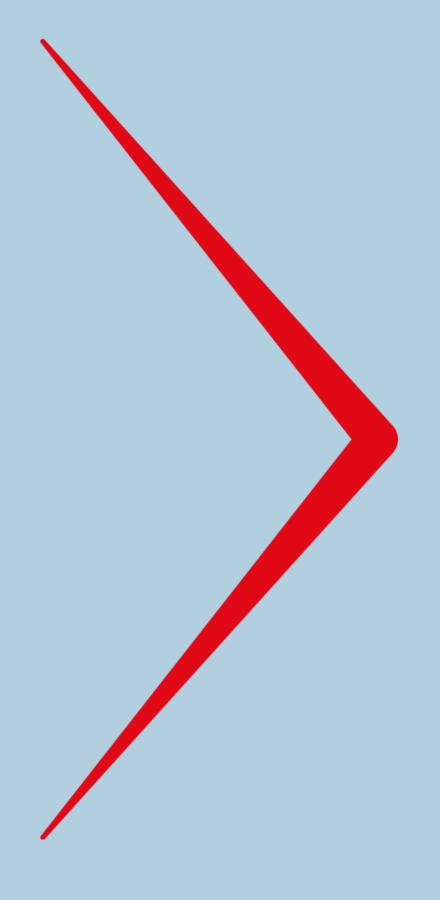
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Economic update

