

Monthly Economic Update September 2025

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1. Zimbabwe Economic Performance

a) Zimbabwe Economic Outlook

The Zimbabwean economy is in a period of continued but fragile macroeconomic stability that is supported by favourable conditions in agriculture, mining, and strong remittance inflows. Meanwhile, the gold-backed Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG) currency, alongside a tight monetary policy stance, has contributed to a moderation in inflationary and exchange rate pressures. Foreign currency receipts continue to improve coming from commodity exports as well as diaspora remittances. However, the economy remains highly dollarized with about 80% of transactions being conducted in USD, reflecting limited public confidence and persistent scepticism regarding the stability and credibility of the local currency.

On another note, the economy continues to battle debt distress and is considering leveraging more of the nation's resource endowments to service external debt obligations while continuing with the traditional route of negotiating with bilateral creditors for bridging loans. Fiscal consolidation and prudent public financial management remain central to policy efforts aimed at containing the debt burden and thus preventing the crowding out of private sector investment. Moreover, the Government continues to foster enhancements on the business environment that are aimed at promoting private sector-led growth.

Given these macroeconomic conditions, the IMF has complemented the 6% growth projection anticipated by the Government of Zimbabwe, and below is a tabulated summary of these projections, along with those of other influential authorities.

Zimbabwe Economic Growth Forecasts (%)			
Year	2024	2025	2026
IMF (Oct 2025)	1.7	6.0	4.6
World Bank (Oct 2025)	1.7	6.0	4.6
GOZ (July 2025)	1.7	6.0	-

Strategic insights and takeaways:

- Zimbabwe's sectoral diversification remains a crucial pillar to reduce over-reliance on primary sectors to ensure sustainable growth.
- Diversification and value addition will also ensure the country is cushioned from the impacts of external shocks.
- The persistence of dollarization highlights ongoing trust deficits in the domestic currency, underscoring the need for consistent policy communication, transparency, and structural reforms to rebuild public and market confidence.

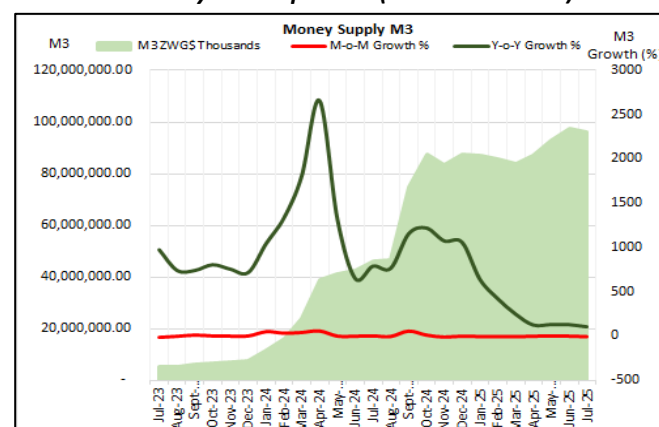
- The Zimbabwe economy is showing signs of improvement, but debt sustainability and fiscal challenges remain major concerns.

2. Zimbabwe Financial Sector

2.1. Money Supply

Broad Money (M3), according to the latest RBZ data, fell by 1.2% month-on-month in July 2025, reaching ZiG96.18 billion from ZiG97.34 billion in June 2025. On a year-on-year basis, M3 growth also dropped to 109.2% in July 2025, from 127.8% in June 2025, underscoring the effectiveness of the prevailing tight monetary conditions. The graph below illustrates these monetary trends from July 2023 to July 2025.

Monetary Developments (ZWG Thousands)



Source: RBZ – September 2025

Strategic insights and takeaways:

- The RBZ is demonstrating a credible commitment to monetary discipline. Businesses and investors should interpret this as a positive signal for medium-term macroeconomic stability and a sustained fight against inflation.
- Businesses should expect higher borrowing costs and more stringent credit conditions. It's now crucial to strengthen internal cash flow generation and reduce reliance on external debt financing.

2.2. Interest Rates

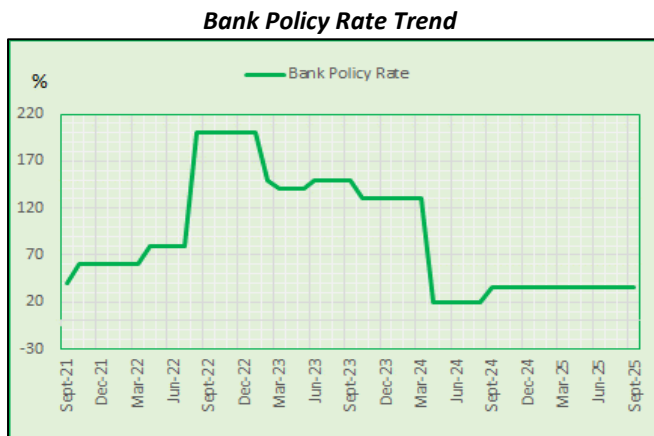
The RBZ Monetary Policy Committee met on 26 September 2025 and resolved to “stay the course” of the current monetary policy stance and reaffirmed the continuation of policy measures regarding interest rates and other monetary elements as follows:

1. To maintain the bank policy rate at 35%.

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- To maintain the statutory reserve requirements for demand and call deposits for both local and foreign currency at 30%.
- To maintain the statutory reserve requirements for savings and time deposits for both local and foreign currency at 15%.

The graph below shows the interest rate trend for the period September 2021 to September 2025.



Source: RBZ – September 2025

As of 26 September 2025, the weekly average minimum lending rates in ZiG were recorded at 43.42% for individuals and 40.43% for corporates. On the other hand, average minimum deposit rates for savings, 1-month, and 3-month deposits were recorded at 3.75%, 6.63%, and 6.90%, respectively. The table below illustrates the trend in average minimum lending rates and average deposit rates denominated in ZWG.

Average Lending and Deposit Rates (ZWG)

Local Currency (ZiG) Interest Rates (Minimums)					
Week Ending	Lending Rates (%)		Deposit Rates (%)		
	Individual Clients	Corporate Clients	Savings	1-Month	3-Months
5-Sept-25	43.38	40.38	3.75	6.63	6.9
12-Sept-25	43.41	40.42	3.75	6.63	6.9
19-Sept-25	43.44	40.46	3.75	6.63	6.9
26-Sept-25	43.45	40.45	3.75	6.63	6.9
Average	43.42	40.43	3.75	6.63	6.90

Source: RBZ – September 2025

In US Dollar terms, the most recent weekly average minimum lending rates stood at 13.62% for individuals and 10.52% for corporates, whilst the latest average minimum deposit rates for savings, 1-month and 3-month deposits were recorded at 1.61%, 3.92%, and 4.46%, respectively. The

table below illustrates the trend in average minimum lending rates and average deposit rates denominated in US\$.

Average Lending and Deposit Rates (USD).

Foreign Currency (USD) Interest Rates (Minimums)					
Week Ending	Lending Rates (%)		Deposit Rates (%)		
	Individual Clients	Corporate Clients	Savings	1-Month	3-Months
5-Sept-25	13.59	10.46	1.61	3.92	4.46
12-Sept-25	13.61	10.53	1.61	3.92	4.46
19-Sept-25	13.62	10.55	1.61	3.92	4.46
26-Sept-25	13.64	10.55	1.61	3.92	4.46
Average	13.62	10.52	1.61	3.92	4.46

Source: RBZ – September 2025

2.3. Foreign Currency Market

In September 2025, the U.S. dollar appreciated against 6 of the 18 currencies in our analysis, a sharp decline in comparison to its gains against 13 currencies in August 2025. It saw the largest appreciation (5.65%) against the Argentine Peso, while its most significant depreciation (2.36%) was against the Norwegian Krone. The table below details the monthly average exchange rate movements, highlighting the evolving landscape of global currency markets.

Exchange rate analysis (Monthly Averages)

Exchange Rate Analysis (Monthly Average)			
Currency/US\$	Aug-25	Sept-25	Change (%)
Argentine Peso	1326.9123	1401.9061	5.65
Australian Dollar	1.5395	1.5174	-1.44
Botswana Pula	13.9967	13.6961	-2.15
Brazilian Real	5.4510	5.3696	-1.49
British Pound	0.7436	0.7408	-0.38
Canadian Dollar	1.3797	1.3831	0.24
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	7.1761	7.1252	-0.71
Euro	0.8586	0.8524	-0.72
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8283	7.7853	-0.55
Indian Rupee	87.5163	88.2715	0.86
Japanese Yen	147.5068	147.9469	0.30
Norwegian Krone	10.1882	9.9474	-2.36
Russian Ruble	80.1275	82.8956	3.45
South African Rand	17.7197	17.4440	-1.56
Swedish Krona	9.5768	9.3771	-2.09
Swiss Franc	0.8057	0.7968	-1.10
South Korean Won	1388.9044	1393.4052	0.32
Zimbabwean dollar	26.7664	26.6590	-0.40

Source: X-Rates; © ZB Financial holdings

However, when comparing beginning and end-of-month exchange rates, the U.S. dollar showed better performance, depreciating against only 10 of the 18 tracked currencies. The table below provides a detailed breakdown of these movements, offering valuable insights into end-of-month currency market dynamics.

