

Events that moved the market

The data spells economic doom



1 Apr 2020
SA car sales crash

The automotive industry, which forms 6.9% of South Africa's GDP, sees an almost 30% decline in vehicle sales in March compared to the same month last year.

Source: fin24



5 Apr 2020
Pam Golding cuts wages

As an alternative to "more drastic" measures Pam Golding reduces staff members' working hours and salaries by 30%.

Source: fin24



7 Apr 2020
EOH proposes wage cuts

EOH proposes across-the-board salary reductions of 20%, except for staff members earning less than approximately R250 000 per year.

Source: fin24



13 Apr 2020
OPEC strikes deal

The world's top oil producers sign historic deal to cut global petroleum output by nearly a tenth.

Source: Bloomberg News



14 Apr 2020
AB InBev halves dividend

Anheuser-Busch InBev halves its proposed dividend, saving about \$11 billion as the coronavirus pandemic has shut bars and cut beer drinking.

Source: Bloomberg News



14 Apr 2020
SARB cuts deep again

The SA Reserve Bank cuts the repo rate by 100 basis points, the second major cut in less than a month.

Source: fin24



15 Apr 2020
Gold hits R1m/kg

The gold price trades above \$1720 per ounce, making it worth over R1 million a kilogram.

Source: Business Insider South Africa



16 Apr 2020
US SME fund runs dry

The US Small Business Administration unit tasked with managing the US\$349 billion COVID-19 program hits the bottom of its funding barrel.

Source: AFP



17 Apr 2020
Chinese economy shrinks

China experiences its first economic contraction in decades in the first quarter of 2020, with the pandemic leaving China reliant on fragile domestic demand to spur a recovery. Gross domestic product shrinks 6.8% from a year ago.

Source: Bloomberg News



20 Apr 2020
Oil price drops below zero

In an unprecedented day of trading, the price for the West Texas Intermediate May oil futures contract trades as low as minus \$40.32 with distressed cargoes on the market looking for buyers willing to take delivery.

Source: Bloomberg News



21 Apr 2020
Business layoffs: 1 out of 5

One in five SA businesses laid off staff due to the pandemic, according to a new Statistics SA business impact survey based on the responses of 707 businesses across all sectors of the economy.

Source: Statistics SA



21 Apr 2020
SA gets R500bn relief

President Ramaphosa announces a R500 billion stimulus package, to mitigate against the disruption of the pandemic.

Source: Moneyweb

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24 Apr 2020

Landbank defaults on debt

The Land Bank defaults on debt that was due, triggering cross-default on certain other bonds.

Source: fin24



29 Apr 2020

US shrinks by 4.8%

US gross domestic product contracts at 4.8% annualised in the January-March period, the largest drop since 2008.

Source: Bloomberg News



29 Apr 2020

Edcon files for business rescue

Edcon commences with voluntary business rescue proceedings. About R2bn of sales are lost due to the nationwide lockdown.

Source: fin24



30 Apr 2020

EU shrinks by 3.5%

GDP output in the European Union drops by 3.5%. Also, the number of jobless in Germany soar to 13.2% in April.

Source: AFP



30 Apr 2020

SA downgraded to BB-

South Africa is cut deeper into junk by S&P Global Ratings to BB-, three notches below investment-grade.

Source: Bloomberg



5 May 2020

Prasa cuts jobs

The Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa) proposes voluntary severance packages to union members as its financial position weakens during the pandemic.

Source: fin24



5 May 2020

Comair files for business rescue

Comair, the owner of kululacom and the local operator for British Airways, implements a business rescue plan as it has not been in operation since 17 March due to flight bans.

Source: fin24



7 May 2020

US joblessness off the charts

Initial jobless claims total 317 million in the week ended 2 May. That brings the seven-week total to about 33.5 million.

Source: Bloomberg News



7 May 2020

Chinese exports pick up

The market mood stabilises globally as Beijing reports a 3.5% rise in April exports, confounding market expectations of a sharp fall, as factories restart output after lockdown, raising hopes of an economic recovery.

