BRAZILIAN PETROLEUM CORP
Form 6-K
August 17, 2004

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

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

For the month of August, 2004

Commission File Number 1-15106

PETRÓLEO BRASILEIRO S.A. - PETROBRAS

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Brazilian Petroleum Corporation - PETROBRAS

(Translation of Registrant's name into English)

Avenida República do Chile, 65
20035-900 - Rio de Janeiro, RJ
Federative Republic of Brazil
(Address of principal executive office)

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 ___X___ 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___X____

Petrobras RELEASES SECOND QUARTER 2004 RESULTS

(Rio de Janeiro August 13, 2004) PETRÓLEO BRASILEIRO S.A. Petrobras releases today its consolidated results expressed in million of *reais* according to Brazilian GAAP.

Petrobras reported consolidated net income of R$ 3.835 million in the second quarter of 2004 (2Q-2004), which was virtually stable in relation to the same quarter of the previous year (R$ 3.827 million). Consolidated net operating revenues in 2Q-2004 were R$ 27.223 million, reflecting the higher operating cash flow in the period (R$ 6.897 million, 23% above that of 2Q-2003). The Company s market value was R$ 90.094 million on June 30, 2004, 53% greater than during the same period of the previous year.

- Net income in 2Q-2004, when compared with net income in 2Q-2003, reflects the lower net financial result, motivated by the higher exchange rate expenses on financing (6.8% depreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar in 2Q-2004, against an appreciation of 14.3% in 2Q-2003), the higher expenses related to importing oil and natural gas due to the increase in volumes acquired and international prices, higher expenses related to production of oil products, owing to lower production of domestic oil and increased share of imported oil in the mix of total processing, and the higher expenses related to third-party services, mainly in ocean and aerial transport, and for technical restoration and maintenance services on wells, exploratory drilling rigs and special ships.

These effects were offset by the foreign exchange gain over the investments abroad, by the larger number of volumes sold in the domestic and international markets, by the increase in international prices on export revenues, by the higher prices of oil products in the domestic market granted on June 15, 2004, compared to the reduction in April 2003, and by the reduced import of oil products.

- Consolidated gross sales in 2Q-2004 were R$ 37.602 million and net operating revenues were R$ 27.223 million. In 2Q-2003, gross and net sales were R$ 32.471 million and R$ 23.391 million, respectively.

- In 2Q-2004, total production of oil, NGL and natural gas fell nearly 8% when compared to the same period of the previous year, reaching a quarterly average of 1,986 thousand barrels of oil equivalent per day, due mainly to the scheduled stoppages on platforms of production. The production of oil and NGL in the country averaged 1,461 thousand bpd, with 80% coming from Bacia de Campos (1,172 thousand bpd). Production of oil products in the country in 2Q-2004 increased 4% in relation to 2Q-2003, reaching an 84% nominal capacity utilization rate at refineries.

- Petrobras net debt on June 30, 2004 was R$ 43.206 million, a 13% increase over March 31, 2004, due to the reduced cash and cash equivalents within the Petrobras group, a function of the R$ 2.358 million payment in May 2004 of the complement to the dividends for fiscal year 2003, plus the exchange rate effect on dollar-linked financing (6.8% depreciation of the *real* compared to March 31, 2004).

- In 1H-2004, Petrobras invested R$ 8.555 million, mainly in the development of its oil and natural gas production capacity (70% of direct investment in the country and 67% of total investments). These values do not include investments made via off balance sheet SPEs (Special Purpose Entities), which totalled approximately R$ 389 million.

- The value added by the Petrobras group in 1H-2004 was R$ 46.374 million (R$ 40.350 million in 1H-2003) because of the income achieved in the semester, provided an economic contribution to the country through the generation of taxes, duties, social contribution and government participation of R$ 28.821 million (R$ 27.721 million in 1H-2003), added shareholder value of R$ 7.871 million (R$ 10.202 million in 1H-2003), and record of interest, exchange rate effect, expenses related to rent and freight, with financial institutions and suppliers in the amount of R$ 6.727 million (R$ 61 million in 1H-2003).

