

Ghana

Market Related News

Encourage acquisition, mergers of banks and NBFIs if needed – IMF tells government: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has proffered three policies including acquisitions and mergers of banks and non-banks to mitigate the possible systematic financial instability in Ghana. These policies captured under the Risk Assessment Matrix contained in the recent IMF country report on Ghana, aim to mitigate risks and ensure the stability of the banking and Non-Bank Financial Institutions (NBFIs). [Myjoyonline](#)

Ghana sends debt rework proposal to official creditors: Ghana has sent a debt restructuring proposal to its official creditors. The "working proposal" is a crucial first step for the cocoa, gold and oil producer to engage the official creditor committee after its formation in May and is not legally binding. It marks the opening of a more detailed negotiating process that will likely see a number of proposals being exchanged.... [Reuters](#)

GOIL records ₵123.8m profit in 2022; declares ₵0.056 dividend for shareholders: Ghana Oil Company Limited (GOIL) improved its performance in 2022 by registering a profit of ₵123.89 million. This is 26% higher than what was recorded in 2021. In view of this, the company has declared a final dividend of ₵0.056 per share for the 2022 financial year which represents a growth of 19% over the 2021 financial year. The company's overall market share grew from 15.32% in 2021 to 20.11% in 2022. [Myjoyonline](#)

GSE records slow performance in May 2023: The Ghana Stock Exchange (GSE) Fixed Income Market (GFIM) recorded 5.0 billion volume traded in May 2023, about 12.4% decrease from the previous month. Compared to last year, it was down by 71.06%. According to the GSE May 2023 Report, the value traded were ₵109.885 million, down 81.91% compared to the same period last year... [Myjoyonline](#)

Pensioner Bondholders to petition CHRAJ over interest on unpaid coupons: The Pensioner Bondholders Forum is planning to file a petition with the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) regarding the government's refusal to pay accrued interest on outstanding principal payments. During a meeting between the forum and the Ministry of Finance, the government declined the demand for interest on the four principals... [Citinewsroom](#)

UK, Ghana launch new investor group to scout for top investment opportunities: The business-led UK-Ghana Investor Group has been formed to strengthen trade and increase investment. The group will include UK investors and key investment facilitation agencies in Ghana and the UK, and will help generate leads on viable projects in areas such as pharmaceuticals, textiles and agro-processing, as well as providing support to package the projects and find UK investment. [3News](#)

General Business News

We will pursue government to review 3 tax revenue measures, E-Levy – GUTA: The Ghana Union of Traders Association (GUTA) has hinted it will pursue the government to review three tax revenue measures and the Covid-19 Levy in the mid-year budget. According to the union, businesses are struggling to survive due to the high taxes and utilities they are paying. It contends that the IMF is against suppressing the growth of the private sector, hence it will intensify engagements to have the taxes reviewed in the mid-year budget... [Ghanaweb](#)

IPPs reminds government June 30th ultimatum still remains: The Chamber of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) says its members will shut down their plants in three weeks unless government meets their demands to settle all outstanding indebtedness. The shutdown potentially could create a huge power shortfall as the IPPs control over 65% of the available thermal generation capacity in the country. They are owed at least 1.4 billion dollars and government has so far been working around the clock to get them to agree to have these debts restructured... [Myjoyonline](#)

World Bank maintains 1.6% growth rate for Ghana in 2023: The World Bank has maintained its 1.6% GDP growth forecast for Ghana in 2023, far lower than the expected 3.2% for Sub-Saharan Africa. This places it in the 42nd position in Sub-Saharan Africa. The International Monetary Fund also projected a 1.6% growth rate for Ghana in 2023. According to its June 2023 Global Economic Prospects Report, Ghana's economy is however projected to expand by 2.9% in 2024... [Myjoyonline](#)

Telcos and BoG to collaborate to retrieve locked funds on MoMo accounts: The Minister of Communications and Digitalization, Ursula Owusu-Ekuful, has announced that Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) are working with the Bank of Ghana to facilitate the retrieval of funds for individuals whose monies are locked up in mobile money accounts. Numerous subscribers have voiced their concerns regarding the inability to access their funds on mobile money accounts after their SIM cards were deactivated for failing to re-register them... [Citibusinessnews](#)

"Successful investing is about managing risk, not avoiding it." - Benjamin Graham

