



South Africa Morning Sheet

- **Eskom yesterday implemented Stage 2 load shedding for six hours from 16:00 and plans further power cuts from 09:00 to 22:00 today; ongoing electricity supply constraints add downside risks to economic recovery prospects**

Eskom implements rotational power cuts as unplanned breakdowns of its generation units increase. The power utility implemented Stage 2 load shedding from 16:00 to 22:00 yesterday and indicated that it plans further rotational power cuts at this level from 09:00 this morning until 22:00. In a statement, Eskom said that the power system was constrained because of breakdowns of four generation units yesterday morning and a delay in the expected return to service of a unit at the Medupi power station. As of yesterday afternoon, unplanned breakdowns stood at about 11,900MW, adding to 4,350MW taken out due to planned maintenance. As we noted in our *South Africa Economic Activity Tracker* (17 Aug 2020), electricity demand has increased markedly from its hard lockdown lows. In the seven-day period ending 7 August, electricity demand was just 1.2% lower than over the same period last year. Given that activity in some of the most energy-intensive parts of the economy are yet to recover to pre-lockdown levels, the extremely thin reserve margins Eskom is currently running seem to suggest load shedding would have been more regular and far more intense if COVID-19 had not materialised. Nonetheless, we see the ongoing electricity shortages as a key downside risk to economic recovery prospects, both as a direct constraint to business operations and as a damper of already weak private sector confidence (see *South African Q3 20 Quarterly Perspectives: No easy road to recovery*, 3 August 2020).

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FIGURE 1
New data releases and key events

Date	Time	Event	Period	Survey	Absa	Prior	Prior-1	Comments
21-Aug	12:00	NCR Consumer Credit Market	Q1 20	--	--	--	--	The data will be a key indicator of consumer credit health before the pandemic hit South Africa.
24-Aug	14:30	Statistics of Liquidations and insolvencies	Jul	--	--	134.0	195.0	These data may show some of the early effects of lockdown restrictions on firms' balance sheets but there is likely to be a lag.
25-Aug	9:00	Leading indicator, index	Jun	--	--	95.7	96.3	The forward-looking properties of the leading indicator are likely to be weak at this stage given the nature of the unfolding shock.
26-Aug	10:00	Headline inflation, % y/y	Jul	--	3.2	2.2	2.1	Headline CPI inflation likely to have bounced back into the 3% - 6% target range due to the increase in fuel prices on the back of higher Brent crude oil prices.
26-Aug	10:00	Core inflation, % y/y	Jul	--	3.0	3.0	3.1	Core inflation likely remained at the lower end of the 3% - 6% inflation target range due to weak demand-pull inflation.
27-Aug	11:30	Producer Price Index, % y/y	Jul	--	1.7	0.5	0.4	PPI inflation likely rose in July as a result of lower rate of fuel deflation.
28-Aug	14:00	Main budget balance, ZARbn	Jul	--	-116.8	-22.3	-52.3	In line with the provisional financing data and seasonal factors, we forecast a main budget deficit in July.

R indicates "revised".
Source: Thomson Reuters, Bloomberg, Absa Research.

