VGR

// Q4 FY2026

Associated British Foods plc

PRIMARK

VGR MARKET INTELLIGENCE

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01

Executive Summary

Associated British Foods plc's trading statement for the fourth quarter and financial year 2026 estimates Primark Group like-for-like sales down 3.0% in the fourth quarter and down 2.6% for the 52-week year, at constant currency, with total sales growth of 2% in both periods and new stores and the franchise model contributing around 5%. The company expects Group adjusted operating profit for FY2026 to be "broadly in line with our previous expectations" and adjusted earnings per share to be "ahead of our expectations." Primark's adjusted operating margin guidance is approximately 10% for both FY2026 and FY2027; the FY2027 figure excludes demerger dis-synergy costs. Sugar's guided adjusted operating loss moves from "towards the higher end" of £25m to £60m in FY2026 to £70m to £170m in FY2027. Every figure in the release is the company's estimate for a period that closed two days after publication.

Primark Group like-for-like sales fell 3.0% in the fourth quarter, 1.2 points more than a year earlier; new stores and franchise added around 5 points, for total growth of 2%.

The company's table gives Primark Group like-for-like sales down 3.0% in the fourth quarter (12 weeks to 12 September 2026) and down 2.6% for the 52-week year, at constant currency, against total sales growth of 2% in both. The company states that new stores and the franchise model contributed around 5% to growth in each period. Its appendix gives the comparators: like-for-like down 1.8% in Q4 2025 and down 2.3% in FY2025. The fourth-quarter decline is 1.2 points larger than a year earlier and 0.4 points larger than the full-year figure, so the first 40 weeks of FY2026 ran at a smaller decline than the last 12.

Continental Europe, 47% of sales, fell 4.3% like-for-like in the quarter (Q4 2025: down 4.0%) and 4.7% for the year (FY2025: down 1.5%), with total sales down 1% in both periods. UK and Ireland, 45% of sales, rose 0.4% in the quarter, as it did a year earlier, and 0.5% for the year against a fall of 3.1% in FY2025; the company cites Kantar data showing a UK market share gain in the 12 weeks to 19 July 2026. US total sales grew 11% in the quarter against 25% in Q4 2025, with no US like-for-like figure given. UK and Ireland is the only market with positive like-for-like growth in both periods, which matches the Chief Executive's statement that "the UK and womenswear" continued to outperform (section 05).

Sugar's guided FY2027 adjusted operating loss of £70m to £170m starts £10m above the top of the FY2026 range of £25m to £60m.

For FY2026 the company guides Sugar to an adjusted operating loss "towards the higher end of our previous guidance range of £25m to £60m", which places the outcome nearer £60m than the £42.5m midpoint without stating a figure. The

FY2027 range is £70m to £170m; its lower bound is £10m above the FY2026 upper bound, and its midpoint of £120m is £77.5m above the FY2026 midpoint. The company names four factors that could move the FY2027 outcome: gas costs, production levels in Africa, El Nino weather and currency, especially the Malawian kwacha. It states that the top of the range assumes all four have a negative impact.

Primark's adjusted operating margin guidance reads "approximately 10%" for both FY2026 and FY2027. The FY2027 figure "does not include the impact of the expected dis-synergy costs as Primark moves towards de-merger readiness"; the FY2026 figure carries no such exclusion. The release does not quantify the dis-synergy cost, so an FY2027 margin on the FY2026 basis is not calculable from it. FY2027 is also a 53-week year for Primark against 52 weeks in FY2026 (section 03).

The release carries no sterling revenue or profit figure for any division; Sugar's two loss-guidance ranges are its only £m figures.

Primark is given percentage sales growth and margin guidance; Grocery, Ingredients and Agriculture are given percentage sales growth for the quarter and profit outlooks in words. No division has an operating profit figure in pounds for either year, and prior-year comparators appear only as Primark growth rates, in the appendix. The Chief Executive describes the quarter as one in which "the Group delivered resilient trading"; the release sets no benchmark for the word, and section 05 records it as not verifiable from the disclosure. The income statement follows with the full-year results on 3 November 2026.

