



WEEK ENDING

4 JULY 2025

HIGHLIGHTS

South Africa

1. The trade surplus with the US narrowed to US\$132m in May from \$330m in April, \$787m in March and \$2,838bn in February.
2. Rheinmetall Denel Munition (RDM) has been awarded a contract for 155 mm Assegai artillery rounds and charges worth hundreds of millions of euros.
3. The trade weighted rand averaged 78,73 in June from 78,37 in May, 75,78 in April, 79,45 in March, 79,75 in February, 79,43 in January and a record low 73,6 in May 2023.
4. The volatility in the trade weighted rand eased to 2,06% in June from 2,90% in May, 7,18% in April, 1,61% in March, 2,11% in February, 2,89% in January, 5,16% in December and 7,81% in June 2023.
5. The real trade weighted exchange rate index eased to 104,83 in April from 108,8 in March and 109,28 in February.
6. The Bureau for Economic Research (BER) inflation expectations second quarter survey showed that on average the respondents expect that headline consumer inflation will be 3,9% during 2025 compared with 4,4% in the first quarter survey.
7. The foreign trade surplus widened to R21,67bn in May from a revised R12,999bn (R14,077bn) in April.
8. Africa had the highest export growth rate in the first five months of 2025 at 1,6% y/y after 4,4% in 2024 and a 11,5% jump in 2023.
9. Broad M3 money supply growth rose to 6,86% y/y in May from 6,12% y/y in April and 5,75% y/y in March, while narrow M0 money supply growth edged up to 26,73% y/y in May from 23,24% y/y in April and 24,82% y/y in March.
10. Commercial banks increased other loans and advances by R17,3bn in May after a R23,9bn m/m cut in April, a R74,4bn m/m jump in March, a R16,7bn m/m gain in February and a R22,9bn m/m drop in January.
11. Government's cash balances rose by R96,49bn in June to R311,3bn after a R25,1bn gain in May.
12. Penalties on early redemptions of RSA savings bonds eased to R609m in June from R728m in May and R916m in April.
13. The fiscal deficit narrowed to R10,1bn in May 2025 from R12,8bn in May 2024.
14. Eskom's Energy Availability Factor (EAF) eased to 60,8% in week 26 from 61,72% in week 25.
15. The Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) load factor eased to 2,41% in the week ending 3 July from 7,25% in the week ending 26 June and 12,7% in the week ending 29 May.
16. Electricity consumption eased by 0,4% y/y in May after falling by 2,8% y/y in April and a 1,5% y/y decline in March.
17. Exports of electricity rose by 30,6% y/y in May after a 23,2% y/y gain in April and a 24,7% y/y increase in March.
18. Non-Eskom generation rose to 2 548 gigawatt-hours (GWh) in May from 2 118 GWh in April and 2 090 GWh in March.
19. Unit 4 of the Medupi Power Station was successfully returned to service on 6 July adding 800 MW to the national grid.
20. The African Development Bank approved a \$474,6m loan to finance South Africa's Infrastructure Governance and Green Growth Programme (IGGGP).
21. The Bureau for Economic Research (BER) manufacturing index rose to 48,5 in June from 43,1 in May and 44,7 in April. The S&P PMI eased to 50,1 in June from 50,8 in May, 50,0 in April, 48,3 in March, 49,0 in February and 47,4 in January.
22. New vehicle sales rose by 18,7% y/y in June after surging by 22,0% y/y in May and a 11,9% y/y gain in April.
23. New vehicle exports jumped to 36 343 units in June from 30 112 in May, 31 822 in April and 39 477 in March.
24. Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) on 3 July berthed one of the largest container vessels in the world, MSC Nicola Mastro, on her maiden voyage, at its deepwater Port of Ngqura, in the Eastern Cape.
25. The retail price of 95 Octane petrol in Gauteng was raised by 52 cents per litre (c/l) on 2 July, while the wholesale price of diesel jumped by 82 c/l.

Rest of Africa

26. George Elombi was appointed as the new president of Afreximbank.
27. Moody's downgraded Afreximbank's credit rating from Baa1 to Baa2.
28. Development finance institution British International Investment (BII) committed £1,09bn to African companies in 2024.
29. The Egypt PMI eased to 48,8 in June from 49,5 in May, 48,5 in April, 49,2 in March, 50,1 in February and 50,4 in January.
30. Egypt's economy expanded by 4,77% y/y in the first quarter after a 4,3% y/y gain in the fourth quarter.
31. Consumer inflation in Ghana eased to 13,7% y/y in June from 18,4% y/y in May, 21,2% y/y in April and 22,4% y/y in March.
32. The Ghana PMI eased to 51,3 in June from 53,6 in May, 52,6 in April, 50,6 in March, 50,5 in February and 47,9 in January.
33. The Kenya PMI eased to 48,6 in June from 49,6 in May, 52,0 in April, 51,7 in March, 50,6 in February and 50,5 in January.
34. Kenya's economy expanded by 4,9% y/y in the first quarter after a 5,1% y/y gain in the fourth quarter.
35. Morocco's economy expanded by 4,8% y/y in the first quarter after a 3,7% y/y gain in the fourth quarter.
36. The Mozambique PMI eased to 49,1 in June from 49,6 in May, 50,5 in April, 50,2 in March, 50,9 in February and 47,4 in January.
37. The Nigeria PMI eased to 51,6 in June from 52,7 in May, 54,2 in April, 54,3 in March, 53,7 in February and 52,0 in January.

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38. Senegal's economy expanded by 12,1% y/y in the first quarter after a 11,6% y/y gain in the fourth quarter.
39. The central bank of Tanzania cuts its benchmark lending rate by 25 basis points to 5,75%.
40. Consumer inflation in Tunisia was steady at 5,4% y/y in June and May from 5,6% y/y in April.
41. The Uganda PMI eased to 55,6 in June from 56,4 in May, 55,3 in April, 52,9 in March, 52,6 in February and 49,5 in January.
42. The Zambia PMI eased to 50,3 in June from 51,4 in May, 50,9 in April, 49,3 in March after being steady at 50,9 in February and January.
43. Zambia's President Hakainde Hichilema on 30 June opened the country's biggest grid-connected solar power plant, built by PowerChina, which will supply electricity to copper miner First Quantum Minerals.
44. Zimbabwe suffered a national blackout on 3 July.