FIGURE 2

Review of recent key domestic data releases

Main indicators	Release date	Period	Survey	Actual	Prior	Comments
Tourist accommodation income, %y/y	17-Aug	Jun	--	-95.3	-97.6	Restrictions for leisure accommodation and international travel delivered another poor month with income down 95.3% y/y in June after April and May were also sharply weak.
Land transport survey	17-Aug	Jun	--	--	--	Nominal income in freight and passenger transportation rose further in June as lockdown restrictions were eased but also remained sharply negative on a y/y basis.
Food and beverages	17-Aug	Jun	--	--	--	Income in the food and beverages sector more than tripled in real terms m/m in June but was still quite weak at -50.3% y/y.
Mining output, % y/y	13-Aug	Jun	--	-28.2	-27.6	Overall, on a q/q sa basis, mining output fell by 76.3% saar in Q2, which is worse than our official forecast of a 70.4% decline.
Retail sales, % y/y	12-Aug	Jun	-3.6	-7.5	-11.9	Retail sales volumes rose by 6.4% m/m sa in June after a 68.7% increase in May as more activity under Level 3 of lockdown; on a y/y basis, retail sales are down by 7.5% in June.
Manufacturing output, % y/y	11-Aug	Jun	-25.3	-16.3	-32.4	Despite improving in May and June as the government relaxed lockdown restrictions, manufacturing output was down by 76.2% q/q saar in Q2 compared to an 8.1% fall in Q1.
IHS Markit economy-wide PMI, index	5-Aug	Jul	--	44.9	42.5	According to IHS Markit, output fell by 'the slowest since before the government imposed lockdown measures to stop the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in March'.
Provisional financing data	4-Aug	Jul	--	--	--	The National Treasury provisional financing data for July signals a main budget deficit of R116.8bn.
Absa manufacturing PMI, index	3-Aug	Jul	--	51.2	53.9	Activity continues to recover from low levels. The business activity sub-index of the Absa PMI remained fairly strong at 62.9 in July compared with 64.6 in June.
NAAMSA vehicle sales, % y/y	3-Aug	Jul	--	-29.6	-30.7	The July sales remained subdued as a result of passenger car sales which fell by 35.9% y/y to 18.9k units compared to a 33.3% rise in the preceding month.
Merchandise trade balance, ZARbn	31-Jul	Jun	--	46.6	19.7	Quarterly, the merchandise trade surplus was a seasonally adjusted annualised R78.4bn in Q2 compared to R203.2bn in Q1.
Producer Price Index, % y/y	30-Jul	Jun	0.6	0.5	0.4	Headline PPI inflation (i.e. PPI inflation for final manufactured goods) rose slightly to 0.5% y/y in June from 0.4% in May, mainly due to the increase in fuel prices during the month.
Main budget balance, ZARbn	30-Jul	Jun	--	-22.3	-52.3	June main budget data showed a deficit of R22.3bn as tax revenues cratered under the pressure of the ongoing shock of the pandemic.
Crop Estimates Committee	29-Jul	2020	--	--	--	The sixth total maize production forecast rose by 37.9% y/y to 15.5mn in 2020.
Headline inflation, % y/y	29-Jul	Jun	2.2	2.2	2.1	Headline inflation rose due to a lower rate of fuel price deflation in June.
Core inflation, % y/y	29-Jul	Jun	3.0	3.0	3.1	Decelerating housing cost growth seems principally responsible for pulling core CPI slightly lower in June.
Private sector credit extension, % y/y	29-Jul	Jun	6.5	5.6	6.3	Credit extension growth decelerated for both households and corporates.
Quarterly Employment Statistics	28-Jul	Q1 20	--	--	--	Total employment in the formal non-agricultural sector fell by 3k q/q to 10.2mn in Q1. Against the weak labour market, real average monthly earnings (including bonuses and overtime) fell by 1.7% q/q in Q1 compared to a 0.1% decline in Q4.
Statistics of Liquidations and insolvencies	27-Jul	Jun	--	134	195	Liquidations were down 9.7% y/y and 17.8% in May and June, respectively, with the subdued prints likely reflecting the length of time it takes to liquidate a company.

R indicates "revised".

Source: Thomson Reuters, Bloomberg, Absa Research.

