

Highlights of the year

	2000 £m	1999 £m	Growth	
			As Reported	Constant Currency
Turnover	6,191.2	6,094.0	+ 2%	+ 7%
Operating profit before goodwill amortisation	155.1	145.0	+ 7%	+ 11%
Profit on ordinary activities before goodwill amortisation, taxation and exceptional items	133.7	123.1	+ 9%	+ 12%
Dividend per share	12.8p	11.7p	+ 9%	
Diluted earnings per share before goodwill amortisation and exceptional items	30.4p	27.6p	+ 10%	+ 14%



- Strong financial performance with a 14 per cent increase in pre-exceptional diluted earnings per share in constant currency terms and 19 per cent in Euro terms
- Growth in sales and profits in all divisions
 - Alliance UniChem now serves more than 50 per cent of pharmacies in Europe
 - One in five European prescriptions is fulfilled by Alliance UniChem's retail/wholesale network
 - More than Euro 1 billion spent on acquisitions since 1998
- Significant contribution from recently acquired associate businesses
- Major geographical expansion of wholesale activities with acquisition of Interpharm in Holland and agreement of a strategic investment in Hedef in Turkey
- Further development of retail business, with:
 - 712 retail pharmacies now operating in the UK
 - Further acquisitions in Holland and Switzerland
 - Entry into Norway, with options for pharmacies comprising more than 15 per cent of the market
- Significant developments in the technology division including a strategic investment in Cegedim SA in France and the development and subsequent roll-out of pharmology.com
- Further progress on improvements in efficiency, with depot rationalisation in Spain, Italy and France, and restructuring programmes in the UK and France.