International

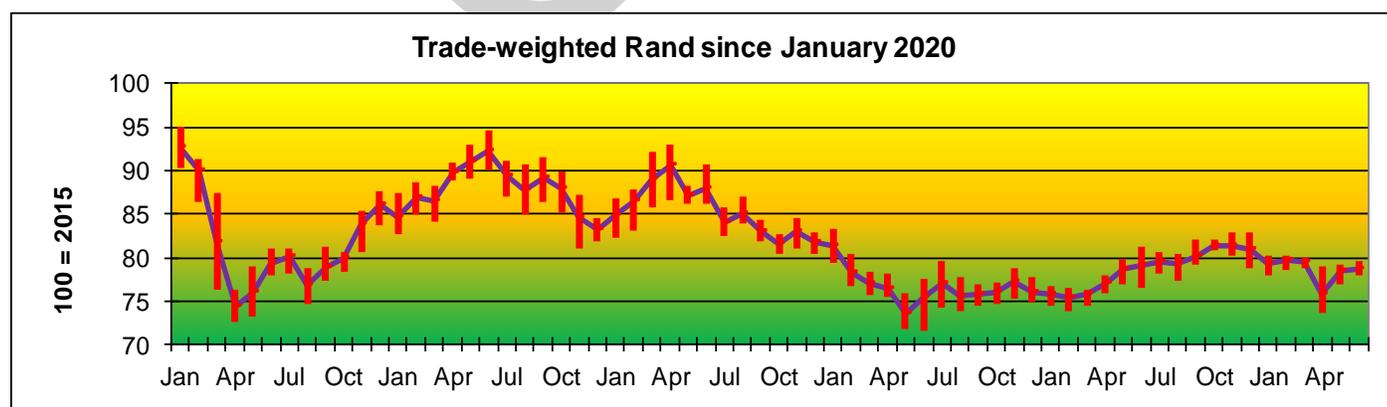
45. The central bank of Albania cut its benchmark lending rate by 25 basis points to 2,5%.
46. The central bank of Poland cut its benchmark lending rate by 25 basis points to 5,0%.
47. The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) rose to 128,0 in June from 127,7 in May, 128,7 in April, 127,1 in March, 126,8 in February and 125,1 in January.
48. Total global air passenger traffic rose by 5,0% y/y in May after an 8,0% y/y jump in April, rising by 3,3% y/y in March, a 2,7% y/y gain in February and a 10,0% y/y surge in January.
49. Vietnam's economy expanded by 7,96% y/y in the second quarter after a 6,93% y/y gain in the first quarter.
50. President Donald Trump's self-titled 'One Big Beautiful Bill,' needed the tie-breaking vote of Vice President JD Vance to pass in the Senate, while in the House of Representatives the vote was 218 for to 214 against.
51. Preliminary data from Princeton University's forecasts that the bill will have a dramatic effect on the deployment of clean energy in the US.
52. US energy companies are pouring record sums into building power plants and transmission lines to meet electricity demand from data centres.
53. The US economy added 132 000 non-farm jobs in June after a revised 144 000 (137 000) gain in May.
54. The US trade deficit widened to \$71,5bn in May from \$60,3bn in April and \$138,3bn in March.
55. US employers announced 47 999 job cuts in June from 93 816 in May, 105 441 in April, 275 240 in March, 172 017 in February and 49 795 in January.
56. The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefit eased by 4 000 w/w to 233 000 in the week ending 28 June.
57. US light vehicle sales fell to a seasonally adjusted annualised rate of 15 million units in June from 15,65 million in May, 17,25 million in April and a four-year high of 17,83 million in March.
58. Tesla delivered just 384 122 cars in the second quarter, a 13,5% y/y drop.
59. The number of US job openings rose by 374 000 in May to 7,769 million.
60. Consumer inflation in the Eurozone rose to 2,0% y/y in June from 1,9% y/y in May after being steady at 2,2% y/y in April and March from 2,4% y/y in February and 2,5% y/y in January.
61. Consumer inflation in Germany eased to 2,0% y/y in June after being steady at 2,1% y/y in May and April from 2,2% y/y in March after being steady at 2,3% y/y in February and January from 2,6% y/y in December.
62. Consumer inflation in Kazakhstan rose to 11,8% y/y in June from 11,3% y/y in May, 10,7% y/y in April, 10,0% y/y in March and 9,4% y/y in February.
63. Consumer inflation in Pakistan eased to 3,2% y/y in June from 3,5% y/y in May and 0,3% y/y in April.
64. Consumer inflation in Paraguay rose to 4,0% y/y in June from 3,6% y/y in May and 4,0% y/y in April.
65. Consumer inflation in Turkiye eased to 35,05% y/y in June from 35,41% y/y in May and 37,86% y/y in April.
66. Russia's unemployment rate eased to 2,2% in May after being steady at 2,3% in April and March after being steady at 2,4% in February and January.
67. Foreign tourist arrivals in Indonesia grew by 14,01% y/y in May after a 9,15% y/y increase in April
68. Tourist arrivals in Spain edged up 1,5% y/y in May after a 10,1% y/y rise in April, a 3,8% y/y increase in March and a 7,7% y/y gain in February.
69. The Brazil manufacturing index eased to 48,3 in June from 49,4 in May, 50,3 in April, 51,8 in March, 53,0 in February and 50,7 in January.
70. The China manufacturing index rose to 50,4 in June from 48,3 in May, 50,4 in April, 51,2 in March, 50,8 in February and 50,1 in January.
71. The Eurozone manufacturing index rose to 49,5 in June from 49,4 in May, 49,0 in April, 48,6 in March, 47,6 in February and 46,6 in January.
72. The India manufacturing index rose to 58,4 in June from 57,6 in May, 58,2 in April, 58,1 in March, 56,3 in February and 57,7 in January.
73. The Indonesia manufacturing index eased to 46,9 in June from 47,4 in May, 46,7 in April, 52,4 in March, 53,6 in February and 51,9 in January.
74. The Japan manufacturing index rose to 50,1 in June from 49,4 in May, 48,7 in April, 48,4 in March, 49,0 in February and 48,7 in January.
75. The Russia manufacturing index eased to 47,5 in June from 50,2 in May, 49,3 in April, 48,2 in March, 50,2 in February and 53,1 in January.
76. The South Korea manufacturing index rose to 48,7 in June from 47,7 in May, 47,5 in April, 49,1 in March, 49,9 in February and 50,3 in January.

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77. The UK manufacturing index rose to 47,7 in June from 46,4 in May, 45,4 in April from 44,9 in March, 46,9 in February and 48,3 in January.
78. The US ISM manufacturing index rose to 49,0 in June from 48,5 in May, 48,7 in April, 49,0 in March, 50,3 in February and 50,9 in January.
79. The global manufacturing index rose to 50,3 in June from 49,5 in May, 49,8 in April, 50,3 in March, 50,6 in February and 50,1 in January.
80. The US ISM Non-Manufacturing PMI rose to 50,8 in June from 49,9 in May, 51,6 in April and 50,8 in March.
81. The global services index eased to 51,9 in June from 52,0 in May, 50,9 in April, 52,6 in March, 51,6 in February and 52,2 in January.
82. The monthly average OPEC Reference Basket (ORB) rose to \$69,73 per barrel in June from \$63,62 in May, \$68,98 in April, \$74,00 in March, \$76,81 in February and \$79,38 in January.
83. A city in China's central province of Hubei was hit by a month's worth of rain in just 12 hours, forcing local authorities to evacuate 18 000 people.
84. Germany will carry out emergency repairs on its autobahn after extreme heat in recent days blew up large chunks of concrete along key stretches of the highway.
85. Extreme heat continues to affect much of Europe, with Italy limiting work outdoors, France shutting schools and Turkey battling wildfires.
86. Torrential monsoon rains that began on 20 June have brought India's northern state of Himachal Pradesh "to its knees".

South Africa

1. **The trade surplus with the US narrowed to US\$132m in May from \$330m in April, \$787m in March and \$2,838bn in February.** Imports from the US rose to \$693m in May from \$511m in April, \$625m in March, \$499m in February and \$380m in January, while exports to the US eased to 4825M IN May from \$842m in April, \$1,411bn in March, \$3,337bn in February and \$2,253bn in January. The trade surplus with the US widened to \$8,837bn in 2024 from \$6,814bn in 2023, \$8,059bn in 2022 and \$10,242bn in 2021. Exports to the US rose to \$14,656bn in 2024 from \$13,971bn in 2023, \$14,547bn in 2022, \$15,743bn in 2021, \$11,368bn in 2020 and \$7,799bn in 2019, while imports from the US eased to \$5,819bn from \$7,156bn in 2023, \$6,515bn in 2002, \$5,501bn in 2021, \$4,374bn in 2020 and \$5,334bn in 2019.
2. **Rheinmetall Denel Munition (RDM) has been awarded a contract for 155 mm Assegai artillery rounds and charges worth hundreds of millions of euros.** The multi-year contract is from a European NATO country and was booked in the second quarter of 2025. Deliveries will begin in 2025 and conclude with final delivery in 2027.
3. **The trade weighted rand averaged 78,73 in June from 78,37 in May, 75,78 in April, 79,45 in March, 79,75 in February, 79,43 in January and a record low 73,6 in May 2023.** The base year of the indices changed from 2010 to 2015, so this shows that the rand is some 25% weaker than 2015. The weights of the five major currencies are Euro (30,68), Chinese yuan (24,53), US dollar (10,56), Japanese yen (4,95) and Indian rupee (4,85). The weakest point in 2024 was on 14 February ahead of the Budget. The weakest point in 2023 was on 1 June at the height of the "Lady R" allegations of South Africa supplying Russia with weapons. The weakest point in 2022 was on 13 December when there was speculation that President Cyril Ramaphosa would resign due to the "Farmgate" scandal. The weakest point in 2021 was on 26 November when the UK announced a ban on flights from South Africa. The annual average was 78,67 in 2024 from 76,64 in 2023, 85,32 in 2022 and 87,72 in 2021.

