

FEATURE
UNILEVER GHANA LIMITED (UNIL)

Unilever Ghana Limited, a leading manufacturer of consumer goods in the country, began its operation in 1787 when two European trading firms, Swanzy and King arrived in the Gold Coast. They later merged in 1931 to form the nucleus of the United Africa Company of Gold Coast (UAC) with a strong commitment to the socio-economic development of the nation. In 1963, UAC established Lever Brothers, a consumer goods manufacturing business. The two Unilever PLC subsidiaries, UAC Ghana Limited, reputed for brilliance in marketing and distribution, and Lever Brothers Ghana Limited which was strong in manufacturing, came together to form Unilever Ghana Limited in July 1992.

Unilever Ghana Limited currently manufactures and markets three broad categories of products under Foods, Home Care and Personal Care categories. Some of the company's leading brands include Blue Band Margarine, Lipton, Maggie and Royco Cubes, Annapurna Salt, Frytol, Omo, Key Soap, Pepsodent and Close-Up Toothpastes, Lux, Geisha, Sunlight and Lifebuoy.

In terms of financial performance, Unilever has over the last five years performed satisfactorily with the Group's top line indicator showing positive growth as against a mixed performance of the bottom line. For the period under review, the top line indicator has consistently grown from GHS 181.15 million in 2010 to GHS 410.45 million in 2014 indicating a 126.58% growth for the period. The company's bottom line indicator however, experienced a mixed trend, from GHS22.81 million in 2010 to a high of GHS30.42 million in 2011. Thereafter, Net Profit declined in 2012 to GHS15.74 million and further to GHS14.07 million in 2013. The Group however suffered a loss of GHS0.71 million in 2014.

Unaudited Financial statements released by Unilever Ghana for the 2015 financial year 2015 revealed a much improved performance in the company's main indicators compared to the previous year 2014. The period saw a 26.38% upward jump in Revenue from GHS 410.45 million in 2014 to GHS 518.73 million in 2015. Cost of Sales, Distribution Expenses and Administrative Expenses also went up by 16.81%, 10.53% and 8.88% respectively while reconstruction expense also went up by 35.72%. Other Income also however increased by 52.92% during the period. Financial charges saw a 34.28% decline to GHS 3.13 million cedis in 2015 from a 2014 figure of GHS 4.76 million cedis. This resulted in an after tax profit of GHS 35.74 million as against a loss of GHS 0.71 million in 2014. The company attributes this remarkable turnaround to performance to a focus on operational excellence despite the difficult operating environment and intensive competitive pressure.

On the Ghanaian bourse, Unilever has performed remarkably well over the years since its listing in November 1990. The equity which was initially listed at GHS 0.18 saw significant appreciations in price over the period to GHS 4.00 by 2008 year-end amid occasional fluctuations. The price of the equity further appreciated steadily until it hit an all-time high of GHS 18.31 in December 2013. The equity price has however amid unfavorable economic conditions declined and now trades at GHS 8.70 as at close of trade on 18th March, 2016.

Income Statement
(All figures are expressed in '000 Ghana Cedis)

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Turnover	282,138	323,407	410,450	518,731
Operating Expenses	40,916	65,989	87,410	95,329
Operating Profit	24,515	20,615	4,124	50,730
Net profit	16,082	14,073	(710)	35,743

Balance Sheet Summary
(All figures are expressed in '000 Ghana Cedis)

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total Assets	153,712	192,123	221,534	302,378
Total Liabilities	121,943	159,494	189,941	239,288
Total Equity	31,768	32,629	31,593	63,089

Ratios/Statistics

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Net Profit Margin (%)	5.70	4.35	-0.17	6.89
Return on Assets (%)	10.46	7.32	-0.32	11.82
Return on Equity (%)	50.62	43.13	-2.25	56.65
Earnings Per Share (GH¢)	0.26	0.23	(0.01)	0.57
Dividend Per Share (GH¢)				
Net Assets Per Share (GH¢)	0.51	0.52	0.51	1.01
Share price				
High (GHS)	8.52	18.31	18.31	10.70
Low (GHS)	6.64	8.52	10.70	7.30
Close (GHS)	8.52	18.31	10.70	8.50

