**Translation** 

## **ANALYST MEETING**

Results of the first-half ended Sep 30, 2009 and outlook for the rest of the fiscal year



**November 9, 2009** 

Setsuo Wakuda
Representative Director and CEO

## WHAT WE WANT TO EXPLAIN TODAY



## I. FIRST-HALF RESULTS:

>Retail sales and wholesale sales seems not to be paralleled.
How will it move from now?

# II. FINANCIAL FORECASTS FOR THE SECOND-HALF:

➤ETC sales are likely to fall but how is AUTOBACS going to deal with it?

## **III. FROM NEXT FISCAL YEAR:**

➤ How is AUTOBACS going to cope with this uncertain environment?



## I. FIRST-HALF RESULTS:



## FINANCIAL RESULTS (first-half ended Sep 30, 2009)



(billion Yen)

					(Dillion Tell)			
		First-half ended Sep 30, 2009						
	Original forecast	Actual result	YoY change (amount / %)	Change from the original forecast (amount)	First-half result of the previous fiscal year			
Net Sales	112.6	114.5	<b>▲</b> 14.8 <b>▲</b> 11.4%	+ 1.9	129.3			
Gross Profit % of Net Sales	35.9 31.9%	36.3 31.7%	▲3.2 ▲ 8.2%	+ 0.4	39.6 30.6%			
SG&A % of Net Sales	31.9 28.3%	31.7 27.6%	<b>▲</b> 7.5 <b>▲</b> 19.2%	▲ 0.2	39.2 30.3%			
Operating Income % of Net Sales	4.0 3.6%	4.7 4.1%	+ 4.3 + 1029.7%	+ 0.7	0.4 0.3%			
Ordinary Income % of Net Sales	4.6 4.1%	5.6 4.9%	+ 4.1 + 290.3%	+ 1.0	1.4 1.1%			
Net Income % of Net Sales	2.6 2.3%	2.7 2,4%	+ 1.0 + 59.1%	+ 0.1	1.7 1.3%			

Amounts are rounded down to the nearest hundred million Yen.

<sup>%</sup> of Net Sales and YoY comparisons are calculated in million Yen.

## FINANCIAL RESULTS: SUMMARY



## REVENUE DECLINE BUT EARNINGS GROWTH

- Reforms in the current Mid-term Business Plan began to take effect.
- Retail sales including FCs were steady, but wholesale sales were not linked to it.

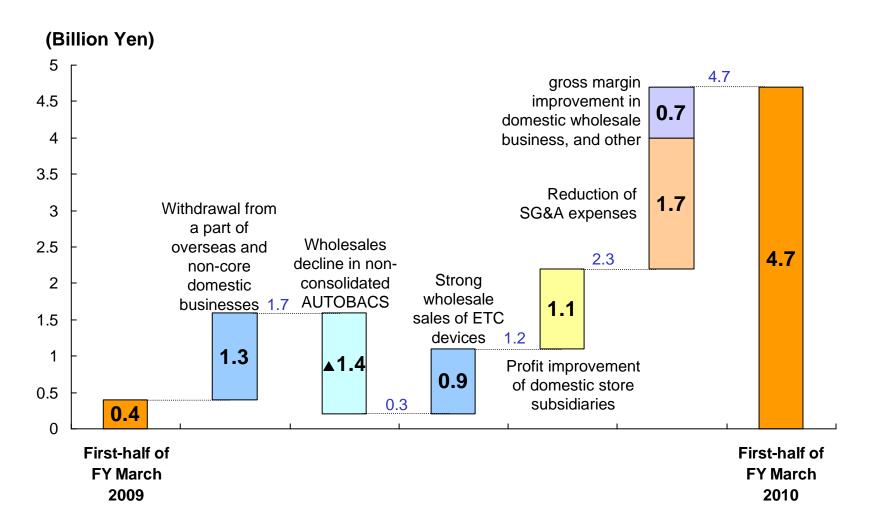
### 1. Business environment: positive and negative factors