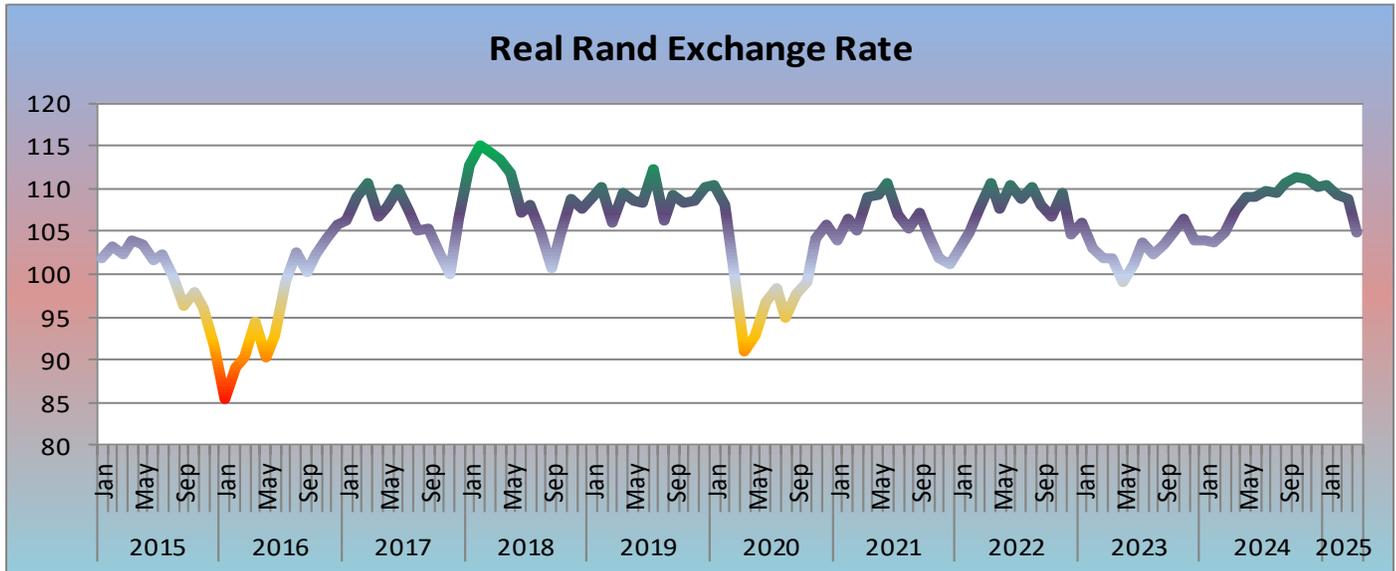


4. **The volatility in the trade weighted rand eased to 2,06% in June from 2,90% in May, 7,18% in April, 1,61% in March, 2,11% in February, 2,89% in January, 5,16% in December and 7,81% in June 2023.** The measure of volatility I use is to divide the monthly range by the monthly average. The rand's weakening in October 2008 resulted in the most volatile month ever, exceeding that of December 2001. The October 2008 volatility was 28,25% compared with December 2001's 23,22%. The May 2013 volatility of 11,61% was due to the announcement that the US Federal Reserve would start tapering its bond buying programme sometime in the future. The actual tapering started in December 2013. The most volatile month in 2014 was January at 6,7%, while December was the most volatile in 2015. In 2016 the most volatile month was May at 8,37%, while December at 10,91% was the most volatile month in 2017. In 2018 the most volatile month was August at 9,51%, while in 2019 it was January at 6,99%, while the least volatile

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month was April at 2,99%. In 2020 the most volatile month was March at 13,57%, while October was the least volatile month at 2,32%. In 2021 the most volatile month was November at 7,35%, while April was the least volatile month at 2,35%. In 2022 the most volatile month was March at 7,17%, while May was the least volatile month at 2,53%. In 2023 the most volatile month was June at 7,81%, while September was the least volatile month at 3,13%. In 2024 the most volatile month was June at 5,89%, while October was the least volatile month at 1,49%.

- The real trade weighted exchange rate index eased to 104,83 in April from 108,8 in March and 109,28 in February.** The rand remains under pressure due to geopolitical events in nominal terms, but in real terms it is far stronger than 2016 and 2020.

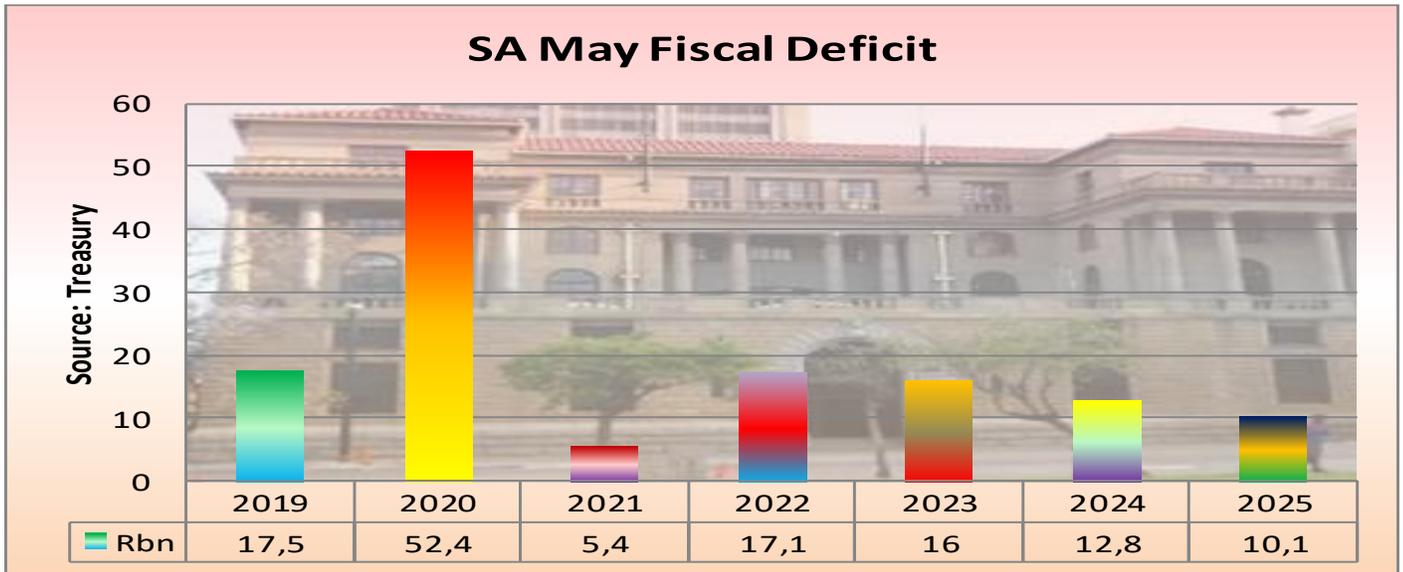


- The Bureau for Economic Research (BER) inflation expectations second quarter survey showed that on average the respondents expect that headline consumer inflation will be 3,9% during 2025 compared with 4,4% in the first quarter survey.** The respondents see inflation rising gradually to 4,3% (4,6% in Q1 survey) in 2026 and 4,5% (5,7%) in 2027. The moderation in expectations not only firms up the likelihood of a 25bps rate cut in July but should also support the South African Reserve Bank's (SARB) desire to shift to a lower inflation target of 3%.
- The foreign trade surplus widened to R21,67bn in May from a revised R12,999bn (R14,077bn) in April.** Imports rose by R1,8bn or 1,2% m/m to R154,1bn, while exports jumped by R10,5bn or 6,3% m/m to R175,7 bn.
- Africa had the highest export growth rate in the first five months of 2025 at 1,6% y/y after 4,4% in 2024 and a 11,5% jump in 2023.** Despite the implementation of the African Free Trade Agreement in January 2021, exports to the rest of Africa only rose by 19,3% in 2021 compared with a 30,5% increase for total exports, but in 2022, the rest of Africa was the best performing region with a 28,1% gain compared with 11,1% for total exports. In June 2022 for the first time in ages, an African country (Mozambique with 5,9% of exports) was in the Top Five of export destinations and that performance continued in September 2023 with Mozambique accounting for 5,8% of exports, 6,6% in October, 5,5% in November, 6,4% in December, 7,2% in January, 6,4% in February, 5,9% in March, 6,1% in April, 6,0% in May and June, 6,2% in July, 7,3% in August, 6,3% in September and 5,7% in October. The riots after October hindered transport links, but in January, Mozambique was once again in the Top Five with a 5,6% share easing to a 4,8% share in February before a recovery to a 5,6% share in March, 5,3% in April and 5,4% in May. A fair amount of the exports will no doubt be re-exported from Maputo.
- Broad M3 money supply growth rose to 6,86% y/y in May from 6,12% y/y in April and 5,75% y/y in March, while narrow M0 money supply growth edged up to 26,73% y/y in May from 23,24% y/y in April and 24,82% y/y in March.** Total loans and advances growth, which excludes investments and bills discounted, rose to 5,44% y/y in May from 5,24% y/y in April, 4,25% y/y in March, 3,94% y/y in February, 4,1% y/y in January, 4,17% y/y in December, 4,26% y/y in November, 4,38% y/y in October and 4,76% y/y in September.
- Commercial banks increased other loans and advances by R17,3bn in May after a R23,9bn m/m cut in April, a R74,4bn m/m jump in March, a R16,7bn m/m gain in February and a R22,9bn m/m drop in January.** This category is mostly overdrafts and I was surprised that the March jump did not get more media attention.
- Government's cash balances rose by R96,49bn in June to R311,3bn after a R25,1bn gain in May.** I saw no media coverage of this increase. In June, net domestic short-term loans rose by R5,226bn, while net domestic long-term loans inclusive of redemptions and switch transactions increased by R35,49bn. In May, net domestic short-term loans rose by R2,359bn, while net domestic long-term loans inclusive of redemptions and switch transactions increased by R36,351bn. In April, net domestic short-term loans rose by

