



Carnival Corporation & plc Reports Third Quarter Earnings

September 18, 2008

MIAMI, Sept. 18 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Carnival Corporation & plc (NYSE/LSE: CCL; NYSE: CUK) reported net income of \$1.3 billion, or \$1.65 diluted EPS, on revenues of \$4.8 billion for its third quarter ended August 31, 2008. Net income for the third quarter of 2007 was \$1.4 billion, or \$1.67 diluted EPS, on revenues of \$4.3 billion.

Carnival Corporation & plc Chairman and CEO Micky Arison indicated third quarter results were better than the previous guidance provided in June. This was due primarily to lower than expected cruise costs, including an insurance recovery of \$0.02 per share.

"We are very pleased with our results for the third quarter which is seasonally our strongest of the year. Despite the uncertain economy, all our major brands globally performed quite well with increased corporate-wide revenue yields. Our North American brands, which had an increase in yields, continued to benefit from strength in Caribbean demand. Our European brands introduced significant new capacity which was well-received in their respective markets," he said. The company's European brands benefited from a 24 percent capacity increase, although local currency yields were lower against strong comparisons from the prior year.

Arison said cost controls also played an important role during the quarter. "Despite inflationary pressures, each of our operating units continued to demonstrate solid cost containment and our ongoing focus on fuel conservation is clearly translating into measurable savings." Higher fuel prices however cost the company \$230 million, or \$0.28 per share for the third quarter compared to the same quarter a year ago.

Key metrics for the third quarter of 2008 compared to the prior year were as follows:

- Net revenue yield (revenue per available lower berth day) for Q3 2008 increased 4.1 percent (1.3 percent on a constant dollar basis). Gross revenue yields increased 3.4 percent.
- Excluding fuel, net cruise cost per available lower berth day ("ALBD") for Q3 2008 were essentially flat with the prior year on a constant dollar basis.
- Including fuel, net cruise costs per ALBD increased 14.6 percent (12.6 percent on a constant dollar basis). Gross cruise costs per ALBD increased 10.1 percent.
- Fuel price increased 77 percent to \$666 per metric ton for Q3 2008 from \$376 per metric ton in Q3 2007, and was in line with the company's June guidance of \$670 per metric ton.

During the third quarter, the company successfully introduced Holland America Line's 2,104-passenger Eurodam and Carnival Cruise Lines' 3,006-passenger Carnival Splendor, both of which debuted in Europe in time for the peak summer season.

Outlook

For the remainder of 2008 and the first half of 2009, occupancy levels for advance bookings are running slightly behind the prior year, with ticket prices for these bookings at higher levels.

Looking forward Arison noted, "While occupancy levels at this time are slightly behind the historically high levels of last year, they remain well ahead of 2006. Although bookings have slowed compared to the strong booking levels of a year ago, pricing is holding up well given the current difficult economic environment. This is a testament to the strength of our global cruise brands which are the most recognized in the world. The value of brand recognition and the consumer confidence they inspire is an important asset for us in uncertain economic times."

On a constant dollar basis, the company expects full year net revenue yields to increase 2.0 to 2.5 percent in line with June guidance. As a result of changes in currency exchange rates, the company now forecasts a 3.5 to 4.0 percent improvement in net revenue yields for the full year 2008 compared to 2007, versus June guidance of an increase of 4.5 to 5.5 percent.

Based on current spot prices for fuel of \$598 per metric ton, full year 2008 fuel expense is now forecast to increase by \$678 million compared to 2007, which will have the effect of reducing full year 2008 earnings by \$0.83 per share. The existing fuel supplements in place, if entirely incremental, are expected to offset approximately 25 percent of the \$678 million fuel price increase for 2008. With current supplements remaining in place for 2009, and assuming current spot prices stay in place for all of 2009, the company estimates that approximately 43 percent of the cumulative increase in fuel costs since 2007 would be offset.

