theshare centre:

press release

7 October 2010

Top marks for Marks & Spencer, but things may start to get difficult moving forward

- M & S' trading statement reports a 5.3% hike in like-for-like sales
- The Share Centre lists Marks and Spencer as a 'hold' for investors

Graham Spooner, investment advisor at The Share Centre, explains why Marks and Spencer remains a HOLD despite a 5.3% increase in sales.

"Marks and Spencer's trading statement shows it is swimming against the retail tide, but the company remains cautious for the rest of the year. The uncertainty of Governmental taxes, and Cameron's declaration that the middle classes need to help shoulder the cuts, makes Marks and Spencer's offering particularly vulnerable. Think hard before considering investment in the retail sector because the important Christmas and New Year period looks like being tough for all retailers."

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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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