

October 13, 2023

Ghana's News Summary

IMF hopes Ghana will reach debt deal in 6-8 weeks: The IMF hopes that Ghana will reach a debt restructuring agreement with bilateral creditors within six to eight weeks, an official at the Fund said, as the West African country battles to emerge from an economic crisis. An agreement to rework \$5.4 billion of debt to China and members of the Paris Club of creditor nations would pave the way for a second disbursement from a \$3 billion International Monetary Fund rescue loan...[Reuters](#)

Ghana eurobonds jump after \$3 billion IMF bailout moves forward: Ghana's international sovereign dollar bonds rose on Friday after the West African country reached a [staff-level agreement](#) with the International Monetary Fund on the first review of its \$3 billion bailout loan program. Longer-dated maturities jumped the most, with the 2061 bond rising just over 1 cent to 41.504 cents on the dollar at 1204 GMT, according to Tradeweb data. Most of the bonds are still trading at deeply distressed levels of 41-44 cents on the dollar...[Reuters](#)

BoG Governor advocates stronger multilateral debt resolution framework: Dr. Ernest Addison, Governor-Bank of Ghana, has emphasised the importance of strengthening multilateral coordination and regulatory efficiency for sovereign debt resolution in low-income countries (LICs) through the creation of a robust Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable (GSDR). Speaking during the IMF-African Caucus Meeting at the World Bank/IMF Meetings in Marrakech, Morocco, Dr. Addison underscored the significance of this initiative...[Bftonline](#)

Delay in payments due to legal action – SEC to Blackshield clients: The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has offered clarification regarding the delay in distributing bailout funds to customers of Blackshield Fund Management. This delay, SEC explains, primarily stems from legal action taken by the company which contested the liquidation petition initiated by the Official Liquidator upon revocation of the company's licence...[Bftonline](#)

GEF2023: Terkper advocates reforms to curb recurring arrears: A former finance minister, Seth Terkper, wants an end to the issue of recurring arrears such as in the energy sector, as well as payments to contractors within the fiscal space. During a thought-provoking panel discussion at the 2023 Ghana Economic Forum (GEF), Mr. Terkper – who joined the conversation virtually, said it is high time a permanent solution is found to this challenge, which he said remains a significant concern...[Bftonline](#)

Trade with China hits all-time record: Trade between Ghana and China reached an all-time record of US\$10.2billion in 2022 from US\$6.67billion in 2017. More importantly, Ghana's exports to China increased by 60 percent last year, the Chinese Ambassador to Ghana, Lu Kun, has said. The ambassador disclosed this at the celebration of the People's Republic of China's 74th anniversary in Accra, saying cooperation and partnerships between China and Ghana are delivering tangible benefits for both parties...[Bftonline](#)

BoG Governor pushes for speedy debt restructuring for G20 members: The Governor of the Bank of Ghana (BoG), Dr Ernest Addison, has pushed for a fast-tracked debt restructuring for vulnerable Group of Twenty (G20) members, including Ghana, Ethiopia, and Malawi. This comes on the back of recent agreements reached between Zambia and Chad and its creditors, and the need to safeguard these countries from any domestic financial market instability, Dr Addison said...[Myjoyonline](#)

We'll still pursue Ato Essien for c\$53m debt despite jail term – Deputy AG: Deputy Attorney General Alfred Tuah Yeboah has said the State will not give up in its quest to recover the c\$53 million from the former CEO of the defunct Capital Bank, Ato Essien despite being handed a jail term. Mr Yeboah insisted that the amount will not be forfeited for any reason as the state needs it. Speaking in an interview with JoyNews, the Deputy AG said encumbered assets of the convict will be traced and seized...[Myjoyonline](#)

NPA sanctions seven OMCs for illicit fuel distribution: The National Petroleum Authority (NPA) has sanctioned seven Petroleum Products Marketing Companies (PPMCs) for illicit distribution of petroleum products. They are to pay fines for violating of Unified Petroleum Pricing Fund (UPPF) regulations, making false UPPF representations to the Authority, and engaging in third-party supplies. Failure by the affected companies to pay the fines will lead to a three-month suspension of their operations...[Cititbusiness](#)

