



Macro & Market News

Week 14 2021 – Week ending 09/04/2021



Macro/Economic News

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- **Outdoor opening:** It has been confirmed by the government that outdoor hospitality can open in England from Monday 12 April. Customers will be able to pay and use toilets indoors. ‘Substantial meal’ requirements will be scrapped, but the rule of six will still apply. Non-essential retail and indoor leisure will also reopen.
- **Vaccine passports:** The government has not shut the door on pubs and restaurants having to ask customers to produce “vaccine passports” – but they will not be introduced before indoor hospitality is due to reopen in May. Covid status checks are likely to become “a feature of our lives” until the pandemic recedes, the government has said.
- **The British Retail Consortium has joined hospitality bodies** is saying that vaccine passports would damage their operations. The BRC has warned that checking documents at the door would not work. The BRC says ‘while Covid status certification may play an important role in certain activities, such as international travel, our members are clear that it would not be appropriate or useful in a retail setting.’ Hospitality bodies have voiced similar concerns.
- **International travel:** Passengers will have to take Covid tests before leaving and on returning - even from low-risk green countries. There will be a watch list for those that could go from green to amber. The travel industry has expressed concern about the government's testing requirements, warning it could make holidays unaffordable for many travellers.
- **Wales:** First minister Mark Drakeford has stated pubs and restaurants can operate outdoors from Monday, 26 April, as long as coronavirus rates remain low. He said after 17 May, the government would “consider enabling indoor hospitality and remaining visitor accommodation to reopen in advance of the spring bank holiday” on Monday, 31 May.
- **Markit** has reported a sharp rebound in service sector activity, even before non-essential venues have been allowed to reopen. Its Purchasing Managers’ Index hit 56.3 in March, up from 49.5 in February and it says ‘around 66% of the survey panel forecast an increase in activity over this period, while only 8% predict a fall. This signalled the strongest optimism since December 2006’.



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- **Papa John's** is to be available from a pub for the first time. The company has teamed up with Staffordshire-based pub the Saracen's Head, to offer customers pizza with their pint. From Monday (12 April), pub-goers returning to the public house in the village of Weston, can order Papa John's pizza.
- **Pret** currently has 276 shops operating for takeaway and delivery, and it has announced a further 47 shops will reopen by Monday, with outdoor seating to be offered at as many shops as possible. More of Pret's 389-strong UK estate will open before the end of April, with dates for some of these, such as those travel hubs, to be confirmed. The company said it hopes to have all indoor seating areas at all open shops open from 17 May in line with the government's roadmap.
- **Five Guys** plans to open 48 of its 112 UK sites for outdoor dining from Monday.
- **Wasabi founder DongHyun Kim** has acquired the UK franchise rights to South Korean fried chicken brand Pelicana and is planning four openings this year. Pelicana is South Korea's leading fried chicken brand, operating 1,800 stores across Asia, Australia and the US.
- **Deliveroo:** Goldman Sachs pumped tens of millions of pounds into Deliveroo shares in order to prop up trading of the takeaway app, after investors shunned its market debut. The investment bank bought about £75m of Deliveroo shares – equivalent to a quarter of stock traded in the first two days after the London listing.
- **Honest Burgers, Jollibee, Chopstix, Chilango and The Orange Buffalo** are amongst brands that have announced new openings for the next few months. Chilango is also opening its first delivery kitchen, in Hove.
- **Tesco** is trialling meal box deliveries, with its first products on sale online and in a limited number of stores. The supermarket has developed three meal box options in its Finest range as it looks to benefit from the rising popularity of meal boxes during the pandemic. The collection box comes in three options retailing at £20 for the chicken or confit duck boxes and £25 for the ox cheek.
- **Wendy's, one of the largest burger chains in the US**, is to open a site in Croydon, its first in London since it announced its return to the UK market.
- **The Restaurant Group (TRG)** has announced it will only be accepting walk-in bookings as it opens a number of its Frankie & Benny's, Chiquito and Firejacks sites for outdoor dining on Monday (12 April). TRG said given the "significant demand" for reservations at restaurants with outdoor seating, it has decided to take walk-in bookings only.
- **Italian restaurant chain Doppio Malto** has chosen Glasgow for its first opening in the UK, with the owner citing Italy's connection with the city for the decision – it is the first of 100 planned sites. **WatchHouse**, the Edition Capital-backed coffee concept, plans to open a further six sites in the UK by the end



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