

Economics | South Africa

Nedbank

Guide to the Economy



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International background and outlook

Global growth was relatively resilient in Q1, shrugging off the impact of restrictive monetary policy. Despite this resilience, downside risks remain elevated. The impact of high interest rates will continue to filter through economies, weighing on both domestic and external demand conditions. Some advanced economies benefited from robust labour markets and strong household balance sheets. This dynamic will continue to support growth, but also slow the disinflation process. Global inflation generally descended further from its mid-2022 peaks, but it has been quite sticky over the past few months due to spikes in oil prices, and in the case of developed economies, tight labour conditions and above-inflation wage growth. The conflict in the Middle East continues, causing trade disruptions and fuelling oil market volatility. Although El Niño is said to have run its course, the intense hot and dry global weather conditions in early 2024 raised concerns about crop damage, and potential upside pressure to food prices. Core inflation is easing, but still some way above target in advanced countries. Although interest rates have clearly peaked globally, the many shocks to the inflation outlook have prompted central banks to err on the side of caution before commencing the much-anticipated cutting cycles. Interest rate cuts, particularly for the US, will likely be moved as far back as September.

The **world economy** largely recovered in Q1 of 2024, with the slow moderation in inflation supporting sentiment and aggregate demand. However, the trend was not broad-based, with divergences among and within advanced and emerging market economies. In advanced economies (AEs), the eurozone saw a modest recovery, primarily bolstered by robust spending on services. However, eurozone growth continues to ride on the strong activity in countries such as Italy, Spain and Ireland, while output in the larger economies, like Germany and France, remains relatively weak. In the United States (US), economic activity has continued to expand steadily amid a resilient consumer base and still robust labour markets. In emerging-market economies (EMEs), activity remained supported by improving demand amid declining inflation. China saw activity tick up due to an acceleration in foreign demand, but sluggish domestic demand and ongoing woes in the property sector contained the upside. Overall, the world economy remains constrained. Many of the shocks that persisted at the start of the year remain in place, with some having intensified.

Table 1: The IMF revised 2024 global growth higher, but output still remains below historical levels.

GDP growth forecasts (%)							
	Estimate	24-Apr		24-Jan		23-Oct	
	2023	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
World	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.2	2.9	3.2
Advanced economies (AE)	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.4	1.8
US	2.5	2.7	1.9	2.1	1.7	1.5	1.8
Eurozone	0.4	0.8	1.5	0.9	1.7	1.2	1.8
Germany	-0.3	0.2	1.3	0.5	1.6	0.9	2
France	0.9	0.7	1.4	1	1.7	1.3	1.8
Italy	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.1	0.7	1
UK	0.1	0.5	1.5	0.6	1.6	0.6	2
Japan	1.9	0.9	1	0.9	0.8	1	0.6
EM and developing economies	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2	4	4.1
China	5.2	4.6	4.1	4.6	4.1	4.2	4.1
India	7.8	6.8	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.3
Russia	3.6	3.2	1.8	2.6	1.1	1.1	1
Brazil	2.9	2.2	2.1	1.7	1.9	1.5	1.9
Mexico	3.2	2.4	1.4	2.7	1.5	2.1	1.5
Nigeria	2.9	3.3	3	3	3.1	3.1	3.1
South Africa	0.6	0.9	1.2	1	1.3	1.8	1.6

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, April 2024

In its *April 2024 World Economic Outlook (WEO)*, the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** revised its global growth forecast to 3.2% for both 2024 and 2025. The 2024 forecast was revised from 3.1% in the January 2024 WEO Update and 2.9% in the October 2023 WEO. Despite the upward revision, global growth remains low by historical standards, reflecting the pass-through of tighter monetary policy, the withdrawal of fiscal support, and the long-term effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Other factors that will contain growth include geopolitical tensions, weak productivity and increasing geoeconomic fragmentation. AE growth is forecast to rise from 1.6% in 2023 to 1.7% in 2024 (previously 1.5%) and 1.8% in 2025. The lift comes from upward revisions to US growth, with the world's largest economy projected to expand by 2.7% in 2024 (from 2.1% in January) and 1.9% in 2025 (from 1.7% previously). Germany's growth forecast was revised lower to 0.2% for 2024 (previously 0.5%) as the eurozone's largest economy grapples with subdued industrial production and construction activity. EME growth is set to be stable at 4.2% in 2024 and 2025, with the 2024 figure upgraded slightly from 4.1% in January. Although slower growth is anticipated in emerging and developing Asia, it will be offset by stronger growth in the Middle East, Central Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The IMF sees the risks to the global outlook as being broadly balanced, with downside risks stemming from potential price hikes related to geopolitical tensions and sticky core inflation, which could keep policy rates elevated for longer. Upside could come from short-term fiscal boosts ahead of elections in some economies, faster monetary policy easing, spurs to productivity from artificial intelligence (AI) and momentum in structural reforms. The IMF compiled its forecasts before tensions escalated in the Middle East. Therefore, a full-blown conflict would disrupt world economic activity, rendering most growth forecasts optimistic.

Activity in the **US** remained relatively resilient in Q1 amid robust private consumption and a strong labour market. As measured by the S&P Global US composite purchasing managers' index (PMI), private sector activity continued to trend at expansionary levels in the 1st 3 months of the year, albeit slowing slightly in March. The manufacturing PMI eased to 51.9 from 52.2 in February, weighed down by softer demand, with firms indicating a preference for drawing down inventories. Similarly, services expanded further but dipped to 51.7 from 52.3 due to moderating foreign demand, which offset strong domestic demand.

Chart 1: The US labour market remains robust.

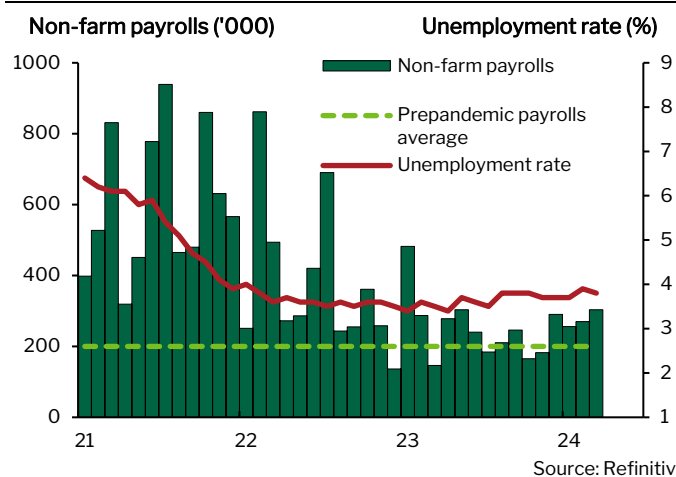
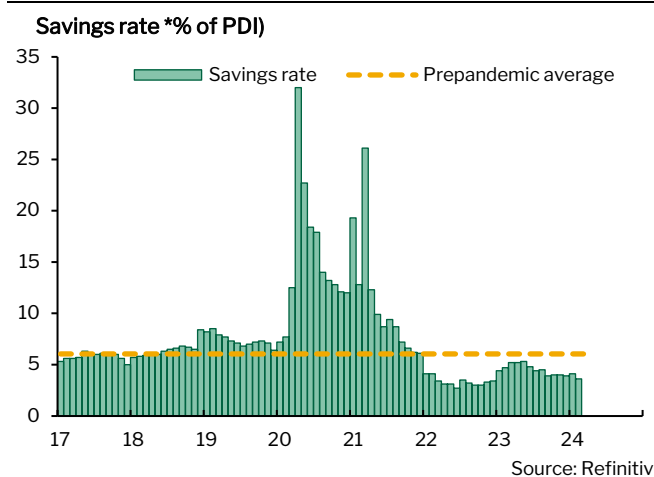


Chart 2: The US personal savings rate is falling.



The resilient labour market and strong household balance sheets have greatly insulated and supported the US economy in the past year and should continue to do so. While these economic dynamics are growth-supportive, they also tend to slow the disinflationary process. Non-farm payrolls have consistently surpassed market expectations, with the economy creating 303 000 jobs in March, averaging 276 000 new jobs per month in Q1 from 212 000 in Q4 2023. Employment gains remain elevated by historical levels, trending above the prepandemic (2014–2019) average of 200 000. The unemployment rate has been below 4% for 25 consecutive months – the longest streak in 50 years. While personal disposable income (PDI) growth has eased, it is still above inflation, thus keeping consumption robust. In contrast, the personal savings rate declined notably to 3.6% in February – its lowest level since December 2022 – and far below its prepandemic average of 6%. The moderation in savings could suggest some financial pressure, but the above-inflation wage growth is currently offsetting it. Overall, the US economy is expected to slow in the coming quarters, due mainly to the pass-through of past interest rate hikes. The economy should recover later in the year as the resilient labour market, ongoing decline in inflation, and expected interest rate cuts offer support.

In the **eurozone**, economic activity improved modestly in Q1. Growth in Spain, Italy, and Ireland led the region's recovery, more than offsetting the weakness in the bloc's largest economies, Germany and France. Services provided the momentum. The HCOB Eurozone services PMI rebounded in February and March, buoyed by improved domestic demand. In contrast, factory activity remained subdued, with the HCOB Eurozone manufacturing PMI below the key 50-threshold. Despite the uptick in aggregate economic activity, household spending remains weak, weighed down by high interest rates. Retail sales declined by 0.7% yoy in February, shrinking for the 17th straight month. Encouragingly, sentiment is gradually improving, with consumer confidence rising to its highest level since February 2022. Eurozone growth remains tilted to the downside owing to tight financing conditions, weak confidence and intensifying geopolitical tensions. However, it should recover later this year,

supported by rising real incomes and lower interest rates as inflation declines, and firmer external demand. The European Central Bank (ECB) expects growth to recover to 0.6% in 2024, slightly lower than the IMF's downwardly revised forecast of 0.8% (previously 0.9%). According to the IMF, growth should accelerate to 1.5% in 2025.

