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Monthly Economic and Financial Markets Report
MAY 2026



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Global Economy



Global Economy: IMF's Economic Review and Forecast

Impact of US – Iran War

- Surge in crude oil and gas prices due to supply shock from Middle East
- Disruption in supply of fertiliser and other critical raw materials for manufacturers
- Possible increase in manufacturing costs and food prices

Global Economic Growth Projection – International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- Global economic growth to drop slightly to 3.1% in 2026 from 3.4% in 2025
- Nigeria is among few countries that will record stronger growth in 2026 than in 2025
- US economy is also expected to grow faster in 2026 than 2025
- India economy remains the fastest-growing among large economies
- Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa remains strong in 2026

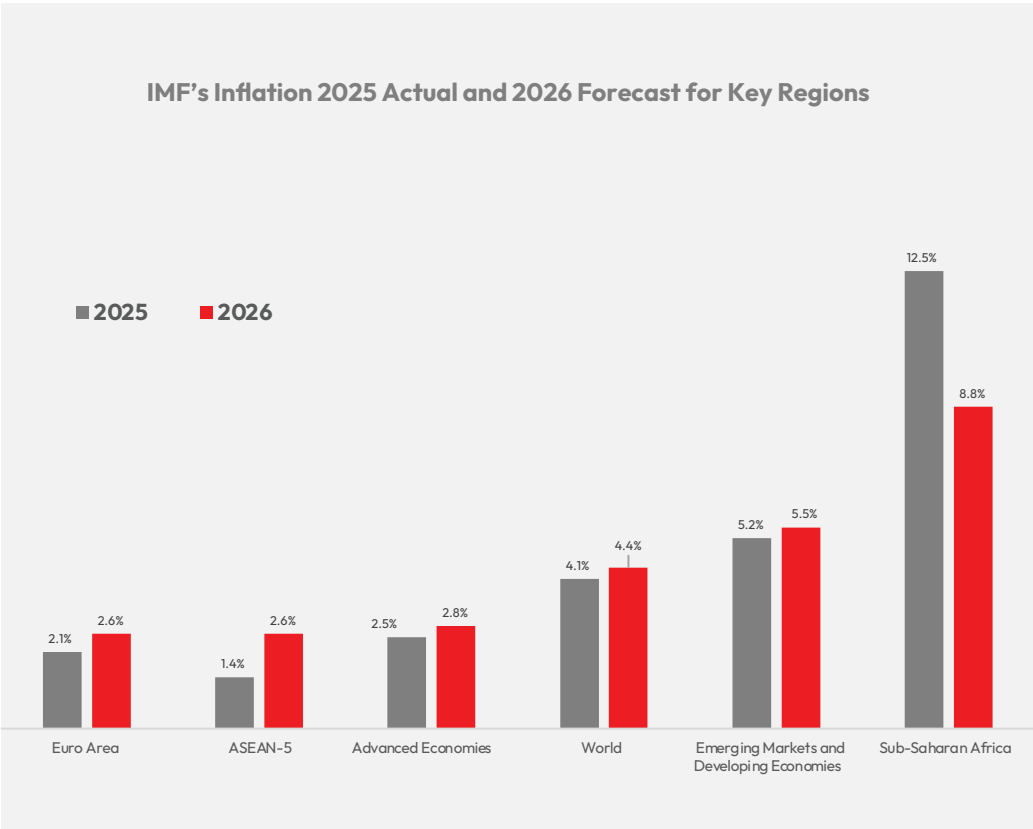
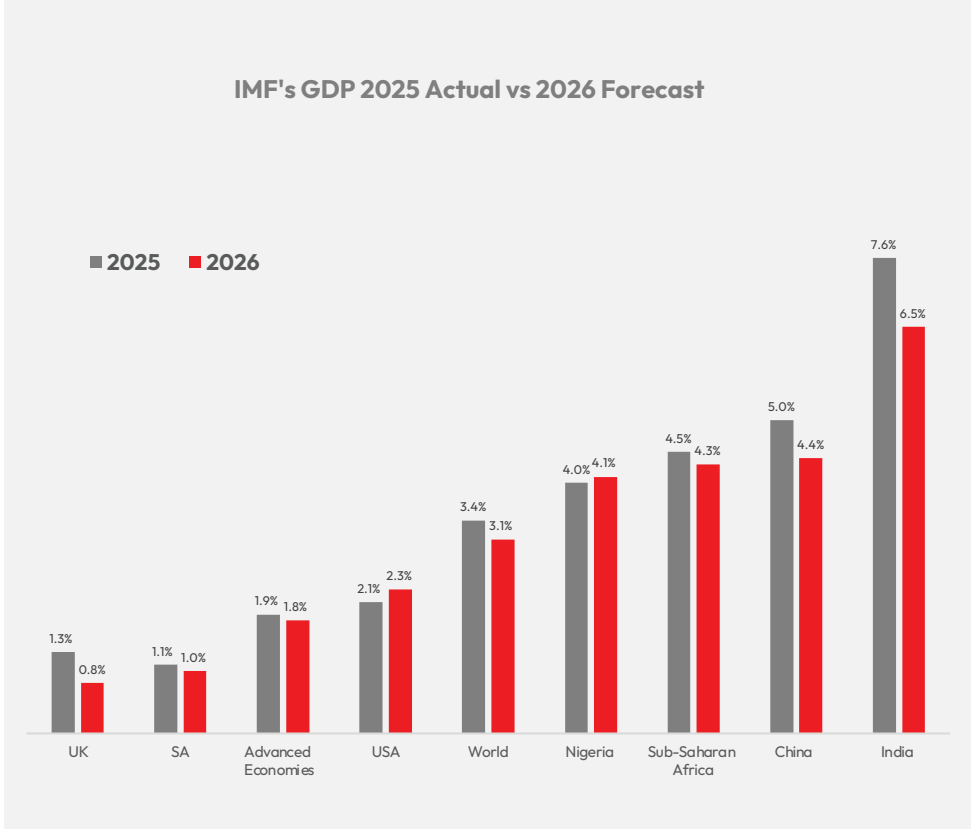
Global Inflation Rate Could Rise

- Inflation rate is expected to increase higher in 2026 than in 2025 in most regions
- However, in Sub-Saharan Africa it is expected to drop in 2026 compared with 2025
- Inflation in advanced economies is expected to increase in 2026 from 2025 level

Major Central Banks to Adopt Tight Monetary Policy Stance

- The monetary policy stance by major central banks will remain tight
- This is to enable them tame inflation rate
- This may keep yields on fixed income securities high

GLOBAL ECONOMY: REVIEW AND OUTLOOK



- Most of the countries had downward revision from January 2026
- Nigeria GDP expected to grow faster in 2026 than in 2025
- Nigeria is among the few countries with stronger growth forecast in 2026 than in 2025
- This means that after the current middle east crisis, the country should be a great investment destination

GLOBAL ECONOMY: RECENT INFLATION TREND IN SELECTED COUNTRIES

Recent Inflation Rate Trends in Selected Countries				
S/N	Countries	February 2026	Current	Change
1	Ethiopia	9.70%	11.70%	2.00%
2	Egypt	13.40%	14.90%	1.50%
3	Morocco	-0.60%	0.90%	1.50%
4	Togo	0.40%	1.60%	1.20%
5	Kenya	4.40%	5.60%	1.20%
6	Euro Area	1.90%	3.00%	1.10%
7	United States	2.40%	3.30%	0.90%
8	India	2.74%	3.40%	0.66%
9	Senegal	0.80%	1.40%	0.60%
10	Nigeria	15.06%	15.38%	0.32%
11	Niger	-10.10%	-9.80%	0.30%
12	United Kingdom	3.00%	3.30%	0.30%
13	Japan	1.30%	1.50%	0.20%
14	Mali	0.60%	0.70%	0.10%
15	Ghana	3.30%	3.40%	0.10%
16	South Africa	3.00%	3.10%	0.10%
17	Guinea Bissau	-3.50%	-3.50%	0.00%
18	Algeria	3.01%	3.01%	0.00%
19	Burkina Faso	0.80%	0.80%	0.00%
20	Cote d'Ivoire	0.30%	0.30%	0.00%
21	Tanzania	3.20%	3.20%	0.00%
22	Benin	-0.10%	-0.40%	-0.30%
23	China	1.30%	1.00%	-0.30%
24	Angola	13.35%	12.42%	-0.93%

Recent Inflation Rate Trends in Selected Countries

- Inflation rates in most regions, which slowed through February 2026, began rising again from March 2026

- This follows the US–Iran war, driven by higher crude oil prices

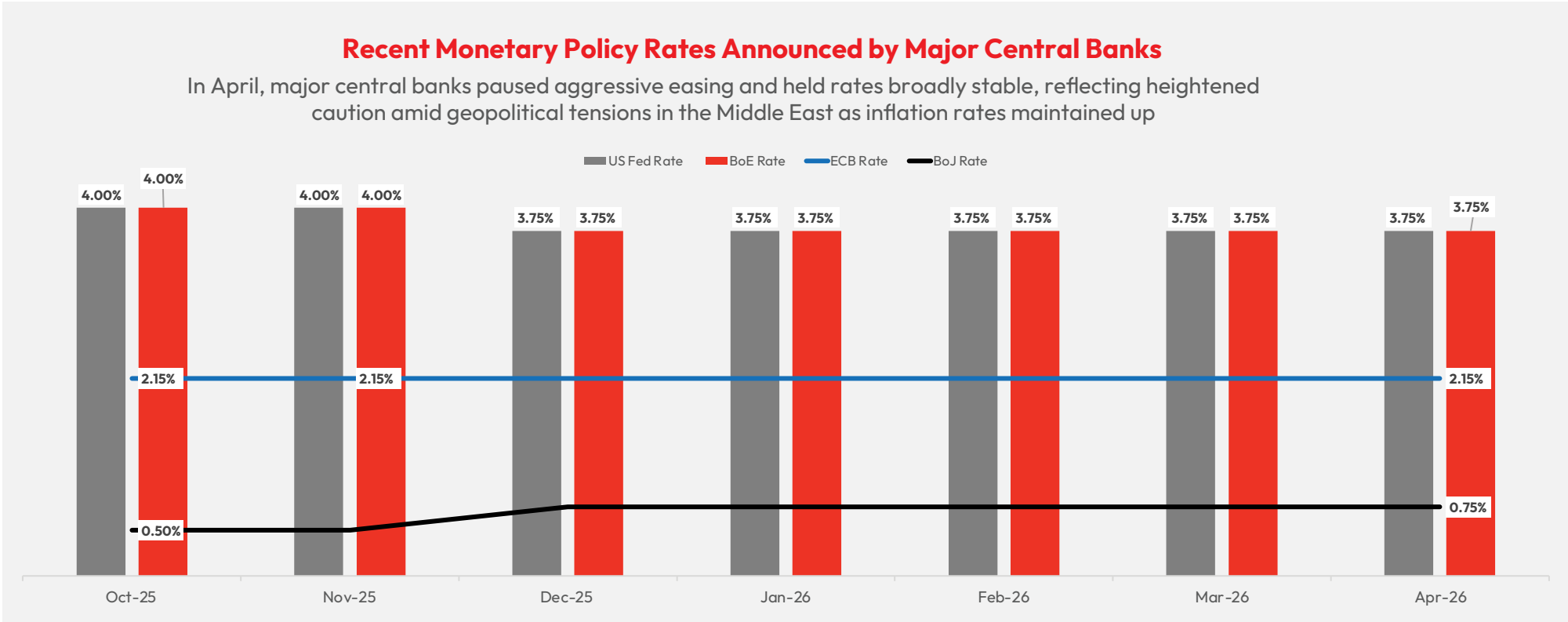
As a result, many countries

- shifted their monetary policy stance from easing to holding

Meanwhile, some countries are

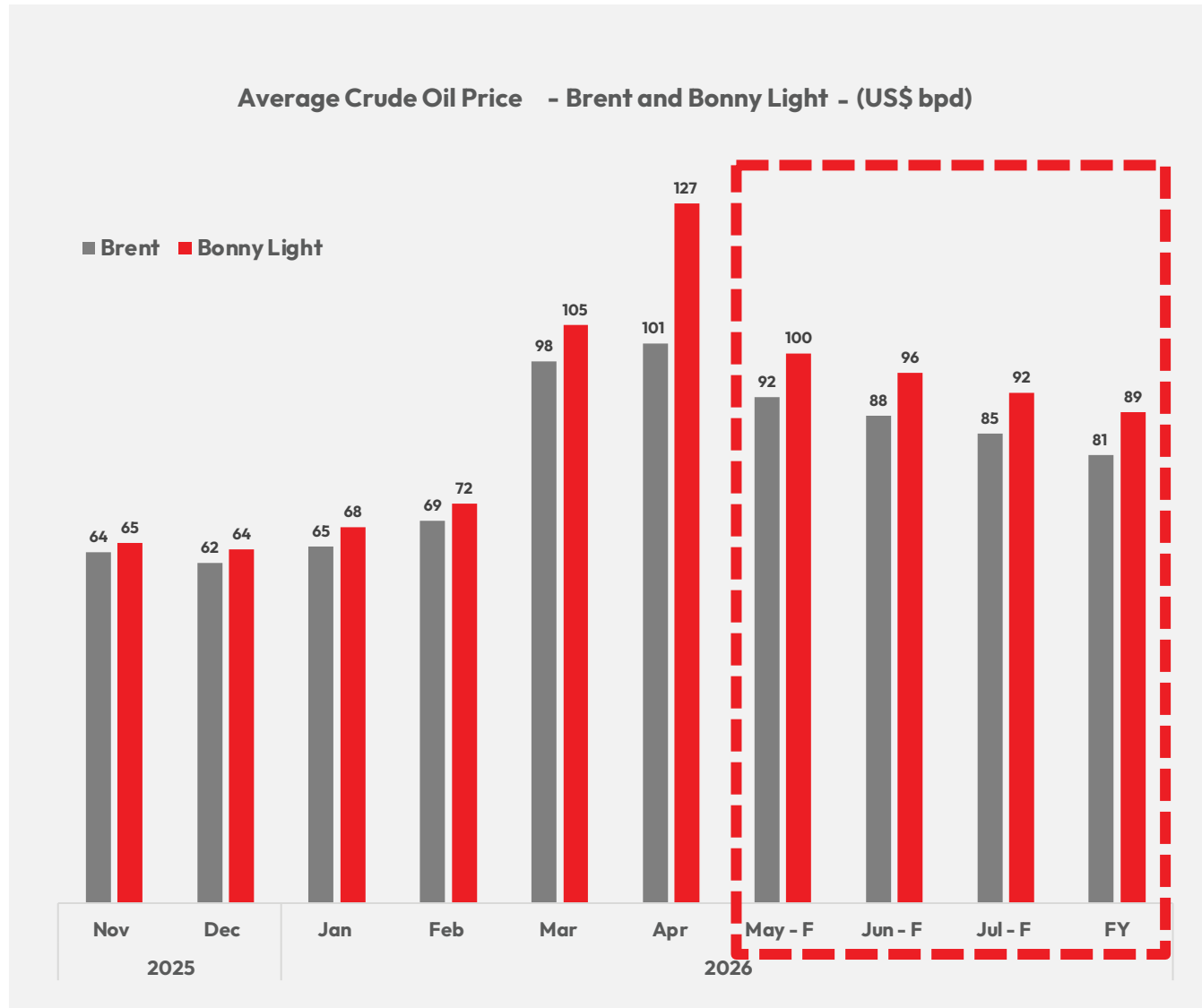
- considering interest rate hikes to curb inflation