Investor Ratios

	2014	2015
Price to Book Value	21.17	8.42
Price Revenue Ratio	1.63	1.02
Price Earnings Ratio	n/m	14.86
Year-to-date Return (%)	-41.56	-20.56


Price Information

Year Opening Price (GHS)	Week Opening Price (GHS)	Current Price (GHS)	Weekly Change (GHS)	Weekly Change (%)	Year To Date (%)
01.01.16	11.03.16	18.03.16			
0.3163	0.3215	0.3218	0.0003 ▲	0.09 ▲	1.66

GHANA STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS

Trading activity on the Ghana Stock Exchange declined moderately in volume but appreciated in value for the week under review.

A total of 980,028 shares valued at GHS 1,800,813.97 were traded for the week ended compared to 1,013,011 shares valued at GHS 1,065,011.13 traded on the local bourse for the preceding week. This represents a fall of 3.26% and an increment of 69.09% in volume and value respectively.

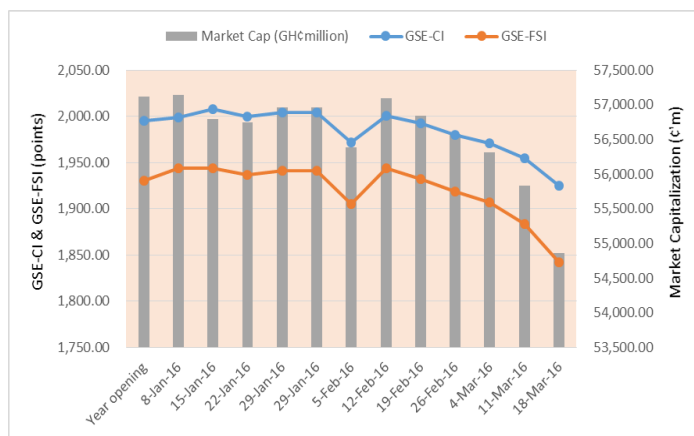
Guinness Ghana Brewery Limited was the most active stock on the GSE for the week under review with 441,577 shares traded representing 45.06% of total share trade, with Enterprise Group Limited and Ghana Oil Company Limited following with 244,745.00 shares and 72,485.00 shares representing 24.97% and 7.40% respectively. Standard Chartered Bank Limited was the least traded equity with only 41 shares exchanging hands for the week representing 0.004% of total shares traded.

Both the GSE Composite Index (GSE-CI) and the GSE Financial Stocks Index (GSE-FSI) dipped marginally for the week under review. The GSE-CI and the GSE-FSI lost 29.57 points and 41.28 points to close the week at 1,924.91 points and 1,842.04 points from the preceding week's 1,954.49 points and 1,883.32 points respectively. In percentage terms, the two indices fell by 1.51% for the GSE-CI and 2.19% for the GSE-FSE bringing the year-to-date returns for both Indices to -3.51% and -4.56% respectively.

The market capitalization for the week under review consequently declined by GHS 961 million or 1.72% to close the week at GHS 54,866.70 million from the preview week level of GHS 55,828.35 million.

The chart below gives historical view of the market capitalisation so far.

Chart 1 – Trend of Market Indicators



MONEY MARKET NEWS

CEDI RECORDS GAINS

The cedi recorded marginal gains against all the five (5) major trading currencies in the week under review. It appreciated against the US Dollar, the British Pound, the Euro, the South African Rand, and the Japanese Yen by 0.20%, 1.82%, 1.03%, 5.30% and 0.60% respectively.

