



ECONOMY

Banking sector reforms fortified economy: Government has defended the decision to reform the banking sector, saying the measure had ensured the stability of the country's economy. The President maintained that though implementing the reforms were difficult, the move had saved the banking industry from collapse, and already, the sector had recorded very positive growth in the first quarter of 2019 as a result of that decision ([CNR](#)).

April Producer Inflation steadies at 7.1%: Annual Producer Price Inflation (PPI) for the month of April was 7.1 per cent, showing no change over the 7.1 per cent recorded in March this year. The month-on-month change in the producer price index between March and April 2019 was 0.9 per cent. The Government Statistician, maintained that in the manufacturing sector, during the month of April 2019, three out of the 16 major groups in the sector recorded inflation rates higher than the sector average of 6.1 per cent ([GSS](#)).

SECTORAL

Gov't will engage private sector to drive technological dev't: Government has maintained that it will engaged the private sector to drive the technological needs of the country. The Vice President believes it is time to create the perfect atmosphere for the private sector to develop the technology needed to drive economic development that will enable the private sector deliver at a reasonable cost ([CNR](#)).

Banks prefer lending to foreign firms over local ones: The Banking Sector Report published by the Bank of Ghana has indicated that banks prefer lending to foreign firms rather than indigenous ones due to the high Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) among local firms. The report shows that indigenous private enterprises accounted for 75.4 percent of total NPLs as at February 2019, while NPLs among foreign enterprises was just 10.2 percent ([B&FT](#)).

Gov't Cuts Sod For Avocado Processing Factory: Government has cut the sod for the construction of an avocado processing factory at Akyem-Nkronso in the Abuakwa South Municipality of the Eastern Region. This is part of the One District, One Factory initiative, intends to drive the agenda of government's 'Ghana Beyond Aid' to help reduce poverty in the rural Ghana ([DGN](#)).

Builsa South to get rice processing factory: the Builsa South will soon benefit from rice processing factory, to be established at Fumbisi, to help add value to the produce and address post-harvest losses ([GNA](#)).

Ghana suspends export of 3 vegetables: The export of Capsicum, Solanum, luffa and all leafy vegetables has been suspended indefinitely from the list of exportable commodities from Ghana to any international market. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture announced that the suspension has become necessary due to the high level of local interceptions at the exit points; the alarming rate of external notifications, and the new EU directives to all countries to re-provide dossiers to the EU on the management of harmful organisms on some of the above vegetables ([Ghanaweb](#)).

POLICY

Ghana-IMF Relations - Time for regular health checks of the economy: International Monetary Fund (IMF) has maintained that Ghana's 4-years Extended Credit Facility has been successful in restoring macroeconomic stability. Nonetheless, important vulnerabilities still remain which underline the urgency of maintaining a prudent macro-policy stance. The country director assured that Ghana will now go back to regular surveillance, or "health checks", as envisaged by the Article IV of the IMF's Articles of Agreement and will continue to receive technical assistance from the Fund ([B&FT](#)).

MARKETS

Interest Rates

Inflation Rate (Mar., 2019): **9.5%**
BoG Policy Rate (April, 2019): **16.0%**
GRR (May, 2019): **16.11%**

Treasury Securities Rates

91-Day: **14.9189%**
182-Day: **15.4674%**
364-Day: **18.0056%**

Source: [BoG 20/24.05.2019](#)

Foreign Exchange Rates

	Buy	Sell
Pound Sterling (£)	GH¢6.4632	GH¢6.4703
Dollar (US\$)	GH¢5.1044	GH¢5.1096
Euro (€)	GH¢5.6939	GH¢5.6977

Source: [BoG 23-05-19](#)

Mutual Funds – Yields

(MM & FIM 1)

TTL Income Haven:	+20.58% (14.05.19)
Galaxy Mfund:	+9.39% (31.01.19)
EDC Fixed Income:	+18.03% (21.05.19)
First Fund:	+16.99% (22.05.19)
Republic Unit:	+11.06% (23.05.19)
SEM MoneyPlus:	+13.48% (15.05.19)

Source: [Doobia](#)

TRADE & INVESTMENT

GNCCI launches third edition of Chamber Business Awards: The Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GNCCI) has launched its third Chamber Business Awards. This is aimed at celebrating key businesses and personalities who contributed meaningfully to business practice in the country in 2018. The awards is organised under the theme "Digitising the Ghanaian Economy for Competitive Edge in Globalised Markets", in support of the government aggressive agenda of formalising the through digitisation to move Ghana to upper middle-income status. Nomination is opened and will close on June, 21. The awards is scheduled on November, 23 with the Vice President of Ghana, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia as the Special Guest of Honour. Click on the link for the nomination form ([Form](#)).

INTERNATIONAL

China-US trade friction can be resolved through mutual respect: China has maintained that mutual respect and equality is the trump-card to resolving the China and the United States economic and trade friction. The Chinese Ambassador to Ghana asserted the Chinese Government was committed to truly resolving the trade hostilities through negotiation since taking entrenched positions would not do anyone any one good, rather it would negatively affect the global economy ([GNA](#)).

Ghanaian business emerges top 3 start-ups at Oxford University Africa Innovation Fair: TalentsinAfrica.com a talent searching platform backed with AI Skills Assessment algorithm, was the only Ghanaian start-up to pitch at the Oxford University Africa Innovation Fair 2019 ([Ghanaweb](#)).

UN lowers economic growth forecasts amid high trade tensions, policy uncertainty: The United Nations (UN) has cut its predictions for global economic growth in 2019 and 2020 due to unresolved trade tensions, high international policy uncertainty and softening business confidence (www.xinhuanet.com)