The company continues to expect net cruise costs excluding fuel for the full year 2008 to be down slightly on a constant dollar basis. Taking all the above factors into consideration, the company now forecasts full year 2008 earnings per share to be in the range of \$2.79 to \$2.81, at the high end of its previous guidance range of \$2.70 to \$2.80.

Fourth Quarter 2008

Fourth quarter local currency net revenue yields are expected to increase in the 0.5 to 1.5 percent range, however, as a result of the movement in currency exchange rates current dollar net revenue yields are expected to decrease 0.5 to 1.5 percent. Net cruise costs excluding fuel for the fourth quarter are expected to be lower on a constant dollar basis.

changing consumer preferences, which may, among other things, adversely impact the demand for cruises; the impact of changes in and compliance with laws and regulations relating to environmental, health, safety, security, tax and other regulatory regimes under which Carnival Corporation & plc operate; the impact of increased global fuel demand and pricing a weaker U.S. dollar, fuel supply disruptions and/or other events on Carnival Corporation & plc fuel and other expenses, liquidity and credit ratings; the impact on Carnival Corporation & plc future fuel expenses of implementing proposed International Maritime Organization regulations which, if approved, would require the use of higher priced low sulfur fuels in certain cruising areas, which could adversely impact the cruise industry; the impact of changes in operating and financing costs, including changes in foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates and food, insurance, payroll and security costs; the ability of Carnival Corporation & plc to implement its shipbuilding programs and ship refurbishments and repairs, including purchasing ships for our North American cruise brands from European shipyards on terms that are favorable or consistent with Carnival Corporation & plc's expectations; Carnival Corporation & plc's ability to implement its brand strategies and to continue to operate and expand its business internationally; whether Carnival Corporation & plc's future operating cash flow will be sufficient to fund future obligations and whether Carnival Corporation & plc will be able to obtain financing, if necessary, on terms that are favorable or consistent with its expectations; Carnival Corporation & plc's ability to attract and retain qualified shipboard crew and maintain good relations with employee unions; continuing financial viability of Carnival Corporation & plc's travel agent distribution system and air service providers; availability and pricing of air travel services, especially as a result of the significant increases in air travel costs, and its impact on the demand for Carnival Corporation & plc cruises; the impact of Carnival Corporation & plc self-insuring against various risks and its inability to obtain insurance for certain risks at reasonable rates; disruptions and other impairments to Carnival Corporation & plc's information technology networks; lack of continued availability of attractive port destinations; and risks associated with the dual listed company structure, including the uncertainty of its tax status. Forward-looking statements should not be relied upon as a prediction of actual results. Subject to any continuing obligations under applicable law or any relevant listing rules, Carnival Corporation & plc expressly disclaims any obligation to disseminate, after the date of this release, any updates or revisions to any such forward-looking statements to reflect any change in expectations or events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statements are based.

CARNIVAL CORPORATION & PLC
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

	Three Months Ended August 31,		Nine Months Ended August 31,	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
	(in millions, except per share data)			
Revenues				
Cruise				
Passenger tickets	\$3,658	\$3,206	\$8,684	\$7,437
Onboard and other	864	816	2,309	2,120
Other	292	299	351	352
	4,814	4,321	11,344	9,909
Costs and Expenses				
Operating				
Cruise				
Commissions, transportation and other	660	583	1,743	1,493
Onboard and other	134	146	380	366
Fuel	529	288	1,346	762
Payroll and related	381	344(a)	1,106	976
Food	231	200	648	556
Other ship operating	505	427	1,428	1,229
Other	194	201	256	261
Total	2,634	2,189	6,907	5,643
Selling and administrative	372(b)	363	1,222	1,153
Depreciation and amortization	323	279	936	811
	3,329	2,831	9,065	7,607
Operating Income	1,485	1,490	2,279	2,302
Nonoperating (Expense) Income				
Interest income	8	20	30	47
Interest expense, net of capitalized interest	(108)	(95)	(308)	(273)
Other income, net		1	6	

