

Weekly Investment Views

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Global Markets

United States

The S&P Global US Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell to 55.9 points in September 2026 from a preliminary estimate of 57.0 points, but remained above August's 53.9 points. The reading marked the strongest expansion since May 2022, supported by faster growth in output and new orders, particularly across government and technology-related industries. Manufacturers increased production for the 16th consecutive month, while employment growth reached a five-year high. However, export sales declined amid tariffs and higher shipping costs, while lengthening delivery times and rising input costs intensified inflationary pressures.

Euro Area

The S&P Global Euro Area Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to 52.9 points in September 2026, exceeding the preliminary estimate of 52.7 points and marking its highest level since May 2022. The expansion was supported by stronger demand, with new orders growing at their fastest pace since March 2022 and export sales increasing for a second consecutive month. Rising demand lifted production requirements, pushing backlogs higher for the first time since April. Employment also increased, reversing a prolonged period of job losses, while manufacturers stepped up purchases of raw materials. Meanwhile, supply delays eased, and business confidence reached a seven-month high. However, input and output price pressures accelerated, pointing to renewed inflationary risks.

Asia

The S&P Global Japan Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) eased to 54.1 points in September 2026 from 54.9 points in August, matching the preliminary estimate. Despite remaining in expansion territory, growth slowed to its weakest pace since March, as output and new orders increased more slowly. Foreign sales continued to rise, although growth eased from August's eight-and-a-half-year high. Employment continued to expand, while supplier shortages extended delivery times and input inventories increased for the first time in over two years. Meanwhile, input cost inflation eased to a six-month low, although output prices continued to rise. Business confidence remained broadly unchanged.

Global Equity Market Snapshot			
Market	Index	Weekly Change	Year-To-Date (YTD)
Nigeria	NGX ASI	(0.53%)	61.17%
Ghana	GGSE	(1.16%)	60.21%
BRVM	ICXCOMP	3.27%	58.79%
Kenya	NSE 20	(0.95%)	37.60%
Egypt	EGX 30	(1.34%)	26.84%
Brazil	IBOV	1.76%	16.18%
United States	S&P 500	(0.49%)	11.99%
United States	NASDAQ	(0.25%)	6.42%
United States	Dow Jones	(0.82%)	5.96%
Europe	STOXX 600	(1.54%)	5.71%
United Kingdom	FTSE 100	(2.36%)	5.00%
Germany	DAX	(1.29%)	1.83%
China	SHCOMP	(1.19%)	(3.20%)
France	CAC 40	(3.05%)	(3.86%)
South Africa	JALSH	(3.41%)	(6.97%)
India	SENSEX	(2.27%)	(15.62%)
*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

Brent crude oil prices declined by 3.38% week-on-week to US\$103.00/b as of October 1, while Bonny Light fell by 6.18% to US\$117.92/b as of September 30. Despite the recent pullback, prices remain elevated, with Brent and Bonny Light up 69.27% and 85.94% year-to-date, respectively.

Weekly Commodities Price Monitor				
Commodity	Unit Price	Price (US\$)	Weekly Change	YTD
Oil Crude – Bonny Light As of September 30, 2026	US\$/b	117.92	(6.18%)	85.94%
Oil Crude – Brent	US\$/b	103.00	(3.38%)	69.27%
Copper	US\$/lb	6.54	(3.71%)	14.51%
Gold	US\$/lb	4,202.30	(2.23%)	(3.55%)
Cocoa	US\$/MT	5,381.00	(3.74%)	(11.28%)
Coffee	US\$/lb	288.25	4.68%	(17.35%)
Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)	US\$/MMBtu	2.97	(11.96%)	(19.51%)

Sources: Various Sources and United Capital Research

Outlook

Global markets will focus on the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting minutes this week for clearer signals on the Federal Reserve’s interest-rate path. The minutes should provide further insight into policymakers' views following weaker US employment data and rising unemployment. This could influence global equities, bond yields and the Dollar as investors reassess expectations for future US interest-rate decisions.In the Euro Area, investors will track inflation and European Central Bank signals, alongside developments in government bond markets. Oil prices and geopolitical developments will also remain key drivers of global risk sentiment and market direction this week.

Select Sub-Saharan African Markets

South Africa

South Africa's seasonally adjusted Absa Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to 50.7 points in September 2026 from 45.8 points in August, returning to expansion territory for the first time since May. New sales orders increased to 50.8 points from 40.3 points, while the business activity index recovered to 49.3 points from 40.2 points. However, actual business activity remained below the 50-point threshold, while employment and order backlogs weakened. Logistics bottlenecks persisted due to shipping delays at Durban Port, while input price pressures remained elevated. Manufacturers remained cautiously optimistic, with the expected business conditions index rising to 55.3 points from 54.7 points.

