United Capital

Weekly Investment Views

A Publication of United Capital Research

July 27 - July 31, 2026

Global Markets

United States

The United States of America has imposed 10.0%–12.5% tariff on imports from about 60 trading partners, replacing the temporary 10.0% tariff that expired on July 24, 2026. Countries with stronger forced labour restrictions, including the UK, Canada, Mexico and India, will face 10.0% tariff, while China, Japan and South Korea face 12.5%. The measures exclude products already subject to sector-specific or national security tariff and form part of efforts to restore the administration's global tariff agenda. The new duties will apply to nearly all US imports, citing inadequate enforcement of forced labour restrictions. This development may drive global inflation and lower trade.

Euro Area

The European Central Bank (ECB) left its key interest rates unchanged in July, following a 25-basis-point increase in June, the first rate hike in three years. The decision reflected softer inflation, easing wage growth, weaker economic activity and lower inflation expectations, reducing the urgency for further policy tightening. However, the ECB noted that energy prices remain highly volatile and uncertainty elevated, with the full inflationary impact of recent shocks yet to materialise. The Governing Council said it will continue to monitor the magnitude and duration of the energy shock and its broader effects on inflation and economic activity.

Asia

The People's Bank of China (PBoC) kept the one-year Loan Prime Rate at 3.0% and the five-year Loan Prime Rate at 3.5% for a 14th consecutive month. The decision reflected caution over Middle East tensions, slowing second-quarter economic growth and persistent weakness in the property sector despite resilient AI-driven export demand. Consumer and producer prices remained under pressure from higher energy costs and supply chain disruptions, while housing prices continued to decline in June. Although Yuan lending increased in June from May, growth remained below last year's level, signalling that credit demand and economic activity remained subdued.

Global Equity Market Snapshot

Market	Index	Weekly Change	Year-To-Date (YTD)
Ghana	GGSE	2.48%	74.07%
Nigeria	NGX ASI	1.60%	58.96%
BRVM	ICXCOMP	0.36%	39.30%
Egypt	EGX 30	1.90%	28.93%
Kenya	NSE 20	1.13%	26.94%
Brazil	IBOV	1.67%	9.68%
United States	S&P 500	(1.67%)	8.22%
Europe	STOXX 600	(0.69%)	7.84%
United States	Dow Jones	(1.60%)	7.59%
United Kingdom	FTSE 100	0.63%	7.13%
France	CAC 40	(0.94%)	1.84%
Germany	DAX	(0.61%)	1.11%
United States	NASDAQ	(2.88%)	(0.44%)
China	SHCOMP	(0.15%)	(2.32%)
South Africa	JALSH	(1.81%)	(6.50%)
India	SENSEX	(1.03%)	(10.36%)

*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

Crude oil prices advanced during the week as escalating geopolitical tensions and supply disruption concerns lifted market sentiment. Brent crude rose 19.54% w/w to US$100.69/b. The gains reflected heightened supply risks across key Middle East shipping routes, although expectations of higher OPEC+ production capped further upside.

Weekly Commodities Price Monitor				
Commodity	**Unit Price**	**Price (US$)**	**Weekly Change**	**YTD**
Oil Crude – Brent	US$/b	100.69	19.54%	65.47%
Oil Crude – Bonny Light July 22, 2026	US$/b	99.06	17.23%	56.20%
Copper	US$/lb	6.305	0.14%	10.43%
Gold	US$/lb	4,049.80	1.85%	(7.05%)
Coffee	US$/lb	309.4	(1.02%)	(11.28%)
Cocoa	US$/MT	5,301	(1.14%)	(12.60%)
Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)	US$/MMBtu	2.916	2.03%	(20.89%)

Sources: Various Sources and United Capital Research

Outlook

Global markets would focus on the meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) of the US Federal Reserve System (Fed) holding on July 28-29, 2026. A steady decision with softer forward language could help stabilise battered growth and technology shares. Global equity pattern may be influenced by the release of the quarterly earnings from the following companies: Microsoft, Meta, Apple, and Amazon alongside Boeing, Visa, and ExxonMobil. Thursday's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) releases land the same day as the Fed decision. Oil stays a key swing factor, with Brent at $100 per barrel after a roughly 32% rally on Middle East supply risks. Crypto faces added volatility from Coinbase and Strategy earnings plus Friday's month-end options expiry.

