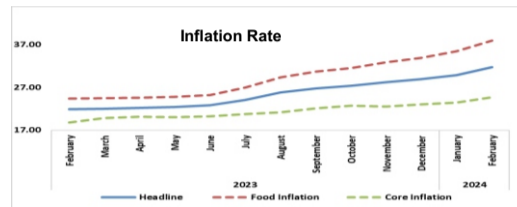
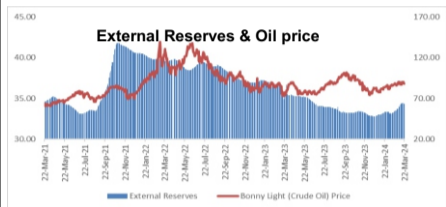
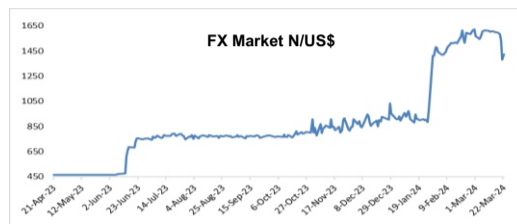


Access Bank Rateswatch

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)	34.32	March 20, 2024 figure — an increase of 1.66% from March start
Oil Price (US\$/Barrel) (OPEC)	88.14	March 22, 2024 figure — an decrease 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 (%)
	22/3/24	15/3/24	
NGX ASI	104,647.37	105,085.25	(0.42)
Market Cap(N'tr)	59.17	59.42	(0.42)
Volume (bn)	0.51	0.22	132.58
Value (N'bn)	14.24	5.01	184.37

MONEY MARKET

Tenor	Last Week Rate (%)	2 Weeks Ago Rate (%)	Change (Basis Point)
	22/3/24	15/3/24	
NIBOR			
OPR	26.22	30.29	(407.0)
O/N	27.29	31.07	(378)
CALL	25.20	30.88	(567.5)
30 Days	20.20	21.25	(105)
90 Days	20.85	22.50	(165.0)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET

Market	Last Week Rate (N/\$)	2 Weeks Ago Rate (N/\$)	1 Month Ago Rate (N/\$)
	22/3/24	15/3/24	22/2/24
NAFEX (N)	1422.85	1602.43	1516.87

BOND MARKET

Tenor	Last Week Rate (%)	2 Weeks Ago Rate (%)	Change (Basis Point)
	22/3/24	15/3/24	
7-Year	19.81	18.05	176.2
10-Year	16.93	15.90	102.6
15-Year	18.93	18.93	0.4
20-Year	19.20	18.58	61.9
25-Year	18.79	18.52	26.9
30-Year	18.63	18.28	35

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

Market Analysis and Outlook: March 22, - March 29, 2024

Global Economy

The Federal Reserve (Fed) left the fed funds rate steady at a 23-year high of 5.25% - 5.5% for a 5th consecutive meeting in March 2024. Policymakers still plan to cut interest rates three times this year. The committee also indicated three cuts in 2025 and three more reductions in 2026. Meanwhile, US GDP growth is seen higher in 2024 at 2.1%, 2025 at 2% and 2026 at 2%.

Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) inflation forecasts were kept unchanged for 2024 at 2.4% but were raised for 2025 at 2.2% while the core rate is seen higher this year at 2.6% while forecasts were left unchanged for 2025 at 2.2%. The unemployment rate is seen lower at 4% in 2024 but projections were kept at 4.1% for next year. In a separate event, the Bank of England (BoE) maintained the Bank Rate at 5.25% during its March meeting, its highest level since 2008, as policymakers awaited clearer signals indicating that the country's persistent inflationary pressures had subsided. The announcement came a day after data revealed that the country's inflation rate had dropped to 3.4%, its lowest level in almost 2.5 years. Governor Bailey expressed optimism about Britain's economic trajectory, suggesting that conditions were favourable for the central bank to begin reducing interest rates, but stressed the necessity for greater certainty regarding control over price pressures.

The Q4 2023 foreign trade report published by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) revealed that Nigeria recorded a negative trade balance in the quarter. Imports outweighed exports in the period, resulting in a negative trade balance of ₦1.41 trillion. Comparing Q4 2023 figures to Q3 2023 and Q4 2022, exports increased by 22.6% and 99.5%, respectively, to reach ₦12.69 trillion. Petroleum oil and oil obtained from bituminous minerals remained the chief contributor to export earnings, accounting for 81.23% of total exports in Q4 2023. On the other hand, imports grew, but at a faster pace, increasing by 56.1% and 163.2% to reach ₦14.11 trillion. Overall, total trade volume rose by 38.2% and 128.7% to reach ₦26.08 trillion. Nigeria's top 5 export trading partners for Q4 2023 were the Netherlands, India, Spain, Canada, and France while the top 5 import trading partners were Singapore, China, Belgium, India, and the US.

