



PARTHIAN
SECURITIES

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Market and Economic Update

30 April 2026

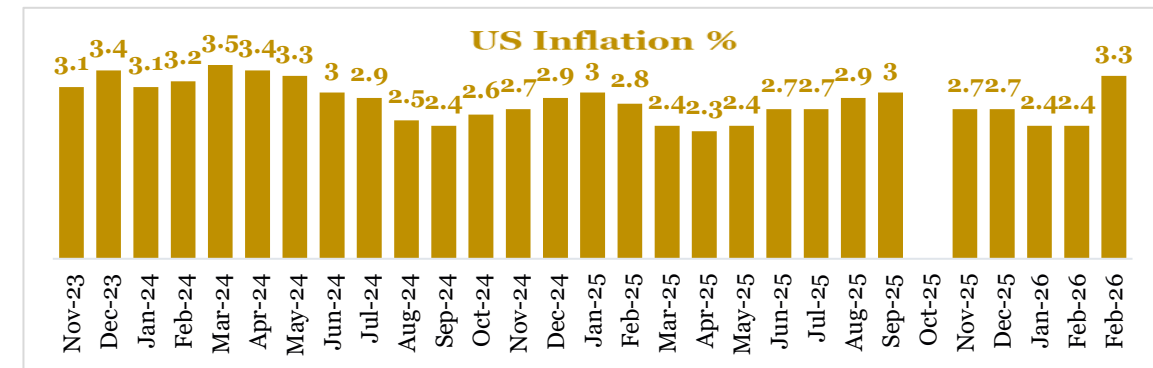
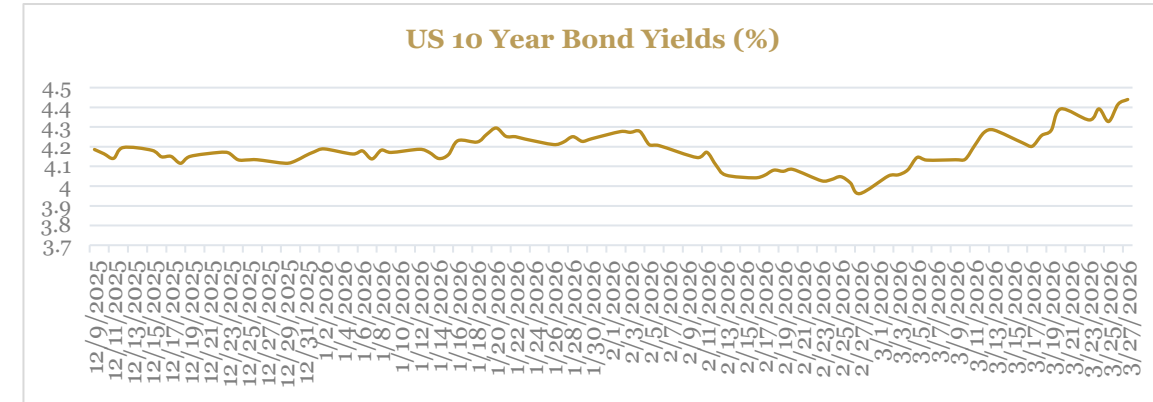
Global Update



- The Federal Reserve held its policy rate at 3.50%–3.75%, marking a third consecutive pause following the November 2025 rate cut. The decision reflects a cautious “wait-and-see” approach amid rising inflation and geopolitical uncertainty. The hold is driven by renewed inflationary pressures, with March inflation rising to 3.30%, fueled by higher energy costs linked to Middle East tensions. At the same time, softer economic growth (2.0% in Q1 2026) and a weakening labor market, with unemployment at 4.30%, limit the scope for further tightening. From a market standpoint, elevated rates are likely to constrain demand and pressure interest-sensitive sectors. Fixed income yields may remain high, while equities could trade cautiously amid tighter financial conditions and uncertain policy direction.
- The United Arab Emirates has exited OPEC, signaling a major change in global oil market structure and coordination among key producers. This development introduces uncertainty around future supply management and pricing stability. The decision is driven by the UAE’s ambition to expand production capacity and pursue independent output strategies, amid ongoing disagreements within OPEC over quota allocations and long-term production frameworks. The move reflects broader structural shifts within the oil market, where national interests increasingly outweigh collective supply discipline. The exit could weaken OPEC’s ability to enforce production controls, potentially increasing supply volatility. This may lead to heightened price fluctuations, affecting oil-dependent economies and energy markets globally, while reshaping competitive dynamics among major producers.

