Local Markets

The RMB/BER Business Confidence Index in South Africa came in at 38 in Q3 2026, down slightly from 39 in the previous period and marking the lowest reading since Q3 2024.

The S&P Global South Africa PMI edged up to 50.5 in August 2026 from 50.3 in the prior month, signalling a slight improvement in the private sector's health. The upturn was supported by a return to growth in new orders, which increased for the first time in four months, albeit marginally, as customer finances improved.

The local equity market (ALSI -1.2%) declined over the week, with Resources

(-2.2%) leading the market lower as precious metals prices retreated slightly and the rand strengthened to just under R16 against the US dollar. Oil prices rose sharply, however, with Brent crude gaining almost 8% on renewed military action in the Middle East.

The Financials Index managed to eke out a positive performance of 0.2%, but the Industrials Index declined by 1.4% as rand-hedged index-heavyweights Naspers

(-4.5%) and Richemont (-6.1%) dragged the sector lower.

Small (-0.1%) outperformed Mid-caps (-0.8%) and Large Caps (Top 40 Index -1.2%) over the week.

The SA bond market gained over the week with a return of 0.4%, while inflation-linked bonds gained 0.1%.

Global Markets

United States: The Dow fell 0.3%, while the Nasdaq gained 0.4%; the S&P 500, Russell 2000, and S&P MidCap 400 were largely unchanged. Growth stocks significantly outperformed value stocks.

Renewed US-Iran strikes near the Strait of Hormuz drove oil prices up, raising concerns about supply disruptions, inflation, and the Fed's interest-rate path. Energy stocks were the S&P 500's strongest sector.

Treasury yields climbed, with the 10-year reaching about 4.82%. Fed Governor Christopher Waller indicated he could support keeping rates unchanged if disinflation continues, but Friday's strong jobs report revived expectations of a near-term rate hike.

August jobs growth was much stronger than expected as employers added 162k jobs, versus expectations of roughly 55k. June and July were also revised higher, while unemployment remained at 4.1% and labour-force participation increased to 61.6%.

The economy remained resilient, but inflation pressures persisted: Manufacturing and services activity continued expanding, but input-price measures remained elevated. The services prices-paid index reached its highest level in four years, suggesting inflation remains a key concern for policymakers.

Europe: The STOXX Europe 600 fell 0.8%, with Germany's DAX down 2.0%, France's CAC 40 down 1.5%, and Italy's FTSE MIB down 1.0%; the UK's FTSE 100 was roughly flat.

Renewed US-Iran hostilities and tanker attacks near the Strait of Hormuz pushed Brent crude and European natural gas prices higher, raising concerns about global supply disruptions and inflation.

Higher energy prices pressured bonds and equities, with German and UK government bond yields rising as markets worried inflation could stay elevated, weighing particularly on growth, consumer, and other rate-sensitive stocks. Sentiment improved later as oil and yields stabilized.

European economic data was mixed: Eurozone retail sales fell 0.6% month over month in July, their sharpest decline since May 2025, while eurozone producer prices jumped 1.6%, largely due to higher energy costs.

UK markets faced additional domestic uncertainty as potential government windfall taxes on banks and energy companies pressured financial stocks. However, UK new-car registrations rose 13.7% year over year in August, marking the ninth consecutive month of growth.

Asia: The Nikkei 225 dropped 2.1% and TOPIX 1.1%, pressured by rising bond yields, expectations of a near-term Bank of Japan rate hike, and a stronger yen that hurt exporters. Technology shares helped markets recover some losses late in the week.

The 10-year JGB yield briefly topped 3.0%, its highest level since 1996, before ending around 2.9%. The yen strengthened to about JPY 156/USD, reflecting increased expectations for BoJ tightening.
Japan's economy showed mixed signals, with household spending falling 3.6% YoY in July, worse than expected, highlighting weak consumer demand. In contrast, industrial output rose 4.1%, extending its growth for a second month.

In China, the CSI 300 fell 1.3% and Shanghai Composite 0.6%, pressured by weaker AI/semiconductor momentum and higher oil and bond yields. Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.3%, helped by a strong technology-led rally on Friday after reduced concerns about a near-term US rate hike.

China's recovery remained uneven: New property presale rules aim to protect homebuyers but initially hurt developers. Meanwhile, official manufacturing PMI improved to 49.8 but remained in contraction, while private-sector surveys showed expansion in manufacturing and services—suggesting pockets of resilience but no decisive broad-based acceleration.

