

Ghana

Market Related News

BoG increases policy rate to 29.5%; loans to remain expensive: The Bank of Ghana increased its policy rate by 150 basis points to 29.5% to help check the high inflation and downside risks to the economy. Cost of credit will remain high, affecting household spending and private sector growth. Average lending rates shot up marginally to 36.64% in February 2023, from 35.58% in December 2022, equivalent to 3.02% interest rate on loans per month. The ease in price pressures abroad may impact positively on Ghana's domestic inflation profile going forward...[Myjoyonline](#)

Banks cash reserve ratio back to 14%: Bank of Ghana (BoG) Governor, has announced a reversal of the cash reserve ratio on local currency deposits for banks, raising it from 12% to 14% effective April 13 as part of measures aimed at addressing the mopping-up of excess liquidity in the market. The drop in the ratio to 12%, in December was part of measures aimed at cushioning banks participating in the Domestic Debt Exchange Programme (DDEP).[Thebftonline](#)

Banks with less than 10% CAR asked to recapitalize Bank of Ghana: Banks with a capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of less than 10% of their assets have been asked to submit plans for recapitalization. The ratio was reduced from 13% to 10% in December 2022 as part of measures aimed at mitigating the domestic debt exchange programme's (DDEP) impact on banks, as they were over-exposed to the Treasury instruments; holding a third of all outstanding cedi-denominated bonds...[Thebftonline](#)

China assures Ghana of support in servicing debt relief: The Finance Minister of China, Mr. Liu Kun is confidence in the management of the Ghanaian economy, and that his country felt a responsibility to be of help as Ghana seeks debt servicing relief. At a meeting in Beijing with Ghana's Finance Minister last week, Mr. Kun said the Chinese authorities have confidence in Ghana's economic management and its long term economic viability...[Citibusinessnews](#)

Sovereign default at record high; Ghana, among countries significantly affected – Fitch: There have been 14 separate default events since 2020, across nine different sovereigns, Fitch Ratings has disclosed. This is a marked increase compared with 19 defaults across 13 different countries between 2000 and 2019. A record five Fitch-rated sovereigns are in default. That includes Belarus, Lebanon, Ghana, Sri Lanka and Zambia...[Myjoyonline](#)

Kamala Harris visits Ghana, urges Ghana's creditors to help meet debt obligation amid IMF talks: US Vice President, Kamala Harris has entreated Ghana's foreign creditors to help the country meet its debt servicing obligation. Madam Harris believes this will enable Ghana successfully negotiate the bailout it is seeking from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). She insisted that the Biden administration "will continue to push for all bilateral creditors to provide meaningful debt reduction for countries that needed including Ghana."...[Myjoyonline](#)

General Business News

DBG to invest GH¢500million in key commodities to enhance food security: Deputy CEO of Development Bank Ghana, Michael Mensah Baah, says the bank will invest half a billion cedis in four key commodities by the end of 2023 bringing the total investment since its launch to about GH¢800million. He made this known in a keynote address at the DBG-University of Ghana Business School (UGBS) Development Finance Series MoU Signing and Roundtable Meeting...[Thebftonline](#)

Passage of key revenue bills: Government believes it is imperative that parliament prioritises the passage of three revenue bills. The outstanding bills are the Income Tax (Amendment) bill, Excise Duty & Excise Tax Stamp (Amendment) bills, and the Growth and Sustainability Levy bill. They are necessary for effective budget implementation and boosting the state's efforts at increasing the tax-to-GDP ratio from less than 13% to the sub-Saharan average of 18%. It is estimated that it will lead to a revenue yield of approximately GH¢3.96billion...[Thebftonline](#)

Policy development for downstream aluminium industry starts: Preliminary discussions to establish a policy framework and implementation plan for the country's downstream aluminium industry have begun. Led by Ghana Integrated Aluminium Development Corporation (GIADEC), the plan is expected to positively impact final processes in the production and sale of aluminum products and drive industrial transformation through the utilisation of primary aluminium produced in the country. ...[Thebftonline](#)