Uganda

Uganda's annual inflation rate rose to 4.6% in September 2026 from 4.1% in August, marking the sixth consecutive monthly increase and its highest level since June 2023. The latest reading indicates a continued build-up in price pressures, although inflation remains below its long-term average of 5.64% recorded between 1998 and 2026. Historically, inflation reached a record high of 24.4% in November 2011, while the lowest reading was -5.36% in November 2001.

Kenya

Kenya's annual inflation rate rose to 6.8% in September 2026 from 6.6% in August, marking the third consecutive monthly increase and the highest level since January 2024. Inflation remained above the 5% midpoint of the Central Bank's target range for the sixth consecutive month. Food and non-alcoholic beverage inflation accelerated to 9.5% from 9.0% respectively in July, while transportation costs remained elevated at 15.6%. However, housing and utilities inflation eased to 3.2% from 3.6%, supported by lower electricity prices. On a monthly basis, consumer prices increased by 0.9%, up from 0.4% in August and the fastest monthly rise since May.

Outlook

African markets should remain sensitive to global bond yields and the US Dollar this week, following renewed inflation concerns in major economies. Investors will also monitor local inflation data, particularly across economies where price pressures remain above central bank targets. The Kenya MPC meeting on Wednesday, October 7, will be the key event for African markets this week. Currency performance will remain important, with the Uganda Shilling under pressure, while the Kenya Shilling has remained relatively stable. In fixed income, elevated global yields could limit gains as investors demand higher returns across African sovereign markets. Equities may remain supported by improving domestic activity, although higher energy prices and funding costs could weigh on valuations. Overall, market direction this week will depend on inflation trends, currency movements, commodity prices and global interest rate expectations.

Pan African Stock Market Monitor				
Market	Index	Market Cap (\$'bn)	WTD (Local Currencies)	YTD (Local Currencies)
Tanzania	4,654.40	15.29	(0.08%)	68.52%
Nigeria	250,808.27	122.71	(0.53%)	61.17%
Ghana	14,051.20	22.77	(1.16%)	60.21%
BRVM	549.02	37.35	3.27%	58.79%
Tunisia	18,623.00	15.42	0.82%	38.46%
Kenya	4318.7	32.27	(0.95%)	37.60%

Egypt	53,055.03	79.94	(1.34%)	26.84%
Mauritius	2,306.90	6.35	(0.51%)	8.87%
Namibia	2,325.40	3.00	(2.28%)	8.61%
South Africa	107,763.09	1,399.73	(3.41%)	(7.00%)
Morocco	392.37	105.39	(1.54%)	(7.92%)

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	19.63	0.25%	12.74%
Nigeria	NGN: Naira	1,329.16	0.03%	8.02%
Liberia	LRD: Dollar	170.40	0.35%	3.87%
Angola	AOA: Kwanza	917.00	0.29%	0.22%
Sierra Leone	SLL: Leone	24,113.00	(0.10%)	(0.30%)
Kenya	KES: Shilling	129.67	(0.17%)	(0.52%)
Guinea	GNF: Franc	8,797.00	(0.03%)	(0.55%)
South Africa	ZAR: Rand	16.70	(1.55%)	(0.81%)
Namibia	NAD: Dollar	16.70	(1.77%)	(0.83%)
WAEMU	CFA: Franc	576.50	(0.13%)	(3.04%)
Mauritius	MUR: Rupee	47.82	(0.77%)	(3.28%)
Tunisia	TND: Dinar	3.00	(1.50%)	(3.70%)
Cameroun	XAF: Franc	582.33	(0.97%)	(4.14%)
Gabon	XAF: Franc	582.33	(0.97%)	(4.14%)
Tanzania	TZS: Shilling	2,635.00	0.38%	(6.64%)
Morocco	MAD: Dirham	9.81	(1.96%)	(7.02%)
Uganda	UGX: Shilling	3,965.00	(1.00%)	(8.71%)
Egypt	EGP: Pound	52.32	(1.09%)	(8.83%)
Ghana	GHS: Cedi	11.72	(0.81%)	(10.41%)

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	YTD Currency
Nigeria	16.24%	0.33%	15.39%	0.85%	23.00%	8.02%
Angola	19.80%	(2.20%)	8.78%	11.02%	14.75%	0.22%
Kenya	12.28%	(0.20%)	6.80%	5.48%	8.75%	(0.52%)
South Africa	9.00%	0.06%	4.40%	4.60%	7.25%	(0.81%)
Rwanda	12.70%	0.70%	15.90%	(3.20%)	8.75%	(1.25%)
Congo	6.50%	0.00%	3.18%	3.32%	12.50%	(1.25%)
Cote d'Ivoire	7.40%	0.02%	1.20%	6.20%	3.00%	(3.04%)