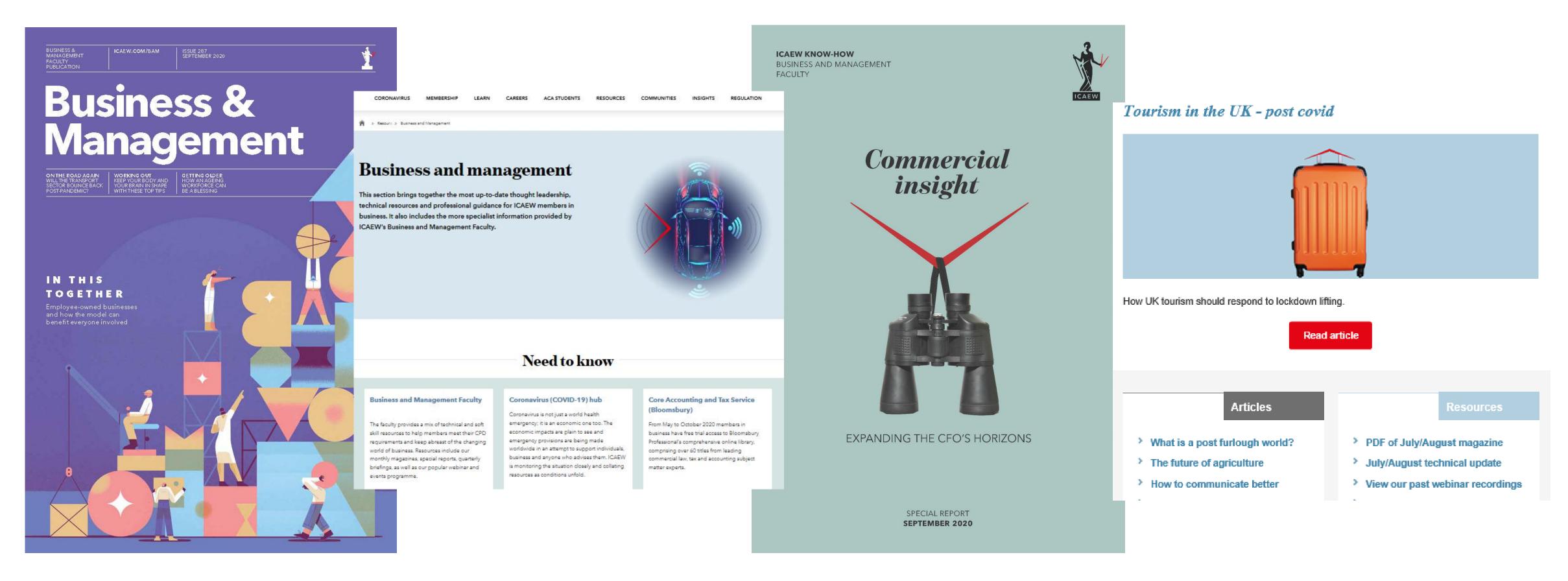
DR STEPHEN DAVIES

Today's presenter



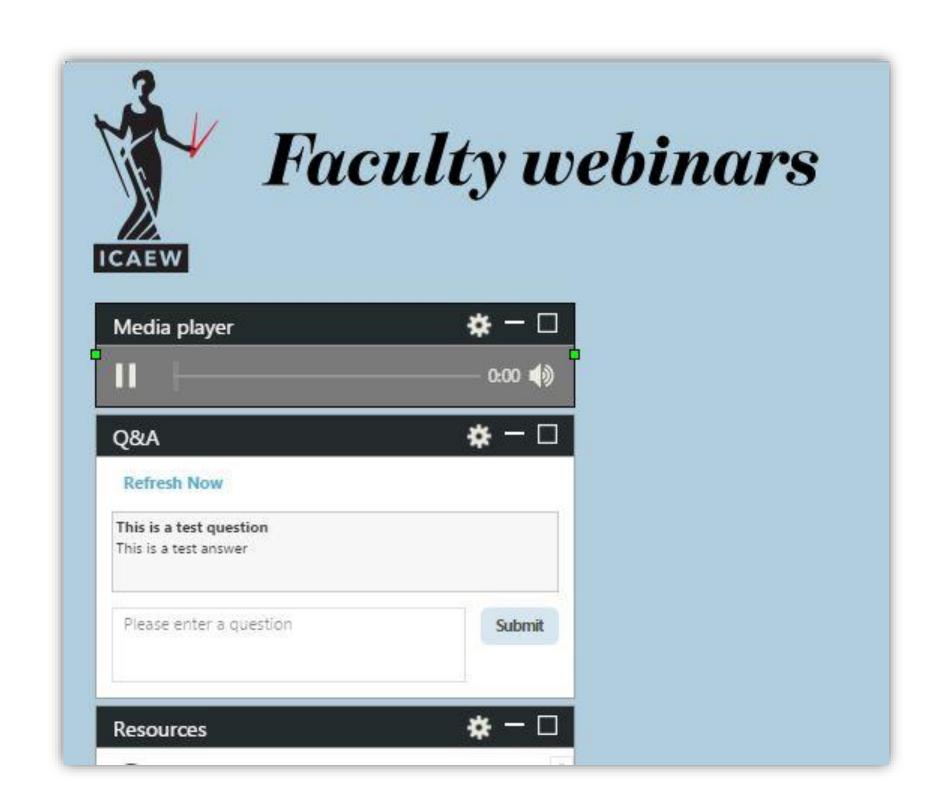
Dr Stephen Davies

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ICAEW 2021

State and Prospects for the UK Economy After the Pandemic.

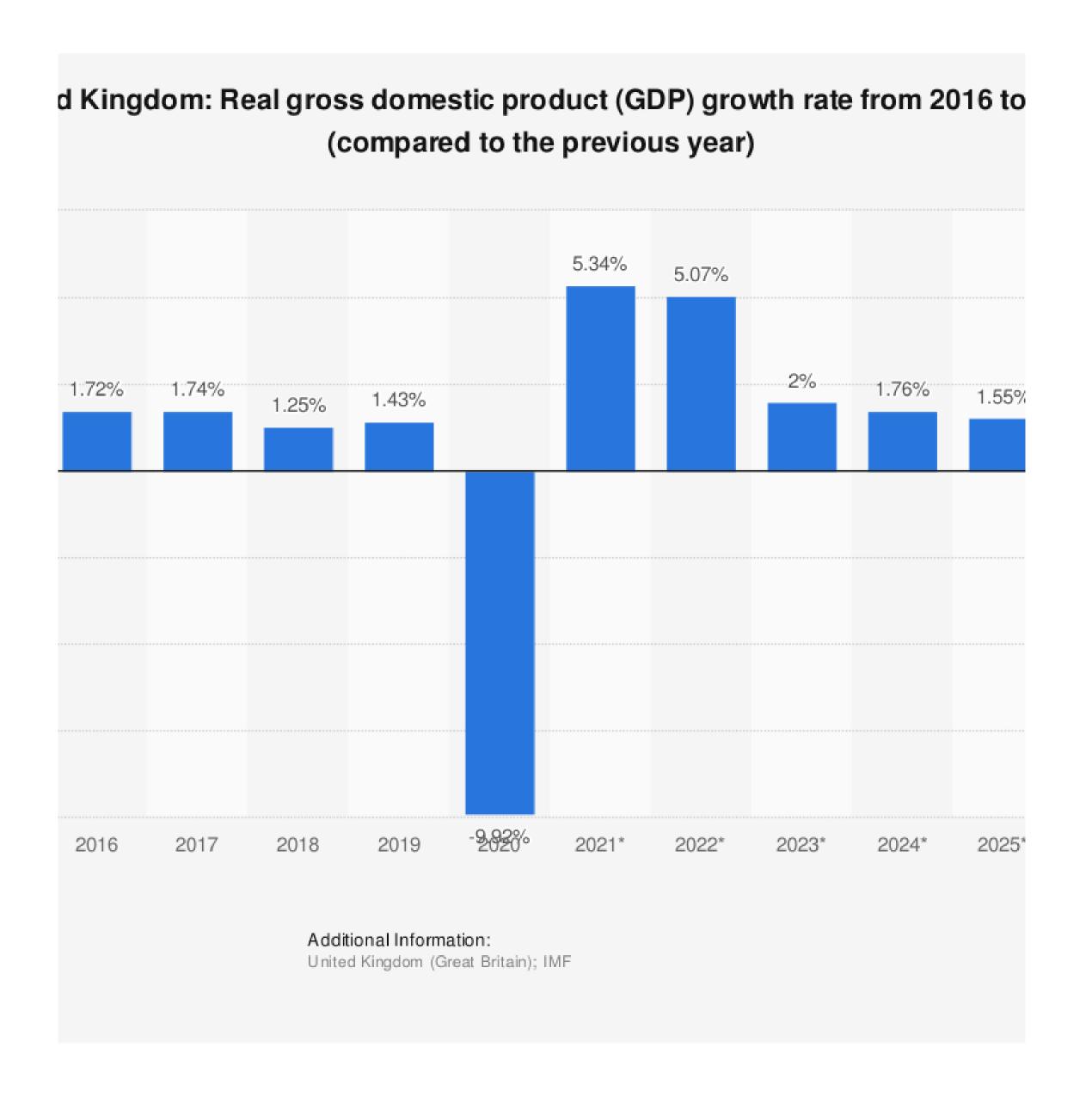
The Main Points.