GLOBAL ECONOMY – MONETARY POLICY TREND



- Central banks paused easing, holding rates broadly stable into April
- The European Central Bank front-loaded cuts (from 2.65% in October to 2.60% in November, before maintaining it at 2.15% in December), then paused
- Fed and BoE stable (3.75% - 4.75%) amid uncertainty.
- BoJ tightened sharply (0.10% → 0.75%), then held
- Policy stance is now cautious, with expectation of cuts delayed by inflation and geopolitical risks

GLOBAL ECONOMY – CRUDE OIL PRICE



Crude Oil Prices

- Oil prices spiked sharply in April with average Bonny Light price peaked at US\$127/b from US\$105/b in March
- Average Brent increased to US\$101/b from US\$98/b in March
- Our revised average Bonny Light crude price forecast in 2026 is US\$89/b
- Oil price may likely drop sharply in May 2026 as the crisis in Middle East softens
- Average crude oil price in H2 2026 is expected to be lower than the crude oil price in Y1 2026
- However, the inflation rate within the next 3 months should rise, this will not allow Central Banks to lower policy rate
- This is because of the lagged impact of the rising energy prices

GLOBAL ECONOMY - CURRENCY PAIRS – ACTUAL VS OUTLOOK

Q2 and Q3 2026 Forecast of Key Currency Pairs

Currency Pair	April 30	Q2 2026	Q3 2026	Key Drivers of the Forecast Rates
Euro/US\$	1.1732	1.1890	1.2027	The value of Euro appreciated against the Dollar between April and March and this may continue in Q2 and Q3 2026, supported by a narrowing US rate premium, improving global risk appetite, and stabilising Euro Area fundamentals
US\$ /JPY	156.58	152.97	151.01	The value of Yen appreciated against the US\$ between end of March 2026 and end of April 2026. This should continue in the short term. The Bank of Japan's gradual tightening cycle—should support a stronger Yen
GBP/US\$	1.3605	1.3479	1.3524	The value of US\$ has depreciated over the closing level in Q1 2026. We expect this trend to continue in Q2 and Q3 2026. The stabilising US monetary policy stance, together with the prospect of gradual Bank of England tightening, are likely to narrow the interest-rate differential over time. A moderation in global uncertainties—such as improving energy market conditions or easing geopolitical pressures—could soften safe-haven demand for the US\$, thereby creating room for a depreciation
US\$/NGR	1,374.94	1,367.12	1,341.27	The value of Naira has appreciated over the closing level in Q1 2026. We expect this trend to continue in Q2 and Q3. Geopolitical tensions involving Iran are expected to ease as 2026 progresses, which could reduce pressure on the Naira. In addition, FX liquidity is projected to improve in Q3, supported by stable oil flows, stronger IMTO inflows, and ongoing CBN reforms. All these will be positive for investments in Nigeria

GLOBAL ECONOMY: REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Commodities Price Monitor as of April 30, 2026

Commodity	Unit Price	Price (US\$)	MTD	Drivers
Oil Crude – Bonny Light	US\$/bbl	128.13	(5.52%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bonny Light prices declined as easing Middle East supply concerns reduced geopolitical risk premiums
Oil Crude – Brent	US\$/bbl	114.01	(3.67%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prices eased as fears of prolonged supply disruptions in the Middle East and expectations of a gradual resumption of Strait of Hormuz flows reduced geopolitical risk premiums
Gold	US\$/toz	4,629.60	(1.05%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prices edged lower due to profit-taking after recent record highs, although persistent inflation, geopolitical tensions, and strong safe-haven demand continued to support prices
Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)	US\$/MMBtu	2.767	(4.06%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prices declined due to softer demand, domestic oversupply in the US, and shifting global gas trade flows, despite ongoing geopolitical supply disruptions
Coffee	US\$/lb	285.55	(4.29%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decline was driven mainly by expectations of stronger Brazilian output and improving weather conditions, which boosted global supply outlook
Copper	US\$/lb	5.9805	6.53%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prices rose, supported by strong Chinese demand and improving industrial activity, alongside tightening global supply conditions
Cocoa	US\$/MT	3,569.00	8.15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prices surged, driven by persistent supply shortages in West Africa amid weak harvests and structurally tight global output. Higher logistics costs from geopolitical disruptions further intensified upward price pressure

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A golden globe of the Earth is shown against a dark background. The globe is illuminated from the right, highlighting the continents of Africa, Europe, and Asia. A red banner is overlaid on the left side of the globe, containing the text "Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)".

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

Sub-Saharan Africa: Real GDP and Inflation

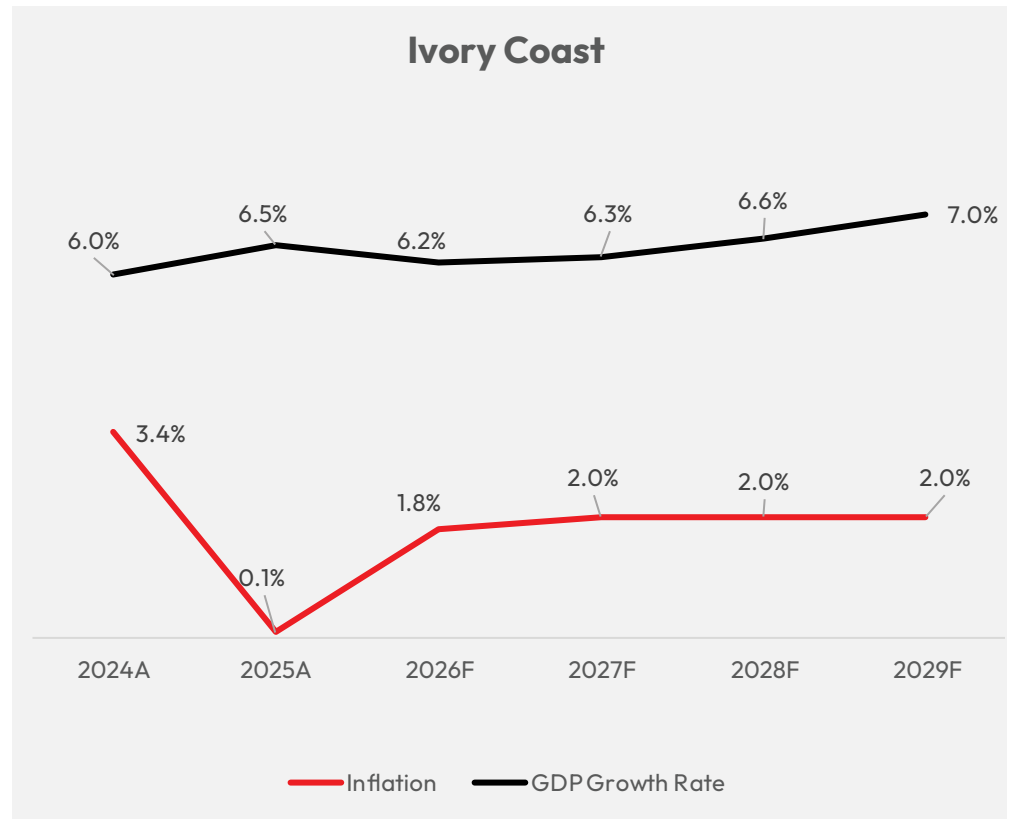
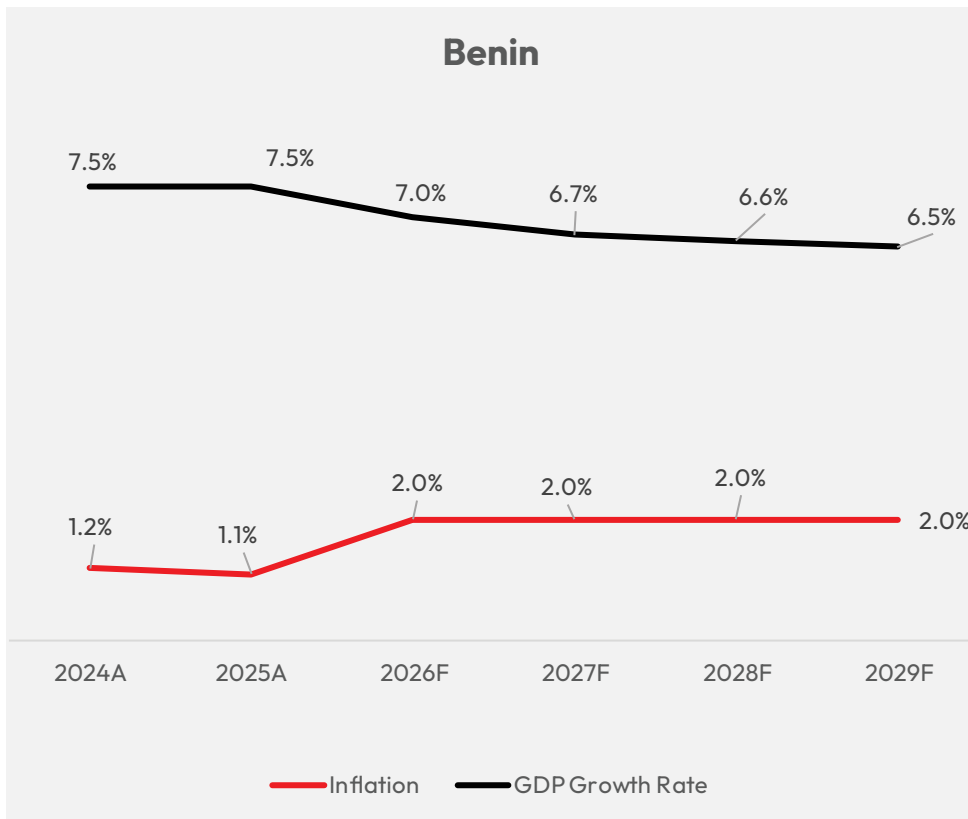
	Real GDP (%)			Inflation (%)		
	Actual	Projections		Actual	Projections	
	2025	2026	2027	2025	2026	2027
Sub-Saharan Africa	4.5	4.3	4.4	12.5	8.8	8.8
Oil Exporters	4	3.7	4	21.3	14.6	14.5
Nigeria	4	4.1	4.3	23	16	15.9
Angola	3.1	2.3	2.6	20.2	12.9	12.8
Gabon	2.5	2.7	2.8	2	2.5	2.4
Chad	5.6	5.2	4.9	(2.6)	0.5	3.9
Equatorial Guinea	(6.4)	-2.7)	(1.3)	2.8	3.2	2.9
Middle -Income Countries	3.5	3.2	3.4	4.5	4.3	4.3
South Africa	1.1	1	1.3	3.2	3.9	3.4
Kenya	4.9	4.5	4.7	4.1	5.9	5.9
Ghana	6	4.8	4.9	14.2	5.8	7.8
Côte d'Ivoire	6.5	6.2	6.3	0.1	1.8	2
Cameroon	3.1	3.3	3.8	3.4	3.5	3.2
Senegal	7.9	2.2	2.3	1.4	2.5	2.2
Zambia	3.8	4.3	4.7	13.9	9	8
Low-Income Countries	6.5	6.6	6.4	11.1	6.6	6.8
Ethiopia	9.2	9.2	7.9	13.2	11.8	10.7
Tanzania	5.9	5.9	6.1	3.3	4	4.3
D.R. Congo	5.7	5.9	5.4	7.4	3.3	6.4
Uganda	6.7	7.5	8.2	3.6	4	4.9
Mali	4.9	5.5	5.7	2.3	2.2	2
Burkina Faso	5	4.9	4.8	-0.5	1.5	2.1

- Economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa is projected to remain broadly stable, moderating slightly from 4.5% in 2025 to 4.3% in 2026
- Inflationary pressures are expected to ease 2026 compared with level recorded in 2025
- Oil-exporting economies are likely to support overall SSA regional growth
- The outlook suggests resilient but uneven macroeconomic conditions
- Nigeria, Ethiopia, Uganda and Mali, are among the countries that are expected to record strong GDP growth in 2026 than 2025
- We expect investment to flow to the countries with expected growth in 2026