The week's crucial performance brought the Cedi's year-to-date depreciation to -0.12%, 3.91%, -2.34%, 4.56% and -6.66% against the Dollar, the Pound, the Euro, the Rand and the Yen.

The following table summarizes the interbank rates for the week under review

Table 1 – Summary of Interbank Rates

	Buying		Selling	
	11.03.16	18.03.16	11.03.16	18.03.16
US Dollar	3.8488	3.8411	3.8527	3.8449
Pound	5.5065	5.4098	5.5148	5.4163
Euro	4.2905	4.2497	4.2963	4.2524
Rand	0.2500	0.2377	0.2503	0.2377
Yen	0.0339	0.0338	0.0340	0.0338

Source: Ghana Association of Bankers

INTEREST RATES

The 91-day and 182-day Treasury bill rates moved in opposite directions for the week under review. While the 91-day rate saw a 0.0994 points rise from a previous week rate of 22.5067% to a rate of 22.6061%, the 182-day rate saw a decline to 24.6312% from a previous week rate of 24.6461% for the week, thus a fall of 0.0149. The 1-Year Note saw no transaction but the Two-Year transacted at 24.2500%.

A total amount of GHS 1,284.12 million was tendered and sold for short term securities while GHS 19.53 million was also tendered and sold for the 1-Year Note for the preceding week.

The Government of Ghana's target for this week is GHS 1,187.00 million cedis for short term securities and GHS 60.00 million for the 1-Year Note.

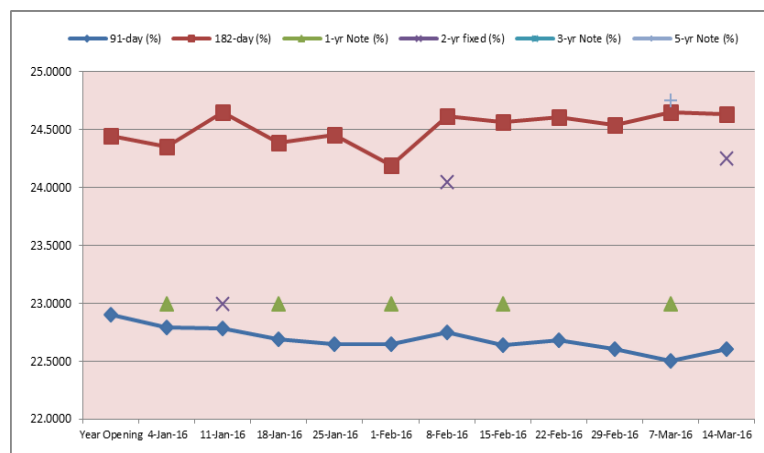
The table below shows the rates for the week under review alongside that of the previous week while the chart displays the trend of the rates so far this year.

Table 2 – Prevailing Interest Rates

Interest Rates (for Weeks Beginning)			
	07.03.16 (% p.a.)	14.03.16 (% p.a.)	Week change (%)
91 Day	22.5067	22.6061	0.0994 ▲
182 Day	24.6461	24.6312	0.0149 ▼
1-Year Note	23.0000	-	-
2-Year Fixed Rate Note	-	24.2500	-

Source: Bank of Ghana

Chart 2 – Trend of Yields on Money Market Securities



RELEVANT CORPORATE NEWS

SOCIETE GENERALE GHANA (SOGEGH) - FINAL DIVIDEND AND CLOSURE OF REGISTER

SOGEGH announces that the Company's Directors will be recommending to the shareholders at the upcoming Annual General Meeting, the payment of a final dividend of GH¢0.076 per share for the 2015 financial year.

Qualifying date

All shareholders registered in the books of SOGEGH at the close of business on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 will qualify for the final dividend.

Closure of Register

The Register of shareholders will be closed from Wednesday, March 30, to Thursday, March 31, 2016 (both dates inclusive).

