

press release

1 May 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 the week commencing 5 May.

Monday

n/a

Tuesday

Lloyds Banking Group (Trading statement)

The first of the banks to report will be Lloyds. Investors and analysts will be looking for a number of things, namely news of further job cuts, a date for its latest rights issue and whether there are further skeletons in HBOS' closet. Lloyds' shares have had a good run lately, and it will be interesting to see whether these gains are justified.

We currently list Lloyds as a HOLD

Wednesday

Sage (Interim figures)
Liberty International (Q1 figures)

British American Tobacco (Q1 figures)

Tobacco duties were raised 2% by Alistair Darling in the latest budget, but it will be too early to impact BAT's current trading. In fact, past rises have had little impact on the company performance. The AGM prior to this noted that the dividend for the entire year now stands at 83.7p, a rise of 26% which puts them on a yield of over 5% at current prices.

We currently list BAT as a BUY

Next (Trading statement)

The retail sector has been particularly buoyant lately, figures from Debenhams and the on-line retailer ASOS have helped to give shares across the sector a boost. The pressure is now on Next to do the same. We will also be looking for clues to how they expect trading for the summer to be.

We currently list Next as a SELL

Cobham (Trading statement)
BAE Systems (Trading statement)

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Thursday

Randgold Resources (Q1 figures)

Unilever (Q1 figures)

The maker of Vaseline, Dove, Lynx, Bertolli margarine, Ben & Jerry's, Bovril, Comfort, Persil and Domestos to name but a few, will release a trading statement as to how the beginning of the year has gone. Reckitt and Benckiser, a close rival, produced some very good figures last week and there will be pressure on Unilever to do the same.

We currently list Unilever as a HOLD

RSA (Royal and Sun Alliance) (Trading statement)

Diageo (Trading statement)

Thomson Reuters (Q1 figures)

Rexam (Trading statement)

James Fisher (Trading statement)

Barclays (Trading statement)

The only UK bank not to take up the Governments offer of 'toxic insurance' will issue its first trading statement since selling its iShares business, for nearly £3 bn. Investors and analysts will be eager to see if Barclays need to raise further funds going forward or if the company is adequately financed. We also hope there maybe an update on when the company will start to repay dividends.

We currently list Barclays as a HOLD

Friday

Inmarsat (Q1 figures)

Royal Bank of Scotland (Trading statement)

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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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