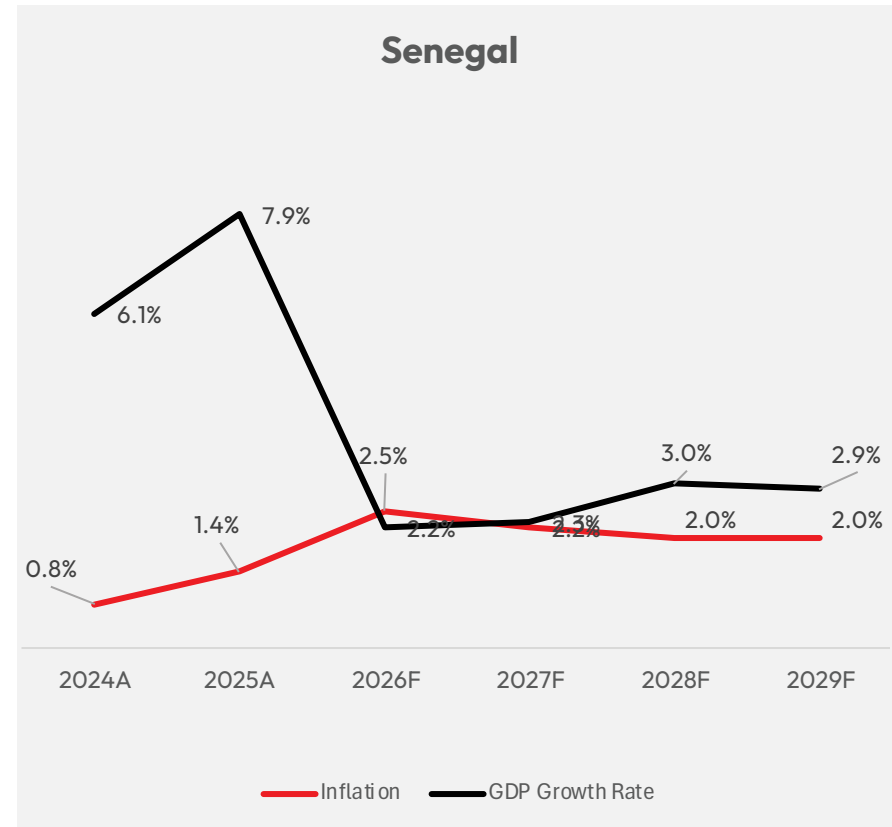
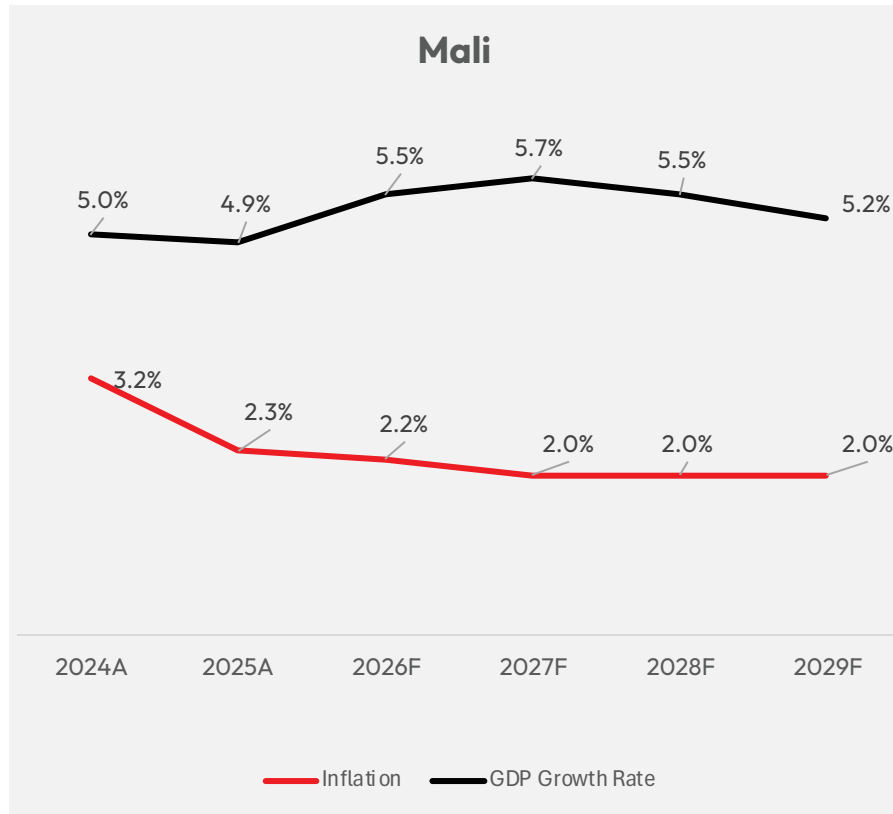
West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)



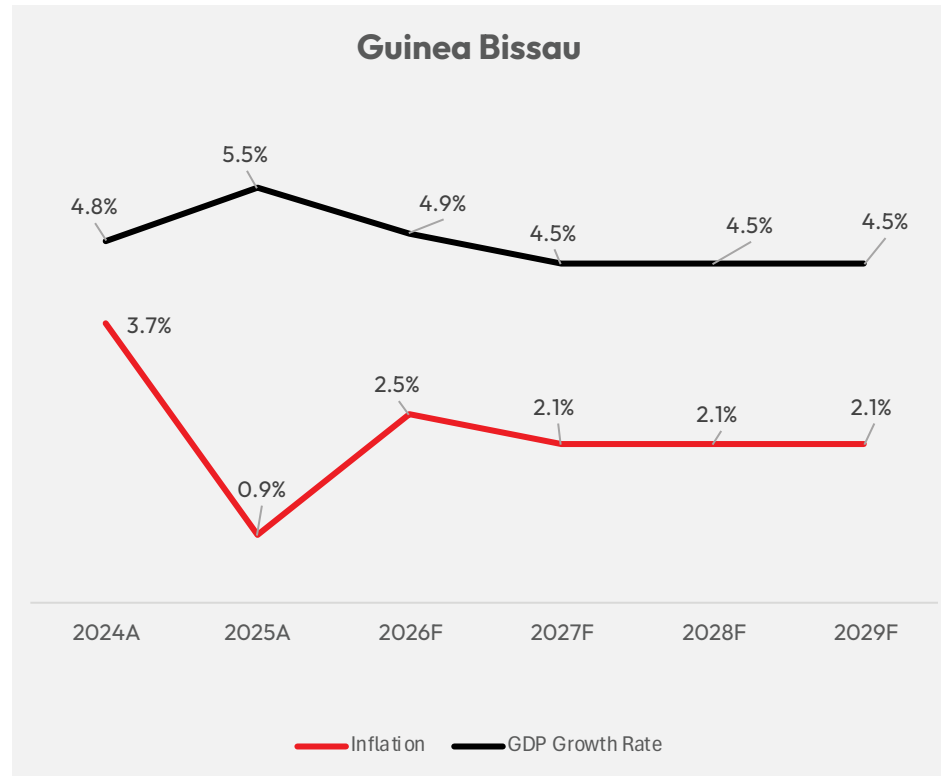
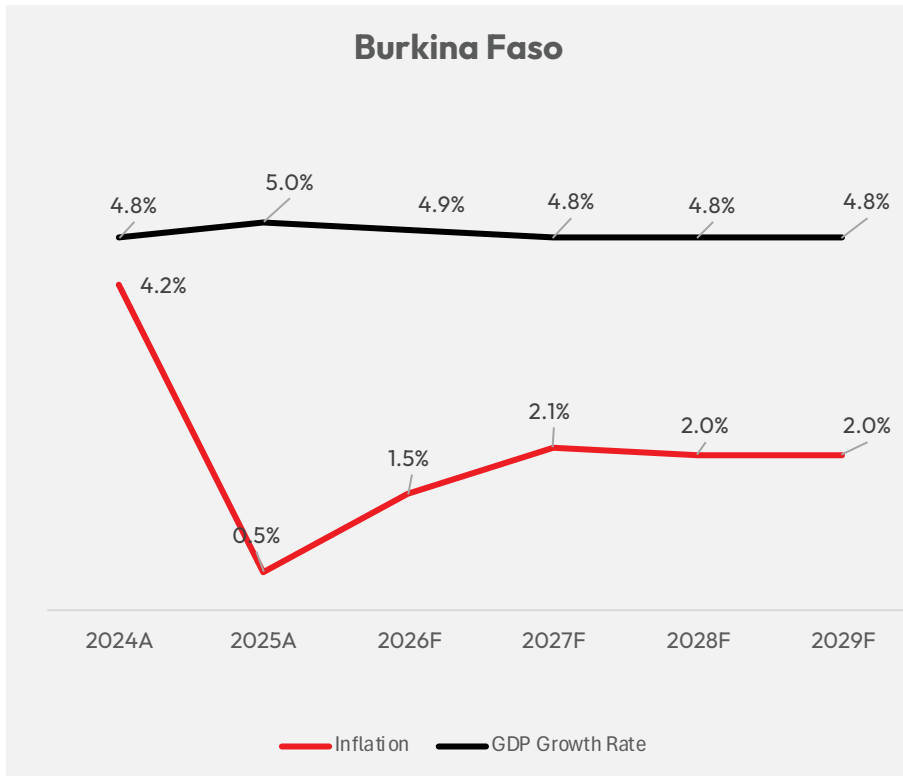
WAEMU Region: Strong GDP Growth Outlook With Moderate Inflation



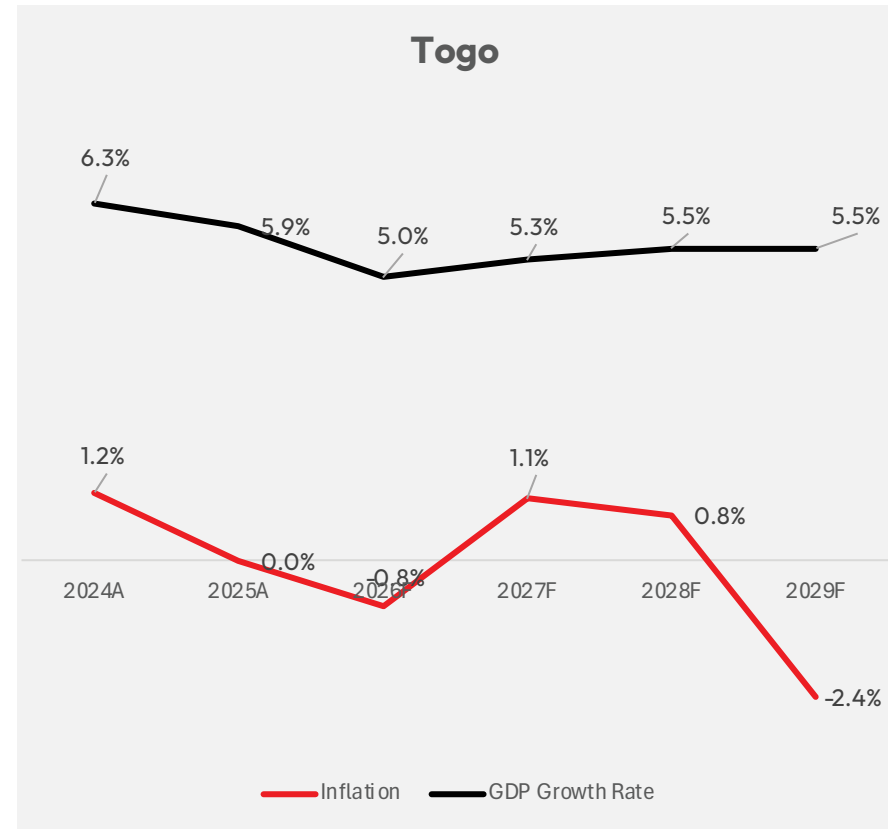
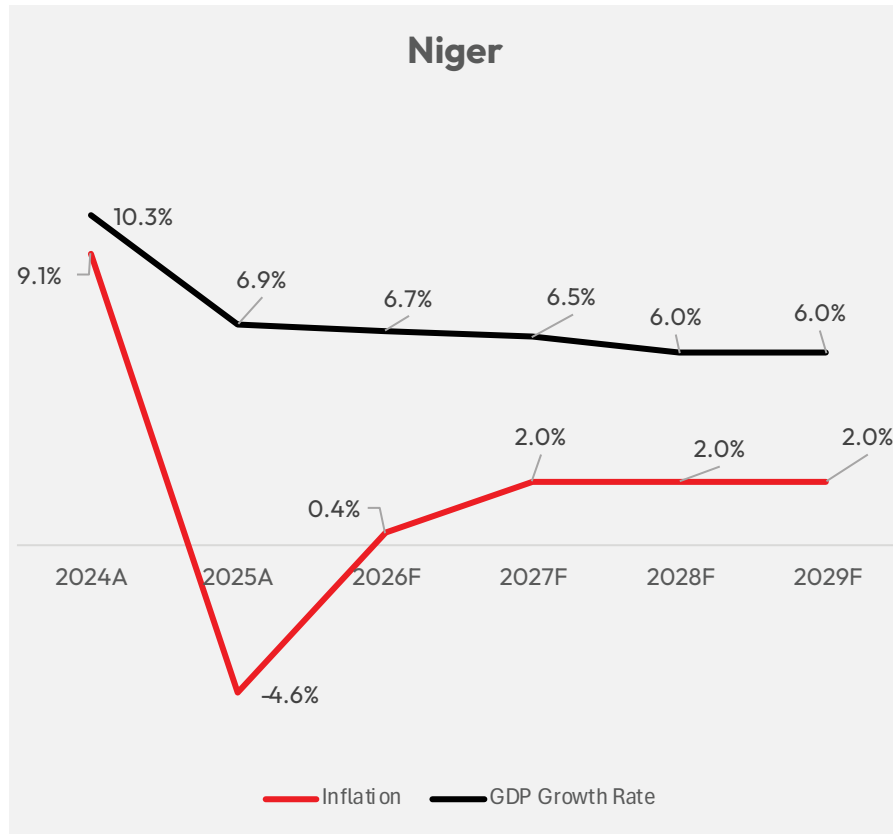
WAEMU REGION: STRONG GDP GROWTH OUTLOOK WITH MODERATE INFLATION [CONT'D]



