

# Staying resilient in volatile times

Q2 & HY 2024 results

The Hague – 5 August 2024



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# Key messages Q2 & HY 2024



## **Key takeaways for Q2 2024**

#### **Outlook for FY 2024 reconfirmed**

## **Highlights**

- Parcel volumes up 6.0%
  - modest growth in domestic volumes
  - continued strong growth from international customers
- Mail volumes down 1.3%, -5.9% adjusted for election-related mail, mainly due to ongoing substitution
- Continued high organic cost increase of €38m, mainly labourrelated and largely mitigated
- Free cash flow improved
- 17% further improvement in average carbon efficiency
- Successful issuance €300m sustainability-linked notes
- PostNL Belgium fully acquitted in case involving delivery partners, no appeal
- Interim dividend set at €0.03 per share

## **Mail in the Netherlands**

- Results underpin urgent need for transformation
- Aim to deliver standard mail within two days, moving towards within three days over time
- Committed to cost savings initiatives also when adjusting service level
- USO already loss-making
  - bridging measures deemed necessary, and already being explored, by government
  - in these bridging measures, a financial contribution should be included in our view

## **Parcels**

- Volume growth trending towards FY anticipated level
- Slight market share gain in the quarter
- Development in product and customer mix less favourable than expected
- Confidence in long-term growth potential of e-commerce market



## Q2 & HY 2024 performance

## Normalised EBIT €18m in Q2 in difficult circumstances

## **Key financial metrics**

(in € million)	Q2 2023	Q2 2024	change	HY 2023	HY 2024	change
Revenue	771	795	3%	1,544	1,560	0%
Normalised EBIT	18	18		25	9	-65%
Free cash flow	(34)	(19)		(65)	(26)	
Normalised comprehensive income	10	14	39%	14	6	-57%

#### **Performance**

- Volume growth at Parcels, but unfavourable shift in mix
- Mail volume development strongly impacted by election-related mail; further shift to non-24-hour mail
- €38m organic cost increases in Q2 (HY: €62m) largely mitigated by yield measures



# Strategic drivers and business development



## **Our strategy**

Delivering distinctive customer and consumer experience to be the leading logistics and postal service provider in, to and from the Benelux area

## **Strategic foundation**



Parcels: Manage for sustainable growth



Mail: Manage for value



**Accelerate digitalisation** 

## **Strategic objectives**



#### Digitalisation, customers, consumers

 Launch of personalised anti-phishing code for quick recognition of PostNL e-mails



#### **₹** Environmental value

17% further improvement in average carbon efficiency YTD



#### Social value

- PostNL Belgium acquitted on all counts in a case alleging pseudo-employment, no appeal
- Highest PSO\* ranking for supporting people with a distance to the labour market
- Negotiations new CLA PostNL started

## Be your favourite deliverer



225 years of dedication, trust and innovation



## Parcels – manage for sustainable growth

## **Balancing volume and value**

Revenue and capacity management to capture value in supply chain and manage seasonality

Tailored pricing policy to balance portfolio and attract favourable parcels

 Adjusted tariff structure to encourage use of smaller parcels (less air)

Targeted approach for SME segment by scaling new digital services and insights

Simplify products and services and rationalise delivery options

Return platform supporting customers to better manage returns

## **Network rationalisation and cost control**

Cost reduction in first and middle mile (collection and transport) by integrating networks, leveraging on network infrastructure

Smart route design in middle mile by using optimising algorithms

Focus on expansion of APL network as important pillar of out-of-home-strategy

- 1,034 APLs (FY 2023: 903), to grow to 1,200 in 2024, further expansion going forward
- Network accessible to other carriers

## Focus on customers and consumers

Focus on last mile NPS: average #1 position in relevant markets maintained

- Further development consumer journey 'I receive'
- Slight market share gain in the quarter

Encourage out-of-home delivery options to improve sustainable delivery, reduce costs and improve NPS

- Growing # of consumers opt for APL as their standard delivery option
- · Promote APL option in check-out









## Parcels in Q2 2024

## **Volume growth, but less favourable mix**

	Revenue	Normalised EBIT	Volumes		
Q2 2024	€581m	€15m	92m +6.0%		
Q2 2023	€556m	€17m	87m		