September inflation falls to 38.1% from 40.1%: Ghana's inflation rate fell to 38.1% in September 2023, from 40.1% in August, according to the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS). The GSS said the decline in inflation was due to a decrease in the prices of food and non-food items. Food inflation fell from 51.9% in August to 49.4% in September, while non-food inflation fell from 30.9% to 29.3%. The Government Statistician, Prof. Samuel Kobina Annim, said the decline in inflation was a positive development...[Cititbusiness](#)

IMF awaits Ghana's agreement with bilateral creditors before releasing next tranche of \$3bn bailout: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says it is waiting for the outcome of Ghana's engagement with its bilateral creditors before releasing the next tranche of the \$3 billion bailout package. This was disclosed by the IMF Managing Director, Kristalina Georgieva, in a tweet on Wednesday after meeting Ghanaian officials to discuss the way forward. Ghana recently reached a staff-level agreement with the IMF following a review of the country's economic progress after the first tranche of \$600 million was disbursed...[Cititbusiness](#)

"It's not how much money you make, but how much money you keep, how hard it works for you, and how many generations you keep it for." – Robert Kiyosaki

African Market News Summary

About 40% of South African consumers shop more at discount stores, NIQ says: About 40% of South African consumers are shopping more often at discount stores, while 48% think private-label products are a good alternative to name brands, data from market researchers NIQ showed on Thursday, as customers adjust to soaring prices. August food prices are up 8.2% over the last year, outpacing the broader inflation rate across the whole economy and adding strain to household budgets already stretched by high transport bills and other price increases...[Reuters](#)

Namibia sees first oil from offshore discoveries by 2030: Namibia expects the first oil from major offshore finds by 2030 and is considering a Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) platform to help it export the crude oil, its petroleum commissioner said on Wednesday. Namibia, which has yet to produce any oil and gas, has attracted strong interest from international energy companies after Shell and TotalEnergies made discoveries off the coast of the southern African country...[Reuters](#)

South African population grew to 62 million last year, census data shows: South Africa's population rose to 62 million people last year from 51.8 million in 2011, according to census data from the statistics agency released on Tuesday. The census found roughly eight in 10 people were Black African in 2022, while less than one in 10 people were white. Statistics South Africa said there were more than 2.4 million migrants in South Africa last year, with the highest percentage coming from neighbouring Zimbabwe at 45.5%, followed by Mozambique and Lesotho...[Reuters](#)

South African rand gains on weaker US yields; stocks jump: The South African rand jumped over 1% on Tuesday against a weaker dollar on the back of improved risk sentiment and a drop in U.S. Treasury yields, analysts said. At 1508 GMT, the rand traded at 19.0525 against the dollar, over 1.4% stronger than its previous close. The dollar last traded 0.1% weaker against a basket of global currencies. On Monday, the rand tumbled as violence in the Middle East stoked risk aversion on global markets...[Reuters](#)

Egypt seeks to boost IMF loan to over \$5 billion - Bloomberg News: Egypt is in talks with the International Monetary Fund on augmenting its rescue program to more than \$5 billion, Bloomberg News reported on Friday, citing people familiar with the discussions. Any announcement on a potential increase from the \$3 billion secured last year would only come after Egypt completes its two delayed program reviews, the report said, adding that no decision on this has yet been made...[Reuters](#)

Kenya plans \$500 million Eurobond buyback with new loans, central-bank governor says: Kenya is planning to buy back up to a quarter of its \$2 billion 2024 international bond before year-end after it secures new loans, central bank governor Kamau Thugge told Reuters, a move aimed at alleviating concerns it can repay the looming debt. The country is in talks to raise between \$500 million and \$1 billion in commercial loans from two regional policy banks, Trade & Development Bank and the African Export-Import Bank, Thugge said in an interview on the sidelines of the World Bank and IMF meetings in Marrakech...[Reuters](#)