WAEMU REGION: STRONG GDP GROWTH OUTLOOK WITH MODERATE INFLATION [CONT'D]



WAEMU REGION: STRONG GDP GROWTH OUTLOOK WITH MODERATE INFLATION [CONT'D]



WAEMU REGION

Growth Resilience Amid Rising Inflation Risks Dominate the Outlook in Short-Term

Strong GDP growth across the WAEMU region continues to support the near-term economic outlook. However, rising inflationary pressures—partly driven by the U.S.–Iran conflict and elevated global energy prices—are limiting the scope for monetary easing. Consequently, interest rates are expected to remain broadly stable rather than decline, as Central Banks prioritise inflation containment while sustaining growth momentum. At its most recent meeting held on April 28–29, the Federal Market Open Committee (FOMC) maintained its policy rate, reflecting a cautious and data-dependent stance

GDP Growth Rate and Consumer Prices – Actual and Forecast in WAEMU Region

	Countries	GDP Growth Rate					Inflation Rate				
		Actual		Forecast			Actual		Forecast		
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
1	Benin	7.50%	7.50%	7.0%	6.7%	6.0%	1.20%	1.10%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
2	Burkina Faso	4.80%	5.0%	4.9%	4.8%	4.90%	4.2%	-0.50%	1.50%	2.10%	2.00%
3	Côte d'Ivoire	6.00%	6.50%	6.20%	6.30%	6.50%	3.40%	0.10%	1.80%	2.00%	2.00%
4	Guinea -Bissau	0%	5.50%	4.90%	4.90%	4.20%	3.70%	0.90%	2.50%	2.10%	2.10%
5	Mali	5.00%	4.90%	5.50%	5.70%	5.20%	3.20%	2.30%	2.20%	2.00%	2.00%
6	Niger	10.30%	6.90%	6.70%	6.50%	6.00%	9.10%	-4.60%	0.40%	2.00%	2.00%
7	Senegal	6.10%	7.90%	2.2%	2.3%	4.60%	0.80%	1.40%	2.50%	2.20%	2.0%
8	Togo	6.30%	5.90%	5.00%	5.30%	5.50%	2.90%	0.40%	2.80%	2.30%	2.00%

Sources: IMF, United Capital Research and others

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East Africa



East African Economy

East African Key Indicators

Country	GDP (US\$ Billion)	GDP Growth	Interest Rate	Inflation Rate	Jobless Rate	Gov. Budget	Debt/GDP	Population (mn)
Kenya	125	1.1%	8.75%	5.6%	5.4%	(4.9%)	65.5%	53.3
Tanzania	79	1.5%	5.75%	3.2%	8.9%	(3.4%)	48.2%	66.28
Uganda	54	4%	9.75%	3%	2.7%	(4.7%)	51.8%	50.02
Rwanda	14	20%	7.25%	7.7%	11%	(5.5%)	67.2%	13.8
Burundi	2	–	10%	10.8%	0.9%	(5%)	13.1%	14.05
Ethiopia	150	–	15%	9.4%	3.4%	(2%)	32%	132.06

- The East African region shows strong but uneven growth with elevated inflation, reflecting tighter financial conditions across economies
- Macro divergence is widening, with stability in some markets and rising fiscal/external risks in others
- Inflation and external imbalances pose downside risks to near-term stability
- Regional outlook is shifting toward tighter conditions, with the energy shock from the conflict expected to keep inflation elevated, delay policy easing, and heighten external vulnerabilities across economies

■ EAST AFRICA {CONT'D}

ACCELERATING REGIONAL INTEGRATION:

- East African stakeholders convened in Kigali in April 2026 to advance the implementation of cross-border trading in government securities, a key pillar of regional financial integration
- The engagement involves Ministries of Finance, Central Banks, Capital Market Authorities, Exchanges, and regulators, reinforcing a multi-institutional approach to market integration
- Cross-border trading remains central to deepening capital markets, enhancing liquidity, and supporting the free movement of capital under the EAC Common Market framework
- The meeting highlights the need for updates to reflect evolving market conditions, technology, and global best practices

- Key focus areas included market infrastructure development, regional trading frameworks, and harmonisation of listing, trading, and settlement rules across member states
- A comprehensive review of directives covering secondary market trading, public debt issuance, regional listings, Central Securities Depository (CSD)s, and exchanges generated recommendations aimed at improving regulatory alignment and operational efficiency


Implications

- Integration will deepen, unlock cross-border liquidity and stronger sovereign debt markets
- Investor access to widen, supporting higher foreign inflows as regulatory alignment improves
- While we note that execution remains key, but successful rollout will enhance efficiency and price discovery across markets

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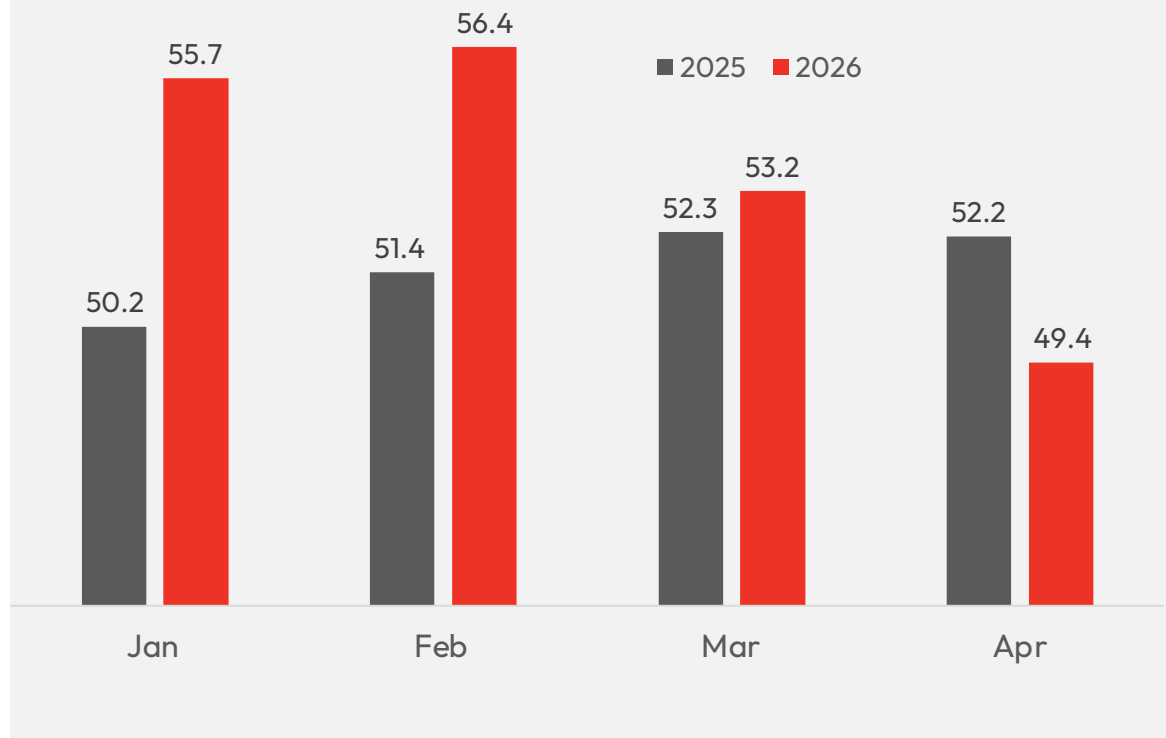
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Macroeconomic Trends in Nigeria & Implications for Markets & Businesses

Domestic Economy – Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI)

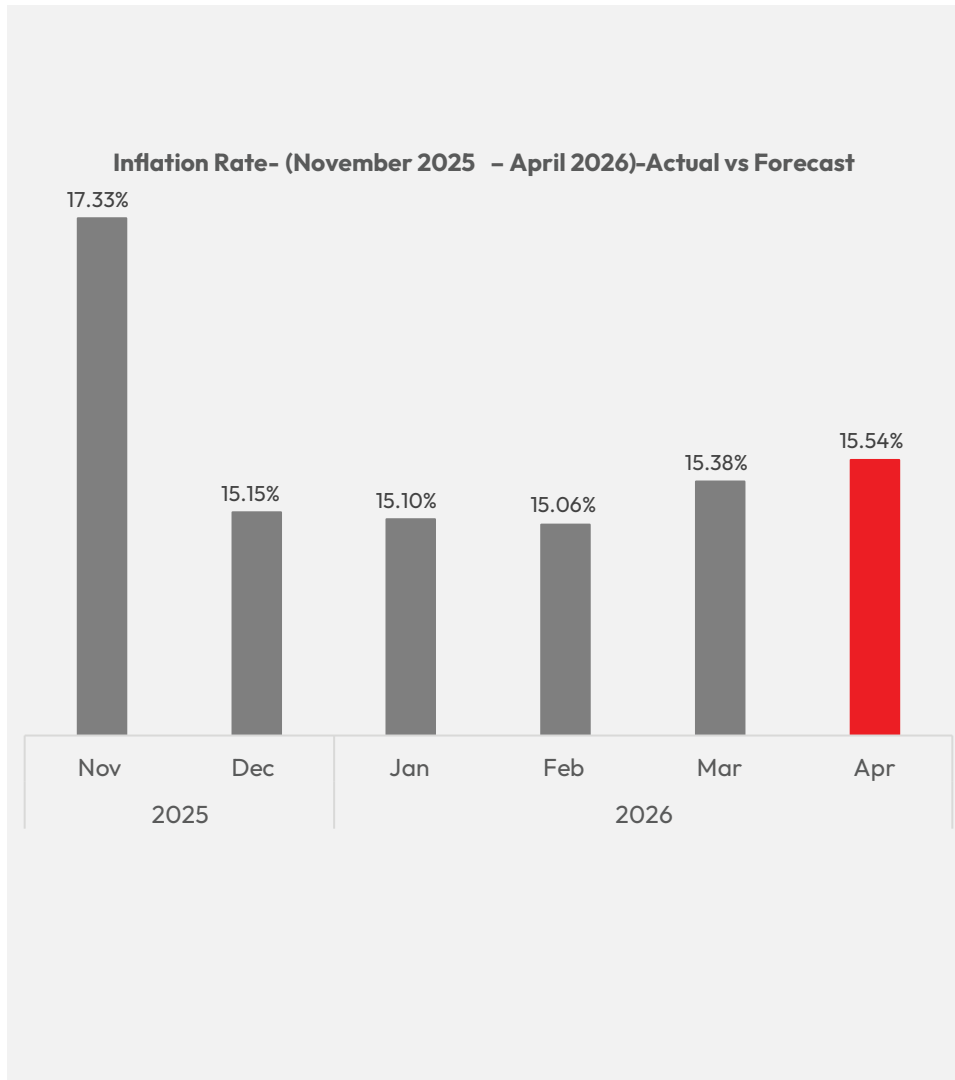
Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) – Points



Nigeria's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

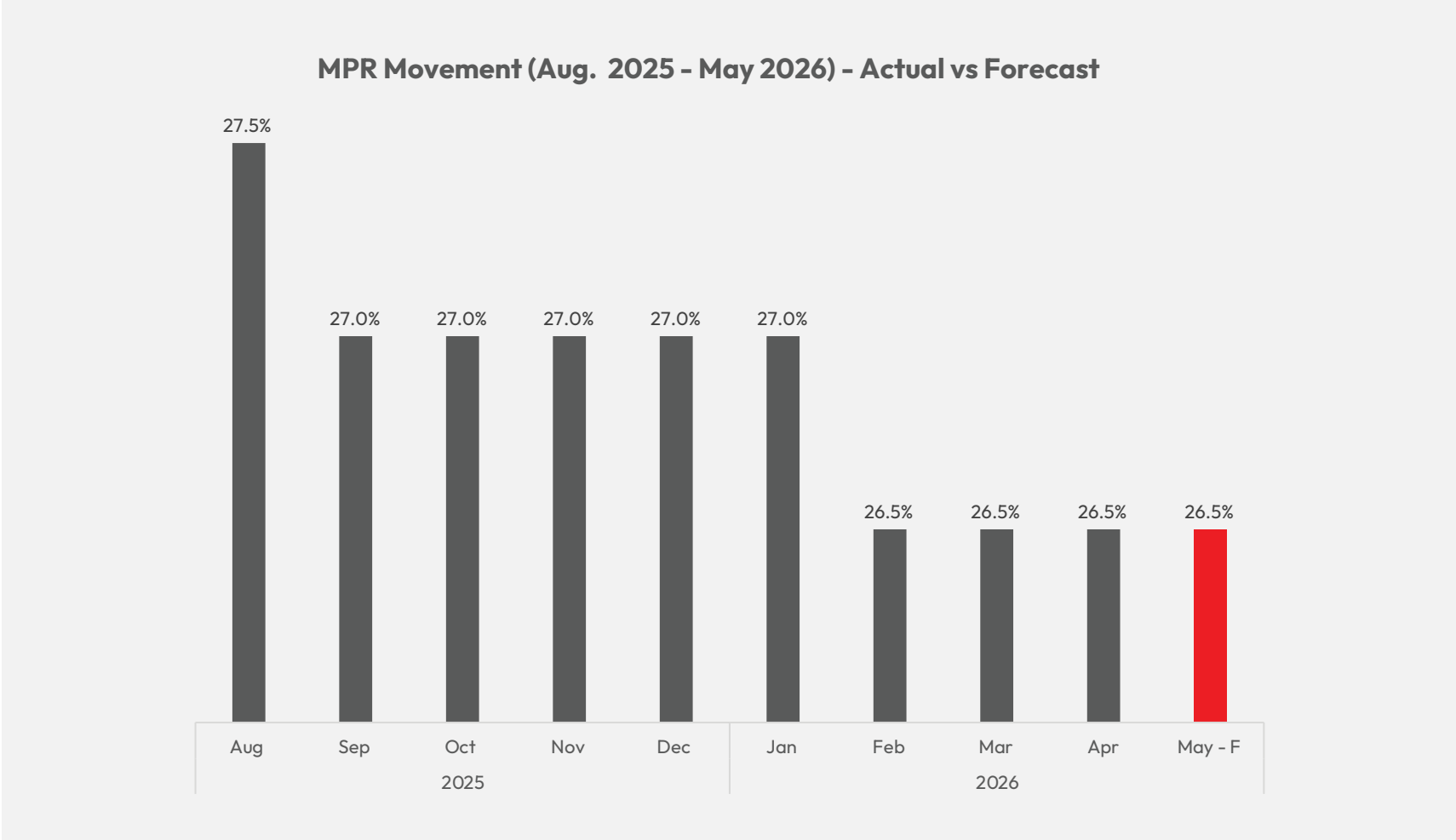
- Composite PMI fell to 49.4 points in April down from 53.2 points in March
- This signals a shift from expansion to contraction PMI momentum weakened in April and in contraction mode
- This reflects weaker output and demand conditions
- This means that the CBN may not raise interest rate because of need to stimulate growth
- Trend indicates a sharp reversal from Q1 expansion to early Q2 contraction, highlighting rising growth risks as the effect of the US-Iran war persists

