



# **Economic and Political News**

In South Africa, net gold & forex reserves dropped to USD41.42bn in March, from USD41.51bn in the previous month.

Ratings agency Fitch downgraded South Africa's credit rating to 'BB+' from 'BBB-', on Friday, stating that recent political events including the cabinet reshuffle, are likely to weaken standards of governance and public finances and could result in a change of economic policy direction.

African National Congress (ANC) NEC member, and Small Business Development Minister, Lindiwe Zulu, indicated that the party will continue to support and defend President, Jacob Zuma.

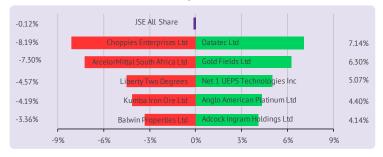
Former finance minister, Pravin Gordhan, warned in a speech disrupted by ANC's Youth League, that unless the ruling party unites, it risks losing the next general election in 2019.

The ANC has called for the nation to come together to overcome its economic problems following the recent credit downgrades. Separately, the party indicated that the government will now have to re-think its nuclear expansion programme.

#### South Africa Market

#### South African markets closed lower

South African markets closed in the red on Friday, after rating agency, Fitch downgraded South Africa's credit rating to junk. Further, markets experienced losses in resources and property sector stocks. The JSE All Share Index fell 0.1% to close at 52,853.36.



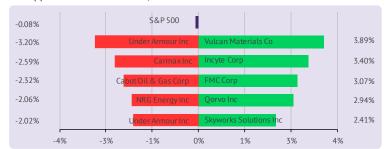
# **Key Indices**

	Last Close		1 Day Chg	1 D % Chg	WTD % Chg	MTD % Chg	Prev. Month % Chg	YTD % Chg
JSE All Share	52853.36	•	-65.06	-0.12%	NA	1.53%	1.78%	4.34%
JSE Top 40	46085.03	•	-85.07	-0.18%	NA	2.03%	2.35%	4.97%
FTSE 100	7349.37	•	46.17	0.63%	NA	0.36%	0.82%	2.89%
DAX 30	12225.06	•	-5.83	-0.05%	NA	-0.71%	4.04%	6.48%
CAC 40	5135.28	•	13.84	0.27%	NA	0.25%	5.43%	5.61%
S&P 500	2355.54	•	-1.95	-0.08%	NA	-0.30%	-0.04%	5.21%
Nasdaq Composite	5877.81	•	-1.14	-0.02%	NA	-0.57%	1.48%	9.19%
DJIA	20656.10	•	-6.85	-0.03%	NA	-0.03%	-0.72%	4.52%

# **US Market**

#### The S&P 500 futures are trading in the green

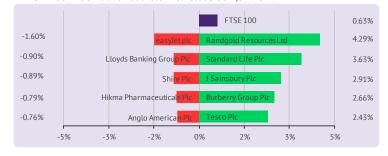
US markets closed lower on Friday, weighed down by losses in utility sector stocks. Data indicated that US unemployment rate surprisingly eased to its lowest level in 10 years in March. The S&P 500 Index dropped 0.1% to close at 2,355.54.



# **UK Market**

#### The FTSE 100 futures are trading in positive territory

UK markets finished higher on Friday, amid gains in material and consumer staples sector stocks. Data revealed that UK's NIESR gross domestic product estimate advanced less-than-expected in March. The FTSE 100 Index advanced 0.6% to close at 7,349.37.



# Asian Market

#### Trading mixed

Asian markets are trading mixed this morning. Data showed that Japan's trade surplus expanded more than market forecast in February. The Nikkei 225 Index is trading 0.7% higher at 18,791.28.



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# **USDZAR**

#### USD trading stronger against ZAR

At 06:00 SAST, the US Dollar is trading 0.4% firmer against the South African Rand at R13.8059. Later today, traders will keep a close watch on US labour market condition index for further cues.

The US Dollar rose against the South African Rand on Friday. On the data front, US unemployment rate unexpectedly declined in March, notching its lowest level since May 2007. Further, change in non-farm payrolls dropped more-than-expected in March. Moreover, wholesale inventories recorded a rise in line with market anticipations in February. Meanwhile, consumer credit advanced more than market forecast in the same month.

