

2 April 2020

GOVERNMENT / STATE NEWS

The Polish economy should be “relatively resilient to the shock from the COVID-19 pandemic,” according to Fitch Ratings, as it affirmed Poland's long-term foreign-currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at A- with a stable outlook.

Employees at workplaces have to maintain a **distance of 1.5m** from each other and be equipped with disinfectants. However, the government has specified today that the order does not apply to those workplaces: (i) where, by nature of the activity, the distance is not possible to be maintained, and (ii) which will provide personal protective equipment for employees. The amendment is available at: <http://dziennikustaw.gov.pl/D2020000057701.pdf>

Polish Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of Science and Higher Education have initiated a cooperation in order to validate effectiveness of Polish coronavirus **diagnostic tests**.

Wig20 +0,62% (update: 17:15 CET)

INDUSTRY

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 businesses all over the world have rushed to examine the **force majeure** clauses in their contracts. The article explaining the concept of force majeure under Polish law at: <https://www.schoenherr.eu/publications/publication-detail/poland-covid-19-as-force-majeure/>

The manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (**PMI**), released by IHS Markit, fell from 48.2 in February to March's 42.4, as the economy is severely hit by the coronavirus outbreak. The index thus recorded its lowest reading since April 2009 and fell further below the 50-threshold, where it has been since November 2018.

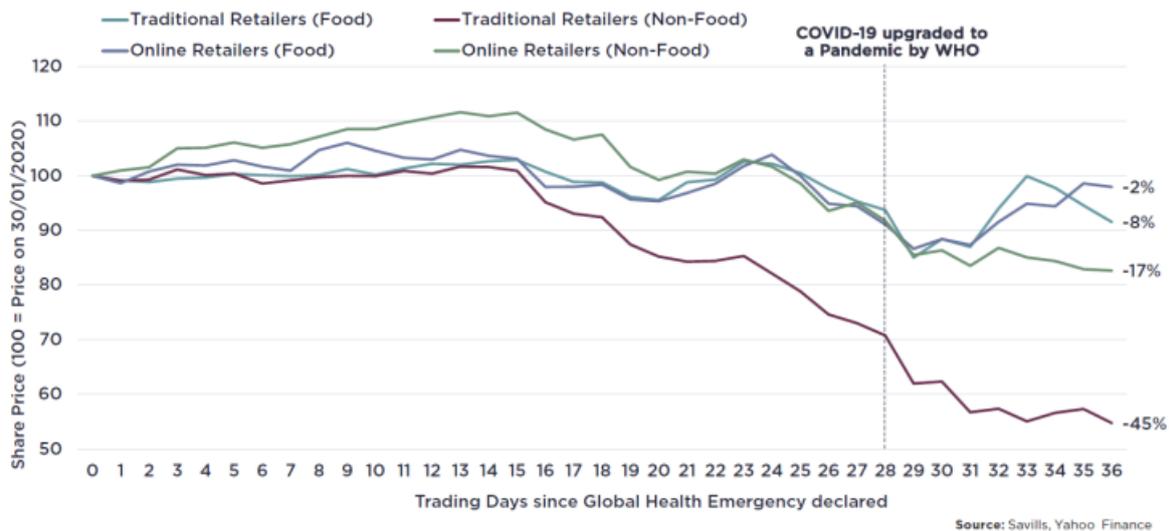
RETAILERS AND SMALL BUSINESS MATTERS

Netto, in cooperation with Galeria Madison, introduced a new service “Cash and Collect” intended for the elderly.

As the coronavirus pandemic rages on, many retailers are seeing trade collapse, but others are overwhelmed by demand. So, what's **booming**?