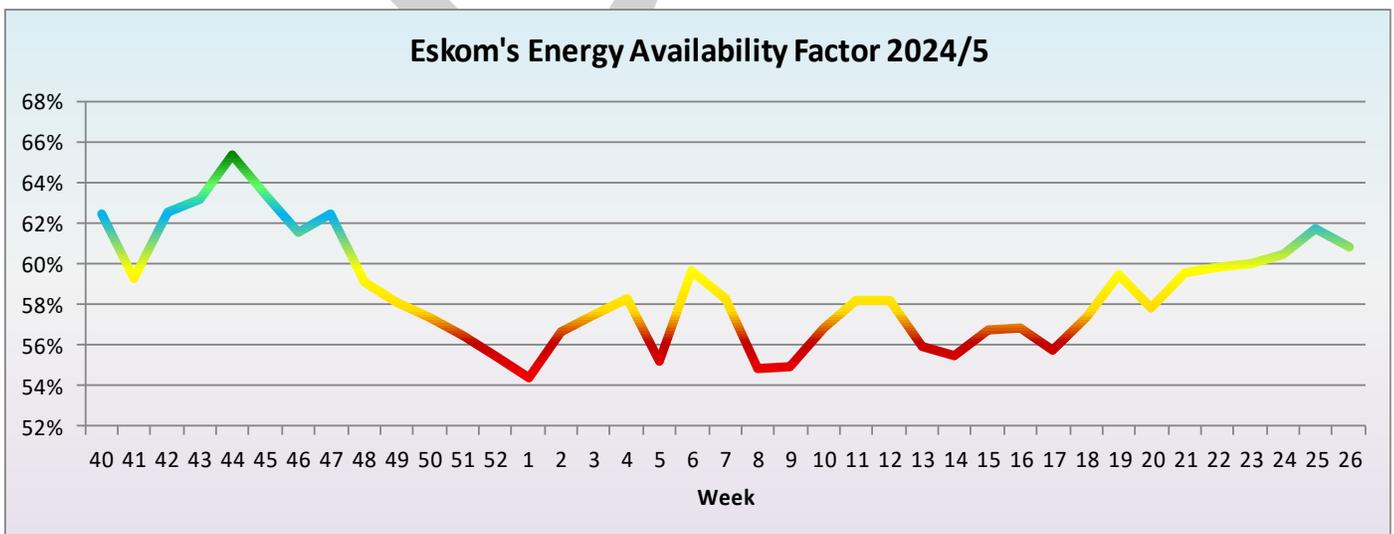
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R4,606bn, while net domestic long-term loans inclusive of redemptions and switch transactions grew by R35,152bn. In addition, a foreign loan of R9,717bn was repaid.

- 12. **Penalties on early redemptions of RSA savings bonds eased to R609m in June from R728m in May and R916m in April.** This is a useful and timely measure of how distressed consumers are. In the 2024/25 fiscal year, penalties totalled R7,831bn compared with R8,207bn in 2023/24, R3,37bn in 2022/23, R3,664bn in 2021/22, R2,14bn in 2020/21, R2,345bn in 2019/20.
- 13. **The fiscal deficit narrowed to R10,1bn in May 2025 from R12,8bn in May 2024.** Revenue grew by 8,2% y/y in May, while outlays rose by 5,5% y/y.



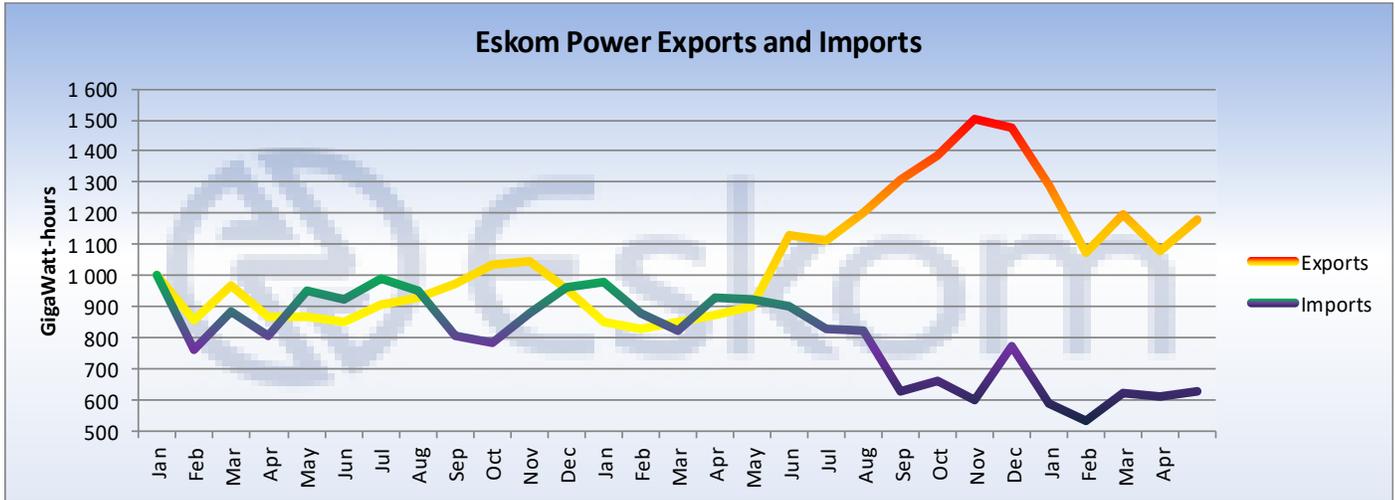
- 14. **Eskom's Energy Availability Factor (EAF) eased to 60,8% in week 26 from 61,72% in week 25.** I saw no media coverage of this important indicator. Unplanned outages rose to 32,35% in week 26 from 30,26% in week 25. Planned maintenance eased to 6,55% in week 26 from 7,71% in week 25, 13,07% in week 13 and a 2024 high of 19,63% in week 52 and a 2023-high of 19,07% in week 52 and only 5,06% in week 30 of 2022. The EAF rose to 59,79% in 2024 from 54,69% in 2023, 58,0% in 2022, 61,79% in 2021, 64,96% in 2020, 66,93% in 2019, 71,84% in 2018 and 78,61% in 2016. Planned maintenance outages rose to 13,25% in 2024 from 10,9% in 2023, 10,62% in 2022 from 10,81% in 2021, 11,32% in 2020 and 9,94% in 2019, while unplanned outages eased to 26,36% in 2024 from 33,08% in 2023, 29,86% in 2022, 24,49% in 2021 20,88% in 2020 and 21,57% in 2019.



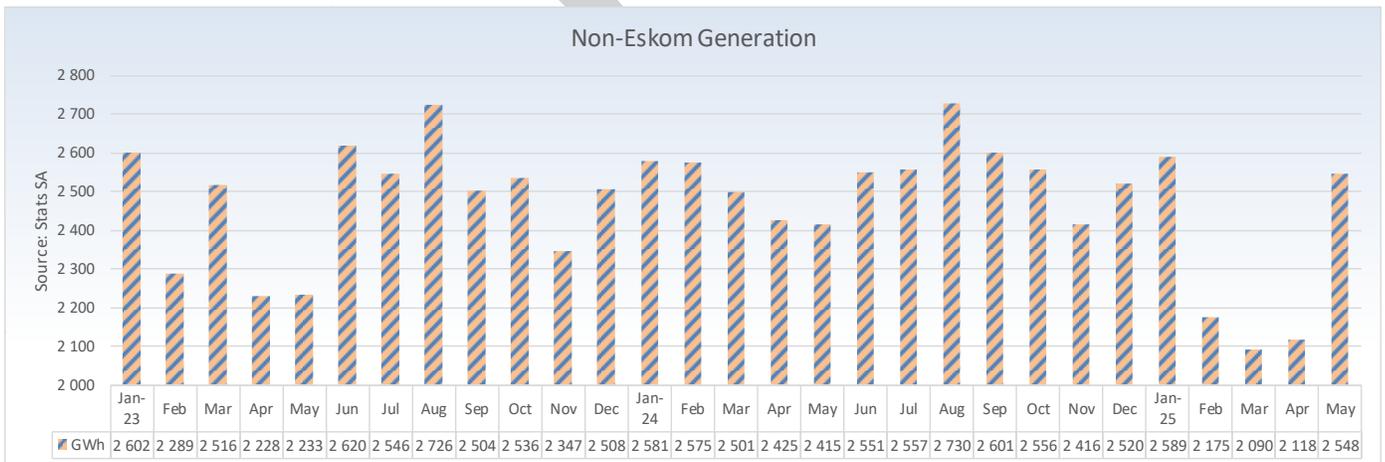
- 15. **The Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) load factor eased to 2,41% in the week ending 3 July from 7,25% in the week ending 26 June and 12,7% in the week ending 29 May.** Year-to-date, Eskom spent R4,85bn on fuel for the OCGT fleet, generating 824,08GWh. This is higher than the 471,18GWh generated during the same period last year.

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- 16. Electricity consumption eased by 0,4% y/y in May after falling by 2,8% y/y in April and a 1,5% y/y decline in March.** Statistics South Africa incorporated data from independent power producers (IPPs) engaged in wheeling from the January 2025 release. Electricity wheeling refers to the process of transporting electricity from a generator to an end-user (customer) using an existing transmission or distribution network.
- 17. Exports of electricity rose by 30,6% y/y in May after a 23,2% y/y gain in April and a 24,7% y/y increase in March.** Imports on the other hand fell by 31,9% y/y in May after a 33,9% y/y decrease in April, a 24,3% y/y drop in March, a 39,4% y/y decrease in February plummeting by 40,1% y/y in January, falling by 19,6% y/y in December and plunging by 31,4% y/y in November. I saw no media report on this.