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Exchange Rate Analysis (End Period)

Exchange Rate Analysis (Monthly Average)			
Currency/US\$	1-Sept-25	30-Sept-25	Change (%)
Argentine Peso	1331.7311	1357.7062	1.95
Australian Dollar	1.5282	1.5202	-0.53
Botswana Pula	13.4403	13.8437	3.00
Brazilian Real	5.4317	5.3220	-2.02
British Pound	0.7405	0.7443	0.51
Canadian Dollar	1.3740	1.3917	1.29
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	7.1311	7.1207	-0.15
Euro	0.8554	0.8524	-0.34
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7968	7.7829	-0.18
Indian Rupee	88.1961	88.7161	0.59
Japanese Yen	147.1130	148.6162	1.02
Norwegian Krone	10.0622	9.9857	-0.76
Russian Ruble	80.3484	83.0800	3.40
South African Rand	17.6529	17.2646	-2.20
South Korean Won	1389.3585	1399.8472	0.75
Swedish Krona	9.4576	9.4194	-0.40
Swiss Franc	0.8007	0.7975	-0.40
Zimbabwean dollar	26.7413	26.6439	-0.36

Source: X-Rates; © ZB Financial holdings

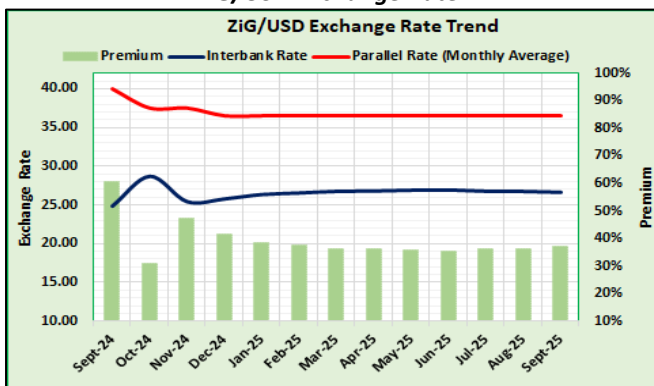
Strategic insights and takeaways:

The performance of the U.S. dollar has been subdued and is expected to remain under pressure in the near term, following the Federal Reserve's decision to lower interest rates, which is anticipated to reduce the attractiveness of USD-denominated assets.

2.4. Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG) Exchange Rate

The Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG) demonstrated notable stability in September 2025, appreciating slightly by 0.4% against the USD on the official market to ZWG26.64. In contrast, the parallel market rate held steady at an average of ZWG36.50. Consequently, this modest official rate appreciation marginally widened the exchange rate premium from 36% to 37% over the month. The chart below illustrates the movement of both interbank and parallel exchange rates from September 2024 to September 2025.

ZiG/USD Exchange Rate



Source: RBZ & ZB Financial Holdings – September 2025

Strategic insights and takeaways:

The sustained stability of the local currency is commendable and provides a solid foundation for the eventual transition to a mono-currency system. However, this stability appears somewhat artificial and may prove unsustainable should market forces be allowed to operate without too much Central Bank intervention.

2.5. Equities Markets & Corporate Briefs

The Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) maintained positive momentum in September 2025, with local-currency market capitalization rising 0.07% month-on-month, from ZWG66.06 billion to ZWG66.10 billion. In USD terms, market capitalization also grew by 0.5%, from US\$2.47 billion to US\$2.48 billion. The All-Share Index advanced by 0.9%, closing at 210.63 points, up from 208.74 in August 2025, reflecting broad-based bullish sentiment among investors.

Similarly, the Victoria Falls Stock Exchange (VFEX) recorded remarkable gains over the same period. Market capitalization increased 20.8%, from US\$1.5 billion to US\$1.8 billion, while the All-Share Index climbed 15.5% to 148.86 points, compared with 128.93 in August 2025. The table below summarizes the monthly performance of both markets over the past four months:

ZSE and VFEX Market Performance Indicators

Date	ZSE Market Summary			VFEX Market Summary	
	All Share	Mkt Cap (ZiGmil)	Mkt Cap US\$ mil	All Share	Mkt Cap US\$'000
Sept-25	210.63	66,104.84	2,481.05	148.86	1,808,230
Aug-25	208.74	66,055.94	2,468.94	128.93	1,497,040
Jul-25	205.71	64,917.50	2,422.77	123.46	1,451,910
Jun-25	197.23	60,681.15	2,251.98	107.21	1,234,900

Source: ZSE & VFEX – September 2025

Strategic insights and takeaways:

- *There is evidence of increasing activity on the stock market despite the prevailing liquidity crunch. This highlights the strength of the overall Zimbabwean market*
- *The sharp rise in VFEX capitalization and index value—outpacing gains on the ZSE—indicates a strategic preference for USD-denominated assets. This underscores VFEX's growing appeal to both local and foreign investors seeking currency stability and easier repatriation of funds.*

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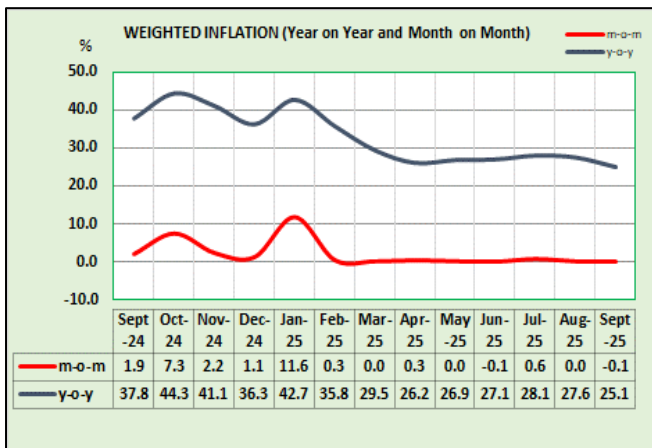
3. Prices and Cost of Living

3.1. Inflation

a. Weighted Inflation

In September 2025, the year-on-year weighted inflation rate—a measure that monitors combined price changes in both domestic and foreign currency—decreased to 25.1%, reflecting a slight easing from its August 2025 rate of 27.6%. A similar cooling pattern was observed in short-term price pressures, as the month-on-month inflation rate declined to -0.1%, following a stable 0.0% in the previous month. Nevertheless, this overall downward trend was not uniform across all categories. Despite the general decline, essential product groups such as Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages experienced a slight increase, rising to 0.1% from the 0.0% recorded in August. The following graph illustrates the current trend of weighted inflation in Zimbabwe

Weighted Inflation Trend

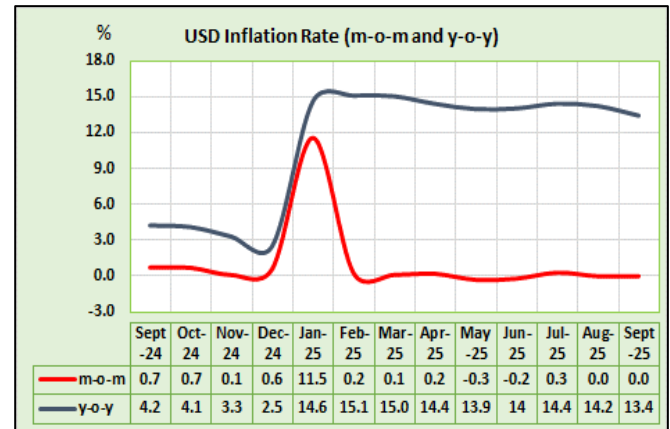


Source: ZIMSTATS – September 2025

b. USD Inflation

Year-on-year USD inflation fell by 0.8 percentage points to 13.4% in September 2025, down from 14.2% in the previous month, while month-on-month inflation remained steady at 0.0%. Despite this overall stability, key components of the consumer price index (CPI), such as Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages, showed upward price pressure, rising by 10 basis points to 0.1%. The graph below illustrates the recent trend in USD inflation in Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe USD Inflation Trend

