



NIGERIA

ECONOMIC

UPDATE

**Weekly
Snapshot**

Nigeria’s Business Confidence Index Surges to 14.8 Points in August 2026

According to the Central Bank of Nigeria’s (CBN) August 2026 Business Expectations Survey (BES) [report](#), business confidence strengthened significantly, with the Business Confidence Index (BCI) rising to 14.8 points from 5.7 index points in July. The improvement was broad-based, with confidence increasing in industry (17.1 from 11.5), agriculture (13.9 from 3.4) and services (13.3 from 3.6). Respondents identified increased demand (25.9%), economic diversification (18.3%) and monetary policy (14.2%) as the main drivers of improved sentiment. Confidence is expected to strengthen further, reaching 23.6 points in September, 30.1 in November and 36.1 by February 2027. Despite this positive outlook, high taxation (67.8 points), insecurity (66.9 points) and high interest rates (63.5 points) remain major constraints on business activity. These challenges could limit firms’ ability to translate stronger confidence and demand expectations into investment, production and employment. The government should therefore focus on converting improved sentiment into realised economic activity. First, fiscal authorities should harmonise business-related taxes across government levels and eliminate overlapping levies. Second, targeted credit-guarantee and risk-sharing schemes should be expanded to reduce financing constraints for productive firms, particularly SMEs. Third, security agencies should prioritise agricultural zones, industrial clusters and major transport corridors to minimise disruptions to production and trade. Finally, monetary and fiscal authorities should strengthen policy coordination and communication to improve the predictability of the business environment.

OPEC Reports Nigeria’s Output Surge

According to the September 2026 OPEC Monthly Oil Market [report](#), Nigeria’s crude oil production, based on secondary sources, increased by 36,000 barrels per day (bpd) to an average of 1.573 million bpd in August 2026, compared with 1.537 million bpd in July 2026. This indicates that Nigeria successfully met and exceeded its OPEC quota of 1.5 million barrels per day. The rise in crude oil production can be attributed to sustained output capacity, enhanced security around oil infrastructure, and fewer operational disruptions in the Niger Delta. This improvement has implications for the government. Higher production, particularly when accompanied by favourable international oil prices, has the potential to increase government oil revenues. These additional revenues could provide greater fiscal space for investment. However, rising international crude oil prices present a key trade-off. While higher prices boost government revenue, they also drive up domestic fuel costs when international price movements pass through to the local market. This is especially critical for Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), as energy and transport account for a major share of household budgets and business overhead. Consequently, a sustained rise in PMS prices could further worsen the conditions of households and firms, risking the erosion of recent macroeconomic gains from the fuel subsidy removal. The government should, therefore, leverage higher oil revenues to cushion the impact of rising energy costs, with targeted support for vulnerable households and public-transport users, including vulnerable firms, especially small and medium enterprises. Most importantly, the share of incremental revenues should be directed to productive investments in transport infrastructure, electricity, health, education, and social protection.

NGX ASI Depreciates by 1.60% Amid Slower Trading Activity

According to the Nigerian Exchange (NGX) Weekly Market [report](#) for the week ending 11 September 2026, the All-Share Index (ASI) and market capitalisation declined by 1.60% and 1.24%, respectively, to close at 243,052.74 and ₦157.587 trillion. Total equity turnover also fell to 3.647 billion shares, valued at ₦130.151 billion across 244,777 deals, compared with 4.360 billion shares worth ₦210.331 billion traded in the previous week. At the sectoral level, the financial services industry maintained its dominance, accounting for 79.76% of total equity turnover volume. In contrast, the oil & gas index bucked the broader market decline, gaining 2.83%. In the fixed-income segment, bond trading amounted to 115,145 units valued at ₦123.330 million, alongside the listing of the August 2026 FGN Savings Bonds. The broad-based market decline suggests increased profit-taking and investor caution following the gains recorded in previous weeks, particularly in the banking and insurance subsectors. Nevertheless, the resilience of energy equities and continued activity in sovereign debt instruments indicate sustained investor demand for relatively defensive assets and stable-yield opportunities. Against this backdrop, portfolio managers should adopt strategic asset-allocation approaches, with greater emphasis on fundamentally sound equities offering strong dividend yields as a means of managing short-term market volatility. At the same time, financial regulators should continue efforts to deepen market liquidity by promoting broader retail participation in fixed-income instruments and listings. Maintaining transparent and efficient market practices will also be important for strengthening investor confidence and supporting a sustainable recovery in equity-market activity.

ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT		
Quarterly Indicators	‘25Q4	‘26Q1
GDP Growth Rate (%)	4.07	3.89
Oil GDP Growth Rate (%)	6.79	9.31
Non-oil GDP Growth Rate (%)	3.99	3.94
Unemployment Rate (%)	NA	NA
Foreign Direct Investment (US \$ Million)	357.8	135.1
Portfolio Investment (US \$Millions)	5,486.03	9,862.34
Other Investment (US \$Million)	599.65	374.48
External Debt (FGN & States- N'Trillion)	74,426,735	NA
Domestic Debt (FGN + States & FCT N'Trillion)	84,849,333	NA
Manufacturing Capacity Utilization (%)	NA	NA
Imports (N'Billion)	17.25	13.62
Exports (N'Billion)	18.96	21.17
Total trade (N'Billion)	36.21	34.79
Trade balance (N'Billion)	1.71	7.55
Crude oil Export (N'Billion)	9.702	NA
Non-Crude Oil Export (N'Billion)	9.26	NA
Non-Oils Export (N'Billion)	3.145	NA
Monthly Indicators	April 26'	May 26'
Headline Inflation (%)	15.69	15.93
Food Sub-Index (%)	3.63	2.98
Core Sub-Index (%)	1.03	1.94
External Reserves (End Period) (US\$ Billion)	48.36	49.58
Official Rate Approx. (N/US\$)	1,374.94	1,373.25
BDC Rate Approx. (N/US\$)	1,474	1,373
Manufacturing PMI	52.4	54.1
Non-Manufacturing PMI	48.8	49.3
Average Crude Oil Price (US\$/Barrel)	108.79	114.55
Petrol (PMS-N/litre)	1,531.93	NA
Diesel (AGO -N/Litre)	2,474.69	NA
Kerosene (HHK -N/Litre)	2,976.94	NA
Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Cooking Gas) (N/5Kg)	8,706.93	NA
MPR (%)	26.50	26.50
CRR of Deposit Money Banks (%)	45	45
T-Bill Rate (%)	15.95	15.95
Savings Deposit Rate (%)	7.34	7.24
Prime Lending Rate (%)	18.87	19.10
Maximum Lending Rate (%)	35.17	34.78
Narrow Money (N'Trillion)	44.62	43.76
Broad Money (N'Trillion)	124.99	129.21
Net Domestic Credit (N'Trillion)	120.18	121.42
Credit to the Government (Net) (N'Trillion)	39.60	40.38
Credit to the Private Sector (N'Trillion)	80.59	81.04
Currency in Circulation (N'Trillion)	5.65	5.69
FAAC (N'Trillion)	2.63	NA

1. Nigeria's Business Confidence Index Surges to 14.8 Points in August 2026 report from:

<https://www.cbn.gov.ng/Out/2026/STD/AUGUST%202026%20BES%20REPORT.pdf>

2. OPEC Reports Nigeria's Output Surge report from:

<https://momr.opec.org/pdf-download/>

3. NGX ASI Depreciates by 1.60% Amid Slower Trading Activity report from:

https://doclib.ngxgroup.com/market_data-site/other-market-information-site/Week%20Market%20Report/Weekly%20Market%20Report%20for%20the%20Week%20Ended%2011-09-2026.pdf