	-----	-----	-----	-----
	(100)	(74)	(272)	(226)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Income Before Income Taxes	1,385	1,416	2,007	2,076
Income Tax Expense, Net	(52)(b)	(39)	(48)	(26)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net Income	\$1,333	\$1,377	\$1,959	\$2,050
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Earnings Per Share				
Basic	\$1.70	\$1.73	\$2.49	\$2.58
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Diluted	\$1.65	\$1.67	\$2.43	\$2.51
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Dividends Per Share	\$0.40	\$0.35	\$1.20	\$0.975
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Weighted-Average Shares				
Outstanding -- Basic	786	794	786	794
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Weighted-Average Shares				
Outstanding -- Diluted	814	829	818	829
	=====	=====	=====	=====

(a) Includes \$18 million expense related to the British Merchant Navy Officers Pension Fund contribution.

(b) Includes \$26 million gain from insurance settlement and a \$7 million related income tax expense.

CARNIVAL CORPORATION & PLC
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	August 31, 2008	November 30, 2007	August 31, 2007
	----	----	----
	(in millions, except par values)		
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$792	\$943	\$1,412
Short-term investments	9	17	341
Trade and other receivables, net	642	436	423
Inventories	365	331	297
Prepaid expenses and other	245	249	249
	-----	-----	-----
Total current assets	2,053	1,976	2,722
	-----	-----	-----
Property and Equipment, Net	27,735	26,639	25,134
Goodwill	3,500	3,610	3,356
Trademarks	1,359	1,393	1,334
Other Assets	631	563	642
	-----	-----	-----
	\$35,278	\$34,181	\$33,188
	=====	=====	=====

LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

Current Liabilities			
Short-term borrowings	\$63	\$115	\$311
Current portion of long-term debt	888	1,028	1,366
Convertible debt subject to current put options	232	1,396	1,170
Accounts payable	505	561	468
Accrued liabilities and other	1,224	1,353	1,212
Customer deposits	2,917	2,807	2,620
	-----	-----	-----
Total current liabilities	5,829	7,260	7,147
	-----	-----	-----
Long-Term Debt	8,345	6,313	5,735
Other Long-Term Liabilities and Deferred Income	783	645	598
Shareholders' Equity			
Common stock of Carnival Corporation; \$0.01 par value; 1,960 shares authorized; 643 at 2008 and November 2007 and 642 shares at August 2007 issued			
	6	6	6
Ordinary shares of Carnival plc; \$1.66 par value; 226 shares authorized; 213 shares at 2008 and 2007 issued			
	354	354	354
Additional paid-in capital	7,666	7,599	7,577
Retained earnings	13,925	12,921	12,878
Accumulated other comprehensive income	666	1,296	885
Treasury stock; 19 shares at 2008 and November 2007 and 18 shares at August 2007 of Carnival Corporation and 51 shares at 2008, 50 shares at November 2007 and 45 shares at August 2007 of Carnival plc, at cost			
	(2,296)	(2,213)	(1,992)
	-----	-----	-----
Total shareholders' equity	20,321	19,963	19,708
	-----	-----	-----
	\$35,278	\$34,181	\$33,188
	=====	=====	=====

CARNIVAL CORPORATION & PLC
SELECTED INFORMATION

	Three Months Ended August 31,		Nine Months Ended August 31,	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
	----	----	----	----
(in millions, except statistical information)				

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Passengers carried (in thousands)

	2,322	2,203	6,218	5,785
Occupancy percentage	110.9%	111.1%	106.8%	106.4%
Fuel consumption (metric tons in thousands)	795	765	2,383	2,261
Fuel cost per metric ton (a)	\$666	\$376	\$565	\$337
Currency				

Euro	\$1.54 to 1 euro	\$1.36 to 1 euro	\$1.53 to 1 euro	\$1.34 to 1 euro
Sterling	\$1.95 to 1 pound	\$2.01 to 1 pound	\$1.97 to 1 pound	\$1.98 to 1 pound

