

Weekly Investment Views

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Global Markets

United States

The US producer price Index (PPI) surged by 1.4% month-on-month in April 2026. This marked the largest increase since March 2022 and exceeding market expectations of 0.5%. The sharp rise was driven by both surging energy costs particularly a 15.6% increase in gasoline prices and broad-based gains in services. Goods prices rose by 2.0%, supported by increases in jet fuel, diesel, industrial chemicals, fresh vegetables, and residual fuel costs. Services inflation accelerated by 1.2%, the strongest increase since March 2022. This was driven largely by higher machinery and equipment wholesaling margins and gains across transportation, fuel retailing, chemical wholesaling, legal services, and health-related retail services. On an annual basis, producer inflation rose to 6.0% in April 2026, the highest level since December 2022, up from 4.3% in March.

Euro Area

The Euro Area economy expanded by 0.8% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2026, slowing from around 1.2% recorded in Q1 2025. The softer growth came amid rising energy prices and broader economic headwinds linked to the Middle East conflict, alongside weak domestic demand. Growth remained weak or slowed across most major economies, including Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, and Lithuania. Spain remained one of the bloc's strongest-performing economies, with GDP growth accelerating slightly to 2.7% year-on-year during the quarter.

Asia

China's PPI rose 2.8% year-on-year in April 2026, up from 0.5% in March and above forecasts of 1.5%. This was the strongest increase since July 2022, driven by higher global commodity and energy prices linked to the Iran conflict. Beijing's capacity cuts also supported higher factory-gate prices. Production material costs rose to 3.8%, led by mining, raw materials, and processing. Consumer goods prices stayed in deflation, though declines eased. On a monthly basis, prices rose 1.7%, the fastest since October 2021.

Global Equity Market Snapshot

Market	Index	Weekly Change	Year-To-Date (YTD)
Ghana	GGSE	(3.73%)	63.43%
Nigeria	NGX ASI	2.27%	60.87%
Egypt	EGX 30	(0.84%)	27.08%
BRVM	ICXCOMP	1.52%	18.46%
Kenya	NSE 20	0.18%	12.53%
Brazil	IBOV	(2.65%)	10.70%
United States	S&P 500	2.24%	9.58%
United States	NASDAQ	(6.75%)	5.49%
China	SHCOMP	(0.05%)	5.27%
United Kingdom	FTSE 100	0.93%	4.45%
United States	Dow Jones	0.94%	4.16%
Europe	STOXX 600	(0.06%)	3.93%
South Africa	JALSH	(1.50%)	1.29%
Germany	DAX	(0.84%)	(0.14%)
France	CAC 40	(1.46%)	(0.82%)
India	SENSEX	(3.22%)	(11.53%)

*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 were mixed during the week, as persistent geopolitical tensions continued to influence global energy prices amid shifting supply expectations. Bonny Light crude declined by 13.60% week-to-date to settle at US\$110.27/bbl, while Brent crude gained 5.66% to close at US\$105.72/bbl. Despite recent volatility, both benchmarks maintained strong year-to-date gains of 73.87% and 73.74%, respectively, reflecting the continued impact of geopolitical risks and earlier supply disruptions on global oil markets.

Weekly Commodities Price Monitor

Commodity	Unit Price	Price (US\$)	Weekly Change	YTD
Oil Crude – Bonny Light	US\$/bbl	110.27	(13.60%)	73.87%
Oil Crude – Brent	US\$/bbl	105.72	5.66%	73.74%
Gold	US\$/lb	4,651.20	(0.75%)	6.75%
Copper	US\$/lb	6.5675	7.18%	15.03%
Coffee	US\$/lb	275.7	1.19%	(20.95%)
Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)	US\$/MMBtu	2.894	4.51%	(21.49%)
Cocoa	US\$/MT	4,189.00	(5.38%)	(30.93%)

Sources: Various Sources and United Capital Research

Outlook

Global markets are expected to trade cautiously, as Middle East tensions, elevated energy prices, and the Fed's higher-for-longer stance continue to weigh on sentiment. With Brent crude holding above \$110 per barrel and the US-Iran ceasefire remaining fragile, energy market volatility is unlikely to ease soon. Equity markets face a mixed outlook. AI and technology stocks provide support, but high valuations and slowing earnings are pushing investors to be more selective. Emerging markets remain under pressure from a stronger dollar and tighter global financial conditions. On fixed income, yields are expected to stay high, with sticky inflation and heavy government borrowing leaving little room for declines. Overall, markets are likely to remain range-bound and volatile, with geopolitical developments, inflation data, and central bank signals driving direction.