- Covid-19 has had a major impact but it is important to understand the nature of it.
- The Government's response and current policy posture influences the aftermath.
- There will be a very strong bounce back over the next 12 18 months.
- This will be accompanied by inflation and significant labour market tightening.
- The big questions are will this persist and what will central banks do?
- Also significant and rapid reconstruction of the labour market and several sectors.
- Problem for CBs is that have to navigate between two serious bads.
- Meanwhile global impacts of C-19 will only become apparent over the next 18 months.

Covid-19

Impact & the nature of That.

- MAJOR hit to GDP in 2020 and Q1 2021.
- BUT
- NOT your typical demand led recession.
- Ultimately supply-side driven (a premodern one).
- Means economic activity suppressed.





The Covid Hit - Nature.

Impact of the Government Response.

- Much activity deliberately shut down.
- But incomes protected through furlough. Plus huge M4 expansion.
- Result large scale net saving.
- So pent-up demand.
- Accelerated change and restructuring of the economy.
- This will all burst out once the restraints are lifted.
- A lot of:activity; gains and losses; winners and losers.
- A good time to be an investor but also a risky one. Good for accountants!

The Rebounding Economy.

Short-term prospects good.

- BoE predicts rapid and strong recovery this year. (7.25% annual GDP growth)
- KPMG 6.6 % in 2021, 5.4% in 2022.
- NIESR 5.7% in 2021, 4.5% in 2022.
- Statista 4.0% in 2021, 7.3% in 2022.
- Deloitte 6.6% in 2021, 5.4% in 2022.
- So broad agreement.
- Well above long-run trend (as you'd expect).
- Personally I expect something around the BoE figure and slightly less next year in real terms.

It's Back!

The Return of Inflation.

- Huge increase in money supply.
- NOT like previous QE.
- Broad money growth not narrow.
- Has gone to a different recipient set
- So very different Cantillon effects.
- Everyone now expecting an inflation spike.
- Question is how big? How long?



Another Return.

The revival of labour market power.

 Signs already of significant tightening in the labour market.

- This has several causes. Crucially much of it will be structural.
- So going to be sustained. A major shift. A squeeze on profits?



The Conundrum.

Central Banks Between Scylla and Charybdis.

- When inflation rises what will Central Banks do?
- Initial call will be to sit tight. Expectation is that a spike will be minor and temporary.
- But the bigger it is and the longer it lasts the greater the danger of it accelerating.
- At some point they will raise interest rates. But a problem.
- NOT with government debt for at least a decade.
- A real problem with private debt. Problem of causing an asset collapse. Makes sense to have a few years of inflation.
- But do you really want that genie out of the bottle?

A New Economy?