- Positive: Sales of ETC devices and driving goods were brisk due to a partial reduction in highway toll rates.
- Negative: Sales of luxury items and motor sports goods fell with the slump in personal consumption.
- 2. Business consolidation following the introduction of the Mid-term Business Plan began to take effect.
- 3. Non-consolidated AUTOBACS and store subsidiaries beat the projections made at the start of the year.
  - Retail sales including FCs were steady by deploying selling spaces reflecting the business environment (year-on-year sales rose for seven consecutive months from last April).
  - ➤ Wholesale results for tires and wheels fell short of projections. FC companies adjusted their inventories from April to June. September showed a reaction to last-minute demand when tire price increase to FC companies was deferred by AUTOBACS in the previous year.
  - > Non-consolidated AUTOBACS and its store subsidiaries drastically reduced SG&A expenses.

## IMPROVEMENT IN OPERATING INCOME



#### IMPROVEMENT IN OPERATING INCOME



## **ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE INITIATIVES SO FAR**



# THIS YEAR'S OBJECTIVES: Strengthen the core business, the domestic franchise business.

#### **PLAN**

#### SALES OF AUTOMOTIVE GOODS AND SERVICES, STATUTORY SAFETY INSPECTIONS

- ·Outlet reforms.
- Gross margin(GM) improvement by lowering purchase prices and revising sales prices and discounts.
- Reduction of store costs.
- Reinforcing customer relationship via statutory safety inspections

#### **CAR SALES**

Focus on making a successful model store

#### RESULT

- Outlet reforms: Completed the experiment with a central gondola.
- •GM improvement: Wholesale GM improved by approx. 200 million Yen(MY) by negotiations with suppliers, while store GM improved by approx. 150 MY.
- -Strong sales of ETC devices: increased by 159.9% yoy at domestic stores including FCs.
- Wholesaling of tires and wheels fell short of projections.
- Number of cars certified by AUTOBACS's statutory safety inspection services climbed by 15.8% yoy to 206,000 cars.
  - ⇒ Improved store profitability
- Intensive trainings were held at 75 stores.
- · Average car sales improved from 23 cars to 36 cars at stores that implemented the intensive training.



## STORE SALES AND WHOLESALE RESULTS

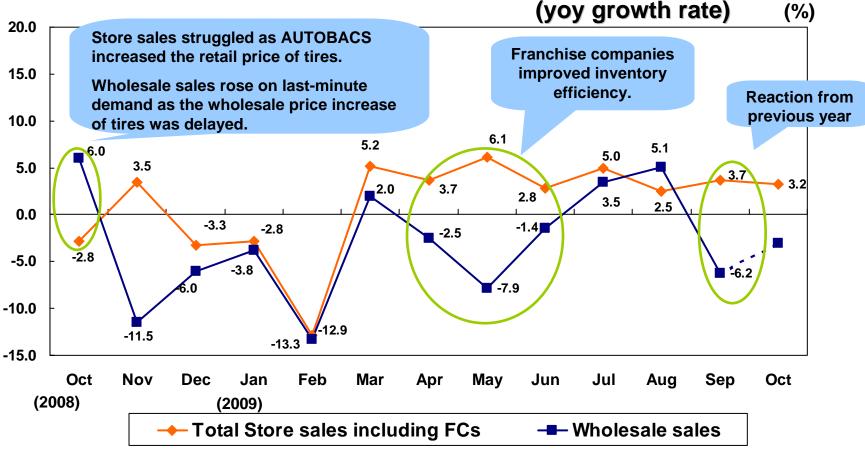


Highlight (1)

Sales at major store types (AB, SA, AH)

Total store sales including FCs and wholesale results

(you growth rate)





The gap between retail sales and wholesale is narrowing.