## Revenue

- Volume growth picks up to 6.0% (Q1: 4.6%)
  - volume from international customers up 29%
  - domestic volume increase of 0.3%, with growing share from larger customers
- Weather conditions negatively impacted e-commerce market, especially fashion
- Slight gain in market share this quarter

- · Revenue Parcels NL and BE reflecting:
  - volume growth
  - tariff increases more than offset by less favourable product and customer mix (impact €0.08 per parcel)
- Cross-border activities continued positive trend;
   Spring revenue up, most strongly in Asia

#### Revenue mix

in € million	Q2 2023	Q2 2024
Parcels NL and BE	372	387
Spring	119	137
Logistics solutions and other services	72	76
Other / intercompany	(7)	(19)
Parcels	556	581

#### Costs

- Significant organic costs increase, mainly labour-related
- Efficiency improvements (network optimisation, higher utilisation rates, smaller average size parcels, rationalisation of services), also thanks to adaptive measures



**Volume** 

<sup>\*</sup> As from 1 January 2024, parcel volumes also include domestic Belgian volumes; the comparative figure for 2023 has been adjusted accordingly (Q2 2023: +1m items)

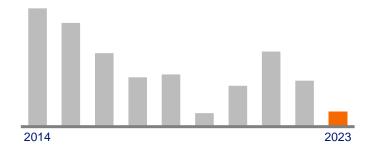
## Mail in the Netherlands – manage for value

## **Urgent need for transformation**

## Structural decline

- Ongoing decline in mail volumes and shift to non-24-hour mail
- Organic cost increases continue
- Result of just €1m (HY2024)
  - USO already loss-making
  - · deteriorating result going forward

#### Result mail activities in €m



## **Necessary actions**

- Aim for standard mail service level of delivery within two days, over time within three days:
  - ongoing strong commitment to cost savings initiatives
  - explore smooth transition non-USO mail to D+2
  - change Postal Act: relief in USO conditions and financial safety net
- Pressure on postal services
  - bridging measures deemed, and already being explored, by government
  - in these bridging measures, a financial contribution (common in neighbouring countries) should be included in our view

## **Future-proof postal service**

- Accessible, reliable and affordable
- Providing job security to thousands of people
- Aligned with consumer needs
- Modern and innovative services
- Financially viable



## Political process towards change in regulation

## Minister of Economic Affairs is leading the process

2024 2025

## Round-table discussion took place in June

- Support Members of Parliament in understanding postal market dynamics
- PostNL, competitors, business customers, trade unions and ACM shared views on market development

## **Debate in Parliament expected in October**

- Discuss letter from the Minister of Economic Affairs
  - exploration of bridging measures
  - ACM to assess requirements of postal services users

#### Postal Act amendment note

- To be finalised by Ministry of Economic Affairs
- · ACM to assess feasibility and enforceability

## **Bridging measures potentially in place**

#### **Amendments in Postal Act**

- Completion of ACM studies
  - insight into cost of USO
  - scope and quality of USO
  - market developments in postal sector
- Vision on future postal market
  - based on outcome of ACM studies
  - proposal of structural measures and changes in regulation



## Mail in the Netherlands Q2 2024

## Volume decline strongly impacted by election-related mail

	Revenue	Normalised EBIT	Volumes		
Q2 2024	€324m	€6m	404m	-1.3%	
Q2 2023	€323m	€2m	409m		



#### **Volume**

- Overall volume decline of 1.3%
  - 5.9% underlying volume decline (excluding election-related mail)
  - mainly due to ongoing substitution

#### Revenue

- Stamp price development
  - 7.9% increase as of 1 January 2024
  - 4.6% increase as of 1 July 2024
- Unfavourable shift in mix
  - single items decline faster than bulk mail
  - within bulk mail: shift from 24-hour to non-24hour delivery mail items diluting average price

#### Costs

- Continued higher sick leave rates in tight labour market resulting in higher related cost including addition to WGA provision
- Increase in labour costs following CLAs for PostNL and postal deliverers
- Additional cost savings achieved through product portfolio optimisation and efficiency gains in sorting and preparation



