



## ECONOMY

**Ghana to be fastest growing economy in 2020:** IFC has predicted that Ghana can be one of the fastest-growing economies in the world if the government maintains its prudent economic management system. The Vice President for the Middle East and Africa, noted that looking at the financial performance of Ghana – the numbers, the macro framework and the situation in the country, had been very positive and the outlook remains very positive ([CNR](#)).

**Gov't seeks approval for GH¢6.37bn:** Government is seeking approval for GH¢6.37 billion as supplementary budget. The sector Minister asked Parliament to approve the said amount to supplement the budget for the 2019 fiscal year. Nonetheless, questions have been raised regarding what these additional funds will be used for ([MoF](#)).

## SECTORAL

**Ghana needs US\$10billion annually to meet infrastructure demand:** Government has averred that it will need up to US\$10 billion a year to achieve its infrastructure demand. The sector Minister maintained that although Ghana's debt keeps rising like other African countries, borrowing still remains an alternative for raising funds for development ([CNR](#)).

**Industry players express concern over tax increases:** Some industry players have raised concerns over the upward adjustment in some taxes in the mid-year budget review, stressing that the increment will impact negatively on the cost of living. The proposed taxes include Energy Sector Levy by 20 pesewas per litre for petrol and diesel and eight pesewas per kilogramme for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), CST etc ([Graphic](#)).

**Banks are stronger and richer – they must support businesses to create more jobs:** Government has thrown down the gauntlet to banks to aggressively support businesses to create more jobs, after government undertook a comprehensive banking reform and clean-up exercise that has led to the current stable environment. The sector Minister maintained that banks are stronger and richer; and, with the cost of borrowing dropping, banks should therefore do a lot more to support the growth and expansion of business ([B&FT](#)).

**Ivory Coast, Ghana pricing agreement causing a 'spike in cocoa cost':** A new cocoa pricing mechanism announced by top growers Ivory Coast and Ghana earlier this month is causing cocoa costs to rise. The Chief financial officer of the Illinois-headquartered maker of Oreo cookies, has maintained that, it is fair to say that given some of the proposals that are coming out of Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana, there is a spike in cocoa cost," ([Reuter](#)).

**Ghana Standards Authority intensifies market swoops and warns traders:** The Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) has warned to intensify its swoops across the country to rid the Ghanaian market of substandard goods, of all kinds, regardless of where the products are made and who the importers/manufacturers are. The authority maintained that market surveillance is part of the Authority's efforts to check the proliferation of fake and substandard products in Ghana, and to ensure a level playing field for all traders ([B&FT](#)).

**Uncertainties grip businesses over PDS suspension:** Businesses have been expressing worry and uncertainty about the recent suspension of the Power Distribution Service long term concession by the government on an alleged detection of fundamental and material breaches of PDS' obligation in the provision of payment securities (demand guarantees) for the transaction which have been discovered upon further due diligence. Nonetheless, government has assured completion of investigation into 'purported' breaches in 30 days ([thefinder](#)).

**Business community urged to boost export volumes:** Government has urged the businesses community to double their efforts to export more goods and products to earn foreign exchange for the country ([Goldstreetbusiness](#)).

## POLICY

**Gov't assents new Companies Act:** Government has given assent to the new Companies Act replacing the 1963 version. The President was confident that this new Act will improve significantly the ease of doing business in Ghana, enhance the corporate regulatory and governance framework, and reduce the cost of ensuring compliance for businesses. He added that more needs to be done to complete the country's business reform agenda, and the Corporate Restructuring and Insolvency Bill, which is currently before Parliament, will, amongst others, provide the avenue to help resuscitate distressed, but viable business entities and establishments from liquidation and their ramifications ([CNR](#)).

## MARKETS

### Interest Rates

Inflation Rate (June, 2019): **9.1%**  
BoG Policy Rate (July, 2019): **16.0%**  
GRR (July, 2019): **16.14%**

### Treasury Securities Rates

91-Day: **14.7231%**  
182-Day: **15.1708%**  
364-Day: **17.8954%**  
Source: [BoG 29.07/02.08.2019](#)

### Foreign Exchange Rates

	Buy	Sell
Pound Sterling (£):	GH¢6.3909	GH¢6.3978
Dollar (US\$)	GH¢5.2544	GH¢5.2596
Euro (€)	GH¢5.8589	GH¢5.8625

Source: [BoG 24-07-19](#)

### Mutual Funds – Yields

#### (MM & FIM 1)

TTL Income Haven:	<b>+16.19%</b> (10.07.19)
Galaxy Mfund:	<b>+9.39%</b> (31.01.19)
EDC Fixed Income:	<b>+17.83%</b> (10.07.19)
First Fund:	<b>+15.72%</b> (08.07.19)
Republic Unit:	<b>+11.29%</b> (11.07.19)
SEM MoneyPlus:	<b>+13.41%</b> (11.06.19)

Source: [Doobia](#)

## INTERNATIONAL

**African Governors commit to pursuing macroeconomic frameworks:** African Governors have pledged their commitment to pursuing appropriate macroeconomic frameworks, policies and reforms that support a conducive environment for private investment, women empowerment and inclusive sustainable growth. They also made commitments to enhance human capacity and skills development to accelerate jobs and economic transformation. Through policies and promotion of economic integration, the African Governors called on the IMF and the World Bank Group to develop an action plan to support the continent in the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area ([GNA](#)).

**Africa's growth not robust enough to end joblessness:** The Minister of Finance, has bemoaned the rate at which Africa's economies are growing, explaining that the pace is too weak to contain the bulgy unemployment situation on the continent. He has, therefore, pledged to work with finance ministers and governors of central banks in Africa to devise a common strategy that "can more effectively support accelerated growth, transformation and job creation in Africa ([Graphic](#)).