BT Infographic

Measuring the impact of the Wuhan virus

FOR nearly two weeks now, the Wuhan coronavirus has jolted investment sentiment, casting a pall on Chinese New Year (CNY) festivities in Asia. The outbreak, which claimed more than 300 lives and caused over 14,000 cases of infection, has been labelled a global health emergency by the World Health Organization (WHO). As at 6pm on Feb 2, close to 350 patients have also recovered from the viral infection.

Since last Friday, Singapore temporarily closed its doors to all Chinese passport holders – except for those who reside in the city-state – and visitors who were in mainland China in the past fortnight. The decision was announced shortly before a 47-year-old woman who had been in Wuhan became the first Singaporean diagnosed with the virus.

For many, the Wuhan virus outbreak has rekindled memories of 2003's Sars (severe acute respiratory syndrome) epidemic. Compared to 2003, Chinese authorities have moved quickly to contain its spread, with Wuhan under lockdown since Jan 23 even though five million individuals left the city for the CNY holidays before that.

While the death toll and total infection figures for the Wuhan virus are rising quicker than Sars, the mortality rate for the Wuhan virus (2 per cent) is for now lower than that for Sars (10 per cent).

That said, the effect on the region's economy could be worse than in 2003. China is a bigger driver of the global economy today and the regional service sector relies on Chinese consumer spending more than before.

Over in Singapore, listings with sizeable exposure to China and those related to tourism and leisure have taken a hit. These include:

- Sasseur Reit, which closed its four outlet malls in China since Jan 27
- Straco Corp has temporarily closed three attractions in China – they contribute about 73 per cent of annual revenue – since Jan 25
- CapitaLand, which closed 6 malls in China while having shorter operating hours its remaining 45

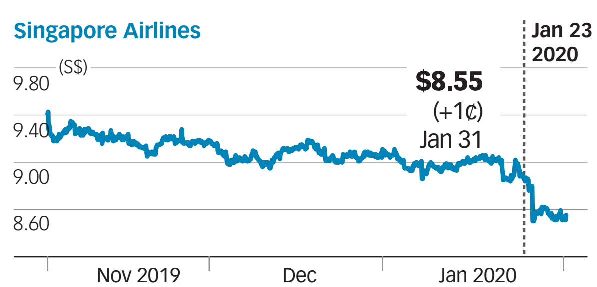
Shares in national carrier Singapore Airlines closed at S$8.54 last Thursday, its lowest since end-April 2009. CapitaLand, which earns 42 per cent of revenue from China, gave up its January gains last week. Investors have also piled into healthcare-related listings such as Top Glove. ***BY NAVIN SREGANTAN***

Top 25 companies by exposure to China

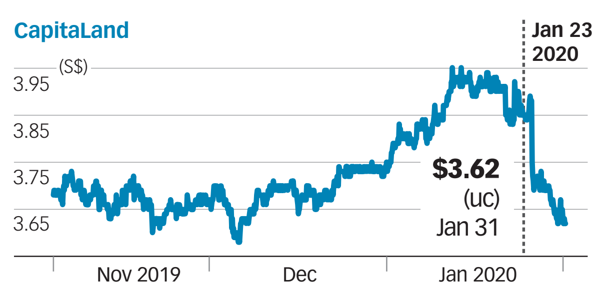
NO.	COMPANY	% REVENUE FROM CHINA
1	Ali Pictures	100
2	BHG Retail Reit	100
3	Bund Center Investments	100
4	CapitaLand Retail China Trust	100
5	China Everbright	100
6	Dasin Retail Trust	100
7	EC World Reit	100
8	Sasseur Reit	100
9	SIIC Environment	100
10	Tianjin Zhongxin	100
11	Yanlord Land Group	100
12	Ying Li International	100
13	Sunpower Group	91
14	Lung Kee Holdings	85
15	First Sponsor	74
16	Straco Corp	73
17	HPH Trust	66
18	Perennial Real Estate	65
19	China Aviation Oil	63
20	China Sunsine	62
21	Elec & Eltek	61
22	YZJ Shipbuilding	61
23	Wilmar International	56
24	HI-P International	51
25	CapitaLand	42