## **Outlook 2024 reconfirmed**

## Reflecting assumption of gradual improvement in economic conditions

(in € million)	2023	2024 outlook
Normalised EBIT	92	80 - 110
Normalised comprehensive income	52	40 - 70
Free cash flow	52	0 - 40

### **Parcels**

- · Well-positioned for anticipated pick-up in volume growth
- Consistent focus on customer excellence, strict cost control and capacity management

#### Mail in the Netherlands

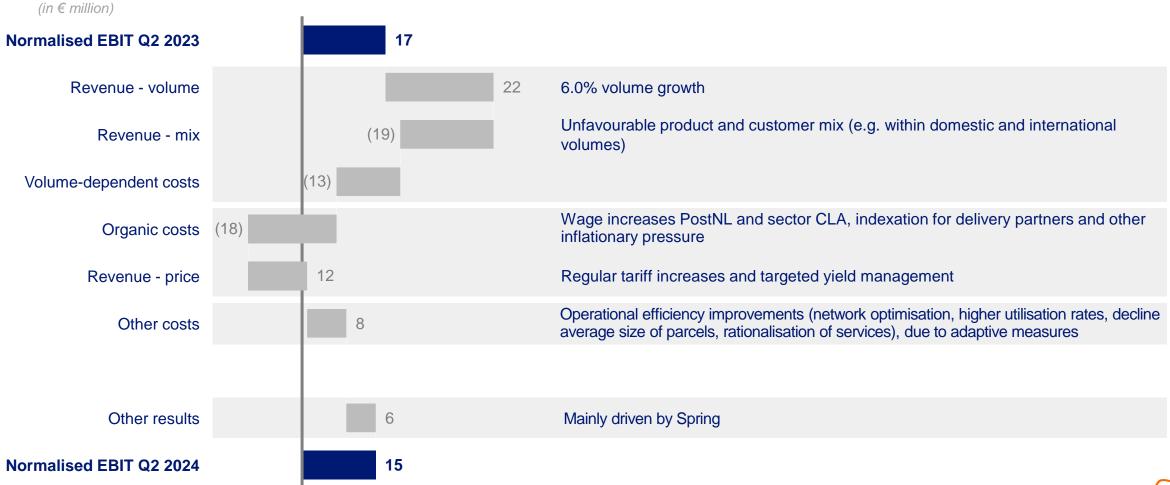
- Ongoing volume decline with shift in mix combined with higher costs, mainly labour-related, continues to put pressure on result
- Partly mitigated by yield increases and cost savings in current business model
- Urgent need for transformation



# Financial performance Q2 & HY 2024



## Parcels Q2 2024 normalised EBIT bridge





## Tariff increases more than offset by mix effects

**Increasing customer concentration, growth Asian volumes** 

#### Various mix effects

### Increasing customer concentration in domestic volumes

- share of SME segment declines, with fewer single items
- consolidation towards bigger (platform) players

#### International volumes

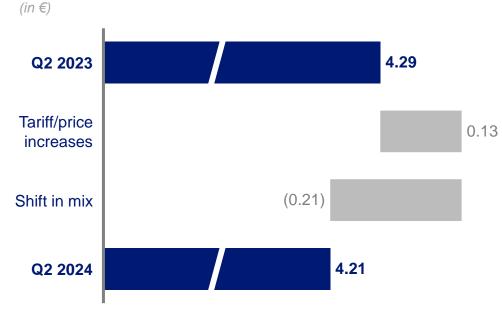
slower growth in export items

#### **Composition domestic / international**

- growth international volumes, mainly large Asian customers
- downtrading in e-commerce chain, marketing Asian webshops