- 18. Non-Eskom generation rose to 2 548 gigawatt-hours (GWh) in May from 2 118 GWh in April and 2 090 GWh in March.** The recovery in Eskom's generation fleet meant that the share of non-Eskom generation as a portion of total generation eased to 10,5% in March from 12,4% in February and 14,8% in February 2024 as the plentiful rain in March and February cut non-Eskom generation by 15,5% y/y in February 2025 and fell by 16,4% y/y in March before a recovery to a 12,7% y/y drop in April and a 5,5% y/y increase in May.

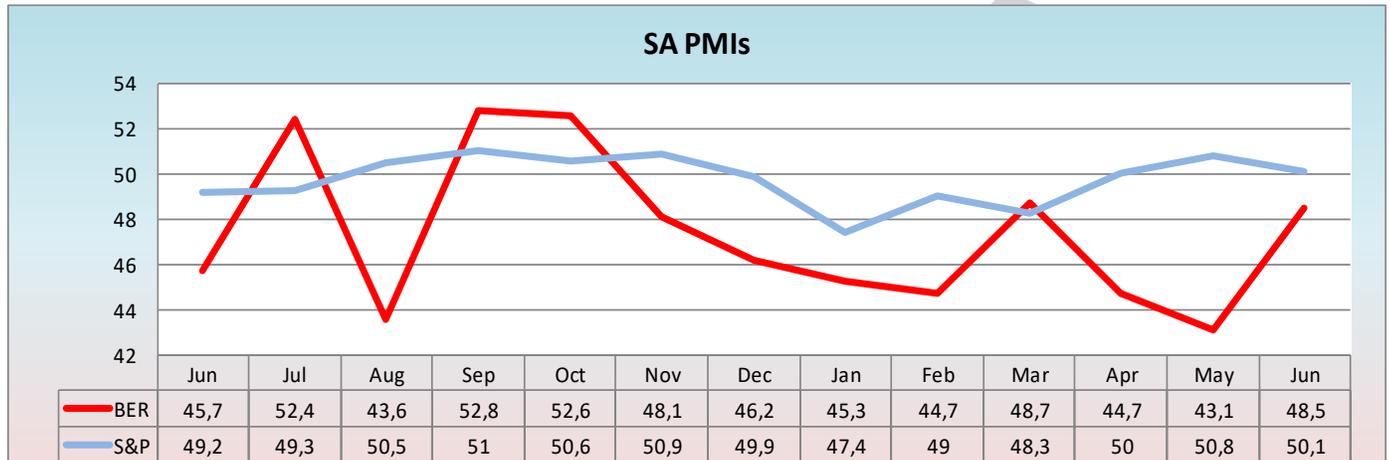


- 19. Unit 4 of the Medupi Power Station was successfully returned to service on 6 July adding 800 MW to the national grid.** The unit's return follows extensive repairs, completed eight months ahead of the original schedule, made possible by the innovative use of a refurbished Generator Stator, an alternative to waiting for a brand-new component. The unit had been out of service since 8 August 2021 after sustaining significant damage from the explosion of its Generator Stator, a key component in the operation of the generation unit.
- 20. The African Development Bank approved a \$474,6m loan to finance South Africa's Infrastructure Governance and Green Growth Programme (IGGGP).** Building on a successful \$300m energy program from 2023, the IGGGP is the second part of the AfDB's strategic support for South Africa's Just Energy Transition.
- 21. The Bureau for Economic Research (BER) manufacturing index rose to 48,5 in June from 43,1 in May and 44,7 in April.** The business activity index eased to 41,9 in June from 43,1 in May, 40,0 in April, 48,3 in March and 40,6 in February, while the new

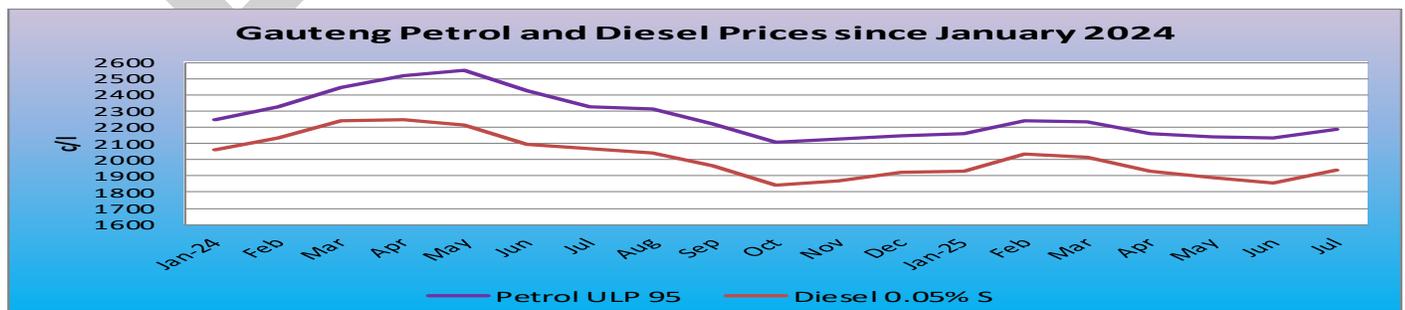
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orders index climbed to 46,1 in June from 38,3 in May, 36,5 in April, 48,7 in March and 38,7 in February. The inventories index recovered to 49,9 in June from 44,7 in May, 47,8 in April, 45,9 in March and 46,9 in February, while the employment index jumped to 49,7 in June from 40,0 in May, 42,9 in April and 46,1 in March. The price index eased to 58,1 in June from 60,4 in May, 68,3 in April, 64,5 in March from 70,4 in February and a record 95,9 in March 2022.

- 22. The S&P PMI eased to 50,1 in June from 50,8 in May, 50,0 in April, 48,3 in March, 49,0 in February and 47,4 in January.** The January 2025 reading of 47,4 was the lowest reading since the July 2021 riots. In June, the drop in business expectations to their lowest since July 2021 shows that firms are growing increasingly nervous about the domestic and non-domestic economic outlook. Nevertheless, the survey data suggests that companies were still willing to expand their headcounts and store more inputs, helped by a relatively benign cost environment.



- 23. New vehicle sales rose by 18,7% y/y in June after surging by 22,0% y/y in May and a 11,9% y/y gain in April.** The 2024 sales were down 3% on 2023 and below those of 2008. In 2024 car sales rose by 1,1%, while light commercial vehicle sales fell by 12,0%, medium commercial vehicle sales dropped by 6,5% and heavy commercial vehicle sales declined by 4,9%. October 2024 saw the best passenger car sales since October 2019. For the first half of 2025, new vehicle sales were now 13,6% ahead of the corresponding period 2024, supported by and large by an influx of affordable imported models. For the year-to-date [January to May 2025] new light vehicle imports by the OEMs increased by 25,6% and by the independent importers by 33,4% compared to the corresponding period 2024. Domestic sales by the OEMs of locally manufactured models, however, decreased by 14,0% for the year to date compared with the same period last year.
- 24. New vehicle exports jumped to 36 343 units in June from 30 112 in May, 31 822 in April and 39 477 in March.** In 2024 the average monthly exports were 32 570 units.
- 25. Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) on 3 July berthed one of the largest container vessels in the world, MSC Nicola Mastro, on her maiden voyage, at its deepwater Port of Ngqura, in the Eastern Cape.** With a capacity of 24 116 twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEUs), 299 m in length and 61 m in beam, the historical berthing of this vessel demonstrates TNPA's marine capabilities. This special operation necessitated the ports authority to increase the number of tugs required for safe navigation in the port, from the standard two-tug operation to four. The Port of Ngqura features depths ranging from 16 m to 18 m and boasts deepwater berths, suited for container traffic and transshipment opportunities.
- 26. The retail price of 95 Octane petrol in Gauteng was raised by 52 cents per litre (c/l) on 2 July, while the wholesale price of diesel jumped by 82 c/l.** This means the y/y change for petrol is -6,0% after -12,0% in June, -16,0% in May, -14,2% in April, -8,6% in March, -3,6% in February and -4,0% in January, while that for diesel is -6,3% from -11,6%, -14,7%, -13,9%, -10,1%, -4,8% and -6,5%.