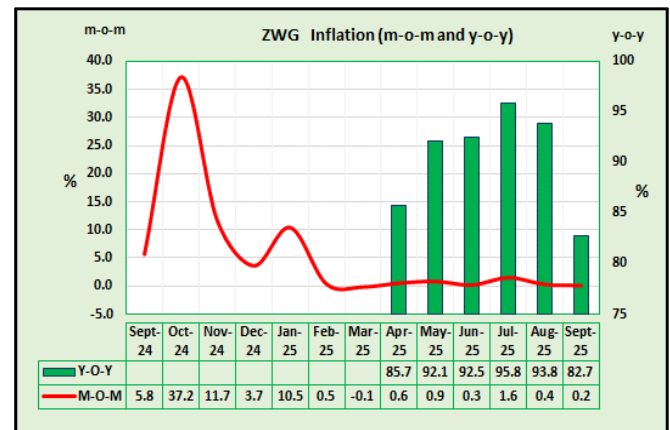


Source: ZIMSTATS - September 2025

c. ZiG Inflation

Inflation in Zimbabwe dollars (ZWG) slowed significantly in September 2025. The year-on-year rate fell to 82.7% from 93.8% in August. On a monthly basis, inflation eased to 0.2% from 0.4%. However, food prices showed a divergent trend: after a deflation of 0.1% in August, Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages inflation turned positive to 0.2% in September. In contrast, non-food inflation fell into negative territory, declining by 0.5% compared to a 0.6% increase the previous month. The graph that follows illustrates recent trends in ZWG inflation.

ZWG Inflation Rate Trend



Source: ZIMSTATS – September 2025

Meanwhile, barring significant alterations, our 3-month econometric forecasts for the 3 forms of inflation are outlined in the following table:

3 MONTH INFLATION FORECASTS (%)			
Inflation Forms	Month	Y-O-Y	M-O-M
Weighted Inflation	Oct-25	20.7	3.6
	Nov-25	18.0	-0.1
	Dec-25	15.8	-0.8
USD Inflation	Oct-25	16.4	3.4
	Nov-25	16.1	-0.2
	Dec-25	14.3	-0.9
ZiG Inflation	Oct-25	41.2	6.04
	Nov-25	26.3	-0.03
	Dec-25	22.4	0.4

Source: ZB Financial Holdings –September 2025

Month	TCPL (ZiG)	% change	FPDL (ZiG)	% change
May-25	1,279.60	1.3	876.03	1.6
Jun-25	1,280.05	0.0	874.23	-0.2
Jul-25	1,290.92	0.8	875.80	0.2
Aug-25	1,292.96	0.2	875.18	-0.1
Sept-25	1,292.80	-0.01	877.03	0.2

Source: ZIMSTATS - September 2025

Strategic insights and takeaways:

- While the TCPL demonstrates overall stability, pointing to price consistency in most sectors, food costs remain a persistent source of inflationary pressure. This underscores the critical need to enhance food supply as a means of curbing price increases.

Strategic insights and takeaways:

- There is continued price moderation bringing inflation figures closer to the RBZ's targets. However, essentials like food are still recording increasing prices, highlighting production cost constraints within the food industry, and possibly the lagging effects of the previous year's drought.
- The RBZ anticipate ZiG annual inflation to be less than 20% by December 2025.

3.2. Poverty Datum Lines

The Total Consumption Poverty Line (TCPL), which reflects the minimum monthly income required to meet both basic food and non-food needs, fell marginally by 0.01% to ZWG1,292.80% in September 2025 from ZWG1,292.96 the previous month. For a household of six, this translates to ZWG7,756.8 per month.

Meanwhile, the Food Poverty Datum Line (FPDL), which measures the cost necessary to meet a basic nutritional requirement of 2,100 calories per person per day, rose slightly by 0.2% to ZWG877.03 from ZWG875.18 in August 2025. For a six-member household, this equates to ZWG5262.18, accounting for approximately 67.8% of the total household consumption poverty line. Below is a tabulated summary of the poverty datum lines for the past five months:

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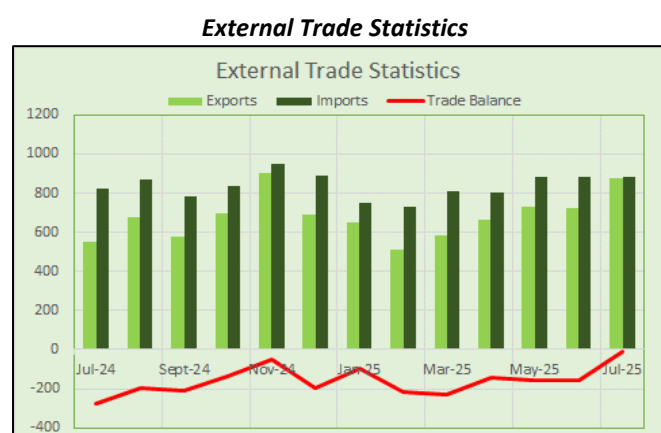
4. Zimbabwe Economic Sectors

4.1. External Sector

Latest data from ZIMSTAT indicate that Zimbabwe's merchandise exports rose to US\$878.2 million in August 2025, a 0.3% increase from US\$876.0 million recorded in July 2025. This growth was largely driven by higher export volumes of semi-manufactured gold, nickel mattes, and tobacco, partly or wholly stemmed/stripped, accounting for 52.7%, 13.9%, and 8.1% of the total value of USD 878.2 million, respectively.

On the import side, merchandise imports decreased to US\$871.1 million, from US\$886.2 million in the previous month. The import basket remained dominated by mineral fuels, mineral oils and products, machinery and mechanical appliances, vehicles, and electrical machinery and equipment, which constituted 22.2%, 12.5%, 7.7% and 5.5% of the total import value, respectively.

As a result, the external trade recorded a surplus of US\$7.1 million in August 2025, following a deficit of US\$10.2 million in the prior month. The graph below illustrates trends in external trade statistics since August 2024.



Source: ZIMSTATS – September 2025

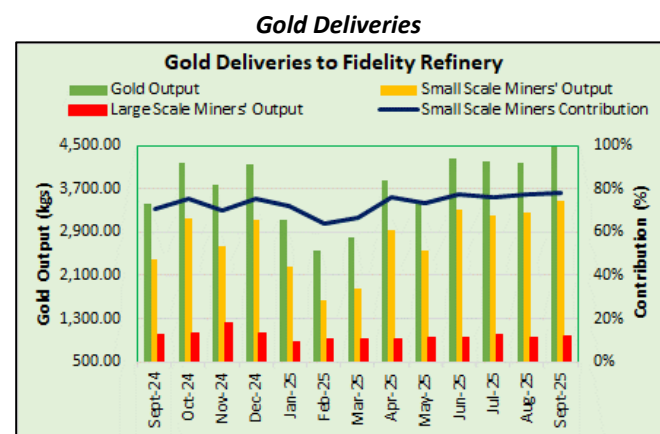
Strategic insights and takeaways:

- The emergence of a trade surplus, the first in years, demonstrates the initial effectiveness of recent trade policies. Nonetheless, its sustainability is uncertain, and the economy remains vulnerable. To ensure this becomes a lasting trend, further action is needed to solidify and normalize the surplus.
- Generally, supporting the export-oriented sectors and the promotion of value addition especially for products that are destined for export markets influences the balance of trade positively.

4.2. Mining Sector

The sector continues to exhibit mixed fortunes amid a booming gold market and depressed activity in all other mineral markets. PGMs, lithium, and diamond prices are failing to recover as anticipated, depressing the sector's growth prospects. Consequently, growth forecasts have been slashed from 5.6% to 2.9% according to the Chamber of Mines Zimbabwe.

Meanwhile, gold deliveries to Fidelity Gold Refinery increased by 7.3% in September 2025, from 4,189.77kgs in August 2025 to 4,471.66 kgs. Small-scale miners accounted for approximately 78% of total deliveries in August 2025, the same as in the previous month, while large-scale miners accounted for the remainder. The graph below summarizes the activity in gold production.



Source: FGR – September 2025

Strategic insights and takeaways:

- Zimbabwe must accelerate beneficiation and downstream processing (e.g., lithium-ion battery manufacturing, PGM refining, diamond cutting) to cushion against commodity price swings and capture more value domestically
- There is a clear need for formalization, financing, and technology support for small-scale miners to enhance productivity, improve compliance, and minimize leakages and environmental damage. Strengthening institutional frameworks could unlock greater value from this segment.
- The Gold sector remains lucrative, especially in the short to medium term. Analysts are forecasting the gold price to reach US\$5000 in 2026.