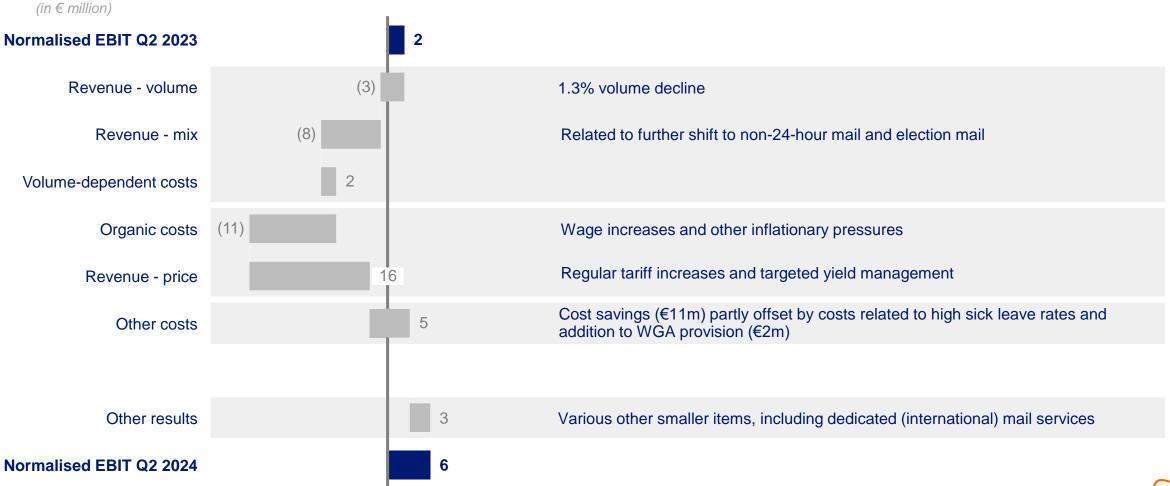


## Development average tariff per parcel in Q2



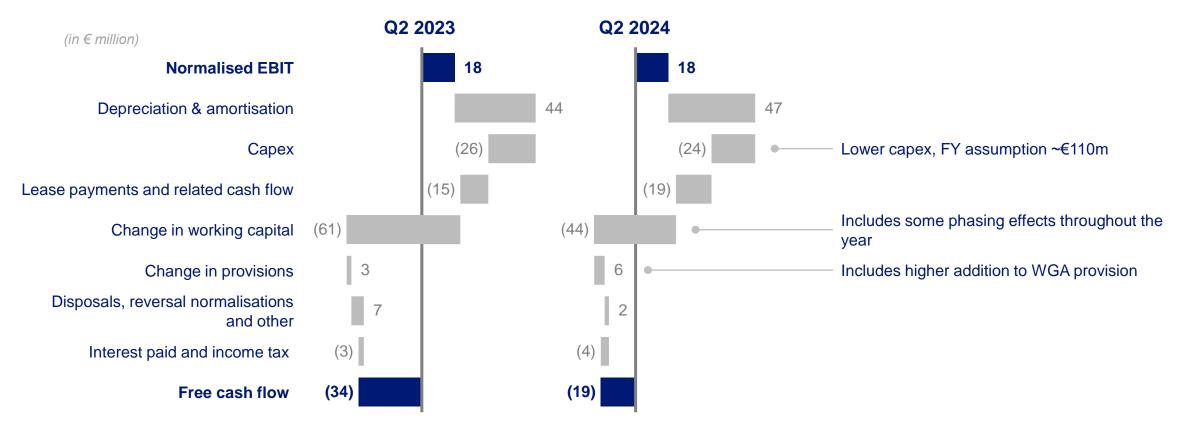


## Mail in the Netherlands Q2 2024 normalised EBIT bridge



## **Cash flow improved**

## Better working capital, partly phasing





## Financial position provides solid base for dividend

Interim dividend of €0.03 per share to be paid on 26 August

#### **Balance sheet**

(in € million)	29 Jun 2024
Intangible fixed assets	411
Property, plant and equipment	479
Right-of-use assets	285
Other non-current assets	61
Other current assets	415
Cash	777
Assets classified as held for sale	1
Total assets	2,430

	29 Jun 2024
Consolidated equity	182
Non-controlling interests	3
Total equity	184
Pension liabilities	2
Long-term debt	596
Long-term lease liabilities	229
Other non-current liabilities	188
Short-term lease liabilities	82
Other current liabilities	1,149
Total equity & liabilities	2,430



## Successful issuance sustainability-linked notes

## Adjusted net debt

(in € million)	31 Dec 2023	29 Jun 2024
Short- and long-term debt	740	1,036
Long-term interest-bearing assets	(15)	(14)
Cash and cash equivalents	(518)	(777)
Net debt	207	245
Pension liabilities/WGA*	2	31
Lease liabilities (on balance)	320	311
Lease liabilities (off balance)	9	9
DTA on WGA and operational lease liabilities	(76)	(82)
Adjusted net debt	462	514