Ex-Dividend Date

In view of the foregoing, the ex-dividend date has been set as Wednesday, March 23, 2016. Consequently, an investor purchasing SOGEGH shares before this date will be entitled to the final dividend. However, an investor buying SOGEGH shares on or after Wednesday, March 23, 2016 will not be entitled to the final dividend.

Dividend Payment Date

The final dividend will be paid on Friday, May 13, 2016.

GSE Press Release: 063/2016

CAL BANK LIMITED (CAL) - FINAL DIVIDEND, CLOSURE OF REGISTER AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Final Dividend

CAL announces that the Directors of the bank have decided to propose to the shareholders a final dividend of GH¢0.097 per share in respect of its financial year ended December 31, 2015. This is subject to shareholders' approval at the bank's Annual General Meeting. The final dividend for 2014 was GH¢0.081 per share.

Qualifying date

All shareholders registered in the books of CAL at the close of business on Thursday, 24th March, 2016 will qualify for the final dividend.

Closure of Register

The Register of shareholders will be closed from Tuesday, 29th March, 2016 to Wednesday, 30th March, 2016 (both dates inclusive).

Ex-Dividend Date

In view of the foregoing, the ex-dividend date has been set as Tuesday, 22nd March, 2016. Consequently, an investor purchasing CAL shares before this date will be entitled to the final dividend. However, an investor buying CAL shares on or after Tuesday, 22nd March, 2016 will not be entitled to the final dividend.

Dividend Payment Date

The final dividend will be paid on Tuesday, 3rd May, 2016.

Annual General Meeting

The bank's Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, 31st March, 2016 at the Conference Auditorium of the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons at 10.00 am.

GSE Press Release: 056/2016

GCB BANK LIMITED – RESIGNATION OF MD

Mr. Simon Dornoo leaves GCB Bank Limited on 3rd March, 2016 after six-year tenure as Managing director to pursue other interests.

2015 DIVIDEND INFORMATION

Company	Dividend Per Share	Qualifying date	Book Closure	Payment Date
INTERIM DIVIDEND				
TOTAL	GHS 0.0902	Nov. 27 (2015)	Nov. 30 – Dec. 3	Dec. 14
MLC	GHS 0.02	Dec. 2 (2015)	Dec. 3	Dec. 8
FINAL DIVIDEND				
CAL	GHS 0.097	Mar. 24 (2016)	Mar. 29 - 30	May 3
SG-SSB	GHS 0.076	Mar. 29 (2016)	Mar. 30 - 31	May 13

2014 DIVIDEND INFORMATION

Company	Dividend Per Share	Qualifying date	Book Closure	Payment Date
PREFERENCE SHARES				
SCB PREF.	GHS 0.0758	Feb. 27 (2015)	Mar. 2 – 4	Mar. 30
SCB PREF.	GHS 0.0762	Aug. 28 (2015)	Aug. 31 – Sep. 2	Mar. 30
INTERIM DIVIDEND				
TBL	43.60 bututs	Oct. 9 (2014)	Oct. 10	Oct. 13
TOTAL	GHS 0.0771	Dec. 3 (2014)	Dec. 4 - 11	Dec. 14
EGL	GHS 0.19	Dec. 8 (2014)	Dec. 9 - 10	Dec. 11
FINAL DIVIDEND				
CAL	GHS 0.081	Mar. 23 (2015)	Mar. 24 - 26	Apr. 30
MAC	GHS 0.05	Apr. 7 (2015)	Apr. 8 - 10	May 7
GCB	GHS 0.32	May 15 (2015)	May 18 - 21	June 22
HFC	GHS 0.06	Apr. 22 (2015)	Apr. 23 - 24	May 22
EBG	GHS 0.79	Apr. 24 (2015)	Apr. 27 – May 6	May 21
BOPP	GHS 0.0706	May 7 (2015)	May 8	Jun. 18
FML	GHS 0.09	May 4 (2015)	May 5 - 6	Jun. 1
TBL	30 Bututs	May 4 (2015)	May 5	May 12
GOIL	GHS 0.02	May 6 (2015)	May 7 - 8	
SCB	GHS 0.35	May 15 (2015)	May 18 - 19	June 30
EGL	GHS 0.025	June 16 (2015)	June 17 - 18	July 28

