



ECONOMY

Banks borrowed GH¢2.57bn from BoG in pandemic year: Within a period of one year, liquidity support from the central bank to the banking industry increased by a whopping 193 percent, a situation analysts blame on the impact of the pandemic on businesses which led to increased demand for cash, hence, pushing banks to fall on the lender of last resort ([B&FT](#)).

Inflation begins year at 9.9% as food prices decline: Declines of food prices in January 2021, typical after every festive season, have led to a drop in inflation to the single-digit column – recording 9.9 percent, data from the Ghana Statistical Service have shown. The data indicate food inflation for January dropped to 12.8 percent from the 14.1 percent recorded the previous month. This effectively decreased the basket's contribution to national inflation to 57 percent, slightly down by 2.1 percentage points from that recorded in December ([B&FT](#)).

Cedi shows resilience against dollar, euro: While the cedi continue to respond positively to measures introduced by the central bank to cushion it from sharp depreciation against the dollar, it seems those measures do not apply to its trading with the pound sterling, as the data shows it is losing its strength against the British currency ([B&FT](#)).

SECTORAL

Economic challenges keep cost of borrowing high: Even though banks have shown resilience in the face of a difficult year that saw their operations impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, B&FT's analysis has shown there has not been any significant reduction in lending rates ever since the Bank of Ghana reduced the policy rate last year March, thereby, making cost of borrowing still high for businesses and households ([B&FT](#)).

COVID-19 Workplace Spread: Taskforce constituted to monitor compliance of protocols: The Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations and the Tripartite Partners comprising representatives from government, employers and organised labour have set up a taskforce to monitor the adherence levels to the COVID-19 safety protocols and guidelines at the workplace ([B&FT](#)).

Finance Ministry pays GH¢12bn to IPPs since 2017: Designate Finance and Economic Planning Minister has announced in the expenditure in advance of appropriation for January to March 2021 that a whopping GH¢12 billion has been paid as capacity charges to Independent Power Producers (IPPs) since assuming office in 2017 ([B&FT](#)).

SSNIT to integrate Ghana Card unto system: As part of efforts towards streamlining and improving its services, the Social Security and National Insurance Trust is set to accept Ghana Card from its new pension's scheme applicants. According to management of the entity, already existing SSNIT customers can also have their Ghana Cards integrated into the system ([CBN](#)).

Ghana's local cocoa processing capacity hits 50% of production: Cocoa production in Ghana is expected to reach 800,000 tonnes this season, according to COCOBOD's forecast. This is significantly higher than the trough of about 700,000 tonnes per annum around the middle of the previous decade but well below the peak production level of one million tonnes achieved a decade and a half ago ([Goldstreetbusiness](#)).

Ghana's financial markets are showing strong resilience against the economic impacts of COVID 19's second wave: Even though economic analysts and econometric modeling teams have been busy revising their growth forecasts for the Ghanaian economy downwards, due to the expected effects of the ongoing second wave of COVID 19, the country's financial markets are reacting in contrary fashion to what conventional economic doctrine would suggest ([Goldstreetbusiness](#)).

POLICY

Small businesses must tap into 1.3bn consumer market presented by AfCFTA: Small business owners are encouraged to position themselves to take full advantage of the consumer market that the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) presents. The opportunity presented, according to the former CEO of National Entrepreneurship and Innovations Programme (NEIP), is a way to help close the unemployment deficit in the country ([B&FT](#)).

MARKETS

Interest Rates

Inflation Rate (Jan, 2021): **9.9%**
BoG Policy Rate (Jan, 2021): **14.5%**
GRR (Feb, 2021): **14.8%**

Treasury Securities Rates

91-Day: **12.80%**
182-Day: **14.0467%**
Source: [BoG: 15.02.2021](#)

Foreign Exchange Rates

	Buy	Sell
Pound Sterling (£):	GH¢/7.9539/	GH¢7.9624
Dollar (US\$)	GH¢5.7570/	GH¢5.7628
Euro (€)	GH¢6.9826/	GH¢6.9895

Source: [BoG: 11-02-21](#)

Mutual Funds – Returns (3M)

(Fixed Income Funds)

EDC Ghana:	+4.14% (10.02.21)
Fidelity:	+4.61% (12.02.21)
NIMED (Tier1):	+3.44% (12.02.21)
NIMED (Tier 2):	+4.12% (12.02.21)
F. Independence:	+3.56% (12.02.21)

Source: [Dobbia](#)

TRADE & INVESTMENT

Sensitisation Seminar on the AfCFTA: The Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry wishes to invite the business community to a sensitisation seminar on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), on the theme: "AfCFTA: Adopting the right business strategies to fully benefit"

Mode of transmission: Virtual and live telecast (Joy FM & Joy News)

Date: Wednesday, 24th February, 2021

Time: 10:00 am – 1:00pm.

Meeting ID: 4792738517

Passcode: SHIPPERS1

INTERNATIONAL

EU to work with Biden administration to settle trade disputes: The European Union has acknowledged a move by the new US government to refrain from imposing additional tariffs on EU goods in a long-running dispute over aircraft tariffs, and said it was ready to work to resolve trade disputes. The US Trade Representative's office said it was unnecessary to revise existing tariffs on European goods at this time ([reuters](#)).

Ghanaian exports to UK still attract tariffs: Exports from Ghanaian firms to the UK are still attracting duties and tariffs despite a trade agreement between both countries. Ghana and the UK on Feb. 4, 2021 signed an interim trade agreement to provide duty-free and quota-free access for Ghanaian exporters to the UK market ([Ghanaweb](#)).