CSEA
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Weekly Snapshot

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Naira Appreciates to ₦1,371 Against the Dollar in May 2026

The Nigerian Foreign Exchange Market dataset by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) shows that the naira appreciated to ₦1,371 per US dollar on May 14, 2026, strengthening from ₦1,454 on December 15, 2025. This reflects continued stability in the foreign exchange market and suggests improved demand and supply dynamics within the official market. The recent appreciation of the naira appears to have been partly supported by shifting global currency trends, particularly the weakening of the US dollar against major currencies amid rising geopolitical tensions, notably conflicts in the Middle East. Thus, the strengthening of the naira provides some relief for businesses and households exposed to foreign-exchange costs and signals improved confidence in Nigeria's monetary policy framework. To sustain these gains, CBN should maintain its current monetary policy stance while prioritising measures aimed at attracting stable foreign exchange inflows and reducing speculative pressure on the naira. In addition, complementary fiscal policies are required to reduce Nigeria's dependence on imports and strengthen domestic production capacity, as long-term exchange rate stability ultimately depends on the resilience and productivity of the real economy.

NGX All-Share Index Appreciates by 7.33% to Close at 242,277.81

In the week ending April 30, 2026, the Nigerian Exchange Group (NGX) reported that the All-Share Index (ASI) appreciated by 7.33 percent to close at 242,277.81, while market capitalisation increased to ₦155.994 trillion. The strong weekly performance reflects renewed investor confidence, supported by heightened trading activity across key sectors of the market. Total equity turnover rose significantly to 4.842 billion shares valued at ₦287.756 billion in 332,453 deals, compared with 3.805 billion shares worth ₦213.955 billion recorded in the previous week. Sectoral performance was broadly positive, with notable gains recorded in the NGX Industrial Goods Index (+16.89 percent), NGX Oil and Gas Index (+14.37 percent), and NGX Commodity Index (+11.13 percent), reflecting strong investor appetite for energy and industrial stocks. However, performance was not uniformly positive across all sectors. The NGX Banking Index declined by 5.52 percent, while the NGX Insurance Index fell by 1.13 percent, indicating selective risk aversion within the financial services sector despite its continued dominance in trading activity. The week's performance suggests that the market is experiencing a selective recovery, with broad index gains largely driven by energy, industrial, and commodity-related stocks. Nevertheless, challenges within the banking sector, alongside persistent macroeconomic pressures, continue to weigh on investor sentiment in specific segments of the market. To broaden participation beyond a limited number of high-performing sectors, policymakers should prioritise measures aimed at stabilising the exchange rate environment, ensuring consistency in interest rate policies, and strengthening investor protection frameworks. Such measures will be critical for building confidence among both retail and institutional investors and supporting long-term capital market development.

Rising Transport Costs Deepen Inflationary Pressures in March 2026

The National Bureau of Statistics' Transport Fare Watch for March 2026 revealed that transport costs in Nigeria increased significantly across major categories, reflecting persistent inflationary and energy-related pressures. Intra-city bus fares rose by 14.86 percent month on month to ₦1,373.49, while intercity transport fares increased by 17.95 percent to ₦9,564.12. Airfares also increased by 2.33 percent to ₦157,224.05, while motorcycle (Okada) and water transport fares rose by 9.05 percent and 4.59 percent respectively. On a year-on-year basis, transport costs recorded substantial increases, particularly for Okada fares, which rose by 57.37 percent, and intra-city bus transport, which increased by 41.33 percent. Regional analysis indicated that the South-West recorded the highest fares for intra-city bus and motorcycle transport, while the South-South recorded the highest water transport fares. The sustained rise in transport fares was driven largely by elevated fuel and energy costs, exchange-rate pressures affecting vehicle maintenance and aviation operations, and broader inflationary conditions in the economy. Rising transportation costs continue to increase household expenditure, weaken purchasing power, and intensify cost-of-living pressures, particularly for low-income households. In addition, higher intercity transport fares may further worsen food inflation by increasing logistics and distribution costs across supply chains. To moderate transport-driven inflation, the government should strengthen investment in affordable public transportation, rehabilitate critical road infrastructure, and accelerate the adoption of alternative-energy transport systems, such as compressed natural gas (CNG)-powered buses. Sustained exchange rate stability and measures aimed at easing fuel price pressures will also be essential for reducing transportation costs and supporting broader price stability.

ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT		
Quarterly Indicators	'25Q3	'25Q4
GDP Growth Rate (%)	3.98	4.07
Oil GDP Growth Rate (%)	5.84	6.79
Non-oil GDP Growth Rate (%)	3.91	3.99
Unemployment Rate (%)	NA	NA
Foreign Direct Investment (US $ Million)	296.25	357.8
Portfolio Investment (US $Millions)	4,853.96	5,486.03
Other Investment (US $Million)	864.57	599.65
External Debt (FGN & States- N'Trillion)	71.48	NA
Domestic Debt (FGN + States & FCT N'Trillion)	81.82	NA
Manufacturing Capacity Utilization (%)	NA	NA
Imports (N'Billion)	16.12	17.25
Exports (N'Billion)	22.81	18.96
Total trade (N'Billion)	38.93	36.21
Trade balance (N'Billion)	6.69	1.71
Crude oil Export (N'Billion)	12.81	9.702
Non-Crude Oil Export (N'Billion)	10.01	9.26
Non-Oils Export (N'Billion)	2.99	3.145
Monthly Indicators	January 26'	February 26'
Headline Inflation (%)	15.15	15.06
Food Sub-Index (%)	10.84	12.12
Core Sub-Index (%)	18.63	15.88
External Reserves (End Period) (US$ Billion)	45.5	49.69
Official Rate Approx. (N/US$)	1459.03	1363.39
BDC Rate Approx. (N/US$)	1495	1369
Manufacturing PMI	49.7	53.2
Non-Manufacturing PMI	54.5	55.3
Average Crude Oil Price (US$/Barrel)	62.31	67.9
Petrol (PMS-N/litre)	1048.63	1051.47
Diesel (AGO -N/Litre)	1401.63	1420.17
Kerosene (HHK -N/Litre)	2605.26	NA
Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Cooking Gas) (N/5Kg)	5360.43	NA
MPR (%)	27	26.5
CRR of Deposit Money Banks (%)	45	45
T-Bill Rate (%)	15.48	15.84
Savings Deposit Rate (%)	7.29	7.36
Prime Lending Rate (%)	19.54	19.29
Maximum Lending Rate (%)	32.68	35.17
Narrow Money (N'Trillion)	42.14	42.82
Broad Money (N'Trillion)	123.36	123.15
Net Domestic Credit (N'Trillion)	109.42	111.39
Credit to the Government (Net) (N'Trillion)	35.99	35.99
Credit to the Private Sector (N'Trillion)	75.24	75.62
Currency in Circulation (N'Trillion)	5.73	5.73
FAAC (N'Trillion)	NA	NA

NA: Not Available

1. Naira Appreciates to ₦1,371 Against the Dollar in May 2026 report from: https://www.cbn.gov.ng/rates/ExchRateByCurrency.html

2. NGX All-Share Index Appreciates by 7.33% to Close at 242,277.81 report from: Weekly Market Report for the Week Ended 30-04-2026.pdf

3. Rising Transport Costs Deepen Inflationary Pressures in March 2026 report from: Transport_Report_MAR26.pdf