Global Economic Data

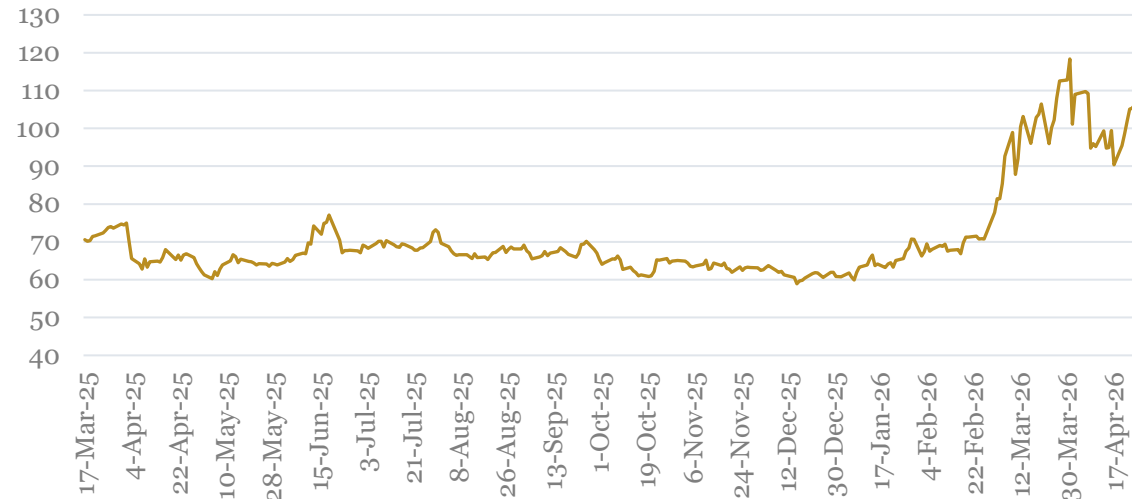
	Current	Previous	Change
US GDP	1.40% (Q4-2025)	4.40% (Q3-2025)	-3.00%
US Interest Rate	3.50% - 3.75% (Mar. 2026)	3.50% - 3.75% (Jan. 2026)	0.00%
US Inflation	2.40% (Feb. 2026)	2.40% (Jan. 2025)	0.00%
China GDP	4.50% (Q4-2025)	4.80% (Q3-2025)	-0.40%
China Inflation	1.30% (Feb. 2026)	0.20% (Jan. 2026)	1.10%



Crude Oil Price Update

- Last week, Oil prices extended its upward momentum, with Brent Crude rising to \$108.17/bbl (+2.70% WoW) and West Texas Intermediate (WTI) increasing to \$101.94/bbl (+7.99% WoW).
- The rally was largely driven by heightened tensions in the Middle East, particularly concerns around the Strait of Hormuz, which intensified fears of potential supply disruptions. This bullish sentiment was further supported by ongoing production restraint from OPEC+ and a notable drawdown in U.S. crude inventories, signaling tighter near-term supply conditions. Additionally, resilient demand expectations from major consuming economies provided further impetus to prices.
- Looking ahead, crude oil prices are expected to remain elevated in the near term, supported by persistent geopolitical risks and supply-side discipline, although the sharp pace of recent gains may trigger intermittent profit-taking and short-term volatility.

YTD PERFORMANCE OF BRENT CRUDE (US\$)



Source: [Investing.com](https://www.investing.com), PSL Research

Crude Oil Prices	Current	Previous	Change
Brent Crude Oil(\$)	108.17	105.33	2.70%
WTI Crude Price (\$)	101.94	94.40	7.99%

Domestic Update



- Nigeria's private sector activity weakened further in April 2026, with the CBN PMI declining to 49.4 points from 53.2 in March, its lowest level in over a year and signalling a shift into contraction territory. Sectoral performance was broadly weaker, with Services and Industry falling below the 50-point threshold at 48.8 and 49.5 points respectively, while Agriculture moderated to 50.2 points. The deterioration reflects spillover effects from heightened global geopolitical tensions, particularly the U.S.–Iran conflict, which have elevated energy costs, disrupted supply chains, and contributed to inflationary pressures, thereby weighing on demand conditions. Overall, the contraction points to rising downside risks to near-term economic growth momentum.
- Nigeria's House of Representatives of Nigeria has approved a \$516.33 million external loan request submitted by the Presidency to support the development of the Sokoto–Badagry Superhighway. The facility, to be sourced from Deutsche Bank AG, will finance Sections 1, 1A, and 1B of the 1,000km corridor linking northern and southwestern Nigeria. The loan carries a nine-year tenor, including a grace period of up to three years, and is priced at SOFR plus 5.3%. In addition, the Federal Government will provide ₦265.5 billion in counterpart funding for land acquisition and related infrastructure. The project is expected to reduce travel time, lower logistics costs, and enhance trade and food distribution. However, the approval adds to Nigeria's rising debt profile, with public debt already elevated at ₦159.28 trillion.

