

press release

13 March 2009

The forward look from The Share Centre

Nick Raynor, investment adviser at retail stockbroker The Share Centre, gives his thoughts on what to expect from companies announcing results week commencing 16 March.

Monday

N/a

Tuesday

Friends Provident (Trading statement)

There has been plenty of speculation about who will buy Friends Provident. JC Flowers and F&C have shown an interest, but so far nothing has come to fruition.

Both Aviva and Standard Life issued figures recently, but these failed to offer investors any encouragement about the current state of the insurance sector. It is hoped that Friends Provident will either announce some positive trading news or at least an update on any further offers for the company.

We currently list Friends Provident as a HOLD

Wednesday

N/a

Thursday

Prudential (Finals)

There is no doubt that investors will be eagerly awaiting final figures from Prudential next Thursday. In particular, whether or not the company will require further funding by way of a rights issue or placing shares with institutional investors.

New business figures that were released earlier in the year were very positive and analysts will be hoping that there are further to come, this may help the ailing insurance sector which has recently seen dramatic falls. The figures will tell all.

We currently list Prudential as a BUY

Thomas Cook (AGM and Trading update)

Due to increasing price fluctuations, Thomas Cook will be announcing an additional trading statement in conjunction with their AGM next week.

The travel company has noted that the market does remain challenging, but current performance is in-line with expectations. With all the economic doom and gloom around the public are finding it hard to get away from it all. The release next Thursday will notify the market of Christmas trading and whether the demand for 2009 summer holiday packages is beginning to increase, or not.

We currently list Thomas Cook as a SELL

Friday

N/a

---Ends---

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About The Share Centre:

The Share Centre was established in 1990 to provide value-for-money share services for private investors. Its range of services includes buying and selling shares (by Internet, telephone and post) and a comprehensive share administration and safe custody service. Tax-efficient investment 'wrappers' including ISAs, CTFs and SIPP's are also available.

The Share Centre's Advice team provides comment on market sectors and individual shares, including all of the post-privatisation/demutualization companies, on www.share.com. Access is available to customers and registered users of the site. Registration is free. To understand how our Advice team arrive at their views please read our [Investment Research Policy](#).

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