

press release

27 April 2010

Lloyds returns to profit but Barclays remains The Share Centre's preferred bank

- The Share Centre lists Lloyds as a 'hold' despite good results
- The Share Centre upgrades Barclays to a 'buy' for growth and income seekers

Following Lloyds' return to profit, Nick Raynor, investment adviser at The Share Centre, comments on the bank's results and explains why Barclays is still the retail stockbroker's preferred bank.

"Lloyds Banking Group, which is 41% owned by the British taxpayer, has reported a return to profit for the first quarter of the year and expects this momentum to continue throughout 2010. The bank's results were boosted by its wholesale banking division.

"Although the bank's share price rose in anticipation of this morning's results, the absence of quantifiable figures caused it to fall back from these early highs to 70.90p.

"We continue to list Lloyds as a 'hold', but those who feel brave may wish to consider the bank as a long-term play. However, Barclays remains our bank of choice for investors looking for growth and income within the sector.

"Last week we upgraded Barclays from a 'hold' to a 'buy'. We admire the bank's strength in its refusal to be bailed out by the government, instead opting to take matters into its own hands. Barclays even managed to take advantage of the industry crisis by acquiring assets at a lower cost.

"Investors looking for income will be attracted by Barclays' ability to reward its shareholders; something part taxpayer owned banks are unable to do. The bank is currently offering a final year dividend of 2.5p.

“Barclays is also in a stronger position to others in the sector because of its international exposure. The likes of Lloyds and RBS will also be more susceptible to the effects of a hung parliament.”

---Ends---

Note to editors:

Figures correct as of 10am on 27 April 2010.

Top customer buys and sells for 26 April 2010 at The Share Centre:

Top buys

1. RBS
2. Lloyds
3. Taylor Wimpey
4. Barclays
5. ITV
6. BP
7. JD Sport Fashion
8. Niche Group
9. National Grid
10. Rockhopper Exploration

Top sells

1. Lloyds
2. RBS
3. Chloride Group
4. Share
5. Barclays
6. Taylor Wimpey
7. Bglobal
8. BP
9. GlaxoSmithSkline
10. ARM Holdings

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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. 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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