# **GBPZAR**

#### GBP trading higher against ZAR

At 06:00 SAST, the British Pound rose 0.5% against the South African Rand to trade at R17.0990.

The British Pound declined against the South African Rand on Friday. Data revealed that UK's NIESR gross domestic product estimate increased less than market forecast in March. Further, total trade deficit widened more-than-expected in February. Moreover, construction output recorded an unexpected decline on a monthly basis in February. Additionally, manufacturing production surprisingly eased on a monthly basis in the same month. Further, industrial production unexpectedly retreated on a monthly basis in February.

### **EURZAR**

### EUR trading firmer against ZAR

At 06:00 SAST, the Euro gained 0.1% against the South African Rand to trade at R14.5921. Going forward, market participants will keep a tab on Eurozone's Sentix investor confidence index for further direction.

The Euro weakened against the South African Rand on Friday. On the macro front, Germany's industrial production surprisingly advanced on a monthly basis in February. Further, trade surplus recorded a rise more than market anticipations in the same month.

# AUDZAR 🔺

### AUD trading stronger against ZAR

At 06:00 SAST, the Australian Dollar is trading 0.3% firmer against the South African Rand at R10.3337. Earlier in the session, data indicated that Australia's home loans unexpectedly dropped in February.

The Australian Dollar fell against the South African Rand on Friday. Data showed that Australia's AiG performance of construction index declined in March.

# **Key Currencies & Commodities**

	Current		1 D % Chg	WTD % Chg	MTD % Chg	Prev. Month % Chg	YTD % Chg
USDZAR	13.8059	<b>A</b>	0.02%	NA	2.48%	2.32%	0.16%
GBPZAR	17.0990	<b>A</b>	-0.76%	NA	1.10%	3.66%	0.55%
EURZAR	14.5921	<b>A</b>	-0.38%	NA	1.98%	3.01%	0.97%
AUDZAR	10.3337	<b>A</b>	-0.64%	NA	0.69%	1.94%	4.04%
EURUSD	1.0580	•	-0.51%	NA	-0.57%	0.70%	0.71%
GBPUSD	1.2381	<b>A</b>	-0.75%	NA	-1.38%	1.33%	0.29%
Brent (\$/barrel)	55.4	•	0.64%	NA	3.19%	-5.27%	-2.78%
Gold (\$/oz)	1255.0	<b>A</b>	0.32%	NA	0.56%	-0.53%	8.91%
Platinum (\$/oz)	959.0	•	0.35%	NA	1.14%	-8.03%	6.37%
Copper (\$/MT)*	5798.8	•	-0.48%	NA	-0.30%	-2.52%	4.99%
*As of Previous Close							

# Gold

#### Trading in the green

At 06:00 SAST, gold prices edged 0.1% higher to trade at \$1,255.00/oz.

On Friday, gold prices rose 0.3% to close at \$1,254.30/oz, after the US President, Donald Trump, ordered air strikes against a Syrian air base, potentially escalating tensions with Syrian allies Russia and Iran.

### **Brent Crude Oil**

#### Trading stronger

At 06:00 SAST, Brent crude oil rose 0.3% to trade at \$55.38/bl.

On Friday, Brent crude oil advanced 0.6% to settle at \$55.24/bl, despite Baker Hughes reporting that US oil rig count rose by 10 to 672 last week.

### **Platinum**

# Trading in negative territory

At 06:00 SAST, platinum prices edged marginally lower to trade at \$959.00/oz.

On Friday, platinum prices climbed 0.4% to close at \$959.00/oz.

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# **Major South Africa Corporate News**

# Net 1 Ueps Technologies Inc.

The company reported that it has appointed Mr. Christopher S. Seabrooke as Chairman of the Board. Further, Mr. Serge C.P. Belamant has resigned as Chairman, however, will remain as a Director and Chief Executive Officer of the company.

# Redefine International Plc

The company announced that it has reached a conditional agreement with Redefine Global (Pty) Limited to acquire control of the German Leopard Portfolio joint venture, in which it holds an existing 50.0% equity interest, for an aggregate consideration of EUR49.00mn.