WHAT TO WATCH

FY2026 results, 3 November 2026. Primark Group like-for-like sales for the year and for Continental Europe, as actuals against this release's estimates of minus 2.6% and minus 4.7%. A continuation is an actual within 0.2 points of each estimate; a break is a revision of more than 0.2 points in either.

FY2026 results, 3 November 2026. Sugar's FY2026 adjusted operating loss in £m, against the guidance "towards the higher end" of £25m to £60m. A continuation is a loss above £50m; a break is a loss below £40m.

FY2026 results, 3 November 2026. Whether the company quantifies the demerger dis-synergy cost excluded from Primark's FY2027 margin guidance of approximately 10%. A continuation is no £m figure; a break is a stated cost that allows the FY2027 margin to be put on the FY2026 basis.

VGR will publish the FY2026 results analysis when the figures are released on 3 November 2026.

The period in figures: Primark sales growth by market

DISCLAIMER

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ASSOCIATED BRITISH FOODS PLC · LSE: ABF · Q4 AND FY 2026 TRADING STATEMENT · GBP AS PUBLISHED

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDS 12 SEPTEMBER 2026 (52 WEEKS) · PERIOD ENDED 12 SEPTEMBER 2026 · REPORTED 10 SEPTEMBER 2026 · ANALYSIS 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

NET REVENUES	GROSS PROFIT	OPERATING PROFIT	NET PROFIT
not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided

	GROSS MARGIN	OPERATING MARGIN	RoS
	not provided	not provided	not provided

Trading statement released 07:00, no income statement: none of the seven lines is disclosed in pounds for the Group or any division. The company's own estimates of Primark sales growth follow; the full-year results on 3 November 2026 carry the income statement.

The company's table of estimated Primark sales growth, as printed. Every figure is labelled ESTIMATE by the company: the release was published on 10 September 2026, two days before the period it describes closed.

MARKET	% OF SALES	Q4 LFL	Q4 TOTAL	FY LFL	FY TOTAL
UK only	n/s	-%	+1%	+0.6%	+2%
UK and Ireland	45%	+0.4%	+1%	+0.5%	+2%
Continental Europe	47%	**(4.3)%**	**(1)%**	**(4.7)%**	**(1)%**
US	6%	n/d	+11%	n/d	+13%
Primark Group	n/s	**(3.0)%**	+2%	**(2.6)%**	+2%

Source: Associated British Foods plc, Trading Statement, 10 September 2026. GBP as published. Company's estimated sales-growth table, as printed. Total sales growth and share of sales are disclosed in whole points and are printed as disclosed. "n/d" not disclosed; "n/s" not stated; the UK-only Q4 like-for-like is printed "-%" and described as broadly flat. Constant currency. Q4 is the 12 weeks and FY the 52 weeks to 12 September 2026. Primark Group includes franchise revenue (three stores in Dubai, one in Kuwait).

The comparator year, from the release's appendix

MARKET	Q4 2025 LFL	FY 2025 LFL	Q4 2025 TOTAL	FY 2025 TOTAL
UK only	+0.7%	**(3.0)%**	+2%	**(1)%**

Source: Associated British Foods plc, Trading Statement, 10 September 2026. GBP as published. Appendix table, estimated growth for the fourth quarter and full year 2025, as printed. Total sales growth is disclosed in whole points and printed as disclosed.

Group total growth of 2% less like-for-like of minus 3.0% gives 5.0 points, the company's "around 5%" from new stores and franchise

MARKET	Q4 LIKE-FOR-LIKE	Q4 TOTAL	TOTAL MINUS LFL
UK and Ireland	+0.4%	+1%	0.6pp
Continental Europe	**(4.3)%**	**(1)%**	3.3pp
Primark Group	**(3.0)%**	+2%	5.0pp

Source: Associated British Foods plc, Trading Statement, 10 September 2026. GBP as published. Derived columns are VGR arithmetic on the company's own disclosed percentages or ranges. Total sales growth minus like-for-like sales growth, fourth quarter. Total growth is disclosed in whole points, so each difference carries up to 0.5 points of rounding. The company states the new-store and franchise contribution at Group level only.