WGA provision (€22m) included in adjusted net debt as of 1 January 2024

## Sustainability-linked notes due June 2031

- Size €300m, 4.750% annual coupon
- 100bps step-up on final coupon if targets are not met:
  - > 90% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions by 2030
  - 45% reduction in Scope 3 GHG emissions by 2030
  - 36% women in senior management positions in 2030
- Invest cash surplus in interest-bearing assets to limit cost-ofcarry

## **WGA** self-insurance provision

- Provision for future resumption of work benefit for partially disabled people
- Choice for self-insurance instead of social security premium
- Gradual build-up from anticipated inflow of benefit recipients



## Outlook 2024



## **Outlook 2024 reconfirmed**

## Reflecting assumption of gradual improvement in economic conditions

### **Parcels**

- 7% 10% overall volume growth assumed, dependent on economic developments
  - domestic volumes trending to 2% 4% growth, but lagging expectations
  - · double-digit growth in volumes from international customers
- · Shift in customer and product mix puts pressure on margins
  - international growth higher than growth rate domestic
  - within domestic, growing share from large customers and platform growing
- Rationalisation of services and network, and strict cost control (~€35m)

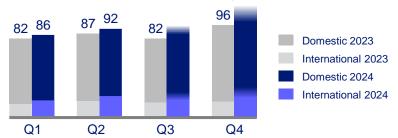
#### Mail in the Netherlands

- 7% 9% assumed volume decline for 2024, not evenly split over the quarters, mainly due to timing and number of elections
- · Additional pressure on margins due to faster shift towards non-24-hour mail
- ~€40m in cost savings, based on current business model
- Further increase of stamp price to €1.14 from 1 July 2024

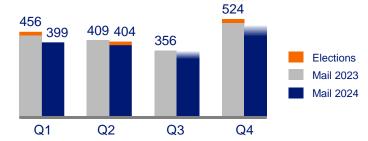
## **Other**

- Organic cost increases ~€155m, mostly absorbed by ~€135m tariff adjustments
- €20m additional cost savings from earlier measures to reduce indirect costs and improve efficiency

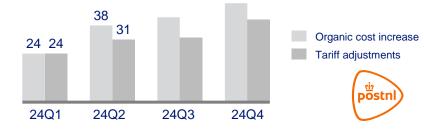




Volume, in million items, indicative only



In € million, indicative only



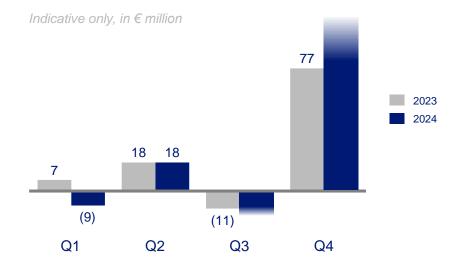
## **Outlook 2024 reconfirmed**

## **Operating environment remains volatile**

(in € million)	2023	2024 outlook
Normalised EBIT	92	80 – 110
Normalised comprehensive income	52	40 – 70
Free cash flow	52	0 – 40

- Capex is expected to be around €110m
  - continuing clear focus on strategy whilst staying disciplined on cash flow management.
  - flexible investment programme which ensures efficient and future-proof infrastructure

## Majority normalised EBIT in Q4





## **Closing remarks**

Remain leading e-commerce and postal services provider in, to, and from Benelux area

#### **Outlook 2024 reconfirmed**

## **Solid financial position**

- Successful issuance of €300m sustainbility-linked notes
- Interim dividend of €0.03 per share, in line with dividend policy

#### **Parcels**

- Well-positioned for anticipated pick-up volume growth
- Dependent on economic developments
- Consistent focus on customer excellence, strict cost control and capacity management

