

press release

24 April 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 27 April.

Monday
N/a

Tuesday
Admiral (Trading statement)

Whitbread (Preliminary results)

Has Costa Coffee helped Whitbread overcome the effects of the recession or has the consumer abandoned the café latte and double mocha for a cup of Nescafe at home? And has its budget chain of hotels, Premier Inns, benefitted as company expenses are reduced? In March's trading statement it was noted that sales had risen but it will be interesting to see if this trend continues.

We currently list Whitbread as a HOLD

BP (Q1 figures)

The price of oil has managed to stabilise and has been trading between \$40-\$50 per barrel for sometime. This will have hopefully steadied BP's profits and alleviate concerns about possible dividend cuts.

We currently list BP as a BUY

Reckitt Benckiser (Q1 figures)

With consumers counting their pennies, it will be interesting to see whether they have decided to cut back on branded cleaning products and instead opted for cheaper alternatives. Some analysts believe this will be the case and that figures will be slightly down on last year.

We currently list Reckitt as a BUY

Friends Provident (Q1 figures)

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Wednesday

Home Retail (Preliminary results)

Home Retail, owner of Argos and DIY store Homebase, will issue preliminary figures on Wednesday. Recently we have seen a better performance from retailers, could we see the same for Home Retail? Figures may however be slightly skewed by the late arrival of Easter, but we hope for signs of recovery.

We currently list Home Retail as a SELL

BG (Q1 figures)

Thursday

Smith & Nephew (Q1 figures)

Shire Pharmaceuticals (Q1 figures)

Antofagasta (Q1 figures)

BskyB (Q3 figures)

With the recession upon us, has home entertainment seen a dramatic upturn as more people decide to stay in and watch pay-per-view T.V? BskyB's Q3 figures should go some way to providing answers. Set top maker, Pace revealed some impressive figures recently, which hints that figures could be better. Some analysts are however expecting 'lackluster' figures as revenue from advertising may have suffered.

We currently list BskyB as a HOLD

Kazakhmys (Q1 figures)

Anglo American (Trading statement)

Cadburys (Trading statement)

Many analysts have recently downgraded Cadburys' target price and estimated profits, but Easter may well have helped to boost the company's profits and ultimately its share price.

We currently list Cadburys as a HOLD

Hammerson (Trading statement)

Standard Life (Trading statement)

Friday

N/a

---Ends---

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For further information please contact:

The Share Centre
Lisa-Marie Nelson
PR Executive
01296 439 426
Lisamarie.nelson@share.co.uk

Lucy Forgan
PR Assistant
01296 439 256
Lucy.forgan@share.co.uk

Lansons Communications
Inez de Koning / Neil Gregory / Rachel Cashmore
0207 294 3623 / 0207 294 3611 / 0207 566 3663
thesharecentre@lansons.com

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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.

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