



Macro & Market News

Week 2 2021 – Week ending 15/1/2021



Macro/Economic News

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- **The UK Economy** shrank by 2.6% in November according to ONS. GDP fell by 8.9% in the 12 months to November 2020, compared with an annual decline of 6.8% to October.
- **Scottish Lockdown** rules will change from January 16th banning people from drinking outside and making non-essential click-and-collect orders. People picking up takeaway meals will be barred from entering eateries, instead having to wait outside. Alcohol consumption outdoors in all level four areas of Scotland will be banned, under new regulations, meaning anyone who buys takeaway alcohol must consume it in their own home.
- **In England**, Click and collect services could be banned everywhere apart from supermarkets and “essential retail” under proposals discussed by ministers, The Daily Telegraph has reported. A further £300m would be wiped from the F&B sector if the ban goes ahead according to NPD Group’s calculations.
- **John Lewis** already banned click and collect services from its store, however collection is still possible from Waitrose supermarkets.
- **Travel testing restrictions**, which require all passengers entering the UK to have tested negative for Covid-19 prior to travelling, come into force this week from Friday. They are expected to depress flight volumes even further & boost staycations this year.
- **More travel restrictions:** From January 9th, Israel, Mauritius, Seychelles and Botswana were removed from travel corridor list which means those arriving from these countries will have to self-isolate for 10 days. Entry into England is banned to those who have travelled from or through any southern African country in the last 10 days, including Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Eswatini, Zambia, Malawi, Lesotho, Mozambique and Angola – as well as Seychelles and Mauritius. Travel to the UK from all South America and Portugal is banned from Friday, January 14th.
- **Work from home:** surveys conducted by Deloitte have found that bosses anticipate 25% of the British workforce will continue to work from home even after the covid pandemic has subsided.
- **Eviction bans** in England and Wales have been extended for at least another six weeks in England and by longer than that in Wales.
- **Barclaycard** has reported that British consumer spending fell in December at the fastest rate in six months, with pubs and restaurants especially hard. It says spending in pubs and bars dropped 71% and fell by 65% in restaurants. The BRC has said that half of non-food sales are now made online.
- **PWC**, an accounting firm, expects the economy (GDP) to shrink by -11% in 2020 and envisages growth in 2021 of between +2.2% and 4.8% depending on the pace of recovery.



Market News

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- **Morrisons, Tesco, and Asda** joined Waitrose and Sainsbury's in announcing that they will deny entry to shoppers who do not wear face masks unless they are medically exempt.
- **Deliveroo** is reported set to expand to 100 towns and cities across the UK as it looks to IPO its shares.
- **Paul** brought back its free coffee and tea for NHS and emergency service workers from January 13th 2021. Paul first launched its "free hot drinks for NHS staff" initiative last year from March to July – and has so far supplied more than 5,500 free takeaway coffees and teas to those on the front-line.
- **Franco Manca Pizza** tweeted that from January 10th 'every pizza is £6 when you order online for collection. Until Wednesday (13th Jan 2021)- if you use our order and collect online system OR app, every single pizza is just £6. Only available with pre-orders online'.
- **Burger King** has redesigned its brand including its logo, food packaging and restaurants in order to reflect improvements such as eliminating preservatives. The rebranding is Burger King's first in over 20 years. Burger King earlier this year announced it would remove all artificial colours and preservatives from its signature Whopper burgers as fast food chains are increasingly introducing healthier options to follow consumer tastes.





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