WEEKLY ECONOMIC BRIEFING

Rest of Africa

27. **George Elombi was appointed as the new president of Afreximbank.** He aims to turn Afreximbank into a \$250bn bank over the next decade.
28. **Moody's downgraded Afreximbank's credit rating from Baa1 to Baa2.** It cited rising risks from its increased exposure to distressed sovereign borrowers such as Ghana and Zambia.
29. **Development finance institution British International Investment (BII) committed £1,09bn to African companies in 2024.** This was nearly 40% more than its 2023 total of £725-million, despite the difficult investment environment caused by macroeconomic headwinds. BII's total net assets increased to £9,9bn up from £8,5bn in 2023, while post-tax profits improved to £213,3m compared with a £44m loss in 2023.
30. **The Egypt PMI eased to 48,8 in June from 49,5 in May, 48,5 in April, 49,2 in March, 50,1 in February and 50,4 in January.** The August 2024 reading of 50,4 was the first increase after 44 months of contraction in the private sector activity. The latest reading also marked the fourth straight month of decline due to faster falls in new orders and output. In response, firms reduced purchasing activity for the fourth consecutive month, with the pace of decline the fastest in nearly a year. Total inventories stalled in June. Employment fell for the fifth consecutive month, though the rate of job shedding was fractional and the softest observed in the current sequence.
31. **Egypt's economy expanded by 4,77% y/y in the first quarter after a 4,3% y/y gain in the fourth quarter.** The manufacturing sector was a major driver, bouncing back with 16,3% growth. On the other hand, oil and natural gas extraction contracted further, shrinking by 10,38%. Additionally, activity in the Suez Canal fell by 23,1%.
32. **Consumer inflation in Ghana eased to 13,7% y/y in June from 18,4% y/y in May, 21,2% y/y in April and 22,4% y/y in March.** Ghana, the largest gold producer in Africa, has seen its currency, the cedi, appreciate by over 30% this year, making it the world's top-performing currency, buoyed by a surge in gold prices. Price growth slowed for both food (16,3% vs 22,8% in May vs 25,0% in April) and non-food products (11,4% vs 14,4% vs 17,9%).
33. **The Ghana PMI eased to 51,3 in June from 53,6 in May, 52,6 in April, 50,6 in March, 50,5 in February and 47,9 in January.** Falling prices amid currency appreciation helped companies to secure greater new order volumes in June, thereby extending the current sequence of expansion to five months. In turn, business activity also increased for the fifth month running. In both cases, however, rates of growth were the softest in three months. There were some reports of customers holding off on purchases amid expectations of further price reductions.
34. **The Kenya PMI eased to 48,6 in June from 49,6 in May, 52,0 in April, 51,7 in March, 50,6 in February and 50,5 in January.** The latest reading represented the steepest decline since July 2024, driven by contractions in output and new orders amid weaker consumer spending, challenging economic conditions, and operational disruptions from protests. Meanwhile, employment increased for the fifth consecutive month, albeit only marginally.
35. **Kenya's economy expanded by 4,9% y/y in the first quarter after a 5,1% y/y gain in the fourth quarter.** Growth was broad-based, with particularly strong performance in the key agricultural sector, where output rose by 6,0% thanks to favourable weather conditions. Timely rains in late 2024 and early 2025 led to better harvests of tea, coffee, and maize. Alongside this, government initiatives—like farm input subsidies and the Hustler Fund's affordable loans—further enhanced productivity across the sector. Other contributors included ICT (5,8%), wholesale and retail trade (5,4%), real estate (5,3%), financial & insurance (5,1%), and public administration (6,5%). Professional services and transport grew by 4,6% and 3,8%, respectively, while accommodation & food services added 4,1%. Mining surged by 10,0%, construction increased by 3,0%, and manufacturing rose by 2,1%.
36. **Morocco's economy expanded by 4,8% y/y in the first quarter after a 3,7% y/y gain in the fourth quarter.** The non-agricultural sector grew 4,6%, led by a robust 4,5% increase in the secondary sector. Construction and public works posted the highest growth at 6,3%, followed by electricity and water at 5,0%, and manufacturing at 3,4%. However, the mining sector's growth moderated significantly to 6,7%. The services sector grew by 4,7%, agricultural activity saw a sharp turnaround, growing 4,5% after contracting by 4,3% a year ago.
37. **The Mozambique PMI eased to 49,1 in June from 49,6 in May, 50,5 in April, 50,2 in March, 50,9 in February and 47,4 in January.** Operating conditions in Mozambique eased as stocks of purchases, employment and suppliers' delivery times all had a negative impact on the headline index.
38. **The Nigeria PMI eased to 51,6 in June from 52,7 in May, 54,2 in April, 54,3 in March, 53,7 in February and 52,0 in January.** The survey began in January 2014. This was the seventh consecutive month of expansion in the private sector. Output growth slowed in June to a seven-month low, largely due to a decline in manufacturing production, while new business expanded at a weaker pace amid muted demand. Despite this, firms grew notably more optimistic about the year ahead, with sentiment rising to its highest level since August 2022.

WEEKLY ECONOMIC BRIEFING

- 39. Senegal's economy expanded by 12,1% y/y in the first quarter after a 11,6% y/y gain in the fourth quarter.** This was the fastest growth since records began in 1961, driven by strong performance in the secondary sector (+37,0%), primary (+6,8%), and tertiary (+4,3%) sectors, as well as net taxes (+5,2%). Excluding hydrocarbons (oil and gas), the GDP increased by 3,1%. From a demand perspective, the expansion was primarily driven by strong increases in exports (+81,3%), gross fixed capital formation (+8,0%), and final consumption (+3,4%). However, imports also rose by 6,6%.
- 40. The central bank of Tanzania cuts its benchmark lending rate by 25 basis points to 5,75%.** The cut is aimed at stimulating lending, particularly to farmers and small businesses.
- 41. Consumer inflation in Tunisia was steady at 5,4% y/y in June and May from 5,6% y/y in April.** This was the lowest level since May 2021. The slowdown was mainly driven by slower growth in prices for food (6,4% vs 6,7% in May vs 7,3% in April). Inflation also eased slightly in several categories, including transport (3,3% vs 3,4%), leisure and culture (6,0% vs 6,1%), clothing and footwear (9,3% vs 9,4%), and communication (0,9% vs 1,0%), while remaining steady for both housing (3,3%) and education (5,7%). However, inflation accelerated for restaurants and hotels (11,0% vs 10,8%), furnishing (5,4% vs 5,3%), and other goods and services (5,8% vs 5,7%).
- 42. The Uganda PMI eased to 55,6 in June from 56,4 in May, 55,3 in April, 52,9 in March, 52,6 in February and 49,5 in January.** This was above the eight-year series average of 52,7. Ugandan private sector companies indicated a further improvement in business conditions during June. Output and new orders continued to expand, supporting growth in employment, purchasing and stocks. Moreover, firms were confident of an increase in activity over the coming year amid strong demand conditions. Companies benefited from quicker delivery times for inputs and were able to reduce their backlogs again.
- 43. The Zambia PMI eased to 50,3 in June from 51,4 in May, 50,9 in April, 49,3 in March after being steady at 50,9 in February and January.** The December reading of 50,8 ended a 12-month streak of declining business conditions. In June, while the Zambian private sector showed resilience, especially in employment and stock-building, lingering challenges like power outages and inflationary pressures are clearly tempering stronger overall growth.
- 44. Zambia's President Hakainde Hichilema on 30 June opened the country's biggest grid-connected solar power plant, built by PowerChina, which will supply electricity to copper miner First Quantum Minerals.** The 100 MW Chisamba project is expected to reduce the Southern African country's reliance on electricity imports from neighbours South Africa and Mozambique. It will free up capacity for Zambian consumers that would have otherwise been used by First Quantum Minerals.
- 45. Zimbabwe suffered a national blackout on 3 July.** A technical fault resulted in a loss of power generation from the two major power stations and further disrupted interconnections with National Transmission (South Africa) and ZESCO (Zambia), as well as supply from HCB (Mozambique), all of which were lost simultaneously. The national blackout lasted 3 hours from 2pm.

