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PRESS DIGEST - British business - Feb 13

Daily Telegraph

Fri Feb 12, 2010 10:02pm EST

STOCKS | GLOBAL MARKETS

DRINK COMPANIES IGNORE PLEAS FOR SAFE-LEVEL LABELS

A voluntary government scheme to put warnings about the dangers of alcohol on bottles of beer, wine and spirits has only been taken up by 15 percent of UK drinks companies.

A report released next week will reveal the indifferent reception given to scheme, leading to speculation that the programme may need to be made compulsory.

"Despite responsible efforts from some brands we know progress has been disappointing", stated a Department of Health spokesman. "The government expects to see leadership from more of the major producers".

The Guardian

"CYNICAL, AGGRESSIVE": EXPERT VERDICT ON SUPERMARKET PRICES

An investigation has found that UK supermarket chains Tesco (TSCO.L) and Asda (WMT.N) raised the prices on hundreds of their products in the week before Christmas.

Prices were raised on products such as batteries, lightbulbs, medicines, Christmas drinks and children's toys.

Between 9th and 22nd December, Asda increased the prices of 2,000 products while Tesco increased 1,500 prices. Both retailers were running marketing campaigns that boasted of the high number of prices they had recently cut.

A former director general of the Office of Fair Trading, Professor John Bridgeman, called the price hikes "a cynical attempt to exploit demand".

FURY AT FSA'S PLANS TO INCREASE FEES FOR CITY FIRMS

UK financial services regulator the Financial Services Authority prompted complaints from those in the industry when it revealed that it intends to increase the amount it levies from financial institutions by ten per cent in April.

The FSA is funded by the annual levy which will increase from £413 million pounds to £455 million. The FSA said that two-thirds of companies will pay less next year because the majority of the levy increase will be focused on larger companies which require a greater amount of supervision.

The extra revenue will be used to fund an additional 460 regulatory staff.

"THIS WAS THE WORST TRAIN YOU COULD IMAGINE" - REPORT TELLS.

An independent inquiry into the breakdown of five trains run by the international rail service Eurostar in the underground tunnel between the UK and France has published a summary of its findings, highlighting the conditions which passengers aboard the train endured.

The breakdowns on December 18th 2009 left 2,500 people trapped in the tunnel and cost Eurostar ten million pounds in compensation.

Staff on one train, returning from holiday resort Disneyland, were said to "go into hiding" after the train broke down, leaving its passengers without information, lighting or air conditioning in temperatures of 25 centigrade for 11 hours.

Prepared for Reuters by Durrants.

The Times

SHELL INVESTIGATES INTERNET POSTING OF PERSONAL DETAILS

Royal Dutch Shell (RDSA.AS) is facing an angry reaction from staff, after the names, telephone numbers and contact details of 170,000 employees and contractors were made public on the

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TSCO.L
424.00p
+2.75 +0.65%
12:00am GMT+0000

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WMT.N
\$52.90
-0.18 -0.34%
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€19.90
-0.19 -0.92%
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10:08am EST

DEALS



JPMorgan getting the cold shoulder?

Is JPMorgan being snubbed out of a \$10 billion Hong Kong IPO? Old grudges appear to be at play between the investment bank and AIG, sources say. [Full Article](#)

[Spyker-Saab to seek London, Stockholm listings](#)

ANALYST RESEARCH

Report Title	Price
Tesco PLC: Business description, financial summary, 3yr and interim financials, key statistics/ratios and historical ratio analysis. Provider: Reuters Investment Profile	\$20.00 BUY
Tesco PLC: Business description, financial summary, 3yr and interim financials, key statistics/ratios and historical ratio analysis. Provider: Reuters Investment Profile	\$20.00 BUY
Validea Guru Analysis Report for TSCDY. Analysis using Validea's interpretation of the published quantitative strategies of well-known Wall Street experts including Peter Lynch, Warren Buffett, Ben Graham and Ken Fisher, among others. Provider: Validea	\$18.00 BUY

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U.S. Marines spearhead major Afghanistan offensive

MARJAH, Afghanistan (Reuters) - U.S. Marines spearheaded one of NATO's biggest offensives against the Taliban in Afghanistan on Saturday, in an early test of President Barack Obama's troop surge policy. | [Video](#)

[Luxembourg summit to discuss future of bank secrecy](#)

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