CSEA
CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE ECONOMIES OF AFRICA

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Nigeria’s Total Merchandise Trade Increases by 8.7% in Q3 2025

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), in its Q3 2025 Foreign Trade in Goods Statistics, reported that Nigeria’s total merchandise trade rose to ₦38,936.55 billion in the third quarter of 2025, representing an 8.71% increase from the ₦35,818.35 billion recorded in Q3 2024 and a 2.36% increase compared to the ₦38,037.52 billion in Q2 2025. In the quarter under review, exports were valued at ₦22,813.57 billion, accounting for 58.59% of total trade. Imports accounted for 41.41% of total trade, valued at ₦16,122.98 billion, with the merchandise trade balance remaining positive at ₦6,690.59 billion. Nigeria’s export earnings continued to be driven by oil, with crude oil exports valued at ₦12,806.78 billion, accounting for 56.14% of total exports. While the growth in total trade implies sustained external sector activity, the composition of trade goods highlights structural weaknesses, especially reliance on oil and the persistence of import dependence in manufactured goods. Therefore, policy should prioritise export diversification by providing targeted support to key sectors, such as industrial development, agro-processing, and the blue economy. Efforts should be made to expand incentives and finance for non-oil exporters and deepen backward integration in manufacturing to reduce import intensity.

Nigeria’s Oil Production Rises by 2.49% in November 2025

According to the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries’ (OPEC) December Monthly Oil Market report, Nigeria’s oil production for November rose by 2.49% from 1.401 million barrels per day (bpd) in October 2025 to 1.436 million bpd in November 2025. Despite this increase, the oil production for November still fell below OPEC’s production quota of 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) and was further below the country’s target of 2.06 million bpd. Notably, the price of Nigeria’s Bonny Light fell from US$65.53 per barrel (US$/b) in October to US$64.76 per barrel in November. The decline in crude oil production was due to continued insecurity and increased policy uncertainty, which eroded investor confidence in the sector. Falling oil prices reflect increased global tensions and shifting financial markets. The combined decline in production and output implies a tighter fiscal space and higher deficit risk, and this could lead to increased borrowing needs and decreased capital spending. There is a need for the Nigerian government to address vandalism and oil theft as part of the economic reform. This could be achieved by scaling up pipeline integrity systems through real-time monitoring. Furthermore, given the documented gap between aspirations and realised oil production, there is a need to use realistic production baselines and save windfall gains to be utilised as revenue buffers.

Headline Inflation Moderates to 14.45% in November

In November 2025, the National Bureau of Statistics reported a gradual easing of annual price pressures alongside continued short-term increases in consumer prices. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose to 130.5, up from 128.9 in October, indicating a sustained increase in the general price level of goods and services purchased by households. Nonetheless, headline inflation moderated to 14.45%, down from 16.05% in the preceding month, reflecting a slowdown in year-on-year inflation. Compared with November 2024, headline inflation was 20.15%, a significant improvement largely driven by base effects following the rebasing of the CPI. Despite this moderation in annual terms, month-on-month inflation increased to 1.22% from 0.93% in October, signalling that underlying inflationary pressures persist. This suggests that households continue to experience rising costs in the short term, particularly for essential goods and services, even as broader inflation indicators show signs of improvement. The divergence between easing year-on-year inflation and rising month-on-month inflation highlights the need for continued policy vigilance. While inflationary conditions have improved relative to the previous year, achieving durable price stability will require addressing structural constraints such as food supply disruptions, energy costs, and distribution inefficiencies, alongside sustained macroeconomic discipline.

ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT		
Quarterly Indicators	'25Q1	'25Q2
GDP Growth Rate (%)	3.13	4.23
Oil GDP Growth Rate (%)	1.87	20.46
Non-oil GDP Growth Rate (%)	3.19	3.64
Unemployment Rate (%)	NA	NA
Foreign Direct Investment (US $ Million)	126.29	NA
Portfolio Investment (US $Millions)	5204.61	NA
Other Investment (US $Million)	311.17	NA
External Debt (FGN & States- N'Trillion)	70.63	74.89
Domestic Debt (FGN + States & FCT N'Trillion)	78.75	70.63
Manufacturing Capacity Utilization (%)	62.4	62.6
Imports (N'Billion)	15.43	15.29
Exports (N'Billion)	20.598	22.75
Total trade (N'Billion)	36.025	38.037
Total trade (N'Billion)	5.17	7.46
Trade balance (N'Billion)	12.95	11.97
Crude oil Export (N'Billion)	7.64	10.78
Non-Crude Oil Export (N'Billion)	3.17	4.23
Monthly Indicators	September 25'	October 25'
Headline Inflation (%)	18.02	16.05
Food Sub-Index (%)	16.87	13.12
Core Sub-Index (%)	19.53	18.69
External Reserves (End Period) (US$ Billion)	42.4	43.17
Official Rate Approx. (N/US$)	1475	1422
BDC Rate Approx. (N/US$)	1485	1480
Manufacturing PMI	51.4	54.2
Non-Manufacturing PMI	54.7	55.6
Average Crude Oil Price (US$/Barrel)	70.2	66.5
Petrol (PMS-N/litre)	NA	NA
Diesel (AGO -N/Litre)	NA	NA
Kerosene (HHK -N/Litre)	1867.1	NA
Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Cooking Gas) (N/5Kg)	6395.82	NA
MPR (%)	27	27
CRR of Deposit Money Banks (%)	45	45
T-Bill Rate (%)	15.17	15.07
Savings Deposit Rate (%)	7.32	7.43
Prime Lending Rate (%)	11.9	18.89
Maximum Lending Rate (%)	29.84	29.56
Narrow Money (N'Trillion)	39.11	39.35
Broad Money (N'Trillion)	117.78	119.037
Net Domestic Credit (N'Trillion)	96.685	99.199
Credit to the Government (Net) (N'Trillion)	24.16	24.79
Credit to the Private Sector (N'Trillion)	72.53	74.41
Currency in Circulation (N'Trillion)	4.95	5.056
FAAC (N'Trillion)	2.103	2.094

NA: Not Available

1. Nigeria's Total Merchandise Trade Increases by 8.7% in Q3 2025 report from: https://microdata.nigerianstat.gov.ng/index.php/catalog/172

2. Nigeria's Oil Production Rises by 2.49% in November 2025 report from: https://momr.opec.org/pdf-download/

3 Headline Inflation Moderates to 14.45% in November report from .\AppData\Local\Temp\57f24765-8753-4643-aa48-e8222ee08590_CPI_November_2025 (1).zip.590\CPI_November_2025.pdf