News and Highlights in the Mining Sector.

- The construction of a ground-breaking US\$400 million lithium sulphate processing plant by Huayou Cobalt's Arcadia Technology Zimbabwe (ATZ) is

nearly complete. As the first such facility in Africa, it is scheduled for commissioning in the first quarter of next year and is poised to transform the national mining sector by adding substantial value to the country's vast lithium reserves. The ATZ plant is at its Arcadia Mine in Goromonzi

- There are allegations that large-scale gold producers are using artisanal miners as fronts to sell gold to Fidelity Gold Refinery (FGR). This scheme is reportedly intended to circumvent the central bank's rule requiring exporters to surrender 30% of their foreign earnings for local currency. The practice exploits a policy designed to support small-scale miners, who receive 100% payment in foreign currency to discourage smuggling.
- Discussions continued regarding the Mines and Minerals Bill 2025, which aims to modernize the regulatory framework, with concerns raised about the expanded discretionary powers of the mining affairs board.
- To further empower small-scale miners, a US\$300,000 new gold milling center was commissioned in Shurugwi in mid-September. The project, a partnership between Zimbabwe and a Chinese firm, aims to provide accessible and affordable milling services to over 5,000 miners.

4.3. Agriculture Sector

Zimbabwe's agricultural sector is undergoing a significant transformation, marked by a strategic pivot towards high-value, non-traditional crops and the adoption of advanced technologies. This shift is most evident in the wheat subsector, where record production is anticipated for the 2025 season. Bolstered by substantial government investment, including the allocation of 300 combine harvesters to optimize efficiency, the winter wheat harvest is projected to reach approximately 600,000 tonnes.

Concurrently, technological adoption is accelerating in preparation for the 2025/2026 summer season. Drones are being introduced to complement the traditional aircraft system in cloud-seeding, aimed to enhance rainfall distribution—a critical step for climate resilience. These advancements underscore a concerted effort to enhance productivity and climate adaptation, signaling a positive trajectory for the sector's contribution to the economy.

News Highlights in the Agriculture Sector.

- The Grain Millers Association of Zimbabwe (GMAZ) is warning of a severe maize shortage in the southern region, which is now at a crisis level. Even major millers, such as National Foods, are running out of supplies, forcing them to operate at a fraction of their capacity and threatening both milling operations and national food security. As a result, the government will now permit millers to import grain to supplement domestic supplies.
- A new US\$66.5 million agricultural project was launched in Gweru to support over 50,000 smallholder farmers in four provinces. The Horticulture Enterprise Enhancement Project will create 620 village business units, helping farmers access commercial markets through public-private partnerships. The initiative is jointly funded by the Zimbabwean government, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the OPEC Fund.
- The Zimbabwe Mercantile Exchange (ZMX) has launched a new grain inputs swap program for wheat farmers. This initiative is timed with the start of the early wheat harvest and is designed to address a critical challenge for farmers. It allows them to use their stored, unsold wheat as collateral to immediately obtain inputs for the upcoming summer planting season. This directly tackles past complaints from farmers who struggled to secure adequate inputs due to funding shortages ahead of the summer crop season.
- The government has set a production target of 114,570 tonnes of soybeans for the 2025/2026 summer cropping season. This forecast is based on 77,000 planted hectares and an expected average yield of 1.5 tonnes per hectare. The soybean harvest is considered critical for supplying the country's livestock feed and oilseed processing sectors.

Strategic insights and takeaways:

- *Continued investment in mechanization and localized input production has the potential to consolidate Zimbabwe's self-sufficiency in wheat, freeing forex for other strategic imports and stabilizing domestic food prices.*

4.4. Energy Sector

Zimbabwe's energy sector remains a critical constraint on economic growth, plagued by high production costs, foreign exchange shortages, and aging infrastructure that have kept generation below national demand. While substantial investments are being directed toward gradual recovery, the

sector's unreliability has spurred a significant transformation: corporations and households are increasingly turning to private, sustainable power solutions like solar. This shift toward decentralized generation is building a more resilient energy landscape even as the traditional grid undergoes repair.

Meanwhile, in September 2025, Zimbabwe's national electricity generation contracted by 4%, primarily due to a 14% decline from Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and an 8% drop at Hwange Power Station. A 7% increase in output from Kariba Power Station to 436 MW was insufficient to offset the overall shortfall. With total generation at 1,595 MW against a peak demand of 1,900 MW, the data highlights a substantial supply deficit that continues to pose a key risk to economic activity.

Daily Electricity Supply

Average Maximum Supply (MW)	Aug-25	Sept-25	Change
Hwange	1132	1045	▼8%
Kariba	408	436	▲7%
IPPs	55	48	▼14%
Total	1595	1529	▼4%

Source: ZPC – September 2025

News Highlights in the Energy Sector

- The Zimbabwean government has approved a contract with Jindal (Private) Limited to comprehensively rebuild the six older units at Hwange Thermal Power Station. Under a public-private partnership, the four-year project will replace key components like turbines and generators to restore the plant's capacity.
- Hwange Colliery Company is investing US\$60 million to increase its annual coal production to 3 million tonnes by 2027. This major expansion, which will introduce advanced longwall mining technology, aims to boost efficiency and support Zimbabwe's power generation and energy security.
- The Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority (ZERA) announced that the liberalization of the petroleum industry has led to market growth, with a new Statutory Instrument on containerized fuel benefiting rural areas. These portable service stations are relatively cheap and flexible to deploy.
- Zimbabwe and Zambia announced that they will co-host an energy projects summit in late November 2025 to finance and scale up renewable energy and infrastructure projects. The initiative aims to enhance cross-border power trade within the Southern African Power Pool.
- The Government of Zimbabwe adjusted the strategic reserve levy on fuel, increasing it for both

diesel and petrol, with the new rates of US\$0.1870 per litre for diesel and US\$0.2470 per litre for petrol effective from September 4, 2025. This change was formally announced in a supplement to the Government Gazette published on September 26, 2025, though the levies had been increased on May 9, 2025, through Statutory Instrument 50 of 2025.

4.5. Manufacturing Sector

The sector remains resilient, supported by the Government's value addition mantra, which has seen improvement in output value. However, in many areas, the sector still indicates stagnation due to challenges like high import dependency and depleted equipment, despite a stable macroeconomic environment and policy support. While the overall economy shows signs of recovery, manufacturing growth remains subdued, hindered by a lack of investment, high operational costs, and power supply issues. The Monetary Policy Committee's efforts to stabilize the economy through currency control and exchange rate stability are positive for overall economic activity, but are not yet translating into strong manufacturing growth.

News Highlights in the Manufacturing Sector

- The Buffalo Brewing Company, an Innscor Africa subsidiary, is planning a new manufacturing plant to increase production of its Nyati sorghum beer. This expansion aims to meet rising consumer demand and grow its share of the domestic sorghum beer market.
- The revival of Kadoma's David Whitehead textile plant has generated more than 400 jobs, primarily for local youth. After resolving previous legal challenges, the Indian investor Agri-Value-Chain (AVCZ) is now rapidly developing a modern cotton textile business, with both the Kadoma and Chegutu plants reopening and production in Chegutu expected to increase swiftly.

4.6. Property Sector

The Zimbabwe property sector continues to show sound activity driven by diaspora investment, a focus on sustainability, and a shift in demand towards cluster housing in emerging suburban areas. Despite cooling inflation and a more stable local currency (ZiG), affordability remains a major challenge due to high infrastructure costs and limited mortgage access. As power supply and municipal water shortages continue to be a challenge, properties with alternative power and water solutions are becoming more valuable.

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News Highlights in the Property Sector

- The South African real estate firm Chas Everitt International has extended its operations to Bulawayo, signalling rising investor interest in Zimbabwe's property sector. The move follows the company's successful entry into the Harare market just six months ago. This rapid expansion reflects the company's strategic vision to capitalize on the growing local market and demand from the diaspora.

4.7. Tourism Sector

The sector is recovering, supported by a favourable economy and new government policies like the Tourism and Hospitality Industry Policy (2025-2030). However, persistent infrastructure deficits in transport —identified as critical by the sector's council—threaten future growth. For the sector to fully rebound, it is essential to address these bottlenecks, implement the new policy strategies, and foster stronger public-private collaboration to enhance its vibrancy.

News Highlights in the Tourism Sector

- Fastjet Zimbabwe has enhanced its domestic flight schedule with the introduction of a new Bulawayo-Victoria Falls route. The service, which will run four times a week, aims to provide convenient travel options for tourists and business passengers alike, utilizing the airline's state-of-the-art Embraer aircraft for a comfortable journey.
- The Sanganai/Hlanganani World Tourism Expo, Zimbabwe's premier tourism event was held in Mutare from September 10–12, marking the first time the expo was hosted outside its traditional location in Bulawayo. The move is part of a government decentralization strategy to distribute tourism benefits more equitably across all regions.