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FIGURE 3

Key market indicators

	Previous close	Daily change	7 day change	1 month change	3 month change	1 year change	High in last year	Low over last year
USD/ZAR	17.33	-1.0%	-0.9%	4.2%	-5.4%	12.1%	19.09	13.99
EUR/ZAR	20.65	-0.5%	0.7%	8.7%	3.2%	20.7%	20.78	15.67
GBP/ZAR	22.93	0.0%	0.5%	8.9%	2.1%	22.3%	23.54	18.00
AUD/ZAR	12.54	-0.7%	0.4%	7.6%	4.7%	19.9%	12.64	9.71
ZAR/JPY	6.08	0.5%	0.0%	-5.6%	3.7%	-11.7%	7.79	5.64
EUR/USD	1.19	0.5%	1.6%	4.3%	9.3%	7.7%	1.19	1.07
3m JIBAR	3.44	0.0bp	-8.3bp	-35.8bp	-92.5bp	-339.1bp	6.85	3.44
R208	3.55	0.0bp	0.5bp	6.5bp	-11.0bp	-320.5bp	6.85	3.46
R186 (2026)	7.47	0.0bp	5.5bp	2.5bp	24.0bp	-80.5bp	11.22	7.23
US 2-year	0.15	-0.6bp	-1.8bp	-0.6bp	-2.4bp	-146.5bp	1.80	0.11
US 10-year	0.67	-1.4bp	0.6bp	8.2bp	-1.3bp	-94.6bp	1.94	0.50
All Share	57,435	0.6%	0.5%	2.3%	16.1%	0.4%	59001.87	37963.01
S&P 500	3,382	0.3%	0.9%	5.1%	18.8%	19.2%	3389.78	2237.40
Gold	2,001	0.8%	4.2%	9.7%	14.2%	33.2%	2063.19	1454.25
Platinum	956	0.7%	2.3%	12.8%	14.3%	13.5%	1020.20	586.51
Brent	45.3	-0.5%	4.9%	3.7%	54.1%	-17.2%	71.55	5.62
CDS Spreads	298.23	5.3bp	-10.5bp	-24.4bp	-100.6bp	102.4bp	492.47	157.78

Note: Bond yield changes are denoted in basis points.

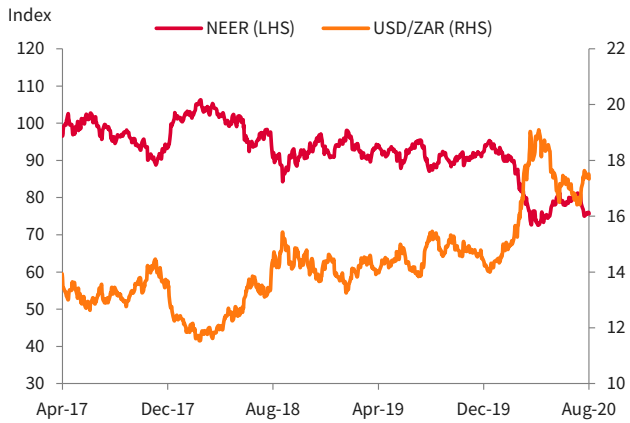
Source: Thomson Reuters, Absa Research

FIGURE 4
ZAR price of oil



Source: Thomson Reuters, Absa Research

FIGURE 6
ZAR performance



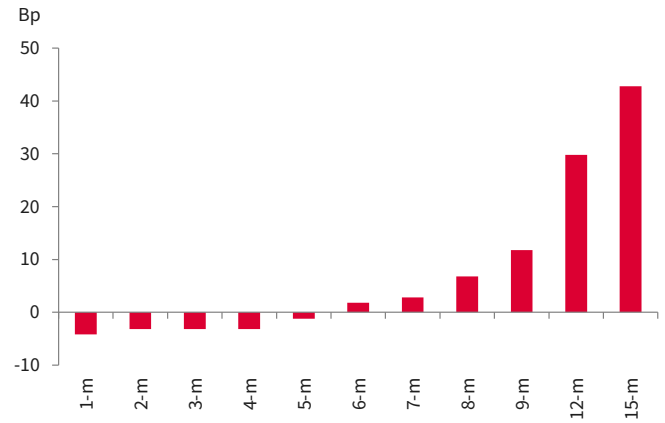
Note: Rise/fall in Nominal effective exchange rate implies ZAR ap/depreciation.
Source: Thomson Reuters

FIGURE 5
SA petrol price movements, as of 17 Aug 2020

	Petrol 95 unleaded	Petrol 93 unleaded	Diesel 0.05%	Diesel 0.005%
Pump price (c/l)	1,517	1,488	1,349	1,353
Basic fuel price (c/l)	579	569	572	577
Daily over/under recovery (c/l)	-9	-18	25	25
Avg. over/under recovery (c/l)	8	-2	8	9
o/w due to int'l price	26	17	28	28
o/w due to FX rate	-19	-18	-19	-20

