Economic Environment

**The Economist Intelligence Unit: Coronavirus sinks global growth prospects for first half of 2020**
Q2 global forecast 2020

We expect a modest rebound in global output in the second half of 2020, provided that the spread of coronavirus is largely contained globally and no second or third waves of the pandemic occur. However, the impact on confidence and demand will be long lasting. A rise in uncertainty will lead to increased precautionary savings among households and delayed business investment. Some consumers may also continue to self-quarantine after governments lift lockdowns for fear of contracting the coronavirus, which will constrict the recovery in private consumption. In a worst-case scenario, sovereign debt crises could take place if efforts to contain the pandemic drain fiscal revenues and drastically increase public expenses across developed countries. This is compounded by the fact that many of the European countries that are among the worst affected by the pandemic, such as Italy and Spain, already had weak fiscal positions before the outbreak. A potential debt crisis in any of these countries would quickly spread to other developed countries and emerging markets, sending the global economy into another—possibly much deeper—downturn.

[Global Forecast report Q2 V5]

**Major Wine Producing Countries**

**Wine Exports to Resume Following Government Exemption**
WoSA Info Bulletin No. 447

Following the release of the latest Government Gazette this afternoon, the South African wine industry would like to share a joint letter which will provide our members with some clarity pertaining to the exemptions mentioned therein. Please also familiarise yourself with the loading procedures we will be following in our warehouses and the preventative measures we have put in place, from both a packaged and bulk perspective.

We would furthermore like to take this opportunity to thank the Exporters Task Team for their hard work and diligence in getting to this stage and also to the respective government bodies who have taken the time to review our case and committed to the exemption.

[Click here to read more]