Kenya to seek \$1 billion loan from China, longer repayment period: Kenya's President William Ruto will ask China for a \$1 billion loan to complete stalled road construction projects when he travels to Beijing later this month, his deputy said on Friday. Ruto's plan, which also includes a request to lengthen the maturity periods of existing loans, marks a shift in his stance on Chinese debt after his coalition criticised his predecessor's borrowing spree from China during last year's election campaign...[Reuters](#)

South Africa central-bank head: government needs to rebuild fiscal buffers to disinflate: The head of South Africa's central bank said on Wednesday the government needed to rebuild its fiscal buffers to help bring down inflation, and that he expected domestic interest rates to stay higher for longer. Governments globally need to join central banks in dismantling the stimulus of the COVID pandemic years, Lesetja Kganyago said...[Reuters](#)

Nigeria central bank to intervene in forex market, lifts forex ban on 43 items: Nigeria's central bank said on Thursday it plans to intervene in the country's foreign exchange market occasionally to boost liquidity, while ending an eight-year ban on 43 items that had been restricted from accessing forex on the official market. The ban, which covered items such as rice, cement and poultry, was imposed as part of the unorthodox policies under former central bank Governor Godwin Emefiele in an effort to prop up the naira currency...[Reuters](#)

Nigerian oil regulator 'optimistic' on Exxon asset sale to Seplat: The head of Nigeria's oil regulator said he is "very optimistic" that Exxon Mobil's asset sale to Seplat Energy can move forward; he told Reuters on Wednesday. The regulator last year to approve the \$1.28 billion sale, a deal some in the industry say is key to getting much-needed investment into Nigeria's oil and gas sector. "We are very optimistic that parties to the transaction will go back, look at the position of the regulator and come back by abiding by the provisions of Nigerian laws...[Reuters](#)

Ugandan shilling stable: offshore investor dollar inflows help: The Uganda shilling was stable on Thursday, as some dollar inflows from offshore investors who participated in this week's Treasury bills auction met importer demand, traders said. At 1025 GMT, commercial banks quoted the shilling at 3,745/3,755 per dollar, the same level as Wednesday's closing rate...[Reuters](#)

Uganda c.bank holds rate, says stance will keep inflation around target: Uganda's central bank maintained its main lending rate ([UGCBIR=ECI](#)) at 9.5% on Thursday, its deputy governor said, adding that the bank's current monetary policy stance was expected to keep inflation near its medium-term target. The near-term prospects for the economy remained broadly unchanged since the last rate decision, with growth driven by a recovery in the service sector, Bank of Uganda Deputy Governor Michael Atingi-Ego told a news conference...[Reuters](#)

Zambia poised to sign debt restructuring MoU -finance minister: Zambia is poised to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on its debt restructuring with official creditors, its finance minister said on Thursday - a key step to securing the next tranche of funding from the International Monetary Fund...[Reuters](#)

Global Market News Summary

Wells Fargo quarterly profit rises on higher interest income: Wells Fargo's profit rose in the third quarter as the U.S. lender benefited from customers paying higher interest on loans. The swiftest tightening of U.S. monetary policy in 40 years aimed at reining in sticky inflation has buoyed banks' interest income. Federal Reserve officials have said monetary policy will need to stay restrictive for a longer period to bring inflation back down to its 2% target but are debating whether another hike is needed this year...[Reuters](#)

Russian tech firm Astra raises \$36 mln in Moscow IPO: Russian technology company Astra on Friday said it had raised 3.5 billion roubles (\$35.9 million) in an initial public offering (IPO) on the Moscow Exchange, pricing shares at the upper end of its range in a debut populated by retail investors. Russian share listings have been thin on the ground since Russia sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022, and are generally characterised by [small volumes](#) and dependent on Russian investors after an exodus of Western capital...[Reuters](#)