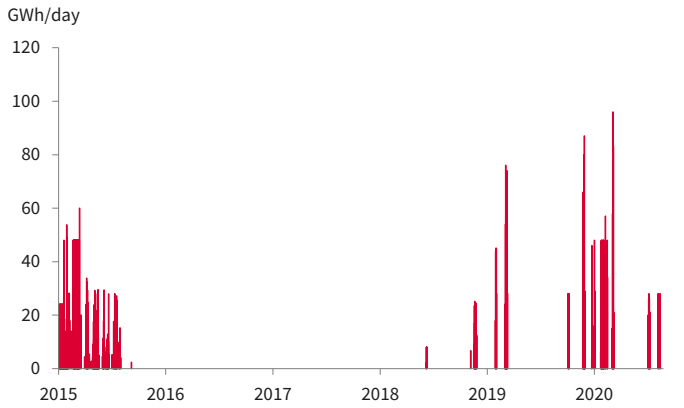
Source: CEF, Absa Research

FIGURE 7
Implied change in the repo rate based on FRA curve



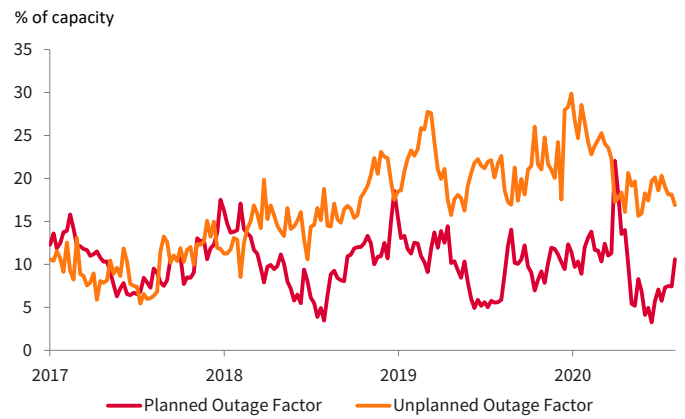
Note: Calculated by subtracting 3-month Jibar from the corresponding FRA rate.
Source: Thomson Reuters, Absa Research

FIGURE 8
Load shedding intensity



Source: Eskom, Absa Research

FIGURE 9
Maintenance vs breakdowns



Source: Eskom, Absa Research

FIGURE 10
Latest changes in water dam levels

	As at 10 August (%)	ppΔ from previous week	ppΔ from previous year	Long-run average
Eastern Cape	51.2	-0.3	-5.2	58.4
Free State	79.7	-0.5	-3.5	79.8
Gauteng	98.8	-0.3	9.2	95.1
Kwazulu-Natal	58.5	-0.4	-1.6	58.4
Lesotho	22.0	0.0	-2.5	34.1
Limpopo	62.6	-0.6	5.7	65.6
Mpumalanga	70.2	-0.5	2.6	72.7
Northern Cape	92.9	3.0	7.9	82.7
North West	68.2	-0.6	4.0	67.4
Eswatini	71.8	-1.4	-15.7	80.0
Western Cape	23.1	-0.2	-1.7	22.3
Grand total	67.8	-0.4	-2.1	68.5

Source: Department of Water and Sanitation, Absa Research

FIGURE 11
Rainfall

millimeters	May-20	% Δ from LT average	Feb-Apr average	% Δ from LT average
Eastern Cape	28.7	20.6	70.6	5.9
Free State	0.0	-100.0	77.9	17.0
Gauteng	0.0	-100.0	101.0	31.9
Kwazulu-Natal	4.8	-82.6	101.9	11.1
Limpopo	0.7	-93.6	74.4	1.0
Mpumalanga	0.2	-98.6	73.2	-13.6
Northern Cape	1.5	-88.8	30.9	-1.8
North West	0.0	-100.0	72.7	14.4
Western Cape	40.6	-27.5	19.7	-44.2
Weighted average	9.2	-55.1	57.5	2.1

Source: South African Weather Service, Absa Research

FIGURE 12

Absa exchange rate forecasts (end of period)