#### **Mail in the Netherlands**

Urgent need for transformation



# Q&A



# Appendix

- 1. Cumulative organic cost increases and price adjustments 2022-24
- 2. Results per segment Q2 2024 & HY 2024
- 3. Revenue mix Parcels
- 4. Full reconciliation of income statement and EBITDA per segment
- 5. Free cash flow per segment HY 2024
- 6. Result development (bridge) per segment HY 2024
- 7. Free cash flow HY 2024
- 8. Profit and normalised comprehensive income



## Continued significant inflationary pressure on costs

## Not fully mitigated by price adjustments

(in € million) Organic cost increases 138 FY 2022 Organic cost increases 178 FY 2023 Organic cost increases ~155 • YTD 2024: €62m FY 2024 **Total organic cost increases** ~470 ~345 Total price adjusments Cumulative price adjustments not sufficient to mitigate Total gap not absorbed total organic costs increases; cumulative gap of ~€125m, impacting margins FY 2022 FY 2023 FY 2024 assumption



## Results per segment Q2 2024 & HY 2024

(in € million)	Revenue		Normalis	sed EBIT	Margin	
	Q2 2023	Q2 2024	Q2 2023	Q2 2024	Q2 2023	Q2 2024
Parcels	556	581	17	15	3.1%	2.5%
Mail in the Netherlands	323	324	2	6	0.7%	1.7%
PostNL Other	59	58	(2)	(2)		
Intercompany	(168)	(168)				
PostNL	771	795	18	18	2.3%	2.2%
	HY 2023	HY 2024	HY 2023	HY 2024	HY 2023	HY 2024
Parcels	1,118	1.137	22	16	2.0%	1.4%
Mail in the Netherlands	673	648	10	1	1.5%	0.1%
PostNL Other	119	121	(7)	(8)		
Intercompany	(355)	(346)				
PostNL	1,554	1,560	25	9	1.6%	0.6%



## **Revenue mix Parcels**

#### As of 2024

(in € million)	Q1 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2023	Q2 2024	Q3 2023	Q3 2024 Q4 2023	Q4 2024	FY 2023	FY 2024
Parcels	360	369	372	387	348	409		1,489	
Spring	116	125	119	137	116	125		475	
Logistics solutions and other	72	73	72	76	67	72		283	
Other / intercompany	14	(12)	(7)	(19)	3	3		13	
Parcels	561	555	556	581	535	608		2,260	

#### 2023

(in € million)	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	FY 2023
Parcels Netherlands	355	366	342	402	1,464
Spring	116	119	116	125	475
Logistics solutions and other	72	72	67	72	283
Other / intercompany	19	(0)	9	10	38
Parcels	561	556	535	608	2,260

### **Presentation revenue and volume split Parcels**

As from 1 January 2024, volumes also include domestic Belgium volumes; the comparative figures for 2023 revenue and volume have been adjusted accordingly (volumes: Q1 2023: +1m, Q2 2023: +1m, FY 2023: +3m)



## Full reconciliation of income statement and EBITDA HY 2024

Income statement	Pos	tNL	Par	cels		in the rlands	PostNI	_ Other	Elimin	ations
(in € million)	HY 2023	HY 2024	HY 2023	HY 2024	HY 2023	HY 2024	HY 2023	HY 2024	HY 2023	HY 2024
Total operating revenue	1,554	1,560	1,118	1,137	673	648	119	121	(355)	(346)
Other income	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	
Cost of materials	(45)	(38)	(32)	(28)	(6)	(6)	(7)	(4)		
Work contracted out and other external expenses	(778)	(809)	(737)	(762)	(334)	(324)	(62)	(68)	355	346
Salaries and social security contributions	(518)	(510)	(213)	(213)	(243)	(237)	(63)	(59)	-	
Pension contributions & related costs	(46)	(47)	(17)	(18)	(20)	(20)	(9)	(9)	-	
Depreciation, amortisation and impairments	(85)	(92)	(40)	(44)	(12)	(13)	(32)	(36)	-	
Other operating expenses	(58)	(69)	(56)	(56)	(48)	(58)	46	44	-	
Total operating expenses	(1,530)	(1,566)	(1,096)	(1,121)	(663)	(658)	(126)	(133)	355	346
Operating income / EBIT	24	(6)	22	15	10	(9)	(7)	(12)	-	-
EBITDA										
Operating Income / EBIT	24	(6)	22	15	10	(9)	(7)	(12)		
Depreciation, amortisation and impairments	85	92	40	44	12	13	32	36		
Reported EBITDA	109	87	62	59	22	4	25	24		
IFRS16 impact (depreciation RoU assets)	(35)	(37)	(23)	(25)	(6)	(6)	(6)	(6)		
EBITDA excluding non-cash pensions and IFRS16	74	50	39	34	17	(2)	19	18		

