701	(135,964)
Gain on the sale of shares in affiliated companies	—	(18,265)
Increase (decrease) in trade payables	18,480	88,005
Increase (decrease) in deposits received	6,899	(15,656)
Increase (decrease) in leasehold and guarantee deposits received	(7,010)	(12,498)
Other, net	(27,007)	(33,009)
Subtotal	165,001	(95,634)
Interest and dividends received	6,993	10,559
Interest paid	(6,445)	(6,375)
Income taxes refund	56,365	49,092
Income taxes paid	(85,338)	(7,585)
Subsidy income	3,574	—
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	140,152	(49,944)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(40,417)	(118,213)
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment	212	12,963
Expenditure due to the acquisition of intangible fixed assets	—	(10,100)
Income from the redemption of time deposits	—	150,000
Expenditure due to the sale of subsidiary shares, resulting in a change in the scope of consolidation	—	(62,891)
Payments for investments in silent partnership	(28,527)	—
Net increase (decrease) in short-term loans receivable	—	(46,000)
Other, net	(183)	(29,322)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(68,916)	(103,562)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Redemption of bonds	(30,000)	(20,000)
Income from long-term borrowings	—	170,000
Repayments of long-term borrowings	(76,021)	(336,147)
Purchase of treasury shares	(12,855)	(15,262)
Dividend payment	(41,261)	(40,687)
Repayments of lease obligations	(3,075)	(20,627)

Increase (decrease) in short-term borrowings	—	(3,340)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(163,212)	(266,065)
Effect of exchange rate change on cash and cash equivalents	7,255	(6,647)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(84,721)	(426,220)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	2,402,242	1,928,277
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	2,317,521	1,502,057

(4) Notes to Quarterly Consolidated Financial Statements
Going Concern Assumption

Not applicable.

Significant Changes in Shareholders' Equity

Not applicable.



Segment and Other Information

Segment information

I. First six months of FY3/24 (Apr. 1, 2023 – Sep. 30, 2023)

Information related to net sales and profit or loss for each reportable segment

(In Thousands of Yen)

	Reportable segment				Other (Note 1)	Total	Adjustment (Note 2)	Amount shown on quarterly consolidated statement of income (Note 3)
	Real Estate Business	Hotel Business	Investment Business	Subtotal				
Net Sales								
Revenue arising from contracts with customers	737,996	484,629	30,285	1,252,911	179,732	1,432,644	—	1,432,644
Other Income (Note 4)	2,318,401	—	—	2,318,401	—	2,318,401	—	2,318,401
External Sales	3,056,397	484,629	30,285	3,571,312	179,732	3,751,045	—	3,751,045
Inter-segment sales and transfers	17,370	1,085	—	18,455	—	18,455	(18,455)	—
Total	3,073,767	485,715	30,285	3,589,768	179,732	3,769,501	(18,455)	3,751,045
Segment Profit (Loss)	98,294	(17,378)	6,538	87,454	(2,357)	85,096	(109,203)	(24,106)

- Notes: 1. The “Other” segment consists of activities that are not included in any of the reportable segments, and includes the information technology business and the food business.
2. The negative adjustment of 109,203 thousand yen to segment profit (loss) is mainly personnel and other expenses for administrative departments.
3. Segment profit(loss) is adjusted with operating profit shown on the quarterly consolidated statement of income.
4. Other Income includes rental income based on the "Accounting Standard for Lease Transactions" (ASBJ Statement No. 13, March 30, 2007).

II. First six months of FY3/25 (Apr. 1, 2024 – Sep. 30, 2024)

Information related to net sales and profit or loss for each reportable segment

(In Thousands of Yen)

	Reportable segment				Other (Note 1)	Total	Adjustment (Note 2)	Amount shown on quarterly consolidated statement of income (Note 3)
	Real Estate Business	Hotel Business	Investment Business	Subtotal				
Net Sales								
Revenue arising from contracts with customers	778,677	550,160	—	1,328,838	230,952	1,559,791	—	1,559,791
Other Income (Note 4)	2,254,353	—	—	2,254,353	—	2,254,353	—	2,254,353
External Sales	3,033,031	550,160	—	3,583,191	230,952	3,814,144	—	3,814,144
Inter-segment sales and transfers	—	924	—	924	—	924	(924)	—

Total	3,033,031	551,085	—	3,584,116	230,952	3,815,069	(924)	3,814,144
Segment Profit (Loss)	72,762	(25,834)	(10,194)	36,733	28,237	64,970	(97,726)	(32,755)

- Notes:
1. The “Other” segment consists of activities that are not included in any of the reportable segments, and includes the information technology business.
 2. The negative adjustment of 97,726 thousand yen to segment profit (loss) is mainly personnel and other expenses for administrative departments.
 3. Segment profit(loss) is adjusted with operating profit shown on the quarterly consolidated statement of income.
 4. Other Income includes rental income based on the "Accounting Standard for Lease Transactions" (ASBJ Statement No. 13, March 30, 2007).

Relation to Revenue Recognition

Information on the breakdown of revenue arising from contracts with customers is provided in "Notes (Segment Information)".

This summary report is solely a translation of “Kessan Tanshin” (in Japanese, including attachments), which has been prepared in accordance with accounting principles and practices generally accepted in Japan, for the convenience of readers who prefer an English translation.