# II. FINANCIAL FORECASTS FOR THE SECOND-HALF:

## FINANCIAL FORECASTS (fiscal year ending Mar 31, 2010)



(billion Yen)

	Result for the	Fiscal year ending March 31, 2010						
	fiscal year ended March 31, 2009	Full year original forecast	1st-half Result	2nd-half forecast*	Full Year forecast (Revised)	Change from the original forecast (Amount)		
Net Sales	259.1	229.3	114.5	116.8	231.3	+ 2.0		
Gross Profit % of Net Sales	81.2 31.3%	73.5 32.1%	36.3 31.7%	37.7 32.3%	74.0 32.0%	+ 0.5		
SG&A % of Net Sales	76.1 29.4%	64.5 28.1%	31.7 27.6%	32.6 28.0%	64.3 27.8%	▲ 0.2		
Operating Income % of Net Sales	5.1 2.0%	9.0 3.9%	4.7 4.1%	5.0 4.3%	9.7 4.2%	+ 0.7		
Ordinary Income % of Net Sales	6.6 2.5%	10.0 4.4%	5.6 4.9%	5.3 4.6%	10.9 4.7%	+ 0.9		
Net Income % of Net Sales	<b>▲</b> 3.4	5.7 2.5%	2.7 2.4%	3.0 2.6%	5.7 2.5%	0		
Major store sales YoY growth rate (AB, SA, AH)	▲ 2.9%	▲ 1.4%	+ 3.9%	▲ 2.0%	+ 0.8%			

Amounts are rounded down to the nearest hundred million Yen.

<sup>%</sup> of Net Sales and YoY comparisons are calculated in million Yen.

<sup>\*</sup> Forecasts for the second half have been changed slightly given the effect of fractions of numeric values for full-year projections announced at the beginning of the fiscal year.

## TOWARDS REALIZATION OF OUR VISION



## Vision: "Anything about cars, you find at AUTOBACS"

Automotive goods and service market in the second half:

⇒ Remain weak in a struggling economy and growing environmental awareness although firm maintenance demand continues.

For growth of the AUTOBACS Group in future, we will continue Company-wide efforts towards realization of our vision:

"ANYTHING ABOUT CARS, YOU FIND AT AUTOBACS"

Sharing the same operating directions

Simultaneous adoption at all stores

## Reinforce our merchandise and service lineup

- Automotive goods and services
- Statutory safety inspections
- Used car sales
- Maintenance, sheet metaling, insurance, and other

## Win the support and trust of customers through...

- Store and sales space reformation
- Employee training
- Compliance

## **INITIATIVES FROM THE 2ND-HALF OF FY 2010**



Highlight (2)

#### SALES OF AUTOMOTIVE GOODS AND SERVICES

- Initiatives to increase number of customers and the number of items per customer
  - ➤ Display "300 Special Price Items" that appeal to customers with their low prices and set up sales spaces for goods that support long distance driving and automotive goods for hybrid cars.
- Initiatives to raise customer's purchase amount
  - Reinforce upgrade items with PB and exclusive goods.
  - > Expand sales of high value-added goods, such as audio-integrated memory navigation systems and eco-tires.
- Sales floor reform implemented by "Advanced store prototypes development project"

#### STATUTORY SAFETY INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES

- > Comprehensively improve stores that have fewer statutory safety inspections.
- > Strengthen customer relations by introducing maintenance service packages.

#### **USED CAR SALES**

Continue to deploy success models by supervising store employees.



## ADVANCED STORE PROTOTYPE DEVELOPMENT



#### **PUROSE OF THE PROJECT:**

> To develop easy-to-select shopping space and improve shelf efficiency, as well as increase space productivity.

#### **CONCEPT OF THE PROJECT:**

**Customer focused** 

Store focused

#### Attract customer and bring in more

Create an easy-to-find, easy-to-shop environment by increasing volume (multiple facings), and providing various stocking patterns (i.e., by type, by occasion).

#### Develop a profitable store model

Improve space profitability and shelf efficiency. (increase inventory turnover ratio and productivity per employee.)