5. Regional Economies

5.1. Sub-Saharan Africa Economic Outlook

Economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa is projected to hold steady at 4.1% in 2025 before rising to 4.4% in 2026, according to the IMF. This represents a slight upgrade from earlier forecasts, largely driven by Nigeria's positive outlook. Nigeria's growth is bolstered by increased oil production, stronger investor confidence, and limited impact from new US tariffs. However, many other economies, particularly low-income nations in sub-Saharan Africa like Lesotho and Madagascar, face significant downgrades due to the expiration of a key US trade agreement (AGOA), which is expected to severely impact their exports. The following table shows Sub-Saharan Africa's economic growth forecast:

Sub-Saharan Africa Economic Growth Forecasts (%)			
Year	2024	2025	2026
IMF (Oct 2025)	4.1	4.1	4.4
World Bank (Jun 2025)	3.5	3.7	4.1

Strategic insights and takeaways:

- *There is an urgent need for countries to diversify export markets and develop domestic industries. Reliance on single, preferential trade agreements is becoming a high-risk strategy.*
- *National economic strategy must include proactive trade diplomacy and strategic positioning to navigate the competing interests of major global powers. Economic policy and foreign policy are now inextricably linked.*

5.2. Botswana

5.2.1. Botswana Economic Outlook

The prolonged slump in the global diamond market is limiting Botswana's capacity to rebound following the 3% contraction in 2024. In 2025, the IMF now projects a further contraction of 0.9% underscoring the severity of the impact imposed by the dwindling diamond market. In a move to diversify the economy, the government intends to establish a citizenship-by-investment program, which is expected to raise funds to address priority needs, including the housing market, as well as the country's tourism industry, renewable energy, mining, and ultimately secure the long-term financial future for the country. Going forward, there is a need to enhance economic diversification and hedge the economy against adverse commodity price volatilities, which have currently crippled the economy. Over the medium term, if the authorities implement ambitious reforms to ensure fiscal and external sustainability and diversify the economy, growth could recover gradually to more than 4% according to the IMF. The following table shows Botswana's

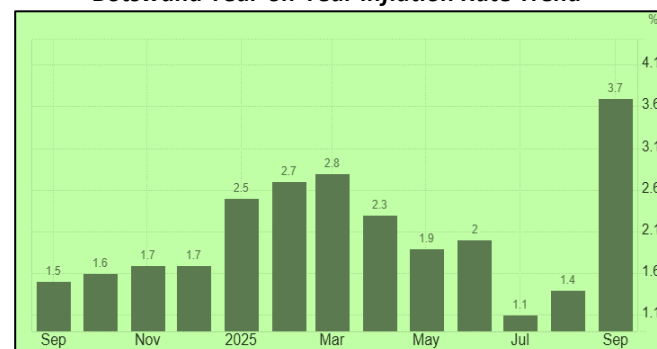
economic growth forecast as anticipated by different authorities.

Botswana Economic Growth Forecasts (%)			
Year	2024	2025	2026
IMF (Oct 2025)	-3.0	-0.9	2.3
World Bank (Jun 2025)	-3.0	0.6	4.2

5.2.2. Botswana Inflation

On the Inflation front, Botswana's annual inflation accelerated sharply to 3.7% in September 2025, up from 1.4% the previous month and reaching its highest point since August 2024. The key driver was a rapid increase in transport costs, which was accompanied by rising prices across nearly all major spending categories, including food, clothing, and restaurants. The sole exception was housing and utilities, where prices continued to fall but at a more moderate pace. Month-over-month, prices climbed 1.6%, a notable acceleration from August's 0.5% increase. The graph that follows illustrates the country's inflation trend.

Botswana Year-on-Year Inflation Rate Trend



Source: Central Statistics Office, Botswana – September 2025

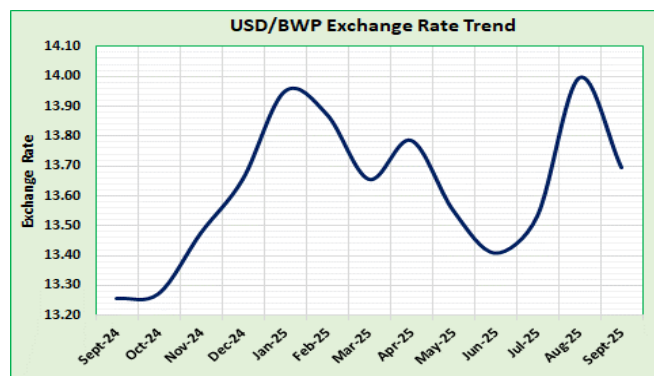
Strategic insights and takeaways:

- *The sharp rise in the transport category and the central bank's decision to depreciate the pula signal increasing costs for imported goods. Businesses that rely on imports should re-evaluate their supply chains and pricing strategies*
- *The push for economic diversification and import cost inflation provides an opportunity for local producers. Businesses that can substitute imports with locally produced goods may gain a competitive advantage.*

5.2.3. Botswana Exchange Rates

The Botswana Pula has demonstrated notable stability over the past year, trading within a narrow band of BWP13.30 to BWP13.80 against the US Dollar. During the reviewed month, the Pula gained 2.19% against the Green Back following a loss of 3.42% in August 2025. The graph below

clearly shows the USD: BWP exchange rate trend for the past year.



Source: Reserve Bank of Botswana – September 2025

Strategic insights and takeaways:

- The stable and predictable trend lowers the immediate, critical need for expensive currency hedging instruments. Businesses can forecast costs and revenues with a higher degree of confidence also favours such conditions which might see inflows of long-term capital given that the country is well exposed to external investment.
- However, caution is crucial flowing the sustained low economic activity which might see a sudden shift in many macroeconomic fundamentals.

5.2.4. Botswana Economic Sectors

i. External Sector

The most recently available data depict that merchandise exports declined to BWP6.3 billion in July 2025, a 17% decrease from BWP7.6 billion recorded in June 2025. The export basket mainly comprised of diamonds (77.1%), copper (12.1%) and machinery (3.9%).

On the import side, merchandise imports decreased to BWP6.4 billion, from BWP6.9 billion in the previous month. The major imported products were Fuels (23.5%), food beverages (15.9%) and machinery (15.6%).

Resultantly, the external trade account recorded a deficit of BWP0.1 billion in July 2025, following a surplus of BWP0.7 billion in the prior month. Below is a graph summarising all these trade dynamics.

External Trade Statistics



Source: Central Statistics Office, Botswana – September 2025

Strategic insights and takeaways:

- The fact that a 17% monthly drop in total exports was caused primarily by a decline in diamond sales highlights an acute concentration risk. The entire trade balance is held hostage to the volatility of the global diamond market.
- The government's strategy must aggressively move beyond rhetoric to actionable plans. The goal should be to reduce the diamond share of exports to at least below 50% within a defined timeframe.

ii. Mining Sector

Botswana's mining sector is in a period of intense transition, defined by a push for greater national control over its diamond industry and aggressive efforts to diversify into other minerals. The country's stable governance and transparent fiscal policies have historically set it apart as a leading investment destination in Africa. However, the recent decline in the global diamond market has exposed vulnerabilities, prompting the government to reshape the mining landscape.

Botswana Mining Sector News Highlights

- The After a partnership lasting more than 50 years, the Botswana government has recently finalized a new sales and licensing agreement with De Beers. Under the new 10-year sales deal, Botswana's state-owned Okavango Diamond Company (ODC) will gradually increase its share of rough diamonds from Debswana (the 50-50 joint venture with De Beers) from 30% to 50% over the next decade.
- The Government announced its aim to secure a majority stake in De Beers by late 2025, considering parent company Anglo American's plan to divest. This reflects a more assertive approach to

controlling its primary resource, potentially in partnership with other entities.

- To mitigate its diamond dependence, Botswana is heavily promoting its copper reserves, particularly within the Kalahari Copper Belt. The sector has attracted significant international investment, including from Australia's Sandfire Resources and China's MMG, with new mines and expansion projects underway.