Select Sub-Saharan African Markets

Ghana

Ghana's Producer Price Index (PPI) rose to 1.5% year-on-year in March 2026, up slightly from 1.4% in February 2026. The increase reflects a modest rise in factory-gate prices amid mixed sectoral trends, rather than strong cost pressures. While some industrial segments recorded mild price increases, others particularly transport and services remained in deflation. On a monthly basis, producer prices increased by around 0.7% in March, indicating modest short-term price adjustments within the production chain. Overall, PPI remained subdued at low single-digit levels, highlighting a significant easing in producer inflation compared with the elevated levels recorded in previous years.

Rwanda

Rwanda's annual inflation rose to 11.5% in April 2026, up from 7.7% in March 2026, marking the highest level since October 2023. The increase was largely driven by higher food prices, particularly meat, bread, and cereals, which continued to push household costs upward. Transport inflation surged sharply to 26.6%, while housing, utilities, and energy costs also recorded significant increases. Core inflation rose to 8.7%, suggesting that underlying price pressures are becoming more broad-based and persistent. On a monthly basis, CPI increased by 5.7%, the fastest pace on record, highlighting strong short-term inflation momentum.

South Africa

South Africa's unemployment rate rose to 32.7% in Q1 2026 from 31.4% in Q4 2025, reflecting a deterioration in labour market conditions. The increase was driven by a loss of about 345,000 jobs and a rise of over 300,000 in the number of unemployed people. This reverses modest improvements seen in late 2025 and highlights ongoing weakness in job creation. Overall, the data underscores persistent structural unemployment, with limited near-term improvement expected without stronger economic growth and investment.

Outlook

African markets are expected to trade defensively, as the Fed's hawkish stance and elevated energy prices weigh on sentiment and pressure government finances. Oil exporters like Nigeria and Angola remain relative bright spots, benefiting from higher crude prices, while WAEMU markets stand out for their supportive monetary conditions and strong growth. Reform-driven economies such as Egypt, Ghana, and Kenya may attract selective investor interest, though currency pressures and debt concerns persist. Overall, performance will remain highly differentiated, shaped by each country's commodity exposure, fiscal position, and reform credibility.

Pan African Stock Market Monitor

Market	Index	Market Cap (\$'bn)	WTD (Local Currencies)	YTD (Local Currencies)
Ghana	14,332.97	23.2	(3.73%)	63.43%
Nigeria	250,330.92	117.04	2.27%	60.87%
Tanzania	3,831.20	12.75	1.33%	38.72%
Tunisia	17,223	12.93	4.71%	28.05%
Egypt	53,154.84	71.9	(0.84%)	27.08%
BRVM	409.59	28.01	1.52%	18.46%

Kenya	3,532	28.8	0.18%	12.53%
Namibia	2,356	3.46	0.35%	10.04%
Mauritius	2,297.90	6.37	0.90%	8.45%
South Africa	117,362.40	1,507.24	(1.50%)	1.29%
Morocco	417.05	116.91	(1.33%)	(2.13%)

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	18.93	0.83%	16.94%
Nigeria	NGN: Naira	1,370.89	(1.10%)	5.37%
South Africa	ZAR: Rand	16.48	0.16%	0.56%
Namibia	NAD: Dollar	16.5	(0.25%)	0.37%
WAEMU	CFA: Franc	558	(0.09%)	0.18%
Angola	AOA: Kwanza	919.82	0.00%	(0.09%)
Kenya	KES: Shilling	129.15	0.00%	(0.12%)
Guinea	GNF: Franc	8,769.00	0.06%	(0.23%)
Sierra Leone	SLL: Leone	24,101.00	0.14%	(0.25%)
Morocco	MAD: Dirham	9.16	(0.02%)	(0.48%)
Tunisia	TND: Dinar	2.9	(1.15%)	(0.51%)
Mauritius	MUR: Rupee	46.9	(0.38%)	(1.39%)
Cameroun	XAF: Franc	573.8	(0.23%)	(2.71%)
Gabon	XAF: Franc	573.8	(0.23%)	(2.71%)
Liberia	LRD: Dollar	182.81	0.20%	(3.18%)
Uganda	UGX: Shilling	3,740.50	0.16%	(3.23%)
Tanzania	TZS: Shilling	2,595.00	0.10%	(5.20%)
Ghana	GHS: Cedi	11.31	(0.37%)	(7.19%)
Egypt	EGP: Pound	52.88	(0.30%)	(9.80%)

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	8.00%	14.90%	(6.90%)	19.00%
Angola	10.50%	11.58%	(1.08%)	17.00%
Ethiopia*	-	9.40%	-	15.00%
Ghana	6.20%	3.40%	2.80%	14.00%
Congo	6.70%	2.07%	4.63%	13.50%
Kenya	11.52%	5.60%	5.92%	8.75%

