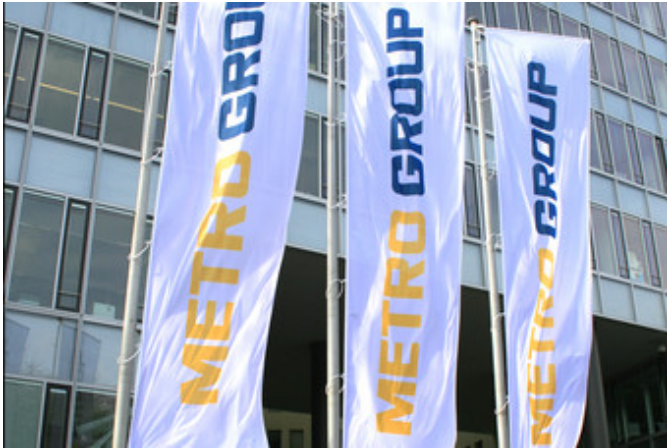


"Record" Earnings for Metro

Written by Marco Attard
30 March 2011

Metro mentions its results for 2010, with EBIT before special items growing by 19.3% (€ 2.4B) since the company's restructuring program.



The retailer's sales see overall growth of 2.6% (€67.3B, up from 2009's €65.5B). W. Europe sees 2.8% growth, while E. Europe shows 7.1% increase. Things are not so positive in Metro's home Germany, with 2010 revenues falling by 1.4%.

Metro expects sales to grow by over 4% in 2011, as it continues its growth-- 2010 saw it entering Egypt, Shanghai and Russia. It also plans to open more than 110 new stores this year, with the group focusing on China, India and Russia.

However the economic climate remains unstable-- political instability rages on in North Africa, Japan still buckles in earthquake aftershocks and individual European countries' economies still face uncertainties. Thus, there's talk of Metro's expansion plans failing to impress investors.

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