DOMESTIC ECONOMY – INFLATION FORECAST



- United Capital Research forecasts Nigeria's headline inflation rate will increase to 15.54% in April 2026, from 15.38% recorded in March 2026
- The anticipated uptick is largely driven by increase in energy prices due to the ongoing US-Iran war, which has exerted upward pressure on prices of consumer good items
- The expected uptick in the inflation rate in April 2026, ahead of the MPC's meeting, would ordinarily call for a policy response to rein in rising price pressures
- However, United Capital Research does not expect a policy rate adjustment, given the potential adverse impact of tighter monetary conditions on borrowing costs across the economy
- Moreover, the recent stability and appreciation of the Naira likely to continue, moderating the pass-through effects of energy-induced inflation in Nigeria
- In addition, with government revenue expected to improve amid elevated crude oil prices, fiscal interventions—particularly targeted cash transfer programmes are required
- This would cushion the impacts of inflation on the most vulnerable segments of the population

DOMESTIC ECONOMY – MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING



DOMESTIC ECONOMY – MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING [CONT'D]

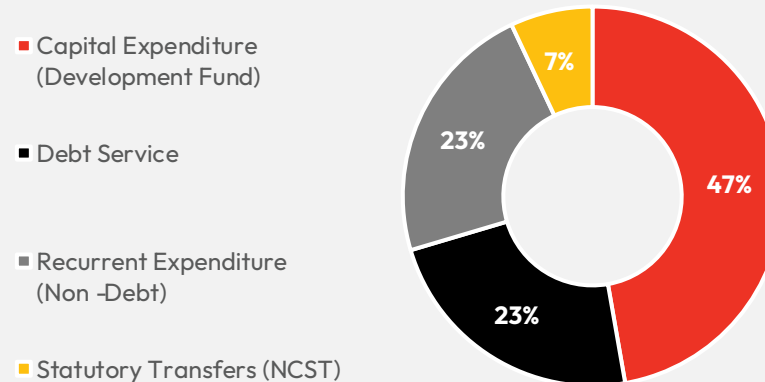
Expectation of the May 2026 MPC Meeting		
Parameters	Rate	Expectation
Monetary Policy Rate (MPR)	26.50%	Retain
Commercial Banks: Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	45.00%	Retain
Merchant Banks: Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	16.00%	Retain
Non -TSA Public Sector deposit: Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	75.00%	Adjust to 85%
Liquidity Ratio (LR)	30.00%	Retain
Standing Facilities Corridor (SFC)	+50/ -450 Basis Points around the MPR	Retain

- We expect the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Central Bank of Nigeria(CBN) hold the monetary policy rate in May 2026
- There is high probability that the MPC will adjust the Non-NTSA on public sector deposit upward to 85% to signal additional tightness of public sector liquidity from the banking system
- Despite the possibility of a slight uptick in inflation, raising the MPR may dampen economic activity and fall short of supporting the growth required

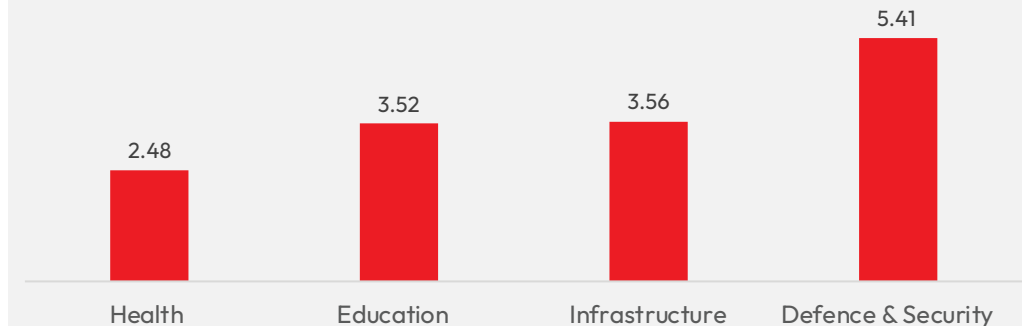
DOMESTIC ECONOMY – MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING [CONT'D]

- 2026 budget revised upward to projected expenditure of ₦68.32trn
- The revenue is projected at ₦36.87trn leading to fiscal deficit of ₦31.46trn
- This represent about 5.6% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- The deficit will be largely financed by borrowing of ₦29.20trn
- 47% of the total expenditure is devoted to capital expenditure to drive economic development
- This is a positive development as the debt will be channeled to infrastructure development to catalyse economic growth
- Key priorities in the budget are defence & security, infrastructure, education and health
- Policy priorities are: strengthening non-oil revenue mobilisation, improving capital project efficiency, and managing fiscal vulnerabilities

Approved 2026 Proposed Budget Expenditure



Key Priority in 2026 Proposed Budget - N' Trillion



■ DOMESTIC ECONOMY : INTERNATIONAL MONEY TRANSFER OPERATORS (IMTOS) INITIATIVES

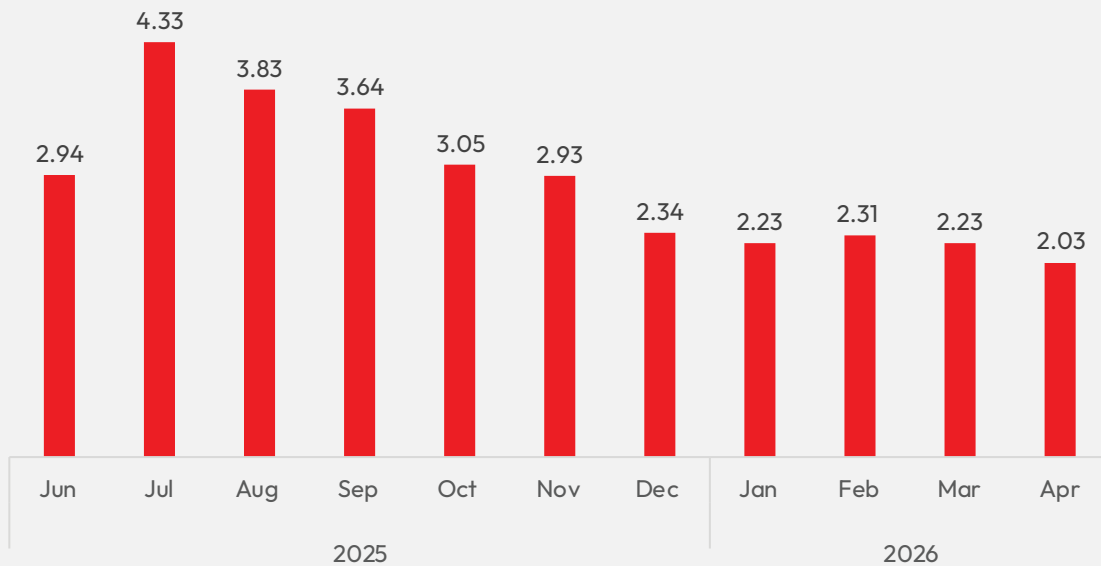
- **Mandatory Naira Settlement Accounts:** IMTOs are mandated to route all inflows and payouts through designated bank accounts, improving transparency and oversight
- **Tighter Transaction Controls:** All remittances must pass through formal channels, with funding restricted to verified inflows and official FX conversions
- **Enhanced Pricing Transparency:** Real-time FX pricing via Bloomberg B Match strengthens rate discovery and reduces arbitrage opportunities
- **Improved Market Liquidity:** Banks can redistribute FX flows (including to BDCs), supporting liquidity within regulated channels

These initiatives remain positive for foreign exchange market and should boost formal remittances, narrow parallel-market spreads, and enhance investor confidence in Nigeria's foreign exchange market

DOMESTIC ECONOMY – FAAC REVENUE ALLOCATION

Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) Revenue Allocation:

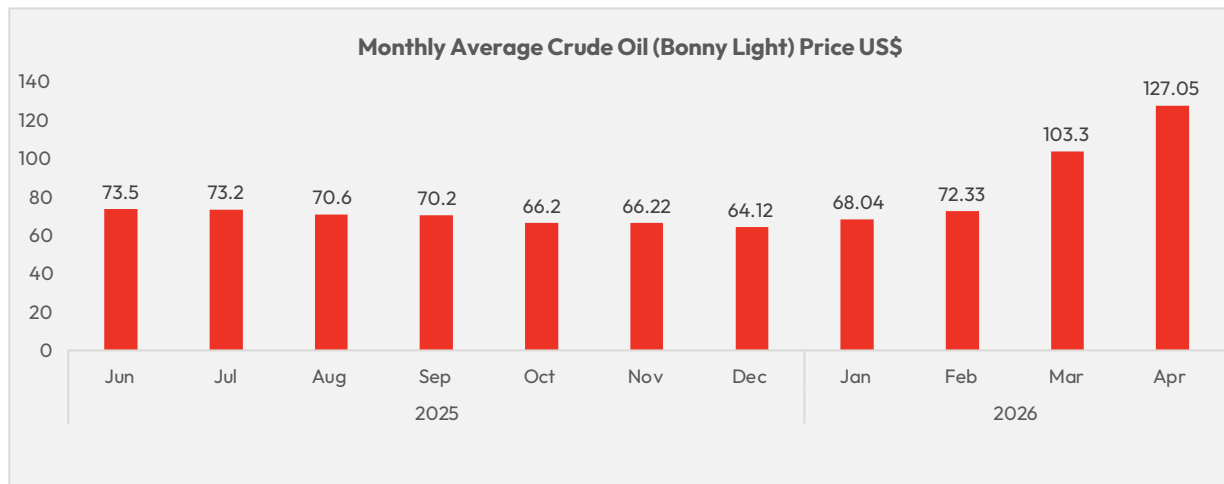
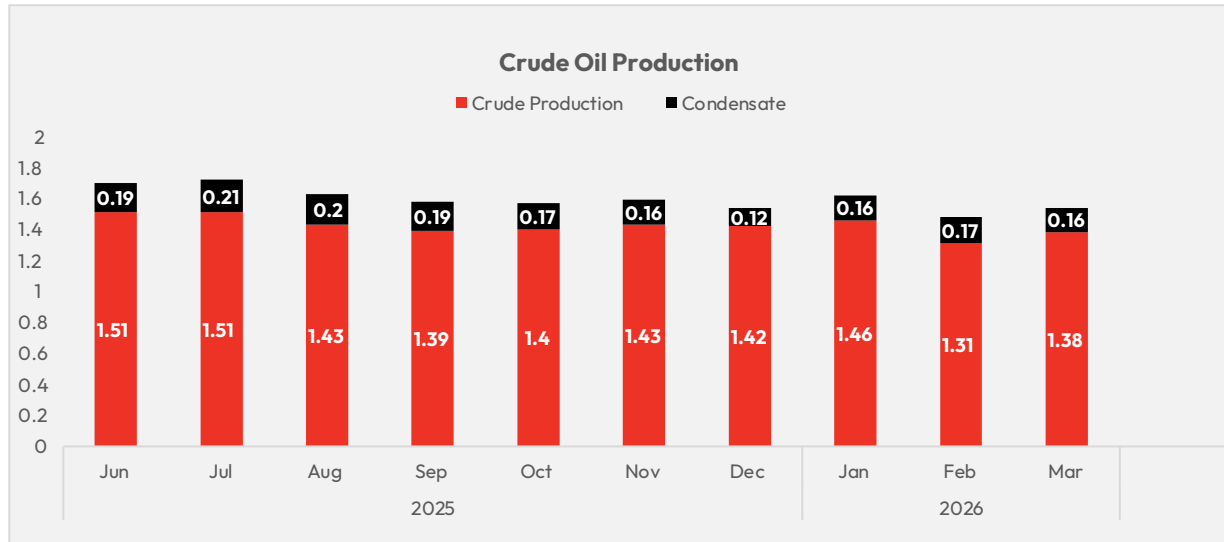
June 2025 – April 2026 (N' Trillion)