Although the **UK** economy remains fragile, conditions improved somewhat towards the end of Q1. The S&P Global UK manufacturing PMI pointed to expansion in March for the 1st time since July 2022, boosted by increased output due to firmer demand. The S&P Global UK services PMI eased slightly, expanding at its slowest pace in 4 months. Despite the moderation, demand for services remained robust, with firms reporting stronger growth from the US and European markets. Consumers remain vulnerable due to the high cost of living and economic uncertainty, but they have recently demonstrated signs of some recovery. Retail sales expanded by 0.8% yoy in March from a 0.4% contraction in February, the most since March 2022, but still below the prepandemic (2014–2019) average growth rate of 3.2%. Consumer confidence held steady at -21 in March, missing expectations of a recovery to -19. The Bank of England (BoE) expects growth to recover only gradually, increasing by a modest 0.1% qoq in Q1, and by the same magnitude in the rest of the quarters. The main drag to the growth outlook stems from higher interest rates, waning fiscal support and weak potential supply. IMF forecasts show that the economy will recover to a modest 0.5% in 2024, 0.1 percentage points (ppts) lower than previously estimated. The downward revision reflects the lagged adverse effects of high energy prices. Growth is expected to be a percentage point higher at 1.5% in 2025, bolstered by ongoing disinflation and higher real incomes.

Japanese economic activity was mixed, with subdued factory activity remaining a drag, while the services sector and generally resilient consumer demand offered upside support. Like most peer economies, the slump in manufacturing continued, with the recovery in March failing to lift aggregate output into expansionary territory. The sector remains hampered by weak global demand. In contrast, services reached a 7-month high of 54.1, buoyed by robust and growing demand driven by inbound tourism. On the consumer front, conditions appear promising. Retail sales increased by 4.6% yoy in February, surpassing market expectations of 3% growth. Consumers are also more optimistic about the outlook for the economy and their financial position, with confidence rising to its highest level since April 2019. Looking ahead, the IMF expects growth to slow from an estimated 1.9% in 2023 to 0.9% in 2024, as the post-pandemic rebound in demand and inbound tourism fades and normalises. Slow recoveries in Japan's key trading partners, including China and Europe, are also expected due to subdued growth momentum.

EMEs demonstrated notable economic resilience during Q1, with March activity accelerating at the fastest pace since May 2023. However, divergences exist, with the continued pass-through of past interest rate hikes hindering both domestic and external demand. In **China**, growth recovered after having faltered in the 2nd half of 2023. The economy advanced by 5.3% yoy in Q1, boosted by stronger consumption following the Lunar New Year festival and increased fixed investment, and supported to some extent by the various stimulus measures employed by the government during 2023. Although consumption contributed to the upside, it remains quite tepid, with retail sales easing consistently between December 2023 and March 2024, albeit at a softer pace between January and February due to the Lunar New Year festivities. Growth was further contained by the persistent woes in the property market and a still largely unfavourable external environment. The IMF forecasts growth of 4.6% in 2024, below the government's target of 5%. After that, output growth is expected to moderate further to 4.1% in 2025 on easing post-pandemic consumption, fiscal tapering, and persistent weakness in the property sector.

India continues to outperform, with its growth surpassing that of its peers. In March, private sector activity expanded at the fastest pace in over 13 years, led by strong growth in manufacturing and services. The manufacturing PMI jumped to 59.1, driven by higher output and new orders, which reached a nearly 3.5-year high. New export orders also edged higher, rising the most since May 2022. Services remained supported by robust external demand. The IMF forecasts that the economy will expand by 6.8% in 2024 – 0.3 ppts higher than expected in the January 2024 WEO Update, bolstered by strong domestic demand and a rising working-age population. The strong momentum in the Indian economy has boosted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's chances of securing a third 5-year term from elections that will run for 44 days from 19 April. **Brazil**'s economy recovered in Q1, after having stalled in the 2nd half of last year. Manufacturing activity expanded for the 1st time since August 2023 in January and remained above the 50-threshold for the rest of the quarter. The services sector also picked up after having slowed in December. Lower agricultural harvests, particularly for soybean and corn, will likely contain growth, reflecting the impact of El Niño in the 2nd half of 2023 and early 2024. The IMF expects the Brazilian economy to slow to 2.2% in 2024 from 2.9% in 2023. However, the IMF upped its 2024 estimate from 1.8% in January, anticipating that lower interest rates and higher commodity prices will support consumption and exports.

Global inflation has generally receded further from its mid-2022 peak. However, it has been quite sticky over the past few months due to the volatility in oil markets. In the case of developed economies, robust labour conditions and above-inflation wage growth also contributed. Forecasts indicate that price pressures will continue to ease during the year, dragged down by weaker demand given still elevated interest rates. Unfortunately, upside risks remain. The conflict in the Middle East continues to present significant uncertainty, causing trade disruptions – particularly for southern European economies – and fuelling oil market volatility. Food inflation has remained low and is expected to remain largely contained. According to the Australian

Bureau of Meteorology, El Niño has run its course. However, the intensely hot and dry weather conditions that prevailed across the globe over January and February raised concerns about the damage to crops, and the potential upside risk to food inflation.

Chart 3: Major AE's inflation rates receded noticeably.

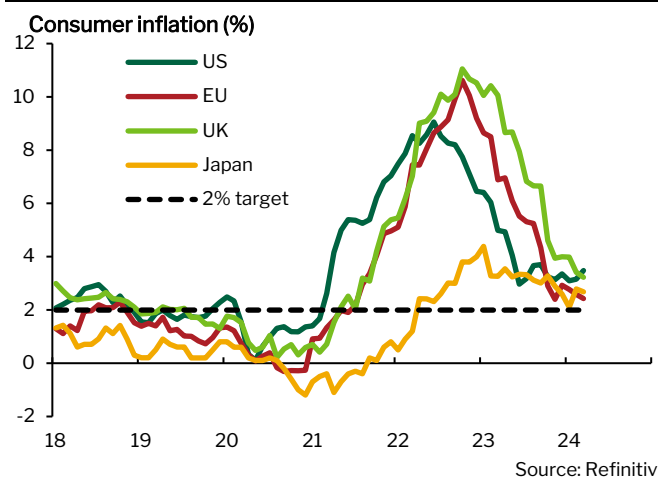
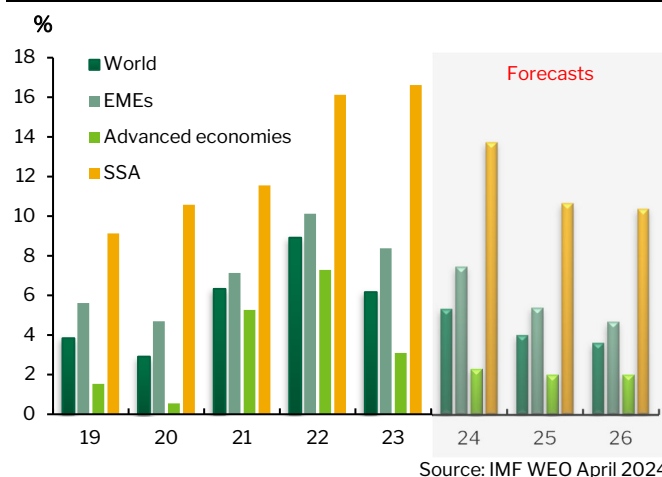


Chart 4: Global inflation likely to moderate further.



US headline inflation climbed to 3.5% yoy in March, rising for a 2nd consecutive month. The upward pressure primarily reflected increased shelter costs and higher gasoline prices stemming from the volatility in global crude markets. Energy and shelter accounted for over half of the monthly increase in prices. Core inflation eased to a 3-year low of 3.8% in March but maintained its stubborn streak, remaining close to 4% since November. Encouragingly, core personal consumption expenditure (PCE) inflation, the Federal Reserve's (Fed) preferred measure, fell to below 3% in December before easing to 2.8% in February. US inflation will likely decline further, but the economy's resilience will cap the rate of disinflation given the strong labour market and still supportive private consumption. In its March *Summary of Economic Projections*, the Fed revised its core PCE inflation forecast for 2024 to 2.6%, higher than the 2.4% expected in December. Core PCE inflation is set to average 2.2% in 2025, reaching the 2% target only in 2026.

Eurozone price pressures have eased more convincingly in the past few months, edging closer to the 2% target. Inflation declined to an over 2-year low of 2.4% in March. The moderation in core inflation has been less pronounced, contained by strong demand for services. In its *March Monetary Policy Statement*, the ECB cautioned that strong domestic pressures elevated services inflation. Core inflation eased to 2.9% in March from 3.1% in February. In the **UK**, inflation fell to 3.2%, its lowest level since September 2021. Core inflation remained elevated, easing only slightly to 4.2% in March from 4.5% in February.

In **Japan**, inflation remained above target in February and March at 2.8% and 2.7%. Most consumer prices either eased further or remained relatively steady. Fuel and lights prices proved stickier, elevated by generally higher global oil prices and the fading impact of the energy subsidies introduced a year earlier. Like its peers, core inflation remained elevated at 2.6% in March.

