Economic Environment

Hammond travels to Africa for post-Brexit trade

Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond is heading to South Africa, South Korea and Japan to scout for new markets as Britain prepares to leave the European Union.

The trip begins on Wednesday in South Africa, where Hammond is due to meet officials at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, business representatives and financial technology start-ups this week, the Treasury said in a statement. South Africa is the continent’s biggest buyer of British goods.

Global Trends - Beverages

Bulk wine trade facing global supply shortage

An impending "global shortage" of bulk wine, resulting from a small 2016 harvest, will drive prices higher in the next 12 to 18 months, one industry expert has warned, with smart buyers already securing supply into 2017.

In 2015, global bulk wine exports reached a record 36.3 million hectolitres - a 3% increase on 2014 - but dropped in value by 13.7% to US$3.1 billion, according to Italy’s Il Corriere Vinicola. This volume growth was driven by Spain (+10%), still the world's biggest bulk wine producer, and Chile (+15%). But while a healthy supply in 2015 kept bulk wine prices low, prices are already increasing with the reduced 2016 vintage threatening global supplies.

A decrease in bulk supply is contributing to a general "flattening out" of the market.