FAAC Allocation Highlights

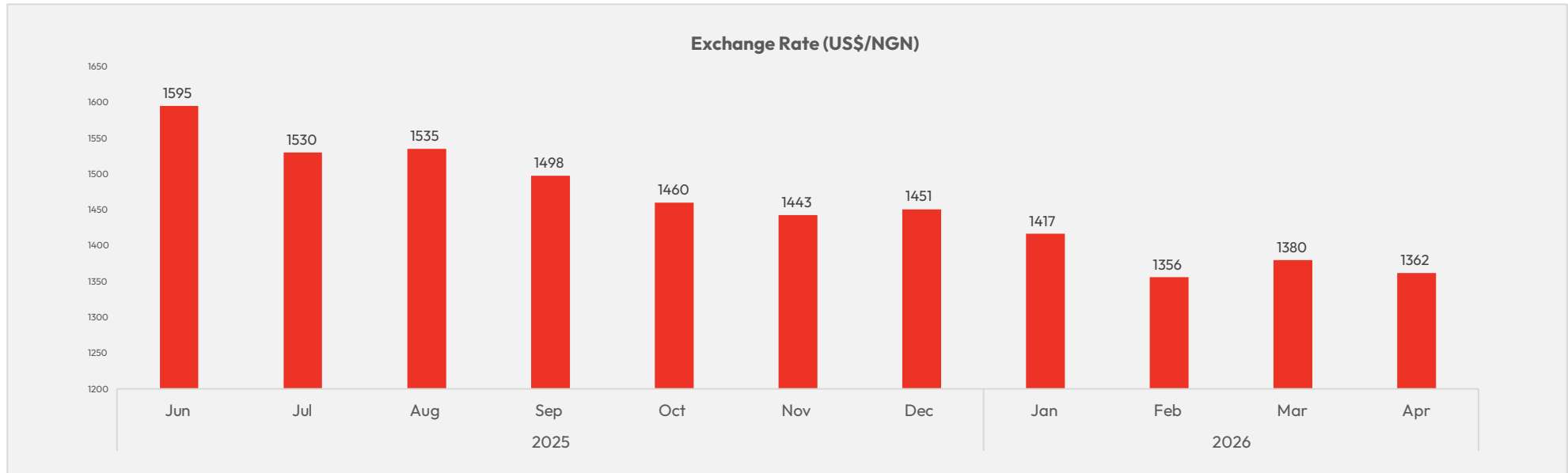
- FAAC remained stable at over N2.23trn since the beginning of the year 2026
- In the short term the FAAC allocation is expected to remain strong
- The current high crude oil price and strong non-oil revenue are major drivers
- This should support fiscal operations of the government
- It may also position the government well to borrow long-term fund at concessionary terms to fund infrastructure deficits in the country

DOMESTIC ECONOMY – CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION AND PRICES



- Crude oil production, excluding condensate remained lower than the OPEC production quota and below the production estimate used for the 2026 budget
- This is according to data from the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NURPC)
- Despite the production shortfall the increase in the crude oil price has compensated for the revenue gap
- We expect recent investments in the oil and gas industry in Nigeria to increase production output in the short-to-medium term

DOMESTIC ECONOMY – EXCHANGE RATE

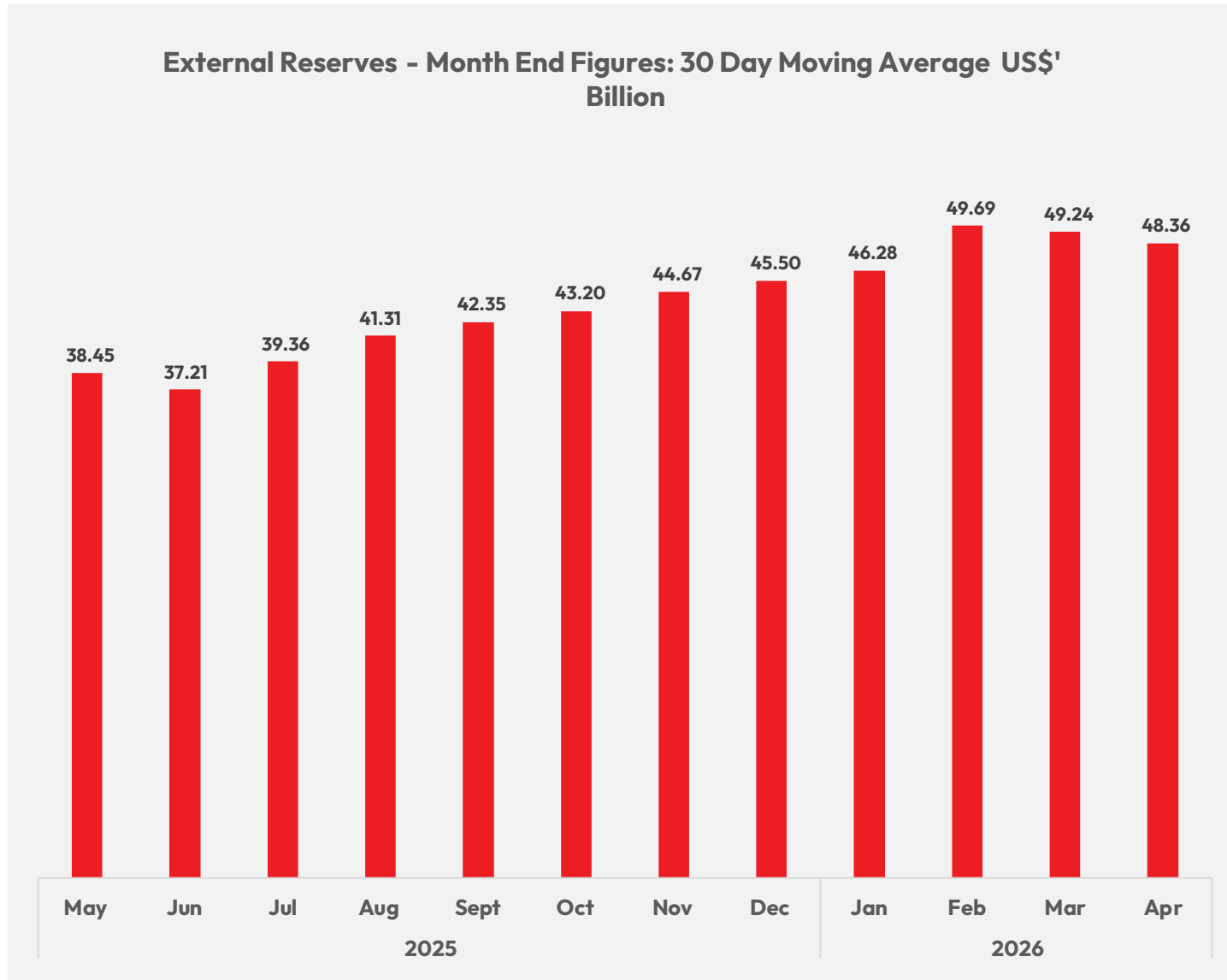


The Naira has demonstrated a steady and sustained strengthening trend, appreciating from its peak level of approximately US\$/₦1,595 in June 2025 to about US\$/₦1,362 as of April 2026, reflecting progressively improving FX conditions and policy effectiveness

The consistent appreciation, despite intermittent volatility signals enhanced FX liquidity and stronger market discipline, suggesting that recent monetary and regulatory interventions are gradually restoring balance in Nigeria’s FX market. The resilience of the Naira stands in contrast to heightened global currency volatility amid geopolitical tensions and tight financial conditions across major economies, positioning Nigeria as an increasingly attractive frontier-market opportunity

The value of the Naira came under pressure in March 2026 following the US-Iran war but later recovered slightly in April. With the stability in the value of Naira, Nigeria presents a compelling case for investors seeking risk adjusted return in the short-to medium term

DOMESTIC ECONOMY – EXTERNAL RESERVES



- External reserves increased consistently from June 2025 to peak in February 2026
- The external reserves dropped in March following the US-Iran war. This also coincided with when the Naira came under pressure
- Given the recent global developments, we maintain our forecast external reserve of US\$50.10bn to end the year 2026
- The current level of reserve will be sufficient to provide adequate buffer for a stable exchange rate

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39	0.00	1,400	1	161	0.61	
1	+0.92	2,752,600	3,028	4,153	29.11	0.82
4	-0.45	150,400	664	2,871	13.56	0.78
			649	2,176	25.85	2.27
5	+0.67					
6	-0.36					

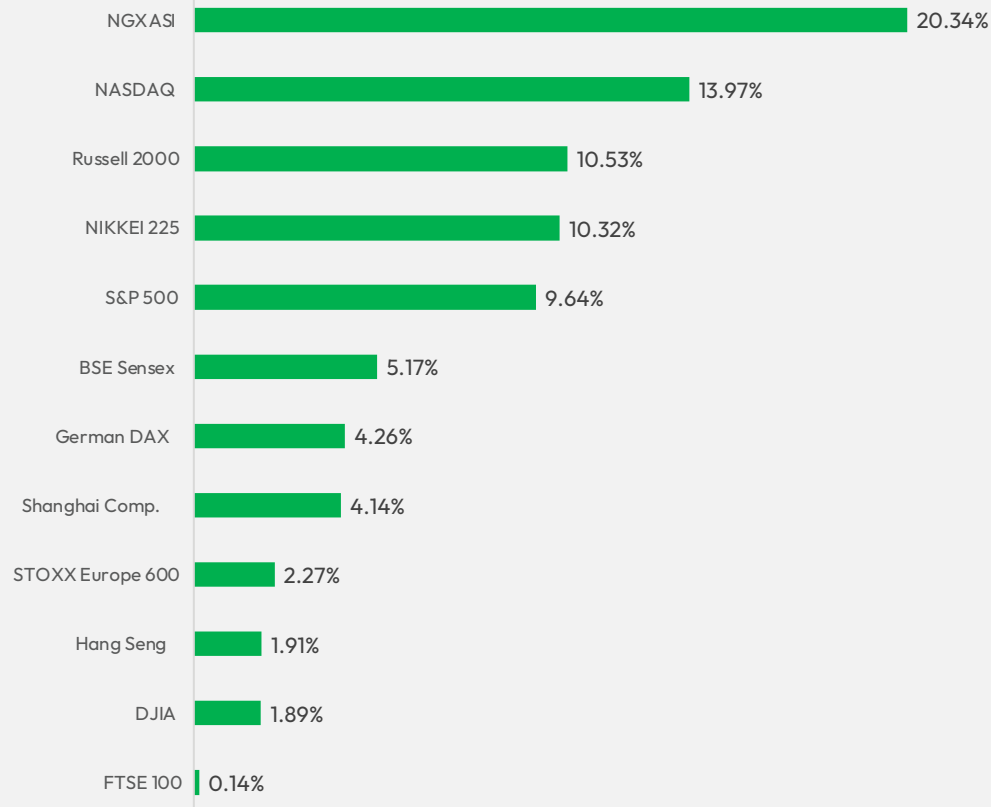
Equity Market



Equity Market – Global Equities

Global Stock Market Performance in April 2026

Most global equity markets rose in April 2026. The Nigerian Exchange All-Share Index (NGX -ASI) stood out as an outperformer, posting strong gains despite the global uncertainty around the US - Iran war



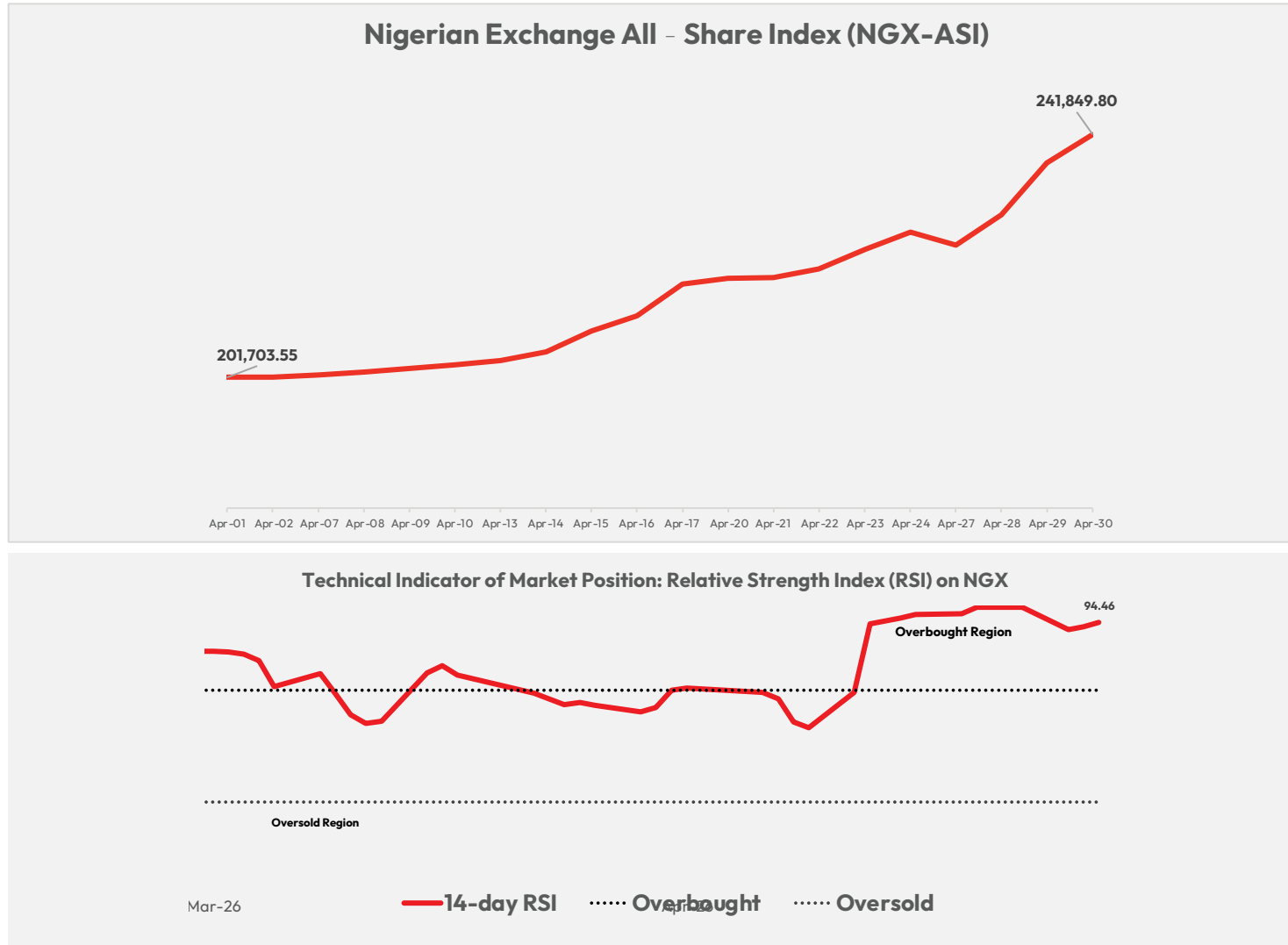
Global Stock Market Performance Year Till Date (YTD)