Strategic insights and takeaways:

- *The economic diversification drive is commendable but since it's a reactive and not proactive move, there is need to speed it up before the economy collapses beyond immediate resuscitation.*
- *The gradual dissolution of the Government/ DeBeers relationship is a major paradigm shift which might bring in good or adverse consequences depending on how its handled. There is need for market players to brace for impact if the economy is shaken by the move.*

iii. Agriculture sector

Botswana's agricultural sector is a critical part of the nation's identity and a source of livelihood for many, especially those in rural areas. Despite contributing a small fraction to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)—less than 2% in recent years—the government is intensely focused on its revitalization. This renewed commitment is driven by the need for economic diversification away from its reliance on mining and an urgent push for greater food security. However, the sector continues to suffer from harsh weather conditions, low adoption of technology and limited market access due to external competition amongst other factors. To address this, the Government has been pushing for initiatives that prioritise national food security and empowerment of local famers.

Botswana Agriculture Sector Highlights

- The government banned grain exports and placed stricter controls on imports to protect national food security and stabilize domestic markets. This decision was largely in response to low domestic production, particularly of white maize.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) launched eight new projects in Botswana, valued at \$1.33 million. The projects will focus on enhancing nutrition-sensitive interventions, improving market access for local farmers, and developing a comprehensive National Agriculture Financing Strategy.
- The annual Southern African Regional Climate Outlook (SARCOF) meeting announced a positive

rainfall forecast for the upcoming season (October 2025–March 2026), predicting normal to above-normal rains. This offers hope for a bountiful harvest.

Strategic insights and takeaways:

- *While restrictions on grain import/export are a legitimate tool for ensuring national food security, their effectiveness depends on a functioning domestic market. The government must complement these policies with mechanisms that guarantee local buyers, especially the state, provide fair and timely payments to farmers. This is essential for sustaining agricultural livelihoods and ensuring farmers can cover their operational costs and stay afloat.*

iv. Reinsurance

The broader insurance market is projected to grow, driven by a growing middle class, rising awareness of financial protection, and increasing demand across various segments like life, health, and property. Tapping from this, the reinsurance sector is dynamic and rapidly maturing, characterized by steady growth and an evolving regulatory landscape. However, the sector is heavily influenced by the broader economic performance of the country, which faces vulnerabilities related to declining diamond revenues. Recent sovereign credit rating downgrades signal increasing country risk, which can affect the financial stability of reinsurance companies.

Strategic insights and takeaways:

- *Reinsurers must diversify their risk portfolios to mitigate systemic risks that can arise from national economic vulnerabilities. This involves carefully balancing domestic risks against regional or international ones*
- *The recent focus on risk-based supervision and liquidity management indicates a more proactive approach from regulators with regards to compliance and risk mitigation.*

5.3. South Africa

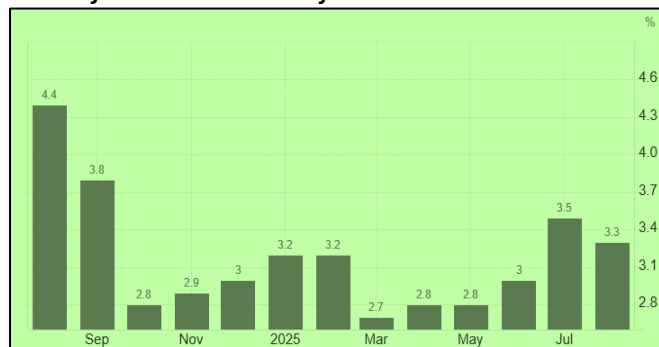
South Africa's economy grew 0.8% in Q2:2025, up from 0.1% in Q1:2025, as a broad-based recovery lifted key sectors. Manufacturing expanded 1.8%, contributing 0.2 percentage points to GDP, with strong gains in petroleum, chemicals, rubber & plastics, and motor-vehicle production. Despite global headwinds, the economy is demonstrating resilience and benefiting from policies aimed at boosting growth, supporting local industries, and creating jobs. However, the IMF downgraded South Africa's 2025 GDP growth forecast to 1.0%, a 0.1 percentage point reduction from its April 2025 WEO forecast, indicating the presence of some structural

bottlenecks in the economy. The following table shows South Africa's annual economic growth forecast:

South Africa Economic Growth Forecasts (%)			
Year	2024	2025	2026
IMF (Oct 2025)	0.5	1.1	1.2
World Bank (Jun 2025)	0.5	0.7	1.1

Meanwhile latest data show that in August 2025, South Africa's annual inflation rate decreased to 3.3%, retreating from July's ten-month high of 3.5%. This moderation was primarily driven by a slowdown in food inflation and a sharper decline in fuel prices. On a monthly basis, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) declined by 0.1%, a notable shift from the 0.9% increase seen in July. The graph that follows illustrates the country's inflation trend.

South Africa Year-on-Year Inflation Rate Trend



Source: Statistics South Africa – September 2025

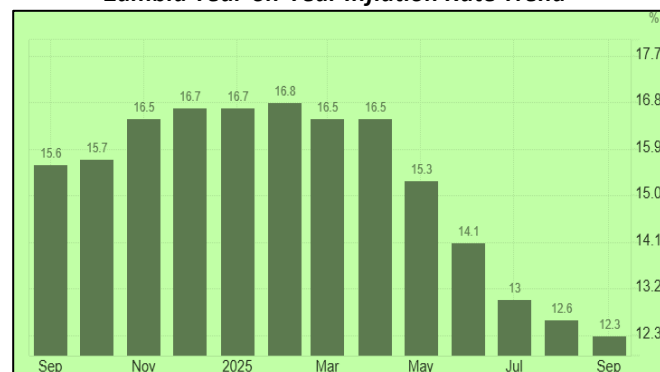
5.4. Zambia

Zambia's economic prospects for 2025 have strengthened considerably, buoyed by a robust recovery in its pivotal copper sector. This optimism is reflected in the surging Zambian Kwacha, which has become Africa's top-performing currency with a 23% gain, driven by aggressive monetary policy, renewed investor confidence, and rising global copper prices. This positive momentum is further bolstered by influential partners supporting the nation's long-term Vision 2030, exemplified by the World Bank's recent approval of the Digital Zambia Acceleration Project (DZAP), which aims to increase inclusive access to digital services and lay the foundation for a more diversified and modern economy. Given these conditions, the following table displays Zambia's economic growth projections as anticipated by different institutions:

Zambia Economic Growth Forecasts (%)			
Year	2024	2025	2026
IMF (Oct 2025)	4.0	5.8	6.4
MoFNP (July 2025)	4.0	5.8	6.4

Zambia's inflation continued its five-month downward trend in September 2025, falling to an annual rate of 12.3%. This deceleration was driven by the Kwacha's relative strength, which helped moderate price increases across both food and non-food categories. On a monthly basis, consumer prices increased by 0.5%, maintaining the same pace as August.

Zambia Year-on-Year Inflation Rate Trend



Source: Central Statistics of Zambia – September 2025

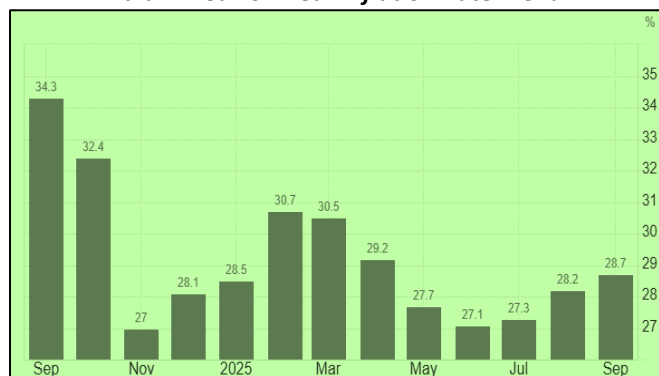
5.5. Malawi

Malawi's economy as of September 2025 remains fragile, marked by high inflation, foreign exchange shortages, and food insecurity, despite some efforts to reform. The economic situation is challenged by a slow recovery from recent shocks like drought and a high debt burden, with fiscal policy remaining too accommodative. Moving forward, key priorities include implementing structural and fiscal reforms, addressing foreign exchange constraints, and supporting agricultural recovery to improve living standards and strengthen resilience, according to the IMF and World Bank. The following table displays Malawi's economic growth projections:

Malawi Economic Growth Forecasts (%)			
Year	2024	2025	2026
IMF (Oct 2025)	1.8	2.4	2.7
World Bank (Jun 2025)	1.8	2.0	2.4

Meanwhile, during the reviewed month, Malawi's annual inflation climbed to 28.7%, a five-month high, primarily driven by rising non-food costs. While food price increases slowed slightly, overall prices still rose by 2.2% from the previous month.