## Implement profitability reform at existing stores

Realize store reformation from the viewpoint of customers and development of profitable store model

#### **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:**

existing store	Jun to Sep Experiment with central gondola shelves.	to mid Nov Full Implementation of central gondola shelves.	mid Nov Start of store remodeling experiment including wall space.	Horizon deploym experim		
new store			March 2010  Examination and prepa implementation of the "a store prototype."	ration for	mid of FY 2011 Opening of the first experimental store of "advanced store prototype."	March 2011

## PROGRESS TOWARD THE VISION





	FY March 2009	FY March 2010	FY March 2011
Operating environment	<ul> <li>Sluggish consumer spending</li> <li>Shift in consumer tastes to lower prices</li> <li>Less interest in cars</li> <li>Lower turnover in new car sales</li> </ul>	<ul><li>(In addition to items at left)</li><li>- Temporary strong sales of ETC devices and long distance driving goods</li></ul>	Demand drops for luxury items and increasing demand for maintenance items     Growing concern over environmental issues
Vision	"Anything	about cars, you find at A	UTOBACS"
	Profitability	+ Earning growth	+ Sustainable growth
Business objectives	<ul><li>Focus on core business operations</li><li>Withdrawal from unprofitable business lines</li></ul>	<ul><li>Review of organization and business portfolios</li><li>Reinforcement of the domestic FC business</li></ul>	Launch of a new Mid-term Business Plan - Reinforce of domestic FC business - Increase of the market share
Operating measures	<ul> <li>Review of business portfolio</li> <li>Streamlining and consolidation of the support function and domestic store subsidiaries</li> <li>Dividend increase and share buybacks</li> <li>reduction of store costs</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Launching the Advanced Store Prototypes Development project</li> <li>Procurement improvements</li> <li>Enhanced customer relations through safety inspections</li> <li>Creation of successful car purchase/sales business model</li> <li>Dividend increase and share buybacks</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Improvement of cost efficiency at the headquarters</li> <li>Pursuing of sustainable store profitability</li> <li>Strengthening safety inspections, metal works, and other automotive related businesses</li> </ul>
Financial targets			(current target) ROE: 7% or more DOE: 3% Ordinary income: 16 billion Yen
Annual dividend	100 Yen / share	120 Yen / share	-

## WHAT WE WANT TO TELL YOU TODAY: REVIEW



- 1. Retail sales and wholesale sales seems not to be linked together. How will it move from now?
  - ➤ The gap between retail sales and wholesale is narrowing from the second half.
- 2. ETC sales are likely to fall but how is AUTOBACS going to deal with it?
  - ➤ The operating environment in the second half will be in line with projections made at the beginning of the fiscal year. The performance forecast remains unchanged, including an anticipated fall in sales of ETC devices.
- 3. How is AUTOBACS going to cope with this uncertain environment?
  - ➤ While executing ongoing initiatives, we will build a business foundation that ensures sustainable growth even in a challenging business environment.



## LASTLY...



AUTOBACS Seven is determined to win the support and trust of all stakeholders by strengthening store profitability and pursuing continuous cost efficiency centering on store reforms.





## **Forward-Looking Statements**

These materials include forecasts regarding the Company's future plans, strategies, and performance. This information is based on judgments and estimates made in accordance with information currently available. Actual results may differ substantially from forecasts due to such factors as changes in operating circumstances.