Year-to-date, global equities show mixed performance, with the NGX-ASI maintaining a strong lead while some equity indices remain in negative territory. Outlook remains cautious as weak global risk sentiment and broad-based volatility continue to pressure markets into April

Global Indices Performance in April 2026

Index	Countries	MTD	YTD
NGX-ASI	Nigeria	20.34%	55.69%
NIKKEI 225	Japan	10.32%	17.77%
Russell 2000	United States (Small Cap)	10.53%	14.47%
NASDAQ	US (Tech and Growth Stocks)	13.97%	7.10%
S&P 500	United States (US)	9.64%	5.31%
FTSE 100	United Kingdom	0.14%	4.51%
Shanghai Comp.	China	4.14%	3.61%
STOXX Europe 600	17 European Countries	2.27%	3.12%
Hang Seng	Hong Kong	1.91%	0.57%
German DAX	Germany	4.26%	-0.81%
DJIA	United States	1.89%	-2.18%
BSE Sensex	India	5.17%	-9.75%

EQUITY MARKET [CONT'D]



EQUITY MARKET [CONT'D]

Top Gainers (+) for the Month		Top Decliners (-) for the Month	
Stock	Gain	Stock	Decline
UAC Nigeria	90.81%	Abbey Mortgage Bank	(32.96%)
Chemical and Allied Products	60.02%	Living Trust Mortgage Bank	(30.00%)
NASCON	47.55%	Austin Laz	(28.89%)
Unilever	46.28%	International Energy Insuranc	(25.30%)
Seplat	33.52%	Coronation Insurance	(24.14%)

At the end of April, the equity market recorded Month-to-Date (MTD) return of 20.15%

Market Capitalisation appreciated 55.69% to close at ₦155.99tn trillion YTD as of April 30

Major drivers of the equity market were UAC Nigeria, Chemical and Allied Products, NASCON, Unilever, and Seplat

The NGX RSI is currently in the overbought region, indicating strong bullish momentum but increasing risk of a near-term price correction

NGX Indices Performance in April 2026

Index	31-Mar	30-Apr	MTD	YTD
NGX-ASI	201,287.78	241,849.80	20.15%	55.69%
Oil/Gas Index	4,385.20	6,097.34	39.04%	128.34%
Industrial Goods Index	8,775.98	11,277.17	28.50%	98.66%
Banking Index	1,860.75	2,281.39	22.61%	50.50%
Consumer Goods Index	4,359.85	4,853.04	11.31%	22.07%
Insurance Index	1,231.42	1,186.50	(3.65%)	(0.24%)

■ EQUITY MARKET – NIGERIAN CAPITAL MARKET TRANSITIONS TO T+1 SETTLEMENT CYCLE

T+1 Settlement Cycle

- The Nigerian Capital Market is scheduled to transition to T+1 Settlement Cycle effective June 01, 2026
- It was shifted from the initial date of May 29, 2026 because of the public holiday
- Under T+1, all trades will settle one business day after the trade date
- The change aligns Nigeria with global markets such as the US and India
- This will boost Nigeria's competitiveness and improve foreign investor familiarity with settlement processes
- It is aimed to enhance post-trade infrastructure, improve efficiency, reduce settlement risk and align with global best practices

Benefits of the T+1 Settlement Cycle

- The transition will reduce counterparty and settlement risk, shrinking the exposure window where price fluctuations or defaults
- Could disrupt trade finality, thereby strengthening overall market stability
- Liquidity will improve significantly under the T+1, as investors receive cash on trades within 24 hours
- This will enable faster reinvestment and more active portfolio management across NGX-listed securities

■ EQUITY MARKET – NGX EXTENDS TRADING HOURS

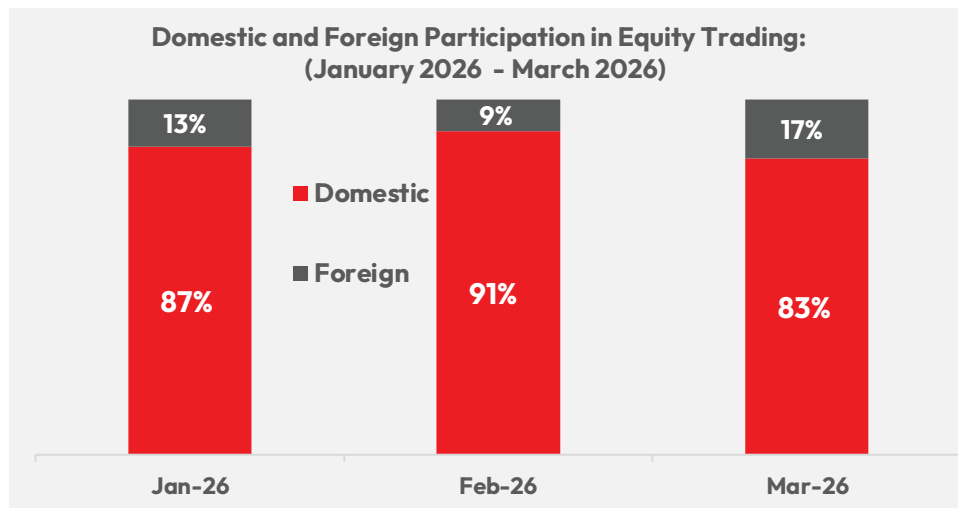
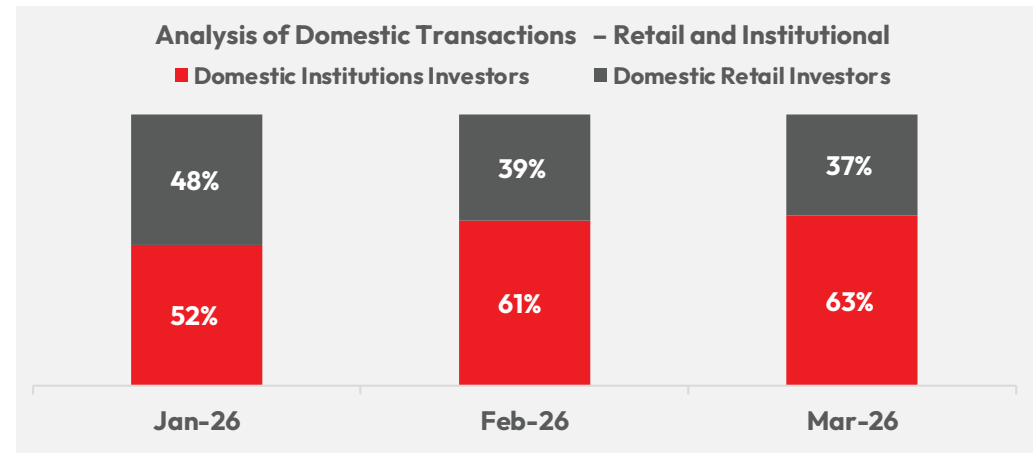
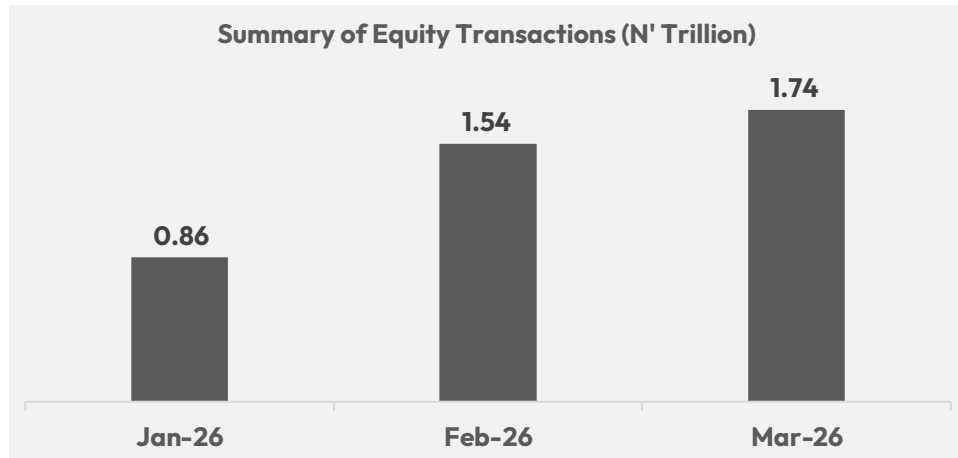
NGX Trading Hours Extension

- Extended trading session: NGX trading hours now run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m, effective April 27, 2026
- Market modernisation: The adjustment reflects ongoing efforts to modernise Nigeria’s capital market infrastructure and improve operational efficiency
- Global Alignment: Trading hours now align more closely with major exchanges such as:
 - NYSE/NASDAQ: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m
 - London Stock Exchange (LSE): 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m
 - Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE): 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m
- Improved competitiveness: Aligning with global peers enhances market integration, liquidity, and investor participation

Implications

- Foreign investors will be able to participate more in our market
- The extension will deepen liquidity
- Markets are classified by trading volume and value which will positively increase
- The perception of our market will improve globally
- More retail investors will be able to participate in the market

EQUITY MARKET – TRANSACTION ON THE NIGERIAN EXCHANGE



- Total equity transactions increased consistently from January till March 2026
- Domestic investors dominated the market average 87% YTD in 2026
- Domestic institutional investors drove the trading activities YTD
- Market resilience so far reflects the dominance of domestic investors
- The relatively large retail investors in the market also support the bull run
- We expect this to continue as investors target value stocks
- Although there may be a cool off in Q2, there are still significant value in selected stocks

POSSIBLE EQUITY MARKET BOOSTER IN Q2 OR Q3 2026

Possible Listing – Are You Ready?



- The biggest company listing in the African Capital market is coming. Get ready
- These companies are expected to drive market activity and boost overall market capitalization
- Some stocks may experience sell-offs as investors rebalance their portfolios to take positions in the Dangote Refinery listing

Listing of certain private insurance companies to support recapitalisation efforts

More mining or modular refineries in the market

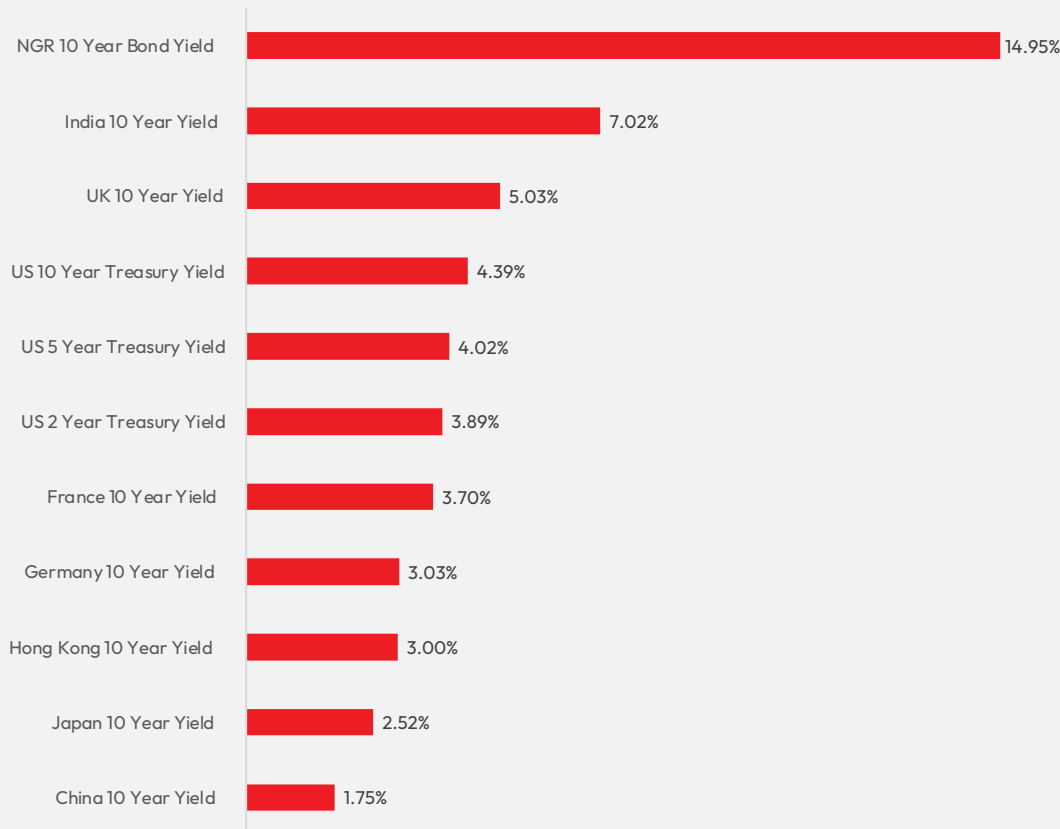
Fixed Income Securities



Fixed Income Securities – Global Government Securities

Government 10 -Year Bond Yields Performance

Nigeria's 10 -year bond remained a clear outlier at 14.95%, offering a significant yield premium over global peers. Global yields stayed elevated but mixed, reflecting persistent rate pressures