Select Sub-Saharan African Markets

South Africa

South Africa's annual inflation accelerated to 5.0% in June 2026 from 4.5% in May, exceeding market expectations of 4.7% and marking its highest level since June 2024. The increase was driven by higher transport costs following a 34.3% surge in fuel prices, alongside rising housing, utility and financial service costs. Food inflation edged up to 1.6%, while core inflation rose to 4.1%, its highest level since September 2024, signalling broader underlying price pressures. Monthly consumer prices increased 0.7% in June, reflecting sustained inflationary pressures despite moderating food price growth.

Ghana

The Bank of Ghana kept its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 14.0% in July, pausing after five consecutive rate cuts. The decision reflected concerns over renewed Middle East tensions and their potential impact on inflation, as policymakers assessed evolving domestic and global economic conditions. Governor Johnson Asiama said the current policy stance aims to guide inflation towards the medium-term target while providing time to evaluate incoming economic data. Headline inflation accelerated to 5.3% in June from 3.7% in May, driven mainly by higher fertiliser prices following the rise in global oil prices.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia's annual inflation accelerated to 13.9% in June 2026 from 13.4% in May, marking its highest level in a year. Food inflation rose to 15.1%, driven by higher prices for bread, cereals and vegetables, while non-food inflation increased to 12.2%. Housing, utilities, restaurants, hotels, furnishings, clothing and education recorded stronger price increases, reflecting broadening inflationary pressures across the economy. Monthly consumer prices rose 1.0% in June, easing from 1.7% in May despite persistent annual inflationary pressures.

Outlook

African markets this week should stay driven by developments in global oil prices and shifting geopolitical risk. Brent crude surged past $100 per barrel, its highest level in two months. Houthi attacks on Saudi tankers in the Red Sea reignited fears over Middle East supply disruptions. For oil-importing African economies, the rally raises the risk of imported inflation pressures ahead. Kenya's fixed income market should see robust demand this week as KES 25.30bn in Treasury Bill maturities fall due, providing fresh liquidity for reinvestment. The Shilling has traded near KES129.30 against the Dollar, with reserves covering about six months of imports. Broader African growth is projected at 4.2% this year, moderating slightly from 4.4% in 2025.

Pan African Stock Market Monitor				
Market	**Index**	**Market Cap ($'bn)**	**WTD (Local Currencies)**	**YTD (Local Currencies)**
Ghana	15,266.56	24.98	2.48%	74.07%
Nigeria	247,357.40	116.68	1.60%	58.96%
Tunisia	20,953.00	17.14	(1.36%)	55.78%
Tanzania	4,107.10	13.5	0.10%	48.71%
BRVM	481.64	32.32	0.36%	39.30%
Egypt	53,931.92	76.89	1.90%	28.93%

Kenya	3,984.10	30.56	1.13%	26.94%
Mauritius	2,272.60	6.37	0.32%	7.25%
Namibia	2,283.40	2.94	0.25%	6.65%
South Africa	108,335.05	1,428.76	(1.81%)	(6.50%)
Morocco	395.92	107.91	(0.80%)	(7.09%)

