



PARTHIAN
SECURITIES

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Economic and Market Update

25 September 2026

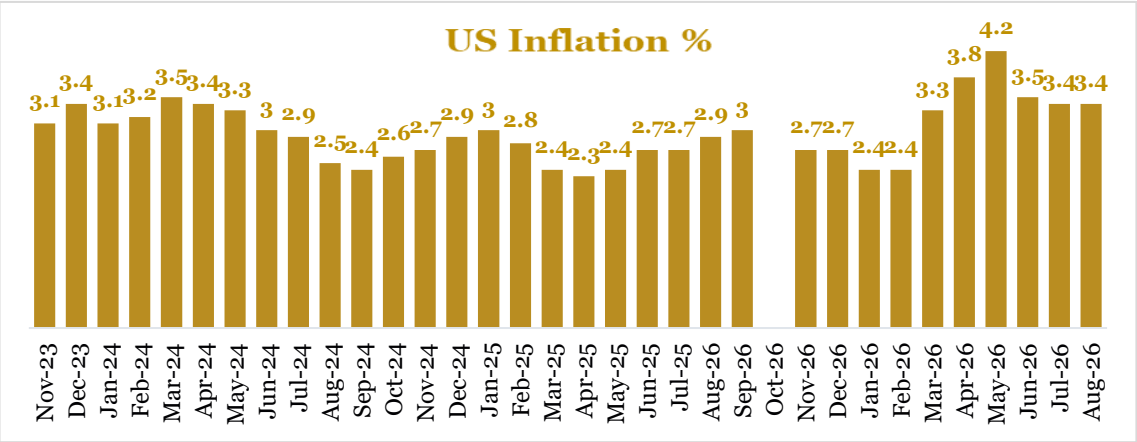
Global Update



- According to S&P Global, US private-sector activity strengthened further in September, with the Composite PMI rising to 58.4 points from 56.0 points in August, marking its fourth consecutive monthly increase and the strongest expansion since July 2021. The improvement was broad-based, with the Services PMI increasing to 58.7 points from 56.5 points, while the Manufacturing PMI rose to 56.7 points from 53.1 points, supported by stronger output and new orders. Resilient domestic demand remained a key driver, while employment also expanded at a faster pace. However, the stronger activity was accompanied by renewed cost pressures, with input prices rising at their fastest pace since October 2022, largely reflecting higher fuel and transportation costs.
- The Bank of Ghana’s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) maintained the policy rate at 14.00% for the third consecutive meeting, citing resilient economic activity and improving macroeconomic conditions alongside emerging inflation risks. Real GDP growth moderated to 6.00% y/y in Q2:2026 from 6.40% in Q1, while the 13.40% y/y expansion in the Composite Index of Economic Activity pointed to continued domestic momentum. The fiscal and external positions also strengthened, with a 0.90% of GDP primary surplus in June and a USD5.10bn current-account surplus in H1:2026. However, headline inflation rose to 5.00% y/y in August from 4.60% in July, while crude oil prices above USD100/bbl pose additional upside risks to fuel and transport costs. Against this backdrop, the MPC opted to maintain its current stance while assessing whether the recent inflation increase is temporary or more persistent.
- South Africa’s headline inflation edged up to 4.40% YoY in August from 4.30% in July, marking the second consecutive monthly increase. The uptick was driven mainly by higher food prices and persistent transport costs, although core inflation eased to 4.10% from 4.20%, while monthly CPI was unchanged. Against this backdrop, the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) raised its policy rate by 25bps to 7.25% in September, citing renewed fuel-price pressures and elevated services inflation. The decision came amid weaker economic activity, with GDP contracting by 0.20% QoQ in Q2:2026 and the SARB lowering its 2026 growth forecast to 1.20% from 1.40%. The Bank expects inflation to rise above 5.00% later this year and early 2027 before returning towards its 3.00% target by end-2027.

