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Red Stripe Continues Topline Growth with Volumes and Revenue Up in First Half

Desnoes and Geddes Ltd. (trading as Red Stripe), reports that for the six-month period ended December 31, 2007, turnover increased by 15% to \$6,478 million. The increase in turnover was attributed mainly to growth in volumes and the impact of higher selling prices.

Total volumes grew by 3% for the first half, and all key brands such as Red Stripe and Guinness, registered growth. Despite a sluggish second quarter, due primarily to bad weather and high inflation domestic volume ended the first half in growth of 4%.

Exports to the highly competitive US market grew by 2%, even as Miller Chill ramped up its marketing machinery with a massive national launch. Total Export volume was flat compared to the same period last year due to a phasing of shipments to markets such as Europe and the Caribbean. This is driven primarily by tight inventory control by wholesalers during 'non-summer' months. Strong depletion rates, however, signal a reversal of the inventory-tightening trend. Red Stripe is making steady progress across Europe with a new distributor in Sweden plus extended penetration in this market as well as Norway and Denmark.

Up-weighted marketing to fuel brand growth, increased cost of goods, and overhead expenses offset the benefit of the 15% increase in Turnover. Trading profit ended the period 20% behind the comparative period last year, and profit after tax also recorded a 20% decline.

The Board approved an interim dividend of twenty cents per stock unit or \$562 million, which was paid on December 15, 2007.

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