Currencies

Description	Classification*	Currency	Exchange Rate	Week	Month	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
ZAR/USD	USD/ZAR	ZAR	16.0	-1.3%	-2.6%	-1.0%	-3.6%
ZAR/Pound	GBP/ZAR	ZAR	21.6	-1.4%	-2.1%	-1.2%	-3.3%
ZAR/Euro	EUR/ZAR	ZAR	18.5	-1.0%	-1.9%	-1.0%	-4.7%
USD/Euro	USD/EUR	EUR	0.9	-0.3%	-0.7%	0.0%	1.1%
USD/Yen	USD/YEN	YEN	156.3	-2.4%	-0.9%	-2.2%	-0.3%

*Return denoted in former quoted currency

Commodities

Description	Classification	Currency	Commodity Price	Week	Month	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
Gold	Gold Spot	USD	4430.0	-0.6%	8.6%	-0.2%	2.6%
Brent Crude Oil	ICE Brent Futures	USD	96.3	7.8%	21.3%	6.4%	58.2%
Platinum	Platinum Spot	USD	1822.4	-0.1%	4.9%	1.4%	-11.6%
Copper	LME 3 month Copper	USD	659.7	0.5%	-0.7%	0.1%	16.1%
Silver	Silver Spot	USD	66.0	-1.4%	9.6%	-0.3%	-6.5%

Global Equity Indexes (Total Return Indices)

Description	Index	Currency	Index Value	Week	Month	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
Global	MSCI World	USD	4986.9	0.1%	0.3%	0.4%	13.6%
United States	S&P 500	USD	7718.6	0.1%	-0.1%	0.4%	13.4%
Europe	Euro Stoxx 50	EUR	6392.9	-1.4%	-1.4%	-0.4%	12.4%
United Kingdom	FTSE 100	GBP	10831.1	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	11.8%
Germany	DAX	EUR	26046.4	-2.0%	-0.6%	-0.8%	6.4%
Japan	Nikkei 225	JPY	65020.9	-2.1%	1.7%	-1.9%	30.3%
Emerging Markets	MSCI Emerging Markets	USD	1726.3	0.3%	4.7%	0.4%	24.6%

South African Equity Indexes (Total Return Indices)

Description	Index	Currency	Index Value	Week	Month	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
All Share	JSE All Share	ZAR	116725.80	-1.2%	2.6%	0.4%	3.2%
Top 40	JSE Top 40	ZAR	109270.10	-1.2%	3.3%	0.5%	3.5%
Shareholder Weighted	JSE Capped All Share	ZAR	58424.80	-1.2%	2.5%	0.5%	3.3%
Mid Caps	JSE Mid Cap	ZAR	106283.00	-0.8%	-0.2%	0.4%	-4.3%
Small Caps	JSE Small Cap	ZAR	106100.10	-0.1%	-1.4%	0.4%	1.6%
Resources	JSE Resources	ZAR	74451.95	-2.2%	20.2%	1.5%	13.0%
Industrials	JSE Industrials	ZAR	130722.00	-1.4%	-7.6%	-1.0%	-10.1%
Financials	JSE Financials	ZAR	66564.54	0.2%	-2.7%	0.8%	8.6%
SA Listed Property	JSE SA Listed Property	ZAR	490.89	-0.1%	-2.7%	0.7%	3.7%
Preference Shares	JSE Pref Shares	ZAR	5976.61	2.9%	2.7%	2.6%	6.2%

South African Fixed Interest

Description	Index	Currency	Index Value	Week	Month	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
All Bond	ALBI Total Return	ZAR	1425.40	0.4%	-0.5%	0.5%	4.1%
Inflation Linked Bonds	Inflation Linked Total Return	ZAR	461.23	0.1%	0.4%	0.0%	6.1%
Cash	STEFI Composite	ZAR	669.02	0.1%	0.6%	0.1%	4.6%

Weekly Wrap
Week ending 4 September 2026

Week Ahead - Upcoming Economic Events

Asia

Date Time	Event	Period	Surv(M)	Prior
9-09-2026 3:30	CPI Core YoY	Aug	--	0.90%
9-08-2026 1:50	GDP Annualized SA QoQ	2Q F	--	1.10%
9-11-2026 1:50	PPI YoY	Aug	--	7.20%
9-14-2026 6:30	Industrial Production YoY	Jul F	--	4.10%

South Africa

Date Time	Event	Period	Surv(M)	Prior
9-10-2026 11:00	Current Account Balance	2Q	--	191b
9-10-2026 11:30	Gold Production YoY	Jul	--	6.20%

United Kingdom

Date Time	Event	Period	Surv(M)	Prior
9-11-2026 8:00	Industrial Production YoY	Jul	--	-0.20%

United States

Date Time	Event	Period	Surv(M)	Prior
9-09-2026 14:15	ADP Weekly Employment Change	22-Aug	--	11.750k
9-10-2026 14:30	Initial Jobless Claims	5-Sept	--	206k
9-11-2026 14:30	CPI YoY	Aug	--	3.40%
9-11-2026 14:30	Core CPI YoY	Aug	--	2.50%

Eurozone

Date Time	Event	Period	Surv(M)	Prior
9-07-2026 11:00	GDP SA YoY	2Q T	--	1.00%
9-07-2026 11:00	Employment YoY	2Q F	--	0.50%

Disclaimer: The document should not be seen as an offer to purchase any specific product and is not to be construed as advice or guidance in any form whatsoever. Investors are encouraged to obtain independent professional investment advice before investing. Investors should be aware that investing in a financial product entails a level of risk which depends on the nature of the investment. The merits of any investment should be considered together with the investor's specific risk profile and investment objectives. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Fluctuations in exchange rates and underlying investments may cause the value of international investments or underlying investments, if included in the mandate, to go up or down. Illustrations are not guaranteed but are for illustrative purposes only. Merchant West Investments is an Authorised Financial Service Provider (FSP 44508).