Foreign Exchange Update

- At the Nigerian Foreign Exchange Market (NFEM), the Naira weakened by 1.20% to ₦1,374.94/\$ on April 30, from ₦1,358.44/\$ the previous week. In contract, Naira strengthened by 1.43% to ₦1,400.00/\$ compared to ₦1,420.00/\$ the previous week in the parallel market.
- Nigeria's gross external reserves declined by \$113.15 million to \$48.37 billion as of April 29, down from \$48.48 billion as of April 22.

Fixed Income Market

- System liquidity printed higher, opening at ₦4.52trillion on Monday, and closing at ₦4.96trillion on Friday. Nigerian Overnight Financing Rate (NOFR) increased by 2bps week-on-week to close at 22.02%.
- The NTB market opened the week on a subdued note as market participants largely shifted attention to the FGN bond auction conducted by the DMO. We observed improved sentiments in the following sessions, with demand strengthening across the curve as the April 2027 maturity emerged as the most sought-after paper, closing the week at 16.15/15.95 levels. Towards the end of the week, activity moderated, with modest demand concentrated at the long end of the curve, particularly across February to April maturities, while offers remained limited. The first NTB auction of the month is scheduled to be held on Wednesday as the DMO will offer ₦700billion across the three standard tenors.
- In the OMO segment, activity was initially centered on the September 2026 bill, which traded around 19.90%. Investor focus later shifted to the CBN's OMO auction, where ₦600billion was offered across the 7-day, 105-day, and 140-day maturities. Total subscriptions came in strong at ₦1.78trillion with ₦1.74trillion allotted. Stop rates printed at 21.90%, 19.85%, and 19.91%, respectively. Later in the week, activity centered on the newly issued 15-September OMO bill, quoted around 19.95%/19.85%.
- The FGN bond market opened the week on a calm note ahead of the auction. Despite the muted start, we observed selective buying interest in mid-dated maturities, particularly the 32s and 34s trading around 16.70% and 16.60%, respectively. At the bond auction on Monday, the DMO offered ₦700billion across the 2030, 2032, and 2035 maturities. Total subscriptions came in at ₦948billion, while only ₦276.8billion was allotted. Stop rates printed at 16.30%, 16.50%, and 16.59%, respectively.

Following the auction, sentiment turned bearish as selling pressure emerged across the secondary market, particularly in on-the-run bonds despite unmet demand at the auction. The 32s and 35s traded at 16.75% and 16.65%, respectively, pushing average benchmark yields higher by approximately 10bps. Selling pressure persisted into the latter part of the week, with higher offers recorded on the 32s and 33s at 16.85% and 16.80%, respectively, resulting in a further 15bps increase in average yields across the benchmark curve.



Equity Market

- The Nigerian equities market sustained its bullish momentum last week, with the benchmark index advancing in three out of four trading sessions, as trading was shortened by the Federal Government's declaration of Friday, May 1, 2026, as a public holiday in observance of Workers' Day. On a week-on-week basis, the All-Share Index (ASI) and market capitalization rose by 7.33% to close at 242,277.81 points and ₦155.99 trillion, respectively, pushing the year-to-date return higher to 55.69% from 45.05% in the preceding week.
- The rally was primarily driven by bargain hunting across key sectors, notably Industrial Goods, Oil & Gas, and Consumer Goods. Significant price appreciation was recorded in counters such as ZICHIS (+39.62%), UACN (+27.82%), BUACEMENT (+24.78%), CAP (+22.53%), ARADEL (+20.48%), BETAGLAS (+19.96%), WAPCO (+18.68%), PRESCO (+16.16%), PZ (+14.48%), UNILEVER (+13.64%), MTNN (+11.59%), VITAFOAM (+11.44%), SEPLAT (+10.0%), AIRTELAFRI (+10.00%), JBERGER (+9.38%), DANGCEM (+8.99%), and BUAFOODS (+8.65%). Conversely, sell-offs weighed on select counters, with UBA (-22.27%), FIRSTHOLDCO (-13.80%), ACCESSCORP (-13.74%), ETRANZACT (-12.02%), FCMB (-11.86%), FIDELITY (-10.31%), and MORISON (-9.92%), leading the laggards' chart.
- Market activity strengthened relative to the prior week, as total traded volume increased to 4.84 billion shares valued at ₦287.76 billion across 332,453 deals, compared to 3.81 billion shares worth ₦213.96 billion exchanged across 297,202 deals in the previous week.
- Sectoral performance was largely bullish across the sectors during the week. The Industrial Goods, Oil & Gas, Consumer Goods sectors increased by 16.89%, 14.37%, 3.20%, respectively. Conversely, the Banking and Insurance sectors closed lower by 5.52% and 1.13% respectively.
- We expect a mixed to mildly bearish sentiment in next week's trading sessions, as investors weigh selective bargain-hunting opportunities against a more cautious positioning stance. Near-term activity may also be shaped by profit-taking following the recent market rally, which could exert intermittent pressure on prices.