

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

## Report of Foreign Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month October 1999

REUTERS GROUP PLC

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

85 FLEET STREET, LONDON EC4P 4AJ, ENGLAND

(Address of principal executive offices)

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

Form 20-F ☒ Form 40-F ☐  
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[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 ☒  
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THIS REPORT IS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE IN THE PROSPECTUSES CONTAINED IN POST  
EFFECTIVE AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO REGISTRATION STATEMENT NO. 33-16927 ON FORM S-8,  
POST-EFFECTIVE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO REGISTRATION STATEMENT NO. 33-69694 ON FORM  
F-3, POST-EFFECTIVE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO REGISTRATION STATEMENT NO. 33-90398 ON  
FORM S-8, POST-EFFECTIVE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO REGISTRATION STATEMENT NO. 333-7374  
ON FORM F-3 AND REGISTRATION STATEMENT NO. 333-5998 ON FORM S-8 FILED BY THE  
REGISTRANT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933.

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the  
registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the  
undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

REUTERS GROUP PLC

(Registrant)

Dated: October 26, 1999

By: /s/ Nancy C. Gardner

21 October 1999

22/99

## REUTERS THIRD QUARTER TRADING STATEMENT

London - Total revenue for the third quarter 1999, adjusted for comparability, rose by 3% at actual rates to (pound)764 million (US\$1,261 million) compared to (pound)742 million (US\$1,224 million) in the third quarter 1998. At comparable rates, revenue was flat. On this like for like basis, revenue for the nine months increased by 6% at actual rates to (pound)2,280 million (US\$3,762 million) and by 3% at comparable rates.

On a reported basis, Group revenue of (pound)763 million was unchanged at actual rates and down 3% at comparable rates.

The adjustment to total revenue for comparability reflects the inclusion in 1998 of Reuters Business Briefing (RBB) and TIBCO Software. RBB is now part of the joint venture with Dow Jones which became effective on 1 July. TIBCO Software was floated on the Nasdaq stock market in July and is now accounted for as an associate.

The third quarter saw revenue start to show the effects of a slow-down as clients focused on upgrading their systems and installations to be millennium-ready. This was most noticeable in Reuters Trading Systems (RTS) where outright system sales are being deferred. This trend is likely to be even more marked in the fourth quarter. Reuters preparations for the Millennium transition are proceeding according to plan.

Revenue for Reuters Information (RI) rose by 6% at actual rates to (pound)405 million (US\$668 million) and by 3% at comparable rates. Weaker foreign exchange markets and a fast pace of client consolidation during 1999 restricted revenue growth in the period.

Reuters Trading Systems (RTS) revenue declined by 7% at actual rates to (pound)189 million (US\$312 million) and by 10% at comparable rates. Risk Management and Financial Enterprise Systems (FES) slowed as clients deferred systems purchases ahead of Millennium changes. Dealing 2000 revenues continued to decline following further reductions in the number of foreign exchange traders. Dealing 3000, shortly to be launched, should offer customers an exciting new value proposition.

Reuters Ventures revenue grew by 7% at actual rates to (pound)41 million (US\$68 million) and by 4% at comparable rates. Excluding the medical businesses disposed of in December last year, revenue growth would have been 17% at comparable rates. The New Media business, which is now expanding internationally, showed strong growth. Further strategic investments were made through the Greenhouse Fund but no disposals. Four companies in which Reuters has made Greenhouse Fund investments have floated so far in 1999 whilst a further two have filed for an IPO.

## 2

Instinet grew by 9% at actual rates to (pound)129 million (US\$213 million) and by 6% at comparable rates. US revenue was flat in the third quarter, reflecting some slowing in 1999 of Nasdaq volume growth and some attrition of price and market share due to competition. Instinet International grew 30% showing continued good growth, particularly in Europe. A major new US\$10 million brand campaign was launched in the second half. Instinet increased the investment in its new fixed income product in the third quarter by a further (pound)6 million. It also acquired Montag Popper and Partners, a German fixed income broker.

PETER JOB, Chief Executive said, "As reported at the half-year, market conditions remain challenging in our financial services business, particularly in foreign exchange where there is lower trading activity and consolidation in the market. We are now also facing a definite slow-down ahead of the Millennium as customers freeze their on-site software. We are seeing the expected level of margin improvement at Reuters Information as well as good new orders in the US although Asia-Pacific has yet to turn around. We are therefore seeing declining revenue growth.

"We are putting more money behind innovation, including expansion of our flourishing Internet information business. We continue to invest in Instinet's future both to expand its activities and position it for the significant changes taking place in the market. The stock market debut of TIBCO Software, with a market capitalisation in excess of US\$2 billion, exceeded our expectations. A significant profit booked from this IPO will more than cover the profit impact of these costs in 1999. Whilst the combination of lower revenue growth with the costs of these investments will impact operating profit, I continue to look for improvement in profit growth during the second half of the year."

END

## CONTACTS

Geoff Wicks  
Director, Corporate Relations  
geoff.wicks@reuters.com

Tel: 0171 542 8666

Adrian Duffield  
Manager, Group Corporate Relations  
adrian.duffield@reuters.com

Tel: 0171 542 4728

This news release may be deemed to include forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the US Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the US Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Certain important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed in such forward-looking statements are described in Reuters Interim Report for the six months ended 30 June 1999 under the heading "Cautionary Statements". Copies of this are available on request from Reuters Group PLC, 85 Fleet Street, London EC4P 4AJ.

