



ECONOMY

Ghana's debt stock increases by 21 percent in 2018: Available data released by the Bank of Ghana (BoG) in its latest Summary of Economic and Financial Data show that Ghana's debt stock increased by 21.5 percent in 2018. The debt stock at the end of 2017 stood at 142.6 billion cedis, increasing to 173.2 billion cedis in 2018. This represent a total debt stock of 30.6 billion cedis in 2018 ([BoG](#)).

Mobile Operators contributed GH¢1.94 Billion Tax In 2018: Ghana Chamber of Telecommunications, has maintained that network operators in 2018 paid a total of GH¢1.94 billion tax and a direct capital expenditure of over GH¢276 million to the state. This represent close to nine percent of Ghana's total revenue basket ([Peacefonline](#)).

Tax exemption bill laid before parliament: A tax exemption bill has been laid before Parliament for passage to streamline tax exemptions. Nonetheless, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) backed government to overhaul its tax exemptions regime to boost its failing domestic revenue ([Ghanaweb](#)).

SECTORAL

No Ghana Post GPS, no business registration: The Registrar-General's Department (RGD) has made the requirement of Digital Address System mandatory for the registration of businesses, as part of reforms undertaken by the department to improve the ease of doing business in Ghana ([Thefinder](#)).

Ghana needs \$40m to bridge agric sector financing gap: Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) has averred that about \$40 million is needed to fill the financial gap in the agricultural sector. FAO maintained that the deficit in the sector continue to lag the sector behind ([Myjoyonline](#)).

Government to supply cashew seedlings to farmers: The Government has assured that it will this year freely distribute 13 million certified cashew seedlings to farmers in 96 districts. The sector Minister maintained that the distribution is under the National Tree Crop Programme dubbed "Planting for Export and Rural Development" (PERD) Programme ([GNA](#)).

UNIDO to boost industrial development and strengthen export competitiveness: The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the Minister of Trade and Industry, signed the Country Programme (CP) for Ghana that will boost industrial development, trade and export competitiveness ([B&FT](#)).

Ghana to provide raw materials for automobile manufacturing firms: Government has announced plans to extract the large iron and steel deposits and refine them in the country to provide raw materials for the automobile manufacturing companies in Ghana ([GNA](#)).

SEC warns public against investing in crypto currency platforms: The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is cautioning the General public against investing in crypto currency deals. The SEC averred that the activities of crypto currencies are not licensed by their outfit. Some of such platforms include Bitcoin, XRP, Lite Coin, Ethereum, Monero, XRP, Tether, Tron, Binance Coin, Neo, IOTA, NEM, Holo, Waves, Ontology, Maker, Tezos, USD Coin, Ripple, Dash, Cardano, Stellar, ZCash, EOS and others ([SEC](#)).

POLICY

Import duties to go down ... as govt rolls out measures to reform import regime: Government has announced plans to reform the country's import regime to reduce the high duties at the ports. The president maintained that studies conducted at the ports indicate Ghanaian ports are not competitive, and that import in the country is far too high. He stated that, very soon, the measures that government will roll out will become known to all of you ([Ghanaiantimes](#)).

Adjustment in tax exemptions shouldn't discourage FDIs: The World Bank has advised government to be balanced in its intention to adjust tax exemptions granted foreign companies in order not to discourage Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) ([B&FT](#)).

MARKETS

Interest Rates

Inflation Rate (Feb. 2019): **9.20%**
BoG Policy Rate (Jan. 2019): **16.0%**
Reference Rate (Mar. 2019): **16.13%**

Treasury Securities Rates

91-Day: **14.7176%**
182-Day: **15.1595%**
Source: [BoG 25/29.03.2019](#)

Foreign Exchange Rates

	Buy	Sell
Pound Sterling (£):	GH¢6.7101/	GH¢6.7187
Dollar (US\$)	GH¢5.0780/	GH¢5.0830
Euro (€)	GH¢5.7356/	GH¢5.7405

Source: [BoG 20-03-19](#)

Mutual Funds – Yields

(MM & FIF 1)

TTL Income Haven:	+19.02% (03.03.19)
Galaxy Mfund:	+9.39% (31.01.19)
EDC Fixed Income:	+20.15% (21.03.19)
Republic Unit:	+11.02% (25.03.19)
SEM MoneyPlus:	+14.21% (20.03.19)

Source: [Dooabia](#)

TRADE & INVESTMENT

Ghana among top 10 investment destinations in Africa: Ghana has been ranked among one of the top 10 attractive investment destinations in Africa for 2019 in spite of the turbulent banking sector clean-up exercise in which nine banks were resolved ([Ghanaweb](#)).

Ghana and Malta sign five cooperation agreements: Ghana and Malta have signed five Memoranda of Understanding (MoU), providing broader cooperation and partnership between the two countries. The agreements are in the areas of Medicine, Bilateral Air Services, Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Income Taxes on Income, Tourism and Joint Commission for Bilateral Co-operation ([GNA](#)).

INTERNATIONAL

CFTA must not be business as usual: President of Rwanda has urged the private sector and governments of the continent not to treat the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) as business as usual, as it holds the potential of providing jobs for the continent's youthful population ([B&FT](#)).

Oil set for strongest quarter in a decade on OPEC cuts, sanctions: Oil prices rose on Friday on the back of on-going OPEC-led supply cuts and US sanctions against Iran and Venezuela, putting crude markets on track for their biggest quarterly rise since 2009. US West Texas Intermediate futures were at \$59.68 per barrel at 0559 GMT, up 38 cents, or 0.6%, from their last settlement ([Reuter](#)).