- On June 30, 2004, the Company s market value was R$ 90.094 million corresponding to a 53% increase over June 30, 2003, which represented 150% of Petrobras net equity (R$ 59.968 million).

This document is divided into 5 areas:

Petrobras group

A Word from the President, Mr. José Eduardo de Barros Dutra

Over the last years, Petrobras has built a unique combination of assets and human resources, which have resulted in a significant return for its shareholders. In this quarter, once again Petrobras has obtained the significant result reaching R$ 3.835 million (R$ 7.807 million in 1H-2004).

Despite the extreme volatility in the prices of oil and oil products in the international market, the Company could administer its pricing policy such that we obtained in the 2Q-2004 an operational cash generation of R$ 6.897 million, a result which is 5% higher than in the same period of 2003, and 38% higher than the result of 1Q-2004. In the semester, operational cash generation was R$ 11.902 million.

In the Exploration and Production area, we would like to highlight the start of production of the Complementary System of Module 1 in the Marlim Sul field, through the FPSO Marlim Sul unit, which, when fully productive, will have the capacity to process up to 100,000 barrels of oil per day.

Of note is the preliminary agreement signed by Petrobras and Halliburton/KBR on April 19, establishing contractual marks and penalties to create the best conditions for conclusion of work on units P-43 and P-48, both related to the Barracuda-Caratinga project. Petrobras continues its efforts with KBR to minimize the impacts of delays on the delivery of units, in order to keep the production start date of the two units in 2004.

In the downstream segment (Supply), the news is regarding the necessary realignment of gasoline and diesel prices, the main products commercialized by Petrobras in Brazil, in order to reflect the price variations of the products in the international market. These increases and the realignment of the other products commercialized by the Company seek to preserve the profitability of the Company s operations, while respecting local consumers and guaranteeing our participation in the fuel market.

Our international activities were marked by two very relevant events in this quarter: the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding to begin exploratory activity in Colombian waters, and the discovery of hydrocarbons in deep waters in the central part of the Gulf of Mexico in the United States.

We also could not omit commenting on the acquisition of Agip do Brasil S.A. by BR Distribuidora. This acquisition will increase our participation in the LPG distribution segment, and will consolidate our presence in the automotive fuel distribution market in determined regions of the country.

Also of extreme importance was the approval of the Strategic Plan Petrobras 2015 by our Board of Directors, which includes the Business Plan for 2004-2010. This Plan consolidates the Company s strategy of seeking the leadership position in the areas of oil, natural gas and oil products in Latin America, acting in a safe and profitable manner, with social and environmental responsibility, as an integrated energy company with selective expansion in petrochemicals and international activities.

It is this continuous and well-focused work that has allowed Petrobras, quarter by quarter, to present very significant results, both in the financial as well as in the operating arenas, exceeding goals and meeting challenges, contributing in an unparalleled way to the development and quality of life in the regions in which it is present, whether in Brazil or abroad.

Net Income and Consolidated Economic Indicators

Petrobras, its subsidiaries and controlled companies, reported consolidated net income of R$ 7.807 million in 1H-2004, a 17% reduction in relation to the net income in 1H-2003.

R$ Million							
	Second Quarter				First Half		
1Q-2004	2004	2003	Δ %		2004	2003	Δ %
32,654	37,602	32,471	16	**Gross Operating Revenue**	**70,256**	**65,836**	7
23,212	27,223	23,391	16	**Net Operating Revenue**	**50,435**	**47,891**	5
7,197	7,136	6,614	8	**Operating Profit** (1)	**14,333**	**15,103**	(5)
(730)	(1,215)	1,535	(179)	**Financial Result**	**(1,945)**	**2,238**	(187)
3,972	3,835	3,827	-	**Net Income for the Period**	**7,807**	**9,372**	(17)
3.62	3.50	3.49	-	**Net Income per Share**	**7.12**	**8.55**	(17)
101,142	90,094	58,950	53	**Market Value (Parent Company)**	**90,094**	**58,950**	53
44	41	44	(3)	**Gross Margin (%)**	**42**	**46**	(4)
31	26	28	(2)	**Operating Margin (%)**	**28**	**32**	(4)
17	14	16	(2)	**Net Margin (%)**	**15**	**20**	(5)
8,609	8,752	8,039	9	**EBITDA R$ million** (2)	**17,361**	**17,448**	(0)
				Financial and Economic Indicators			
31,95	35,36	26,53	33	**Brent (US$/bbl)**	**33,66**	**29,02**	16
2.8985	3.0429	2.9810	2	**US Dollar Average Price - Sale(R$)**	**2.9707**	**3.2355**	(8)
2.9086	3.1075	2.8720	8	**US Dollar Last Price - Sale(R$)**	**3.1075**	**2.8720**	8