The company states that new stores and the franchise model contributed around 5% to Primark's growth in the quarter and in the year, and around 4% of new-space growth is expected in FY2027. It gives no split by market. It records six new US store openings in the quarter, taking the US estate to 47 stores, and four franchise stores, three in Dubai and one in Kuwait. No store count or selling-space figure is given for the UK, Ireland or Continental Europe (section 06).

Quarter against full year, by market

MEASURE	Q4 2026	FY 2026	Q4 VS FY
Primark Group like-for-like	**(3.0)%**	**(2.6)%**	Q4 0.4pp lower
Continental Europe like-for-like	**(4.3)%**	**(4.7)%**	Q4 0.4pp higher
UK and Ireland like-for-like	+0.4%	+0.5%	Q4 0.1pp lower

Source: Associated British Foods plc, Trading Statement, 10 September 2026. GBP as published. Derived columns are VGR arithmetic on the company's own disclosed percentages or ranges. Q4 vs FY is the difference between the two company-disclosed percentages on each row. The share-weighted movement is 47% x 0.4 less 45% x 0.1 points, VGR arithmetic; like-for-like weights are not disclosed.

Continental Europe's quarter was 0.4 points better than its year, UK and Ireland's 0.1 points lower, and the Group's 0.4 points lower. Weighted by share of sales, the two European movements would raise the Group reading by about 0.1 points between year and quarter; the Group reading fell 0.4 points. The release gives no US like-for-like figure. It describes US underlying trading as challenging against a strong Q4 2025 comparator, when US total sales grew 25%.

03 · MARGIN GUIDANCE AND THE FY2027 BASIS CHANGE

Primark's FY2027 margin guidance of approximately 10% excludes demerger dis-synergy costs; the FY2026 figure carries no such exclusion

ITEM	FY2026 GUIDANCE	FY2027 GUIDANCE
Primark adjusted operating margin	approximately 10%	approximately 10%, excluding demerger dis-synergy costs
New space contribution to sales growth	not disclosed	around 4%
Financial year length for Primark	52 weeks	53 weeks

Source: Associated British Foods plc, Trading Statement, 10 September 2026. GBP as published. As printed. The dis-synergy cost excluded from the FY2027 margin figure is not quantified in this release.

The two margin figures are printed identically, "approximately 10%", but the FY2027 figure excludes the cost of dis-synergy "as Primark moves towards de-merger readiness" and the FY2026 figure does not. Without a quantified dis-synergy cost, an FY2027 margin comparable with FY2026's is not calculable from this release. The company states that FY2027 has 53 weeks for Primark against 52 in FY2026; the extra week affects any comparison of the two years' sales and profit, separately from the margin basis. The demerger is expected to be completed in December 2027.

Sugar: the loss-guidance range, FY2026 against FY2027

MEASURE	FY2026 GUIDANCE	FY2027 GUIDANCE	CHANGE
Adjusted operating loss, low end	£25m	£70m	**+£45m**
Adjusted operating loss, high end	£60m	£170m	**+£110m**
Adjusted operating loss, midpoint	£42.5m	£120m	**+£77.5m**

Source: Associated British Foods plc, Trading Statement, 10 September 2026. GBP as published. Derived columns are VGR arithmetic on the company's own disclosed percentages or ranges. Midpoints are the simple average of each company-disclosed range. The company guides FY2026 "towards the higher end" of its range; measured from the £60m upper bound, the FY2027 midpoint is £60m higher.

The FY2027 lower bound of £70m is above the FY2026 upper bound of £60m. The company names gas costs, production levels in Africa, El Nino weather and Malawian kwacha movements as the factors that could move the FY2027 outcome, and states that the top of the range assumes all four have a negative impact. It expects the European sugar market to "remain in surplus in the short term" on inventory carried over from 2025, despite an expected reduction in European

production, and states that "the recent positive turn in European and global sugar pricing should benefit future years". The release does not quantify that price effect.