# Major Global Economic News

### UK

In the UK, NIESR estimated gross domestic product (GDP) recorded a rise of 0.5% on a monthly basis in the January-March 2017 period, less than market expectations for a rise of 0.6%. NIESR estimated GDP had registered a revised similar rise in the December-February 2017 period.

In the UK, total trade deficit expanded to GBP3.66bn in February, more than market expectations of a total trade deficit of GBP2.20bn. The UK had posted a revised total trade deficit of GBP2.97bn in the previous month.

In February, construction output unexpectedly dropped 1.7% on a monthly basis in the UK, lower than market expectations for an advance of 0.1%. In the previous month, construction output had registered a revised unchanged reading.

In the UK, manufacturing production unexpectedly eased 0.1% on a monthly basis in February, compared to a revised drop of 1.0% in the prior month. Market anticipation was for manufacturing production to rise 0.3%

In February, industrial production surprisingly declined 0.7% on a monthly basis in the UK, less than market expectations for an advance of 0.2%. In the prior month, industrial production had registered a revised drop of 0.3%.

# US

In the US, unemployment rate unexpectedly fell to a level of 4.5% in March, compared to a reading of 4.7% in the previous month. Market anticipation was for unemployment rate to remain unchanged.

In March, the non-farm payrolls rose by 98.00K in the US, lower than market expectations of an advance of 180.00K. Non-farm payrolls had registered a revised gain of 219.00K in the previous month.

In the US, the final wholesale inventories recorded a rise of 0.4%, compared to market expectations on a similar rise. Wholesale inventories rose 0.4% in the previous month.

In February, consumer credit advanced to USD15.2bn, compared to market expectations of a rise of USD15.0bn. Consumer credit recorded a reading of USD10.9bn.

# **Eurozone**

In Germany, the seasonally adjusted industrial production unexpectedly rose 2.2% on a monthly basis in February, compared to a revised similar rise in the prior month. Markets were expecting industrial production to

In February, the seasonally adjusted trade surplus expanded to EUR19.90bn in Germany, more than market expectations of a trade surplus of EUR17.70bn. Germany had reported a revised trade surplus of EUR14.90bn in the previous month.

### Asia

In Japan, trade surplus recorded a rise of JPY1076.8bn in February, compared to a reading of JPY853.4bn in the prior month. Market expectations for was for the trade su7rplus to record a reading of JPY981.7bn.

In Australia, home loans unexpectedly fell to 0.5% in February, compared to market expectations of a flat reading. Home Loans recorded a rise of 0.4% in the previous month.

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# 40 Best Performers on the All Share Index

40 Best Performers on the All Share Index				
Company Name	Last Close	1 Week % Change	MTD % Change	YTD % Change
Northam Platinum Ltd	58	12.73%	12.73%	43.04%
Exxaro Resources Ltd	125	6.37%	6.37%	40.11%
Trencor Ltd	39	-2.01%	-2.01%	36.84%
Anglo American Platinum Ltd	358	17.04%	17.04%	35.49%
Kumba Iron Ore Ltd	215	5.79%	5.79%	35.00%
Sibanye Gold Ltd	34	18.47%	18.47%	33.91%
Murray & Roberts Holdings Ltd	15	-2.60%	-2.60%	30.21%
Adcock Ingram Holdings Ltd	60	-2.97%	-2.97%	25.18%
PPC Ltd	7	5.53%	5.53%	24.23%
Brimstone Investment Corporation Ltd	15	2.43%	2.43%	22.92%
Gold Fields Ltd	53	13.32%	13.32%	21.59%
Hudaco Industries Ltd	138	-4.40%	-4.40%	20.80%
Compagnie Financiere Richemont SA	109	2.66%	2.66%	19.95%
Mondi Plc	334	3.69%	3.69%	19.78%
Naspers Ltd	2410	4.10%	4.10%	19.66%
Mondi Ltd	334	4.21%	4.21%	19.29%
RCL Foods Ltd	15	0.00%	0.00%	18.11%
Glencore Plc	55	4.40%	4.40%	17.50%
British American Tobacco Plc	913	3.63%	3.63%	17.32%
Harmony Gold Mining Company Ltd	37	12.12%	12.12%	16.81%
Impala Platinum Holdings Ltd	50	9.95%	9.95%	16.33%
Reinet Investments SCA	31	6.24%	6.24%	15.60%
Datatec Ltd	57	10.44%	10.44%	15.20%
KAP Industrial Holdings Ltd	8	-5.15%	-5.15%	13.37%
Shoprite Holdings Ltd	193	-0.08%	-0.08%	12.83%
Clicks Group Ltd	130	1.09%	1.09%	12.12%
Delta Property Fund Ltd	9	-1.58%	-1.58%	12.05%
Pioneer Food Group Ltd	172	-2.35%	-2.35%	12.01%
AngloGold Ashanti Ltd	171	19.24%	19.24%	11.95%
Discovery Ltd	128	-0.43%	-0.43%	11.93%
Bid Corporation Ltd	274	5.59%	5.59%	11.86%
AECI Ltd	113	-1.76%	-1.76%	11.75%
Mpact Ltd	32	1.97%	1.97%	11.65%
Metair Investments Ltd	24	-3.39%	-3.39%	11.32%
South32 Ltd	30	8.31%	8.31%	11.05%
Astral Foods Ltd	142	-9.40%	-9.40%	9.98%
Advtech Ltd	19	-5.60%	-5.60%	9.96%
Assore Ltd	260	6.35%	6.35%	9.72%
Niveus Investments Ltd	40	0.05%	0.05%	9.32%
Capital & Counties Properties Plc	54	11.62%	11.62%	8.46%
JSE All Share Index	52853	1.53%	1.53%	4.34%