International

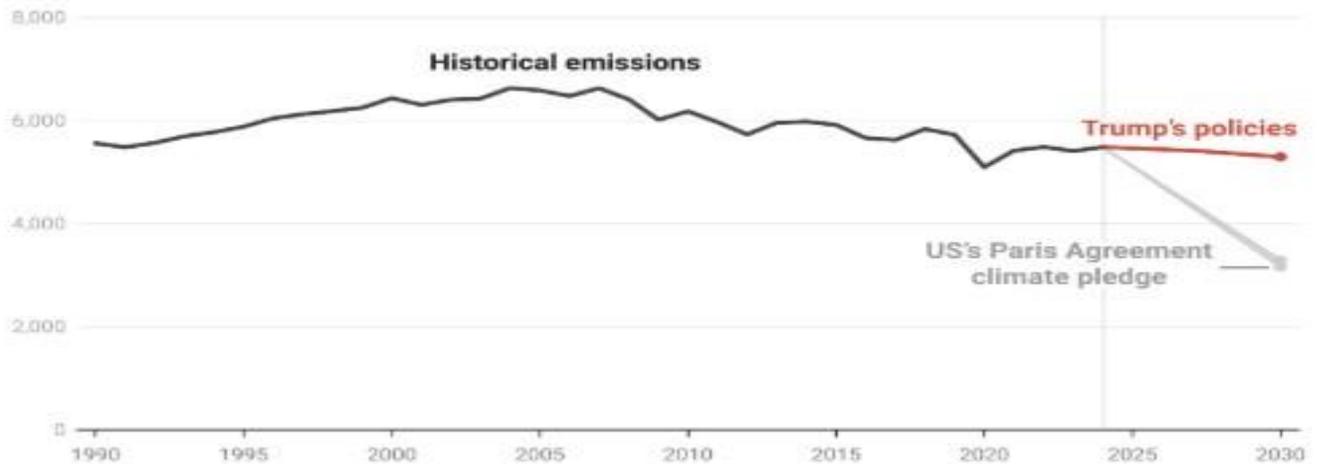
- 46. The central bank of Albania cut its benchmark lending rate by 25 basis points to 2,5%.** This was the first rate cut after four consecutive meetings of holding rates steady.
- 47. The central bank of Poland cut its benchmark lending rate by 25 basis points to 5,0%.** The decision was based on revised inflation and GDP forecasts, with the CPI path adjusted downward. Easing tensions in the Middle East helped lower oil prices, supporting the zloty against the euro and dollar. Further cuts may be considered in September or later in the year.
- 48. The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) rose to 128,0 in June from 127,7 in May, 128,7 in April, 127,1 in March, 126,8 in February and 125,1 in January.** Prices rose by 2,3% for vegetable oils, reflecting higher prices for palm, rapeseed and soy oil, which more than offset a slight decline in sunflower oil prices. Also, meat cost went up 2,1% to reach a record high, driven by higher prices across all meat categories, except poultry. Also, cost for dairy products rose 0,5%, with butter recording the largest monthly increase of 2,8% to a new record, driven by persistent supply tightness in Oceania and the EU, coupled with strong import demand from Asia.
- 49. Total global air passenger traffic rose by 5,0% y/y in May after an 8,0% y/y jump in April, rising by 3,3% y/y in March, a 2,7% y/y gain in February and a 10,0% y/y surge in January.** International passenger demand rose by 6,7% y/y in May after a 10,8% y/y jump in April and a 4,9% y/y gain in March, while domestic passenger demand grew by 2,1% from 3,3% and 0,9%.
- 50. Vietnam's economy expanded by 7,96% y/y in the second quarter after a 6,93% y/y gain in the first quarter.** All sectors posted stronger increases, including services (8,46% vs 7,70% in Q1), industry and construction (8,97% vs 7,42%), and agriculture (3,89% vs 3,74%). Meantime, trade remained resilient despite global headwinds and rising US tariffs, with exports and imports up by 18,0% and 1,8%, respectively.
- 51. President Donald Trump's self-titled 'One Big Beautiful Bill,' needed the tie-breaking vote of Vice President JD Vance to pass in the Senate, while in the House of Representatives the vote was 218 for to 214 against.** Three Republican senators — Thom Tillis of North Carolina, Susan Collins of Maine and Rand Paul of Kentucky — joined all Democrats in voting against it, while two Republican Congressmen joined all Democrats in opposing the Bill in the House. The \$3,4 trillion bill will further mushroom the national debt and widen America's income and wealth gaps, most economists reckon. Social safety nets, crucial to the working-class voters who Trump drew to the Republican Party, face the biggest cuts in decades, while gutting funds for climate change.

WEEKLY ECONOMIC BRIEFING

52. **Preliminary data from Princeton University's forecasts that the bill will have a dramatic effect on the deployment of clean energy in the US.** It will reduce new solar and wind capacity additions by almost over 40 gigawatts over the next five years, and by about 300 gigawatts over the next 10 years. Trump's dismantling of climate policy means the US will add an extra 7 billion tonnes of emissions to the atmosphere from now until 2030, compared to meeting its former climate pledge under the Paris Agreement. US emissions are now set to drop to just 3% below current levels by 2030 – effectively flat lining – rather than falling 40% as required to hit the now-defunct target.

Trump's 'big beautiful bill' blows US emissions goal by 7bn tonnes

Greenhouse gas emissions and projections, MtCO₂e



53. **US energy companies are pouring record sums into building power plants and transmission lines to meet electricity demand from data centres.** This has led to concerns that the costs may be passed on to consumers. Utility capital expenditure is expected to hit \$212,1bn in 2025, a 22,3% rise from 2024 and a 129% increase compared with a decade ago. Investment is forecast to reach a record high in 2027 of \$228,1bn.
54. **The US economy added 132 000 non-farm jobs in June after a revised 144 000 (137 000) gain in May.** The non-farm payroll increase was above the consensus forecast of 110 000. The household survey showed a small 93 000 rise in employment. The unemployment rate eased to 4,1% in June after being steady at 4,2% in May, April and March from 4,1% in February from 4,0% in January from 4,1% in December, 4,2% in November after being steady at 4,1% in October and September from 4,2% in August.
55. **The US trade deficit widened to \$71,5bn in May from \$60,3bn in April and \$138,3bn in March.** Exports fell by 4,0% m/m to \$279bn from a record high of \$290,5bn in April. Imports eased by 0,1% m/m to a seven-month low of \$350,5bn.
56. **US employers announced 47 999 job cuts in June from 93 816 in May, 105 441 in April, 275 240 in March, 172 017 in February and 49 795 in January.** So far this year, companies have announced 744 308 cuts, the highest year-to-date since 2020. The government sector has cut 288 628 jobs, primarily in the Federal Government, and many of which are in legal limbo. Retail is the sector that has cut the most private-sector jobs this year with 79 865, hit by tariffs, inflation, and uncertainty.
57. **The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefit eased by 4 000 w/w to 233 000 in the week ending 28 June.** While the figure reflected the softest increase in unemployment in six weeks, it remained firmly above averages from earlier in the year to reflect the gradual softening of the US labour market, albeit still robust in a historical standard. In turn, outstanding unemployment claims were unchanged at 1,964,000, the highest since late 2021, and above expectations of 1,960,000 to maintain the view that the unemployed are undergoing more difficult conditions in finding suitable employment.
58. **US light vehicle sales fell to a seasonally adjusted annualised rate of 15 million units in June from 15,65 million in May, 17,25 million in April and a four-year high of 17,83 million in March.** The decline followed a surge in March, when sales hit their highest level since March 2021 as buyers rushed to get ahead of anticipated price hikes linked to President Trump's proposed tariffs on imported vehicles.
59. **Tesla delivered just 384 122 cars in the second quarter, a 13,5% y/y drop.** This was the worst quarterly decline in the company's history, after a 13,0% y/y decline in the first quarter.
60. **The number of US job openings rose by 374 000 in May to 7,769 million.** This was the highest level since November 2024 and well above market expectations of 7,3 million. The largest gains were seen in accommodation and food services, which added 314

WEEKLY ECONOMIC BRIEFING

000 openings, followed by finance and insurance with an increase of 91 000. In contrast, job openings in the federal government declined by 39 000.