Period end	USDZAR	EURZAR	CNYZAR	ZARJPY	GBPZAR	AUDZAR
Monthly						
Jun-20	16.50	17.99	2.32	6.48	20.30	10.40
Jul-20	16.30	17.83	2.30	6.57	20.11	10.33
Aug-20	16.20	17.75	2.29	6.61	20.02	10.30
Sep-20	16.00	17.60	2.27	6.69	19.84	10.24
Oct-20	15.90	17.62	2.26	6.73	19.84	10.30
Nov-20	15.85	17.62	2.26	6.75	19.84	10.33
Dec-20	15.75	17.64	2.25	6.79	19.85	10.40
Jan-21	15.81	17.77	2.26	6.77	20.11	10.50
Feb-21	15.84	17.84	2.26	6.76	20.24	10.55
Mar-21	15.90	17.97	2.27	6.73	20.51	10.65
Apr-21	16.04	18.14	2.29	6.71	20.72	10.76
May-21	16.11	18.22	2.30	6.70	20.82	10.81
Quarterly						
Jun-20	16.50	17.99	2.32	6.48	20.30	10.40
Sep-20	16.00	17.60	2.27	6.69	19.84	10.24
Dec-20	15.75	17.64	2.25	6.79	19.85	10.40
Mar-21	15.90	17.97	2.27	6.73	20.51	10.65
Jun-21	16.25	18.40	2.32	6.68	21.03	10.92
Sep-21	16.40	18.83	2.36	6.62	21.56	11.19
Dec-21	16.60	19.26	2.41	6.57	22.08	11.45
Annual						
Dec-20	15.75	17.64	2.25	6.79	19.85	10.40
Dec-21	16.60	19.26	2.41	6.57	22.08	11.45
Dec-22	17.25	20.53	2.61	6.23	23.81	12.59
Dec-23	18.00	21.60	2.71	5.89	25.02	13.14

Source: Bloomberg, Absa Research.

FIGURE 13

Absa exchange rate forecasts (period average)

Period avg	USDZAR	EURZAR	CNYZAR	ZARJPY	GBPZAR	AUDZAR
Monthly						
Jun-20	17.01	18.56	2.40	6.31	21.06	10.81
Jul-20	16.40	17.91	2.31	6.53	20.20	10.36
Aug-20	16.25	17.79	2.30	6.59	20.07	10.32
Sep-20	16.10	17.68	2.28	6.65	19.93	10.27
Oct-20	15.95	17.61	2.27	6.71	19.84	10.27
Nov-20	15.88	17.62	2.26	6.74	19.84	10.32
Dec-20	15.80	17.63	2.25	6.77	19.84	10.36
Jan-21	15.78	17.71	2.25	6.78	19.98	10.45
Feb-21	15.83	17.80	2.26	6.76	20.18	10.52
Mar-21	15.87	17.90	2.27	6.74	20.38	10.60
Apr-21	15.97	18.05	2.28	6.72	20.62	10.71
May-21	16.08	18.18	2.30	6.70	20.77	10.79
Quarterly						
Jun-20	17.75	19.45	2.51	6.05	22.15	11.34
Sep-20	16.25	17.79	2.30	6.59	20.07	10.32
Dec-20	15.88	17.62	2.26	6.74	19.84	10.32
Mar-21	15.83	17.80	2.26	6.76	20.18	10.52
Jun-21	16.08	18.18	2.30	6.70	20.77	10.79
Sep-21	16.33	18.61	2.34	6.65	21.29	11.05
Dec-21	16.50	19.04	2.38	6.59	21.82	11.32
Annual						
Dec-20	16.36	18.02	2.32	6.60	20.54	10.55
Dec-21	16.18	18.41	2.32	6.68	21.02	10.92
Dec-22	16.92	19.89	2.51	6.40	22.94	12.02
Dec-23	17.63	21.06	2.66	6.06	24.41	12.87

Source: Bloomberg, Absa Research.