## **Data book**



## **MAJOR DRIVERS OF VARIANCE**



(Billion Yen)

			First-half of Fiscal year ending March 31, 2010	FY Mar 09			
Results (% of Sales)		YoY	oY Major drivers of variance				
Net Sales	114.5 ▲14.8 ▲11.4%						
Gross Margin	36.3 31.7%	<b>▲</b> 3.2 <b>▲</b> 8.2%	<ul> <li>↓ Business restructuring: ▲3.8</li> <li>↑ Gross margin improvement (19.6%⇒20.4%)</li> <li>↑ Sales increase of domestic store subsidiaries</li> </ul>	39.6 30.6%			
SG&A	31.7 27.6%	<b>▲</b> 7.5 <b>▲</b> 19.2%	<ul> <li>↓ Business restructuring: ▲6.0</li> <li>↓ Reduction in sales promotion expenses at non-consolidated and store subsidiary sector, reduction in IT related expenses</li> </ul>	39.2 30.3%			
Non-operating Income & Expenses	0.9	▲0.1	<ul> <li>Income: ▲1.5 - Decrease in dividend income, decrease in currency option, decrease in non-operating income related to STRAUSS</li> <li>Expenses: ▲1.4 - Decrease in loss on revaluation of investment securities, decrease in exchange loss</li> </ul>	1.0			
Extraordinary Gains and Losses	▲0.6	▲4.3	<ul> <li>↓ Gains: ▲1.3 - Less influence from the revision of lease accounting rule, return on provisions for business restructuring</li> <li>↑ Losses: + 3.0 - Provision for allowance for doubtful receivables (STRAUSS etc), impairments loss on fixed assets (driving school etc)</li> </ul>	3.8			

Amounts are rounded down to the nearest hundred million Yen.



## PERFORMANCE OF SUBSIDIARIES



(Billion Yen)

		Original estimates	Results	YoY	Change from original estimates	FY Mar 2009 results
Domestic retail sales including FCs	Net Sales		143.87	+ 2.1%		140.80
Non-consolidated	Net Sales	94.20	94.18	<b>▲ 4.3%</b>	▲ 0.0%	98.46
Non-consonuateu	Ordinary Income	5.10	5.72	+ 58.4%	+ 12.2%	3.61
Domestic store	Net Sales	37.90	38.69	+ 5.8%	+ 2.1%	36.55
subsidiaries	Ordinary Income	▲ 0.70	0.16	-	-	▲ 0.92
Overseas subsidiaries	Net Sales	4.88	4.42	<b>▲</b> 71.8%	<b>▲</b> 9.5%	15.68
	Ordinary Income	▲ 0.19	▲ 0.30	-	-	▲ 0.92
Subsidiaries for	Net Sales	6.70	6.71	▲ 20.9%	+ 0.1%	8.48
supporting function	Ordinary Income	0.29	0.48	+ 9.2%	+ 64.5%	0.44
Subsidiaries for car goods supply and other	Net Sales	6.40	6.87	▲ 26.2%	+ 7.4%	9.31
	Ordinary Income	0.09	0.23	_	+ 156.7%	▲ 0.06

Amounts are rounded down to the nearest ten million Yen.

<sup>%</sup> of Net Sales and YoY comparisons are calculated in million Yen.



## PERFORMANCE OF SUBSIDIARIES



Non-cons	solidated		(Billion Yen)			
Net Sales 94.2	Wholesale	▲ 3.71 (▲ 4.1%)	↑ Car electronics devices, oil ↓ Tires & wheels, motorsports goods, motorcycle related goods, used cars			
(YoY: ▲4.28)	Retail	<b>▲</b> 0.51 ( <b>▲</b> 8.8%)	↑ Services, oil ↓ motorcycle related goods, Tires & wheels, motor sports goods			
Gross Margin	Wholesale	+ 0.19 (+ 1.2%)	↑ Car electronics devices, oil, used cars ↓ Tires & wheels, motor sports goods			
19.3 (YoY: ▲0.04)	Retail	<b>▲</b> 0.15 ( <b>▲</b> 8.2%)	↑ Car electronics devices, second-hand automotive goods ↓ Tires & wheels, motor sports goods, motorcycle related goods			
	Personnel: ↑ restructuring of supporting function subsidiaries  ↓ fewer direct-owned stores, implementation of voluntary retirement program					
SG&A 13.9	Sales promotion: ↓ fewer TV commercials, less advertising expenses for overseas business and used car sales					
(YoY: ▲1.99)	Equipment costs: ↓ less depreciation, fewer rents on land and buildings (store closure & transfer)					

