CSEA
CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE ECONOMIES OF AFRICA

Weekly Snapshot

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Nigeria Posts $6.83 Billion Balance of Payments Surplus in 2024

According to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Nigeria recorded a Balance of Payments (BoP) surplus of $6.83 billion in 2024, reversing deficits of $3.34 billion in 2023 and $3.32 billion in 2022. This marks a significant improvement attributed to macroeconomic reforms, improved trade, and rising investor confidence. The current and capital account posted a surplus of $17.22 billion, driven by a goods trade surplus of $13.17 billion. Petroleum imports declined by 23.2% to $14.06 billion, while non-oil imports fell by 12.6% to $25.74 billion. On the export side, gas exports increased by 48.3% to $8.66 billion, and non-oil exports rose by 24.6% to $7.46 billion. The financial account reported gains, with a net financial asset acquisition of $12.12 billion. Portfolio investments more than doubled to $13.35 billion, and resident foreign currency holdings increased by $5.41 billion. However, foreign direct investment (FDI) fell by 42.3% to $1.08 billion. It is expected that a BoP surplus will result in a stronger currency and bigger foreign reserves, allowing for more investment and economic growth. To attain the rewards associated with the BoP surplus, the government must continue to modernise the economy and maintain stable forex policies to attract long-term capital and decrease external vulnerabilities.

NGX Market Ends Week in the Red Amid Mixed Sectoral Performance

In the latest market report by the Nigerian Exchange Group, the NGX All-Share Index (ASI) and Market Capitalisation declined by 0.90% and 0.67%, closing the week of April 11th at 104,563.34 points and ₦65.707 trillion, respectively. This reflects a continued cautious sentiment among investors. Most sectoral indices ended the week lower, except for the NGX Growth Index, which appreciated by 0.37%, and the NGX Sovereign Bond Index, which rose sharply by 3.42%. Meanwhile, the NGX ASeM Index closed flat, showing no weekly movement. Investor activity was slightly more active on the upside, as 27 equities appreciated, compared to 23 in the previous week. However, 56 equities declined, up from 51 a week earlier, indicating broader market weakness. The number of equities that remained unchanged dropped to 64, from 73 in the prior week. The negative trend in the stock market has been attributed to tightened monetary policy and persistent macroeconomic uncertainties, resulting from exchange rate volatility and the trade war between China and the US. To address the current bearish trend in the stock market, policymakers should ensure clear communication about the measures being taken, which could stabilise investor sentiment. Temporary safeguards—such as curbs on panic selling—can serve as short-term solutions. Additionally, monetary policies like rate cuts, combined with targeted fiscal stimulus, can boost demand and investor confidence, ultimately revitalising market activity.

Business Confidence Strengthens in March 2025

The Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) Business Expectations Survey (BES) report for March 2025 reflects sustained optimism among Nigerian businesses regarding the macroeconomic outlook. Their optimism is driven by improved expectations for exchange rate stability. In March, sectoral outlooks were strong, with Industry at 32.8, Agriculture at 32.9, and Services at 30.6. Expectations for the next six months were even more positive, rising to 51.1 for Industry, 48.7 for Agriculture, and 46.5 for Services. Thus, this signals growing business confidence about the Nigerian economy. The Business Confidence Index (BCI) further underlines this optimistic sentiment. The Construction component of BCI led with 36.4, followed by Mining & Quarrying at 21.7, Non-Market Services at 20.2, Agriculture at 17.0, and Market Services and Manufacturing at 14.6 each. These figures reflect broad-based confidence across sectors, although with varying degrees of intensity, which is good for the economy. However, despite the positive momentum, firms continue to monitor challenges such as inflation, currency fluctuations, and credit access. To sustain confidence and support growth, the government must ensure consistent policies, reinforce macroeconomic stability, and improve the ease of doing business.

ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT		
Quarterly Indicators	'24Q2	'24Q3
GDP Growth Rate (%)	3.19	3.46
Oil GDP Growth Rate (%)	10.15	5.17
Non-oil GDP Growth Rate (%)	2.80	3.37
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.3	NA
Foreign Direct Investment (US $ Million)	29.83	NA
Portfolio Investment (US $Millions)	1404.70	NA
Other Investment (US $Million)	1169.97	NA
External Debt (FGN & States- N'Trillion)	NA	NA
Domestic Debt (FGN + States & FCT N'Trillion)	NA	NA
Manufacturing Capacity Utilization (%)	14.1	NA
Imports (N'Billion)	12.47	14,67
Exports (N'Billion)	19.41	20.48
Total trade (N'Billion)	31.89	35.16
Trade balance (N'Billion)	6.94	5.81
Crude oil Export (N'Billion)	14.55	13.40
Non-Crude Oil Export (N'Billion)	1.77	2.50
Monthly Indicators	November 24'	December 24'
Headline Inflation (%)	34.60	34.80
Food Sub-Index (%)	39.93	39.84
Core Sub-Index (%)	28.75	29.28
External Reserves (End Period) (US$ Billion)	40.23	40.88
Official Rate Approx. (N/US$)	1,214.17	1,189.12
BDC Rate Approx. (N/US$)	NA	NA
Manufacturing PMI	49.3	49.8
Non-Manufacturing PMI	47.4	52.1
Average Crude Oil Price (US$/Barrel)	75.44	74.72
Petrol (PMS-N/litre)	1,214.17	1,553.73
Diesel (AGO -N/Litre)	NA	NA
Kerosene (HHK -N/Litre)	49.3	49.8
Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Cooking Gas) (N/5Kg)	47.4	52.1
MPR (%)	75.44	74.72
CRR (%)	1,214.17	1,189.12
T-Bill Rate (%)	1,446.83	1,447.62
Savings Deposit Rate (%)	7,088.16	7,177.27
MPR (%)	27.50	27.50
CRR (%)	50.00	50.00
T-Bill Rate (%)	18.00	18.00
Savings Deposit Rate (%)	6.56	110.97
Prime Lending (%)	18.39	18.39
Maximum Lending (%)	31.06	29.71
Narrow Money (N'Trillion)	36.27	NA
Broad Money (N'Trillion)	108.95	NA
Net Domestic Credit (N'Trillion)	115.58	NA
Credit to the Government (Net) (N'Trillion)	39.62	NA
Credit to the Private Sector (N'Trillion)	75.96	NA
Currency in Circulation (N'Trillion)	4.88	NA
FAAC (N'Trillion)	NA	NA

Compiled by the Information and Data Management (IDM) Unit, CSEA
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NA: Not Available

1. Nigeria Posts $6.83 Billion Balance of Payments Surplus in 2024 retrieve from: https://www.cbn.gov.ng/Out/2025/CCD/CBN Release on BoP.pdf.

2. NGX Market Ends Week in the Red Amid Mixed Sectoral Performance report from: https://doclib.ngxgroup.com/market_data-site/other-market-information-site/Week Market Report/Weekly Market Report for the Week Ended 11-04-2025.pdf.

3. Business Confidence Strengthens in March 2025 Retrieve From; https://www.cbn.gov.ng/Out/2025/STD/MARCH 2025 BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS SURVEY.pdf