Deutsche Bank completes takeover of UK broker Numis: Deutsche Bank has completed its takeover of Numis, a London-based boutique investment bank, expanding its links with UK corporate clients, the German bank said on Friday. The combined business, Deutsche Numis, will oversee more than 170 corporate broking relationships and provide advisor, corporate broking, and equity capital markets services, the bank said...[Reuters](#)

Aussie lender ANZ loses case over troubled 2015 share placement worth \$1.6 bln: Australia's ANZ Group on Friday lost a landmark lawsuit that found it guilty of not disclosing to public that its underwriters had bought nearly one-third of a share issue worth A\$2.5 billion (\$1.58 billion) in [2015](#). The country's Federal Court found the third-largest lender guilty of breaking disclosure laws by failing to notify the market that between A\$754 million and A\$791 million of the shares were acquired by its underwriters instead of being placed with investors...[Reuters](#)

Wall Street bonuses may drop 16% as higher rates threaten businesses, New York Comptroller: Wall Street bonuses could fall 16% this year as interest rates possibly staying higher for longer threatens the performance of financial companies, according to New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli. The drop, however, would be less sharp than last year's 26% decline that [shrank bonuses to \\$176,700 on average](#)...[Reuters](#)

Banks in UK assess China risks after being stung by Russia sanctions: Big banks in Britain are preparing for any future escalation of Western sanctions on China and have shared their "scenario planning" with the British and U.S. governments, a senior banking official has told Reuters. The project involves sharing lessons learned from other sanctions frameworks, including those on Russia, and discussions about the effect any measures imposed on China might have, Neil Whiley, director of sanctions at lobby group UK Finance, said...[Reuters](#)

Singapore keeps monetary policy unchanged, increases review frequency: Singapore's central bank on Friday kept monetary settings unchanged as inflation in the city-state moderated and economic growth beat expectations. In a move that surprised economists, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) said it would shift to a quarterly schedule of policy statements in 2024 from semi-annual...[Reuters](#)

Options traders see larger-than-usual stock swings as banks report results: Options traders are braced for larger-than-usual post-earnings stock price swings for some U.S. banks, despite signs of cooling volatility in broader markets, options data showed. Big banks, including JPMorgan, Wells Fargo and Citigroup Inc are set to report financial results on Friday, with others, including Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, due next week...[Reuters](#)

EU watchdog piles pressure on banks to better quantify climate risks: Banks may not be fully reflecting risks from climate change in their capital buffers and several changes will be introduced over the next three years to help rectify this, the European Union's banking watchdog said on Thursday. The European Banking Authority said it would require banks to input environmental risks into the computer models they use to calculate core, mandatory "Pillar 1" capital cushions...[Reuters](#)

Wells Fargo rolls out financial planning tool to almost 70 million customers: Wells Fargo ([WFC.N](#)) will expand access to a financial planning tool to its nearly 70 million customers after initially offering it to wealth clients earlier this year, the bank said on Thursday. The Life Sync tool allows mobile users to set and track financial goals, check their credit scores and connect with financial advisers. "We already have around 100,000 goals" set on the tool, which account for \$24 billion in financial plans, said Michael Liersch, head of advice and planning at Wells Fargo...[Reuters](#)

UK banks see less lending in Q4, expect more defaults: BoE survey: British lenders expect to curb the availability of mortgages in the next three months, a Bank of England survey showed on Thursday. The BoE's quarterly [Credit Conditions Survey](#) also showed lenders thought defaults on secured loans and on credit cards and other loans would increase...[Reuters](#)

Russian c.bank to consider wide range of options for key rate -Ifax: Russia's central bank on Friday said it would consider a wide range of options regarding its benchmark interest rate at its Oct. 27 meeting, a slight softening of the hawkish signal the bank has been giving in recent weeks. The weakness of the rouble, which slumped to a more-than 18-month low this week, has forced the Bank of Russia into 550 basis points of rate hikes since July and analysts polled in late September widely expect another raise this month...[Reuters](#)