04 · GROUP AND DIVISIONAL GUIDANCE

Grocery is the one division guided below previous expectations for FY2026, on Twinings and Ovaltine; Ingredients and Agriculture are guided in line

DIVISION	Q4 2026 SALES GROWTH	FY2026 ADJ. OP. PROFIT	FY2027 ADJ. OP. PROFIT
Primark	see section 02	approx. 10% margin	approx. 10% margin (basis differs, section 03)
Grocery	mid-single digits	slightly below previous expectations	slightly ahead of 2026
Ingredients	approximately 10%	in line with previous expectations	broadly in line with 2026
Sugar	not disclosed	towards higher end of £25m–£60m loss	£70m–£170m loss (section 03)
Agriculture	decrease, mid-single digits	in line with previous expectations	ahead of 2026

Source: Associated British Foods plc, Trading Statement, 10 September 2026. GBP as published. As printed, division by division. Food divisions' Q4 is the 16 weeks to 12 September 2026.

Grocery is guided "slightly below our previous expectations" for FY2026, "mainly due to the short-term impacts on Twinings and Ovaltine". The release attributes Twinings to the long hot summer reducing tea consumption in the UK and Europe, and Ovaltine to the phasing of sales in Thailand under a new distribution model. Ingredients and Agriculture are guided in line with previous expectations for FY2026. For FY2027, Grocery is guided slightly ahead of 2026, including a one-off loss from consolidating Hovis in its first year, Ingredients broadly in line (specialty growth offset by start-up costs at a new yeast facility in India) and Agriculture ahead. Sugar is the only division with a guided loss, and its FY2027 range sits wholly above its FY2026 range (section 03). Agriculture is exiting its UK compound feed business.

At Group level, adjusted operating profit is expected "broadly in line with our previous expectations" and adjusted earnings per share "ahead of our expectations". The release does not restate the previous expectations or give a current figure in pounds or pence, so the size of either movement is not calculable here. Both are tested against actual figures at the FY2026 results on 3 November 2026.

05 · THE COMPANY'S ACCOUNT, TESTED

The Chief Executive's statement against the disclosed figures

CLAIM	SOURCE	DISPOSITION
"The Group delivered resilient trading in the quarter."	George Weston, Chief Executive	Not verifiable from the disclosure. No benchmark for "resilient" is stated and no Group sales or profit figure for the quarter is given. Primark Group like-for-like sales fell 3.0% in the quarter with total sales growth of 2%; Grocery and Ingredients sales grew; Agriculture sales fell (sections 02 and 04).
"Our priority focus areas, the UK and womenswear, continued to outperform our other markets and categories."	George Weston, Chief Executive	Partially supported. UK and Ireland is the only market with positive like-for-like sales growth in both the quarter (+0.4%) and the year (+0.5%); UK-only like-for-like for the year is +0.6% (section 02). No category figure is disclosed, so the womenswear part is not verifiable from the disclosure.
"Trading in continental Europe remained challenging, where actions to strengthen our customer proposition are at an earlier stage."	George Weston, Chief Executive	Supported by the disclosed figures. Continental Europe has the lowest like-for-like readings in the table, minus 4.3% in the quarter and minus 4.7% for the year (section 02).
Sugar: "a number of factors that could materially influence the outcome, either positively or negatively … The higher end of the guidance range assumes all of these variables have a negative impact."	Company text, Sugar outlook	Supported by the disclosed figures. The four factors are named and the upper bound is stated as the case in which all four are negative (section 03).

Source: Associated British Foods plc, Trading Statement, 10 September 2026. GBP as published. Claims register. Dispositions use the four fixed terms of the VGR methodology and are checked against the figures elsewhere in this document.

06 · DISCLOSURE DELTA AND METRICS NOT REPORTED

Metrics a full-results release carries that this trading statement does not

METRIC	STATUS	EFFECT ON THIS ANALYSIS
Income statement, balance sheet, cash flow statement	not disclosed	None of the three statements is published in a trading statement. No margin bridge, working-capital or cash-flow analysis is possible from this document.
Sales or profit in pounds for Primark, Grocery, Ingredients or Agriculture	not disclosed	Only Sugar carries a £m figure, its loss-guidance range (section 03).
Prior-year (FY2025 or Q4 FY2025) sales or profit in pounds	not disclosed	Prior-year Primark growth rates are given in the appendix (section 02); no year-on-year change in pounds is calculable for any division.
Global Primark store count or net store additions	not disclosed	Only the US count (47 stores after six openings in the quarter) and the four franchise stores are given. No UK, Ireland or Continental Europe count is given.
New-store and franchise contribution by market	not disclosed	Given at Group level only, "around 5%" in the quarter and the year; the 3.3-point difference in Continental Europe and 0.6 points in UK and Ireland (section 02) cannot be attributed to space.
Demerger dis-synergy cost excluded from FY2027 Primark margin guidance	not disclosed	The FY2027 margin cannot be put on the FY2026 basis without it (section 03).
The "previous expectations" referred to in Group and divisional guidance	not disclosed	Not restated in this release, so the size of any movement against them is not calculable.

