

ECONOMY

GH¢3.69bn road contractors' debt weighs on gov't: Parliamentary Committee on Roads and Transport has reported that government still owes road contractors more than GH¢3.69billion. This contrast the Annual Budget Estimates of the Roads and Highways Ministry for 2019, which shows a payment of GH¢2.2billion debt owed contractors. This means a large part remains unpaid, making contractors unable to service loan and interest it accumulates on. The unpaid bank loans have the potential to pile stress on the said financial institutions as well as the firms involved and the economy as a whole ([B&FT online](#)).

Tax evasion stifling growth: The Minister of Finance, Ken Ofori Atta has revealed that, abuses and non-compliance of tax regimes and laws derailed the country's provisional tax to GDP ratio to 13.1 percent, which is far below the average of 20 percent. He said the expectation in growth of revenue in 2018 fall short of 3.9 percent ([B&FT online](#)).

SECTORAL

Six companies shortlisted for eastern rail line project: Six out of 45 companies were settled on for the eastern rail line project after an evaluation process by a committee and the transaction adviser, PWC. Ghana Railway Development Authority (GRDA), noted "the government of Ghana cannot fund the project from its resources, therefore, contracted PWC as transaction adviser". The Eastern rail line project will link Accra to Kumasi with a branch line from Achimota to the Tema Port ([Graphic online](#)).

Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI) acquires 60 acres of land for industrial park in Tamale: The Ministry of Trade and Industry has acquired 60 acres of land for an industrial park project at Channayili in the Tolon district of the Northern Region. The park will be used for industrial activities such as tomato-canning, smock-weaving, shea production, among others ([B&FT online](#)).

21 taxes choke tourism operators: A report by Parliament has revealed that a hotelier has to comply with about 21 taxes including fees from the Environmental Protection Agency, Food and Drug Authority; Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies; Fire Service, Ghana Police Service; Town and Country Planning, property rates, etc. These multiple fees and charges increase the cost of operation for tourism operators, who eventually pass on the burden to their consumers ([B&FT online](#)).

Reduce gas prices to aid industrialisation: Government has been called on to take a critical look at the gas sector and review prices to aid industrialisation. The call comes at the time Ghana has made significant gains and met environmental benchmark. The gas sector and its price build up is critical to make industry competitive, since it forms part of power generation. Therefore, reducing price of gas will boost industrialisation and support industrial growth ([Peacefonline](#)).

POLICY

Local content and local participation in Ghana: Local Content (LC) and Local Participation (LP) frameworks are designed to ensure certain representation of local businesses and expertise in a given industry. The framework focuses on: use of local expertise; developing local capacities; retention of benefits and increase competitiveness of domestic businesses and individual sector. In 2013, Ghana had the LC Law passed to allow Ghanaians benefit from Ghana's natural resource while ensuring foreign companies to keep fair returns on their investment. To ensure the law achieves its intended purpose, the Chamber calls for constant monitoring and evaluation of the framework to track its performance year on year. This will ensure value for Ghana's natural resources while boosting government industrialization agenda.

MARKETS

Interest Rates

Inflation Rate (Dec. 2018): **9.4%**
BoG Policy Rate (Nov 2018): **17.0%**

Treasury Securities Rates

91-Day: **14.6908%**
182-Day: **15.1122%**
Source: [BoG - 24.01.19](#)

Foreign Exchange Rates

	Buy	Sell
Pound Sterling (£):	GH¢6.4314/	GH¢6.4399
Dollar (US\$)	GH¢4.9279 /	GH¢4.9329
Euro (€)	GH¢5.6008 /	GH¢5.6053

Source: [BoG 24-01-19](#)

Mutual Funds – Yields

(MM & FIM 1)

TTL Income Haven:	+22.00% (15.01.19)
Galaxy Mfund:	+18.87% (10.12.18)
EDC Fixed Income:	+16.85% (31.12.18)
First Fund:	+16.72% (16.01.09)
Republic Unit:	+15.22% (31.12.18)
SEM MoneyPlus:	+15.22% (17.01.19)

Source: [Doobia](#)

TRADE & INVESTMENT

Tariffs adjustment should favour industries: The President of the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GNCCI), Nana Dr. Appiagyei Dankawoso I, has called on the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC) to ensure that tariffs adjustment favours industries. He noted that, the Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies 2017-2024 enjoin government to go beyond ensuring energy availability and reliability to reduce the cost of doing business, crimping business. Hence, any additional increase would affect Ghana's competitiveness within the sub-region. He further maintained that efficient tariff system underpins business growth and foster trade and investment.

INTERNATIONAL

UK says trade partners underestimate no-deal Brexit risk: Britain would not have some free-trade deals with other countries in place by March if it leaves the European Union with no deal because current trade partners are underestimating the chance of a no-deal Brexit, Trade Secretary Liam Fox said. Britain is seeking to replicate trade agreements with non-EU countries for when it leaves the EU ([Reuters](#)).

Oil prices up 1% on supply outlook: Oil prices rose about 1 percent on Wednesday as U.S. crude stocks fell and official data indicated slowing growth in U.S. shale oil output in the coming years. International Brent crude oil futures were up 67 cents, or 1.1 percent, at \$62.17 a barrel by 1230 GMT. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures rose by 51 cents, or nearly 1 percent, to \$53.52. Crude prices had fallen 2 percent on Tuesday as financial markets reeled from concerns over the global economy ([Reuters](#)).