### **Domestic store subsidiaries**

(Billion Yen)

Net Sales	
38.7 (YoY: + 2.1)	Income increased significantly as SG&A expenses were contained and sales
Ordinary Income	of ETC devices and other merchandises increased.
<b>0.16</b> (YoY: + 1.08)	

**Other:** ↓ Fewer payment charge to supporting function subsidiaries

## **GEOGRAPHICAL SEGMENTS (Overseas)**



	FRANCE	CHINA	SINGAPORE, THAILAND
Number of Stores (at Sep 30, 2009)	12	6	5
Comp store sales (yoy change rate)	▲ 8.7%	▲ 22.0%	Singapore:+ 3.7% Thailand: ▲ 2.9%
Net Sales (yoy change)	3.4 billion Yen 0.3 billion Ye (▲ 1.4 billion Yen) (▲ 0.6 billion Ye		0.7 billion Yen (+ 0.05 billion Yen)
SG&A yoy change	2.0 billion Yen (▲ 0.4 billion Yen)	0.16 billion Yen (▲ 0.05 billion Yen)	0.2 billion Yen (▲ 0.02 billion Yen)
Operating Income yoy change	▲ 0.2 billion Yen (▲ 0.2 billion Yen)	▲ 0.08 billion Yen (+ 0.04 billion Yen)	0.04 billion Yen (+ 0.04 billion Yen)
Business Conditions	In the worsening local economy, it strived to reduce the costs by carrying out restructuring programs especially at administrational levels.  Also started the rebuilding of poor performing stores including franchise stores.	Number of stores fell as the Company is studying a business model geared to local conditions.  Although wholesale results fell, progress can be seen on the cost cutting program.	Sales were steady due partly to the impact of store openings.