Source: Associated British Foods plc, Trading Statement, 10 September 2026. GBP as published. Each row is an absence from the primary source, not an estimate VGR declined to make.

07 · METHOD, SOURCES AND PRECISION REGISTER

One primary source, the company's trading statement of 10 September 2026

This analysis uses one document: Associated British Foods plc's "Trading Statement", published at abf.co.uk and as a regulatory announcement at 07:00 on 10 September 2026. The first analysis (17 September) used scoped extracts cross-checked against the investegate.co.uk RNS archive. For this revision the full release, appendix included, was re-read at abf.co.uk on 30 September 2026; it adds the company's new-store and franchise contribution and the 2025 comparator table, and confirms every figure carried over. No press report, broker note, aggregator or analyst estimate was used, and no expectation attributed to anyone other than the company appears in this document.

The analysis is scaled to a trading statement. Sections 02 to 06 measure what the company discloses: percentage sales growth at constant currency, margin and loss guidance, and divisional outlooks in words. Every company figure in the release is labelled an estimate, because the period it describes closed on 12 September 2026, two days after publication.

CLASS	MEANING	EXAMPLES IN THIS DOCUMENT
Exact	Arithmetic on two disclosed figures	The total-minus-like-for-like differences and the quarter-against-year differences in section 02; the Sugar range midpoints and their changes in section 03.
Bounded	Both ends of a company range stated, no single point chosen	Sugar's adjusted operating loss guidance for FY2026 (£25m to £60m, "towards the higher end") and FY2027 (£70m to £170m).
Not calculable	The input is missing and nothing has been substituted	Any sales or profit figure in pounds for Primark, Grocery, Ingredients or Agriculture; any year-on-year comparison against a prior-period actual; the FY2027 Primark margin on the FY2026 basis; the new-store contribution by market.

VGR precision register. Every derived figure in this document falls into one of these three classes.

Percentages the company prints in whole points (total sales growth, share of sales, the Primark margin guidance) are printed as disclosed. Every percentage or point difference VGR derives carries one decimal. Sterling figures are printed as the company prints them. Arithmetic was carried out at full precision and rounded only for printing. Nothing has been converted from pounds sterling.

The working record is "ABF_Primark_Q4 FY2026 trading update_Source_Figures.md", held with this document, with the source compilation "_source_abf-primark-q4-fy2026-trading-update.txt" in the same folder. Every figure traces to the source-figures file and from there to the line of the release it came from. This is the first VGR analysis of a trading statement for ABF / Primark under methodology v5; no guidance ledger entry existed to open against, and no score composite is published.

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Made with the supervision of Pau Almar.

Revised 30 September 2026 to methodology v5; first published 17 September 2026.

METHODOLOGY

VGR Standardised Financial Analysis Methodology v5, scaled to a trading statement. Restatement before measurement; arithmetic before language; every finding names the disclosure that would settle it.

PRIMARY SOURCE

Associated British Foods plc (LSE: ABF), "Trading Statement", covering the fourth quarter (12 weeks for Primark, 16 weeks for the Food businesses) and the 52-week financial year 2026, both to 12 September 2026. Published 07:00, 10 September 2026, before that period closed; every company figure in the release is labelled an estimate.
https://www.abf.co.uk/media/news/2026/trading-update-september-2026. Cross-checked against the RNS filing mirrored at investegate.co.uk. Full-year results are scheduled for 3 November 2026.

WORKING RECORD

ABF_Primark_Q4 FY2026 trading update_Source_Figures.md, with company-disclosed figures and VGR arithmetic in separate parts and a register of disclosure gaps, alongside _source_abf-primark-q4-fy2026-trading-update.txt. Figures in pounds sterling as published.

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