(1) Income before financial revenues and expenses, equity income and taxes.
(2) Operating income before financial result and equity income + depreciation/amortization/well abandonment.

Petrobras group **Operation Performance**

The principal factors that contributed to the reduction of the consolidated net income in the first half of 2004 (1H-2004) in relation to the first half of 2003 (1H-2003) were:

- R$ 835 million reduction in gross income. mainly due to:

R$ Million	Net Revenues	Cost of Goods Sold	Gross Income
Increase in volumes sold in domestic market	1,723	(888)	835
Reduction of by-product prices in domestic market in April 2003, net of the price increase in June 2004	(1,774)	-	(1,774)
Effect of exchange rate on revenues and costs of controlled companies abroad	1,041	(867)	174
Reduction of exports:	(417)	191	(226)
- Reduction in volumes sold	(337)	191	(146)
- Price reduction	(80)		(80)
Increase in import costs, mainly oil	-	(1,566)	(1,566)
Reduction in expenses with government participation in the country, with third parties in consortiums, and with structured projects	-	1,496	1,496
Increase in production costs in International Units	-	(80)	(80)

- Reduction in net financial result, because of the effect of the *real* s depreciation against the U.S. dollar over the balance of the debts and accounts receivable in foreign currency (7,56% in 1H-2004 and 18,7% of real s appreciation in the 1H-2003), which, discounting the foreign exchange gain on net equity of subsidiaries abroad, resulted in R$ 2.106 million less in net income.

- Increased tax expenses (R$ 313 million) due to the new calculation base for PASEP/COFINS coming into effect, which now considers imports of goods and services.

- Increase in general and administrative expenses (R$ 257 million), mainly because of higher personnel expenses, due to the Collective Bargaining Agreement 2004/2003, to the increase in the number of employees working within the Petrobras group, plus the increase on expenses of the 2003 actuarial revision on the pension and health plans.

- Increase in sales expenses (R$ 249 million), due to the greater number of volumes sold during the period.

- As a consequence of the reduction of the income of 1H-2004 in relation to the 1H-2003, the expenses with income tax and social contribution reduced to R$735 million in the period.

- These effects were partially offset by recognition in the first half of 2003 of the adjusted market value of the turbines that were initially slated for use in the thermoelectric plants of Canoas, Ibiritermo, Baixada Santista, Três Lagoas and Piratininga (R$ 330 million), and the R$ 708 million complement to the provision for losses on financial exposure in the contracts with thermoelectric plants.

	Second Quarter				First Half		
1Q-2004	2004	2003	Δ %		2004	2003	Δ %
Exploration & Production - Thousand bpd							
1,643	**1,630**	**1,782**	**(9)**	**Oil and NGL Production**	**1,637**	**1,698**	**(4)**
1,475	1,461	1,512	(3)	Domestic	1,468	1,543	(5)
168	169	270	(37)	International	169	155	9
168	169	163	4	International - Pro Forma (2)	169	155	9
353	**356**	**373**	**(5)**	**Natural Gas Production (1)**	**355**	**328**	**8**
261	262	242	8	Domestic	262	245	7
92	94	131	(28)	International	93	83	12
92	94	86	9	International - Pro Forma (2)	93	83	12
1,996	**1,986**	**2,155**	**(8)**	**Total Production**	**1,992**	**2,026**	**(2)**

(1) Does not include liquid gas and includes reinjected gas
(2) Includes 2Q-2003 pro-forma information for PEPSA and PELSA

Average Sales Price - US$ por bbl / mcf

				Oil (US$/bbl)			
29.53	**32.88**	25.21	30	**Brazil[3]**	**31.17**	27.56	13
25.58	**24.37**	21.81	12	**International**	**24.97**	22.72	10
				Natural Gas (US$/mcf)			
1.89	**1.90**	1.81	5	**Brazil[4]**	**1.90**	1.69	12
1.16	**1.15**	1.02	13	**International**	**1.16**	1.15	1

(3) Average of the exports and the internal transfer prices of E&P and supply.
(4) Internal transfer prices of E&P and Gas & Energy.