Among the EMEs, inflation moderated in **China** as the upside pressures from the Lunar New Year faded. Inflation declined to 0.1% in March, down from 0.7% in February. Core prices also eased, down to 0.6% from 1.2% in the previous month. The downward trend indicates that domestic demand remains relatively weak, with the festivities providing a short-term boost.

In **Brazil**, inflation remains within the 2024 target of 1.5%–4.5% (3% with a $\pm 1.5\%$ tolerance band) for a 3rd month in March. After having remained sticky in the first 2 months of the year, **India's inflation rate** moderated to 4.85% in March. Although the central bank has managed to keep inflation within the target range of 2%–6% since September, food prices remain quite high.

Monetary policy remains broadly restrictive, with most economies holding policy rates steady while only a few of them cut further. Interest rates are still expected to decline in 2024, but sticky inflation and persistent upside risks to the inflation outlook suggest the easing will likely be mild and arrive much later in the year. The **US Fed** maintained its target for the federal funds rate at 5.25%–5.50% at its March meetings. The March *Summary of Economic Projections* pointed to 3 cuts in 2024, in line with the December forecasts. However, market expectations for the 1st Fed cut have shifted out on the back of the higher-than-expected inflation outcomes of recent months. The markets now anticipate the 1st cut around September, considerably later than earlier expectations of a move in May. Fed Chair Jerome Powell also appears more cautious, indicating that he has little confidence in the current inflation trajectory, adding that restrictive policy needs more time to work.

The **ECB** also held its refinancing rate steady at 4.5% during its March meeting. The central bank stated that interest rates are at levels that substantially contribute to the disinflation process. However, policy rates are expected to remain restrictive 'for as long as necessary', easing only when the central bank is confident that inflation is converging to the target sustainably. Markets are still pricing in the 1st ECB cut in June, barring any inflation shock. The **BoE** held its bank rate steady at 5.25% in March, but the decision was not unanimous, with 1 of the 9 members voting for a 25 basis point (bps) cut. Like its peers, the BoE

will likely practise caution, waiting for clear evidence of receding inflationary pressures. After 8 years of negative policy rates, the **BoJ** raised its short-term interest rate to 0% – 0.1% from -0.1% in March. It also ceased its yield curve control for its 10-year government bond and discontinued purchases of exchange-traded funds and real estate investment trusts. The policy shift was expected as inflation exceeded the 2% target for over a year, and inflation expectations rose. Furthermore, the largest Japanese firms awarded significantly above-inflation wage increases, which, combined with the slump in the yen, is expected to exert upward inflationary pressure.

Chart 5: Consensus forecast on key interest rates.

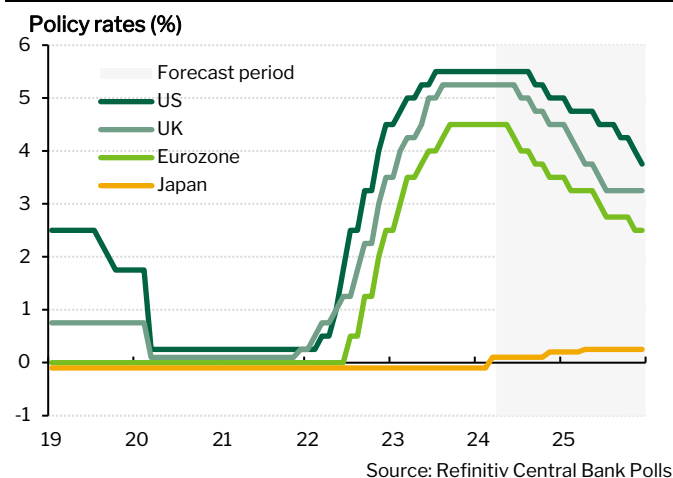
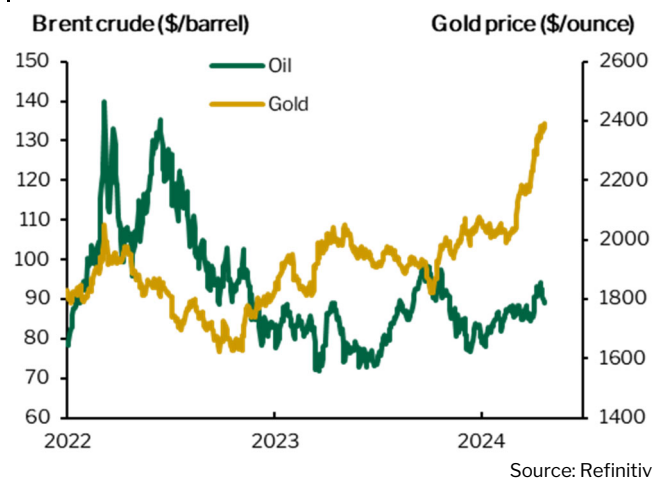


Chart 6: Geopolitical risks propped up commodities.



The **People's Bank of China (PBoC)** left its 1-year and 5-year loan rates at record lows in March. In February, the PBoC cut the 5-year rate by 25 bps to 3.95% to spur credit demand and boost the ailing property sector. **Brazil** has continued to benefit from its early and aggressive policy tightening in 2021, which enabled the central bank to cut its Selic rate by another 50 bps to 10.75%. The bank maintained its dovish stance, signalling a cut of a similar magnitude at the next meeting, given expectations for moderate economic conditions. However, the central bank warned of a resurgence in underlying inflation pressures, which could result in smaller reductions from mid-year onwards. The Mexican and Chilean central banks also cut interest rates during their March and April policy meetings, while India left interest rates steady for a 7th consecutive meeting.

Commodity prices surged in Q1 of 2024, propped up by supply concerns triggered by the ongoing geopolitical conflicts. The S&P Goldman Sachs Commodity Spot Price Index expanded by 10.4% qoq, almost completely reversing the 10.7% decline in Q4. Stronger demand from China provided some support, but economic weakness in the rest of the world capped the upside. Energy prices surged the most, up by 12.1% following a 19.1% contraction in Q4. The Brent crude oil price jumped by 12.9%, while gas prices rose by 8.9%. The main upside risk to energy prices stems from the Russia–Ukraine and Israel– Hamas tensions. The Israel–Hamas war, in particular, has continued to escalate, with Iran firing more than 300 drones and missiles at Israel in retaliation for the 1 April attack on the Iranian consulate in Syria. Israel has since bombed targets in Iran, raising the likelihood of a full-blown conflict in the Middle East. There is still a significant amount of uncertainty attached to the tensions in the Middle East, which will continue to fuel volatility in the global oil market. In the precious metal market, the gold price has been buoyed by inflation fears and elevated geopolitical risks, reaching a new record high of \$2 411/ounce on 19 April, up by 19% since the start of the year. Non-precious metals were up by 8.8% from a 13.2% contraction in Q4, with copper gaining 18% for the year thus far.

Food prices declined further in early 2024, but the outlook is clouded by hot and dry weather caused by the El Niño weather pattern. Agricultural yields likely suffered, weighing on supply, and possibly driving food prices higher later in the year. The Food and Agricultural Organization's (FAO's) food price index dropped by 9.3% yoy in March, at the softest pace since February 2023. Sugar prices moderated to 3% yoy after having recorded double-digit growth for the past year. The slowdown in sugar prices reflects upward revisions to 2023/24 production forecasts for India, good harvests in Thailand, and substantial exports from Brazil. The prices of meat, cereals, vegetable oils and dairy products slowed at a softer pace, offsetting the moderation in sugar prices.

In currency markets, the **US dollar** gained ground as higher US inflation outcomes fuelled expectations that the Fed will likely delay interest rate cuts to much later in the year. The greenback drew further support from its safe-haven status as the Middle East conflict escalated. For the quarter, the dollar appreciated by 0.7%, 0.3%, and 2.4% against the euro, pound and yen. The Japanese yen plummeted to a 34-year low of ¥154, leading to speculation that Japanese authorities could intervene. Against EME units, the dollar appreciated by a robust 8.6% against the Chilean peso, 0.9% against the Brazilian real, and 0.4% against the Russian ruble. However, it was down by 3% and 1.5% against the Mexican peso and Polish zloty.

Chart 7: US dollar surges on safe-haven demand.

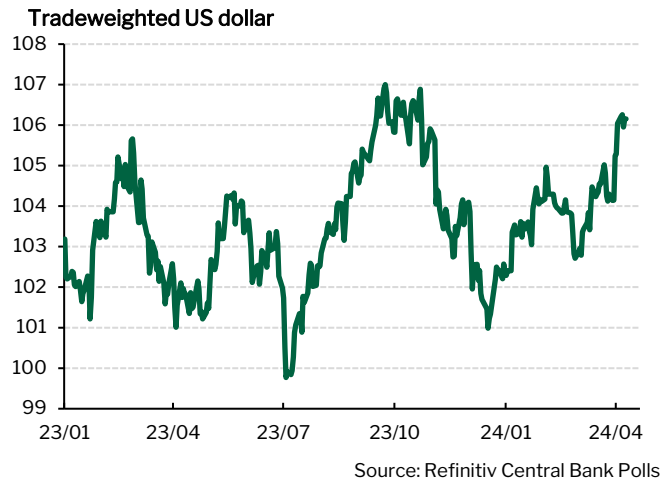
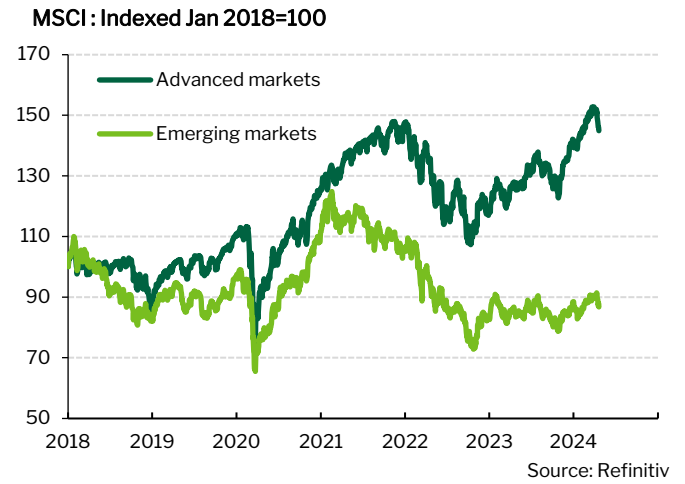


Chart 8: Equity markets remain up over 2023.



