

WHITBREAD

Trading Statement

Released : 15 December 2005

Whitbread PLC
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Whitbread PLC Third Quarter Trading Statement

For the first 39 weeks of its financial year (to 1 December 2005) total sales for continuing Whitbread have grown by 8.0%. Underlying total sales, excluding the Premier Lodge acquisition, have grown by 3.0% and like for like sales are down 0.5%.

Sales for 39 weeks to 1 December 2005

	% change vs prior year	
	Like-for-like sales	Total sales
Premier Travel Inn	7.3	33.7
Pub restaurants	(2.1)	1.4
High street restaurants	(3.4)	1.5
David Lloyd Leisure	(0.4)	2.5
Continuing Whitbread	(0.5)	8.0

Alan Parker, Chief Executive, Whitbread PLC, commented:

"Premier Travel Inn continues to perform strongly. Year to date occupancy levels now stand at 81.9% having recovered well following a weaker July and August. We expect to reach the next milestone of 30,000 rooms around the year end.

In Pub Restaurants trading remains disappointing and, whilst early customer reaction to our menu and pricing initiatives gives us encouragement, reversing the trends in volume decline will take time.

In David Lloyd Leisure the new management team has developed detailed plans for improving operational performance and for driving future growth. These plans are now being implemented. The clubs we have opened this year are performing well.

Costa has delivered excellent sales growth for the third consecutive quarter this year and recently opened its 400th store in the UK. TGI Friday's and Pizza Hut continue to find trading conditions difficult on the high street.

With the sale of our Britvic stake, our asset restructuring programme remains on track, providing funds to support the ongoing £400 million capital return programme. Good progress continues to be made with the disposal of the Marriott hotel assets. In the third quarter we have re-financed the Group, replacing £550 million of bridging loans with a new £700 million facility.

Although we expect the remainder of the year to be challenging, the Group as a whole continues to perform in line with our expectations and our priorities remain unchanged: improved operational performance, tight cost control and disciplined growth."

Conference call for analysts and investors

Alan Parker and Christopher Rogers will be available for a conference call at 7.45am today. To participate, dial +44 (0) 20 7365 1855

A recording of the conference call will be available for seven days. To listen, dial +44 (0) 20 7784 1024 and enter the passcode 6855948#. This service will be active approximately one hour after the conference call has finished.

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