## **BALANCE SHEET / Assets**

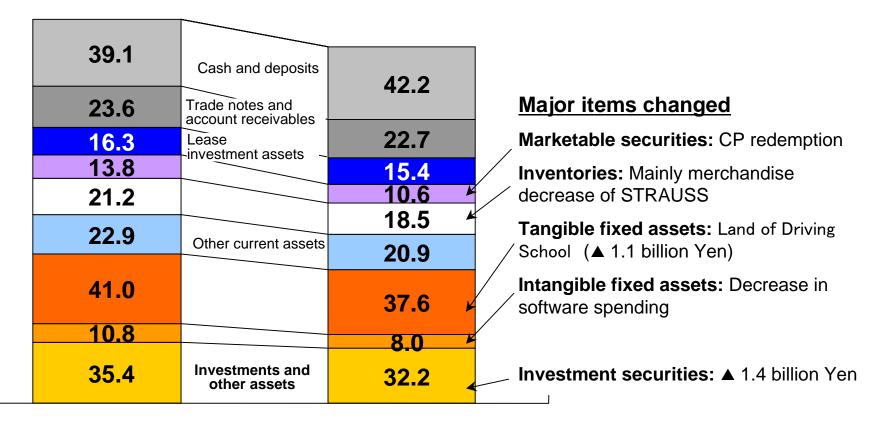


#### TOTAL ASSETS

224.2 billion Yen



207.9 billion Yen



At March 31, 2009

At September 30, 2009



## **BALANCE SHEET / Liabilities & Net Assets**

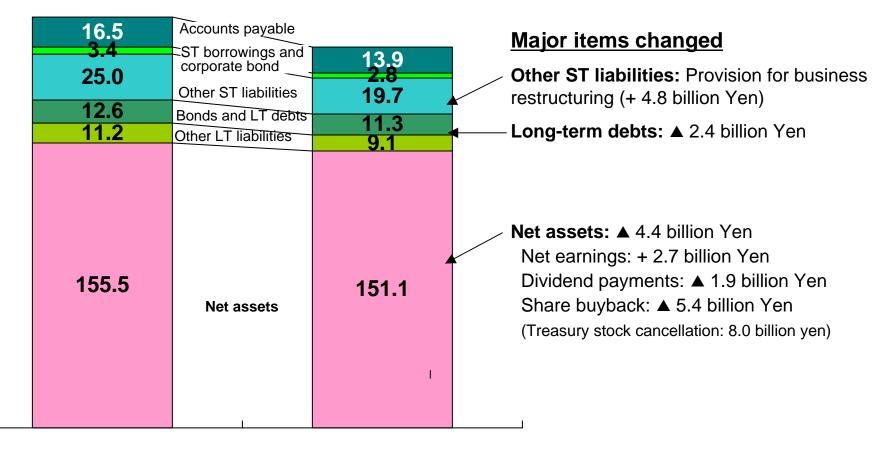


#### TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

224.2 billion Yen



207.9 billion Yen



At March 31, 2009

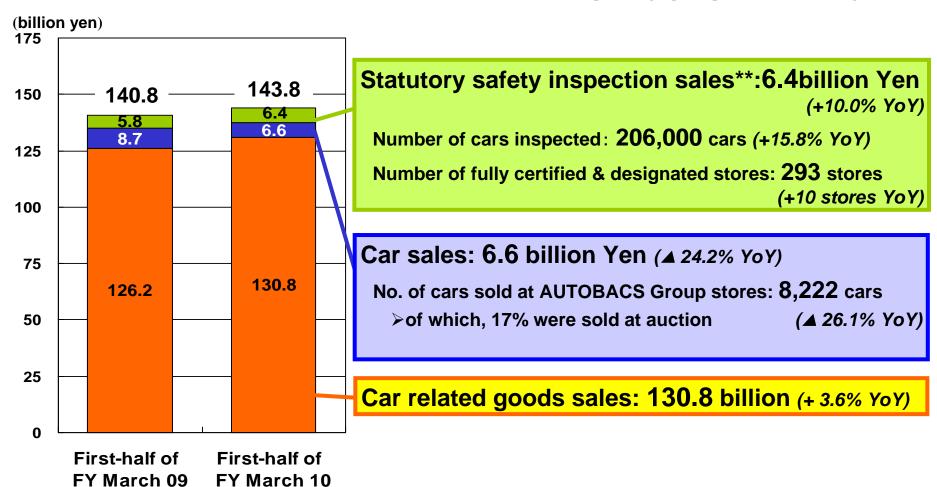
At September 30, 2009



## RETAIL SALES INCLUDING FRANCHISEES\*



## RETAIL SALES INCLUDING FCs: 143.8 billion yen (up by 2.1% YoY)



<sup>\*</sup>Domestic retail sales including FCs: Major format stores(AB, SA, AH)+Used car goods+C@RS(with vehicle search terminals)

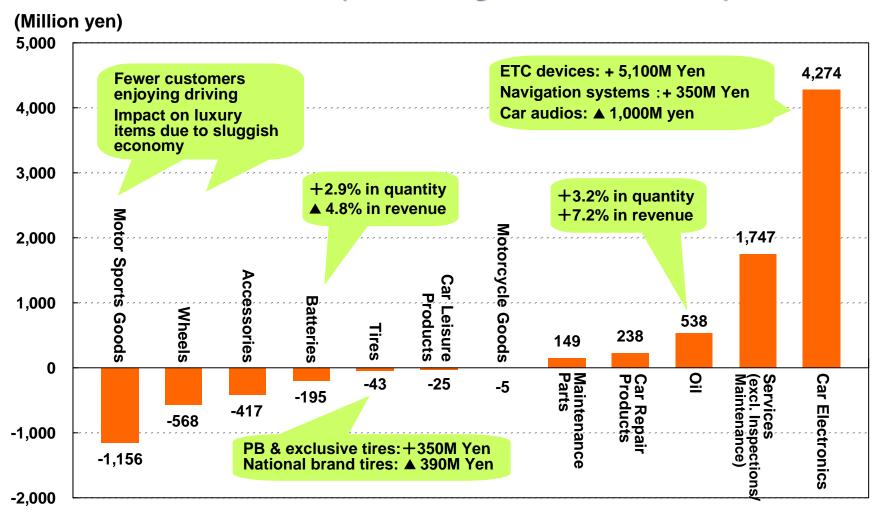
<sup>\*\* 500</sup> units inspected at the AUTOBACS EXPRESS stores are not included in this figure



