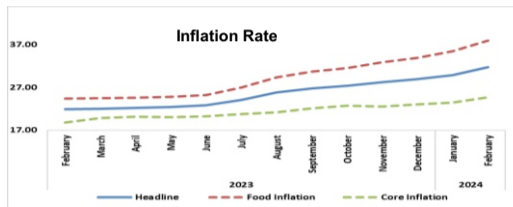
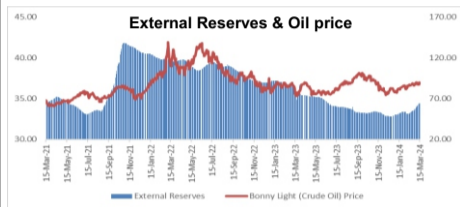
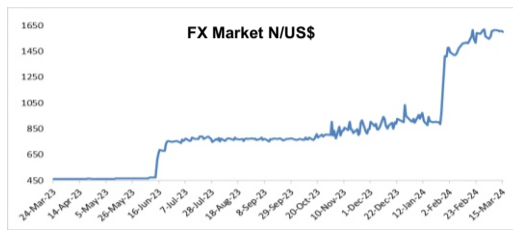
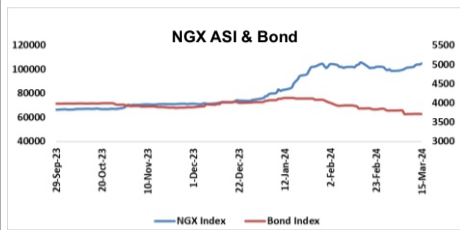


Access Bank Rateswatch

KEY MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS

Indicators	Current Figures	Comments
GDP Growth (%)	3.46	Q4 2023 — Higher by 0.92% compared to 2.54% in Q3 2023
Broad Money Supply (N' trillion)	93.72	Rose by 19.02% in January 2024 from N78.74 trillion in December 2023
Credit to Private Sector (N' trillion)	76.94	Rose by 23.06% in January 2024 from N62.52 trillion in December 2023
Currency in Circulation (N' trillion)	3.65	Unchanged in January 2024 from N3.65 trillion in December 2023
Inflation rate (%) (y-o-y)	31.7	Increased to 31.7% in February 2024 from 29.9% in January 2024
Monetary Policy Rate (%)	22.75	Adjusted to 22.75% in February 2024 from 18.75% in July 2023
Interest Rate (Asymmetrical Corridor)	22.75(+1-7)	Lending rate changed to 23.75% & Deposit rate 15.75%
External Reserves (US\$ billion)	34.42	March 14, 2024 figure — an increase of 1.95% from March start
Oil Price (US\$/Barrel) (OPEC)	88.84	March 15, 2024 figure — an increase of 0.79% from the prior week
Oil Production mbpd (OPEC)	1.32	February 2024, figure — an decrease of 7.69% from January 2024 figure



STOCK MARKET

Indicators	Last Week	2 Weeks Ago	Change (%)
	15/3/24	8/3/24	
NGX ASI	105,085.25	101,330.85	3.71
Market Cap(N'tr)	59.42	57.29	3.71
Volume (bn)	0.22	0.36	(39.35)
Value (N'bn)	5.01	19.88	(74.82)

MONEY MARKET

NIBOR			
Tenor	Last Week Rate (%)	2 Weeks Ago Rate (%)	Change (Basis Point)
	15/3/24	8/3/24	
OPR	30.2900	29.8200	47
O/N	31.0700	31.0000	7
CALL	30.8750	31.7800	(91)
30 Days	21.2500	22.7000	(145)
90 Days	22.5000	23.1500	(65)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET

Market	Last Week Rate (N/\$)	2 Weeks Ago Rate (N/\$)	1 Month Ago Rate (N/\$)
	15/3/24	8/3/24	15/2/24
NAFEX (N)	1602.43	1615.85	1519.46