Malawi Year-on-Year Inflation Rate Trend



Source: National Statistical Office of Malawi – September 2025

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6. Global Economy

6.1. Global Economic Outlook

The slowdown in major advanced economies like the USA and China is likely to weaken global economic growth prospects. However, the resilience in emerging economies and the Euro area is expected to lessen the slowdown and prevent severe declines. US import tariffs have risen to their highest effective rate since the 1930s. The initial effects of these measures are now evident in changing consumer behaviour, a weakening labour market, and ongoing inflationary pressures. The outlook is mainly shaped by downside risks, including further tariff hikes, fiscal worries, and potential financial instability from asset repricing. On the other hand, easing trade restrictions or rapid progress in AI could bring potential upside benefits. The following table displays global economic growth projections:

Global Economic Growth Forecasts (%)			
Year	2024	2025	2026
OECD (Sep 2025)	3.3	3.2	1.5
IMF (Oct 2025)	3.3	3.2	3.1

Strategic insights and takeaways:

- *A one-size-fits-all global strategy is now obsolete due to different economic fundamentals. Organizations must develop region-specific plans. Diversification into resilient emerging markets and the Euro area is no longer just a growth tactic but a critical hedge against volatility in traditional powerhouse economies.*

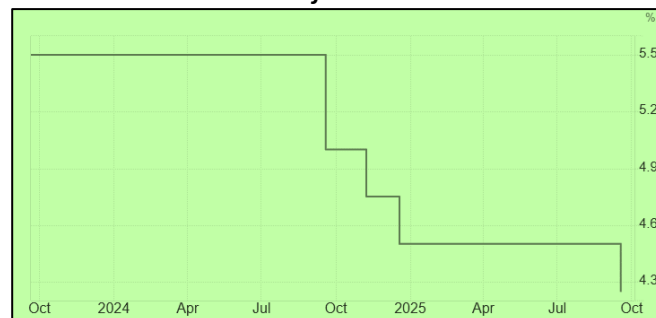
6.2. United States of America

The U.S. economy is showing signs of slowing growth, with economists predicting a cooling labour market, prompting the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates. While consumer spending had been resilient, it is expected to slow down due to rising prices and moderating wage growth, as the full impact of recent tariffs is still filtering through the economy. Despite these headwinds, business investment is expected to remain relatively strong, supported by continued AI-related investments. The following table displays the USA economic growth projections as expected by different authorities.

USA Economic Growth Forecasts (%)			
Year	2024	2025	2026
IMF (Oct 2025)	2.8	2.0	2.1
OECD (Sep 2025)	2.8	1.8	1.5
World Bank (Jun 2025)	2.8	1.4	1.6

Meanwhile, in anticipation of sustained receding inflation pressure a declining labor market, the Fed decided to cut its interest rates from 4.5% in August 2025 to 4.25%. Below is a graph showing the Fed rate trend.

USA Annual Inflation Rate Trend



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics – September 2025

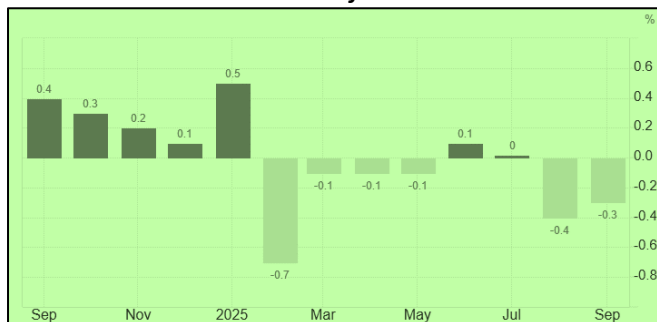
6.3. China

The world's second-largest economy has been underperforming since the start of the second half of 2025, casting doubt on the attainment of annual growth targets. Factory output and retail sales have been subdued, keeping pressure on Beijing to roll out more stimulus to fend off a sharp slowdown in the economy. The situation is anticipated to worsen in the fourth quarter of 2025 due to base effects. Against this backdrop, the likelihood of stimulus -including monetary easing, frontloading of debt issuance to this year, and possibly a fiscal expansion- is very high with the potential to energize the economy and attain favourable growth. The following table displays China's annual economic growth estimates as projected by different influential institutions.

China Economic Growth Forecasts (%)			
Year	2024	2025	2026
OECD (Sep 2025)	5.0	4.9	4.4
World Bank (Jun 2025)	5.0	4.5	4.0
IMF (Oct 2025)	5.0	5.2	4.7

Meanwhile, China's consumer prices fell by 0.3% year-on-year in September 2025, a sharper drop than expected but an improvement from August's 0.4% decline. The decrease was led by falling food costs, while non-food inflation accelerated due to government stimulus programs, pushing core inflation to a 19-month high of 1.0%. On a monthly basis, prices saw a marginal increase of 0.1%. The graph that follows illustrates the country's inflation trend.

China Year-on-Year Inflation Rate Trend



Source: National Bureau of Statistics of China – September 2025

6.4. Germany

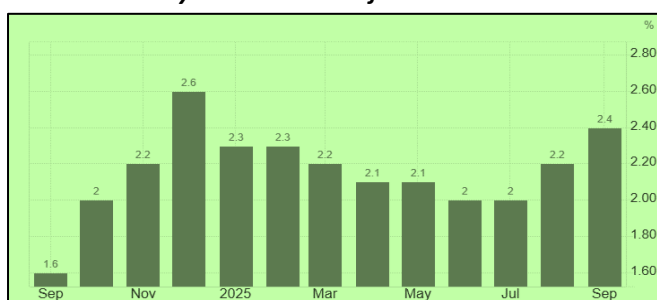
Germany's economy remains anaemic, and a mild recovery is expected in 2025 following the contraction in 2024 on account of numerous factors. The labor market shows weakness, with the number of unemployed people rising above 3 million owing to the struggling economy, although there are some signs of stabilization. Looking ahead, the new government's fiscal stimulus package and private sector investments are seen as potential drivers for future recovery, while risks from global trade tensions and financial markets persist. The following table shows Germany's economic growth projections:

Germany Economic Growth Forecasts (%)

Year	2024	2025	2026
IMF (Oct 2025)	-0.2	0.2	0.9
OECD (May 2025)	0.2	0.4	1.2

Germany's annual inflation rate rose to 2.4% in September 2025, up from 2.2% in the prior month. The increase was primarily driven by a sharp rise in services inflation, particularly for transport and social services, which pushed core inflation higher to 2.8%. Meanwhile, energy prices continued to fall, though at a more moderate pace, and food inflation eased. On a monthly basis, consumer prices increased by 0.2%. The graph that follows illustrates the country's inflation trend.

Germany Year-on-Year Inflation Rate Trend



Source: Federal Statistics Office – September 2025

6.5. United Kingdom

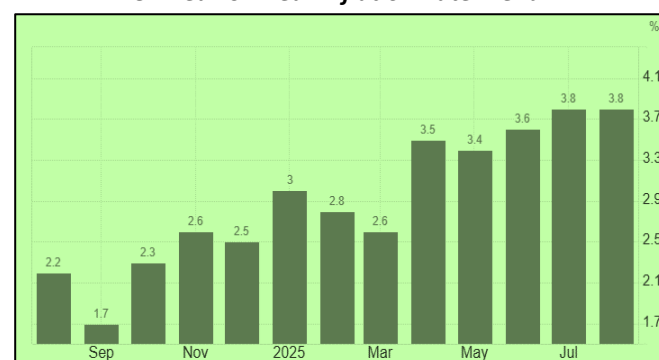
Official figures showed a further slowdown in economic output at the start of the second half of the year; however, there is evidence of some recovery on account of energized activity over the summer holidays. Despite a tough retail environment, sales have been stronger than expected. Labour market conditions have been softening, characterized by marginally increasing wages, and 18% of businesses have reported employee shortages in September 2025, according to the latest report from KPMG and REC. In the outlook, the economy is expected to see subdued growth for the remainder of the year and modest performance in 2026. Analysts' forecasts indicate a "tale of two halves" for 2025, with slower domestic demand offsetting a stronger-than-expected first half. Given these conditions, below is a table showing economic growth forecasts for the UK as anticipated by different institutions

UK Economic Growth Forecasts (%)

Year	2024	2025	2026
IMF (Oct 2025)	1.1	1.3	1.3
OECD (Sep 2025)	1.1	1.4	1.0

The latest available data depict that the UK's inflation held steady at an annual rate of 3.8% in August 2025, unchanged from July and in line with expectations. The stability masked a mixed picture beneath the surface. The largest downward pull came from falling air fares, which slowed transport inflation, alongside lower price growth in services, recreation, and clothing. Conversely, motor fuels provided the biggest upward push, with food, restaurants, and furniture also seeing faster inflation. Month-over-month, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.3%. The graph that follows illustrates the country's inflation trend.