## SALES BY MERCHANDISE CATEGORY



## SALES TREND\* (YOY change, total store basis)



<sup>\*</sup> Sales at major store formats (AB, SA, AH)



## **ESTIMATES AT PARENT & SUBSIDIARY LEVEL**



(Billion Yen)

							(Billion Tell)
		Figure 1 year		Fiscal y	ear ending Mai	rch 31, 2010	
		Fiscal year ended March 31, 2009 Results	Original forecast	1st-half Result	2nd-half forecast (Revised)	Full Year forecast (Revised)	Change from the original forecast (Amount)
	Net Sales	199.00	190.00	94.18	95.72	189.90	▲ 0.10
Non-consolidated	Ordinary Income	8.56	10.50	5.72	5.38	11.10	+ 0.60
Domestic store	Net Sales	76.23	79.70	38.69	41.71	80.40	+ 0.70
subsidiaries	Ordinary Income	▲ 0.61	0.2	0.16	0.84	1.00	+ 0.80
Overseas	Net Sales	27.04	9.36	4.42	4.48	8.90	<b>▲</b> 0.46
subsidiaries	Ordinary Income	<b>▲</b> 2.96	▲ 0.47	▲ 0.30	▲ 0.30	▲ 0.6	▲ 0.13
Subsidiaries for	Net Sales	16.52	14.40	6.71	6.79	13.50	<b>▲</b> 0.90
supporting functions	Ordinary Income	0.91	0.70	0.48	0.42	0.90	+ 0.20
Subsidiaries for	Net Sales	16.80	12.60	6.87	6.13	13.00	+ 0.40
car goods supply and other	Ordinary Income	0.05	0.15	0.23	0.07	0.30	+ 0.15

Net Sales are rounded down to the nearest hundred million yen. Ordinary Incomes are rounded down to the nearest million yen.



## STORE OPENINGS AND CLOSINGS



#### **Domestic stores**

	Fiscal year ending March 31, 2010						No. of	
Store Type	stores at	1st-half (Results)			2nd-half (Forecasts)			stores at
otore Type	Mar 31, 2009	New	S/B ·R/L	Close	New	S/B·R/L	Close	Mar 31, 2010
AUTOBACS	397	+2	+1/▲1			+3/▲3	<b>▲</b> 2	397
Super AUTOBACS	77			<b>▲</b> 1	+1			77
AUTO HELLOES	8							8
AUTOBACS Hashiriya Tengoku Secohan Ichiba	30			<b>▲</b> 2				28
AUTOBACS EXPRESS	6							6
RICOLAND	1						<b>▲</b> 1	0
Total	519	+2	+1/▲1	<b>▲</b> 3	+1	+3/▲3	<b>▲</b> 3	516

#### **Overseas stores**

 $S/B = Scrap \ \& \ Build \ \ R/L = Relocation$ 

	No. of stores at	Fiscal year ending	No. of stores		
	Mar 31, 2009	1st-half	2nd-half	at Mar 31, 2010	
U.S.A	83	_	_	_	
France	12		<b>▲</b> 1	11	
China	12	<b>▲</b> 6	+1/▲1	6	
Taiwan	4			4	
Thailand	3			3	
Singapore	2			2	
Total	116	▲6	▲1	26	





## **Forward-Looking Statements**

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