FIGURE 14

Detailed CPI inflation forecasts

Date	CPI index	CPI % y/y	Core CPI index	Core CPI % y/y	Food CPI index	Food CPI % y/y	Brent \$/bbl	Brent R/bbl
Jan-19	109.2	4.0	109.0	4.4	109.4	3.0	59.0	815.9
Feb-19	110.1	4.1	110.2	4.4	109.4	2.9	64.3	888.7
Mar-19	111.0	4.5	111.0	4.4	109.7	3.1	66.0	949.3
Apr-19	111.7	4.4	111.3	4.1	109.9	2.9	71.5	1010.6
May-19	112.0	4.5	111.3	4.1	110.2	3.2	72.1	1038.8
Jun-19	112.4	4.5	111.7	4.3	110.7	3.7	65.7	956.6
Jul-19	112.8	4.0	112.2	4.2	110.7	3.4	64.1	899.9
19-Aug	113.1	4.3	112.3	4.3	111.2	3.9	58.8	891.9
19-Sep	113.4	4.1	112.5	4.0	111.5	3.9	63.4	941.7
19-Oct	113.4	3.7	112.6	4.0	111.4	3.6	60.3	899.9
19-Nov	113.5	3.6	112.7	3.9	111.7	3.5	63.9	945.5
19-Dec	113.8	4.0	112.9	3.8	112.1	3.9	69.0	992.4
20-Jan	114.1	4.5	113.0	3.7	113.5	3.7	64.4	927.7
20-Feb	115.2	4.6	114.4	3.8	114.0	4.2	56.5	848.7
20-Mar	115.6	4.1	115.1	3.7	114.3	4.3	32.1	535.6
20-Apr	115.0	3.0	114.9	3.2	114.7	4.4	14.9	276.2
20-May	114.3	2.1	114.7	3.1	115.0	4.4	29.4	533.9
20-Jun	114.9	2.2	115.0	3.0	115.3	4.2	40.3	689.6
Jul-20F	116.3	3.1	115.5	2.9	115.4	4.3	40.3	660.6
Aug-20F	116.6	3.1	115.6	2.9	115.9	4.2	43.7	710.8
Sep-20F	116.8	3.0	115.9	3.0	116.2	4.2	45.6	733.8
Oct-20F	116.9	3.1	116.0	3.0	116.3	4.4	43.6	695.2
Nov-20F	117.0	3.1	116.2	3.1	116.6	4.4	43.8	695.5
Dec-20F	117.3	3.1	116.5	3.2	116.9	4.3	44.0	695.5
Jan-21F	117.6	3.0	116.5	3.1	118.4	4.3	44.1	695.5
Feb-21F	118.8	3.1	118.1	3.2	118.8	4.2	44.5	703.7
Mar-21F	119.4	3.3	118.8	3.2	119.1	4.2	45.0	713.7
Apr-21F	119.7	4.1	118.9	3.5	119.6	4.3	45.9	733.4
May-21F	119.8	4.8	118.8	3.5	120.2	4.5	46.5	748.1
Jun-21F	120.3	4.7	119.3	3.7	120.6	4.6	47.1	760.6
Jul-21F	121.0	4.0	119.8	3.7	120.7	4.6	47.5	771.9
Aug-21F	121.1	3.9	119.9	3.7	121.2	4.6	47.9	782.5
Sep-21F	121.5	4.1	120.2	3.7	121.5	4.6	48.3	792.2
Oct-21F	121.6	4.0	120.3	3.7	121.8	4.7	48.7	801.0
Nov-21F	121.8	4.1	120.5	3.7	121.9	4.6	49.0	808.8
Dec-21F	122.2	4.2	120.9	3.8	122.0	4.4	49.3	815.7
Quarterly averages								
19.Q1	110.1	4.2	110.1	4.4	109.5	3.0	63.1	884.7
19.Q2	112.0	4.4	111.4	4.2	110.3	3.2	69.7	1002.0
19.Q3	113.1	4.1	112.3	4.1	111.1	3.7	62.1	911.2
19.Q4	113.6	3.7	112.7	3.9	111.7	3.7	64.4	945.9
20.Q1	115.0	4.4	114.2	3.7	113.9	4.1	51.0	770.7
20.Q2	114.7	2.4	114.9	3.1	115.0	4.3	28.2	499.9
20.Q3F	116.5	3.0	115.7	3.0	115.8	4.2	43.2	701.7
20.Q4F	117.1	3.1	116.2	3.1	116.6	4.4	43.8	695.4
21.Q1F	118.6	3.2	117.8	3.2	118.8	4.2	44.5	704.3
21.Q2F	119.9	4.5	119.0	3.6	120.1	4.5	46.5	747.3
21.Q3F	121.2	4.0	120.0	3.7	121.2	4.6	47.9	782.2
21.Q4F	121.9	4.1	120.6	3.7	121.9	4.6	49.0	808.5
Annual averages								
2015	92.0	4.6	93.0	5.5	92.0	4.6	52.7	665.6
2016	97.8	6.3	98.2	5.6	97.8	6.3	44.2	646.2
2017	103.0	5.3	102.8	4.7	103.0	5.3	54.8	731.1
2018	107.8	4.6	107.2	4.3	107.0	3.6	71.1	942.8
2019	112.2	4.1	111.6	4.1	110.7	3.4	64.8	935.9
2020F	115.8	3.2	115.2	3.2	115.3	4.2	41.5	666.9
2021F	120.4	4.0	119.3	3.5	120.5	4.5	47.0	760.6