Listed Equities	% of Market Capitalization	Week Opening Price (GHS)	Week Closing Price (GHS)	Price Change (GHS)	Weekly Return (%)	Year-to-Date Return (%)	P/E Ratio	Dividend Yield (%)	Return on Assets (%)	Price/Book Value	Price/Revenue
	18.03.16	11.03.16	18.03.16		18.03.16	18.03.16	18.03.16	18.03.16	18.03.16	18.03.16	18.03.16
ACI	0.001	0.02	0.02	-			n.m.	-	(3.65)	(0.95)	0.56
AGA	27.26	37.00	37.00	-			n.m.	-	0.06	5.34	13.32
ALW	0.03	0.07	0.07	-		(50.00)	n.m.	-	(5.83)	0.31	0.40
AYRTN	0.05	0.13	0.13	-		(27.78)	n.m.	-	6.93	1.89	1.31
BOPP	0.20	3.13	3.13	-		25.20	13.36	2.26	12.78	1.80	1.88
CAL	1.01	1.00	1.01	0.01 ▲	1.00	1.00	3.46	5.25	3.78	1.20	1.95
CLYD	0.002	0.03	0.03	-	-	-	5.62	0.00	7.74	5.56	0.53
CMLT	0.001	0.12	0.12	-	-	-	n.m.	0.00	3.59	0.37	0.15
CPC	0.04	0.01	0.01	-	-	(50.00)	n.m.	0.00	(1.45)	1.98	2.29
EBG	3.75	7.01	7.01	-	-	-	5.18	11.27	4.49	2.45	2.77
EGL	0.59	2.45	2.45	-	-	2.08	18.28	1.02	5.97	1.30	1.30
ETI	7.90	0.22	0.18	0.04 ▼	(18.18)	(33.33)	3.76	0.00	0.51	0.46	2.33
FML	1.55	7.35	7.34	0.01 ▼	(0.14)	(0.14)	17.16	0.00	22.11	7.97	3.85
GCB	1.78	3.69	3.69	-	-	(2.64)	4.38	8.67	3.45	1.33	1.57
GGBL	0.74	1.96	1.93	0.03 ▼	(1.53)	(3.02)	n.m.	0.00	(4.07)	5.42	1.46
GOIL	0.67	1.47	1.46	0.01 ▼	(0.68)	4.29	7.54	0.00	6.71	3.01	0.10
GSR	0.93	1.99	1.99	-	-	-	n.m.	0.00	(3.87)	(3.49)	9.00
GWEB	0.001	0.01	0.01	-	-	-	n.m.	0.00	-	-	-
HFC	0.54	1.00	1.00	-	-	11.11	-8.35	6.00	3.59	1.55	1.48
MAC	0.11	6.00	6.00	-	-	-	5.21	0.83	10.15	1.06	3.61
MLC	0.02	0.20	0.20	-	-	5.26	6.25	5.00	1.88	0.28	0.28
PKL	0.003	0.05	0.05	-	-	-	n.m.	0.00	(4.06)	0.25	7.94
PBC	0.07	0.08	0.08	-	-	(20.00)	n.m.	11.00	1.65	0.98	0.04
PZ	0.09	0.29	0.29	-	-	(14.71)	n.m.	7.79	(2.87)	1.58	1.63
SCB	3.41	16.26	16.20	0.06 ▼	(0.37)	(0.61)	28.29	0.00	4.27	2.92	47.11
SIC	0.06	0.18	0.18	-	-	28.57	3.70	0.00	4.78	0.43	0.25
SPL	0.01	0.02	0.02	-	-	(50.00)	11.11	0.00	1.29	0.62	0.77
SOGEGH	0.54	0.81	0.81	-	-	1.25	6.67	0.00	1.78	1.17	1.51
SWL	0.002	0.04	0.04	-	-	-	0.99	0.00	27.84	0.72	0.17
TBL	0.13	0.35	0.35	-	-	(5.41)	7.75	6.21	2.30	0.11	0.13
TOTAL	1.04	5.11	5.10	0.01 ▼	(0.20)	-	13.55	0.00	8.52	3.98	0.32
TRANSOL	0.004	0.03	0.03	-	-	-	n.m.	0.00	7.42	(0.90)	6.51
TLW	46.15	27.92	27.92	-	-	(0.29)	n.m.	0.46	(14.36)	6.30	11.44
UNIL	0.99	8.50	8.70	0.20 ▲	2.35	2.35	15.21	2.94	11.82	8.62	1.05
UTB	0.09	0.11	0.11	-	-	-	n.m.	-	(1.42)	0.45	0.68
Depository Shares											
AADS	0.09	0.52	0.52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Preference Shares											
SCB-PREF	0.02	0.73	0.73	-	-	2.28	-	-	-	-	-
GAX											
SAMBA	0.01	0.73	0.73	-	-	-	-	-	-5.46	0.99	35.06
MMH	0.02	0.11	0.11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HORDS	0.02	0.09	0.10	0.01 ▲	11.11	25.00	-	-	-	-	-
ILL	0.04	0.09	0.09	-	-	-	-	-	-3.30	3.07	2.71
ETF											
GLD	0.03	38.80	38.80	-	-	(0.51)	-	-	-	-	-