Source: Reuters



11 May 2020

Group Five to delist

Group Five no longer complies with some JSE listing requirements, and is also unable to release its annual results. The construction company's shares will be removed from the JSE on 15 June.

Source: fin24



14 May 2020

MTN sees data surge

MTN says data was one of its main drivers of revenue growth in the first financial quarter, as the country was placed under lockdown. It recorded a 26.4% jump in data revenue in the quarter ended 31 March.

Source: fin24



21 May 2020

SARB cuts rates by 50bps

The Reserve Bank's monetary policy committee votes to cut the repo rate for the fourth time this year, from 4.25% to 3.75%. As a result of the cut, the prime lending rate falls from 7.75% to 7.25%.

Source: fin24

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24 May 2020

SA to lockdown level 3

The implementation of alert level 3 from the beginning of June means most sectors can re-start operations, subject to observance of strict health protocols and social distancing rules.

Source: news24



28 May 2020

Barloworld retrenches

Logistics and fleet management company Barloworld announces group-wide retrenchments as it battles the economic shock of Covid-19. Its Avis Budget Rent-a-Car business saw fleet use drop from over 75% before the pandemic to below 30%.

Source: fin24



3 Jun 2020

PMI reaches record low

Market's PMI Index falls to 32.5 in May from 35.1 in April, its lowest level since the survey began in 2011, showing sharp declines in employment and new orders, and crumbling output due to lockdown.

Source: Reuters



4 Jun 2020

ECB stimulus boosts rand

The ECB increases its emergency bond purchase scheme by 600 billion euros, more than expected, to 1.35 trillion euros, boosting risk-on assets such as the South African rand.

Source: Reuters

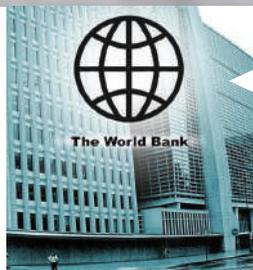


5 Jun 2020

Nasdaq hits record high

The Nasdaq Composite index hits a record high, recovering from the Covid-19 slump on the back of better-than-expected US unemployment data.

Source: Reuters



8 Jun 2020

World Bank sees 5.2% contraction

The World Bank forecasts the 'deepest global recession since World War II' and the 'highest synchronisation of national recessions since 1870'.

Source: Moneyweb



8 Jun 2020

Fortress writes off rent

Fortress becomes the first SA REIT to write off part of its rent due for April and May. It collected only 51.3% of rental due for April.

Source: Moneyweb



10 Jun 2020

Confidence at record low

In the second quarter of this year, business confidence in South Africa fell to its lowest level ever recorded on the RMB/BER Business Confidence Index, which started in 1975.

Source: fin24



11 Jun 2020

Oil stockpile at record high

US crude stockpiles rise by 5.72 million barrels to 538.1 million barrels, the highest level in data compiled by Bloomberg since 1982.

Source: Bloomberg News



12 Jun 2020

UK economy shrinks 20%

The UK economy contracts a record 20.4% in April as businesses were stymied in lockdown. The contraction means the nation has effectively seen almost 18 years of growth wiped out in two months.

Source: Bloomberg News



16 Jun 2020

UK unemployment doubles

The number of people claiming unemployment in the UK increases by more than 1.5 million in the two months through May to nearly 3 million.

Source: Bloomberg News



19 Jun 2020

Cell C starts restructuring

Cell C launches a retrenchment consultation process impacting 960, or nearly 40% of its 2,500 employees.

Source: fin24

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23 Jun 2020

SA unemployment hits 18-year high

SA's unemployment rate jumps from 29.1% to 30.1%. The last time unemployment was above 30% was in the third quarter of 2002, when it reached 30.4%.

Source: Statistics SA



24 Jun 2020

SA inflation at 15-year low

SA consumer inflation slows to 3.0% year-on-year in April, its lowest in nearly 15 years. On a year-on-year basis, only food prices increased.

Source: Statistics SA



30 Jun 2020

SA recession continues

The SA economy records its third consecutive quarter of economic decline, falling by 2.0% in Q1 of 2020. This is after a contraction of -1.4% and -0.8% in the fourth and third quarters of 2019.

Source: Statistics SA

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