

RIM: higher 4Q profit as subscriber base grows

March 31 2010, By ROB GILLIES , Associated Press Writer



In this Feb. 18, 2010 photo, a BlackBerry Storm2 smartphone is displayed at the Mobile World congress in Barcelona, Spain. BlackBerry maker Research In Motion reports quarterly financial results Wednesday, March 31, 2010. (AP Photo/Manu Fernandez)

(AP) -- Research In Motion said its fiscal fourth-quarter earnings jumped 37 percent as its BlackBerry subscriber base grew and smart phone shipments increased.

Canada-based Research In Motion Ltd. said Wednesday that its [net income](#) for the December-February period was \$710.1 million, or \$1.27 per share. That is up from \$518.3 million, or 90 cents per share, a year earlier.

Revenue rose 18 percent to \$4.08 billion, short of the \$4.31 billion

expected by analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters.

The net income was nearly in line with analysts' predictions of \$1.28 per share.

RIM said it added nearly 5 million net subscriber accounts in the quarter, bringing the total to more than 41 million.

For the current period, it expects earnings of \$1.31 to \$1.38 per share, above analyst expectations.

Shares of Research in Motion, which is based in Waterloo, Ontario, dropped more than 5 percent to \$70.27 in after-hours trading after the report came out. Earlier, the stock closed down 95 cents, or 1.3 percent, at \$73.97.

"These are not terrible numbers, but they certainly missed the high end of expectations," said Duncan Stewart, director of research and analysis at DSam Consulting.

"It's by no means a sign that the wheels have fallen off [Research in Motion](#)."

Nick Agostino, an analyst with Mackie Research Company, said the averaging selling price of \$325 could suggest that Apple's [iPhone](#) is cutting into RIM's North American business.

Agostino said the stock rang up in recent weeks and some were expecting better results.

"It's a little bit of a mixed bag," Agostino said.

RIM had 50.3 percent of the smart phone business in North America in

2009, down from 50.7 percent in 2008, according to Gartner.

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