BOND MARKET

AVERAGE YIELDS			
Tenor	Last Week Rate (%)	2 Weeks Ago Rate (%)	Change (Basis Point)
	15/3/24	8/3/24	
7-Year	18.05	18.01	4
10-Year	15.90	15.80	10
15-Year	18.93	18.46	47
20-Year	18.58	18.57	1
25-Year	18.52	17.86	66
30-Year	18.28	18.31	(3)

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Market Analysis and Outlook: March 15, - March 22, 2024

Global Economy

Annual inflation rate for the American economy unexpectedly edged up to 3.2% in February 2024, compared to 3.1% in January. Report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics revealed that energy costs dropped much less than expected with transportation costs rising sharply. Meanwhile, prices increased at a softer pace for food, shelter, new vehicles, and medical care. Meanwhile, the monthly inflation rate rose to 0.4% from 0.3%, with prices for shelter and gasoline contributing over 60% of the increase. On the other hand, core inflation eased to 3.8% from 3.9%. In a different zone, the Office for National Statistics revealed that the UK's trade deficit widened to £3.129 billion in January 2024, up from a 3-month low of £2.603 billion recorded in the prior month, propelled by a 1.4% surge in imports coupled with a 0.7% rise in exports. Imports from the EU grew by 0.7%, primarily fuelled by heightened purchases of fuel, including refined oil from Sweden and crude oil from Norway, as well as food and live animals. Furthermore, imports from non-EU nations surged by 3.8%. Conversely, while goods exports to the EU experienced a modest uptick of 0.8%, attributed to increased sales of fuel, notably crude oil to Poland and refined oil to Belgium, as well as chemicals, exports to non-EU countries saw a decline of 1.7% due to reduced sales of fuels and chemicals.

placements such as the 90-day Nigerian Interbank Offered Rate (NIBOR) decreased to 22.50% from 23.15%. This week, rates are expected to hover around similar levels barring any inflow to the system.

Foreign Exchange Market

The forex market witnessed improved activity on the sell side as the Naira recorded gains. The Naira gained ₦13.42 to close at ₦1,602.43. This week, forex rate is expected to maintain similar trend.

Bond Market

Minimal activity was recorded in the bond market last week. As a result, the average yields on the 7-, 10-, 15-, 20-, and 25-year bonds rose to 18.05%, 15.90%, 18.93%, 18.58%, and 18.52%, respectively, up from 18.01%, 15.80%, 18.46%, 18.57%, and 17.86. Furthermore, the Access Bank bond index fell by 1.04 points, closing at 3,714.62 points compared to the previous 3,715.66 points. Going into the new trading week, an improved market activity is expected as the Debt Management Office (DMO) is set to borrow ₦450 billion across MAR 2027, FEB 2031, and FEB 2034 bonds.

Commodities

Oil prices stayed higher underpinned by signs of robust US demand and a bullish outlook on global consumption for this year. The latest Energy Information Administration (EIA) data showed that US crude inventories fell by 1.54 million barrels last week, defying expectations for a 1.34 million barrel build. The International Energy Agency (IEA) also increased its 2024 global oil demand forecast to 1.3 million barrels per day (mbpd) from 1.2mbpd and revised its forecast to a slight deficit this year instead of a surplus. Oil prices received additional support this week from Ukrainian drone strikes on Russian refineries which resulted in a fire at Rosneft's largest refinery. At the same time, geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and the decision by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Plus (OPEC+) to extend supply cuts further bolstered oil prices. Consequently, Bonny Light, Nigeria's benchmark crude price gained \$0.70 to close the week at \$88.84 per barrel (pb) from \$88.14pb posted in the preceding week. In a separate development, gold price was weighed down by stronger-than-anticipated US inflation data which further clouded the outlook on when the Federal Reserve (Fed) could start cutting interest rates. Consequently, gold price lost \$3.75 or 0.2% to sit at \$2,169.46 per ounce. However, silver price further gained \$0.76 or 3.1% to sit at \$25.07 per ounce. This week, oil price is expected to trend higher, riding on supply shortage-induced factors. On the other hand, bullion prices might stay muted as investors watch the response of the Fed to the inflation rebound in the US.