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	18.53	(1.10%)	19.45%
Nigeria	NGN: Naira	1,362.09	1.33%	6.06%
Sierra Leone	SLL: Leone	24,043.00	0.20%	(0.01%)
Angola	AOA: Kwanza	919.33	0.00%	(0.04%)
Guinea	GNF: Franc	8,774.00	(0.04%)	(0.29%)
Kenya	KES: Shilling	129.45	(0.12%)	(0.35%)
South Africa	ZAR: Rand	16.81	(2.46%)	(1.46%)
Namibia	NAD: Dollar	16.82	(2.49%)	(1.55%)
Mauritius	MUR: Rupee	47.19	(0.34%)	(1.99%)
Tunisia	TND: Dinar	2.95	(0.83%)	(2.30%)
Liberia	LRD: Dollar	181.19	(0.01%)	(2.31%)
Morocco	MAD: Dirham	9.35	(0.32%)	(2.52%)
WAEMU	CFA: Franc	574	(0.39%)	(2.61%)
Uganda	UGX: Shilling	3,755.10	(1.74%)	(3.61%)
Cameroun	XAF: Franc	581.03	(1.23%)	(3.92%)
Gabon	XAF: Franc	581.03	(1.23%)	(3.92%)
Tanzania	TZS: Shilling	2,630.00	(0.06%)	(6.46%)
Egypt	EGP: Pound	51.3	(1.66%)	(7.02%)
Ghana	GHS: Cedi	11.62	(0.79%)	(9.60%)

Sources:NGX, Various Sources and United Capital Research

Key Rates in Select African Countries

Countries	10Yr Bond Yield	Weekly Change	Inflation	Real Return	Policy Rate
South Africa	8.93%	0.29%	5.00%	3.93%	7.00%
Kenya	12.49%	0.02%	6.40%	6.09%	8.75%
Egypt	22.54%	0.00%	14.30%	8.24%	19.00%
Angola	19.80%	0.00%	10.11%	9.69%	15.75%
Congo	6.50%	0.00%	2.40%	4.10%	13.50%
Ghana	13.53%	0.00%	5.30%	8.23%	14.00%
Tanzania	12.00%	0.00%	4.00%	8.00%	6.25%

Cote d'Ivoire	7.73%	0.00%	1.80%	5.93%	5.00%
Cameroon	8.50%	0.00%	2.70%	5.80%	4.75%
Gabon	9.70%	0.00%	2.10%	7.60%	4.75%
Rwanda	12.70%	0.00%	12.70%	0.00%	8.25%
Mauritius	5.51%	(0.01%)	3.70%	1.81%	4.75%
Uganda	15.55%	(0.05%)	3.70%	11.85%	9.75%
Nigeria	17.83%	(0.52%)	15.91%	1.92%	26.50%
Ethiopia*	-	-	13.90%	0.00%	16.00%
*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)

UMOA-Titres data showed WAEMU governments raised a record CFA7.87tn on the regional debt market in H1 2026, up 12.5% year-on-year. About 80% of the amount raised is used to refinanced maturing debt, with Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal together accounting for 63% of total issuance. Senegal's reliance on short-term Treasury Bills stood out as a risk, tied to its suspended $1.8bn IMF programme and a debt-to-GDP ratio near 132%.

Ivory Coast

The African Development Bank approved a €200mn loan to finance Côte d'Ivoire's Clean Air project at the Société Ivoirienne de Raffinage. The project will establish a diesel hydrodesulfurisation complex to expand refining capacity and enable the production of ultra-low-sulfur diesel. The investment will improve fuel quality, strengthen refining capacity and support cleaner energy production across Côte d'Ivoire and the wider West African region.

Outlook

BRVM equities are expected to extend their recent gains, with the Composite Index likely testing levels above 478 points amid sustained investor demand. Banking stocks, particularly Bank of Africa Burkina Faso, are expected to remain supported by continued buying interest. Investors will also monitor subscription levels for Bridge Bank Group's IPO to gauge market appetite for new equity issuances. On the primary market, WAEMU governments are expected to sustain debt issuance as they work toward the CFA12.7tn 2026 funding target. Market participants should monitor this week's UMOA-Titres auction calendar for issuance size, tenor and pricing signals, while favouring shorter tenors if yields remain under pressure.

