

News Flash



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Economic News

'Producer Price Inflation drops to 6.5% in November'

The drop represents a 0.7% point decrease relative to the 7.2% recorded in October. The Producer Price Inflation measures the average change over time in prices for the production of goods and services. The Acting Government Statistician, Baah Wadieh attributed the drop to the decrease in the inflation rate of petroleum as well as food products. The manufacturing sub sector recorded the highest year on year producer price inflation rate of 8.6% followed by the Mining and Quarrying subsector with 4.7%. The utilities subsector recorded the lowest year on year producer inflation of -0.1%. For the month of November, three out of the sixteen major groups in the manufacturing sub-sector recorded inflation rates higher than the sector average of 8.6%. Manufacture of coke, refined petroleum products and nuclear fuel recorded the highest inflation rate of 30.6%. While manufacturing of machinery and equipment recorded no change. Source: Citinewsroom.com

'Ghana's economy grows by 7.4% in third quarter'

Ghana recorded a 7.4% economic growth rate ending September 2018. This is according to the third quarter estimates released by the Ghana Statistical Service. The figure represents a decrease compared to the 8.7% recorded for the same period last year [2017]. For the third quarter of this year, the total value of all goods and services reached GHS 75bn; up from the GHS 63.4bn recorded the same period last year. But the total value of all goods and services produced within the period excluding oil, reached GHS 72.5bn compared to the GHS 60.9bn recorded in the same period last year. The Statistical service cited the contraction recorded in some sectors of the economy as contributing to the overall drop in economic growth between July and September. These were the financial and insurance sector, real estate as well as the production of oil and gas. Meanwhile in the agriculture sector, the crops sub sector recorded the highest growth of 1.6%, followed by the livestock sub sector with 1.1%. The fishing sub sector recorded the least growth rate of -0.3%. In industry, mining and quarrying grew highest by 5.9% in the 3rd quarter of 2018. Manufacturing as well as water supply, sewage and waste management followed with growth rates of 1.6 and -12% respectively. Source: Citibusinessnews.com

'GAWU, ICU petition President over COCOBOD issues'

The General Agricultural Workers' Union (GAWU) and the Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union (ICU) have expressed their displeasure over what they say are unwarranted remarks by the Board Chair of the Ghana COCOBOD. The labour unions say the development is inimical to the operations of the cocoa sector as it could block future investments. Mr. Hackman Owusu Agyeman is accused of raising concerns on workers' salary among other industry issues in the media. The labour unions are also unhappy over their inability to meet to discuss issues with the Board Chair. Addressing a press conference on Wednesday [December 19, 2018] the General Secretary of the Industrial and Commercial Workers Union, Solomon Kotei argued that the sacrifices made by their colleagues should rather be commended. Source: Citibusinessnews.com

Corporate News

'Government workers to enjoy 10% pay rise in 2019'

Public sector workers who fall under the single spine salary structure are to enjoy a 10% pay rise across board beginning January 2019. This was contained in a statement issued by the Finance ministry Wednesday after a meeting with stakeholders. "Following the conclusion of negotiations on the 2019 single spine base pay, approval is hereby given for the attached salary structure marked 'Appendix A' to be used to effect the payment of salaries of public service institutions on the single spine salary structure. The attached structure incorporates a 10% across board salary increase. "The effective date of implementation is January 1, 2019. In Accordance with government's white paper on the guidelines for the implementation of market premium, you are reminded that the payment of interim market premium to existing beneficiaries should be the absolute amount calculated on the 2012 and not the enhanced 2019 single spine base salaries," the statement said.

Source: Starfmonline.com

'2018 has been tough but 2019 prospects exciting -- Ghana Chamber of Commerce'

Businesses are expectant that the tight liquidity challenges encountered in 2018 will ease in 2019 because of government's pledge to pay all arrears owed contractors. Ken Ofori-Atta, during his presentation of the 2019 budget, said the government is to spend about GHS 74.3bn in the next fiscal year to clear all arrears; and this, according to the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, portends an exciting outlook for businesses in 2019. Nana Agyenim Boateng said, "With government ready to spend over GHS 74bn in payment of arrears, we are optimistic that the moment these monies are paid to suppliers, then definitely the cash flow within the system will be good and businesses can flourish." Source: Myjoyonline.com

Currency - Interbank	Rate 18 Dec	Rate 19 Dec	%Change
USD/GHS	4.8162	4.8178	-0.03
GBP/GHS	6.0913	6.0989	-0.12
EUR/GHS	5.4751	5.5047	-0.54
CHF/GHS	4.8538	4.8599	-0.12
CNY/GHS	0.6990	0.6999	-0.13
ZAR/GHS	0.3370	0.3407	-1.10

The cedi depreciated against all the major trading currencies.