

Press Release 19.01.2009

Almarai announces its audited consolidated financial results for the year ended 31 December 2008



Almarai Company (Almarai) today announced its audited consolidated financial results for the year ended 31 December 2008. The company generated a consolidated net profit of SAR 910.3 million, an increase of SAR 243.0 million or 36.4% compared to the same period last year (SAR 667.3 million).

Sales for the year amounted to SAR 5,029.9 million, an increase of 33.4% (2007: SAR 3,769.8 million), while operating profit amounted to SAR 1,061.0 million, an increase of 35.9% compared to the same period last year (2007: SAR 780.7 million). The earnings per share (EPS) for the year ended 31 December 2008 was SAR 8.35 compared to SAR 6.12 for the prior year, increasing by 36.4%.

In the fourth quarter 2008 Almarai generated a net profit of SAR 219.2 million, an increase of SAR 26.1 million, or 13.5% compared to the same period last year (SAR 193.1 million) and a decrease of 25.4% compared to the third quarter 2008 (SAR 293.7 million). Sales for the fourth quarter amounted to SAR 1,274.8 million, an increase of 22.0% compared to the same period last year (2007: SAR 1,044.8 million). This reflects the impact of shifts in the seasonality of consumer consumption from the fourth quarter to the third quarter of this year 2008.

The 2008 performance can be attributed to a combination of consumer knowledge, superior product and excellence in execution across all aspects of the business, particularly the expansion of our distribution network .

The Board of Directors proposes for approval at the General Assembly Meeting a dividend for the year ended 31 December 2008 of SAR 3.5 per share or SAR 381.5 million. Eligibility will be for shareholders registered at the end of the day of the General Assembly Meeting expected to be held in March 2009, subject to approval from the related government agencies.