



financial services group

TOP STORIES
14 - 18 DECEMBER 2009

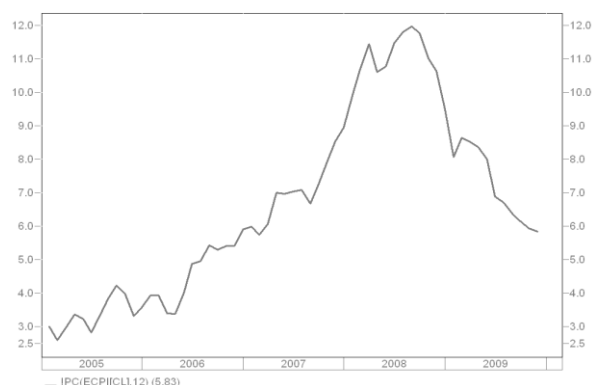
Asset Management

Top Stories

- CPI within target band**
The increase in South Africa's consumer price index (CPI) was up 5.8% year-on-year in November
Source: www.fin24.co.za. 15 Dec 09
- Unemployment rises 1% in third quarter**
South Africa's jobless rate increased to 24,5% of the labour force in the third quarter of this year from 23,6% in the second quarter
Source: Business Day. 15 Dec 09
- U.K. unemployment falls for first time since 2008**
At 7.9 percent, the U.K. jobless rate is below the 10 percent in the U.S. and the 9.8 percent euro-region average
Source: www.bloomberg.com. 16 Dec 09
- European consumer prices rise less than estimated**
Prices in the 16-nation euro region rose 0.5 percent from a year earlier after falling 0.1 percent in October
Source: www.bloomberg.com. 16 Dec 09
- Australian economy grew 0.2% on government spending**
Source: www.bloomberg.com. 16 Dec 09
- Fed holds rates low as weak economy caps inflation**
[The Fed kept its bank lending rate at zero to 0.25%, where it has stood since last December]
Source: Business Day. 17 Dec 09
- Chinese banks hide growing credit risks: Fitch**
Chinese banks are creating a "growing pool of hidden credit risk" through financial moves that shift loans off balance sheets to comply with government capital requirements
Source: www.busrep.cp.za. 18 Dec 09
- U.K. November budget deficit was highest on record**
The British government had a 20.3 billion-pound (\$33 billion) budget deficit in November
Source: www.bloomberg.com. 18 Dec 09
- Regulators shut banks in 4 states**
[The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. took over four banks, bringing to 137 the number of US banks that have failed this year amid the soured economy and mounting loan defaults]
Source: www.fin24.co.za. 19 Dec 09

Top Charts

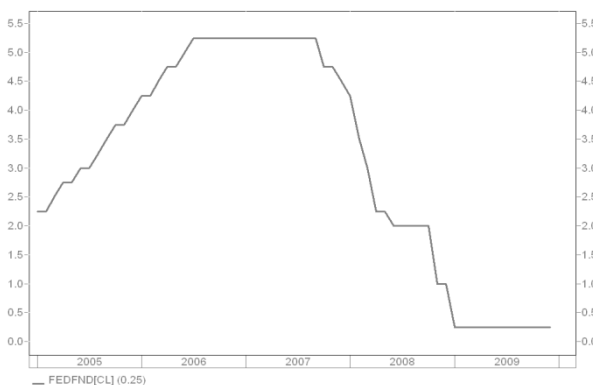
SA CPI, Monthly
Dec 04 - Nov 09



SA Unemployment Rate, Quarterly
Dec 04 - Sep 09



Federal Funds Rate, Monthly
Dec 04 - Nov 09



All charts are sourced from I-Net Bridge.