Africa

Market Related News

Kenya fuel dealers propose deal to convert Sh45billion subsidy arrears into bond: Oil marketers have presented a proposal to the Treasury for the conversion of fuel subsidy arrears worth Sh45 billion billions of shillings into an interest-earning debt instrument like bonds to shore up their worsening cash flow. The companies want their arrears converted into a three-year debt instrument, offering them an opportunity to regular interest over the period. The proposal is seen as a win-win given it will cushion a government gripped with a cash squeeze from raising the billions upfront while providing petroleum dealers with regular interest payments over the three years...[Businessdailyafrica](#)

Heavy rain in Ivory Coast raises cocoa disease fears: Fears of flooding and disease have been triggered amidst heavy downpours which could damage the April-to-September mid-crop, farmers said on Monday. Ivory Coast, the world's top cocoa producer, is in its rainy season which runs officially from April to mid-November. Cocoa plantations in some areas will be flooded if it continues to rain heavily in the coming weeks, farmers said, adding that high moisture levels could attract insects and diseases...[Reuters](#)

NSE companies pay parent firms Sh40bn dividends: Multinationals with subsidiaries operating and listed in Kenya are set to earn a total of Sh40.1 billion in dividends compared to Sh40.7 billion, comprising final and interim payouts by firms such as Safaricom, Absa Bank and BAT Kenya. The multinationals earned a slightly higher sum worth of dividends in the comparative period a year earlier. The new payouts mark a decline in cash returns for the parent companies like Vodafone Group Plc, Vodacom Group Limited and BAT Plc...[Businessdailyafrica](#)

Nigerian Banks' Exposure to \$13billion Ghana Eurobond Pegged at \$1.7billion: The extent of Nigerian banks' exposure to the Ghanaian economic and fiscal crisis through subsidiaries operating in the country and investments in Ghana bonds has been exposed by Augusto & Co. As at December 31, 2022, Nigerian banks with subsidiaries across Africa had direct and indirect Ghana Eurobond holdings of about N800 billion (\$1.7 billion), which accounted for an estimated 4% of the Industry's total investment securities...[This Day](#)

South African rand little changed after strong week of gains: South Africa's rand was little changed early on Friday, remaining below 19 to the dollar after a strong week of gains boosted by encouraging economic data at home. The rand traded at 18.8550 to the dollar, around 0.1% weaker than its previous close. The dollar was slightly stronger against a basket of global currencies. The rand has gained more than 3% against the dollar this week, recovering steep losses from the previous month...[Reuters](#)

General Business News

Nigeria's main union to suspend strike over petrol subsidy: Nigeria's main labour union signed a resolution of the agreement agreed with the government on Monday to suspend a planned indefinite strike to protest the removal of a popular decades-old petrol subsidy. The government had obtained a court injunction stopping Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) from embarking on the strike from June 7, after petrol prices nearly tripled following the subsidy removal last week. Trade Union Congress (TUC) was also cited although it had not yet called for a strike...[Reuters](#)

Egypt non-oil activity contracts for 30th month as prices rise: Non-oil private sector activity in Egypt contracted for the 30th straight month in May, weighed down by continued high inflation and weak demand, a survey showed on Monday. The S&P Global Egypt Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) strengthened to 47.8 in May from 47.3 in April, but remained well below the 50.0 threshold that marks growth in activity...[Reuters](#)

\$513million increase in Egypt's foreign-exchange reserves to \$26.686billion in May 2023: The Central Bank of Egypt said that the foreign-exchange reserves increased to \$26.686bn in May 2023, compared to \$26.173bn in April, an increase of \$513million. International reserves rose to \$34.660bn in May, compared to \$34.551bn in April, an increase of \$109m. The rise in reserves was limited due to the decline in the value of gold listed in it and the balance of special drawing rights decreased..[Dailynewsegypt](#)

World Bank Group pledges more support for Safaricom Ethiopia: The World Bank Group's private investment arm and guarantee agency have pledged more support for the first private telecoms operator in Ethiopia, Safaricom Ethiopia. In September investment arm the International Finance Corporation (IFC) said it planned to inject up to \$160 million in equity, but in a statement dated June 8 World Bank Group said that IFC's equity investment would be \$157 million and that it would also provide a \$100 million loan...[Reuters](#)

Nigeria Central Bank allows naira to weaken 2% to record low: Nigeria's Central bank allowed the naira to drop about 2% on the official market to a record low on Wednesday, but the currency's rate remained above where it trades at central bank auctions and on the black market. Nigeria is trying to find a way to unify its multiple exchange rate system, used to keep the naira artificially strong. New President Bola Tinubu told members of his governing party last week that the country would not have multiple exchange rates anymore...[Reuters](#)

