

Currency Markets

(Spot : 18 Aug 2020)

International Market

Currency	Mid Yesterday 5pm	Bid	Offer	Mid
EUR/USD	1.1840	1.1814	1.1817	1.1816
USD/JPY	106.8750	106.8900	106.9000	106.8950
GBP/USD	1.3096	1.3062	1.3063	1.3063
USD/CHF	0.9097	0.9098	0.9100	0.9099
USD/CAD	1.3210	1.3220	1.3221	1.3221
AUD/USD	0.7174	0.7147	0.7153	0.7150
NZD/USD	0.6569	0.6533	0.6537	0.6535

Market optimism was tempered with weak data printed from China and a delay with the US stimulus deal. Investors turned to safe havens which added pressure to most emerging markets. China's July industrial production printed lower than anticipated at 4.8% (YoY) compared to the forecasted 5.1%. China's retail sales fell unexpectedly by 1.1% (YoY) compared to the forecasted increase of 0.1%. China's unemployment rate was steady at 5.7%. US initial jobless claims and continuing jobless claims printed better than anticipated at 963,000 and 15.486 million respectively indicating a recovery in the largest global economy. Trump stated that the delay with the stimulus deal was due to his efforts to reduce funding for the US Postal Service which could negatively impact US voting by mail. Markets turn its attention to the upcoming US-China talks (around the phase 1 trade deal) scheduled over the weekend. Oil was higher with concerns around global demand below the surface. US retail sales, industrial production, manufacturing production; Euro Zone GDP, trade balance is anticipated later today. Gold was steady at USD1949 an ounce.



Local Market

Currency	Mid Yesterday 5pm	Bid	Offer	Mid
USD/ZAR	17.3981	17.4150	17.4400	17.4275
EUR/ZAR	20.5994	20.5653	20.6007	20.5830
GBP/ZAR	22.7877	22.7465	22.7705	22.7585
JPY/ZAR	0.1628	0.1628	0.1631	0.1630
AUS/ZAR	12.4678	12.4413	12.4714	12.4564
CAD/ZAR	13.1468	13.1665	13.1902	13.1784

Yesterday the rand was range bound ahead of the US stimulus deal and potential easing local lockdown restrictions. At the time of writing this report the rand was trading around 17.41 to the US dollar. The power utility Eskom implemented stage 2 load shedding across the country which is scheduled to continue today (interrupting business activity). South Africa's June gold production contracted by 17.0% (YoY) compared to the previous contraction of 21.8% with easing lockdown restrictions. Markets await developments around Ramaphosa's address to the nation on easing lockdown restrictions, with concerns raised around the alcohol ban on many industries including farmers and wineries.



Financial Markets

Commodity	Previous Close	Bid	Ask	Last	Change
Brent Crude	44.96	45.08	45.09	45.08	0.12
Light Crude	42.24	42.32	42.33	42.32	0.08
Gold	1,953.03	1,948.56	1,949.59	1,948.56	-4.47
Platinum	957.25	950.08	956.94	950.08	-7.17
Silver	27.56	27.15	27.20	27.15	-0.41

Index	Previous Close	Last	Change
ALSI	53,175.00	-	-
S&P 500	3,380.35	3,373.43	-6.9
JSE All Share	57,419.46	-	-
Dow Jones	27,976.84	27,896.72	-80.1

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