1. Bicycles and exercise gear
2. Outdoor and indoor games
3. Home and garden items
4. Reading matter
5. Electrical goods
6. Coffee

Equity market response to COVID-19



CIVIL NEWS AND REACTIONS

Epidemiological status in Poland data from 17:00 CET on 02.04.2020

Number of confirmed cases SARS-CoV-2: **2,692**

Number of fatalities: **51**

Number of recoveries: **56**

“Not all heroes wear capes” – great new mural in Warsaw city centre



OTHER

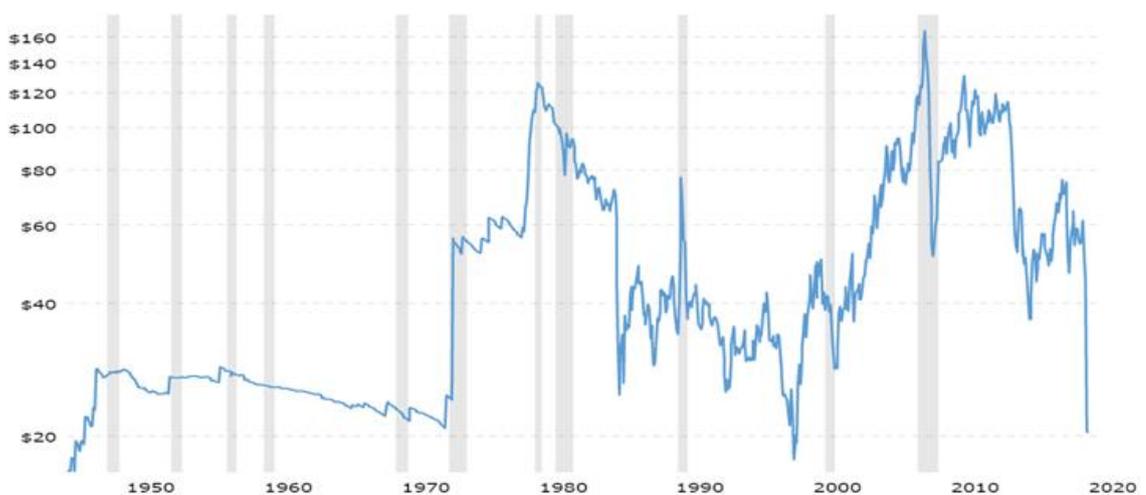
EUROPE

- Wimbledon has been cancelled for the first time since World War Two because of the coronavirus pandemic
- All Champions League and Europa League matches have been suspended "until further notice" by UEFA
- Countries that have not adopted the Euro, or are not pegged to it, have each seen a ca. 10 percent depreciation in currency value, during the period February to March 2020. The Romanian Leu is the exception which has depreciated just 1 percent, largely due to central bank intervention. Therefore, as the majority of leases in CEE are denominated in Euros, this can come as an additional strain to occupiers, particularly those whose income is largely collected in local currencies (CZK, PLN, HUF & RON)

- Air pollution has started to fall in many UK cities in response to the lockdown measures introduced as a result of the coronavirus crisis
- President of the **European Commission** Ursula von der Leyen said that depth and extent of this crisis require a response of unprecedented scale and speed, and announced financial instrument of up to EUR 100 billion to protect against dismissals, as well redirection of all structural funds to combat the crisis caused by the pandemic

WORLD

- The thirteenth annual World Autism Awareness Day is April 2, 2020. Hundreds of thousands of landmarks, buildings, homes and communities around the world come together on April 2 to **Light It Up Blue** in recognition of people with autism and those who love and support them.
- Another iconic American park Grand Canyon National Park is closing to the public due to coronavirus
- British American Tobacco said that its biotech subsidiary, Kentucky BioProcessing, is working on a potential vaccine for the novel coronavirus that can be produced in lab-grown plants closely related to tobacco
- A study of 1918 flu pandemic co-authored by an MIT economist shows cities that responded more aggressively in health terms also had better economic rebounds, link to the article: <http://news.mit.edu/2020/pandemic-health-response-economic-recovery-0401>
- Over the last 75 years, inflation-adjusted oil prices have very rarely been cheaper than today



FINALLY

Exercise during a quarantine



...and vacation 2020 photo
Just back from our cruise. Had a great time.

