

Weekly Investment Views

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Global Markets

United States

The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the United States eased slightly to 53.6 points in April 2026, down from 54.0 points in March 2026, indicating that the services sector continued to expand but at a slower pace. The reading marked the 22nd consecutive month of expansion, though momentum softened as new orders moderated and employment conditions weakened further into contraction territory. Overall, the data points to continued resilience in the US services sector, but with signs of cooling demand amid a more cautious macroeconomic environment. Input costs also remained elevated, reflecting persistent inflationary pressures, which could reinforce expectations that the Federal Reserve (Fed) will maintain a restrictive policy stance for longer.

Euro Area

Euro Area annual inflation rose to 3.0% in April 2026, up from 2.6% in March 2026 and slightly above market expectations of 2.9%, marking the highest level since September 2023. The acceleration was largely driven by energy prices, which surged 10.9% year-on-year, the strongest increase since February 2023, reflecting the pass-through from ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. Underlying inflation was mixed, with modest increases in goods prices offset by easing services inflation and a slight decline in core inflation, suggesting some softening in underlying price pressures.

Asia

Japan's manufacturing activity strengthened significantly in April 2026, with the final Manufacturing PMI rising to 55.1 points in April 2026 from 52.4 points in March 2026, marking the strongest expansion in over four years. The improvement was driven by stronger export demand, AI-related orders, and precautionary inventory build-up amid concerns over potential supply disruptions. However, rising input costs and worsening supply chain disruptions continued to pose downside risks to the sector's outlook.

Global Equity Market Snapshot

Market	Index	Weekly Change	Year-To-Date (YTD)
Ghana	GGSE	(1.39%)	69.75%
Nigeria	NGX ASI	0.99%	57.23%
Egypt	EGX 30	2.33%	28.15%
BRVM	ICXCOMP	0.02%	16.69%
Brazil	IBOV	(0.83%)	13.71%
United States	NASDAQ	15.77%	13.13%
Kenya	NSE 20	(1.05%)	12.33%
United States	S&P 500	2.82%	7.18%
China	SHCOMP	1.77%	5.32%
Europe	STOXX 600	2.23%	3.99%
United Kingdom	FTSE 100	0.63%	3.48%
United States	Dow Jones	1.50%	3.19%
South Africa	JALSH	4.64%	2.83%
Germany	DAX	2.96%	0.71%
France	CAC 40	1.61%	0.65%
India	SENSEX	0.53%	(8.58%)

*BRVM means Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières. Regional Stock Exchange for several West African countries that are part of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)

Sources: Various Sources and United Capital Research

Oil Markets

Oil markets moderated during the week, as easing supply concerns and profit-taking activities weighed on prices despite persistent geopolitical tensions. Bonny Light crude declined by 6.74% week-to-date to settle at US\$127.63/bbl, while Brent crude fell by 9.40% to close at US\$100.06/bbl. Nonetheless, both benchmarks maintained strong year-to-date gains of 101.25% and 64.44%, respectively, reflecting the broader impact of geopolitical uncertainty and earlier supply disruptions on global oil prices.

Weekly Commodities Price Monitor

Commodity	Unit Price	Price (US\$)	Weekly Change	YTD
Oil Crude – Bonny Light	US\$/bbl	127.63	(6.74%)	101.25%
Oil Crude – Brent	US\$/bbl	100.06	(9.40%)	64.44%
Gold	US\$/lb	4,686.30	3.09%	7.56%
Copper	US\$/lb	6.1275	4.24%	7.32%
Coffee	US\$/lb	272.47	(6.27%)	(21.87%)
Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)	US\$/MMBtu	2.769	4.61%	(24.88%)
Cocoa	US\$/MT	4,427.00	29.82%	(27.01%)

Sources: Various Sources and United Capital Research

Outlook

Global markets are expected to trade cautiously this week, as the Fed's decision to hold rates and Powell's hawkish tone reinforce the higher-for-longer narrative. Attention shifts to incoming inflation data and Middle East developments, where the fragile US-Iran ceasefire and Strait of Hormuz disruptions could keep Brent crude elevated. Equities would face a mixed backdrop, with AI, technology and energy stocks supporting valuations. Emerging markets remain under pressure from a stronger Dollar and tighter financial conditions. Overall, markets are likely to remain range-bound and volatile, with geopolitical developments, central bank commentary, and inflation data could be the key drivers of the global markets.

Select Sub-Saharan African Markets

Ghana

Ghana's headline inflation rate edged higher to 3.4% year-on-year in April 2026, from 3.2% recorded in March 2026, marking the first uptick since December 2024 and signaling a pause in the country's prolonged disinflation trend. The increase was driven largely by higher non-food prices, particularly across housing, utilities, transport, and household services, while food inflation eased slightly during the period. On a month-on-month basis, consumer prices rose by 1.0%, reflecting renewed price pressures despite relative currency stability and improved external conditions.