The **global equity markets** rally continued in Q1 of 2024. Stocks registered strong gains on ongoing signs of a resilient US economy, enthusiasm about AI-related technologies and, at the start of the quarter, expectations for major central banks to begin cutting interest rates in H1. Concerns regarding ongoing geopolitical tensions continued to weigh on market sentiment, although not enough to deter the upward momentum. US equities were further boosted by well-received corporate earnings results, some from the 'Magnificent Seven' companies. Communications, energy, information technology and financial stocks led gains. The Nasdaq, S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average were up by 18%, 15.5%, and 15.4%, respectively. In Europe, equities were bolstered by gains in financial, consumer discretionary and industrial stocks, with economically sensitive stocks edging higher on an improving growth outlook. UK stocks were further bolstered by energy stocks, which climbed on generally higher global oil prices. The German DAX and French CAC advanced by 14.1% and 11.2% over the quarter, respectively, while the FTSE 100 was up by 5.5%. Japan's Nikkei posted significant gains, with foreign investors driving most of the rally. The demand for Japanese stocks stemmed from optimism about the positive economic cycle, characterised by mild inflation and wage growth. The BoJ's decision later in the quarter to end the negative interest rate cycle further contributed to the high. The Japanese Nikkei ended the quarter up by a noteworthy 17.6%. EME equities also strengthened but continued to lag developed markets on geopolitical risks and concerns about the Chinese economy.

Liandra da Silva

Domestic background and outlook

The economy improved modestly towards the end of last year, supported by steadier electricity supply and slightly firmer domestic demand. The uptick was too weak to lift the economy's performance over the whole year, with real GDP growth slowing to a meagre 0.6% in 2023, down from 1.9% in 2022. So far in 2024, economic activity remained subdued. Producers and exporters benefited from reduced load-shedding and marginal improvements in rail and port services. However, the financial pressure on consumers intensified, as elevated inflation and sharply higher interest rates eroded household incomes and weighed down confidence. These mixed conditions are likely to persist for much of 2024, keeping the economy in a relatively stagnant state, but the cycle should start to turn around by the middle of the year. Exports are expected to recover later this year as global demand lifts and commodity prices improve. At the same time, receding domestic inflation should help bolster real household incomes, which, combined with slightly lower interest rates, should enable a modest recovery in consumer spending towards year-end. In contrast, fixed investment growth is forecast to slow substantially as private firms trim capital outlays and cut costs to restore profitability, dwarfing continued support from robust renewable energy projects and increased public infrastructure spending. Altogether, real GDP is forecast to grow at a slightly faster pace of around 0.9% in 2024. Against this backdrop of sluggish domestic demand, inflation is forecast to ease further, but only slowly, reaching the South African Reserve Bank's (SARB's) 4.5% target on a sustainable basis around the 2nd half of 2025. The upside risks to the inflation outlook stem from threats posed by the ongoing geopolitical conflicts and adverse weather conditions to key commodity prices, and the rand's vulnerability to any abrupt shifts in risk sentiment driven by changing US interest rate expectations and concerns over the outcome of South Africa's 29 May general elections. Given these uncertainties, SARB's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is likely to keep interest rates unchanged for much of the year, with only 2 rate cuts of a cumulative 50 bps expected towards the end of 2024.

The economy ended 2023 on a slightly firmer footing. Real GDP grew by 0.1% qoq in Q4, after having shrunk by 0.2% in Q3. Reduced load-shedding, modest improvements in rail and port services, and firmer global demand facilitated higher production and exports by the mining and manufacturing sectors, which together account for close to 20% of GDP. Recoveries in mining and manufacturing helped offset another sharp drop in agricultural output caused by adverse weather conditions and the outbreak of disease in the poultry industry. As a result, export volumes rose by 0.6% qoq. Although encouraging, it still fell short of the 4% jump in imports, driven mainly by an uptick in consumer spending and the restocking of depleted inventories in several industries. Consequently, the country's already negative net export position worsened.

Table 2: GDP breakdown by sector and expenditure category

Industries	Size % of GDP	Annual growth rates yoy % change			Quarterly growth rates qoq % change (not annualised)				
		2023	2021	2022	2023	Q4'22	Q1'23	Q2'23	Q3'23
Agriculture	2.5	7.4	0.9	-12.2	-2.4	-14.3	3.7	-11.7	-9.7
Mining	6.3	12.0	-7.1	-0.3	-3.0	1.4	0.6	-1.0	2.4
Manufacturing	12.9	6.7	-0.4	0.5	-1.2	1.0	2.1	-1.1	0.2
Electricity and water	3.1	1.9	-2.5	-3.8	-2.0	-0.9	-0.7	0.3	2.3
Construction	2.2	-2.0	-3.4	0.6	0.4	1.0	-0.1	-3.3	-1.4
Domestic trade	12.6	6.2	3.5	-1.7	-2.2	0.8	-0.4	-0.3	-2.9
Transport and comms	7.0	5.0	8.3	4.3	0.9	1.3	-1.5	0.8	2.9
Finance	21.0	2.5	3.4	1.8	-1.6	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.6
General government	7.9	0.0	0.1	0.2	-0.7	0.4	0.6	0.5	-0.6
Personal services	14.5	5.3	2.6	2.0	-0.1	0.8	1.4	0.7	0.9
Value added	90.1	4.4	1.9	0.6	-1.1	0.3	0.7	-0.2	0.0
GDP	100.0	4.7	1.9	0.6	-1.1	0.3	0.7	-0.2	0.1
HCE	66.9	5.8	2.5	0.7	0.7	0.4	-0.2	-0.2	0.2
GCE	19.9	0.5	1.0	2.1	-0.7	1.0	1.9	0.5	-0.3
GFCF	15.1	0.6	4.8	4.2	1.5	1.8	4.0	-3.8	-0.2
Δ in inventories (Rbn)	0.4	-16.5	44.3	17.1	40.2	30.9	69.5	-39.7	7.5
GDE	102.2	5.0	3.9	0.9	-0.5	0.5	1.6	-2.9	1.1
Exports	28.2	9.1	7.4	3.5	-3.2	4.2	0.5	0.6	0.6
Imports	30.4	9.6	14.9	4.1	-0.8	4.6	3.2	-8.7	4.0
GDP expenditure	100.0	4.8	1.9	0.7	-1.1	0.3	0.8	-0.1	0.1

Source: Statistics SA

At the same time, consumer spending ticked up, growing by a modest 0.2% qoq after having contracted for 2 consecutive quarters. However, consumers remained selective in their purchases, prioritising services while reducing outlays on goods.

These spending patterns weighed on domestic trade, which contracted by a steep 2.7% qoq, but buoyed activity in transport and communications, finance, real estate and business services, as well as personal services. Most other sources of domestic demand weakened. Fixed investment activity declined further, adding to the woes of the beleaguered construction industry, where value added contracted for the 3rd consecutive quarter. Government consumption expenditure also declined after 3 quarters of relatively robust, albeit unsustainable, expansion. As a result, value added by government services fell by 0.6% after having supported the economy over the previous 3 quarters.

Economic conditions remained patchy and subdued in early 2024, mostly unchanged from the landscape that emerged towards the end of last year. Encouragingly, there was further evidence of moderate gains in addressing the most significant obstacles to faster economic growth, notably the electricity shortage and logistics bottlenecks. These structural challenges have significantly damaged mining and manufacturing over the past 12 years. Frequent power outages, crumbling rail services, long port delays, high crime levels and elevated labour costs reduced production and raised operating costs, weighing on underlying profitability in both sectors. Consequently, neither mining nor manufacturing have managed to return output to prepandemic levels, despite the boost from the post-pandemic surge in global demand and the rally in international commodity prices, which was prolonged by the sanctions slammed on Russia for its war in Ukraine. Therefore, improved electricity supply and efficient logistics networks are the keys to lifting output and exports.

Chart 9: Mining output fell to structurally lower levels.