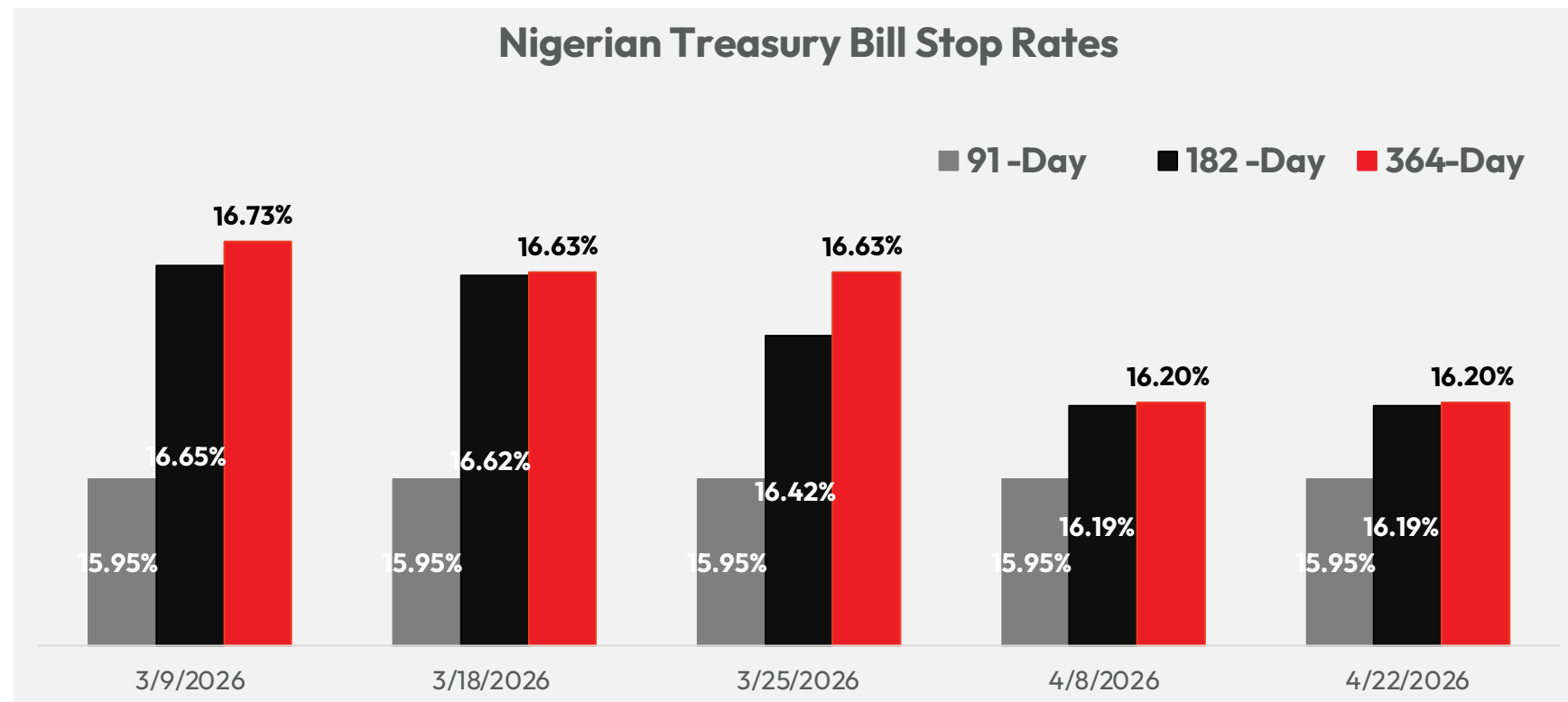


Global Government Securities- Monthly Performance
As of April 30, global yields were broadly higher across major markets, reflecting sustained rate pressures and cautious investor sentiment. Advanced economies, including the US, UK, Germany, France, and Japan, recorded moderate increases compared with March 2026 levels

10-Year Securities	Yields		Change M/M
	March Average	April Average	
NGR 10 Year Bond Yield	15.68%	14.95%	(0.73%)
China 10 Year Yield	1.82%	1.75%	(0.07%)
France 10 Year Yield	3.60%	3.70%	0.10%
Germany 10 Year Yield	2.93%	3.03%	0.10%
US 10 Year Treasury Yield	4.25%	4.39%	0.14%
Hong Kong 10 Year Yield	2.86%	3.00%	0.14%
US 5 Year Treasury Yield	3.85%	4.02%	0.17%
US 2 Year Treasury Yield	3.72%	3.89%	0.17%
India 10 Year Yield	6.75%	7.02%	0.27%
UK 10 Year Yield	4.75%	5.03%	0.28%
Japan 10 Year Yield	2.23%	2.52%	0.29%

FIXED INCOME SECURITIES – MONEY AND TREASURY BILLS MARKET

Short-Term Interest Rates		
Rate	Previous	Current
Overnight Repo Rate (OPR)	26.07%	22.00%
Overnight Rate (OVR)	26.36%	22.15%



FIXED INCOME SECURITIES – MONEY AND TREASURY BILLS MARKET [CONT'D]

Nigerian Treasury Bills (NTBs) Yields – Secondary Market

NTBs	Previous	Current	Change
91 day	17.24%	17.18%	(0.06%)
182 day	18.30%	18.23%	(0.07%)
364 day	20.90%	19.59%	(1.31%)

NTBs Primary Market Auction April -2026

Tenor	91-day	182-day	364-day	Total
Offer (N'bn)	200.00	200.00	1050.00	1,450.00
Subscription (N'bn)	169.50	400.02	4,751.87	5,321.39
Allotment (N'bn)	159.30	163.29	1,302.95	1,625.54
Subscription Rate	0.85x	2.0x	4.53x	3.67x
Allotment Rate	0.94x	0.41x	0.27x	0.31x
Stop Rate	15.95%	16.19%	16.20%	-
Previous Stop Rate	15.95%	16.19%	16.20%	-
Change from Previous	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-

On April 8 and 22, the CBN held its second NTBs auction in the month

The 364-Day NTB recorded huge subscription level of 4.53x

Meanwhile the 91-Day and 182-Day NTB were also over-subscribed by 0.85x and 2.0x respectively

Stop rates from the auction settled at 15.95%, 16.19% and 16.20% for the short-, medium- and long-term tenors respectively

The 364-day bill stop rate was flat at 16.20%. The short and medium term stop rates same at 0.00% and 0.00% respectively

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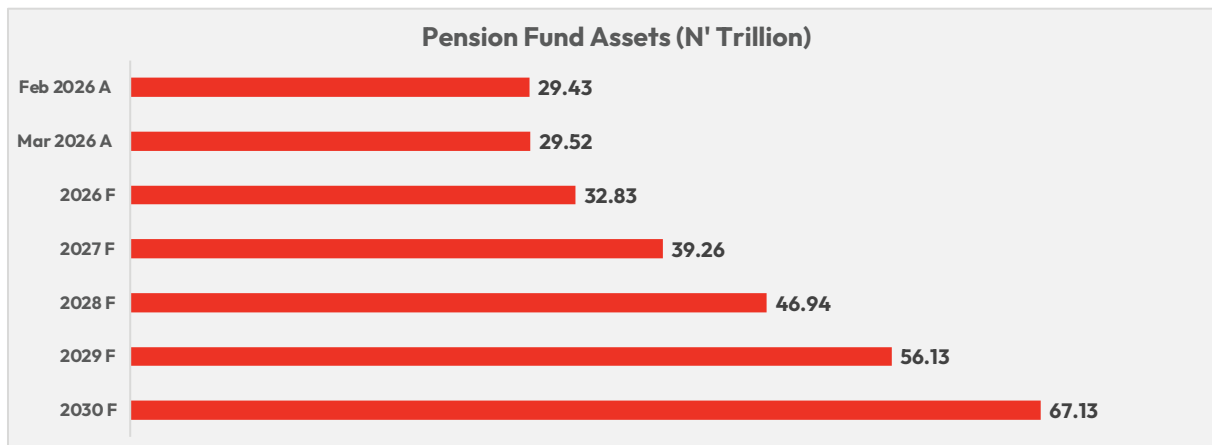
Pension Fund Assets



Pension Fund Asset



Pension Fund Assets - March 2026 Actual (A) - 2030 Forecast (F): (N' Trillion)							
Category	Feb 2026 A	Mar 2026 A	2026F	2027F	2028F	2029F	2030F
Total Net Asset Value	29.43	29.52	32.83	39.26	46.94	56.13	67.13
Fund I	0.54	0.56	0.78	1.36	2.38	4.15	7.23
Fund II	12.67	12.59	13.7	16.4	19.52	23.28	27.75
Fund III	7.45	7.53	8.39	10	12	14.35	17.16
Fund IV	2.31	2.34	2.71	3.26	3.93	4.73	5.7
Fund V	0	0.01	0	0	0.01	0.01	0.02
Fund VI - Active	0.26	0.29	0.39	0.69	1.23	2.19	3.89
Fund VI - Retiree	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.09	0.17	0.32	0.61
Existing Schemes	3.4	3.43	3.72	4.09	4.24	3.91	2.61
CPFAs	2.8	2.74	3.06	3.35	3.48	3.21	2.14



- Total pension fund assets rose to ~~₹~~₹29.52trn in March 2026 from ~~₹~~₹29.43trn in February
- Growth is expected to reach ~~₹~~₹67.13trn by 2030F
- Fund II remains dominant, contributing over 40% of total assets
- Growth in Funds I, III, and VI (Active) reflects increasing participation and risk appetite
- Existing Schemes and CPFAs are gradually declining, indicating migration to the CPS
- Expanding pension assets will support capital market liquidity and infrastructure financing

Outlook for May 2026:



Global Economy & Markets Outlook in May 2026

Indicators	May Outlook	Drivers	Financial Market Impacts
GDP	Slow Globally	Energy shock persists, weaker sentiment, supply disruptions	Weak equity performance particularly in non-energy stocks
Inflation	Elevated	Higher oil, gas, food, logistics prices	Rising interest rate and yields
Commodity Prices	Slightly lower energy price, elevated metal prices, Fertilizers, Food prices	Improvement in US-Iran war talk	Fairly stable equity market but some profit taking possible
Investment Flows	Weak sentiment	Market uncertainty, tighter financial conditions	Lower equity growth in energy-importing countries
Global Trade	Slow recovery	Opening of blocked routes, but still high freight/insurance costs	High costs, lower profit margins and delay in deliveries

■ NIGERIAN ECONOMY AND MARKETS OUTLOOK IN MAY 2026

Indicators	May Outlook	Drivers	Financial Market Impacts
GDP	Slower GDP	Rising energy cost, weak consumer purchasing power, delay in deliveries	Equity market may cool off towards the end of the month, as earnings season ends
Inflation	Rising - 15.54%	Higher oil, gas, food, logistics costs	Increase in interest rate and yields, moderated by high system liquidity
Currency	Moderate demand pressure - ₦1,360	Demand pressure but increase in FX inflows and OMO rate	Funds may move to OMO instruments
MPC Decision	Hold in MPR	Uptick in inflation and FX demand pressure	Pressure on profit margin and lower equity prices
Lending	Slower lending	Lower profit margin, weak demand, delays in deliveries	Strong risk management framework
Equity Market	Marginally appreciation	Strategic positioning in some large valued stocks but Profit taking possible	Equity market appreciate marginally from April 2026 close

Stock Recommendations

S/N	Stocks	Current Price	Target Price	Upside	Duration	Remark
1	Access Holdings Plc	23.6	40.75	73%	26-Sep	BUY
2	United Bank for Africa Plc	40	62.64	57%	26-Sep	BUY
3	International Breweries	13	20	54%	26-Sep	BUY
4	C & I Leasing Plc	7	10	43%	26-Sep	BUY
5	Transnational Corporation	43	60	40%	26-Sep	BUY
6	MTN Nigeria	801.1	1,100	37%	26-Sep	BUY
7	Transcorp Power Plc	272.7	365	34%	26-Sep	BUY
8	FCMB Group Plc	11.4	15	32%	26-Sep	BUY
9	Sterling Financial Holdings	7.85	10	27%	26-Sep	BUY
10	AXA Mansard Insurance	13.85	17.5	26%	26-Sep	BUY
11	FIRST HOLDCO PLC	67.8	84.75	24%	26-Dec	BUY
12	Dangote Cement Plc	1,088	1,250	15%	26-Dec	BUY

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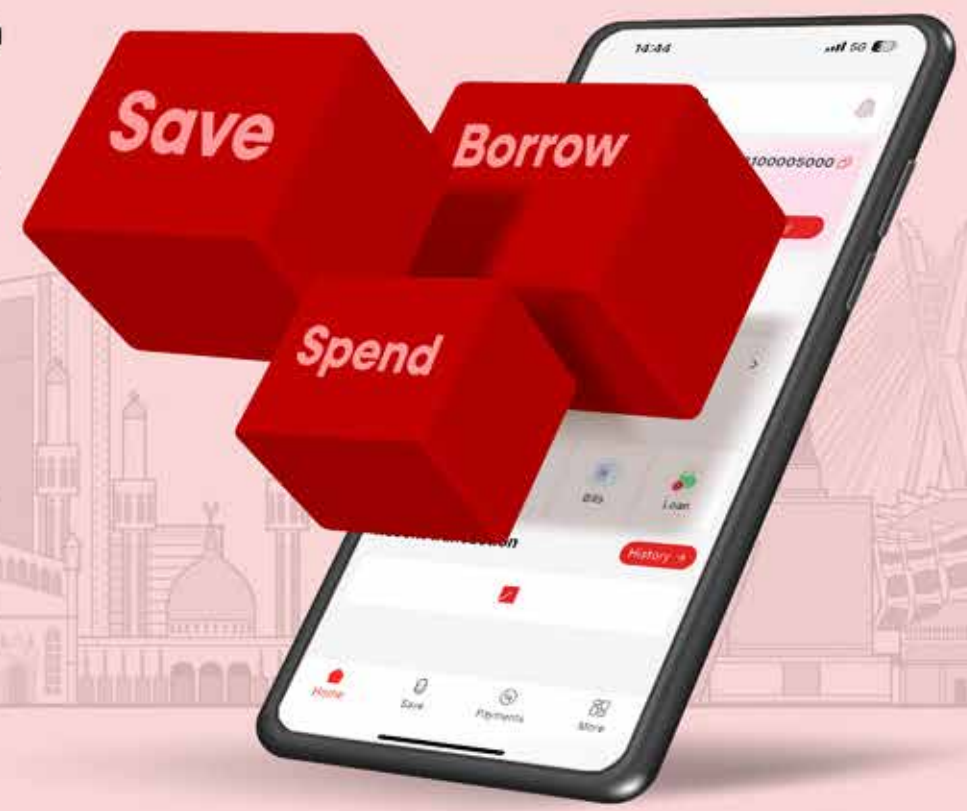


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