

## Segment Outlook:

# Cowry Financial Markets Review, Outlook & Recommended Stocks

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### DOMESTIC ECONOMY: Nigeria's Public Debt Hits N144.67trn in 2024 Amid Currency Shocks; External Exposure Swells....

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### EQUITIES MARKET: Cautious Sentiment Lingers as Market Seeks Catalysts Amid Earnings Season; ASI Dips 0.9% w/w.....

Looking ahead, the short-term outlook for the market remains cautious. All eyes are now on the March CPI data and the Q1 2025 macroeconomic report, which are expected to offer more clarity on the direction of the economy and set the tone for risk sentiment. The market is currently sitting in oversold territory, which may provide a technical basis for a short-term rebound.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY: Nigeria’s Public Debt Hits N144.67trn in 2024 Amid Currency Shocks; External Exposure Swells ...

Nigeria’s debt trajectory deepened significantly in 2024, as total public debt stock ballooned to N144.67 trillion, marking a 48.6% year-on-year surge from N97.34 trillion at the end of 2023. This spike, underscored by the persistent depreciation of the naira and sustained government borrowing, reflects growing fiscal strain as both federal and subnational authorities struggle to plug budgetary gaps and finance long-term infrastructure projects. On a quarterly basis, the debt rose 1.6% from N142.32 trillion in Q3.

This figure represents the combined obligations of the Federal Government, 36 states, and the FCT and comprises both external and domestic debts. External borrowings accounted for N70.29 trillion (\$45.78 billion) or 48.59% of the total, while domestic obligations stood at N74.38 trillion (\$48.44 billion), making up 51.41%. The dramatic naira depreciation inflated the local value of external loans, which rose from N38.2 trillion (\$42.5 billion) in 2023 to N70.3 trillion in 2024. This currency-induced valuation gain was compounded by a renewed reliance on domestic capital markets to meet fiscal needs.

In analyzing the composition of the external debt stock, the Federal Government bore the lion’s share at \$40.98 billion (N62.92 trillion), contributing 43.49% to the national debt. In contrast, the states and FCT held \$4.80 billion (N7.37 trillion), making up just 5.10%. This reveals that more than 89% of Nigeria’s external borrowing responsibility lies with the Federal Government, reflecting its central role in managing international financing relationships and its vulnerability to FX volatility.

In terms of creditor profile, multilateral lenders such as the World Bank, IMF, and African Development Bank remained Nigeria’s primary external creditors with a total of \$22.32 billion, representing 48.75% of the external debt. Bilateral sources—including China, France, and Germany—accounted for \$6.09 billion (13.30%), while Eurobonds and other commercial instruments stood at \$17.32 billion (37.83%). A negligible portion (\$54.87 million) came from syndicated commercial bank loans.

Debt service on external borrowings totaled \$4.66 billion in 2024, comprising \$2.80 billion in principal repayments, \$1.74 billion in interest payments, and \$120.13 million in other charges such as fees and commissions. The multilateral bloc received the largest share of repayments (\$2.62 billion), followed by commercial lenders (\$1.47 billion) and bilateral creditors (\$570.67 million), the latter reflecting higher embedded administrative and concessional costs.