61. **Consumer inflation in the Eurozone rose to 2,0% y/y in June from 1,9% y/y in May after being steady at 2,2% y/y in April and March from 2,4% y/y in February and 2,5% y/y in January.** Price growth rose for services (3,3% vs 3,2% in May vs 4,0% in April vs 3,5% in March vs 3,7% in February vs 3,9% in January) and energy (-2,7% vs -3,6% vs -3,5% vs -1,0% vs 0,2% vs 1,9%).
62. **Consumer inflation in Germany eased to 2,0% y/y in June after being steady at 2,1% y/y in May and April from 2,2% y/y in March after being steady at 2,3% y/y in February and January from 2,6% y/y in December.** Service inflation eased to 3,3% in June from 3,4% and 3,9% in April, while inflation for goods eased to 0,8% from 0,9% and 0,5%, largely due to a smaller decline in energy prices (-3,5% vs -4,6% vs -5,4%). Food inflation slipped to 2,0% after being steady at 2,8% in May and April. Core inflation, which excludes volatile energy and food prices, inched down to 2,7% from 2,8% and 2,9%.
63. **Consumer inflation in Kazakhstan rose to 11,8% y/y in June from 11,3% y/y in May, 10,7% y/y in April, 10,0% y/y in March and 9,4% y/y in February.** This was the highest reading since September 2023, driven by price increases for food products (10,6% vs 9,6% in May vs 8,5% in April vs 7,6% in March vs 6,5% in February), non-food products (9,4% vs 9,0% vs 8,9% vs 9,1% vs 8,7%), and paid services (16,1% vs 16,0% vs 15,7% vs 14,3% vs 14,1%).
64. **Consumer inflation in Pakistan eased to 3,2% y/y in June from 3,5% y/y in May and 0,3% y/y in April.** The April 2025 reading was the lowest reading since August 1968. Upward pressure came from food and non-alcoholic beverage (2,6% vs 3,1% vs -4,8% in April), clothing and footwear (9,0% vs 9,7% vs 9,1%), restaurants and hotels (8,4% vs 7,4% vs 6,3%), and miscellaneous goods and services (11,2% vs 15,4% vs 13,8%), while price decreases accelerated for housing and utilities (-3,3% vs -2,5% vs -2,6%).
65. **Consumer inflation in Paraguay rose to 4,0% y/y in June from 3,6% y/y in May and 4,0% y/y in April.** The increase was driven by higher prices for fuels (+3,7%), clothing (+0,5%), and certain services, while declines in food products (-5,3%) helped offset broader gains.
66. **Consumer inflation in Turkiye eased to 35,05% y/y in June from 35,41% y/y in May and 37,86% y/y in April.** This marked the thirteenth consecutive month of easing consumer inflation and the lowest level since November 2021, as price growth continued to moderate for food and non-alcoholic beverages (30,20% vs 32,87% in May) and housing and utilities (65,54% vs 67,43%).
67. **Russia's unemployment rate eased to 2,2% in May after being steady at 2,3% in April and March after being steady at 2,4% in February and January.** Labour shortages continue to impact various sectors, driven by military recruitment, increased defence industry hiring, and emigration since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.
68. **Foreign tourist arrivals in Indonesia grew by 14,01% y/y in May after a 9,15% y/y increase in April.** Most international arrivals came from the Middle East (35,39%), particularly the UAE (53,17%), Yemen (38,05%), and Saudi Arabia (35,68%).
69. **Tourist arrivals in Spain edged up 1,5% y/y in May after a 10,1% y/y rise in April, a 3,8% y/y increase in March and a 7,7% y/y gain in February.** In the first five months of 2025, the number of tourists visiting Spain rose by 5,5% y/y to around 35 million.
70. **The Brazil manufacturing index eased to 48,3 in June from 49,4 in May, 50,3 in April, 51,8 in March, 53,0 in February and 50,7 in January.** The series started in February 2006. The April 2024 reading of 55,9 was the highest since July 2021. This was the sharpest deterioration in factory activity since July 2023 and closing out the sector's worst quarter since late 2023. The downturn was led by a steep decline in new export orders, which dragged total sales lower. As a result, manufacturers cut back production more significantly and reduced staffing levels for the first time in nearly two years. Firms also scaled down input purchases and inventories to conserve cash.
71. **The China manufacturing index rose to 50,4 in June from 48,3 in May, 50,4 in April, 51,2 in March, 50,8 in February and 50,1 in January.** The upturn came as output grew at the fastest pace since last November, driven by a fresh increase in new orders amid improved trade conditions and promotional activities. However, external demand remained muted, with new export orders falling for the third consecutive month, albeit at a noticeably softer pace than in May, due to additional US tariffs.
72. **The Eurozone manufacturing index rose to 49,5 in June from 49,4 in May, 49,0 in April, 48,6 in March, 47,6 in February and 46,6 in January.** The series began in June 1997. The result reflected the 35th consecutive month of contraction in the Eurozone's factory activity, albeit at the softest pace in 34 months to signal only a slight downturn in manufacturing conditions. New orders were broadly unchanged, driving firms to continue depending on their backlogs and increase production levels for the fourth straight month. In the meantime, staffing numbers edged down, while purchasing levels were cut back. The softer demand for inputs drove operation costs to ease, which led to a drop in output charges for factories. Looking forward, business confidence was the highest in over three years.
73. **The India manufacturing index rose to 58,4 in June from 57,6 in May, 58,2 in April, 58,1 in March, 56,3 in February and 57,7 in January.** The data collection began in March 2005. Output and buying activity rose the most in 14 months, while new orders grew at their quickest rate in almost a year, boosted by strong marketing efforts and a sharp rise in exports. Foreign demand gained solid momentum, with its growth reaching the third-highest rate since data collection began in March 2005, driven in part by robust orders from the US.

WEEKLY ECONOMIC BRIEFING

- 74. The Indonesia manufacturing index eased to 46,9 in June from 47,4 in May, 46,7 in April, 52,4 in March, 53,6 in February and 51,9 in January.** This was the third straight month of contraction in factory activity. New orders shrank for the third month in a row, with the rate of decline the sharpest since August 2021. Output also dropped, remaining solidly negative despite a slight easing from May. Buying activity declined modestly for the third month, while employment fell for the second time in three months, at the steepest pace in nearly four years. Export sales stagnated after two months of decrease, and backlogs of work declined fractionally.
- 75. The Japan manufacturing index rose to 50,1 in June from 49,4 in May, 48,7 in April, 48,4 in March, 49,0 in February and 48,7 in January.** The May 2020 reading of 34,8 was the steepest contraction in the sector since March 2009, due to the severe impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on activity. This was the first expansion in the sector since May 2024. Still, the latest figure was the highest since that time, supported by renewed increases in output. Employment also rose, while backlogs of work declined solidly. However, demand conditions remained subdued, with both overall new orders and foreign sales falling again in June, amid newly imposed US tariffs.
- 76. The Russia manufacturing index eased to 47,5 in June from 50,2 in May, 49,3 in April, 48,2 in March, 50,2 in February and 53,1 in January.** The latest reading marked the steepest decline since March 2022, as new orders resumed their fall and output shrank at a faster rate. The new sales dropped the most since March, driven by reduced purchasing power and weak client demand. Meanwhile, foreign sales fell at the sharpest pace since November 2022, amid unfavourable exchange rates. As a result, employment declined, with the pace of job shedding the fastest since April 2022, while backlogs of work dropped at a quicker rate.
- 77. The South Korea manufacturing index rose to 48,7 in June from 47,7 in May, 47,5 in April, 49,1 in March, 49,9 in February and 50,3 in January.** This was the fifth consecutive month of contraction in the sector. Firms reported continued, though slower, declines in both output and new orders. Purchasing activity also weakened, as manufacturers remained cautious about building up excess inventories.
- 78. The UK manufacturing index rose to 47,7 in June from 46,4 in May, 45,4 in April from 44,9 in March, 46,9 in February and 48,3 in January.** The UK PMI has remained at a sub-50 level, signalling contraction, for nine months in a row. A combination of weak global demand, turbulent trading conditions and rising cost burdens led to reduced levels of output, new orders, new export business and employment. Tariff uncertainty, government policy and global market turbulence were all mentioned by panellists as factors underlying a further decrease in new export orders during June.
- 79. The US ISM manufacturing index rose to 49,0 in June from 48,5 in May, 48,7 in April, 49,0 in March, 50,3 in February and 50,9 in January.** The January 2025 reading pointed to the first expansion in the factory sector after 26 consecutive months of contraction. The rate of contraction slowed in June, amid a rebound in production (50,3 vs 45,4) and improvements in inventories (49,2 vs 46,7). On the other hand, new orders (46,4 vs 47,6), employment (45,0 vs 46,8) and backlog of orders (44,3 vs 47,1) contracted at a faster pace.
- 80. The global manufacturing index rose to 50,3 in June from 49,5 in May, 49,8 in April, 50,3 in March, 50,6 in February and 50,1 in January.** Manufacturing production output returned to growth in the intermediate and investment goods categories, but slowed to a nine-month low in the consumer goods sector.
- 81. The US ISM Non-Manufacturing PMI rose to 50,8 in June from 49,9 in May, 51,6 in April and 50,8 in March.** The reading showed economic activity in the services sector increased in June after just one month of contraction, although slow growth and economic uncertainty were frequently referenced by firms.
- 82. The global services index eased to 51,9 in June from 52,0 in May, 50,9 in April, 52,6 in March, 51,6 in February and 52,2 in January.** Service sector business activity rose for the 30th successive month in June. Output rose across the business, consumer and financial services industries, with rates of increase improving in the business services sector but slowing in the latter two categories.
- 83. The monthly average OPEC Reference Basket (ORB) rose to \$69,73 per barrel in June from \$63,62 in May, \$68,98 in April, \$74,00 in March, \$76,81 in February and \$79,38 in January.** President Donald Trump made "drill, baby, drill" official policy after he was inaugurated in January 2025, so we could see lower oil prices going forward. The annual average price in 2024 was \$79,89 compared with \$82,95 in 2023 and \$100,08 in 2022.



WEEKLY ECONOMIC BRIEFING

84. **A city in China's central province of Hubei was hit by a month's worth of rain in just 12 hours, forcing local authorities to evacuate 18 000 people.** China's average annual surface air temperature and the sea level along the coast all "reached new highs" in 2024.
85. **Germany will carry out emergency repairs on its autobahn after extreme heat in recent days blew up large chunks of concrete along key stretches of the highway.** Temperatures of up to 39C caused the material to expand and crack open roads in various parts of the country, leading to hours-long traffic jams.
86. **Extreme heat continues to affect much of Europe, with Italy limiting work outdoors, France shutting schools and Turkey battling wildfires.** Many countries have issued heat health alerts. The heat forced the top floor of the Eiffel tower to close, along with a nuclear power station and thousands of schools.
87. **Torrential monsoon rains that began on 20 June have brought India's northern state of Himachal Pradesh "to its knees".** This year the monsoon arrived very early with flash floods, especially in Kullu and Dharamshala areas, and caused sudden devastation.

BUSINESS