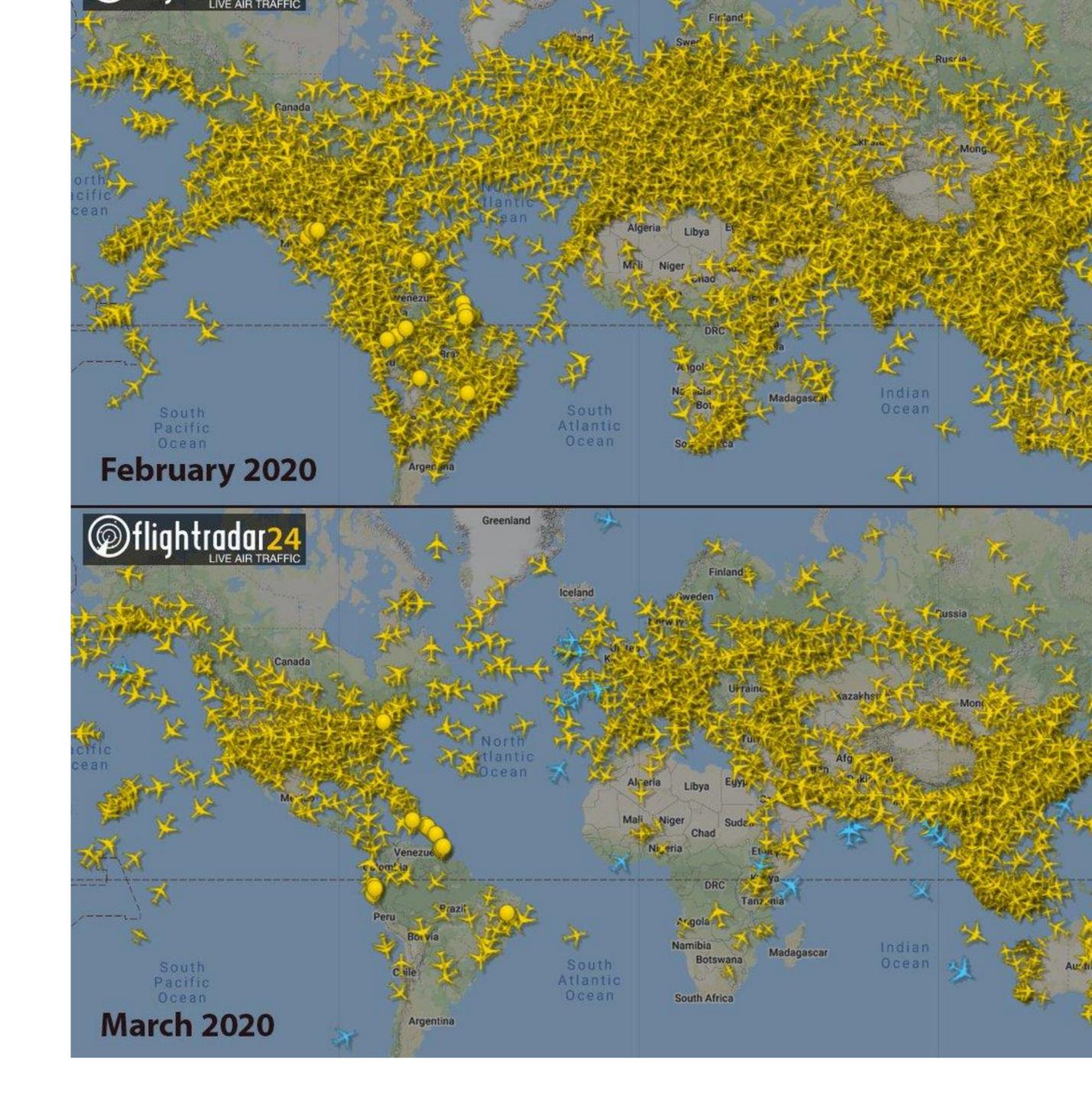
Restructuring & Reorganisation.

- The pandemic has accelerated processes already under way.
- Major shift of work organisation and patterns.
- Big sectoral shifts.
- Winners (e.g. Hello Fresh)
- Losers (e.g. Debenhams)
- Regional effects Peak London?



Global Factors.

- The impact of the pandemic on the world economy will only become clear 18 months from now.
- China still mostly cut off.
- Impact on long-distance travel still unclear.
- Ditto supply chains.
- As domestically, major winners and losers.



Some Parting Thoughts.

Expect a General Election no later than Spring 2023. Maybe even Autumn 2022.

• A lot of 1980s headlines revisited. A different outcome?

A good and risky time to be an investor.

A good time to be an accountant.

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