

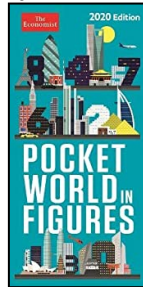
Covid-19: Where we are at; where to from here? Part 1 of 4 April 2020

☀ Late 2019 bliss

The cover of The Economist's [The World in 2020](#), (editorial close November 5, 2019), cleverly features

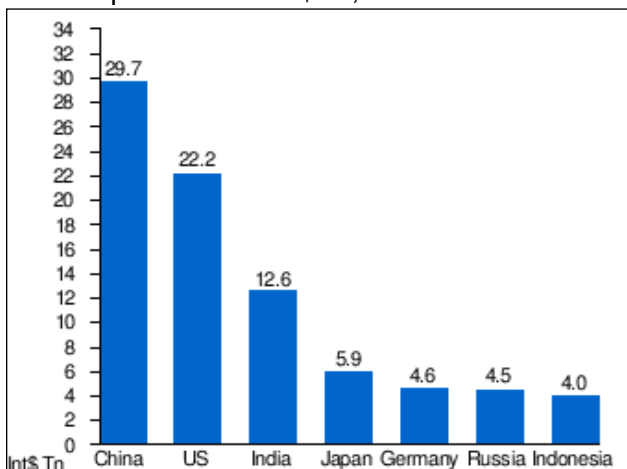


Covid-19
Worldometer



a word-search puzzle,

consisting of the dominant factors estimated to impact the upcoming year. The annual bestseller "[Pocket World in Figures](#)", 2020 Edition, distills thousands of studies into numbers-at-a-glance snapshots of a wide range of useful data – demographic, economic, environmental, health, and more: most endangered species; countries with the uppermost and least number of women who use modern methods of contraception; top cinema attendance (India then China lead the USA); largest clusters of octogenarians and older; incidence by country of diabetes, murders, imprisonment. A favourite among economists and financial experts – is the top ten GDP by PPP (Purchasing Power Parity), based on the concept of an International dollar. Canada is 17th at equivalent to US\$1,764.



Largest economies by GDP PPP in 2020 according to [International Monetary Fund](#) estimates.

☀ Early 2020 blindsided

At the close of Q1 2020, Covid-19 has wreaked havoc on the world, conspicuous in its absence from all global and local economic forecasts, health statistics and healthcare predictions.

☀ A frame of reference for 2021

While some may dismiss the aforementioned references and other such statistics as at best, irrelevant, and at worst useless, they will provide a benchmark for business in particular, and life in general, as it was BC (Before Covid). Will the GDP-by-PPP have shifted, and if so, in what way, due to which factors? Are the three leading GDP-by-PPP countries still the top three in cinema revenue, or will have physical distancing protocol – enforced through either public health mandates or social morals – marked an end to this popular stream of mass entertainment, or its affordability? Have theatres become re-purposed into testing clinics as the Covid virus continues to spread, or returns in a mutated form? Will future mass seating, from opera halls to sports stadiums, consist of staggered rows of blast-disinfected seats placed two metres apart? Will the sharing of popcorn have become taboo?

☀ Meanwhile: agri-food Q1 2020

A [Statistics Canada Covid 19 report](#) pegs grocery sales up 38% year-over-year. [Food prices rise](#) as demand surges during the Northern Hemisphere low-harvest period of spring. Production shifts adjust to physical distance rules, and systems are put into place to protect food, workers and animals from Covid contamination. [Buy local](#) gets the boon it has long awaited, as protection measures slow exports and imports. An exacerbated agriculture labour shortage sparks a desperate plea for workers to consider the many benefits of [agri-food jobs](#), with provinces ([Ontario keeps food on the table](#)) upping the ante. The government of Canada is lifting some travel restrictions (except for the mandatory 14-day quarantine) for the [50,000 foreign migrant workers](#) who annually and reliably toil in the farms and fields of Canada. [Imperfect fruit and vegetables](#) are on offer at relatively lower prices, as retailers relax specifications in response to reduced supply. Both the [CFIA](#) and the [FDA](#) have temporarily suspended full retail food labelling on institutional containers for maximum 90 days, to move the dormant restaurant sku's that pile up in warehouses onto the retail shelves that swiftly deplete and/or sit empty. **FF**