Global

UBS to Complete Credit Suisse Takeover as Early this June: UBS expects to complete its takeover of Credit Suisse as early as June 12, which will create a giant Swiss bank with a balance sheet of \$1.6 trillion following a government-backed rescue earlier this year. The deal's completion is subject to the registration statement, which covers shares to be delivered, being declared effective by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, and other remaining closing conditions, UBS said in a statement on Monday...[Bloomberg](#)

Saudi pledges big oil cuts in July as OPEC+ extends deal into 2024: Saudi Arabia will make a deep cut to its output in July on top of a broader OPEC+ deal to limit supply into 2024 as the group seeks to boost flagging oil prices. Saudi's energy ministry said the country's output would drop to 9 million barrels per day (bpd) in July from around 10 million bpd in May, the biggest reduction in years. Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz told a news conference, citing "This market needs stabilization"...[Reuters](#).

Vodafone and Hutchison to announce UK merger as soon as Friday: Vodafone and CK Hutchison are in the final stages of agreeing to merge their British operations, with a long-awaited announcement expected as soon as Friday or early next week, three sources have told Reuters. The structure of the agreed deal is in line with Vodafone's announcement in October, with the British group owning 51% and Hutchison owning 49%, achieved by adjusting the ownership of debt rather than exchanging cash, one of the sources said...[Reuters](#)

Banks are cutting off Binance's access to U.S. banking system, exchange says: Binance.US customers will no longer be able to use U.S. dollars to buy crypto on the platform as early as June 13, hobbling the exchange's ability to do business in the United States, after both payment and banking partners "signaled their intent to pause USD fiat channels," the exchange said...[CNBC](#)

China's central bank upbeat on Q2 GDP growth, confident on 2023 targets: China's economic growth is expected to be "relatively high" in the second quarter compared to the prior year, mainly due a low base of comparison, while consumer inflation is projected to be above 1% by December, the central bank governor said. As rising interest rates and inflation squeeze demand in the United States and Europe, China's core CPI has been soft and factory gate prices fell sharply in May, suggesting the world's second-largest economy is losing steam...[Reuters](#)

US and UK sign 'Atlantic Declaration,' pledging agreements on A.I. and critical minerals: Despite a U.S.-U.K. trade deal remaining very much elusive, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and President Joe Biden signed a new "Atlantic Declaration" aiming to bolster economic security in the face of threats coming from Russia and China. The agreement, announced Thursday at a joint press conference in the East Room of the White House, is a series of mini deals looking artificial intelligence, critical minerals, clean energy and security...[CNBC](#)

HSBC pulls some UK mortgage deals as fears of rising rates hits home buyers once more: The U.K.'s biggest bank temporarily withdrew mortgage deals via broker services on Thursday, as the effect of higher interest rates ripples through the British housing market. HSBC told CNBC Friday that it was reviewing the situation regularly, but did not specify whether the new deals would differ from its previous offerings. Higher rates are a possibility, given that the Bank of England is continuing to increase interest rates...[CNBC](#)

Citigroup CEO Visits China as Wall Street Seeks Closer Ties: Chief Executive Officer Jane Fraser visited Beijing this week, joining other Wall Street executives to travel to China despite growing geopolitical tensions with the US. Fraser expressed confidence in China's financial and economic development, and vowed to keep expanding onshore operations. She also met with the deputy governor of China's central bank to discuss the situation in the international financial market on Tuesday...[Bloomberg](#)

Lira plunges 7% as Turkey edges towards free market: Turkey's lira plunged 7.6% to a record low on Wednesday in its biggest selloff since the historic 2021 crash, and traders called it a "strong signal" that Ankara is moving away from state controls toward a freely traded currency. The lira has come under increasing pressure since President Tayyip Erdogan was re-elected on May 28. It was trading at 23.2300 against the dollar at 1739 GMT, after touching a record low of 23.2620, bringing losses this year to nearly 20%...[Reuters](#)

China Exports Drop More Than Expected, Fueling Growth Risks: Chinese exports fell for the first time in three months in May, adding to risks in the world's second-largest economy as global demand weakens. Overseas shipments shrank 7.5% from a year ago to \$284 billion, official data showed Wednesday, worse than the median forecast for a 1.8% drop. Exports to most destinations contracted, with double-digit declines to places including the US, Japan, Southeast Asia, France and Italy... [Bloomberg](#)