CASH FLOW INFORMATION

Cash from operations	\$1,064	\$1,122	\$2,879	\$3,212
Capital expenditures	\$1,130	\$246	\$2,723	\$2,376
Dividends paid	\$315	\$278	\$ 945	\$713

SEGMENT INFORMATION

Revenues				
Cruise	\$4,522	\$4,022	\$10,993	\$9,557
Other	399	399	478	468
Intersegment elimination	(107)	(100)	(127)	(116)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$4,814	\$4,321	\$11,344	\$9,909
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Operating expenses				
Cruise	\$2,440	\$1,988	\$6,651	\$5,382
Other	301	301	383	377
Intersegment elimination	(107)	(100)	(127)	(116)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$2,634	\$2,189	\$6,907	\$5,643
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Selling and administrative expenses				
Cruise	\$364	\$355	\$1,197	\$1,129
Other	8	8	25	24
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$372	\$363	\$1,222	\$1,153
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Depreciation and amortization				
Cruise	\$314	\$271	\$909	\$785
Other	9	8	27	26
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$323	\$279	\$936	\$811
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Operating income				
Cruise	\$1,404	\$1,408	\$2,236	\$2,261
Other	81	82	43	41
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$1,485	\$1,490	\$2,279	\$2,302
	=====	=====	=====	=====

(a) Fuel cost per metric ton is calculated by dividing the cost of our fuel by the number of metric tons consumed.

CARNIVAL CORPORATION & PLC
NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES

Gross and net revenue yields were computed by dividing the gross or net revenues, without rounding, by ALBDs as follows:

	Three Months Ended August 31,		Nine Months Ended August 31,	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
(in millions, except ALBDs and yields)				
Cruise revenues				
Passenger tickets	\$3,658	\$3,206	\$8,684	\$7,437
Onboard and other	864	816	2,309	2,120
Gross cruise revenues	4,522	4,022	10,993	9,557
Less cruise costs				
Commissions, transportation and other	(660)	(583)	(1,743)	(1,493)
Onboard and other	(134)	(146)	(380)	(366)
Net cruise revenues (a)	\$3,728	\$3,293	\$8,870	\$7,698
ALBDs (b)	15,392,070	14,150,152	44,034,240	40,338,081
Gross revenue yields (a)	\$293.82	\$284.20	\$249.65	\$236.91
Net revenue yields (a)	\$242.27	\$232.68	\$201.45	\$190.83

Gross and net cruise costs per ALBD were computed by dividing the gross or net cruise costs, without rounding, by ALBDs as follows:

	Three Months Ended August 31,		Nine Months Ended August 31,	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
(in millions, except ALBDs and costs per ALBD)				
Cruise operating expenses	\$2,440	\$1,988	\$6,651	\$5,382
Cruise selling and administrative expenses	364	355	1,197	1,129
Gross cruise costs	2,804	2,343	7,848	6,511
Less cruise costs included in net cruise revenues				
Commissions, transportation and other	(660)	(583)	(1,743)	(1,493)
Onboard and other	(134)	(146)	(380)	(366)
Net cruise costs (a)	\$2,010	\$1,614	\$5,725	\$4,652
ALBDs (b)	15,392,070	14,150,152	44,034,240	40,338,081
Gross cruise costs per ALBD (a)	\$182.17	\$165.52	\$178.23	\$161.40
Net cruise costs per ALBD (a)	\$130.62	\$114.00	\$130.03	\$115.32

NOTES TO NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES

(a) We use net cruise revenues per ALBD ("net revenue yields") and net cruise costs per ALBD as significant non-GAAP financial measures of our cruise segment financial performance. These measures enable us to separate the impact of predictable capacity changes from the more unpredictable rate changes that affect our business. We believe these non-GAAP measures provide a better gauge to measure our revenue and cost performance instead of the standard U.S. GAAP-based financial measures. There are no specific rules for determining our non-GAAP financial measures and, accordingly, it is possible that they may not be exactly comparable to the like-kind information presented by other cruise companies, which is a potential risk associated with using them to compare us to other cruise companies.

