



PRESS RELEASE, 2003-10-22

Axfood's sales January-September 2003

Net sales* (excluding VAT) for stores in Sweden owned by the Group, increased by 14.6% for the month of September, of which same-stores increased by 5.1 %. Consolidated net sales for September totalled SEK 2,741 m (2,638), a increase by 3.9% compared with the same period a year ago.

Under the period January-September 2003 the increase was 14.5% for stores in Sweden owned by the Group, of which same stores increased by 3.7%. Consolidated net sales totalled SEK 24,972 m (24 535), an increase of 1.8%. Of total sales, the Swedish operations accounted for SEK 21,095 m (20,346) and Spar Finland for SEK 3,877 m (4,189).

Hemköp's sales increased by 1.7% during the month, of which same-stores increased by 6.1%.

Accumulated sales decreased by 3.3%, of which same stores increased by 1.9%

Willys grew its sales by 23.7% during the month, of which same stores increased by 4.0%.

Accumulated sales increased by 26.9%, of which same stores increased by 4.1%.

Willys hemma grew its sales by 12.1% during the month, of which same stores increased by 3.5%. Accumulated sales increased by 23.0%, of which same stores decreased by 0.1%

Spar Finland's sales decreased by 2.8% and in local currency a decrease by 2.3%. Accumulated sales fell by 7.4%, and in local currency a decrease by 7.3%. For stores owned by the Group the decrease (in local currency) was 2.6%, of which same stores decreased by 2.7%. For stores owned by the Group accumulated sales in local currency decreased by 9.0% of which same stores decreased by 8.9%.

Sales per business operation are broken down as follows:

	Jan-Sept 2003 SEK m.	Jan-Sept 2002 SEK m.	Change %
Hemköp	4 484	4 639	-3,3%
Willys	7 789	6 136	26,9%
Willys hemma	979	796	23,0%
Spar Finland	3 877	4 189	-7,4%
Dagab ¹⁾	13 614	13 024	4,5%
Axfood Närlivs	3 602	3 558	1,2%
Other ²⁾	1 177	1 539	-23,5%
Internal sales ³⁾	-10 550	-9 346	12,9%
Total	24 972	24 535	1,8%

1) Of which direct distribution SEK 3,484 m (2,807).

2) Includes Spar Sverige AB, Axfood Private Label, support companies and joint-Group functions.

3) Of which Dagab SEK 9,652 m (8,269).

* The figures are preliminary, definite figures will currently be presented at www.axfood.se under Financial info.

Preliminary sales figures will be presented on the following dates: Oct 5/11, Nov 3/12

For further information, please contact:

Lars Nilsson, Executive Vice President and CFO, tel. +46-8-553 998 11, +46-70-569 66 33

Bodil Eriksson, Executive Vice President, Corp Comms, tel. +46-8-553 998 17, +46-70-629 66 34