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# **Economic Calendar**

Country	SAST	Economic Indicator	Relevance	Consensus/ *Actual	Previous	Frequency		
<ul><li>Japan</li></ul>	01:50	Current Account n.s.a. (Feb)	✓	JPY2813.60bn*	JPY65.50bn	Monthly		
Japan	01:50	Trade Balance - BOP Basis (Feb)	$\checkmark\checkmark$	JPY1076.80bn*	-JPY853.40bn	Monthly		
<ul><li>Japan</li></ul>	01:50	Adjusted Current Account Total (Feb)	$\checkmark$	JPY2210.90bn*	JPY1259.80bn	Monthly		
Japan	06:30	Bankruptcies (YoY) (Mar)	$\checkmark\checkmark$	5.36%*	-4.84%	Monthly		
<ul><li>Japan</li></ul>	07:00	Eco Watchers Survey: Current (Mar)	$\checkmark\checkmark$	49.70	48.60	Monthly		
Japan	07:00	Eco Watchers Survey: Outlook (Mar)	$\checkmark\checkmark$	50.30	50.60	Monthly		
France	08:30	Bank of France Business Sentiment (Mar)	$\checkmark$	-	104.00	Monthly		
Italy	10:00	Industrial Production n.s.a. (YoY) (Feb)	✓	-	5.70%	Monthly		
Italy	10:00	Industrial Production s.a. (Feb)	$\checkmark$	-	93.80	Monthly		
Italy	10:00	Industrial Production s.a. (MoM) (Feb)	✓	-	-2.30%	Monthly		
Italy	10:00	Industrial Production w.d.a.(YoY) (Feb)	$\checkmark$	-	-0.50%	Monthly		
Eurozone	10:30	Sentix Investor Confidence (Apr)	$\checkmark\checkmark$	20.20	20.70	Monthly		
Greece	11:00	Industrial Production (YoY) (Feb)	$\checkmark$	-	7.20%	Monthly		
Greece	11:00	Consumer Price Index (YoY) (Mar)	✓	-	1.30%	Monthly		
Greece	11:00	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) (YoY) (Mar)	$\checkmark$	-	1.40%	Monthly		
Portugal	12:00	Trade Balance (Feb)	✓	-	-EUR0.94bn	Monthly		
* China	13:00	Composite leading indicator (Feb)	$\checkmark$	-	99.40	Monthly		
Japan	13:00	Composite leading indicator (Feb)	$\checkmark$	-	100.10	Monthly		
<b>★</b> Canada	14:15	Housing Starts s.a. (Mar)	$\checkmark\checkmark$	212.00K	210.20K	Monthly		
Note: √ √ √ High								

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