Market Performance Snapshot				
	Previous	**Current**	**Weekly Change**	**YTD**
BRVM	479.92	481.64	0.36%	39.30%
Currency (CFA: Franc)	571.75	574	(0.39%)	(2.61%)
Bond Yields in WAEMU Countries				
Countries	**Tenor**	**Bond Yield**	**Weekly Change**	**YTD**
Niger	5 Year	10.00%	0.00%	3.73%
Togo	5 Year	7.00%	0.00%	1.00%
Senegal	5 Year	7.00%	0.00%	1.00%
Mali	3 Year	7.00%	0.00%	1.00%
Burkina Faso	5 Year	7.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Guinea- Bissau	3 Year	7.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Ivory coast	5 Year	7.00%	0.00%	(0.46%)
Benin	2 Year	6.00%	0.00%	(1.00%)

Sources:Various Sources and United Capital Research

Key Rates in WAEMU Countries		
Countries	**Inflation**	**Policy Rate**
Ivory coast	1.80%	3.00%
Mali	1.30%	3.00%
Senegal	0.40%	3.00%
Benin	0.40%	3.00%
Togo	0.10%	3.00%
Burkina Faso	0.10%	3.00%
Guinea- Bissau	(1.20%)	3.00%
Niger	(2.90%)	3.00%

Sources:Various Sources and United Capital Research

Domestic Economy

The Monetary Policy Committee retained all policy parameters, keeping the Monetary Policy Rate at 26.50% to consolidate disinflation gains amid persistent external uncertainties. The Committee also maintained the Cash Reserve Ratio, Liquidity Ratio and asymmetric corridor, signalling a continued commitment to monetary policy stability. Meanwhile, Nigeria's Composite Purchasing Managers' Index rose to 50.1 points in June 2026 from 49.6 points in May, returning above the 50-point threshold. The improvement marked a modest expansion in private sector activity after two consecutive months of contraction, driven mainly by stronger agricultural activity. However, the industry and services sectors remained in contraction, indicating that the recovery in economic activity has yet to broaden across sectors.

Equity Market

The Nigerian equities market closed the week on a positive note, with the NGX All-Share Index (NGX-ASI) rising 1.60% week-on-week to 247,357.40 points. Consequently, the year-to-date return improved to 58.96%. Sectoral performance was broadly positive, as the Banking, Industrial Goods, Insurance and Oil & Gas indices advanced 8.35%, 5.01%, 3.86% and 0.11%, respectively. However, the Consumer Goods Index declined 3.76%, reflecting profit-taking in selected consumer stocks despite broad-based buying across other sectors.

Nigerian Equity Market Performance			
Index	**Close Price**	**Weekly Change**	**YTD**
NGX-ASI	247,357.40	1.60%	58.96%
Oil/Gas Index	5,255.07	0.11%	96.80%
Industrial Goods Index	10,545.80	5.01%	85.78%
Banking Index	2,545.13	8.35%	67.90%
Consumer Goods Index	4,508.72	(3.76%)	13.41%
Insurance Index	1,179.76	3.86%	(0.80%)

Sources: NGX and United Capital Research

Fixed Income and Money Market

The fixed income market traded mixed during the week, with Nigerian Treasury Bill (NTB) and bond yields recording mixed movements amid stable liquidity conditions. Across the NTB market, the 91-day yield rose by 0.40% to 16.86%, while the 182-day and 364-day yields declined by 0.05% and 0.19% to 18.22% and 20.71%, respectively. Meanwhile, bond yields declined across all tenors, with the 3-year, 5-year, 7-year and 10-year yields falling by 0.25%, 0.30%, 0.47% and 0.52% to 17.61%, 17.73%, 17.72% and 17.83%, respectively. The Overnight (O/N) rate declined by 0.04% to 22.21%, while the Open Repo Rate (OPR) remained unchanged at 22.00%.