Domestic Economy

The possibility of a ceasefire in Gaza, which could allay supply concerns, weighed on oil prices. Consequently, Bonny Light, Nigeria's benchmark crude price lost \$0.70 to close the week at \$88.14 per barrel (pb) from \$88.84pb posted in the preceding week. In different news, bullion prices were subdued as investors avoided making big bets due to the US Fed's policy decision. Consequently, gold price further lost \$1.31 or 0.1% to sit at \$2,168.15 per ounce. Also, silver price lost \$0.44 or 1.5% to sit at \$24.63 per ounce. This week, oil prices might stay muted as traders monitor the situation in Gaza. On the other hand, bullion prices are expected to look north as investors are becoming increasingly convinced that major central banks will likely ease their monetary policies soon.

Stock Market

Nigerian bourse swung south last week as the bears resurfaced on profit-taking activities. The sell pressure was significant in the consumer goods segment of the market. As a result, the All-Share Index (ASI) closed at 104,647.37 points, a decline from 105,085.25 points. Additionally, market capitalization lost ₦250 billion, reaching ₦59.17 trillion by the end of the week. As we head into the new trading week, we anticipate the resurgence of bullish sentiment in the market, driven by investors increasing their positions in anticipation of dividend

announcements by the listed companies.

Money Market

Money market liquidity improves partly attributed to the coupon payment. Consequently, the Open Repo Rate (OPR) and Over Night (ON) declined to 26.22% and 27.29% from 30.29% and 31.07% recorded in the prior week. Also, relatively longer-dated placements such as the 90-day Nigerian Interbank Offered Rate (NIBOR) decreased to 20.85% from 22.50%. This week, rates are expected to hover around similar levels barring any significant market activity.

Foreign Exchange Market

During trading last week, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) participated in the forex market, supplying Dollars to interested purchasing banks that responded to offers for legitimate demands. Hence, the Naira gained ₦179.58 to close at ₦1,422.85. This week, the forex rate is expected to show further improvement.

Bond Market

The FGN bond market closed last week with a bearish undertone due to the news of the Debt Management Office's (DMO) special bond auction. As a result, the average yields on the 7-, 10-, 20-, 25- and 30-year bonds rose to 19.81%, 16.93%, 19.20%, 18.79%, and 18.63%, respectively, up from 18.05%, 15.90%, 18.58%, 18.52% and 18.28%. Furthermore, the Access Bank bond index fell by 36.22 points, closing at 3,678.40 points compared to the previous 3,714.62 points. Going into the new trading week, the bearish market trend is expected to persist as participants maintain a cautious trading approach ahead of the outcome of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting.

Commodities

The possibility of a ceasefire in Gaza, which could allay supply concerns, weighed on oil prices. Consequently, Bonny Light, Nigeria's benchmark crude price lost \$0.70 to close the week at \$88.14 per barrel (pb) from \$88.84pb posted in the preceding week. In different news, bullion prices were subdued as investors avoided making big bets due to the US Fed's policy decision. Consequently, gold price further lost \$1.31 or 0.1% to sit at \$2,168.15 per ounce. Also, silver price lost \$0.44 or 1.5% to sit at \$24.63 per ounce. This week, oil prices might stay muted as traders monitor the situation in Gaza. On the other hand, bullion prices are expected to look north as investors are becoming increasingly convinced that major central banks will likely ease their monetary policies soon.

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

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COMMODITIES MARKET

Indicators	22/3/24	1-week Change (%)	YTD Change (%)
Energy			
Crude Oil (\$/bbl)	88.14	(0.79)	36.74
Natural Gas (\$/MMBtu)	1.68	(4.55)	(56.59)
Agriculture			
Cocoa (\$/MT)	8591.00	16.02	343.75
Coffee (\$/lb.)	185.45	1.26	42.43
Cotton (\$/lb.)	92.37	(1.80)	19.19
Sugar (\$/lb.)	22.07	1.42	43.97
Wheat (\$/bu.)	542.50	1.97	25.14
Metals			
Gold (\$/t oz.)	2168.15	(0.06)	64.56
Silver (\$/t oz.)	24.63	(1.76)	43.28
Copper (\$/lb.)	400.80	(2.14)	22.27

NIGERIA INTERBANK TREASURY BILLS TRUE YIELDS

Tenor	Last Week Rate (%)	2 Weeks Ago Rate (%)	Change (Basis Point)
	22/3/24	15/3/24	
1 Mnth	12.90	13.73	(83)
3 Mnths	15.89	16.92	(103)
6 Mnths	18.37	19.30	(93)
9 Mnths	21.56	21.95	(39)
12 Mnths	23.51	25.40	(189)

ACCESS BANK NIGERIAN GOV'T BOND INDEX

Indicators	Last Week	2 Weeks Ago	Change (Basis Point)
	22/3/24	15/3/24	
Index	3678.40	3714.62	(0.97)
Mkt Cap Gross (N'tr)	24.99	25.24	(0.99)
Mkt Cap Net (N'tr)	13.53	13.81	(2.03)
YTD return (%)	49.75	51.22	(1.47)
YTD return (%) (US \$)	-585.73	-666.41	80.68

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