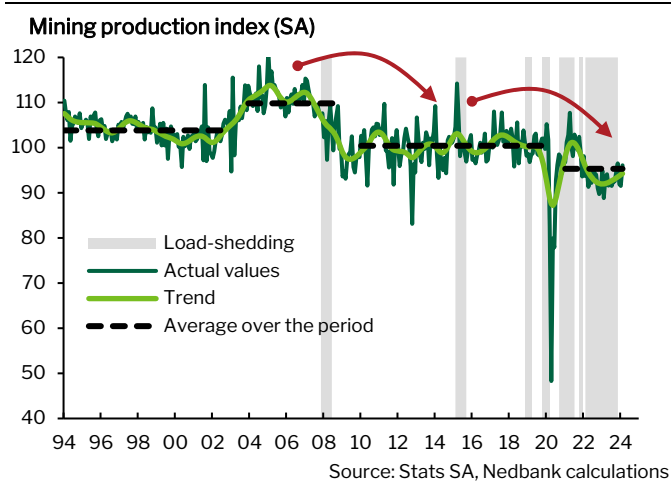
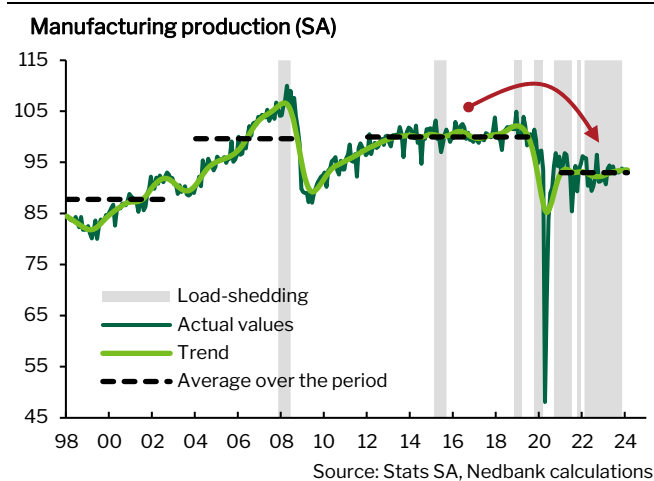


Chart 10: Manufacturing output also shifted down a gear.



On the electricity front, there is evidence of progress. The country moved to significantly lower stages of load-shedding so far this year, averaging around stage 2, after having experienced gradual improvements over the 2nd half of 2023, following crippling power outages in the 1st half of 2023 and the final quarter of 2022. The reduction in load-shedding appears to stem from a combination of generally subdued electricity demand and increased power generation. Eskom improved its generation capacity, lifting its electricity availability factor (EAF) from a low 51.3% in January to a marginally better 56.7% in the 2nd week of April.

Chart 11: Eskom still supplies around 86% of electricity.

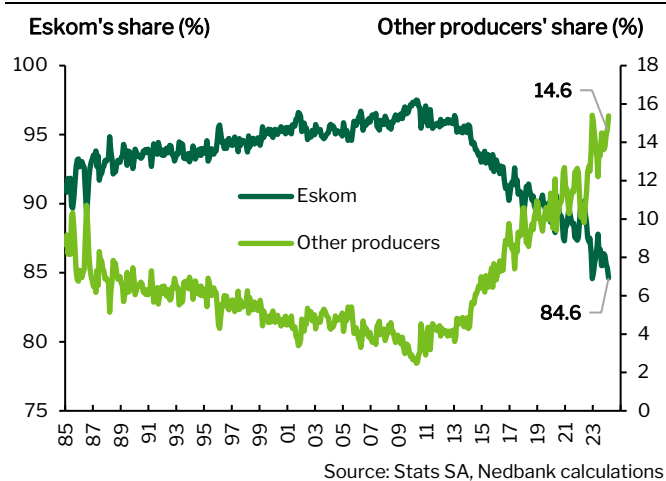
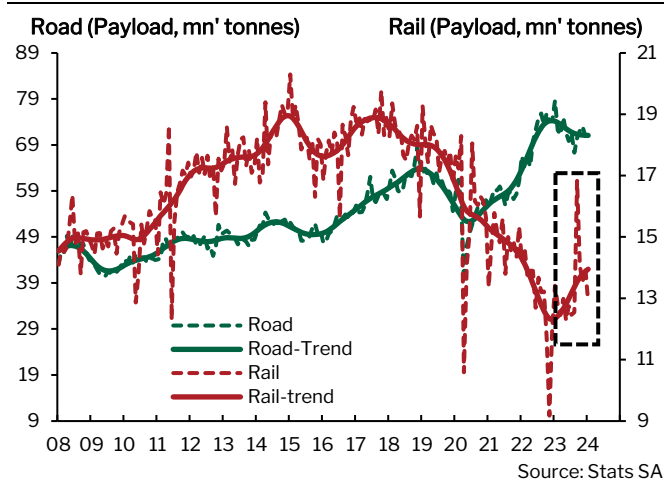


Chart 12: Rail freight volumes improved moderately.



The improvements in Eskom's operations undoubtedly contributed to reduced load-shedding, but the surge in private renewable electricity generation made the biggest difference. Eskom's electricity supply fell by 7% in 2023, while that of independent power producers grew by 14.3%. As a result, their share of total electricity available for distribution increased to an average of 13.9% in 2023, up from 11.7% in 2022. The dash to secure sustainable energy solutions also impacted the demand

side of the market. In this year's National Budget, National Treasury reported rooftop solar added 2 617 MW to the national grid in 2023, as households and companies exploited the tax incentives on offer last year. These efforts reduced the demand for electricity and the pressure on the national grid.

There were also efficiency gains in freight and logistics. Transnet improved rail services marginally. Statistics SA data (Stats SA) show that the share of freight moved by rail increased to 16.4% of total freight in the 2nd half of 2023 after having dropped to 14.9% in the 1st half of 2023 and 14% in the 2nd half of 2022. Although hopeful, it remains miles below the 25.2% of all cargo moved by rail between 2008 and 2019. Transnet also managed to reduce the backlogs at the ports, albeit not entirely. The company reported that at the height of the backlogs in November 2023, the daily container-handling tempo at the Port of Durban dropped from 3 300 to 2 500, forcing over 60 vessels to remain at outer anchorage. Since then, Transnet reported that the handling tempo has increased to around 4 000 containers daily, significantly reducing backlogs.

In summary, the increase in power generation in recent months, coupled with the renewable energy projects scheduled to come on stream over the next 2 years, suggest the drag on economic growth caused by the electricity shortage should gradually diminish, facilitating structurally higher production levels. SARB estimates that load-shedding alone shaved around 1.5 ppts off GDP growth in 2023 and expects this burden to ease to 0.6 ppts in 2024 and a negligible 0.2 ppts in 2025. Despite recent improvements in rail and port services, these networks remain highly inefficient. Given the scale of the problem and the complexity of the solutions, the turnaround in rail and port capacity and efficiency will likely take much longer to achieve. Consequently, rail and port bottlenecks will continue undermining the country's international competitiveness, limiting the upside for the entire economy over the medium term.

Nonetheless, any easing in structural constraints, however incremental, provides miners and manufacturers with some wiggle room. The upside is more evident in mining than in manufacturing. After a slow start to the year, mining production bounced back in February. In contrast, manufacturing output remained sluggish over January and February, mostly drifting sideways since the end of 2023. Moreover, ABSA's Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) shows that trading conditions deteriorated further in March, falling below the neutral 50 mark at 49.2, after having risen briefly to a 13-month high of 51.7 in February. The PMI averaged 48.2 in Q1 2024, unchanged from Q4 2023, and still down from 49.4 in Q1 2023. The outlook for producers remains murky. Agriculture is under pressure from adverse and extreme weather conditions, with the summer crop estimated to be about 21.2% lower than last year. If El Niño has indeed passed, agriculture could still bounce back off a low base. Patchy global demand and mixed commodity prices will likely continue to weigh on mining and manufacturing over the next 3–5 months. Still, both sectors should benefit from the anticipated upturns in the world economy and commodity prices towards the end of the year.

We foresee a similar trajectory for export volumes for the same reasons. **Exports** will likely remain under pressure in the year's 1st half, staging a moderate recovery thereafter, as global growth and commodity prices strengthen. The risks to our export forecast reside on the downside. Apart from lingering uncertainties surrounding SA's structural challenges, the escalating conflict in the Middle East and the ongoing tensions between the US and China could still derail the widely anticipated global recovery. However, import volumes are also expected to contract in the 1st half, dragged down by soft import demand for consumer and capital goods, before picking up later in the year as local demand improves. On balance, we expect a shallower deficit on the net export position in 2024 than in 2023.

Chart 13: Government propped up domestic demand.

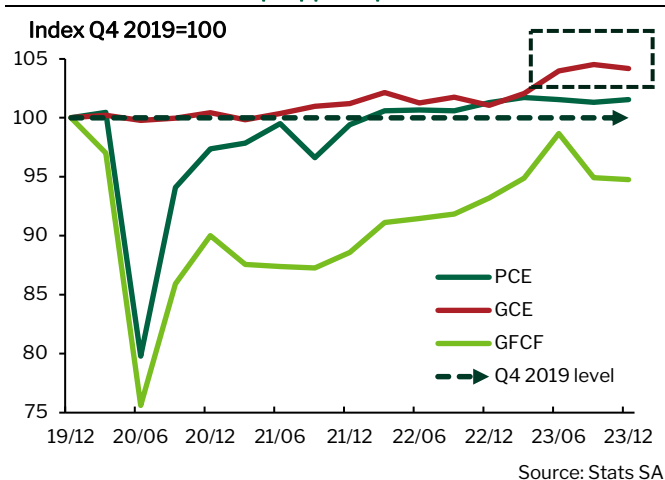
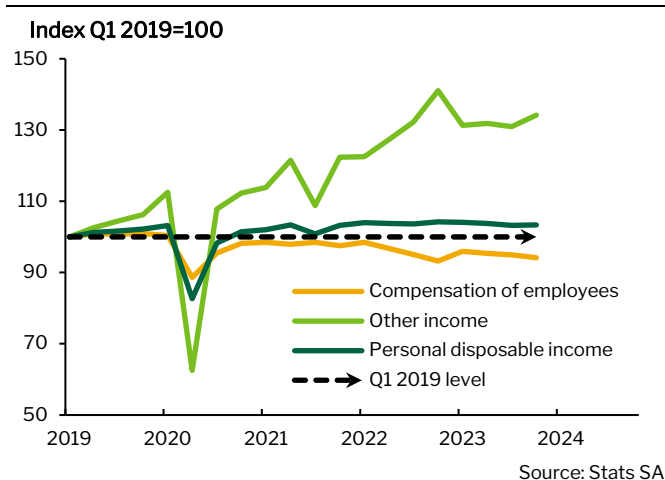


Chart 14: Household incomes remain stretched.