Refining, Transport and Supply - Thousands bpd

417	493	269	83	**Crude Oil Imports**	455	295	54
74	62	127	(51)	**Oil Product Imports**	68	119	(43)
105	128	95	35	**Import of Gas, Alcohol and Others**	116	84	38
191	189	203	(7)	**Crude Oil Exports**	190	214	(11)
196	266	230	16	**Oil Product Exports**	230	228	1
4	6	7	(14)	**Fertilizer and Other Exports**	5	5	-
205	**222**	**51**	331	**Net Imports**	214	51	319
1,825	**1,766**	**1,720**	3	**Output of Oil Products**	1,796	1,704	5
1,726	1,670	1,605	4	**Brazil**	1,698	1,614	5
99	**96**	115	(17)	**International**	**98**	**90**	9
99	**96**	94	2	**International - Pro - Forma[2]**	**98**	**90**	9
2,106	**2,125**	**2,085**	2	**Primary Processed Installed Capacity**	2,125	2,085	2
1,977	1,996	1,956	2	**Brazil**	1,996	1,956	2
129	**129**	129	-	**International**	**129**	**129**	-
129	**129**	129	-	**International - Pro - Forma[2]**	**129**	**129**	-
				Use of Installed Capacity			
87	84	83	1	**Brazil**	86	83	3
75	**74**	92	(18)	**International**	**74**	**71**	3
75	**74**	74		**International - Pro Forma[2]**	**74**	**71**	3
77	73	82	(9)	**Domestic Crude as % of Total Feedstock Processed**	75	81	(6)

Costs - US$/barrel

				Lifting Costs:			
				Brazil			
4.22	**4.09**	3.33	23	**without government participation**	**4.16**	3.08	35
9.65	**10.02**	8.05	24	**with government participation**	**9.83**	8.25	19
2.45	**2.50**	2.38	5	**International**	**2.47**	2.32	6
2.45	**2.50**	2.39	5	**International Pro - Forma[2]**	**2.47**	2.32	6
				Refining Cost			
1.30	**1.21**	1.07	13	**Brazil**	**1.25**	0.98	28
1.17	**1.27**	1.28	(1)	**International**	**1.22**	1.10	11
1.17	**1.27**	1.11	14	**International - Pro - Forma[2]**	**1.22**	1.10	11
204	**215**	155	39	**Overhead in US$ million [5]**	**419**	293	43

(2) Includes 2Q-2003 pro-forma information for PEPSA and PELSA

(5) In order to make the "Corporate Overhead" indicator more meaningful in its management model, the Company reviewed its components, and recalculated for previous periods.

	Second Quarter				First Half		
1Q-2004	2004	2003	Δ %		2004	2003	Δ %
Sales Volume - Thousands bpd							
1,489	1,565	1,478	1	Total Oil Products	1,527	1,480	3
28	26	27	(4)	Alcohol, Nitrogen and Others	27	27	-
211	235	174	35	Natural Gas	223	161	39
1,728	1,826	1,679	9	**Total Domestic Market**	1,777	1,668	7
430	450	417	8	Distribution	440	423	4
(386)	(396)	(372)	6	Intercompany Sales	(391)	(383)	2
1,772	1,880	1,724	9	**Total International Market**	1,826	1,708	7
391	461	440	5	**Exports**	425	449	(5)
382	460	389	18	**International Sales**	425	250	70
773	921	829	11	**Total International Market**	850	699	22
2,545	2,801	2,553	10	**Total**	2,676	2,407	11
382	460	278	65	**International Sales - Pro-Forma (2)**	425	250	70

(2) Includes 2Q-2003 pro-forma information for PEPSA and PELSA

Exploration and Production (Thousands bpd)

In 2Q-2004, the production of domestic oil and NGL fell 1% in relation to the production in 1Q-2004. This was principally due to the maintenance stoppages on platforms in the fields of Roncador, Linguado, Pampo and Enchova, during the month of May and part of June.