Global Economic Data

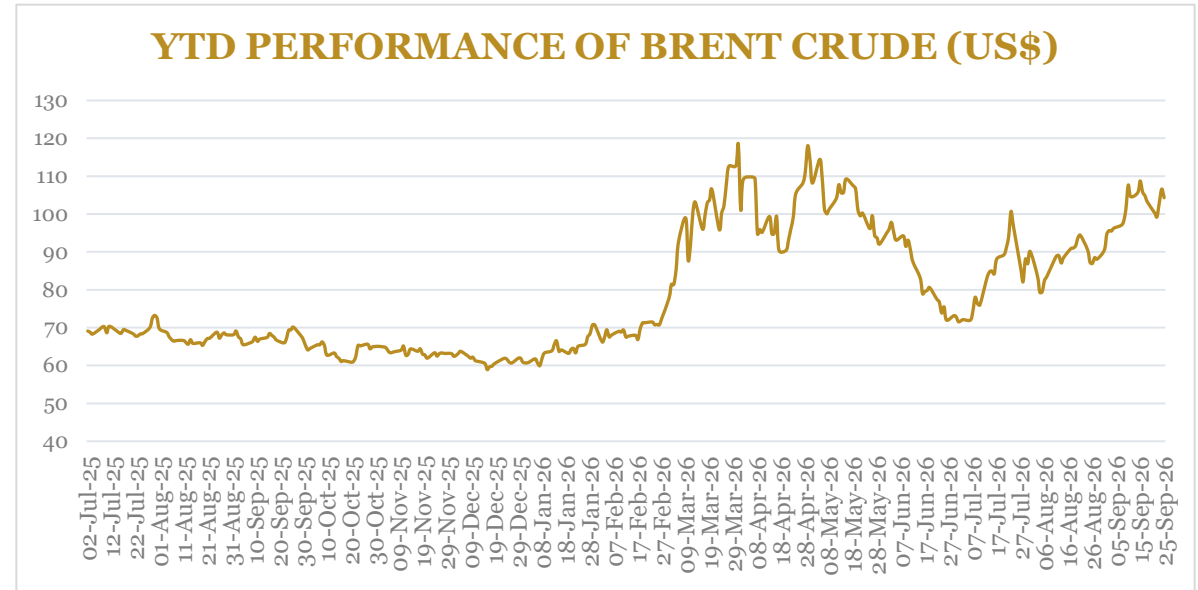
	Current	Previous	Change
US GDP	1.50% (Q2-2026)	2.10% (Q1-2026)	-0.60%
US Interest Rate	3.75% - 4.00% (Sep. 2026)	3.50% - 3.75% (Jul. 2026)	0.25%
US Inflation	3.40% (Aug. 2026)	3.40% (Jul. 2026)	0.00%
China GDP	4.3% (Q2-2026)	5.0% (Q1-2026)	-0.70%
China Inflation	1.00% (Jun. 2026)	1.20% (May. 2026)	-0.20%



Source: [Tradingeconomics.com](https://tradingeconomics.com), PSL Research

Crude Oil Price Update

- Global crude oil prices were mixed last week, as persistent Middle East supply concerns provided support to Brent, while renewed prospects of a US-Iran truce and continued oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz eased near-term supply pressures. However, continued attacks on regional energy infrastructure kept the risk of further supply disruptions elevated.
- On a week-on-week basis, Brent crude increased by **0.43%** to US\$104.32/bbl, while WTI fell by **3.82%** to US\$92.41/bbl.
- Looking ahead, we expect crude oil prices to remain volatile, with developments around US-Iran negotiations, the security of key Middle East energy infrastructure and the pace of oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz likely to remain key drivers. A sustained easing of geopolitical tensions could reduce the supply-risk premium, while renewed disruptions could place further upward pressure on prices.



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

Crude Oil Prices	Current	Previous	Change
Brent Crude Oil(\$)	104.32	103.87	0.43%
WTI Crude Price (\$)	92.41	96.08	3.82%