Key ABL—Accra Brewery Ltd, ACI—African Champion Industries, AGA—AngloGold Ashanti Ltd, ALW—Aluworks Ltd, AYRTN—Ayrton Drug Manufacturing Ltd, BOPP—Benso Oil Palm Plantation Ltd, CAL—CAL Bank Ltd, CFAO—CFAO Ghana Ltd, CLYD—Clydestone Ghana Ltd, CMLT—Camelot Ghana Ltd, CPC—Cocoa Processing Company Ltd, EBG—Ecobank Ghana Ltd, EGL—Enterprise Group Ltd, ETI—Ecobank Transnational Incorporated, FML—Fan Milk Ltd, GCB—Ghana Commercial Bank Ltd, GGBL—Guinness Ghana Breweries Ltd, GOIL—Ghana Oil Company Ltd, GSR—Gold Star Resources Ltd, GWEB—Golden Web Ltd, HFC—HFC Bank Ltd, MAC—Mega African Capital, MLC—Mechanical Lloyd Company Ltd, PKL—Pioneer Kitchenware Ltd, PBC—Produce Buying Company Ltd, PZ—PZ Cussons Ghana Company Ltd, SCB—Standard Chartered Bank Ltd, SIC—SIC Insurance Company Ltd, SPL—Starwin Products Ltd, SOGEGH—Société Générale Ghana Ltd, SWL—Sam Woode Ltd, TBL—Trust Bank (The Gambia) Ltd, TOTAL—Total Petroleum Ghana Ltd, TRANSOL—Transaction Solutions Ghana Ltd, UNIL—Unilever Ghana Ltd, UTB—UT Bank Ltd, AADS—As at September 2013 As at June 2013 As at May 2013 As at March 2013 As at December 2012 As at September 2012 As at September 2012 ▲ Price Gainers ▼ Price Decliners

The content in this report represents the views of the analysts and is intended for informational purposes only. It should not therefore be construed as investment advice relating to the purchase or sale of any securities. Information used in the analysis was acquired from sources believed to be accurate. NTHC Limited makes no guarantee, representation or warranty and accepts no legal responsibility or liability for any inaccuracies or misrepresentation contained herein.