UK Year-on-Year Inflation Rate Trend



Source: Office for National Statistics – September 2025

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6.6. United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The UAE remains on course to attain robust economic growth, supported by a strong non-oil sector and higher oil production. The banking sector is performing well, with a 13.1% year-on-year increase in deposits and a 11.1% growth in the loan portfolio, while maintaining a healthy capital adequacy ratio of 17.3% as of Q2 2025. The government's balanced budget for 2025 and continued focus on economic diversification remain key drivers of this positive outlook. The following table shows economic growth forecasts for the UAE:

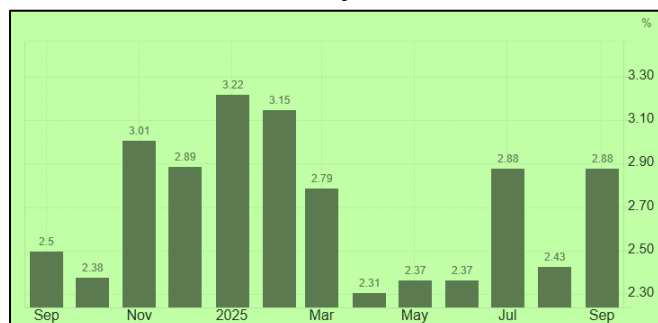
UAE Economic Growth Forecasts (%)			
Year	2024	2025	2026
CBUAE <i>(Sep 2025)</i>	3.8	4.9	5.3
IMF <i>(Apr 2025)</i>	3.8	4.0	5.0

Strategic insights and takeaways:

- The UAE remains keen on diversifying its economy and creating more income streams to enhance the state's resilience and adaptability. This almost guarantees the future of the state, making it a safe investment haven*

As of September 2025, Dubai's inflation rose slightly to 2.88% year-on-year, driven primarily by persistent higher costs in the housing and utilities sector. This upward pressure was somewhat moderated by a smaller decline in transport costs compared to previous months. Crucially, the monthly inflation rate also increased to 0.44% in September, a notable acceleration from the 0.11% recorded in August. This month-over-month increase suggests that while overall inflation remains relatively contained, there is a clear and strengthening upward trend in price growth, influenced by the dominant impact of rising housing costs, which constitute over 40% of the consumer price index.

UAE Year-on-Year Inflation Rate Trend



Source: Government of Dubai – September 2025

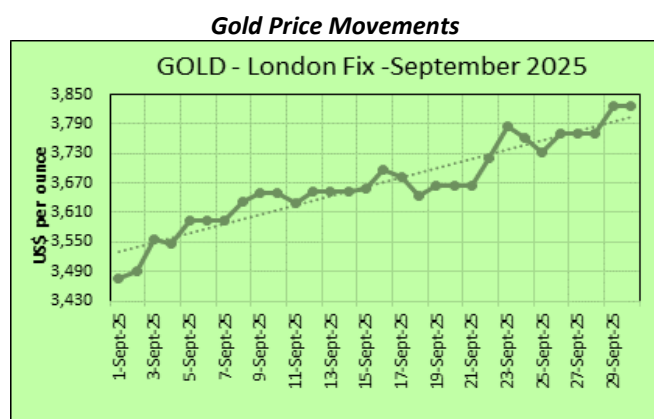
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7. Commodities Markets

Commodity Average Prices	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Percentage Change
	Price (US\$)	Price (US\$)	
Gold (oz)	3,363.67	3666.49	▲ 9.00%
Platinum (oz)	1,332.55	1431.27	▲ 7.40%
Silver (oz)	37.91	42.65	▲ 12.5%
Oil (barrel)	67.15	67.12	▼ 0.04%

7.1. Gold

Gold prices continued to rally, opening the reviewed month at a low of US\$3,474/oz and gradually rising to a peak of US\$3,826.45/oz before closing at US\$3,825.30/oz. On a monthly average, prices surged by 9% from US\$3,363.67/oz in August 2025 to US\$3,666.49/oz in September 2025. These dynamics are broadly driven by market uncertainties, the decline in USD value, and the anticipated decrease in US federal interest rates. The following graph clearly shows the daily gold price trend for the month under review.



Source: LBMA – September 2025

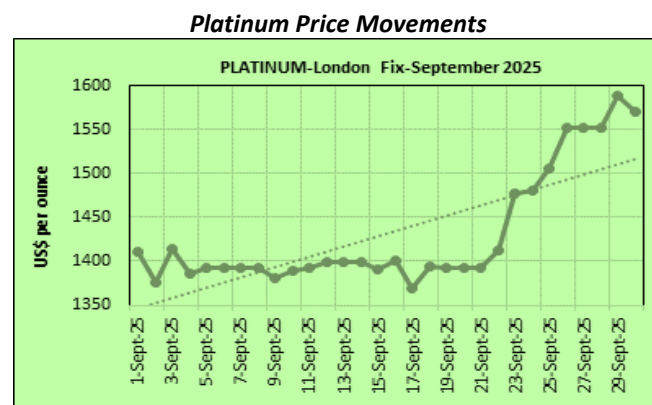
Strategic insights and takeaways:

- The current gold price performance underscores gold's fundamental value as a non-correlated asset and a reliable store of wealth when investor confidence wavers. It remains a crucial component for portfolio diversification and risk mitigation.
- US market conditions remain one of the primary architects of global financial conditions. Strategic asset allocation must, therefore, prioritize a deep understanding of the US policy trajectory.

7.2. Platinum

Platinum prices rebounded sharply in August 2025, rising 7.4% on a monthly average after a 4.4% decline the previous month. This rally was driven by strong demand as individuals and investors sought a more affordable luxury alternative to

gold, combined with ongoing supply constraints. Notably, above-ground stockpiles in the world's largest producer, South Africa, are anticipated to fall by 25%. The following graph depicts the trend of daily platinum prices during the month under review.



Source: LBMA – September 2025

7.3. Silver

After opening at US\$40.58/oz, silver prices experienced some mild volatility but ultimately climbed to close the month at US\$46.18/oz, cementing an upward trend. On a monthly average basis, silver prices significantly gained by 12.5% from US\$37.91/oz in August 2025 to US\$42.65/oz, attributed to anticipated Fed rate cuts, dollar weaknesses, and strong industrial demand, underscoring the metal's positive correlation with gold. The following graph depicts the daily silver price trend for the month under review.



Source: LBMA – September 2025

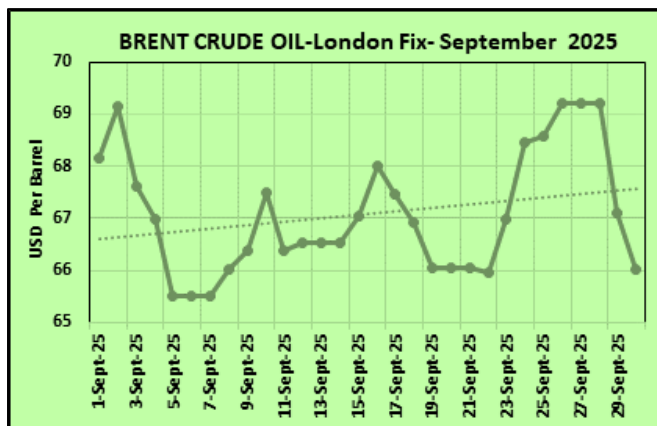
7.4. Crude Oil

Oil prices exhibited a significant degree of volatility in September 2025, opening the period at US\$68.15/barrel, rise slightly before plunging to a low of US\$65.5/barrel, and zig-zagging its way to close the period at US\$66.03/barrel.

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On a monthly average basis, prices fell by a marginal 0.04% from US\$67.15/barrel to US\$67.12/barrel in September 2025. The following graph depicts the daily crude oil price trend for the month under review.

Crude Oil Price Movements



Source: LBMA – September 2025

Oil markets are facing conflicting pressures. While new sanctions on Russia and Iran threaten supply, these concerns are counterbalanced by rising OPEC+ output and the prospect of growing surpluses. Consequently, Brent crude has traded in a narrow band around US\$67/barrel, supported by Chinese stockpiling but constrained by the reality that key OPEC+ members like Iraq, the UAE, and Kuwait are already exceeding their production quotas, limiting the group's actual capacity to increase supply.

Strategic insights and takeaways:

- *Despite market uncertainties and Middle East tensions, the risk of an oil shortage and major price surge remains low, due to robust supply growth from non-OPEC+ countries.*

END

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