Domestic Economy

The February inflation report as released by the National Bureau of Statistics revealed that the annual inflation rate for the Nigerian economy soared to a new 28-year high of 31.7% in February 2024 from 29.9% in the previous month - reflecting the lingering impacts of fuel subsidy removal and depreciation of naira. Other drivers of inflation include insecurity in food-producing areas of the country, deteriorating rural infrastructure and climate change. Food inflation, which accounts for the bulk of Nigeria's inflation basket, continued to climb, hitting 37.9% in February, the highest since August 2005, from 35.4% printed in the prior month. The annual core inflation rate, which excludes farm produce, jumped to a multi-year high of 24.7% in February. On a monthly basis, consumer prices surged by 3.12% in February, after a 2.64% rise in the prior month.

Stock Market

The bullish trend persisted on the Nigerian stock exchange as investors continued to increase their stakes in anticipation of dividend announcements for the 2023 fiscal year. Buy-interests across all segments drove the All-Share Index (ASI) to close at 105,085.25 points, marking a significant increase of 3,754.40 points last week. Additionally, market capitalization surged by ₦2.12 trillion, reaching ₦59.42 trillion by the end of the week. Looking ahead to the new trading week, we anticipate the market to sustain its upward trajectory as investors remain eager to bolster their holdings in Nigerian stocks.

Money Market

Liquidity in the money market shrunk owing to the settlement of the Nigerian Treasury Bills (NTB) auction. Consequently, the Open Repo Rate (OPR) and Over Night (ON) rose further to 30.29% and 31.07% from 29.82% and 31.00% recorded in the prior week. However, relatively longer-dated

Monthly Macro Economic Forecast

Variables	Feb'24	Mar'24	April'24
Exchange Rate (NAFEX) (N/\$)	1500	1450	1400
Inflation Rate (%)	30.5	30	29.2
Crude Oil Price (US\$/Barrel)	80	82	85

COMMODITIES MARKET

Indicators	15/3/24	1-week Change (%)	YTD Change (%)
Energy			
Crude Oil (\$/bbl)	88.84	0.79	37.82
Natural Gas (\$/MMBtu)	1.76	(1.12)	(54.52)
Agriculture			
Cocoa (\$/MT)	7405.00	16.43	282.49
Coffee (\$/lb.)	183.15	(1.08)	40.67
Cotton (\$/lb.)	94.06	(3.59)	21.37
Sugar (\$/lb.)	21.76	2.84	41.94
Wheat (\$/bu.)	532.00	0.28	22.72
Metals			
Gold (\$/t oz.)	2169.46	(0.17)	64.66
Silver (\$/t oz.)	25.07	3.13	45.84
Copper (\$/lb.)	409.55	4.60	24.94

NIGERIA INTERBANK TREASURY BILLS TRUE YIELDS

Tenor	Last Week Rate (%)	2 Weeks Ago Rate (%)	Change (Basis Point)
	15/3/24	8/3/24	
1 Mnth	13.73	13.43	30
3 Mnths	16.92	19.64	(272)
6 Mnths	19.30	22.87	(357)
9 Mnths	21.95	22.87	(92)
12 Mnths	25.40	25.69	(29)

ACCESS BANK NIGERIAN GOV'T BOND INDEX

Indicators	Last Week	2 Weeks Ago	Change (Basis Point)
	15/3/24	8/3/24	
Index	3,714.62	3,715.66	(0.03)
Mkt Cap Gross (N'tr)	25.24	25.25	(0.04)
Mkt Cap Net (N'tr)	13.81	13.85	(0.29)
YTD return (%)	51.22	51.26	(0.04)
YTD return (%) (US \$)	-666.41	-658.05	(8.36)

TREASURY BILLS PMA AUCTION

Tenor	Amount (N' million)	Rate (%)	Date
91 Day	728.17	16.2399	13-Mar-2024
182 Day	918.383	17	13-Mar-2024
364 Day	159,845.791	21.124	13-Mar-2024

Sources: CBN, Financial Market Dealers Quotation, NGX, NBS, Energy Information Agency, Oilprice, Bloomberg and Access Bank Economic Intelligence Group computation.

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