Note: *Crude oil price assumptions embedded into our inflation forecasts are based on Bloomberg consensus forecasts for Brent. Source: Bloomberg, Absa Research.

FIGURE 15

Main macroeconomic variables in South Africa

	2019		2020				2021				2019	2020F	2021F	2022F	2023F
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2F	Q3F	Q4F	Q1F	Q2F	Q3F	Q4F					
Output (% q/q saar)															
Real GDP	-0.8	-1.4	-2.0	-44.0	20.5	7.5	4.3	3.7	3.7	3.4	0.2	-8.3	2.4	1.9	1.2
Real GDP (%y/y)	0.1	-0.6	-0.3	-14.4	-10.1	-8.2	-6.7	8.8	4.8	3.8	0.2	-8.3	2.4	1.9	1.2
Private consumption	0.3	1.4	0.7	-17.1	2.4	3.7	2.4	2.5	2.9	3.1	1.0	-2.3	1.4	1.2	1.3
Public consumption	1.4	-0.2	1.1	2.1	1.8	0.6	-2.0	-2.3	-2.3	-2.2	1.5	1.2	-0.9	-2.0	-1.9
Investment	4.1	-10.0	-20.5	-66.7	6.4	4.7	9.7	9.2	9.8	10.3	-0.9	-22.7	-0.1	1.3	1.8
Exports	3.5	2.3	-2.3	-56.4	27.5	5.3	5.4	5.7	5.9	5.9	-2.5	-11.1	2.0	1.7	1.8
Imports	-8.9	-8.5	-16.7	-54.2	43.3	4.8	3.8	2.5	2.6	2.2	-0.5	-14.7	2.1	1.9	0.9
Prices (% y/y)															
CPI inflation	4.1	3.7	4.4	2.4	3.1	3.1	3.1	4.5	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.3	4.0	4.2	4.3
Core CPI inflation	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.6	3.5	3.4	4.1	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.7
PPI inflation	4.5	2.9	4.1	0.6	2	3.7	4.3	6.5	5.6	4.6	4.6	2.6	5.2	4.7	4.8
External and government accounts (% of GDP)															
Current account	-3.7	-1.3	1.3	-0.8	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6	-3.0	-0.7	-1.6	-2.8	-2.9
Main budget fiscal balance*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-6.6	-16.6	-12.0	-10.3	-8.4
Main primary balance*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-2.6	-11.6	-6.7	-4.5	-2.4
Government debt*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	63.5	84.6	87.7	94.1	97.4
Interest rates and exchange rate (eop)															
Repurchase rate, %	6.50	6.50	5.25	3.75	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.50	3.50	6.50	3.25	3.50	4.25	4.75
Prime rate, %	10.00	10.00	8.75	7.25	6.75	6.75	6.75	6.75	7.00	7.00	10.00	6.75	7.00	7.75	8.25

Note:*For fiscal year commencing 1 April.

Source: SARB, National Treasury, Stats SA, Thomson Reuters, Absa Research.

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