



OPPORTUNITY

PRIVATE CAPITAL

Economic Snapshot December 2022

LOCAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

- All-Share Index end Dec: 73,597
- All-Share YTD return: - 0.15%
- Market PE ratio: 9.62
- USD/ZAR currently at R16.95/\$ end Dec,
- South Africa 10Y Government Bond yield: Current 10.240%

(Data: Bloomberg; Sharenet; www.tradingeconomics.com.)

NEWS

- China is finally re-opening their borders and embracing life with Covid. It is good for the rest of the world as production, distribution and Chinese travel will support the worldwide economy, but the Chinese population will now have to deal with all the socio-economic effects of having the virus spread. The elderly in China are reported to only have a vaccination rate of 68.2%.
- Russia has intensified its efforts against Ukraine and have started targeting critical infrastructure. Putin has admitted that it will take longer than they estimated.
- As a touch-point for what happened in the world this year, the Bloomberg Billionaires Index reported that the richest 500 people in the world lost a collective \$1.4 trillion.

2022 in the rear-view mirror.

We can all agree that there are a few, well, *choice* words that can be used to describe the year that was. Whichever words you may be tempted to throw in the pot yourself, let's have a look at the words and phrases that drew the world population's attention.

The Oxford dictionary received an overwhelming vote in favour of "Goblin mode", which beat "metaverse" and "#IStandWith" as words of the year.

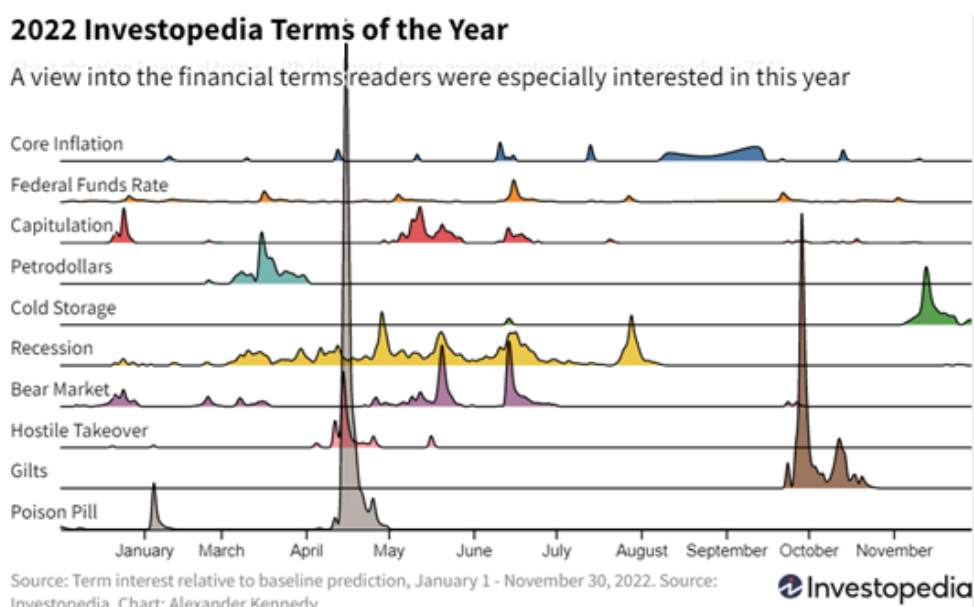
Oxford defines goblin mode as “a type of behavior which is unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly or greedy, typically in a way that rejects social norms or expectations”. While the term first appeared on Twitter in 2009, it grew in popularity over 2022 as a description of the prevailing mood of individuals who rejected the idea of returning to ‘normal life’ after the pandemic.

Merriam-Webster's word of the year was “gaslighting”, beating oligarch, omicron, codify, LGBTQIA, sentient, raid, queen consort and ‘loamy’ (which spiked when it became one of the answers to Quordle). Gaslighting is defined as the “practice of grossly misleading someone”, and actually dates back to Patrick Hamilton’s 1938 play Gas Light in which the protagonist named Jack tries to convince his wife that she’s going insane. Merriam-Webster reports that the word stayed very popular throughout the year and saw a staggering 1,740 percent increase in searches in its online dictionary in 2022.

Investopedia also revealed a few interesting popular phrases, with the top phrase’s popularity accredited to Elon Musk’s use of it, namely ‘Poison Pill’. Poison Pill “is a colloquial term for a defense strategy used by the directors of a public company to prevent activist investors, competitors, or other would-be acquirers from taking control of the company by buying up large amounts of its stock.” The graph below shows the other competitors, of which recession came in second.

With that all said - may 2023 bring better words across all our lips with some good health and success to boot!

GRAPH OF THE MONTH: - How the Investopedia terms of the year fluctuated in popularity.



Source: Investopedia.com

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