Note: Based on companies with minimum market cap of S$200 million

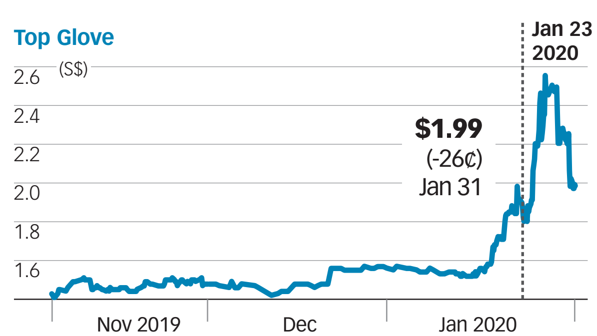
Singapore Airlines



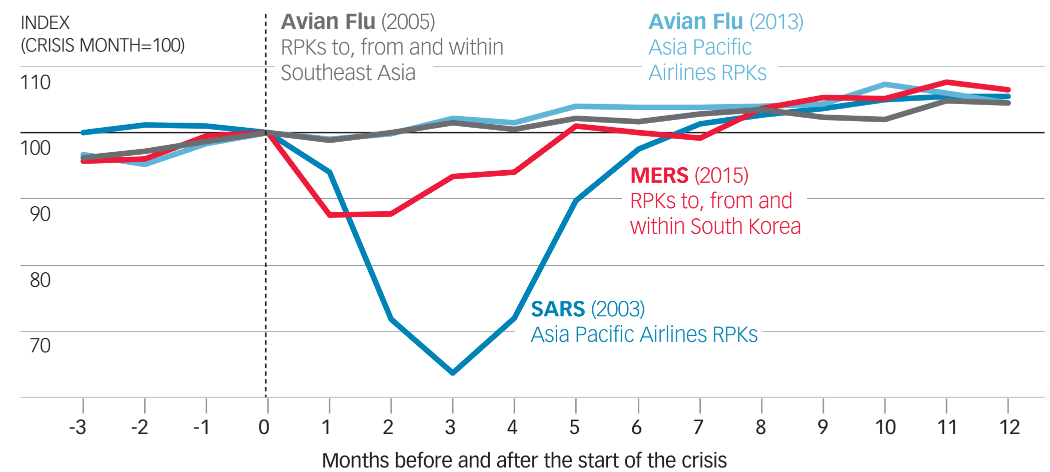
CapitaLand



Top Glove

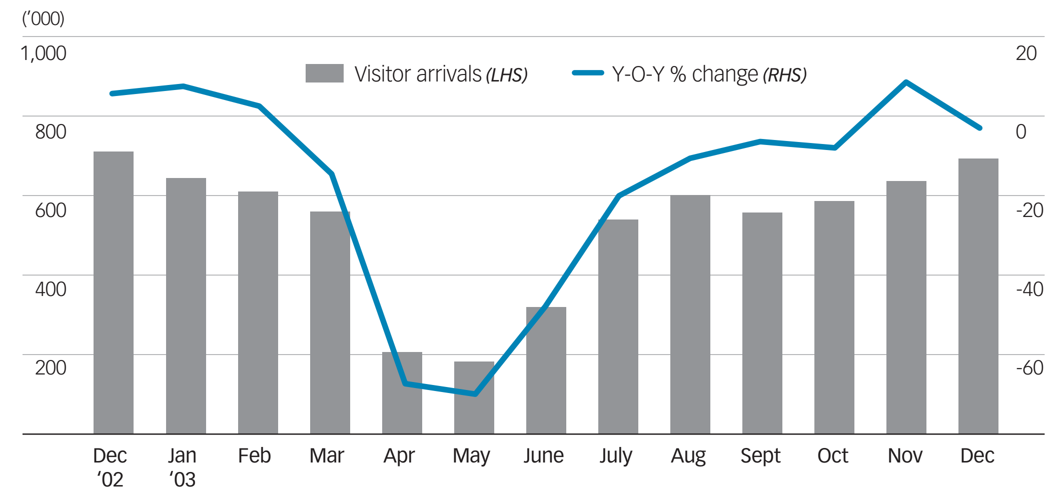


Impact of past outbreaks on the aviation industry

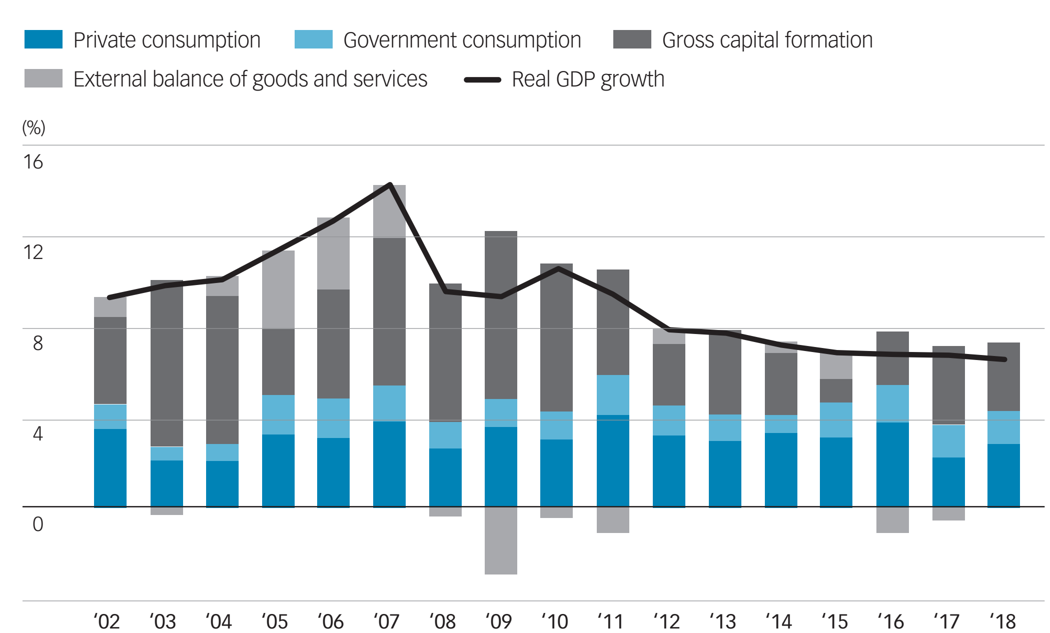


Note: Revenue Passenger Kilometres (RPKs)

Tourism levels in Singapore fell close to 70% year-on-year at the peak of Sars



Consumer demand is now a key driver of China's economy



Source: Bloomberg, IATA Economics, CEIC, STB, International Monetary Fund and Moody's Investors Service BT Graphics: Mohamad Khairie Rahmat, Teoh Yi Chie