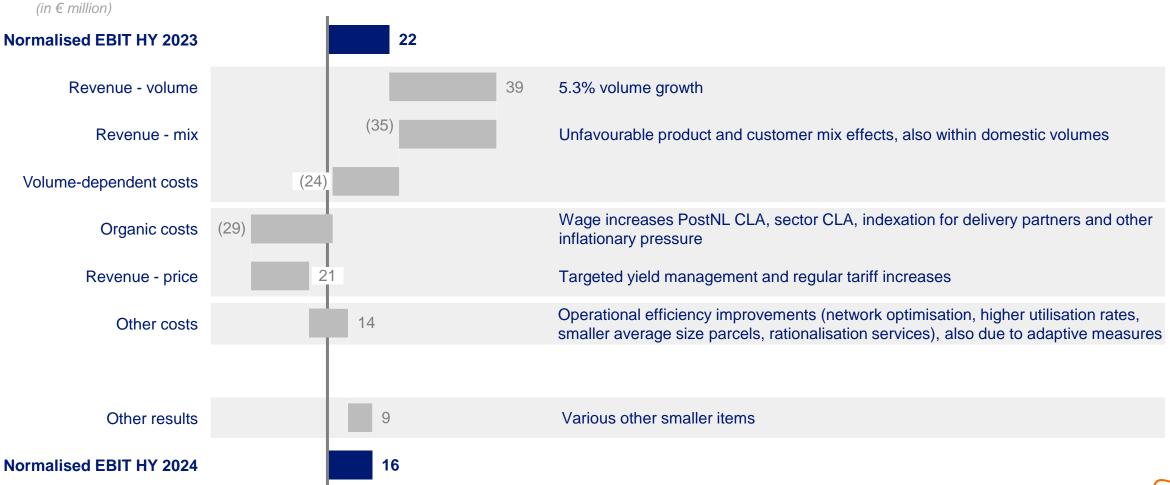


## Free cash flow per segment HY 2024

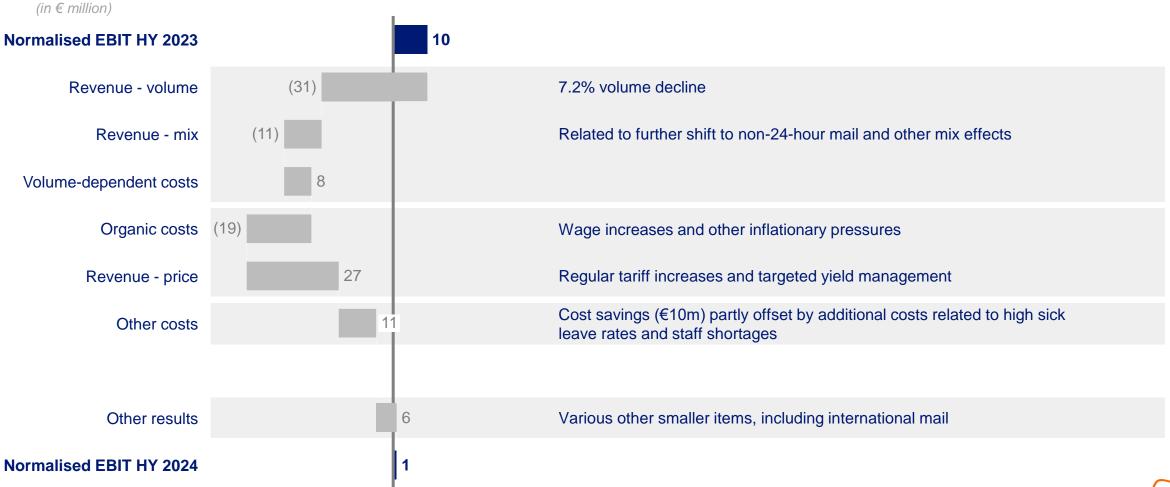
(in € million)	Pos	PostNL		cels	Mail in the Ne	etherlands	PostNL Other & Eliminations		
	HY 2023	HY 2024	HY 2023	HY 2024	HY 2023	HY 2024	HY 2023	HY 2024	
EBITDA	109	87	62	59	22	4	25	24	
Change in pensions	0	0	0	0			(0)	(0)	
Change in pensions  Change in provisions	6	14	4	0	1	15	1	(1)	
Change in working capital	(38)	(51)	(1)	(9)	(17)	(31)	(19)	(11)	
Capex	(64)	(50)	(20)	(9)	(5)	(2)	(39)	(38)	
Disposals	0	8	(0)	0	0	8	(0)	(0)	
Interest paid	(6)	(8)	(3)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(3)	
Income tax paid	(35)	(0)	(6)	(4)	(3)	2	(27)	1	
Lease payments and related cash flow	(34)	(38)	(20)	(24)	(9)	(9)	(6)	(6)	
Other	12	11	0	1	0	0	12	10	
Adjusted free cash flow	(49)	(26)	16	12	(11)	(14)	(54)	(24)	
Settlement payment transitional plan	(16)	0	0	0	0	0	(16)	0	
Free cash flow	(65)	(26)	16	12	(11)	(14)	(70)	(24)	
Free cash flow yield	-8%	-4%							