The outlook for domestic demand deteriorated significantly since the start of this year. Consumer finances have been under sustained pressure for over 2 years. Real personal disposable income (PDI) contracted 0.3% in 2023, after having slowed throughout 2022. Inflation was mainly to blame, eroding the real incomes of wage and salary earners. Despite aggressive nominal wage increases of around 6% on average and higher employment, real or inflation-adjusted compensation of

employees (COE), which account for just over 71% of PDI, contracted by a sharp 2.3% in 2022 before shrinking by a further albeit less severe 0.8% in 2023. Real COE will likely turn the corner in 2024. Andrew Levy's Wage Settlement Survey shows nominal wage increases will likely range between 6.5% and 7.2% this year, averaging around 6.9%. Inflation is forecast to recede further, averaging around 5% in 2024, pointing to real wage growth of about 1.9%. Unfortunately, this potential boost could be contained or countered by renewed job losses. According to the Labour Force Survey, employment declined slightly in Q4 2023, falling by 0.1% over the quarter after 8 quarters of consistent job gains. About 22 000 people lost their jobs in Q4, which, together with the increase in the labour force, pushed the unemployment rate up slightly to 32.1% from 31.9% in Q3, only fractionally better than 32.7% at the end of 2022 but still considerably lower than 35.3% at the end of 2021. The Quarterly Employment Survey paints a bleaker picture. It shows that total formal sector employment shrank by 1.8% qoq in Q4 2023, with full-time employment down a marginal 0.1% while part-time employment plunged 13.5%. Given the persistent pressure on company profits over the past 2 years, and with no meaningful economic upturn in sight, the risk of further job losses remains relatively high.

Chart 15: Debt service costs have increased significantly.

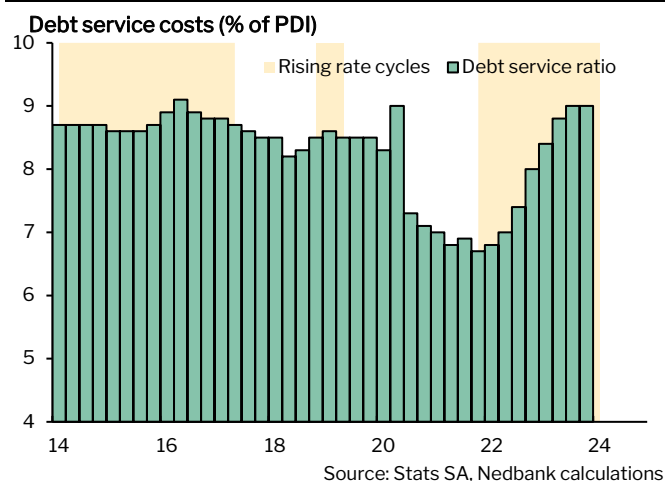
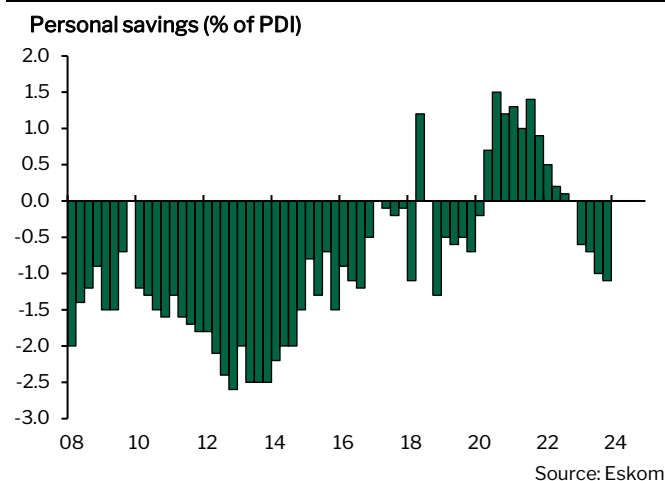


Chart 16: Households have depleted their savings.



On top of a potentially weaker labour market, households are likely to remain under the chokehold of highly restrictive monetary policy for longer than we anticipated at the start of the year. The full impact of the 475 bps jump in interest rates is taking hold. Debt service costs gradually increased throughout 2022 and 2023, systematically consuming a more significant share of disposable income and squeezing the funds available for discretionary spending. The ratio of debt service costs to PDI climbed to 9% in Q3 and Q4 of 2023. With households' financial buffers already exhausted by the end of 2022, as the personal savings rate fell deeper into the red at -1.1% of PDI by the end of last year, households tightened their belts, containing borrowing and spending. More consumers struggled to meet debt repayments. Most commercial banks reported a significant increase in repayment arrears in 2023. While rising real incomes will provide some relief, the pressure will ease meaningfully only once interest rates start decreasing. Unfortunately, interest rates are now forecast to remain at their peak until August before easing by only 50 bps over the year's final 4 months. This may prove too little, too late for 2024. As a result, growth in **consumer spending** is now forecast to slow to a modest 0.5% in 2024, down from an already weak 0.7% in 2023.

Chart 17: Consumer spending will likely remain weak.

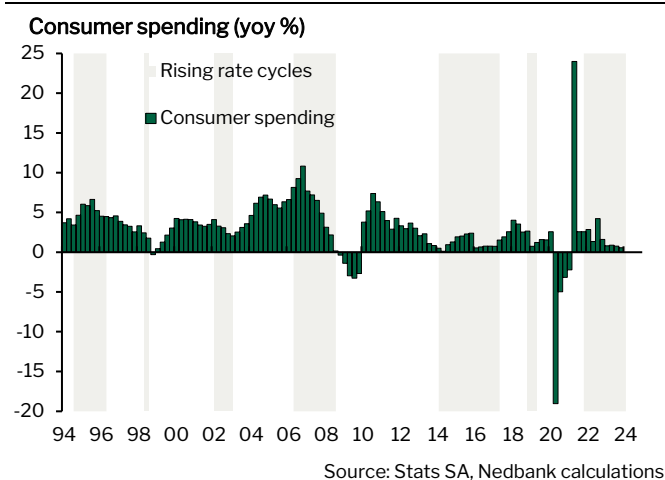
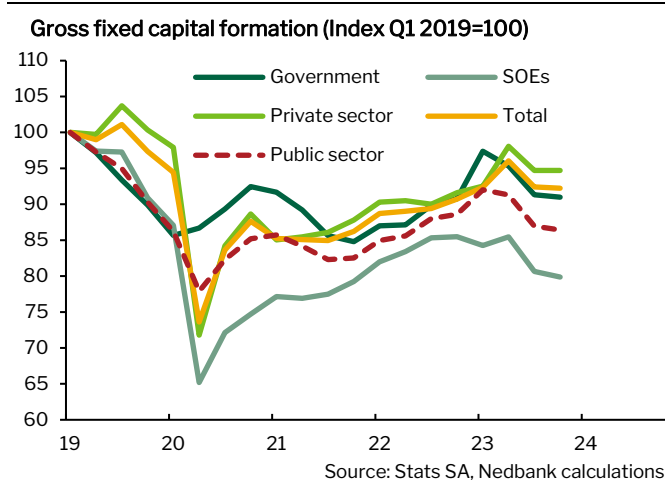


Chart 18: The recovery in fixed investment is fading.



We still expect **fixed investment** to slow down significantly in 2024 after having grown by a robust 4.2 in 2023. The softer trend was already visible in the 2nd half of last year, when gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) contracted by 3.8% qoq in Q3 and a further 0.2% in Q4. The slide was broad-based as the private sector, government and public enterprises reduced capital expenditure. For much of last year, efforts to address the country's electricity and transport constraints dominated fixed

investment. Renewable energy and other infrastructure projects will likely increase further in 2024, but significant cutbacks on different types of capital expenditure in most industries will largely offset the boost to overall fixed investment activity. On balance, growth in GFCF is forecast to moderate to 0.5% in 2024.

Government consumption expenditure (GCE) will likely remain constrained, given the pressures to contain expenditure, reduce the budget deficit, and control the debt burden. Government aims to cut spending, mainly on the public sector wage bill, to reduce the budget deficit to 4.5% of GDP this fiscal year from 4.9% in 2023/24. Despite limited fiscal space, GCE growth will likely exceed budget targets, given significant social demands and the staging of the general elections. We expect GCE growth to moderate to 1.1% in 2024, down from 2.1% in 2023, with upside risks. Altogether, we forecast **real GDP** to grow by 0.9% in 2024, improving only modestly from 0.6% in 2023. Given continued upside risks to inflation and interest rate prospects, the threat of renewed job losses, and a fractured global landscape, the risks are skewed to the downside. Our forecast is in line with the IMF's, but lower than SARB and National Treasury's projections, which are slightly more optimistic at 1.2% and 1.3%, respectively.

