

Snapshot	Currency	Closing/ Ref Price	% Change
Equities			
BODCO	SCR	24	-
SACOS	SCR	115	-
SCRF	ZAR	109	-
SHI	USD	1	-
SBL	SCR	65.00	-
FX (Bank rate – notes)			
SCR/USD		13.87	0.08
SCR/EUR		17.18	1.25
SCR/GBP		19.54	2.42
Treasury Bills			
91-day	SCR	3.03	-3.81
182-day	SCR	4.22	-3.21
Commodities			
Crude Oil (Brent)	USD/bbl	70.45	2.37
Gold	USD/t.oz	1348.54	1.29

Ease of doing business index

The Cabinet has expressed disappointment with Seychelles' ranking in the 2018 world ease-of-doing-business index. The recently released report placed Seychelles in 95th place out of 190 countries. Mauritius was ranked 25th while first and second places were taken by New Zealand and Singapore. Cabinet advised that regulatory agencies take all necessary measures to streamline and accelerate procedures to make the Seychelles business environment as efficient as possible. *Seychelles Nation*

Air Seychelles announces business transformation plan to safeguard long-term profitability

The Seychelles archipelago will see a major influx of inbound seat capacity in 2018. To reduce the financial impact of such competition, Air Seychelles will consolidate its international network by suspending its Paris service effective 24 April 2018 and exit the two leased Airbus A330 aircraft out of the fleet. As part of the network efficiency development strategy and considering the high dependence on the Paris traffic feed, the airline will at the same time discontinue its Antananarivo service. *Air Seychelles Website*

Seychelles showcased at tourism trade fair in Spain

The Minister for Tourism, Civil Aviation, Ports and Marine, Ambassador Maurice Loustau-Lalanne led the Seychelles' delegation to FITUR 2018, the International Tourism Trade Fair held in the Spanish capital, Madrid. It was a very busy five days for the Seychelles team – the first three days were dedicated to meetings with travel trade professionals and various media. In 2017, there was a 24% increase in visitors to Seychelles from the Iberian market, which is currently the 17th largest contributor of tourists to the island nation. Spain contributed a lion's share of the business. Last year's increase was immensely supported by both the Spanish and Portuguese trade, as well as the local travel trade in the Seychelles. The importance of the travel and trade show is reflected in the growing number of exhibiting companies from participating countries, trade participants, the general public and journalists recorded each year. The 2018 FITUR had a special focus on sustainability and technological progress, which are key to the transformation of the tourism sector. *Seychelles NATION*

Global unemployment down but working poverty rampant: UN

The global unemployment rate is expected to tick down in 2018, the United Nations said Monday, while warning that far too many workers still live in desperate poverty. The International Labour Organization forecast a worldwide unemployment rate of 5.5 percent this year, a marginal improvement on the 5.6 percent recorded in 2017, thanks to broad economic growth. The study's lead author, ILO economist Stephan Kuhn, pointed out that 40 percent of all employed people in the developing world still live in "extreme poverty". Uneven economic growth and the huge concentration of global wealth in the hands of very few is expected to be a key topic at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, which opens on Tuesday. *Agence France-Presse*