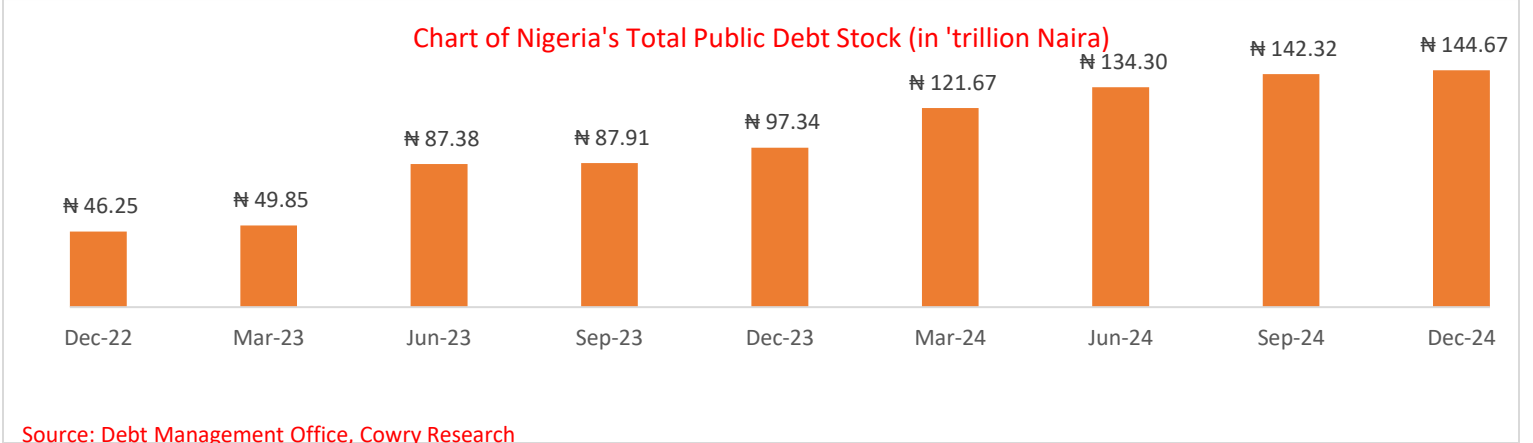
Domestically, the Federal Government’s borrowings amounted to N70.41 trillion (\$45.86 billion), while the 36 states and the FCT collectively held N3.97 trillion (\$2.58 billion).

FGN Bonds dominated the domestic portfolio with N55.44 trillion, representing 78.73% of FG’s local debt. This included both naira bonds (N54.03 trillion) and dollar-denominated issues (N1.41 trillion). NTBs followed at N12.35 trillion, while Sukuk bonds stood at N992.56 billion. Retail-friendly instruments like FGN Savings Bonds (N72.87 billion) and Green Bonds (N15 billion) reflected the government’s commitment to broadening market participation and green financing.

Another notable development in 2024 was the conversion of N22.72 trillion in CBN Ways and Means Advances into long-term instruments, formalizing previously ad-hoc financing mechanisms and pushing the domestic debt ceiling. Notably, N680.42 billion in FGN bonds used to restructure subnational debts was excluded from this figure, suggesting further off-balance-sheet exposure.

Domestic debt servicing reached N5.87 trillion in 2024, with N5.60 trillion paid in interest and only N265.86 billion toward principal. This shows the burden of short-term, high-interest instruments in the debt mix. The heaviest single-month servicing occurred in May, with N1.09 trillion disbursed entirely as interest. December followed closely at N700.45 billion, which included N159.44 billion in principal repayments. From January through November, interest payments alone exceeded N5 trillion—further highlighting the cost of maintaining domestic debt amid elevated interest rates.

Cowry Research notes that Nigeria’s public debt portfolio is balanced in its external-domestic composition but remains heavily centralized under the Federal Government. While the current debt-to-GDP ratio may remain within sustainable limits, the real risk lies in Nigeria’s rising interest obligations and the need for more aggressive revenue generation strategies. In 2025, we see no respite for government debts as there is an additional \$1.1 billion external loans from World Bank and we understand the inherent risk associated with external loans. Thus, maintaining debt sustainability in the years ahead will require more than restructuring as it demands a structural rethink of public finance and economic planning.



EQUITIES MARKET: Cautious Sentiment Lingers as Market Seeks Catalysts Amid Earnings Season; ASI Dips 0.9% w/w...

The Nigerian equities market closed the week on a bearish note as investors continued to adopt a cautious stance amid an earnings season that has so far delivered little in the way of surprises. The NGX All Share Index (ASI) declined by 0.90% week-on-week, settling at 104,563.34 points, its lowest level in four weeks.

Despite ongoing dividend announcements and corporate disclosures, investor appetite remained subdued, suggesting that market participants are more focused on macroeconomic signals than company-level news. The 90-day pause on US tariffs offered some relief globally, but it failed to spark a meaningful rally on Customs Street. Instead, profit-taking and portfolio rebalancing dominated trading as investors rotated out of high-flyers and re-entered defensive counters.

The market capitalisation also reflected the bearish mood, dipping by N440.51 billion or 0.67% to close at N65.71 trillion. Notably, this decline occurred despite the admission of 5.98 billion additional shares of First HoldCo Plc to the NGX Daily Official List. The market’s breadth was decisively negative, with just 27 gainers against 56 losers, translating to a negative breadth ratio of 0.48x. This clearly shows the extent of the weakness, as sell-offs cut across most sectors.