In the balance of payments, the **current account deficit** widened to 1.6% of GDP in 2023 from 0.5% in 2022. The deficit widened to 2.3% of GDP in Q4, as the trade surplus narrowed and the services, income, and transfers (non-trade) deficit widened. Higher net income payments caused a wider non-trade deficit, while the trade surplus shrunk significantly to 1.2% of GDP from 2.6% previously, as import volumes and prices outpaced those of exports. The current account deficit will likely increase moderately to around 2% of GDP in 2024. Lower income and services receipts will continue to drive a wider non-trade deficit. At the same time, a weaker terms-of-trade (the ratio of export to import prices) will reduce the trade surplus even further to around 0.9% of GDP.

The **financial account** recorded net inflows of 1.3% of GDP in 2023, up from 1% in 2022. However, the annual outcome masks a sharp deterioration towards the end of last year. In Q4 2023, the financial account recorded capital outflows equivalent to 0.1% of GDP, the 1st since Q2 2022, and a sharp reversal from inflows of 2.3% of GDP in Q3 2023. Net portfolio outflows of a massive R67.5 billion were mainly to blame, as foreigners further reduced their exposure to domestic financial assets. On the bright side, net direct investment remained positive, likely supported by investments in renewable energy. Capital flows to South Africa (SA) will probably remain choppy in 2024, undermined by fragile global risk sentiment and elevated domestic uncertainties.

Chart 19: The current account deficit widened.

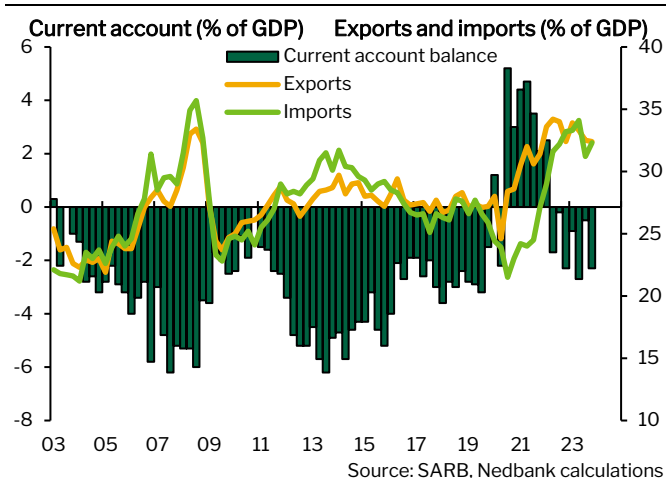
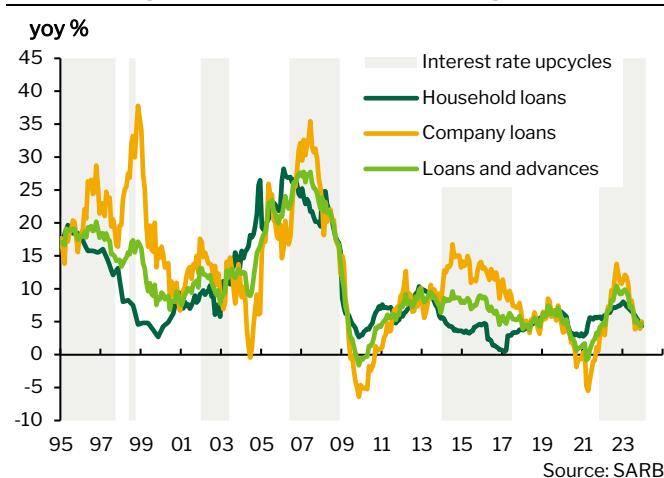


Chart 20: High interest rates slowed credit growth.



Credit growth weakened further in early 2024. Private sector credit extension growth eased to 3.3% yoy in February after having slowed to 4.9% in December 2023 from 7.7% in December 2022. Loans and advances, which account for the lion's share of private sector credit and exclude volatile bills and investment, moderated further to 3.4% yoy in February from 4.7% in December. Household loans softened slightly, but the main drag came from a sharp deceleration in company loans. Company loans grew by only 2.8% yoy in February, down from 5% at the end of last year, predominantly due to a collapse in general loans, normally used to finance capital expenditure, which imploded to only 0.9% yoy in February from 4.2% in December 2023. Company and household demand for most other credit types also weakened. The only exception was vehicle finance, which remained remarkably robust, increasing to 10.1% in February from an already strong 9.9% in December.

Bank credit growth will remain weak over Q2 but should start to rise gradually off a lower base in the 2nd half of the year. Stretched household finances due to high interest rates and uncertain job prospects will subdue household appetites for credit, while a weak economy, mounting political uncertainty ahead of the elections and modest domestic growth prospects will likely continue to contain corporate credit demand. The expected easing in interest rates later this year and throughout next year, combined with gradual progress on structural reforms and firmer economic growth, should create space for faster credit growth in 2025.

Headline consumer inflation edged up slightly to 5.3% in March after having receded convincingly to 5.1% at the end of last year from 7.2% at the end of 2022. The upward pressure came from sharply higher medical aid and insurance fees and rising fuel prices off last year's lower base, reflecting mainly the impact of volatile global oil prices amid the troubles in the Middle East. Encouragingly, food inflation shifted down a gear, falling to 4.9% in March from 8.5% at the end of 2023. Over the same period, core inflation drifted up to 4.9% from 4.5%, driven mainly by services. Inflation is forecast to moderate further but at a frustratingly slow and patchy pace, only settling at SARB's 4.5% target around the 2nd half of 2025. The downward pressure will come from the gradual easing in global price pressures and subdued domestic demand, but these will be partly countered by base considerations, persistent rand weakness, sticky services inflation, and volatile global oil prices. Inflation is forecast to average 5% in 2024 before dipping to 4.5% in 2025. Our forecast faces significant upside risks stemming mainly from the threats posed to international oil prices from the Middle East conflict, food prices from the El Niño weather pattern, and the rand from any changes in US interest rate expectations, persistent geopolitical risks, weaker terms of trade, and significant domestic political and economic uncertainties.

Chart 21: Service fees kept headline inflation elevated.

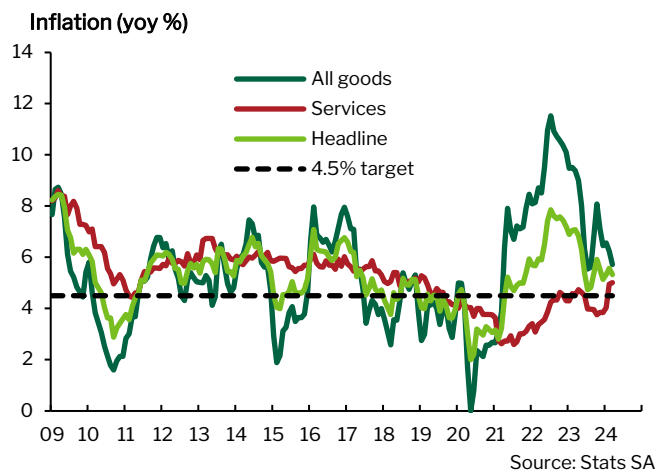
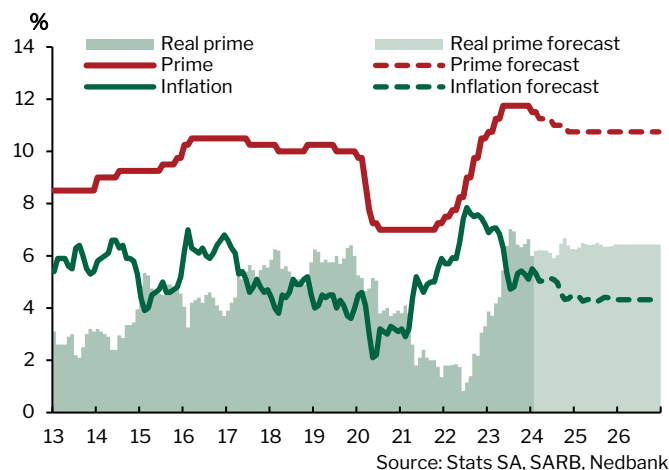


Chart 22: Nedbank's inflation and interest rate forecasts.



SARB's MPC left the repo rate unchanged at 8.25% in March, due mainly to the sticky inflation outcomes in early 2024 and the central bank's expectation that inflation will be slow to return to its 4.5% target. The committee also saw continued upside risks to the inflation outlook, highlighting the uncertain prospects for food prices given drier weather conditions, the pressure on oil prices from ongoing geopolitical conflicts, and a vulnerable rand facing further global and domestic headwinds. SARB expected headline inflation to reach its 4.5% target by Q4 2025 only. The central bank revised its forecast for headline inflation to 5.1% for 2024, up slightly from 5% previously, but left its projections for 2025 and 2026 unchanged at 4.6% and 4.5%, respectively. Worryingly, SARB raised its 2024 core inflation forecast to 4.8% from 4.6%, probably anticipating higher services inflation. The core inflation forecasts for 2025 and 2026 were left unchanged at 4.6% and 4.5%, respectively. With inflation likely to recede only slowly, the MPC is expected to remain hawkish and keep interest rates at the current high and restrictive level for longer. We believe that SARB will leave interest rates unchanged deep into Q3, followed by two 25 bps cuts in September and November, taking the repo rate to 7.75% by year-end.