Fixed Income Securities Rates			
	Yield	Weekly Change	Year-To-Date Change
Overnight Rate (O/N)	22.21%	(0.04%)	(0.54%)
Open Repo Rate (OPR)	22.00%	0.00%	(0.50%)
91-Day NTB	16.86%	0.40%	0.56%
182-Day NTB	18.22%	(0.05%)	1.52%
364-Day NTB	20.71%	(0.19%)	1.12%

Bond Market Rates			
Bond	Yield	Weekly Change	Year-to-Date Change
3 Years	17.61%	(0.25%)	0.70%
5 Years	17.73%	(0.30%)	0.62%
7 Years	17.72%	(0.47%)	0.66%
10 Years	17.83%	(0.52%)	1.02%

Sources: FMDQ and United Capital Research

Outlook

Equity Market

H1 earnings season should stay in the spotlight this week, with more corporate results due across banking, industrials, and consumer goods. Given the scale of this year's rally, some profit-taking risk should stay elevated this week. Investors should watch valuations closely, particularly in stocks that have outrun their underlying earnings growth.

Fixed Income Market

Nigeria's fixed income market should stay well supported this week after the CBN held its policy rate at 26.50% for a second straight meeting. Softer June inflation at 15.91% has lifted real returns encouraging more investments in fixed income securities. NTB yields should keep easing on firm demand. System liquidity should stay elevated, aided by maturing OMO and Treasury bill inflows. Watch for the next Nigerian Treasury Bill auction this week. Bond demand should stay strong after July's FGN auction drew ₦1.74tn in bids against a ₦1.2tn offer, with allotments likely to stay measured.

Dividend Announcements								
S/N	Company	Interim Dividend(₦)	Final Dividend (₦)	Dividend Yield	Bonus	Qualification Date	Closure of Register	Payment Date
1	Mecure Industries	-	0.32	0.51%	-	Apr 23, 2026	24-Apr-26 - 30-Apr-26	TBA
2	Ikeja Hotel	-	0.3	0.64%	-	Jul 3, 2026	06-Jul-26 - 10-Jul-26	Aug 3, 2026
3	Aradel Holding	-	23	1.51%	-	Jul 9, 2026	Jul 10, 2026	Jul 30, 2026
4	Cornerstone Insurance	-	0.28	4.67%	-	Jul 2, 2026	3-6-Jul-2026	Jul 30, 2026
5	Transcorp Power	1.50	-	0.61%	-	Jul 20, 2026	Jul 21, 2026	Jul 30, 2026
6	Guinness Nigeria	7.00	-	1.92%	-	Jul 29, 2026	Jul 30, 2026	Aug 10, 2026
7	Transnational Corporation	0.40	-	1.02%	-	Jul 23, 2026	24 to 27 -Jul-26	Jul 28, 2026
8	Transcorp Hotels	0.10	-	0.04%	-	Jul 22, 2026	23 to 24-Jul-26	Jul 27, 2026
9	Unilever Nigeria	2.00	-	1.35%	-	Jul 31, 2026	3 to 7-Aug-26	Aug 14, 2026
11	Fidson Healthcare	-	1.5	1.50%	-	Apr 14, 2026	15 to 20-Apr-26	Jul 31, 2026
12	Ikeja Hotel	0.03	-	0.06%	-	Aug 7, 2026	10 to 14-Aug-26	Sept 4, 2026

Stock Recommendation			
Stocks	**Current Price**	**Target Price**	**Upside**
C & I Leasing Plc	6.35	10	57%
Transnational Corporation	39.05	60	54%
Transcorp Power Plc	244	365	50%
International Breweries	13.7	20	46%
Access Holdings Plc	29.2	40.75	40%
Mutual Benefits Assurance	3.52	4.9	39%
United Bank for Africa Plc	46	62.64	36%
Nigerian Breweries Plc	78	105	35%
AXA Mansard Insurance	13.2	17.5	33%
MTN Nigeria	850	1,100	29%
Geregu Power Plc	825.7	1,050	27%
Sterling Financial Holdings	8	10	25%
FCMB Group Plc	12	15	25%
AIICO Insurance Plc	4.1	5	22%
Dangote Cement Plc	1,034	1,250	21%
Aradel Holdings Plc	1,526.80	1,832.56	20%
Cadbury Nigeria Plc	67.5	80	19%

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