

## press release

3 February 2010

### Investors shouldn't be put off by BP profit fall

- BP results fail to meet analysts' expectations
- The Share Centre still views BP as long-term buy

**BP today reported a 45% drop in annual profits. However, with its fourth quarter surplus rising to £2.16bn and a decent dividend payout, the future isn't entirely bleak. Graham Spooner, investment adviser at The Share Centre, explains what investors should do.**

"Following this morning's news, early trading has seen BP's share price fall by 4 per cent but shareholders shouldn't panic. This fall is indicative of a nervy market at present, as any company that misses analysts' expectations is being judged severely by those traders solely focused on the short term.

"Prior to today's news, the share price has risen steadily since March. We have liked BP for a while now and continue to view it as a good long-term buy. In particular, BP remains a good investment for income seekers due to its commitment to maintaining the dividend, which is around 5%.

"Furthermore we have faith in the management which has undertaken a significant period of restructuring over the past year. However, like a large oil tanker, it will take a while to fully turn BP around.

"Shell is expected to announce results on Thursday, but we very much prefer BP over Shell because of its long-term business plan."

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# thesharecentre:

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**Risk Warnings:**

Investing in general, and the products and services mentioned above may not be suitable for all: if in doubt, individuals should seek independent financial advice. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back their original investment. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

The bases and levels of taxation relating to ISAs, CTFs and SIPPs are subject to change and the value of these tax allowances may depend upon the circumstances of the individual.

**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 SIPPs are also available.

The Share Centre's Advice Team provides comment on market sectors, individual shares and funds on [www.share.com](http://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](#).

In addition, account customers can receive individual telephone advice on UK-listed shares and on funds traded via the CoFunds trading platform.

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