Kenya

Kenya's private sector activity remained in contraction territory in April 2026, with the Stanbic Bank Kenya PMI improving slightly to 49.4 points in April 2026 from 47.7 points recorded in March 2026, but remaining below the 50-point threshold that separates expansion from contraction. The subdued business conditions reflected weaker consumer demand, rising fuel and transport costs, and continued supply chain disruptions, particularly across the wholesale, retail, agriculture, and services sectors.

South Africa

South Africa's private sector activity expanded at its fastest pace in nearly four years in April 2026, with the S&P Global South Africa PMI rising to 51.6 points in April 2026 from 50.8 points in March 2026. The improvement reflects stronger output, increased new orders, and firmer export demand, supported partly by inventory accumulation amid concerns over global supply disruptions. However, businesses continued to face rising input costs driven by higher fuel, transport, and supplier prices, highlighting persistent inflationary pressures within the operating environment.

Outlook

African markets are expected to trade cautiously this week as the Fed's higher-for-longer stance continues to tighten global financial conditions, weighing on currencies and capital flows. Oil-importing economies may face stronger pressure from elevated energy costs, while exporters such as Nigeria and Angola could benefit from higher oil prices. Meanwhile, reform-driven markets including Egypt, Ghana, and Kenya may continue to attract selective investor interest, though markets are likely to remain broadly defensive.

Pan African Stock Market Monitor

Market	Index	Market Cap (\$'bn)	WTD (Local Currencies)	YTD (Local Currencies)
Ghana	14,887.92	24.42	(1.39%)	69.75%
Nigeria	244,670.65	104.17	0.99%	57.23%
Tanzania	3,780.80	12.58	(3.43%)	36.89%
Egypt	53,605	71.12	2.33%	28.15%
Tunisia	16,449	12.35	2.70%	22.30%
BRVM	403.46	27.9	0.02%	16.69%

Kenya	3,525.60	27.05	(1.05%)	12.33%
Namibia	2,347.70	3.45	4.44%	9.65%
Mauritius	2,277.30	6.39	0.15%	7.48%
South Africa	119,153.90	1,511.54	4.64%	2.83%
Morocco	422.68	118.21	1.11%	(0.81%)

Sources: NGX, Various Sources and United Capital Research

Currency Performance in Select African Countries				
Currency vs USD	Signs	Spot Rate	Weekly Change	YTD
Zambia	ZMW: Kwacha	19.08	(1.87%)	15.97%
Nigeria	NGN: Naira	1,355.85	1.74%	6.54%
Tunisia	TND: Dinar	2.87	0.72%	0.64%
Namibia	NAD: Dollar	16.45	2.16%	0.62%
South Africa	ZAR: Rand	16.5	1.87%	0.39%
WAEMU	CFA: Franc	557.5	0.54%	0.27%
Angola	AOA: Kwanza	919.82	0.00%	(0.09%)
Kenya	KES: Shilling	129.15	(0.12%)	(0.12%)
Guinea	GNF: Franc	8,774.50	(0.01%)	(0.30%)
Sierra Leone	SLL: Leone	24,134.00	0.00%	(0.38%)
Morocco	MAD: Dirham	9.16	1.02%	(0.46%)
Mauritius	MUR: Rupee	46.72	0.24%	(1.01%)
Cameroun	XAF: Franc	572.48	0.20%	(2.49%)
Gabon	XAF: Franc	572.48	0.20%	(2.49%)
Liberia	LRD: Dollar	183.17	(0.01%)	(3.37%)
Uganda	UGX: Shilling	3,746.50	(0.54%)	(3.39%)
Tanzania	TZS: Shilling	2,597.50	(0.10%)	(5.29%)
Ghana	GHS: Cedi	11.27	(0.90%)	(6.84%)
Egypt	EGP: Pound	52.72	0.57%	(9.52%)

Sources:NGX, Various Sources and United Capital Research

Key Rates in Select African Countries				
Countries	10Yr Bond Yield	Inflation	Real Return	Policy Rate
Nigeria	14.96%	15.38%	(0.43%)	26.50%
Egypt	20.90%	14.90%	6.00%	19.00%
Angola	22.00%	11.58%	10.42%	17.50%
Ethiopia*	-	9.40%	-	15.00%
Ghana	15.00%	3.40%	11.60%	14.00%
Congo	9.20%	2.07%	7.13%	13.50%
Kenya	11.52%	5.60%	5.92%	8.75%

Rwanda*	-	7.70%	-	7.25%
South Africa	8.63%	3.10%	5.53%	6.75%
Tanzania	10.50%	4.00%	6.50%	5.75%
Cote d'Ivoire	7.80%	0.30%	7.50%	5.00%
Cameroon	8.50%	2.50%	6.00%	4.75%
Chad*	-	(3.00%)	-	4.75%
Gabon*	-	2.10%	-	4.75%
Mauritius	5.54%	3.60%	1.94%	4.50%

Countries marked with an asterisk () do not currently have an active 10-year bond in issue; as such, their corresponding real return cannot be computed due to the absence of a benchmark yield.

