

## Merrill Lynch

# **Speciality Finance Conference**

25 November 2002



# **International Development**

## Provident Financial Group strategy

- > UK home credit: good returns, strong cashflow but relatively mature
- > Potential from the export of home credit to new markets
- > Target combined pre-tax profit of £75m p.a from our Polish and Czech businesses within 5 years
- > Established pilot operations in Hungary and Slovakia in 2001 and announced full roll out in July this year
- > Further countries intended for 2003 and beyond
- > International expansion is a key element of strategy for future growth

# Provident Financial Vital statistics

- > 2001 profit before tax:
- > Market capitalisation:
- > Business sectors:

> Customers:

£170 million
£1.7 billion
Unsecured consumer lending
Motor insurance underwriting
3.5 million customers

## Provident Financial International business





## What is home credit?

# Provident Financial What is home credit?

- > Small unsecured, cash loans
- > Delivered and collected in the home
- > Service provided by self-employed agents
- > Weekly repayment
- > Woman to woman
- > Fixed charges
- > Simple and convenient

## Provident Financial Uses of home credit

- > Balancing the household budget
- > Holiday spending money
- > Christmas presents
- > School expenses for children

## Provident Financial International home credit

- > Poland
- > Czech Republic
- > Hungary
- > Slovakia

## Provident Financial International home credit

	Poland	Czech	Hungary	Slovakia	Total
Population (million)	39	10	10	5	64
Estimated market size (000)	2,000	500	500	250	3,250
Target customers (000)	1,000	250	250	125	1,625
Current customers (000)	576	209	33	15	844
Target annual credit issued per customer (£)	400	400	400	270	390
Target annual profit per customer (£)	60	60	60	40	58

# Poland Targets

>	Population	39 million
>	Estimated market size	2 million
>	Customers	1 million
>	Target annual credit issued per customer	£400
>	Target annual profit per customer	£60

## Poland Progress towards targets

	Target	June 2002
Estimated market size	2 million	2 million
Customers	1 million	561,000
Annual credit issued per customer	£400	£346
Annual profit per customer	£60	£21

## Poland Progress towards targets

Year to 30 June: £m	Target	2002	Gap
Credit issued	400.0	169.1	230.9
Revenue	220.0	88.7	131.3
Agent commission	-	(14.2)	-
Interest	-	(12.6)	-
Bad debt	-	(15.8)	-
Expenses	-	(35.8)	-
Total costs	160.0	78.4	81.6
Profit	60.0	10.3	49.7

## Poland Key performance drivers

- > Customer growth 561,000  $\Rightarrow$  1,000,000
- > Issue per customer  $\pounds 346 \Rightarrow \pounds 400$
- > Gross revenue margin52% $\Rightarrow$ 55%
- > Costs as % of revenue 88%  $\Rightarrow$  73%

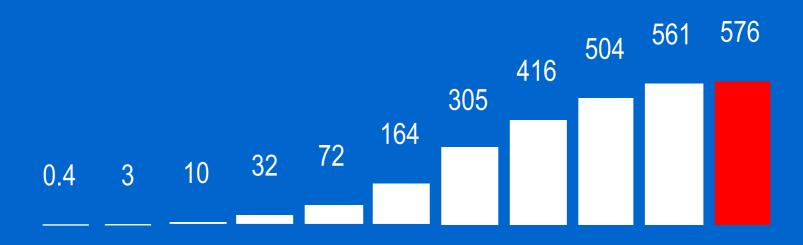
## Poland Customer growth: the market

- > The market
- > Target segments
- > Competition





## Poland Customer growth: customer numbers (000's)



Dec 97 Jun 98Dec 98 Jun 99 Dec 99 Jun 00 Dec 00 Jun 01 Dec 01 Jun 02 Aug 02

## Poland Issue per customer

- > Target increase
- > Typical first loan issue value
- > Average re-serve issue value
- > Target loans per customer
- > Currently
- > Introduction of multiple loans

£346 ⇒ £400 £164 £237 2 loans per year 1.7 loans per year

## Poland Marketing materials

Wiosną profity **rOSną**!



PROVIDENT Dolska



Diaczego nasza oferta jest tak wyjątkowa: • korzystna oferta cenowa • telefon z bezpłatną dostawą do domu • więcej darmowych minut na karcie SIM • minimum formalności





Różne potrzeby ten sam Provident





tak tak

## Poland Polish TV campaign December 2001









## Poland Gross revenue margin

Typical loan amount	26-week (zloty) 750	39-week (zloty) 1,100	52-week (zloty) 1,600
Charges	379	723	1,179
Gross revenue margin	50.5%	65.7%	73.7%
Total amount payable	1,129	1,823	2,779
Weekly rate	43.43	46.75	53.44

## Poland Costs

Costs as % of revenue			
12 months to June 2002	UK	Poland	Target
Commission	23	16	-
Bad debt	17	18	-
Expenses	24	40	-
Interest - like for like*	4	11	-
Total	68	85	73
*Interest - reported	4	14	N/A