"An investor should act as though he had a lifetime decision card with just twenty punches on it." - Warren Buffet

Kenya

Market Related News

NCBA Bank saw profit after tax growth by 34.77% in 2022, leading to increased dividend payout: The bank's 34.77% growth in profit after tax, from Ksh10.22 billion in 2021 to Ksh13.78 billion in 2022 has resulted to increased dividend payout to local individual shareholders including the Kenyattas and Ndegwas who, for their combined 22.63% stake will receive a total of Ksh1.58 billion. Local companies, who hold a 76.97% in Kenya's third-largest bank, will receive dividends worth Ksh5.39 billion...[Businessstoday](#)

CBK signals costly loans after hiking rates to five-year high: The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has increased the benchmark lending rate to the highest level in five years to curb inflation, signaling costlier loans for homes and businesses. The Monetary Policy Committee increased the rate to 9.5% from 8.75%, matching the 0.75% rise of September 2022 that triggered banks to increase lending rates. This is aimed at easing demand for credit to cool inflation, which rose to 9.2% in February from 9.0% in January...[Businessdailyafrica](#)

Crypto taxes introduced in new Bill: Mosop Member of Parliament Abraham Kipsang Kirwa has introduced a new bill that could redefine the cryptocurrency landscape in Kenya. The Capital Markets (Amendment) Bill, 2023, seeks to bring blockchain, crypto and digital currencies under the regulation of Capital Markets Authority (CMA). The bill includes a taxation framework for crypto and wants the definition of "securities" in the Capital Markets Act expanded to include digital currencies, thus mainstreaming them...[Businessstoday](#)

Shilling weakens further past 132 mark despite State interventions: A government wide intervention to save the Kenya shilling is yet to stop the slide after it weakened further on Thursday to exchange at Sh132.13 against the dollar. This comes despite the introduction of a new foreign exchange code by the banking sector regulator placing stringent penalties against those caught manipulating the forex market...[Businessdailyafrica](#)

Pain of Sh67billion shortfall amidst debt repayments: Kenya spent Sh150 billion to repay public debt in the month of March alone, underlying the growing pain to service the country's stock of debt in the midst of a revenue shortfall, MPs heard on Thursday. This was on the backdrop of revelation by the Treasury Principal Secretary Chris Kiptoo that the country had a revenue shortfall of Sh67 billion by Wednesday...[Businessdailyafrica](#)

Family Bank gets Sh4billion AfDB loan for SME support: Family Bank Limited (FBL) is set to get a Sh3.95 billion (\$ 30 million) loan from the African Development Bank (AfDB) for onward lending to small and medium-sized firms. The Board of Directors of the AfDB approved the facility which will provide a trade finance line credit to FBL and boost intra-Africa trade and promote regional integration...[Nation](#)

General Business News

Ruto promises investors tax reforms, conducive environment: President William Ruto said the government is committed to creating a conducive environment for businesses to operate, amid heavy investment in the country's infrastructure that supports industries and businesses at large to make Kenya more attractive. He has assured investors of a more predictable tax regime noting private sector players make long-term investments decisions in an environment with predictable policies, among them tax policies...[The Star](#)

M-Pesa Foundation Partners With Rose Women's Foundation For Ksh6M Economic Empowerment Program: M-Pesa Foundation has partnered with Rose Women's Foundation, for a Ksh6 million economic empowerment program that will see low-income women entrepreneurs equipped with the right skills to run sustainable businesses and alleviate poverty in the long-term. The program, will benefit over 150 women facilitating trainings on micro-enterprise business skills, provide mentorship and achieve income growth and sustainable businesses...[Businessstoday](#)

Electricity prices to increase by 63% from April 1st: Electricity prices are set to increase by 63% across all consumer categories from April 1st. This will have a significant impact on households struggling with the high cost of essential goods. Although the authorities have reduced the threshold for the subsidised consumer band known as the lifeline tariff, to cater to consumers using only 30 units of electricity per month, thereby locking out millions from the category...[Kenyanwallstreet](#)

