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Balfour Capital Group
AstraZeneca

AstraZeneca plc is a British-Swedish multinational pharmaceutical and biotechnology company.

- It researches, develops, manufactures and commercializes prescription medicines in major therapeutic areas including oncology, cardiovascular, renal & metabolic (CVRM), respiratory, inflammation & autoimmunity, neuroscience, infection, and rare diseases.
- Through acquisitions (e.g. Alexion) and internal R&D, AstraZeneca has strengthened its portfolio in immunology and rare diseases.
- It operates globally, with R&D centers in Cambridge (UK), Gothenburg (Sweden), Gaithersburg (Maryland, US), and others.
- The company also has a listing on U.S. (ADR) via AZN, in addition to its primary London / UK listing.

1. Top 5 Competitors

Competition is fierce in global pharma / biotech. Some of AstraZeneca's main competitors include:

- Pfizer Inc.
- Novartis AG
- GSK (GlaxoSmithKline plc)
- Merck & Co., Inc. (Merck in U.S.)
- Sanofi (or alternately Takeda, Roche)

Other frequent peers include Bristol-Myers Squibb, Roche, Amgen, Bayer, or Teva depending on the therapeutic area.

2. Largest Institutional Shareholders

From latest "major holders" disclosures:

- Vanguard (e.g. Vanguard funds) appears on the list of institutional holders.
- As per Yahoo Finance "holders" data, Vanguard PRIMECAP Fund / Vanguard Chester Funds holds ~26.71 million shares, ~1.02% of shares outstanding.

Other large institutional holders likely include major asset managers like BlackRock, State Street, etc., though I did not locate a fully ranked top-10 list in the sources I checked.

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3. Management Team

Based on AstraZeneca's leadership pages and their 2024 Annual Report:

- Pascal Soriot – Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director.
- The company maintains a Senior Executive Team (SET) / Executive Committee / leadership including heads of R&D, operations, finance, therapeutics, etc.
- As of recent insider reports, Aradhana Sarin is Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

There are also board directors and non-executive leadership; the full board and leadership list is on their "Leadership" / "Our Company" page.

4. Revenue

From AstraZeneca's 2024 Annual Report:

- In 2024, AstraZeneca reported that Total Revenue grew 18 % (21 % at constant exchange rates).
- In Reuters coverage, AstraZeneca is noted to have reported US$45.81 billion in revenue for a past year, as part of its roadmap toward $80 billion by 2030.
- As per The Guardian in 2025, AstraZeneca's 2024 revenue was stated at US$54.1 billion, with profits at US$8.7 billion (a 21 % year-on-year revenue increase).

There is some variation in how revenue is reported (e.g. total group vs pharmaceutical sales vs core). The figure US$54.1 billion is more recent as cited in press sources.

5. Institutions with Buy Recommendations:

Maxim Group — Buy, raised price target $8 → $12 on Jan 30, 2025 (post positive ATH434 updates). (For balance: Benchmark moved to Hold on Feb 3, 2025.)

6. Analyst Sentiment Summary

- According to Reuters, Handelsbanken lowered its recommendation on AstraZeneca to "hold" (from "buy") in September 2025, citing what it saw as too-optimistic revenue targets.
- In coverage of AstraZeneca's Q1 2024 performance, analysts (e.g. from Leerink) maintained "Outperform / Above consensus / positive ratings on AstraZeneca, citing strong cancer drug performance and growth in its pipeline.
- Some financial news and equity-research outlets have maintained "buy / overweight / outperform" stances, especially when new drug launches or favorable trial results emerge. (Though I did not get a consolidated, up-to-date list of all institutions currently recommending "buy.")

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7. Insider Buying and Selling (Last 24 Months)

- Overall, sentiment has been positive to cautiously optimistic, driven by AstraZeneca's strong momentum in oncology, its pipeline, and recurring growth in its established therapeutic areas.
- Upside catalysts include successful launches of new drugs, regulatory approvals, and growth in specialty areas (rare diseases, immuno-oncology).
- Risks flagged by analysts include: revenue growth assumptions / targets (e.g. target of $80 billion by 2030 may be ambitious), loss of exclusivity / patent cliffs on certain drugs, regulatory / pricing pressures, and geographic risks (e.g. China regulatory scrutiny).
- Recently, a rating cut by Handelsbanken suggests some analysts are becoming more cautious.
- In press coverage, AstraZeneca's 2024 earnings (21 % revenue growth, 38 % profit growth) were well received.

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