

Prices as at POM Close on Friday		01-Apr-21	% change for the:		
			Week	Month	YTD
Domestic					
KSi Index		6,104.61	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
KSi Home Index		13,312.29	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>PNGX shares (K/share)</i>	<i>Arbitrage</i>	<i>PNGX</i>			
Bank South Pacific		12.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Credit Corporation		1.70	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
City Pharmacy		0.50	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Kina Asset Management Limited		0.90	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Kina Securities Limited	2.53	3.20	0.0%	-1.5%	6.7%
Oil Search Limited	10.84	10.02	0.0%	0.0%	5.3%
Newcrest Mining Limited	66.23	81.50	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Australia					
S&P/ASX 200		6,828.69	0.6%	1.0%	3.7%
S&P/ASX 50		6,591.60	0.6%	0.6%	4.4%
USA*					
DJIA		32,981.55	1.1%	6.7%	7.8%
S&P 500		3,972.89	1.6%	5.4%	5.8%
NASDAQ		13,246.87	2.1%	4.1%	2.8%
Europe*					
FTSE		6,713.63	0.6%	0.9%	3.9%
DAX		15,008.34	2.7%	6.8%	9.4%
CAC 40		6,067.23	1.9%	4.1%	9.3%
Asia*					
Nikkei		29,388.87	2.3%	1.6%	7.1%
Hang Seng		28,795.32	3.2%	-1.5%	5.7%
Shanghai		3,467.85	3.1%	-1.0%	-0.2%
Commodities*					
Light Crude WTI Futures		59.92	2.3%	-6.1%	23.5%
Brent Crude		63.48	2.5%	-5.5%	22.5%
Gold		1,716.60	-0.6%	0.9%	-9.4%
Currencies*					
PGK/USD		0.2850	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
PGK/AUD		0.3782	0.7%	3.5%	2.2%
AUD/USD		0.7536	-0.7%	-3.4%	-2.2%
USD/JPY		110.76	2.1%	3.5%	7.4%
EUR/USD		1.1717	-1.1%	-2.8%	-4.7%
GBP/USD		1.3761	0.4%	-1.4%	1.0%
Ten year Government Bond yields*					
United States		1.73%	0.09%	0.16%	0.81%
Australia		1.84%	0.16%	0.07%	0.87%
New Zealand		1.82%	0.24%	-0.04%	0.83%
Japan		0.12%	0.03%	-0.01%	0.10%
PNG		9.86%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

* Reported as at POM close Friday; Hence North American and European markets Thursday night close.

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Sources: Bloomberg, Reuters, Post Courier, The National, Business Advantage PNG, PNGX Announcements

Domestic

- The Bank of PNG (BPNG) released the bi-annual Monetary Policy Statement (MPS) and the general view of the economic growth was struggling largely due to negative impact of the pandemic and SOE restrictions put in place which affected a lot of business activities in PNG. The government amended the Central Bank Act to increase the advance facility limit from K300 million to K1.5 billion as a means of assisting the government with its cashflow difficulties during 2020 up to now. According to the Central Bank Governor, Loi Bakani, this substantial increase in the advance facility limit has posed challenges to monetary policy management. Key projections for 2021 in the MPS include, CPI inflation of 4.5%, gross international reserves of K8.9 billion, total import cover of 6.7 months, GDP growth of 2.5% and Budget Deficit of K6.6 billion.
- The Minister for ICT, Timothy Masiu, announced that a new mobile network carrier will be coming to market by end of this year. Digitech Communications Limited (Digitech) will be rolling out its communications network in preparation for launch this year. Minister Masiu said that a third mobile network operator will bring much needed competition to the communications industry which could benefit consumers in PNG. The Minister also added that with Digitech coming to market, their presence could trigger regulated tower sharing pricing and mobile number portability in the following year.
- The Independent Consumer Competition Commission (ICCC) announced that they have received an authorization application from Kina Securities Limited (KSL) on its proposed acquisition of Westpac's Pacific business. The CEO for ICCC, Paulus Ain said that their final determination would come after they assess the impact on competition and benefits that could come from this acquisition. This will be done through public consultation process where submissions from stakeholders and the general public will be reviewed before a decision is made under the ICCC Act.
- Ok Tedi Mining has pledged K20 million to help PNG curve the current COVID-19 wave. Ten million kina will be given to the Port Moresby General Hospital and the other K10 million will help in the procurement, distribution and rollout of the COVID vaccine in Western Province.
- In an interview with Business Advantage, Toyota Tsusho PNG (Ela Motors) spoke of the impact of the pandemic on its core operations and what the vision is for Ela Motors during this difficult economic times. Ela Motors CEO, Mitsuyoshi Okutu said that the restrictions and new measures put in place by SOE controller has prompted the business to invest in its digital capacities to continue maintaining its relationship with clients by upgrading their website and developing online communication with customers through the Simple Notification Service (SNS) stream. Ela Motors has also developed new procedures to deal with covid19 transmission and ensuring business continuity. Operations will see new dealership facilities in Lae and Goroka while existing sites are being planned for redevelopment.
- The Nasfund Contributors Savings and Loans (NCSL) has announced the results of its 2020 financial year. NCSL total assets are K256.8 million – 11.3 per cent more than the previous year. Total revenue increased 13.9 per cent to K32.2 million and, despite 2020 being a turbulent year for employees, member's savings increased 11.2 per cent to K219.5 million.
- Nambawan Super Limited (NSL) announced their financial results this week stating a net profit of around K89 million for 2020 financial period resulting in a crediting rate of 1.0%. NSL Chairman, Reg Monagi said that the fund returns were severely affected by the covid19 pandemic which saw difficult economic conditions that negatively impacted valuations on its key investments in PNG; including SP Brewery, OPH properties and Westpac PNG. Key highlights for the year include; net asset value of K8.1 billion, net profit of K89 million, 1.0% interest crediting rate, total member contributions of K893 million and fund membership of 207,986.
- This week's Treasury Bill overall auction results was undersubscribed by K12.62m from the total K235.9m offered. The weighted average yields for 182, 273 and 364 days remained unchanged at 4.39%, 6.04% and 7.20% from the last auction. There were nil offers for 63 and 91 days.
- Both Kina Securities Index and Kina Securities Home Index remained unchanged from the prior week at 6,104.61 and 13,312.29 points respectively

International

- U.S. markets had closed out the quarter with gains - the S&P 500 rose 5.8% and the Dow Jones 7.8% over the three months - however the 4.1% quarterly rise in world stocks was the slowest since the recovery from last March's meltdown had begun. This has come with growing concern about hiccups in the vaccine rollout and a fresh wave of coronavirus infections, particularly in Europe where on Wednesday France ordered a third national lockdown.
- The S&P/ASX 200 index closed up 0.6% at 6,828.70, with gold and technology stocks leading the gains. Both Australian and New Zealand markets are closed on Friday and Monday for Easter holidays.
- The pan-European STOXX 600 index inched down 0.1% to 430.4 - trading below its pre-pandemic peak of 433.9. The benchmark was on course to end March with a 6.4% rise and the first quarter with an 8% gain.
- China stocks rose on Thursday, led by consumer and healthcare shares, even as investors appeared to have shrugged off a survey showing weaker-than-expected factory activity growth in the world's second-largest economy.

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