The **local equity market** started the year on the backfoot amid wild swings in global investors' risk appetites, given heightened geopolitical risks and growing expectations that US interest rates could remain anchored at their peak for longer. The JSE All-share Index lost 3.1% of its value in Q1, dragged down by sharp declines in financials and resources, while industrials held relatively steady. The financial index tumbled 8% over the quarter as investors discounted the impact of high-for-longer interest rates on banks and insurance companies' earnings through weaker demand, rising loan defaults and higher insurance cancellations. Although basic materials were down 2.1%, due mainly to the harsh operating environment and downbeat market expectations on the outlook for international commodity prices, share prices regained some sparkle over March and April as the Middle East crisis bolstered safe-haven demand for gold, sustaining the gold price near record highs. Local equity prices will likely remain under pressure over the short term as investors worry over the outcome of SA's general elections, the squeeze from restrictive monetary policy continues, and global risk appetites remain volatile – highly sensitive to any escalation in the ongoing geopolitical conflicts and signs of a hawkish pivot in US monetary policy. While geopolitical outcomes are impossible to predict, risk sentiment should rebound later this year as US inflation settles on a clear downward path and the 1st of the long-awaited US rate cuts arrives. At this juncture, the rising global tide should lift the local market too.

Chart 23: The rand appears to be forming a trough.

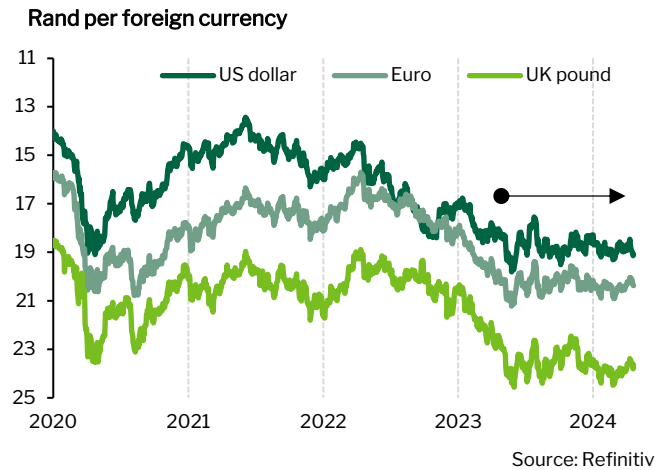
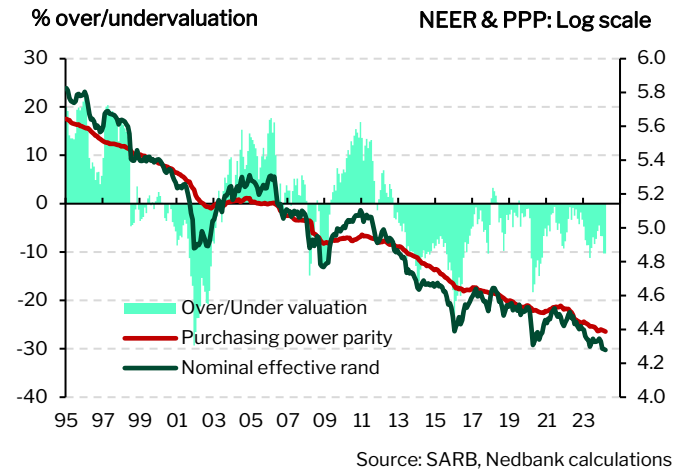


Chart 24: The rand remains undervalued.



The **bond market** also faltered somewhat, with bond yields propped up by rising US bond yields, sticky domestic inflation and SARB's hawkish rhetoric. The yield on the benchmark 5-year government bonds rose to 9.29% at the end of March from 8.70% in December, while the 10-year benchmark shot up to 10.62% from 9.77% over the same period. The bond curve is already pricing in a sizeable risk premium, particularly at the long end, reflecting the country's weak fiscal position, its poor growth prospects relative to its emerging market peers, the uncertain political outlook, and the high risk of nasty surprises on monetary policy fronts in both the US and SA. While these forces will probably keep bond yields elevated in the coming months, some correction will likely occur once global and domestic monetary policies have eased.

The **rand** remained weak in the 1st quarter, dominated by shifts in global risk sentiment. Against the turmoil in the Middle East and the higher-for-longer mantra around US interest rates, the US dollar remained relatively strong, albeit in volatile trade. Given that the global red flags are unlikely to be lowered quickly, risk-off sentiment will persist for longer, propping up the US dollar and weighing on the rand and other emerging market currencies. As far as domestic factors are concerned, most of the bad news about the economy, the current account, and the country's fiscal metrics are probably already more than priced into the rand's value. The most significant unknown is the outcome of the 29 May national elections, which will likely test investor sentiment. As a result, we expect the rand to remain weak and volatile deep into the 3rd quarter, but some pullback is likely towards year-end as the election passes and global risk sentiment improves on expectations of lower US interest rates and slightly firmer global growth.

Nicky Weimar and Johannes Khosa

FACTS AND FORECASTS OF KEY ECONOMIC VARIABLES

Updated 24 April 2024

Annual forecast	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Growth (real, % change)								
GDP	0.3	-6.0	4.7	1.9	0.6	0.9	1.5	1.6
GDE	1.1	-7.8	5.0	3.9	0.9	0.5	1.9	1.6
HCE	1.3	-6.1	5.8	2.5	0.7	0.5	1.7	1.8
GDFI	-1.7	-14.6	0.6	4.8	4.2	0.5	3.3	2.4
Exports	-3.3	-12.0	9.1	7.4	3.5	1.8	3.2	2.7
Imports	0.6	-17.6	9.6	14.9	4.1	0.1	4.1	2.7
Current account balance								
Rbn	-146.5	108.2	226.7	-30.0	-112.5	-151.1	-190.0	-215.1
% of GDP	-2.6	1.9	3.6	-0.5	-1.6	-2.0	-2.4	-2.6
Gold price (average per ounce)								
Dollar	1 404.4	1 783.4	1 795.6	1 817.1	1 942.7	2 206.1	2 237.5	2 209.8
Rand	20 261.8	29 568.4	26 743.0	29 892.2	35 900.8	41 362.9	40 959.0	40 701.3
Exchange rates								
Rand per US\$	14.43	16.58	14.89	16.45	18.48	18.75	18.31	18.42
US\$ per euro	1.118	1.147	1.180	1.053	1.082	1.091	1.106	1.098
Yen per US\$	109.0	106.4	110.4	131.7	141.4	148.1	143.8	137.6
US\$ per UK pound	1.279	1.292	1.374	1.233	1.247	1.284	1.293	1.273
Rand per euro	16.12	19.00	17.55	17.27	19.98	20.44	20.24	20.22
Yen per rand	7.56	6.43	7.42	8.00	7.65	7.90	7.86	7.47
Rand per UK pound	18.45	21.40	20.46	20.20	23.04	24.06	23.66	23.45
Interest rates (end of period)								
3-month JIBAR	6.80	3.63	3.87	7.21	8.34	7.75	6.98	7.02
Prime	10.00	7.00	7.25	10.50	11.75	11.25	10.50	10.50
Long bond	8.96	8.93	9.65	10.84	11.04	11.09	10.27	10.20
Inflation (average)								
Headline CPI	4.1	3.3	4.6	6.9	5.9	5.0	4.5	4.5
Core CPI	4.1	3.4	3.1	4.3	4.9	4.8	4.3	4.5

FACTS AND FORECASTS OF KEY ECONOMIC VARIABLES

Updated 24 April 2024

Quarterly forecasts	2023				2024			
	Q1'23	Q2'23	Q3'23	Q4'23	Q1'24	Q2'24	Q3'24	Q4'24
GDP (qoq %)	0.3	0.7	-0.2	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.8	0.7
Interest rates (end of period)								
3-month JIBAR	7.9	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.29	8.28	8.03	7.75
Prime	11.3	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.75	11.75	11.50	11.25
Long bond (10-yr)	10.6	11.4	12.0	11.0	11.98	11.63	11.40	11.09
Inflation (end of period)								
CPI	7.1	5.4	5.4	5.1	5.3	5.3	4.7	4.6
Core CPI	5.5	5.0	4.5	4.5	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.6
Exchange rates (end of period)								
Rand per US\$	17.8	18.8	18.9	18.3	18.92	19.01	18.55	18.17
US\$ per euro	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.079	1.086	1.096	1.113
Yen per US\$	132.8	144.3	149.4	141.1	151.3	150.5	145.8	143.8
US\$ per UK pound	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.262	1.276	1.298	1.313
Rand per euro	19.3	20.5	20.0	20.2	20.35	20.65	20.33	20.23
Yen per rand	7.5	7.7	7.9	7.7	8.02	7.91	7.86	7.91
Rand per UK pound	21.9	23.9	23.1	23.4	23.92	24.26	24.08	23.87
Gold price per ounce								
\$	1 977.60	1 919.60	1 964.20	2 062.60	2 232.40	2 272.60	2 224.80	2 218.20
Rand	35 162.10	36 138.30	37 153.00	37 708.70	42 239.70	43 206.80	41 272.10	40 313.80

While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of the information and views in this document, no responsibility can be assumed for any action based on the information.

Group Economic Unit

Liandra da Silva
+27 10 228 2527
liandrad@nedbank.co.za

Johannes Khoza
+27 10 234 8359
johanneskh@nedbank.co.za

Nicky Weimar
+27 10 234 8357
nickywe@nedbank.co.za

Nedbank 135 Rivonia Campus
135 Rivonia Road, Sandown, Sandton, 2196, South Africa

nedbankgroup.co.za