Mauritius	5.51%	0.21%	4.90%	0.61%	4.75%	(3.28%)
Ethiopia*	-	-	15.10%	0.00%	16.00%	(3.74%)
Cameroon	8.50%	0.00%	3.40%	5.10%	4.50%	(4.14%)
Gabon	9.70%	0.00%	0.20%	9.50%	4.50%	(4.14%)
Tanzania	12.00%	(0.01%)	4.30%	7.70%	6.25%	(6.64%)
Uganda	15.70%	0.29%	4.60%	11.10%	9.75%	(8.71%)
Egypt	22.54%	(0.57%)	14.50%	8.04%	19.00%	(8.83%)
Ghana	13.53%	0.00%	5.00%	8.53%	14.00%	(10.41%)
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)

Senegal

Senegal's economy grew by 3.1% year-on-year in Q2 2026, slowing from 4.3% in Q1 but marking its strongest growth since Q2 2025. Growth was supported by the tertiary, secondary and primary sectors, which expanded by 6.0%, 5.1% and 1.5%, respectively. Excluding hydrocarbons, GDP growth reached 6.4%. On the demand side, growth was driven by higher gross fixed capital formation and final consumption, which increased by 8.0% and 5.5%, respectively. However, exports declined by 2.7%, while imports rose by 4.8%. On a seasonally adjusted quarterly basis, GDP increased by 0.1%.

WAEMU

The West African Development Bank (BOAD) approved CFA157.5 billion in new financing for agriculture, infrastructure, energy, industry and SMEs across WAEMU. The approvals include CFA45 billion for agricultural mechanisation in Togo and CFA30 billion for road development in Guinea-Bissau. The funding is expected to support food security, regional trade, energy supply and private-sector growth across West Africa.

Outlook

WAEMU markets should remain relatively calm this week, with no major policy shift expected following the BCEAO's recent rate decision. Inflation will remain a key focus as regional price pressures have increased, raising attention around the BCEAO's 2026 inflation outlook. Economic activity remains supportive, with growth projected at 6.1% for 2026 and private sector credit continuing to expand. In fixed income, UMOA-Titres auctions should remain important as investors assess whether higher inflation could influence sovereign yields. The CFA Franc's peg to the Euro should continue to provide exchange-rate stability and limit currency risk for regional investors.

Market Performance Snapshot				
	Previous	Current	Weekly Change	YTD
BRVM	531.63	549.02	3.27%	58.79%
Currency (CFA: Franc)	575.75	576.5	(0.13%)	(3.04%)
Bond Yields in WAEMU Countries				
Countries	Tenor	Bond Yield	Weekly Change	YTD
Niger	5 Year	10.00%	0.00%	3.73%
Senegal	5 Year	8.00%	0.00%	2.00%
Togo	5 Year	7.00%	0.00%	1.00%
Mali	3 Year	7.00%	0.00%	1.00%
Burkina Faso	5 Year	7.00%	1.00%	0.00%
Guinea- Bissau	3 Year	7.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Ivory coast	5 Year	6.00%	(1.00%)	(1.46%)
Benin	2 Year	5.00%	0.00%	(2.00%)

Sources:Various Sources and United Capital Research

Key Rates in WAEMU Countries		
Countries	Inflation	Policy Rate
Mali	3.30%	3.00%
Ivory coast	1.20%	3.00%
Senegal	1.20%	3.00%
Togo	0.70%	3.00%
Burkina Faso	0.10%	3.00%
Benin	0.10%	3.00%
Guinea- Bissau	(1.00%)	3.00%
Niger	(0.90%)	3.00%

Sources:Various Sources and United Capital Research

Domestic Economy

United Capital Research expects headline inflation to ease to 15.32% in September 2026 from 15.39% in August, supported by lower food prices and Naira appreciation. Garri, yam and tomatoes recorded notable price declines, while the Naira appreciated by 2.0% to ₦1,327.31/\$ on average. However, higher PMS and Bonny Light prices remain upside risks. Continued disinflation could support lower fixed income yields, stronger bond prices and improved equity market valuations.

Equity Market

The Nigerian equities market closed the week lower, with the NGX All-Share Index (NGX-ASI) declining 0.52% week-on-week to 250,808.27 points. Consequently, the market's year-to-date return moderated to 61.17%, while sector performance remained mixed. Oil/Gas and Insurance indices gained 0.05% and 0.61%, respectively, while Industrial Goods, Banking and Consumer Goods declined by 0.26%, 1.33% and 0.91%.

