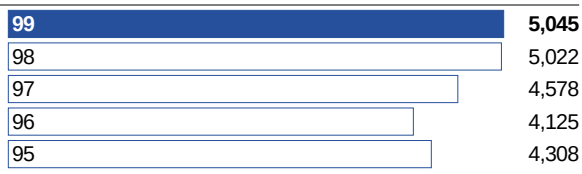
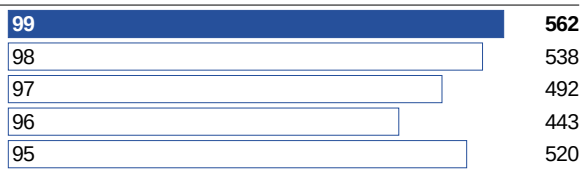
Financial Highlights

Turnover £m
Turnover increased by 0.5% to £5,044.6m
Turnover from continuing operations increased by 5.9%

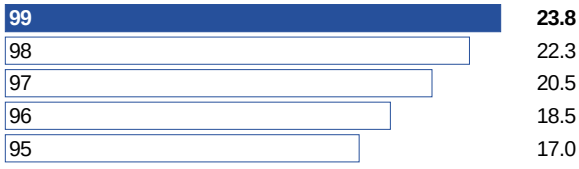
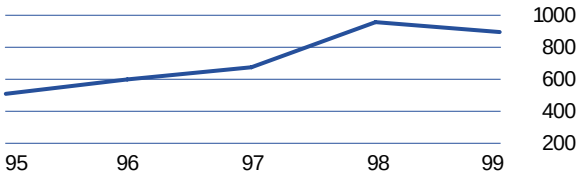


Operating profit before exceptional items £m
Total operating profit before exceptional items (including £1.7m share of operating loss of joint venture) increased by 4.5% to £562.4m
Operating profit before exceptional items from continuing operations increased by 4.0%
Profit before tax before exceptional items was £560.6m, an increase of 1.3%



Free cash flow £m
1995 includes the sale of Boots Pharmaceuticals

Distribution to shareholders pence
Dividend per share increased by 6.7% to 23.8p
(1997 excludes 44.2p special dividend)



Share price pence at 31st March
The percentage change in share price for the five years to 31st March 1999 is 77.2%, from 505p to 895p