President Ruto saves Airtel Kenya, Amazon from forced stake sale: Airtel Kenya has been saved from forcibly selling a third of its stake to local investors after US tech giant Amazon successfully lobbied President William Ruto to drop the foreign ownership rules as a condition for setting shop in Nairobi...[Businessdailyafrica](#)

Egypt

Market Related News

Value of microfinance in Egypt grows by 7.9% in 2022: Chairwoman of the Egyptian Federation for Medium, Small, and Micro Enterprise Funding Mona Zulfagar stated that the value of microfinance disbursed in 2022 grew by 7.9% compared to 2021, recording LE64.9 billion. The client base expanded by 10% to consist of a total of 4.7 million, with microfinance institutions reaching more clients through 2,711 offices dispersed nationwide as well as through banks...[Egypttoday](#)

Petroleum companies are at forefront of attractive sectors in Egyptian Exchange: Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Tarek El-Molla ,Ramy El-Dokany, Chairperson of the Egyptian Exchange (EGX), and the heads of the petroleum sector companies listed on the Egyptian Exchange, discussed with cooperation in implementing mechanisms to enhance trading for the shares of the sector's companies listed on the stock market, given that oil and petrochemicals are at the forefront of the sectors that attract Arab and foreign investors...[Dailynewsegypt](#)

Egypt's narrowing options make rate hike near-Certain: Egypt is set for another jumbo interest-rate hike on Thursday, seeking to put the brakes on inflation that's soared past many analyst estimates after a series of currency devaluations...[Bloomberg](#)

Faisal Islamic Bank to participate in CBE housing initiative: Faisal Islamic Bank will participate in the Central Bank of Egypt's (CBE) mortgage finance initiative. CBE announced in February that it had allocated EGP 10billion (\$1.44billion) to finance low-income housing projects, with the aim of boosting the construction and real estate sectors. Low-income citizens who qualify to benefit from the programme will be lent the money at yearly interest rate of 7%-8%.[Dailynewsegypt](#)

Egypt's Central Bank raises interest rates by 2%, reaching highest level since 2017: Egypt's Central Bank (CBE) raised on Wednesday the interest rates by 2 percent; reaching the highest level since July 2017. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to raise key policy rates by 200 bps. The MPC will continue to monitor all economic developments and will not hesitate to adjust its stance in line with its price stability mandate...[Egypttoday](#)

General Business News

European Union grants Egypt with €40M to enhance food security efforts: Egypt's Minister of International Cooperation, Supply and Internal Trade, Agriculture and Land Reclamation, witnessed the signing of a grant agreement of €40 million provided by the European Union, implemented by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, to enhance food security efforts in Egypt...[Egypttoday](#)

New salary increase for public employees effective as of 13 April: Finance Minister: Minister of Finance Mohamed Maaait has said that the newly approved increase in salaries of public employees will be applied as of 13 April. This decision is part of the state's efforts to contain inflation and ease the burden of high living costs on citizens. He pointed out that the cost of expediting the disbursement of the new increases from April to June 2023 amounts to EGP 40billion.[Dailynewsegypt](#)

Egypt's foreign trade hits \$29.032billion during Q1 of 2022/2023: Egypt's foreign trade reached about \$29.032 billion during the first quarter (Q1) of the fiscal year 2022/2023, according to the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE). The volume of trade exchange between Egypt and the most important trading partners amounted to about \$18.763 billion, of which about \$11.681 billion exports and about \$7.081 billion imports...[Egypttoday](#)

Egypt to allocate LE 28-30 billion for new export rebates program in FY 2023/24: Egypt's new export rebates program will run for up to three years with an estimated cost of LE 28-30 billion over the coming fiscal year 2023/2024, the Cabinet announced in a statement. Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouli said the government seeks to prepare a solid program to support and develop Egyptian exports, based on the great interest that the state attaches to developing the system of support provided to exports...[Egypttoday](#)