Production of domestic oil and NGL in 1H-2004 fell 5% in relation to 1H-2003, because of the interruption in production of DP-Seillean in the Jubarte field for scheduled inspections of the shut-down of a well, located in the Marlim Sul and Voador fields, of the high production of water and sand; of the temporary shut-down of a well in Marlim Sul; of the scheduled stoppage of FPSO-Brasil (Roncador) for maintenance on the flare; of the decreased production on platform (Marlim Sul) due to the increase of the production of water and limitation of oil processing at the plant; of the shut-down of some wells at platform in Albacora for maintenance on the turbo-compressors; and of the scheduled stoppage on platforms in Linguado, Pampo and Enchova.

International production of oil and gas in 2Q-2004 remained virtually stable in relation to 1Q-2004, with a 1% increase. This was mainly due to the increased production of natural gas in Bolivia, a reflection of the demand in the Brazilian market, and the start of the contract for sale of Bolivian gas to Argentina since June 2004. These items were partially offset by the declining curve at mature fields in the United States.

International production of oil and gas in 1H-2004 increased 10% over 1H-2003, due to the increased production of Bolivian gas. This is a reflection of demand in the Brazilian market and regularization of PEPSA s production in Venezuela, which was compromised in January and February of 2003 because of a strike there.

Refining, Transport and Supply (Thousands bpd)

The load processed (primary processing) by refineries in the country increased 6% in 1H-2004 in relation to 1H-2003, due to the modernization and expansion of the refining units at RLAM, REVAP, REGAP and REPLAN that took place in 2003. This reflects better performance in 2004, which allowed the recomposition of the level of oil by-product stocks that were used during the scheduled stoppages that occurred in the semester, as well as establishing adequate stocks for future scheduled stoppages.

Costs

Lifting Cost (US$/barrel)

The 3% decrease in the 2Q-2004 unit lifting cost in the country without government participation (US$ 4.09/bbl) in relation to 1Q-2004, is mainly due to the reduction in expenses for demurrage of ships used for transport of production, and normalization of expenses related to payment for shift overtime hours set forth in the Collective Bargaining Agreement, concentrated in 1Q-2004. Part of the reduction was offset by higher expenses related to technical services realized in the Marlim field and others, to activities of restoration and intervention at wells, undersea operations and inspections.

The unit lifting cost in the country without government participation in 1H-2004 rose 35% over 1H-2003, due mainly to higher expenses with technical services for restoration and maintenance of wells, and drilling and special boats in the Campos Basin. Prices were bouyed by international oil prices, and also by materials because of the higher consumption of chemical products and with maintenance services at ocean terminals, transport lines and installations associated with the Company s environmental programs, and with ocean and aerial transport in the operational support furnished for production. Other contributing factors were higher personnel expenses related to payment of the difference in shift overtime hours as set forth in the Collective Bargaining Agreement, the increase in the workforce and the revision of actuarial calculations for health benefits and future retirements.

In 1H-2004, the unit lifting cost in the country considering the governmental participation grew 19% over 1H-2003, due to the increased operating expenses already mentioned. These were offset by the 5% reduction in production, principally at the Marlim and Marlim Sul oil fields, which have a higher rate of incidence of Special Participation. In comparison to 1Q-2004, the lifting cost in the country in 2Q-2004 considering the government participation grew 4%, motivated by the increased reference price for domestic oil.

In 2Q-2004, the international unit lifting cost rose 2% in relation to 1Q-2004, mainly because of the higher gas compression costs in Argentina, the expenses for third-party services in Colombia, and expenses related to intervention at wells in Angola. These items were partially offset by the 1% depreciation of the Argentine peso against the U.S. dollar, considering the average rates during those periods.

