



Tuesday 8 December 2009

SCOTCH WHISKY EXPORTS SHOWING THE WAY OUT OF RECESSION

New figures released today (8th December 2009) show that more than 807 million bottles of Scotch Whisky were shipped abroad during the first nine months of 2009.

Global shipments grew by 1.5 per cent compared to 2008, despite recession, according to the export figures (January-September 2009) published by The Scotch Whisky Association (SWA).

Values were 3.5 per cent down on the previous industry record in 2008, reaching £2.11 billion - the industry's second best export value performance at the end of September.

The SWA reported that despite weak economic conditions and trade de-stocking, which impacted exports in the first quarter of the year, the industry remained confident of future growth as international conditions improve.

Gavin Hewitt, SWA Chief Executive, said:

“After a tough first quarter, Scotch Whisky exports have performed well so far in 2009. We look forward to a good last quarter with the important Christmas and New Year period now in full swing.

“Distillers have been resilient through the recession, investing for future opportunities and underscoring Scotch Whisky's increasing importance to the domestic economy. Scotch Whisky exports - which already represent 20 per cent of Scotland's manufactured exports - are showing the way in bringing the Scottish economy out of recession.”

The SWA reported that the international spread of Scotch Whisky export markets helped to mitigate the impact of weaker economic conditions in certain countries.

Within the top ten markets, the value of exports to France, South Africa, and Venezuela increased. Shipment value to the United States, Spain and South Korea was lower.

/... Continued



The UK market continued to struggle with releases from bond down 11 per cent, raising further questions over the need for, and impact of, minimum pricing in Scotland.

The SWA pointed to the negative impact of trade barriers being introduced against Scotch Whisky overseas on the back of a Scottish precedent if minimum pricing was introduced in Scotland.

- ENDS -

Note to Editors:

1. The SWA figures are derived from HM Revenue & Customs data and are based on individual company declarations of the export value and volume of shipments to each market (which may not be the final destination of the consignment). The figures do not represent sales/consumption of Scotch Whisky in those markets.
2. For further information please contact Campbell Evans (020 7629 4384 or 07768 002 262) or David Williamson (020 7629 4384 or 07730 496 151) at the SWA.



**Top ten export markets by volume
(Jan-Sept 2009, millions of 70cl
bottles)**

	2009	2008	% change
France	126.8	116.2	+9
USA	86.9	82.1	+6
Spain	56.4	75.9	-26
Singapore	38.9	36.4	+7
South Africa	37.9	32.4	+17
Venezuela	37.7	19.5	+94
Brazil	33.4	19.7	+70
Australia	26.3	23.5	+12
South Korea	26.1	31.1	-16
Germany	25.0	28.0	-11
Total Exports	807.5	796.6	+1.5

**Top ten export markets by value
(Jan-Sept 2009, £million)**

	2009	2008	% change
France	297.2	256.5	+16
USA	267.7	273.8	-2
Spain	190.9	234.7	-19
Singapore	108.7	136.1	-20
Venezuela	100.9	55.1	+83
Greece	80.1	86.1	-6
South Korea	74.8	112.8	-34
South Africa	74.7	71.9	+4
Germany	71.4	78.4	-9
Taiwan	64.2	54.6	+18
Total Exports	2,109.1	2,187.7	-3.5