

Market Preview

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Week Ahead: Chips are down for the gaming companies

Three players from the gaming industry report this week and, of the three - 888, bwin.party and Playtech – the latter has had the best year by far.

In its most recent trading statement, Playtech revealed it had seen a 17.4% increase in total revenue in the first quarter of 2014 from a year earlier.

Thursday's interims will update the market on how the company's offerings fared during the World Cup; the company does have a sports betting division, so it should have seen some benefit there, but it has been noted in the past that a major sporting event can lure the casino gaming players away from the roulette wheels and card tables.

The World Cup is also likely to feature in Irish bookmaker Paddy Power's interim results.

The bookie got off to bad start to the year, with many big sporting results going against it; in those situations, it is all very well taking more bets – the group boasted of a 20% year-on-year increase in sportsbook stakes in the 1 January to 11 May period – but it helps if most of those are losing bets.

Significant announcements expected

Monday

Companies: Market closed

Economic: UK: CBI Realized Sales. EU: French Flash Services PMI, French Flash Manufacturing PMI, German Flash Manufacturing PMI, German Flash Services PMI, Flash Manufacturing PMI, German Ifo Business Climate, Flash Services PMI. US: Flash Manufacturing PMI, Flash Services PMI, New Home Sales.

Tuesday

Companies: Interims: Capital Drilling (LON:CAPD), Conygar Investment Company (LON:CIC), FBD Holdings (LON:FBH), Kentz Corporation (LON:KENZ), Kingspan Group (LON:KGP), Petrofac (LON:PFC), Regus (LON:RGU), Randall & Quilter Investment Holdings (LON:RQIH), UTV Media (LON:UTV), WPP group (LON:WPP). Trading Statement: Stagecoach Group (LON:SGC).

Economic: EU: Italian Prelim CPI. US: Durable Goods Orders, Core Durable Goods Orders, S&P/CS Composite-20 HPI, HPI, CB Consumer Confidence, Richmond Manufacturing Index.

Wednesday

Companies: Interims: 888 Holdings (LON:888), APR Energy (LON:APR), Candover Investments (LON:CDI), Churchill China (LON:CHH), Chime Communications (LON:CHW), Cape (LON:CIU), Evraz (LON:EVR), Foxtons Group (LON:FOXT), Grafton Group (LON:GFTU), Hansteen Holdings (LON:HSTN), Industrial Multi Property Trust (LON:IMPT), John Laing Infrastructure Fund (LON:JLIF), Kenmare Resources (LON:KMR), London Capital Group Holdings (LON:LCG), Onesavings Bank (LON:OSB), Polymetal International (LON:POLY).

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MarketTopic Synopsis:

Market Preview is published daily before trading kicks off, giving investors a roundup of macroeconomic and corporate news that is likely to move the markets along with the expected opening level of the major indices.

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The following widely held stocks will be trading in **ex-dividend** form: Merlin Entertainments, Legal & General, Lancashire Holdings, Tullow Oil, Stagecoach Group, Capita Group, Croda International, Alliance Trust,

Economic: UK: Net Lending to Individuals, M4 Money Supply, Mortgage Approvals. EU: GfK German Consumer Climate.

Thursday

Companies: Finals: Hays (LON:HAS). Interims: Arrow Global Group (LON:ARW), Bluecrest Allblue Fund (LON:GBP)(LON:BABS), Gulf Marine (LON:GMS), Hunting (LON:HTG), IFG Group (LON:IFP), International Public Partnership (LON:INPP), Inspired Energy (LON:INSE), IP Group (LON:IPO), Lamprell (LON:LAM), Macfarlane Group (LON:MACF), Molins (LON:MLIN), Melrose (LON:MRO), Marshalls (LON:MSLH), office2office (LON:OFF), Oxford Biomedica (LON:OXB), Paddy Power (LON:PAP), Plaza Centers (LON:PLAZ), Petropavlovsk (LON:POG), Playtech (LON:PTEC), Servelec Group (LON:SERV), SOCO International (LON:SIA), Signet Jewelers (LON:SIG), Salamander Energy (LON:SMDR), Stock Spirits Group (LON:STCK), STV Group (LON:STVG), Unite Group (LON:UTG), Xaar (LON:XAR).

Economic: UK: Nationwide HPI, Index of Services. EU: Spanish Flash CPI, German Unemployment Change, M3 Money Supply, Private Loans, Retail PMI. US: Prelim GDP, Unemployment Claims, Prelim GDP Price Index, Pending Home Sales.

Friday

Companies: Finals: Avation (LON:AVAP). Trading Statement: Telecity Group (LON:TCY). Interims: British Polythene Industries (LON:BPI), bwin.party digital entertainment (LON:BPTY), Berendsen (LON:BRSN), Computacenter (LON:CCC), Chesnara (LON:CSN), Charles Taylor Consulting (LON:CTR), Headlam Group (LON:HEAD), Lavendon Group (LON:LVD), Perform Group (LON:PER), Restaurant Group (LON:RTN).

Economic: UK: GfK Consumer Confidence, Second Estimate GDP, Prelim Business Investment. EU: German Import Prices, German Retail Sales, Italian Monthly Unemployment Rate, Italian Quarterly Unemployment Rate, Core CPI Flash Estimate, CPI Flash Estimate, Unemployment Rate. US: Personal Spending, Core PCE Price Index Personal Income, Chicago PMI, Revised UoM Consumer Sentiment, Revised UoM Inflation Expectations.

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