

Weekly Investment Views

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Global Markets

United States

The US Federal Reserve (Fed) held its benchmark interest rate steady at 3.50% – 3.75% for a third consecutive meeting, as policymakers remain cautious amid persistent inflationary pressures. While inflation has moderated from prior highs, it continues to run above the Fed's 2% target, particularly within core services, and faces renewed upside risks from rising energy prices linked to geopolitical tensions. At the same time, broader economic conditions especially labour market and steady economic activity have reduced the urgency for policy easing. The decision reinforces a “higher-for-longer” stance, with the Fed signaling no urgency to cut policy rates until there is clear and sustained progress on disinflation.

Euro Area

The Euro Area's flash Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) declined sharply to 48.6 points in April 2026 from 50.7 points in March 2026, falling below the 50.0 points expansion threshold and signaling a renewed contraction in private-sector activity. The weakness was driven primarily by the services sector (47.4 points), while manufacturing remained in expansion at 52.2 points, though partly supported by temporary factors. The deterioration reflects softening demand, rising input costs, and heightened uncertainty linked to energy price pressures.

Asia

China's manufacturing sector remained in mild expansion, with the official PMI at 50.3 points in April 2026 from 50.4 points in March 2026 and the Caixin PMI rising to 52.2 points in April 2026 from 51.7 points in March 2026, indicating stable-to-improving industrial momentum. Growth was supported by stronger export orders, higher production, and sustained global demand for industrial and technology goods.

Global Equity Market Snapshot

Market	Index	Weekly Change	Year-To-Date (YTD)
Ghana	GGSE	1.10%	72.15%
Nigeria	NGX ASI	7.33%	55.69%
Egypt	EGX 30	0.02%	25.23%
BRVM	ICXCOMP	0.62%	16.67%
Brazil	IBOV	(3.46%)	14.66%
Kenya	NSE 20	(0.78%)	13.52%
United States	S&P 500	0.39%	4.24%
China	SHCOMP	0.35%	3.49%
United Kingdom	FTSE 100	(2.33%)	2.84%
Europe	STOXX 600	(1.83%)	1.72%
United States	Dow Jones	(0.91%)	1.66%
France	CAC 40	(1.89%)	(0.95%)
South Africa	JALSH	(2.22%)	(1.73%)
Germany	DAX	(0.83%)	(2.19%)
United States	NASDAQ	0.96%	(2.28%)
India	SENSEX	(0.22%)	(9.06%)

*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 sustained an upward trend during the week, supported by persistent geopolitical tensions and ongoing supply-side concerns. Bonny Light crude advanced by 20.78% to settle at US\$136.86/bbl, extending its year-to-date gain to 115.80%. Similarly, Brent crude appreciated by 5.11% to US\$110.44/bbl, with its year-to-date return rising to 81.50%. Overall, crude prices remain elevated, underscoring the market's continued sensitivity to global supply disruptions and geopolitical developments.

Weekly Commodities Price Monitor

Commodity	Unit Price	Price (US\$)	Weekly Change	YTD
Oil Crude – Bonny Light	US\$/bbl	136.86	20.78%	115.80%
Oil Crude – Brent	US\$/bbl	110.44	5.11%	81.50%
Gold	US\$/lb	4,546.00	(3.24%)	4.34%
Copper	US\$/lb	5.8785	(3.24%)	2.96%
Coffee	US\$/lb	290.7	(3.21%)	(16.65%)
Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)	US\$/MMBtu	2.647	1.26%	(28.19%)
Cocoa	US\$/MT	3,410.00	(1.39%)	(43.78%)

Sources: Various Sources and United Capital Research

Outlook

Global markets are expected to trade cautiously this week, driven by the Fed's rate decision and major technology earnings. The Fed has held rates steady while maintaining a cautious, slightly hawkish tone, and the European Central Bank (ECB) is also expected to keep policy unchanged. AI sentiment remains fragile following reports that OpenAI missed internal growth targets, weighing on AI-linked technology stocks. Energy markets remain elevated, with Brent crude trading around \$110 per barrel amid continued disruption in the Strait of Hormuz. The United Arab Emirate (UAE) announced its exit from the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Overall, markets are likely to stay volatile and range-bound, with Fed communication, Powell's tone, and tech earnings as the key near-term drivers.

Select Sub-Saharan African Markets

Ghana

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has commenced Ghana's sixth and final review under its Extended Credit Facility (ECF) programme, ahead of the country's planned exit in August 2026. A key component of the review will be the identification of prior actions required for completion of the programme, which will determine the release of the final tranche of IMF support. Ghana's programme, originally set to end in May 2026, has been extended to August 2026 for technical completion.

Kenya

Kenya's annual inflation rose to 5.6% in April 2026, up from 4.4% in March 2026, marking the highest level since March 2024. The increase was mainly driven by higher fuel and petroleum costs linked to Middle East tensions, which pushed transport inflation sharply higher to 10% (from 3.8%). Additional upward pressure came from food & non-alcoholic beverages (8.8% vs 7.7%), housing & utilities (2.4% vs 2.0%), and smaller increases in miscellaneous goods & services (2.7% vs 2.5%), while education inflation eased slightly to 3.2% (from 3.3%). Overall, the print reflects a broad-based rise in prices, with energy costs acting as the primary driver.