## Poland Bad debt as a percentage of credit issued



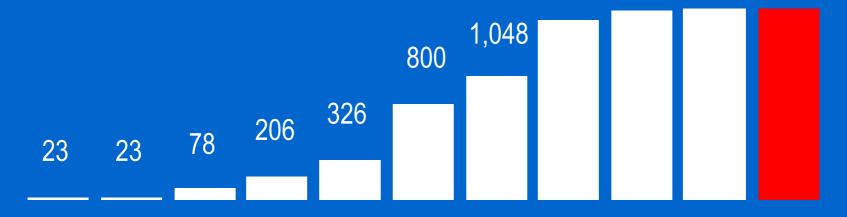


# Poland Expenses

	%	
Employee related expenses	61	
Marketing and PR	10	
Infrastructure costs	29	
Total	100	

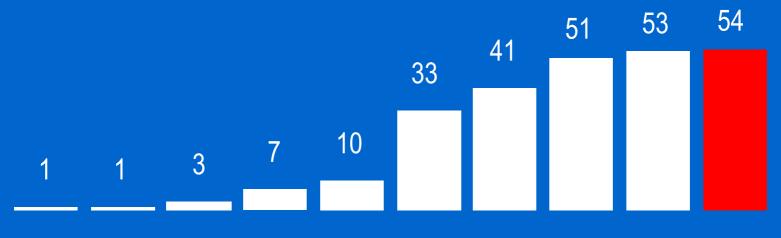
## Poland Employee-related costs: employee numbers

## 1,505 1,594 1,597 1,599



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## Poland Infrastructure costs: branches



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#### Poland Infrastructure costs: current locations



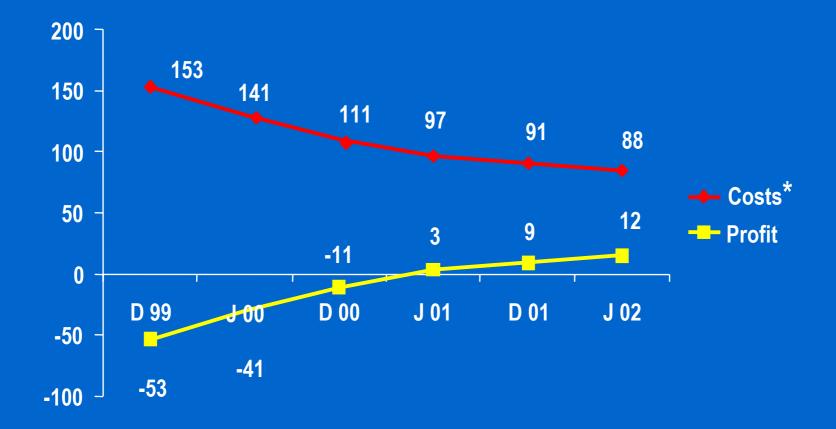
## Poland Marketing and public relations costs

- > 10% of overheads
- > Similar cost per customer going forward

## Poland Expenses summary

- > 40% of gross revenue
- > Relatively fixed in nature
- > Target of 24% is achievable

## Poland Costs and profit as a % of revenue



## Poland The future

- > Build on successes
- > Target of 1 million customers
- > Target of £400 annual issue per customer
- > Controlled growth
- > Target of £60 pre-tax profit per customer per annum

## Czech Republic Targets

>	Population	10 million
>	Estimated market size	500,000
>	Customers	250,000
>	Target annual credit issued per customer	£400
>	Target annual profit per customer	£60

## Czech Republic Progress towards targets

	Target	June 2002
Estimated market size	500,000	500,000
Customers	250,000	206,000
Annual credit issued per customer	£400	£309
Annual profit per customer	£60	£19

## International home credit Central European market potential

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## International home credit Central European market potential

- > UK home credit model can be successfully introduced overseas
- > Customer and agent relationship similar in all countries
- > Good quality, well educated workforce essential
- > Key early skills: recruitment, training, advertising, brand building
- > Simple, distributed IT systems a strength
- > As arrears work builds, added support and training needed
- > Need to balance growth, costs and bad debt

#### International home credit Lessons learned

> New country development draws heavily on central resources

- > Staged, low risk approach is best
- Early introduction of a full management team covering all functions aids development
- > "In country" research is most valuable
- > Pilot operation is best indicator of market dynamics

## International home credit Country selection: where next?

- > Rule of law
- > Relatively stable economy
- > Safe to lend and collect
- > Urbanised
- > Can be funded in local currency
- > Well educated workforce
- > Sufficient potential

## International home credit Country selection: the future

- > Eastern European countries not yet suitable
- > Potential in Western Europe
- > Potential further afield
- > Low risk entry approach preferred

## International home credit The future

- > Entered Hungary and Slovakia during 2001-progressing well
- > Outstanding opportunities for further expansion-2003 onwards
- > We will maintain our risk controlled approach
- > Excellent prospects for generating additional shareholder value