Nigerian Equity Market Performance			
Index	Close Price	Weekly Change	YTD
NGX-ASI	250,808.27	(0.52%)	61.17%
Oil/Gas Index	6,246.75	0.05%	133.94%
Industrial Goods Index	10,440.24	(0.26%)	83.92%
Banking Index	2,685.71	(1.33%)	77.18%
Consumer Goods Index	4,057.09	(0.91%)	2.05%
Insurance Index	1,100.30	0.61%	(7.48%)

Sources: NGX and United Capital Research

Fixed Income and Money Market

The fixed-income market saw divergent movements during the week, with Treasury Bill yields declining while FGN Bond yields increased across all tenors. In the Nigerian Treasury Bill (NTB) market, the 91-day, 182-day and 364-day yields fell by 0.41%, 0.18% and 0.28% to 17.64%, 17.77% and 18.24%, respectively. This reflects stronger demand for short-term instruments amid lower inflation and the recent CBN rate cut. Meanwhile, FGN Bond yields rose across tenors, with the 3-year, 5-year, 7-year and 10-year yields increasing by 0.33%, 0.27%, 0.09% and 0.33% to 15.98%, 16.15%, 16.09% and 16.24%, respectively. In the interbank market, the Overnight (O/N) rate and Open Repo Rate (OPR) declined by 0.59% and 0.80% to 20.39% and 20.00%, pointing to lower short-term funding costs and easing liquidity conditions.

Fixed Income Securities Rates			
	Yield	Weekly Change	Year-To-Date Change
Overnight Rate (O/N)	20.39%	(0.59%)	(2.36%)
Open Repo Rate (OPR)	20.00%	(0.80%)	(2.50%)
91-Day NTB	17.64%	(0.41%)	1.34%
182-Day NTB	17.77%	(0.18%)	1.07%
364-Day NTB	18.24%	(0.28%)	(1.35%)

Bond Market Rates			
Bond	Yield	Weekly Change	Year-to-Date Change
3 Years	15.98%	0.33%	(0.93%)
5 Years	16.15%	0.27%	(0.96%)
7 Years	16.09%	0.09%	(0.97%)
10 Years	16.24%	0.33%	(0.57%)

Sources: FMDQ and United Capital Research

Outlook

Equity Market

The Nigerian equities market will focus on corporate earnings, investor positioning and liquidity conditions this week following the recent market pullback. The lower MPR and improved Naira stability should continue supporting investor interest in equities. Meanwhile, the Dangote Refinery IPO remains a key liquidity consideration as investors balance participation in the offer against secondary-market opportunities. Foreign investor activity following Nigeria's return to FTSE Russell's Frontier Market status will also remain important for market direction. Given the market's strong year-to-date gain, profit-taking could persist, keeping stock selection and corporate earnings in focus.

Fixed Income Market

The Nigerian fixed income market should remain supported this week as the CBN's lower MPR continues to filter through market yields. Strong demand for Treasury Bills, particularly at the longer tenor, should sustain downward pressure on short-term yields. However, liquidity conditions and upcoming government supply will remain key determinants of yield movements across the curve. We expect investors to maintain interest in longer-dated instruments as markets adjust to the lower-rate environment.

Dividend Announcements							
S/N	Company	Interim Dividend(₦)	Dividend Yield	Bonus	Qualification Date	Closure of Register	Payment Date
1	PZ Cussons Plc	2.5	3.40%	-	Oct 9, 2026	Oct 16, 2026	Oct 30, 2026
2	GTCO	1.0	0.76%	-	Oct 12, 2026	Oct 13, 2026	Oct 20, 2026
3	Stanbic IBTC	4.5	2.76%	-	Oct 15, 2026	Oct 16-23, 2026	Nov 13, 2026

Stock Recommendation			
Stocks	Current Price	Target Price	Upside
Transcorp Power Plc	178	310	74%
Transnational Corporation	36.5	60	64%
Mutual Benefits Assurance	3.15	4.9	56%
AXA Mansard Insurance	11.4	17.5	54%
International Breweries	10	15	50%
Nigerian Breweries Plc	74.7	105	41%
United Bank for Africa Plc	45.3	62.64	38%
FCMB Group Plc	11.1	15	35%
Cadbury Nigeria Plc	59.5	80	34%
Access Holdings Plc	30.5	40.75	34%
MTN Nigeria	840	1,100.00	31%
Aradel Holdings Plc	1,530.00	2,000.00	31%
BUA Cement	297	380	28%
Dangote Sugar	68	82	21%
AllCO Insurance Plc	4.18	5	20%
Dangote Cement Plc	1,066.70	1,250.00	17%

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