Net revenue yields are commonly used in the cruise industry to measure a company's cruise segment revenue performance and for revenue management purposes. We use "net cruise revenues" rather than "gross cruise revenues" to calculate net revenue yields. We believe that net cruise revenues is a more meaningful measure in determining revenue yield than gross cruise revenues because it reflects the cruise revenues earned net of our most significant variable costs, which are travel agent commissions, cost of air transportation and certain other variable direct costs associated with onboard and other revenues. Substantially all of our remaining cruise costs are largely fixed once our ship capacity levels have been determined, except for the impact of changing prices.

Net cruise costs per ALBD is the most significant measure we use to monitor our ability to control our cruise segment costs rather than gross cruise costs per ALBD. We exclude the same variable costs that are included in the calculation of net cruise revenues to calculate net cruise costs to avoid duplicating these variable costs in these two non-GAAP financial measures.

We have not provided estimates of future gross revenue yields or future gross cruise costs per ALBD because the reconciliations of forecasted net cruise revenues to forecasted gross cruise revenues or forecasted net cruise costs to forecasted cruise operating expenses would require us to forecast, with reasonable accuracy, the amount of air and other transportation costs that our forecasted cruise passengers would elect to purchase from us (the "air/sea mix"). Since the forecasting of future air/sea mix involves several significant variables that are relatively difficult to forecast and the revenues from the sale of air and other transportation approximate the costs of providing that transportation, management focuses primarily on forecasts of net cruise revenues and costs rather than gross cruise revenues and costs. This does not impact, in any material respect, our ability to forecast our future results, as any variation in the air/sea mix has no material impact on our forecasted net cruise revenues or forecasted net cruise costs. As such, management does not believe that this reconciling information would be meaningful.

In addition, because a significant portion of Carnival Corporation & plc's operations utilize the euro or sterling to measure their results and financial condition, the translation of those operations to our U.S. dollar reporting currency results in increases in reported U.S. dollar revenues and expenses if the U.S. dollar weakens against these foreign currencies, and decreases in reported U.S. dollar revenues and expenses if the U.S. dollar strengthens against these foreign currencies. Accordingly, we also monitor and report our two non-GAAP financial measures assuming the current period currency exchange rates have remained constant with the prior year's comparable period rates, or on a "constant dollar basis," in order to remove the impact of changes in exchange rates on our non-U.S. dollar cruise operations. We believe that this is a useful measure since it facilitates a comparative view of the growth of our business in a fluctuating currency exchange rate environment.

On a constant dollar basis, net cruise revenues and net cruise costs would be \$3.6 billion and \$2.0 billion for the three months ended August 31, 2008 and \$8.6 billion and \$5.6 billion for the nine months ended August 31, 2008, respectively. On a constant dollar basis, gross cruise revenues and gross cruise costs would be \$4.4 billion and \$2.7 billion for the three months ended August 31, 2008 and \$10.7 billion and \$7.7 billion for the nine months ended August 31, 2008, respectively. In addition, our non-U.S. dollar cruise operations' depreciation and net interest expense were impacted by the changes in exchange rates for the three and nine months ended August 31, 2008, compared to the prior year's comparable periods.

(b) ALBDs is a standard measure of passenger capacity for the period, which we use to perform rate and capacity variance analyses to determine what are the main non-capacity driven factors that cause our cruise revenues and expenses to vary. ALBDs assume that each cabin we offer for sale accommodates two passengers and is computed by multiplying passenger capacity by revenue-producing ship operating days in the period.

SOURCE Carnival Corporation

CONTACT:

Media, US: Tim Gallagher of Carnival Corporation & plc, +1-305-599-2600, ext. 16000;
or UK: Richard Jacques, or Sophie Brand, both of Brunswick Group, 44 (0) 20 7404 5959;
or Investor Relations, US & UK: Beth Roberts of Carnival Corporation & plc, +1-305-406-4832

Web site: <http://www.carnivalcorp.com>

<http://www.carnivalplc.com>

(CCL CUK)