Domestic Update



- The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) reset the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) by 350bps to 23.00% at its 307th MPC meeting, while recalibrating the Standing Facilities Corridor to +50/-300bps. The CRR was retained at 45.00% for Deposit Money Banks, 16.00% for Merchant Banks and 75.00% for non-TSA public-sector deposits. The decision follows continued moderation in inflation, which declined to 15.39% in August, and is aimed at improving policy transmission and aligning the policy framework with prevailing market conditions. We expect the lower policy-rate setting to support a gradual repricing across the fixed-income market, while potentially improving the relative attractiveness of equities as yields adjust. The committee will continue to monitor inflation, liquidity conditions, exchange-rate stability and credit growth closely as it assesses the need for further policy adjustments.
- Credit to the private sector increased by 1.3% m/m to ₦84.55tn in August 2026, bringing year-on-year growth to 11.4%. The continued expansion indicates gradual improvement in credit activity, although the pace remains modest amid the elevated interest-rate environment. Meanwhile, credit to government declined by 3.6% m/m to ₦32.69tn, while currency in circulation rose marginally by 1.0% m/m to ₦5.43tn. Going forward, we expect the recent 350bps reset in the MPR to 23.00% and the recalibration of the standing facilities corridor to gradually improve credit conditions as lower market rates transmit through the banking system.
- Dangote Refinery reduced its PMS depot price by ₦25 to ₦1,325/litre, following the recent decline in global crude oil prices. Other major marketers subsequently reduced their depot prices by about ₦24/litre in Lagos. The adjustments reflect the pass-through of softer crude oil prices into domestic fuel pricing.

Foreign Exchange Update

- The naira appreciated across both the official and parallel FX markets last week. At the official window, the NFEM rate strengthened by 13bps week-on-week to ₦1,329.51/\$, while the parallel-market rate appreciated by 38bps to ₦1,385/\$. Consequently, the spread between both markets narrowed to ₦55/\$ from ₦58.80/\$ in the previous week.
- Meanwhile, Nigeria's gross external reserves increased by US\$136.76mn to US\$54.86bn as of 24 September 2026.

Fixed Income Market



Equity Market

- The Nigerian equities market extended its upward momentum last week, with the NGX All-Share Index (ASI) rising by **0.92%** to 252,113.41 points, while market capitalisation increased by **0.92%** to ₦163.66 trillion. The gain lifted the market's year-to-date return to approximately 62.01%, from 60.53% in the previous week. The positive close was supported by renewed buying interest in selected stocks, particularly across the Oil & Gas, Banking and Industrial Goods sectors.
- Market breadth remained positive, with 61 equities appreciating against 32 decliners. Among the gainers were NASCON (**+17.81%**), NAHCO (**+16.92%**), CADBURY (**+12.26%**), ETERNA (**+11.43%**), ACCESSCORP (**+8.23%**), SEPLAT (**+7.33%**), STANBIC (**+7.19%**), TRANSCORP (**+6.78%**), MAYBAKER (**+5.90%**), GTCO (**+5.38%**), TIP (**+5.28%**), FIDSON (**+5.06%**), ZENITHBANK (**+5.06%**), HBMNG (**+4.43%**), OANDO (**+4.41%**), UACN (**+4.34%**), ETI (**+2.99%**), NGXGROUP (**+2.83%**), DANGCEM (**+1.59%**), UBA (**+1.46%**), IMG (**+1.27%**), NB (**+1.06%**), NEM (**+0.70%**) and PZ (**+0.27%**). On the other hand, TOTAL (**-10.00%**), OKOMUOIL (**-10.00%**), CUSTODIAN (**-6.67%**), WEMABANK (**-3.91%**), MTNN (**-3.03%**), FIRSTHOLDCO (**-2.13%**), CAP (**-1.96%**), ARADEL (**-1.29%**) and DANGSUGAR (**-0.77%**) recorded declines.
- Trading activity strengthened in volume and value last week, despite a decline in the number of deals. A total of 4.69 billion shares valued at ₦240.82 billion exchanged hands across 261,198 deals, compared with 3.25 billion shares worth ₦237.99 billion in 287,919 deals in the previous week. Accordingly, traded volume increased by 44.31%, transaction value rose marginally by 1.19%, while the number of deals declined by 9.28%.
- Sector performance was largely positive, with four of the five major sectoral indices advancing. Oil & Gas (**+3.49%**) and Banking (**+3.06%**) recorded the largest gains, followed by Industrial Goods (**+1.56%**) and Consumer Goods (**+0.62%**), while Insurance (**-0.52%**) was the only sector to close negative.
- We expect the market to maintain its positive bias this week, supported by the recent monetary policy easing and sustained investor appetite for equities. However, after a largely positive week, profit-taking and cautious positioning could moderate the pace of further gains.