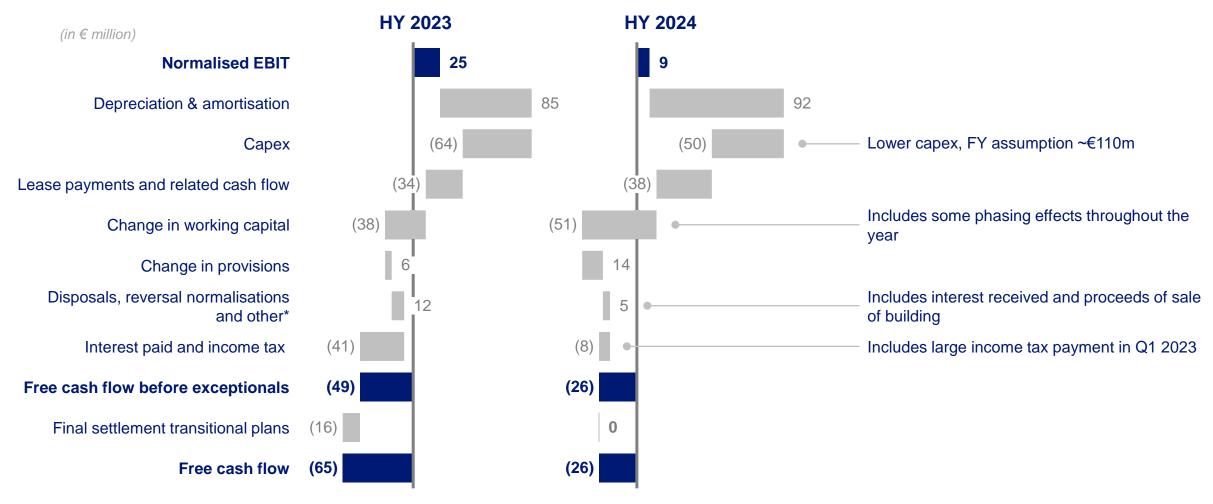
## Parcels HY 2024 normalised EBIT bridge



## Mail in the Netherlands HY 2024 normalised EBIT bridge



## Free cash flow HY 2024





## Profit and normalised comprehensive income PostNL

(in € million)	HY 2023	HY 2024
Operating income / EBIT	24	(6)
Net financial expenses	(3)	(2)
Results from investments in JVs/associates	(0)	0
Income taxes	(6)	(2)
Profit/(loss) from discontinued operations	(0)	(0)
Profit	15	(9)
Other comprehensive income	(2)	4
Total comprehensive income	13	(5)
Normalisation on EBIT, net of tax	0	11
Exclude result from discontinued operations	0	0
Normalised comprehensive income	14	6