South Africa

South Africa has unveiled plans to reform its long-standing exchange control framework to attract more foreign capital and strengthen its position as Africa's leading financial hub. The proposals include easing offshore investment restrictions, allowing domestic asset managers to operate Non-Rand Funds, and formally regulating crypto-related flows, with the Johannesburg Stock Exchange estimating up to 10 trillion Rand in potential investment flows.

Outlook

African markets are expected to trade defensively this week, as elevated global energy prices, cautious central bank signals, and risk-off sentiment continue to weigh on the continent. Oil-importing economies face the greatest pressure, with Brent crude around \$110 per barrel straining fiscal balances and stoking inflation, while a stronger Dollar and tighter global financial conditions dampen foreign appetite for African assets. Oil exporters such as Nigeria and Angola remain relative bright spots, benefiting from sustained crude price strength. Overall, markets are likely to remain driven by country-specific fundamentals notably commodity exposure, fiscal positioning, and reform credibility rather than any broad regional tailwind.

Pan African Stock Market Monitor

Market	Index	Market Cap (\$'bn)	WTD (Local Currencies)	YTD (Local Currencies)
Ghana	15,098.22	25.51	1.10%	72.15%
Nigeria	242,277.81	104.17	7.33%	55.69%
Tanzania	3,915	12.98	1.35%	41.75%
Egypt	52,383	68.38	0.02%	25.23%
Tunisia	16,017	12.3	1.20%	19.09%
BRVM	403.38	27.49	0.62%	16.67%

Kenya	3,563	26.51	(0.78%)	13.52%
Mauritius	2,274	6.33	(0.20%)	7.32%
Namibia	2,247.90	3.4	(3.06%)	4.99%
South Africa	113,865.92	1,422.89	(2.22%)	(1.73%)
Morocco	418.04	115.47	(2.29%)	(1.90%)

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	18.73	0.27%	18.18%
Nigeria	NGN: Naira	1,379.46	(1.85%)	4.72%
Kenya	KES: Shilling	129	0.27%	0.00%
Tunisia	TND: Dinar	2.89	(0.12%)	(0.08%)
Angola	AOA: Kwanza	919.82	0.00%	(0.09%)
WAEMU	CFA: Franc	560.5	0.04%	(0.27%)
Guinea	GNF: Franc	8,774.00	0.04%	(0.29%)
Sierra Leone	SLL: Leone	24,135.00	0.08%	(0.39%)
Mauritius	MUR: Rupee	46.83	(0.19%)	(1.24%)
South Africa	ZAR: Rand	16.81	(1.11%)	(1.45%)
Morocco	MAD: Dirham	9.25	0.07%	(1.46%)
Namibia	NAD: Dollar	16.81	(0.99%)	(1.51%)
Cameroun	XAF: Franc	573.63	(0.03%)	(2.68%)
Gabon	XAF: Franc	573.63	(0.03%)	(2.68%)
Uganda	UGX: Shilling	3,726.40	(0.16%)	(2.87%)
Liberia	LRD: Dollar	183.16	0.08%	(3.36%)
Tanzania	TZS: Shilling	2,595.00	0.19%	(5.20%)
Ghana	GHS: Cedi	11.17	(0.73%)	(6.00%)
Egypt	EGP: Pound	53.02	(0.75%)	(10.03%)

Sources:NGX, Various Sources and United Capital Research

Key Rates in Select African Countries				
Countries	10Yr Bond Yield	Inflation	Real Return	Policy Rate
Nigeria	14.95%	15.38%	(0.43%)	26.50%
Egypt	21.00%	15.20%	5.80%	19.00%
Angola	22.00%	12.42%	9.58%	17.50%
Ethiopia*	-	9.40%	-	15.00%
Ghana	15.00%	3.20%	11.80%	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	8.86%	3.10%	5.76%	6.75%
Tanzania	10.50%	3.20%	7.30%	5.75%
Cote d'Ivoire	7.80%	0.30%	7.50%	5.00%
Cameroon	8.30%	2.50%	5.80%	4.75%
Chad*	-	(3.00%)	-	4.75%
Gabon*	-	2.10%	-	4.75%
Mauritius	5.55%	2.70%	2.85%	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

Domestic Economy

The composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) declined to 49.4 points in April 2026 from 53.2 points in March 2026, falling marginally below the 50-point threshold and signalling a slight contraction in aggregate economic activity after sixteen (16) consecutive months of expansion. Sectoral indicators showed that both Industry and Services slipped into contractionary territory at 49.5 points and 48.8 points, respectively, while Agriculture remained marginally expansionary at 50.2 points. The observed moderation in business activity may reflect heightened geopolitical uncertainty and elevated risk tensions in the Middle East, which continue to weigh on production expectations, input costs, and overall business confidence.

