



**Read the passage and choose the correct words or phrases from the list to fill in the blanks.**

Markus' Profit Falls Amid Covid 19

DAVID E.GOLD, AUSTRIA

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Markus, one of the leading clothing retailers in the country, saw a sharp ..... in ..... of 20% in the second quarter amid a market downturn. An .....\$110 million loss was reported due to decreased ..... , and Covid 19 outbreak. Markus' spokesperson, Thomas Riddle said, "Consumers have lost confidence, and we don't expect it to pick back up until the pandemic ends. However, the government is taking some measures to boost the economy and we expect to ..... by the end of this year. He also said that 10 of Markus stores in Vienna are closing over the next three months to ..... operating expenses by \$20 million as part of its recovery plan. The company stock dropped nearly 15% after the announcement was made.