Sources: FMDQ, Various Sources and United Capital Research

West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)

Ivory Coast

Ivory Coast has dissolved its Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) following sustained criticism over its independence and credibility in managing elections. The government stated that the decision forms part of efforts to restructure the electoral framework and strengthen institutional trust ahead of future elections. While the move is intended to improve electoral governance, it introduces short-term political uncertainty regarding election management and timelines. This development may increase market volatility in the short term.

Guinea-Bissau

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) reached a staff-level agreement with Guinea-Bissau on the Eleventh Review under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) arrangement, subject to approval by the IMF Executive Board. The agreement follows continued progress on fiscal consolidation and structural reforms aimed at strengthening macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability. When approved, the review is expected to unlock additional disbursement of about SDR 3.5 million (approximately US\$4.6 million). This will provide further budget support and reinforcing Guinea-Bissau's reform programme under the ECF arrangement. The programme remains focused on improving revenue mobilisation, containing fiscal risks, and supporting medium-term growth, despite ongoing structural and financing constraints.

Outlook

WAEMU markets are expected to trade with cautious optimism, supported by an accommodative Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) policy stance, strong regional growth projected at 6.4% for 2026, and a low inflation environment underpinning both equity and fixed income valuations. The Bourse Regionale des Valeurs Mobilières (BRVM) is expected to sustain its bullish momentum, led by banking and consumer stocks as easing financing conditions support corporate earnings. On fixed income, demand is expected to remain firm at government bond auctions, with yields staying relatively compressed. The primary risk is a reversal in the deflation trend driven by rising global energy prices, which could cause the BCEAO's easing cycle and pressure bond valuations. Sahel security concerns remain a structural overhang for select member states. Overall, the bias remains positive, with fixed income offering attractive entry points and equities supported by strong regional fundamentals.

Market Performance Snapshot

	Previous	Current	Weekly Change	YTD
BRVM	403.38	403.46	0.02%	16.69%
Currency (CFA: Franc)	560.5	557.5	0.54%	0.27%

Key Rates in WAEMU Countries

Countries	Tenor	Bond Yield	Inflation	Policy Rate
Togo	5 Years	7.00%	1.60%	5.00%
Senegal	5 Years	8.00%	1.40%	5.00%
Burkina Faso	5 Years	6.00%	0.80%	5.00%
Mali	3 Years	6.00%	0.70%	5.00%
Benin	2 Years	6.00%	0.40%	5.00%
Ivory coast	5 Years	7.36%	0.30%	5.00%
Guinea- Bissau	3 Years	8.00%	(3.50%)	5.00%
Niger	5 Years	10.00%	(9.80%)	5.00%

Sources: Various Sources and United Capital Research

Domestic Economy

United Capital Research projects Nigeria's headline inflation rate to rise slightly to 15.54% in April 2026, from 15.38% in March. This is driven largely by higher energy prices stemming from the ongoing US-Iran conflict and its impact on consumer goods prices. If realised, this would mark the second consecutive monthly increase ahead of the Central Bank of Nigeria's upcoming Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting. Despite the expected uptick, United Capital Research does not anticipate an immediate policy rate adjustment, given the potential impact of tighter monetary conditions on borrowing costs and economic activity. We also expect continued Naira stability and improved oil-driven government revenues to help moderate inflationary pressures and support targeted fiscal interventions.

Equity Market

The Nigerian Exchange All Share Index (NGX-ASI) sustained its positive momentum during the week, rising by 0.99% week-on-week from 242,277.81 points to close at 244,670.65 points, bringing the year-to-date return to 57.23%. Sectoral performance was broadly positive, led by gains in the Industrial Goods and Insurance indices, which advanced by 5.11% and 4.01% respectively. The Banking and Consumer Goods indices also recorded gains of 1.89% and 1.81% respectively, while the Oil & Gas index declined by 3.27% during the week.