In 1H-2004, the international unit lifting cost rose 6% over 1H-2003, due to the increased expenses in Angola and in Cerri field in Argentina. This reflected the increased rates of service providers, as well as the effect of the 2% appreciation of the Argentine peso against the U.S. dollar, considering the average rates during those periods.

Refining Cost (US$/barrel)

In comparison to 1Q-2004, the operating cost of refining in the country in 2Q-2004 fell 7% because of the lower personnel expenses arising from normalization of expenses with payment of shift overtime hours concentrated in 1Q-2004, and reduction of scheduled expenses related to future stoppages at industrial units, at REDUC and REVAP. Part of that reduction was offset by the increased expenses for third-party services, by the unscheduled stoppage at the oil by-product catalytic cracking unit and maintenance on the turbo generator at RLAM, and by the public services, expenses related to electricity and others at the REDUC, REGAP and RPBC refineries.

The unit cost of refining in the country in 1H-2004 increased 28% over 1H-2003, due to increased personnel expenses related to payment of the difference of shift overtime hours set forth in the Collective Bargaining Agreement, to the increased workforce and to the revision in the actuarial calculations of health benefits and future retirements, as well as the increase in costs scheduled for future stoppages at the RPBC, REDUC, REPLAN and REPAR refining units, and to third-party services, mainly for corrective maintenance at REPLAN and RLAM.

The average cost of international refining in 2Q-2004 increased 9% over 1Q-2004, due mainly to realization of expenses related to the maintenance stoppage at the San Lourenzo refinery in Argentina. This was partially offset by the 1% devaluation of the Argentine peso against the U.S. dollar, considering the average rates in those periods.

The average unit cost of international refining in 1H-2004 increased 11% over 1H-2003, due basically to the higher expenses related to the salary revision and maintenance at the refineries in Argentina, and to the effect of the 2% appreciation of the Argentine peso against the U.S. dollar, considering the average rates in those periods.

Overhead (US$ million)

The 5% increase in overhead in 2Q-2004, in comparison to 1Q-2004, is mainly due to expenses for publicity, institutional propaganda, cultural and sports sponsorships, and agreements related to the Fome Zero Program.

The 43% increase in overhead (1) expenses in 1H-2004 in relation to 1H-2003, is due to the increase in the expenses arised from the revision of the actuarial calculation of the expenses provisioned for the Health Plan (AMS) of retirees and pensioners, expenses for contracted services linked to the maintainance of the software licenses for the integrated management system SAP/R3, and publicity and institutional propaganda and others.

Sales Volume (Thousands bpd)

The oil products sales volume rose 3% in the domestic market in 1H-2004, in relation to the same period of the previous year, we can point the rise in the sales of diesel oil, gasoline, naphtha and LPG. This was partially offset by the reduced sales of fuel oil. The retraction in consumption of fuel oil in 1H-2004 over 1H-2003, is because of the strong competition of substitute products, such as coal, coke, biomass, wood and, in greater proportion, natural gas.

Consolidated Statement of Results by Business Area

Result by Segment Area R$ million (1)							
	Second Quarter				First Half		
1Q-2004	2004	2003	Δ %		2004	2003 (3)	Δ %
3,610	**4,239**	**3,252**	30	**EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION**	**7,849**	**8,869**	(12)
1,035	**406**	**1,258**	(68)	**SUPPLY**	**1,441**	**2,722**	(47)
(39)	**(23)**	**(123)**	(81)	**GAS & ENERGY**	**(62)**	**(458)**	(86)
106	**141**	**99**	42	**DISTRIBUTION**	**247**	**203**	22
157	**105**	**722**	(85)	**INTERNATIONAL(2)**	**262**	**887**	(70)
(1,020)	**(940)**	**(1,756)**	(46)	**CORPORATE**	**(1,960)**	**(2,120)**	(8)
123	**(93)**	**375**	(125)	**ELIMINATIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS**	**30**	**(731)**	(104)
3,972	**3,835**	**3,827**	0	**CONSOLIDATED NET INCOME**	**7,807**	**9,372**	

(1) The financial statements by business area and respective comments are presented starting on page 20.
(2) In the International business area, the comparability between periods is influenced by exchange rate variation, considering that all operations are realized abroad, in dollars or in the currency of the countries in which each company is headquartered. Thus, significant variations can occur in *reais* because of exchange rate impacts.
(3) The Result of Equity Income relative to the first half of 2003 was reclassified among the International segment and the group of corporate entities, from the gain or exchange rate loss in the conversion of company investments abroad, being treated now exclusively as a corporate result.

