



Key Economic Indicators	2022	2023	2024*	2024F
Headline Inflation (%)	54.1	23.2	25.0	15.0
Monetary Policy Rate (%)	27.0	30.0	29.0	
GDP Growth Rate (%)	3.7	2.0	2.0	2.8
FX Reserves (\$bn)	6.2	5.2	5.9	-
FX Reserves Cover (Months)	2.7	2.4	2.7	3.0

*Provisional figures

Treasury Bill Auction

The Treasury Bill Auction witnessed an oversubscription of GH¢ 1,244 million, equivalent to 33.81% of the target. GH¢ 4.921 billion was approved against a target of GH¢ 3.677 billion and a maturing debt of GH¢ 3.457 billion. The weighted average interest rates for the 91-day, 182-day, and 364-day tenors were 25.20% (-25bps), 27.00% (-40bps), and 28.00% (-0.01bps) respectively.

Cedi records longest depreciation streak in history

The Ghanaian cedi is experiencing its longest depreciation streak against the U.S. dollar, not having gained in 22 trading sessions, marking a historic decline. As of May 16, the cedi weakened to GHS 13.9310 per dollar, a 14% drop this year, surpassed only by the Egyptian pound and Nigerian naira. The decline is attributed to a significant drop in cocoa earnings, a resurfacing current account deficit, and adverse economic conditions. Projections suggest the cedi could hit a record low by the third quarter and end the year at around GHS 15.98 per dollar. Businesses in Ghana are facing high operating costs, with Dr. Mark Badu-Aboagye noting the challenging economic climate.

e-Cedi: Finding balance between financial stability, regulation, consumer freedom and privacy rights

Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) are gaining traction, with 93% of central banks researching them as of 2023. The Bahamas launched the first CBDC, the Sand Dollar, while China's e-Yuan is the most widely used. CBDCs differ from existing digital payments like mobile money, as they are digital versions of national currencies secured by blockchain and issued by central banks, whereas mobile money uses existing currency through private infrastructures. Despite increasing CBDC development, public awareness remains low, with many questioning their necessity and differences from current digital payment methods. Unlike cryptocurrencies, which are private and independent of central banks, CBDCs are government-controlled.

Ivory Coast's cocoa regulator suspends cooperatives for hoarding beans

Ivory Coast's Coffee and Cocoa Council (CCC) has suspended 40 cooperatives for hoarding over 60,000 metric tons of cocoa to sell at inflated prices, exploiting supply shortages caused by disease and weather. The farmgate price is set at 1,500 CFA francs per kg, but some demanded up to 1,800 CFA francs. The suspensions aim to prevent smaller exporters from overpaying. Exporters welcomed the move, noting it will stabilize the market. Cocoa arrivals are down 29.3% from last year. The CCC is conducting an inventory and urged cooperatives with delivery contracts to fulfill them quickly.

WTI challenges \$80 oil price again on strong economic data

U.S. crude oil prices topped \$80 on Friday, with Brent crude seeing its first weekly gain since mid-April, driven by favorable Chinese industrial output and U.S. consumer price data. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) nearly hit \$80, and Brent crude rose to \$83.91. April's U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 0.3%, below the 0.4% estimate, raising hopes for potential Federal Reserve rate cuts by September. China's industrial output grew 6.7% year-on-year in April, beating expectations. U.S. gasoline prices fell to a national average of \$3.597 per gallon, down over four cents from last week but still higher than last year. Gas demand rose slightly to 8.87 million barrels per day. AAA predicts the gradual decline in pump prices will continue, especially in states with averages below \$3 per gallon.