Rwanda*	-	11.50%	-	7.25%
South Africa	8.63%	3.10%	5.53%	6.75%
Tanzania	11.80%	4.00%	7.80%	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)

Guinea-Bissau

Guinea-Bissau's transitional government has confirmed that the country's fourth General Population and Housing Census will be conducted from 1 to 21 June 2026 after delays caused by late international funding. The exercise, supported by the World Bank and the United Nations Population Fund, is expected to provide updated data on the country's population and living conditions. The census will be the country's first since 2009 and comes amid Guinea-Bissau's ongoing political transition following the November 2025 coup, with elections scheduled for December 2026.

Senegal

Senegal's state-owned oil company, Petrosen, has estimated that the Yakaar-Teranga gas project will require \$7.5 billion in investment and could significantly reduce the country's annual energy subsidy bill of roughly \$1 billion once operational. The project is expected to support domestic electricity generation and drive the development of petrochemical and fertiliser industries. The development will be executed in phases, with an initial \$2.5 billion investment targeted at supplying gas to the domestic market, while a later \$5 billion downstream phase will focus on industrial expansion. Senegal is also expected to assume greater control of the project following the exit of BP in 2023 and the expected expiry of Kosmos Energy's contract in 2026.

Outlook

WAEMU markets are expected to remain resilient, standing out as one of Africa's more insulated regions from the global higher-for-longer rate environment. With the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) policy rate at 5.00% and low inflation, the monetary policy remains uniquely supportive. This should keep government borrowing costs contained and underpinning equity valuations. Q1 2026 corporate earnings will be a key focus, testing whether strong macroeconomic conditions are translating into bottom-line growth. The most immediate external risk is a sustained rise in energy and food import costs from the Middle East conflict, which could reverse the deflation trend and force the Central Bank of West African States to pause its easing cycle. Sahel instability remains a drag on Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger specifically. Overall, WAEMU remains a compelling pocket of stability, though global volatility warrants selectivity.

Market Performance Snapshot				
	Previous	Current	Weekly Change	YTD
BRVM	403.46	409.59	1.52%	18.46%
Currency (CFA: Franc)	557.5	558	(0.09%)	0.18%
Bond Yields in WAEMU Countries				
Countries	Tenor	Bond Yield	Weekly Change	YTD
Burkina Faso	5 Year	7.00%	1.00%	0.00%
Benin	2 Year	6.00%	1.00%	(1.00%)
Togo	5 Year	7.00%	0.00%	1.00%
Mali	3 Year	6.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Ivory coast	5 Year	7.36%	0.00%	(0.10%)
Guinea- Bissau	3 Year	8.00%	0.00%	1.00%
Niger	5 Year	10.00%	0.00%	3.73%
Senegal	5 Year	7.00%	(1.00%)	1.00%

Sources: Various Sources and United Capital Research

Key Rates in WAEMU Countries

Countries	Inflation	Policy Rate
Senegal	1.40%	5.00%
Togo	0.70%	5.00%
Mali	0.70%	5.00%
Burkina Faso	0.40%	5.00%
Ivory coast	0.30%	5.00%
Benin	(0.60%)	5.00%
Guinea- Bissau	(4.30%)	5.00%
Niger	(9.80%)	5.00%

Sources: Various Sources and United Capital Research

Domestic Economy

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) is scheduled to meet on May 19–20, 2026. United Capital Research expects the MPC to: Maintain the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) at 26.5%, retain the standing facility corridor around the MPR +0.5%/-4.5%, keep the Cash Reserve Requirement (CRR) for Commercial Banks at 45%, retain the CRR for Merchant Banks at 16%, retain the Liquidity Ratio at 30%, adjust the CRR on Non-Treasury Single Account (TSA) public sector deposits to 85% from 75%. The Naira appreciated modestly to US\$/#1,375 in April, while crude oil production increased to 1.49mbpd, supported by the reopening of key oil facilities. Overall, we expect the MPC to adopt a cautious hold stance while tightening liquidity conditions through a higher CRR on non-TSA public sector deposits.

Equity Market

The Nigerian Exchange All Share Index (NGX-ASI) extended its bullish momentum during the week, rising by 2.27% week-on-week from 244,775.83 points to close at 250,330.92 points, bringing the year-to-date return to 60.87%. Sectoral performance was broadly positive, led by the Industrial Goods Index, which surged by 10.01% during the week. The Insurance, Banking, and Consumer Goods indices also recorded strong gains of 6.86%, 4.77%, and 3.49%, respectively. However, the Oil & Gas Index declined by 4.42% week-on-week, reflecting profit-taking activities within the sector despite elevated global oil prices.