Result by Business Area

Petrobras is a company that operates in an integrated manner, with the majority of oil and gas production in the Exploration and Production area transferred to other areas of the Company.

The main criteria used in determining the results by business area are highlighted below:

a) Net operating revenues include revenues related to the sales made to external clients, plus the sales/transfers among business areas, using the internal transfer prices defined among the areas as reference prices.

b) Operating income includes net operating revenues, the cost of goods and services sold - which are determined by business area considering the internal transfer price - and the other operating costs of each area, as well as operating expenses, which include expenses effectively incurred in each area.

c) Assets: includes the assets identified with each area.

E&P - In 1H-2004, net income reported by the Exploration & Production business area was R$ 7.849 million, 12% lower than the net income reported in the same period of the previous year (R$ 8.869 million), due mainly to the R$ 1.222 million reduction in gross income, considering the 5% decrease in oil and NGL production, and the increase in production costs, despite the positive effects of higher international oil prices on the sales/transfer prices of domestic oil and the 7% increase in natural gas production.

This was partially offset by the R$ 93 million decrease in expenses related to prospecting and drilling, because of the smaller number of dry wells written off in this semester.

In 2Q-2004, the net income reported by the Exploration & Production business area was R$ 4.239 million, 17% higher than the net income reported in the previous quarter (R$ 3.610 million), principally because of the R$ 989 million growth in gross income, which reflected the increase in international oil prices and the 5% devaluation in the average rate of the *real* against the U.S. dollar on the sales/transfer prices of domestic oil, in spite of the 1% reduction in oil and NGL production.

This was partially offset by the R$ 135 million increase in financial expenses, principally due to the 7% devaluation of the final rate of the *real* against the U.S. dollar.

SUPPLY In 1H-2004, the net income reported by the Supply business area was R$ 1.441 million, 47% less than the net income reported in the same period of the previous year (R$ 2.722 million), due principally to the R$ 1.238 million reduction in gross income, which was caused by the following factors:

- Decrease in the sales price of oil products in the domestic market, mainly because of the lower prices for gasoline, diesel oil and LPG in April 2003, which are responsible for approximately 70% of the volume of oil products sold in the domestic market;
- Reduction in export revenues from oil products, mainly due to the decrease in prices of fuel oil, reflecting the reduction in international prices for the product and, mainly, the 8% appreciation in the average rate of the *real* against the U.S. dollar;
- Increase in the cost to acquire oil and oil products, pressured by the increase in international prices;
- Lesser share of domestic oil in the load processed (75% in 1H-2004 and 81% in 1H-2003);
- Increase in the unit refining cost.

The reduction in gross income was partially offset by the 3% increase in volumes sold of oil products in the domestic market, mainly diesel oil, gasoline, naphtha and LPG, plus the reduction in the volume of oil products imported.

In 2Q-2004, the net income reported by the Supply business area was R$ 406 million, 61% less than the net income reported in the previous quarter (R$ 1.035 million), mainly due to the following factors:

- Increase of R$ 402 million in Other Operating Expenses, mailny due to the R$ 68 million increase with unscheduled stoppages at installations and with production equipment and to the loss of R$ 150 million from the hedge of oil and oil products imports and exports. Those losses with hedge are offset by the gains resulted from actual operations (revenues and cost of the sales);
- Decrease of R$ 208 million in gross income, impacted by the increase in the acquisition cost of oil and oil products, considering the higher international prices and the 5% devaluation in the average rate of the *real* against the U.S. dollar, and by the decreased share of domestic oil in the processed load (73% 2Q-2004 and 77% in 1Q-2004);
- These reductions in gross income were partially offset by the increase in volumes and average prices of commercialized oil products, both in the domestic and export markets.

GAS AND ENERGY In 1H-2004, the Gas and Energy business area reported a loss of R$ 62 million, 86% lower than the R$ 458 million loss reported in the same period of the prior year.