Equity Market

The Nigerian Exchange All Share Index (NGX-ASI) extended its bullish run, gaining 7.33% week-on-week from 225,722.49 points to close at 242,277.81 points, lifting the year-to-date return to 55.69%. Market performance was broadly positive, driven by strong rallies in the Industrial Goods and Oil/Gas indices, which advanced by 16.89% and 14.37% respectively, while the Banking and Insurance indices posted weekly declines of 5.52% and 1.13% respectively.

Nigerian Equity Market Performance			
Index	Close Price	Weekly Change	YTD
NGX-ASI	242,277.81	7.33%	55.69%
Oil/Gas Index	6,097.34	14.37%	128.34%
Industrial Goods Index	11,277.17	16.89%	98.66%
Banking Index	2,281.39	(5.52%)	50.50%
Consumer Goods Index	4,853.04	3.20%	22.07%
Insurance Index	1,186.50	(1.13%)	(0.24%)

Sources: NGX and United Capital Research

Fixed Income and Money Market

The fixed income market reflected mixed but largely stable sentiment during the week, with modest movements across both money market and bond segments. In the money market, rates edged slightly lower, indicating adequate system liquidity. The Overnight (O/N) rate declined marginally by 0.10% to 22.11%, while the Open Repo Rate (OPR) remained unchanged at 22.00%. In the Nigerian Treasury Bills segment, yields moderated slightly across maturities, suggesting mild buying interest. The 91-day, 182-day, and 364-day instruments declined to 16.35%, 17.28%, and 18.84%, respectively. In the bond market, performance was mixed. Yields at the short end declined, with the 3-year dropping by 0.34% to 16.18% and the 7-year easing to 16.64%. However, the 5-year yield rose by 0.20% to 16.80%, while the 10-year remained unchanged at 14.95%, indicating subdued activity at the long end. Overall, the market exhibited a neutral to mildly bullish bias, with declining yields across most instruments amid steady liquidity conditions and selective investor demand.

Fixed Income Securities Rates			
	Yield	Weekly Change	Year-To-Date Change
Overnight Rate (O/N)	22.11%	(0.10%)	(0.64%)
Open Repo Rate (OPR)	22.00%	0.00%	(0.50%)
91-Day NTB	16.35%	(0.04%)	0.05%
182-Day NTB	17.28%	(0.05%)	0.58%
364-Day NTB	18.84%	(0.06%)	(0.75%)

Bond Market Rates

Bond	Yield	Weekly Change	Year-to-Date Change
3yrs	16.18%	(0.34%)	(0.73%)
5yrs	16.80%	0.20%	(0.31%)
7yrs	16.64%	(0.06%)	(0.42%)
10yrs	14.95%	0.00%	(1.86%)

Sources: FMDQ and United Capital Research

Outlook

Equity Market

The Nigerian equity market is expected to sustain its bullish bias this new week, supported by continued foreign investor interest, elevated oil prices, and improving corporate earnings momentum as Q1 2026 results season gathers pace. Banking, Building Materials and Oil & Gas stocks are likely to remain in focus, with strong results from leading names capable of driving index gains. However, profit-taking at elevated index levels remains a near-term risk, and broader global caution following the Fed's decision to hold rates and Powell's hawkish tone could temper foreign participation. Overall, the market is expected to trade positively but with selective momentum, as investors rotate toward value plays and earnings-driven names.

Fixed Income Market

The Nigerian fixed income market is expected to remain active, with system liquidity and Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)'s open market operations continuing to set the tone for short-term yields. Nigerian Treasury Bill (NTB) demand is likely to stay firm from both domestic and foreign investors, particularly at the short end where real returns remain attractive. At the longer end, the 10-year yield currently around 14.95% is expected to hold broadly steady, with any meaningful compression dependent on the CBN's policy signals and the direction of global rates. The Fed's decision to hold rates, coupled with Powell's hawkish tone, could dampen appetite for Nigerian fixed income among foreign portfolio investors and exert mild upward pressure on yields in the near term. Overall, the market is expected to remain range-bound, with the short end outperforming amid elevated liquidity and cautious sentiment at the long end.

Dividend Announcements

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

Stock Recommendation

Stocks	Current Price	Target Price	Upside
International Breweries	12.1	20	65%
C & I Leasing Plc	6.45	10	55%
Access Holdings Plc	27	40.75	51%
United Bank for Africa Plc	42.75	62.64	47%
Transnational Corporation	44.5	60	35%
FCMB Group Plc	11.15	15	35%
Transcorp Power Plc	272.7	365	34%
Sterling Financial Holdings	7.65	10	31%
AXA Mansard Insurance	14	17.5	25%
Mutual Benefits Assurance	4.03	4.9	22%
MTN Nigeria	915	1100	20%
AIICO Insurance Plc	4.31	5	16%
Dangote Cement Plc	970	1125	16%

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