Nigerian Equity Market Performance

Index	Close Price	Weekly Change	YTD
NGX-ASI	250,330.92	2.27%	60.87%
Oil/Gas Index	5,827.55	(4.42%)	118.24%
Industrial Goods Index	12,405.99	10.01%	118.55%
Banking Index	2,390.19	4.77%	57.68%
Consumer Goods Index	5,022.43	3.49%	26.34%
Insurance Index	1,267.90	6.86%	6.61%

Sources: NGX and United Capital Research

Fixed Income and Money Market

The fixed income market reflected broadly bearish sentiment during the week, with yields moderating slightly across most money market and fixed income instruments amid improved liquidity conditions. In the money market, the Overnight (O/N) rate declined marginally by 0.05% to 22.20%, while the Open Repo Rate (OPR) remained unchanged at 22.00%, indicating relatively stable system liquidity. In the Nigerian Treasury Bills market, yields declined across all maturities, reflecting renewed investor demand. The 91-day, 182-day, and 364-day NTB yields eased to 16.33%, 17.52%, and 18.76%, respectively. Performance in the bond market was mixed, with the 3-year bond yield rising slightly by 0.01% to 16.19%, while the 5-year and 7-year bond yields declined marginally to 16.70% and 16.83%, respectively. The 10-year bond yield remained unchanged at 14.96%, suggesting relatively balanced demand at the longer end of the curve. Overall, the market maintained a cautious but relatively stable tone, supported by moderate liquidity conditions and selective investor interest across fixed income instruments.

Fixed Income Securities Rates

	Yield	Weekly Change	Year-To-Date Change
Overnight Rate (O/N)	22.20%	(0.05%)	(0.55%)
Open Repo Rate (OPR)	22.00%	0.00%	(0.50%)
91-Day NTB	16.33%	(0.09%)	0.03%
182-Day NTB	17.52%	(0.03%)	0.82%
364-Day NTB	18.76%	(0.14%)	(0.83%)

Bond Market Rates

Bond	Yield	Weekly Change	Year-to-Date Change
3 Years	16.19%	0.01%	(0.72%)
5 Years	16.70%	(0.01%)	(0.41%)
7 Years	16.83%	(0.01%)	(0.23%)
10 Years	14.96%	0.00%	(1.85%)

Sources: FMDQ and United Capital Research

Outlook

Equity Market

The Nigerian equity market is expected to maintain its positive bias, as investors continue to buy some value stocks in anticipation of strong future earnings. Meanwhile, profit taking is possible. Macroeconomic reform momentum, a supportive oil price environment, and growing foreign investor confidence continue to provide a solid foundation. The FTSE Russell reclassification and the much-anticipated Dangote Refinery listing remain powerful medium-term catalysts that could significantly re-rate the market. Meanwhile, global risk-off sentiment, Naira volatility, and profit-taking pressures at elevated levels are likely to keep gains measured. The market is expected to trend higher, but stock selection will be increasingly critical as the rally matures.

Fixed Income Market

The Nigerian fixed income market is expected to remain active, with system liquidity and CBN open market operations continuing to anchor short-term yields. Treasury bill demand is expected to stay firm, particularly at the short end where real returns remain attractive to both domestic and foreign investors. At the longer end, the 10-year yield currently 14.96% is expected to hold broadly steady. Meaningful compression unlikely given the Fed's hawkish hold. Overall, the market is expected to remain range-bound, with the short end outperforming and the long end anchored by global rate dynamics and Nigeria's ongoing fiscal pressures.

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	25.75	40.75	58%
International Breweries	13	20	54%
C & I Leasing Plc	6.75	10	48%
United Bank for Africa Plc	44	62.64	42%
MTN Nigeria	820	1,100	34%
Transcorp Power Plc	272.7	365	34%
Transnational Corporation	45	60	33%
Sterling Financial Holdings	7.8	10	28%
FCMB Group Plc	11.8	15	27%
FIRST HOLDCO PLC	70	84.75	21%
AXA Mansard Insurance	14.6	17.5	20%

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CONTACT US

- **Research:**
Research@unitedcapitalplcgroup.com
- **Trustees:**
Trustees@unitedcapitalplcgroup.com
- **Securities Trading:**
Securities@unitedcapitalplcgroup.com
- **Investment Banking:**
InvestmentBanking@unitedcapitalplcgroup.com
- **Asset Management:**
Assetmanagement@unitedcapitalplcgroup.com
- **Investors Relations:**
InvestorRelations@unitedcapitalplcgroup.com

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