The natural gas businesses generated net income of R$ 74 million in 1H-2004, 78% lower than the net income of R$ 332 million reported in the same period of the previous year, considering the following:

- Reduction in the average realization value of natural gas, arising from the effects of the decrease in fuel oil prices in the international market and the 8% appreciation in the average rate of the *real* to the U.S. dollar on the resale prices of Bolivian gas;
- Increase in the share of Bolivian gas in the sales mix, from 37% in 1H-2003 to 44% in 1H-2004;
- Net financial expenses in 1H-2004 were R$ 270 million, mainly due to the effects of the 8% devaluation in the final rate of the *real* against the U.S. dollar on indebtedness arised from construction of the Bolivia-Brazil pipeline. In 1H-2003, net financial revenues of R$ 424 million were reported, and considered the 19% appreciation in the final rate of the *real* against the U.S. dollar.

This was partly offset by the following:

Growth of 39% in the volume of natural gas sold, a result of the ongoing substitution to fuel oil by manufacturing industries and to gasoline for vehicle use, plus the increased supply to thermoelectric plants.

Reduction in the unit cost of importing Bolivian gas due to the 8% appreciation of the average rate of the *real* to the U.S. dollar, and the decrease in international fuel oil prices.

The energy businesses generated a loss of R$ 119 million in the first half of 2004, 85% lower than the loss of R$ 777 million reported in the same period of the prior year, when a complement for losses related to financial exposure in energy businesses in the amount of R$ 708 million was provisioned, as well as recognition of a R$ 330 million provision for adjustment to market value of the gas turbo-generators.

Despite this loss, energy revenues grew 222% as a result of the increase in commercialized electricity, due to the following:

- Contracts signed throughout 2002 and 2003, several of which mature in 1H-2004, with start of supply forecasted for the current year;

- Payment for Canoas thermoelectric plant throughout the half for the technical dispatch to guarantee energy supply to Rio Grande do Sul and the export of electricity to Uruguay (70 MW average) and to Argentina (500 MW average).

Of the total of R$ 1.479 million provisioned in December 2003 as losses related to financial exposure to energy businesses estimated for 2004, nearly 39% (R$ 575 million) was realized in 1H-2004.

In 2Q-2004, the Gas and Energy business area reported a loss of R$ 23 million, 41% less than the loss in the previous quarter (R$ 39 million), mainly caused by the following:

- Increase of R$ 220 million in gross income, mainly because of the export of electricity to Uruguay and Argentina.

- Gains of R$ 122 million from natural gas import hedge operations.

These impacts were partially offset by the R$ 74 million increase in net financial expenses, mainly considering the 7% devaluation in the final rate of the *real* against the U.S. dollar. In 1Q-2004, the devaluation was only 1%.

DISTRIBUTION In 1H-2004, the Distribution business area reported net income of R$ 247 million, 22% higher than the net income reported in the same period of the previous year (R$ 203 million), mainly because of the R$ 181 million increase in gross income, highlighting the 5% increase in volumes of products sold and the reflex in the gross margin of commercialization,(10.2% in the 1H-2004 and 8.7% in the 1H-2003).

These impacts were partially offset by the R$ 114 million growth in sales, general and administrative expenses, mainly due to the need to complement the provision for doubtful debtors and the growth in product commercialization and distribution expenses.

The share of fuel oils in the distribution market in 1H-2004 was 32.3%, while it was 31.1% in the same period of the previous year.

In 2Q-2004, the Distribution business area reported net income of R$ 141 million, 33% higher than the net income reported in the previous quarter (R$ 106 million), mainly due to the R$ 16 million increase in gross income arising mainly from the 5% increase in volume of oil products sold, and to the decrease of R$ 27 million in the net financial expenses mainly to the effects of 7% devaluation in the final rate of the real against the U.S dollar over the accounts receivable. In 1Q-2004 the devaluation was only 4%.

Share in the fuel oil market remained stable (32.4% in 2Q-2004 and 32.1% in 1Q-2004).

INTERNATIONAL In 1H-2004, the International business area reported net income of R$ 262