## NOTE TO EDITORS

Reuters supplies the global financial markets and the news media with the widest range of information and news products including real-time financial data, collective investment data, numerical, textual, historical and graphical databases plus news, graphics, news video, and news pictures. It reaches over 519,000 users in 57,720 locations and extensively uses internet technologies for wider distribution of information and news. Reuters designs and installs enterprise-wide information management and risk management systems for the financial markets as well as providing equity and foreign exchange transaction systems. Reuters provides news and information to over 225 Internet sites reaching an estimated 12 million viewers monthly. Reuters is the world's largest news and television agency with 1,946 journalists, photographers and camera operators in 183 bureaux serving 157 countries. News is published in 23 languages. Instinet, an international electronic agency stockbroker, is an independently managed subsidiary of Reuters. The Group employed 16,898 staff in 212 cities in 95 countries at 30 June 1999.

For more details see [www.reuters.com/](http://www.reuters.com/)

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## REUTERS REVENUE ANALYSIS - THIRD QUARTER 1999

	THREE MONTHS TO 30 SEPTEMBER		% CHANGE		THREE MONTHS TO 30 SEPTEMBER	
	1999	1998	ACTUAL	COMPARABLE	1999	1998
	(POUND)M	(POUND)M	RATES OF EXCHANGE	RATES OF EXCHANGE	US\$M	US\$M
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REVENUE ANALYSIS						
BY DIVISION						
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Reuters Information	405	381	6%	3%	668	628
Reuters Trading Systems	189	204	(7%)	(10%)	312	337
Instinet	129	119	9%	6%	213	196
Reuters Ventures	41	38	7%	4%	68	63
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Divisional revenue	764	742	3%	0%	1,261	1,224
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TIBCO Software	-	10			-	17
Reuters Business Briefing	-	14			-	23
Share of DJRBI revenue	17	-			28	-
Intra group revenue	(1)	(5)			(2)	(8)
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Gross revenue	780	761	3%	(1%)	1,287	1,256
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Less: Share of DJRBI revenue	(17)	-			(28)	-
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Total	763	761	0%	(3%)	1,259	1,256
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REVENUE ANALYSIS						
BY GEOGRAPHY						
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Europe, Middle						
East & Africa	367	371	(1%)	(2%)	605	613
Asia/Pacific	117	109	7%	(4%)	193	180
The Americas	130	120	8%	4%	215	198
Instinet	129	119	9%	6%	213	196
Other	20	42	(51%)	(54%)	33	69
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Total	763	761	0%	(3%)	1,259	1,256
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REVENUE ANALYSIS						
BY TYPE						
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Recurring	590	558	5%	3%	974	921
Usage	140	145	(2%)	(6%)	231	239
Outright	33	58	(42%)	(46%)	54	96
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Total	763	761	0%	(3%)	1,259	1,256
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Note: Reuters share of DJRBI revenue is included within gross revenue and then deducted to show total revenue of the Group, in compliance with UK Financial Reporting Standards No.9 "Associates and Joint Ventures".

## REVENUE ANALYSIS - NINE MONTHS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 1999

	NINE MONTHS TO 30 SEPTEMBER		% CHANGE		NINE MONTHS TO 30 SEPTEMBER	
	1999 (POUND)M	1998 (POUND)M	ACTUAL RATES OF EXCHANGE	COMPARABLE RATES OF EXCHANGE	1999 US\$M	1998 US\$M
REVENUE ANALYSIS BY DIVISION						
Reuters Information	1,213	1,135	7%	4%	2,001	1,873
Reuters Trading Systems	568	585	(3%)	(5%)	937	965
Instinet	384	327	18%	15%	634	540
Reuters Ventures	115	114	1%	(2%)	190	188
Divisional revenue	2,280	2,161	6%	3%	3,762	3,566
TIBCO Software	21	24			35	40
Reuters Business Briefing	31	39			51	64
Share of DJRBI revenue	17	-			28	-
Intra group revenue	(7)	(10)			(12)	(17)
Gross revenue	2,342	2,214	6%	3%	3,864	3,653
Less: Share of DJRBI revenue	(17)	-			(28)	-
Total	2,325	2,214	5%	2%	3,836	3,653
REVENUE ANALYSIS BY GEOGRAPHY						
Europe, Middle East & Africa	1,126	1,109	1%	0%	1,857	1,830
Asia/Pacific	348	336	4%	(3%)	574	554
The Americas	375	342	9%	7%	619	564
Instinet	384	327	18%	15%	634	540
Other	92	100	(8%)	(10%)	152	165
Total	2,325	2,214	5%	2%	3,836	3,653
REVENUE ANALYSIS BY TYPE						
Recurring	1,757	1,649	6%	4%	2,899	2,720
Usage	445	418	7%	4%	734	690
Outright	123	147	(16%)	(18%)	203	243
Total	2,325	2,214	5%	2%	3,836	3,653

Note: Reuters share of DJRBI revenue is included within gross revenue and then deducted to show total revenue of the Group, in compliance with UK Financial Reporting Standards No.9 "Associates and Joint Ventures".