Global

"We did not buy Credit Suisse only to close it" - UBS CEO: UBS's (UBSG.S) CEO Ralph Hamers on Monday said the Swiss bank sees its government-orchestrated takeover of Credit Suisse (CSGN.S) as a growth opportunity, in an internal memo seen by Reuters. "While we did not seek this transaction, we were prepared, and we see it as an opportunity to accelerate our firm's growth story," Hamers wrote. "We did not buy Credit Suisse only to close it."...[Reuters](#)

Bank of England chief says the market is testing banks to identify weakness: Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey on Tuesday vowed to be "very vigilant" amid ongoing volatility and suggested that the market is "testing out" banks to find weaknesses. Global banking stocks have taken a beating in March, as contagion fears spread following the collapse of U.S.-based Silicon Valley Bank and the emergency rescue of Credit Suisse by Swiss rival UBS...[CNBC](#)

World Bank warns of 'lost decade' in global growth without bold policy shifts: Average potential global economic growth will slump to a three-decade low of 2.2% per year through 2030, ushering in a "lost decade" for the world's economy, unless policymakers adopt ambitious initiatives to boost labor supply, productivity and investment, the World Bank warned on Monday. Failure to reverse the expected broad-based slowdown in potential gross domestic product (GDP) growth would have profound implications for the world's ability to tackle climate change and reduce poverty....[Reuters](#)

Wall Street falls while bond yields rise with gold: Wall Street's major indexes closed lower on Tuesday while Treasury yields and gold advanced as investors worried that the U.S. Federal Reserve would keep interest rates higher for longer as fears of further banking sector failures faded. Energy stocks rallied, however, as oil prices rose on supply concerns. Stocks had rallied on Monday as investors were relieved by no new signs of bank failures over the weekend and reassured by the sale of assets in collapsed technology industry lender Silicon Valley Bank...[Reuters](#)

Saudi National Bank Chair resigns after Credit Suisse Remark: Ammar Al Khudairy, the chairman of Credit Suisse Group AG's largest shareholder, has resigned just days after his comments helped trigger a slump in the stock and bonds that prompted the Swiss government to step in and arrange its takeover...[Bloomberg](#)

Stocks rally after bank rescue; Yields Jump: US stocks ended the day higher after a First Republic Bank rescue package was secured, sparking a rebound in shares of embattled regional lenders. Treasuries fell after the European Central Bank delivered a rate hike that added to bets the US central bank will also raise next week...[Bloomberg](#)

Norway wealth fund to consider investing in unlisted equities: Norway's \$1.3 trillion wealth fund, one of the world's largest investors, should assess whether to begin investing in unlisted equities, the finance ministry said on Friday, which would be a brand new asset class for the fund. The fund pools the Norwegian state's revenues from oil and gas production and invests them abroad in stocks, bonds, property and renewable energy projects. Managed by a unit of the central bank, it is invested in more than 9,200 companies globally and owns on average 1.5% of all the world's listed stocks...[Reuters](#)

Wall St climbs as inflation data boosts softer Fed policy hopes: Wall Street's main indexes gained on Friday after data showed inflation slowed in February, supporting hopes of a softer monetary policy approach from the Federal Reserve....[Reuters](#)

UK-Asia trade deal to boost UK economy by 0.08%: The UK has signed a deal to join a trade pact with 11 Asia and Pacific nations, three years after it officially left the European Union. Joining the group will boost UK exports by cutting tariffs on some goods. However, the government's own estimates show being in the bloc will only add 0.08% to the size of the UK's economy. The trade area covers a market of around 500 million people...[BBC](#)

U.S. regulator seeks sale of Silicon Valley Bank, Signature Bank portfolios: The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) has retained advisers to sell the securities portfolios that the new owners of failed Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank rejected, according to people familiar with the matter. The portfolios are comprised of low-yielding assets, such as Treasuries and U.S. government agency-backed securities, that the two regional banks amassed while interest rates were close to zero....[Reuters](#)