Nigerian Equity Market Performance			
Index	Close Price	Weekly Change	YTD
NGX-ASI	244,670.65	0.99%	57.23%
Oil/Gas Index	5,897.76	(3.27%)	120.87%
Industrial Goods Index	11,853.34	5.11%	108.81%
Banking Index	2,324.59	1.89%	53.35%
Consumer Goods Index	4,941.05	1.81%	24.29%
Insurance Index	1,234.03	4.01%	3.76%

Sources: NGX and United Capital Research

Fixed Income and Money Market

The fixed income market reflected mixed sentiment during the week, with yields trending slightly higher across most instruments despite relatively stable liquidity conditions. In the money market, the Overnight (O/N) rate increased by 0.14% to 22.25%, while the Open Repo Rate (OPR) remained unchanged at 22.00%, indicating sustained liquidity moderation in the system. In the Nigerian Treasury Bills segment, yields advanced across all maturities, suggesting cautious investor sentiment and mild sell pressure. The 91-day, 182-day, and 364-day NTB yields rose to 16.42%, 17.55%, and 18.90%, respectively. Performance in the bond market was mixed. The 5-year bond yield declined marginally by 0.09% to 16.71%, reflecting selective buying interest at the mid-tenor segment. However, yields at the longer end edged higher, with the 7-year and 10-year bonds increasing to 16.84% and 14.96%, respectively, while the 3-year bond remained unchanged at 16.18%. Overall, the market maintained a cautious tone, with modest upward yield adjustments across most fixed income instruments amid balanced liquidity conditions and selective demand.

Fixed Income Securities Rates			
	Yield	Weekly Change	Year-To-Date Change
Overnight Rate (O/N)	22.25%	0.14%	(0.50%)
Open Repo Rate (OPR)	22.00%	0.00%	(0.50%)
91-Day NTB	16.42%	0.07%	0.12%
182-Day NTB	17.55%	0.27%	0.85%
364-Day NTB	18.90%	0.06%	(0.69%)

Bond Market Rates			
Bond	Yield	Weekly Change	Year-to-Date Change
3 Years	16.18%	0.00%	(0.73%)
5 Years	16.71%	(0.09%)	(0.40%)
7 Years	16.84%	0.20%	(0.22%)
10 Years	14.96%	0.01%	(1.85%)

Sources: FMDQ and United Capital Research

Outlook

Equity Market

The Nigerian equity market is expected to remain resilient this week, supported by ongoing macroeconomic reforms, elevated oil prices, and sustained foreign investor participation. Banking, Building Materials and Oil & Gas stocks are likely to stay in focus, with the Q1 2026 earnings season serving as the next key catalyst for validating current valuations. Looking ahead, potential catalysts such as the FTSE Russell reclassification and a possible Dangote Refinery listing could prove transformative for market depth and foreign capital inflows. Nonetheless, near-term headwinds persist, including profit-taking at record index levels, Naira volatility, and broader global risk-off sentiment. Overall, the market is poised to trend higher, albeit with a shift away from broad-based rallies toward a more selective, earnings-driven environment.

Fixed Income Market

The Nigerian fixed income market is expected to remain active this week, with system liquidity and Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)'s Open Market Operations (OMO) continuing to anchor short-term yields. Treasury bill demand should stay firm, particularly at the short end, where real returns remain attractive to both domestic and foreign investors. At the long end, the 10-year yield currently around 14.95% is expected to remain broadly stable. Significant compression unlikely given the Fed's hawkish hold and the risk of capital outflows should the CBN ease policy prematurely relative to global peers.

Dividend Announcements					
S/N	Company	Final Dividend (N)	Bonus	Qualification Date	Payment Date
1	Mecure Industries	0.32	-	Apr 23, 2026	TBA
2	Transnational Corporation	1.6	-	May 1, 2026	May 19, 2026
3	BUA Cement	10	-	May 8, 2026	May 21, 2026
4	Seplat Energy	US\$0.05(+US\$0.033 special)	-	May 15, 2026	May 29, 2026
5	Haldane Mccall	0.05	-	May 28, 2026	Jun 18, 2026
6	Chemical & Allied Products	4	-	Jun 3, 2026	Jun 25, 2026
7	Dangote Cement	45	-	Jun 17, 2026	Jul 2, 2026
8	Ikeja Hotel	0.3	-	Jul 3, 2026	Aug 3, 2026
9	GTCO	11.76	-	Apr 13, 2026	Apr 28, 2026
10	Zenith	8.75	-	Apr 24, 2026	May 5, 2026
11	Stanbic	4	-	May 4, 2026	May 26, 2026
12	Wema	1.25	-	Apr 29, 2026	May 20, 2026
13	Meyer	0.45	-	Apr 30, 2026	May 25, 2026

Stock Recommendation

Stocks	Current Price	Target Price	Upside
Access Holdings Plc	23.6	40.75	73%
United Bank for Africa Plc	40	62.64	57%
International Breweries	13	20	54%
C & I Leasing Plc	7	10	43%
Transnational Corporation	43	60	40%
MTN Nigeria	801.1	1,100	37%
Transcorp Power Plc	272.7	365	34%
FCMB Group Plc	11.4	15	32%
Sterling Financial Holdings	7.85	10	27%
AXA Mansard Insurance	13.85	17.5	26%
FIRST HOLDCO PLC	67.8	84.75	25%
Dangote Cement Plc	1,088	1,250	15%

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