

UNILEVER RESULTS
THIRD QUARTER 2002 AND INTERIM DIVIDENDS
(Unaudited)

A good performance with accelerating growth of the leading brands, a continued advance in profitability and strong cash flow enables us to exceed our earnings outlook for the full year.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Constant exchange rates (2001 average)

Third Quarter 2002		€Millions	Nine Months 2002	
13,106	-1 %		Turnover *	38,748
2,121	+2 %	Operating profit * – beia **	5,944	+10 %
1,343	+33 %	Pre-tax profit	3,669	+19 %
803	+68 %	Net profit	1,924	+20 %
1,204	+17 %	Net profit – beia **	3,208	+26 %
Per NV share (€0.51), Euro				
0.81	+70 %	Earnings per share (EPS)	1.93	+21 %
1.22	+18 %	EPS (beia) **	3.24	+27 %
Per PLC share (1.4p), Euro cent				
12.16	+70 %	EPS	28.93	+21 %
18.33	+18 %	EPS (beia) **	48.61	+27 %

* Includes our share of Joint Ventures

** before exceptional items and amortisation of goodwill and intangibles

When expressed in **current rates of exchange**, earnings per share (beia) were up 11% for the quarter and 21% for the year to date, while earnings per share rose by 60% in the quarter and by 16% for the year to date.

KEY FEATURES FOR THE QUARTER

- Sales growth of the leading brands was 4.5% for the last twelve months with 5.4% in the quarter.
- Operating margin (beia) moved ahead to 16.2% in the quarter, up by 50 basis points. This brings the margin for the year to date to 15.3%, an increase of 160 basis points.
- Strong cash flow from operating activities combined with disposal proceeds and lower interest rates reduced interest by 24% to €319 million.
- EPS (beia) grew by 18% due to improvements in profitability and lower tax.
- Proposed interim dividend of €0.55 per NV ordinary share and 5.21p per PLC ordinary share.

CHAIRMEN'S COMMENT

“We continue to deliver against our Path to Growth objectives. Our savings programmes are providing the fuel for investment behind our leading brands, the expansion of operating margin and growth in earnings. As we move into the second half of the Path to Growth the focus on our leading brands with sustained rates of innovation will drive accelerating top line growth.

The third quarter saw the expected increase in the rate of underlying sales growth. In Home and Personal Care we have sustained the improvement in leading brand growth at a level in line with that needed to achieve the Path to Growth targets. In particular our Personal Care brands continue to perform well and Homecare margins are developing satisfactorily. In Foods we see the benefits of the Bestfoods integration and the creation of the firm platform on which to leverage innovation and marketplace activity. Savoury and Dressings, together with continued progress in Spreads are spearheading a pick-up in growth. Our global Ice Cream business has responded well to a difficult European summer with a strong innovation programme and a resilient margin performance.

With this strong performance we now see the year's EPS (beia) growth being in the high teens.”

N W A FitzGerald
Chairman, Unilever PLC

A Burgmans
Chairman, Unilever N.V.

30 October 2002