



ECONOMY

Ghana to become Africa's 3rd-fastest economy at 6.8% in 2020: The World Bank is projecting an economic growth of 6.8% for Ghana in 2020, according to its January 2020 Global Economic prospects Report. This is against the 7.5% forecast by the International Monetary Fund for this year. Nonetheless, the bank maintained growth will fall to 5.2% and 4.6% in 2021 and 2022, respectively ([Ghanaweb](#)).

Inflation for December 2019 falls to 7.9%: Continuous reduction of food prices in the last quarter of 2019 has influenced a marginal drop in inflation for December 2019. The national year-on-year inflation rate was 7.9% in December 2019. Thus, 0.3 percentage points lower than the 8.2% recorded in November 2019. Month-on-month inflation between November 2019 and December 2019 was 3%. Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics (13.5%), Transport (11.0%), and Housing (10.5%) were driver of the inflation. Due to its relative importance in consumption, Food is the main driver of inflation in Ghana, but less than last month ([Myjoyonline](#)).

Falling inflation makes room for policy rate cut: Given that inflation at the close of 2019 stayed below the central bank's target of 8 percent with a band of ± 2 percent – an outcome announced on Wednesday by Government Statistician, Professor Kobina Annim – there is an opportunity to cut the monetary policy rate later this month ([Ghanaweb](#)).

Banking reforms responsible for 17.1 percent rise in banks' deposits: It is emerging that Ghanaians are renewing their confidence in the banking sector following the clean-up carried out by the Bank of Ghana over the past two years. This is evident in the deposits recorded by commercial banks for the period ending October 2019 ([CBN](#)).

SECTORAL

Vegetable farmers in Pusiga district call for PFJ support: Over 250 Vegetable farmers in the Pusiga district, Upper East Region, are calling for the Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) policy support to provide them with subsidized farming inputs to increase their production this dry season ([Ghanaweb](#)).

More youth venturing into local rice farming: The Integrated Rice Farmers Association (IRFA) in Lakpo in the South Tongu District of Volta Region says more young people are venturing into local rice farming following "booming sales" during the Christmas season ([Ghanaweb](#)).

Government provides solar-powered rice mills for farming areas: The government has dispatched solar-powered rice mills to four strategic rice farming areas to address the problem of inadequate capacity for milling paddy rice. The mills, which have been dispatched to New Edubiase and Ejura, both in the Ashanti Region, Yamoransa in the Central Region and Fumbisi in the Upper East Region, are part of efforts by the government to boost the cultivation and consumption of rice locally ([Graphic](#)).

About 137 farmers start cashew cultivation in Tempene: About 137 farmers in the Tempene District of the Upper East Region have started cultivating cashew plantations under the Planting for Food and Jobs and Planting for Export and Rural Development initiative ([Ghanaweb](#)).

Gov't seeks for investment to implement new export strategy: To ensure that the new National Export Development Strategy (NEDS) drafted by Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA) and key stakeholders is implemented in a timely and effective manner, government has begun sourcing for funding to finance implementation of the strategy ([Goldstreetbusiness](#)).

POLICY

Ghana committed to adopting ECO: The Government of Ghana has taken notice of the recent declaration made by the President of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), His Excellency Alassane Ouattara, the President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, on the decision taken by the eight (8) West African Member States of UEMOA to discontinue the use of the CFA Franc, in favour of the proposed, new common currency of ECOWAS, the ECO, beginning in 2020 ([Peacefonline](#)).

Financing policy required to boost oil palm production: Ghana is seen as a country with all it takes to grow the oil palm plantation sector and the ability to reduce vegetable oil importation, which could reposition it to become a leading exporter of oil palm like Malaysia and Indonesia ([Ghanaweb](#)).

MARKETS

Interest Rates

Inflation Rate (Dec. 2019): **7.9%**
BoG Policy Rate (Nov, 2019): **16.0%**
GRR (Jan, 2020): **16.13%**

Treasury Securities Rates

91-Day: **14.66698%**
182-Day: **15.1715%**
364-Day: **17.8349%**
Source: [BoG 30/03.12.2020](#)

Foreign Exchange Rates

	Buy	Sell
Pound Sterling (£):	GH¢7.2218/	GH¢7.2301
Dollar (US\$)	GH¢5.5337/	GH¢5.5391
Euro (€)	GH¢6.1483/	GH¢6.1523

Source: [BoG 10.01.20](#)

Mutual Funds – Yields

(MM & FIM 1)

STANLIB Income:	+17.35% (31.12.19)
EDC Fixed Income:	+16.82% (27.12.19)
Databank Money:	+11.84% (14.11.19)
Republic Unit:	+12.09% (31.12.19)
SEM MoneyPlus:	+11.21% (18.12.19)

Source: [Doobia](#)

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Ghana is a very good place to invest: Africa's richest person Aliko Dangote has singled out Ghana among a list of countries on the continent where investments yield the right returns. He maintained that Ghana is a very good place to invest, touting the credentials of Accra as one of the top investment destinations in the sub-region. Apart from Ghana, he cited his home country as well as Kenya and Cote d'Ivoire as countries that have the most favorable investment climate in sub-Saharan Africa. ([Ghanaweb](#)).

INTERNATIONAL

World economy's prospects for table 2020 tested by Iran tension: Just as the world economy was stabilizing after its worst performance in a decade, a United States airstrike in Iraq that killed one of Iran's most powerful generals is a jolting reminder of how fragile the outlook remains. A tentative trade agreement between the US and China had buoyed expectations that global growth would start to rebound this year ([Bloomberg](#)).

Oil eases as focus shifts from Iran tensions to US crude build: Oil prices retreated further on Thursday, adding to sharp losses in the previous session as the market shifted focus toward rising US crude stocks and away from worries about the conflict between the United States and Iran ([Reuters](#)).