However, the uptick in trading activity suggests that investors are still scanning for opportunities, with weekly volume and value traded surging by 76.92% and 83.48% respectively to 2.09 billion units and N52.97 billion. The number of deals also

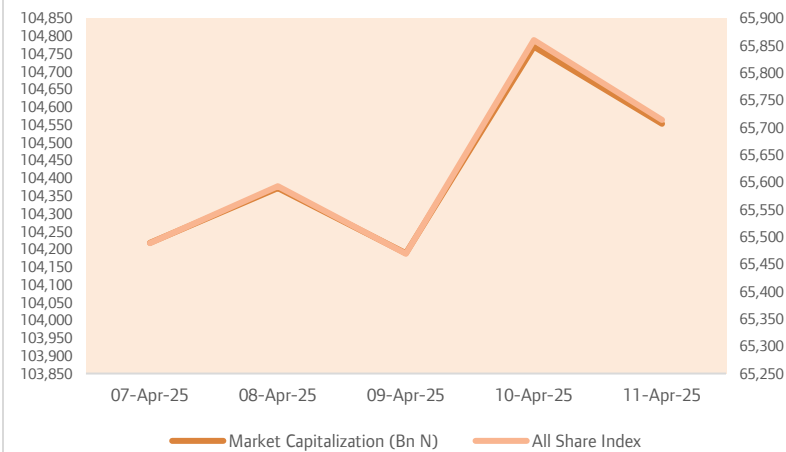
Looking ahead, the short-term outlook for the market remains cautious. All eyes are now on the March CPI data and the Q1 2025 macroeconomic report, which are expected to offer more clarity on the direction of the economy and set the tone for risk sentiment. The market is currently sitting in oversold territory, which may provide a technical basis for a short-term rebound. However, sustained recovery will likely depend on improvements in economic indicators, policy clarity, and fresh triggers from corporate earnings. Until then, we expect continued sector rotation, with investors favouring value names and defensive plays with strong fundamentals and resilient earnings power. For savvy investors, this dip could be a buying opportunity, particularly in counters with robust dividend yields, solid balance sheets, and positive technical setups.

Weekly Top Gainers and Losers as at Friday, April 11, 2025

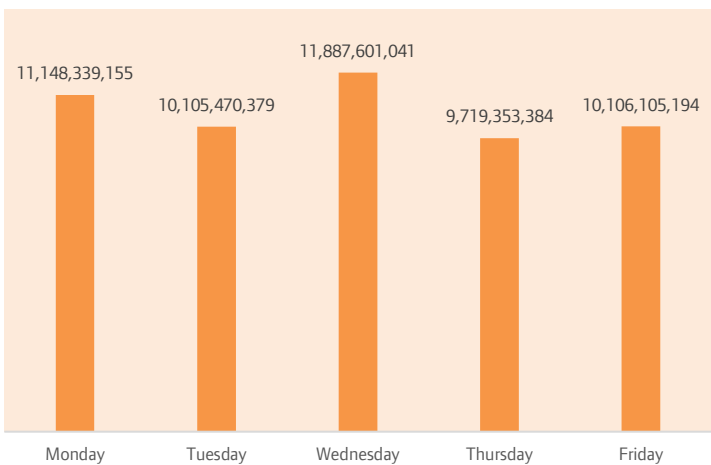
Top Ten Gainers				Bottom Ten Losers			
Symbol	11-Apr-25	04-Apr-25	% Change	Symbol	11-Apr-25	04-Apr-25	% Change
VFDGROUP	87.70	57.00	53.9%	ROYALEX	0.80	1.01	-20.8%
UNIONDICON	7.60	5.80	31.0%	CORNERST	2.80	3.30	-15.2%
ABBEYBDS	6.13	4.73	29.6%	SOVRENINS	0.85	1.00	-15.0%
FTNCOCOA	1.90	1.60	18.8%	LASACO	2.04	2.34	-12.8%
TOTAL	745.00	679.70	9.6%	CAP	41.50	47.00	-11.7%
INTENEGINS	1.64	1.50	9.3%	RTBRISCOE	2.12	2.40	-11.7%
LIVESTOCK	8.54	7.92	7.8%	MAYBAKER	7.00	7.85	-10.8%
TIP	4.35	4.08	6.6%	ABCTRANS	1.26	1.40	-10.0%
NGXGROUP	34.45	32.45	6.2%	HMCALL	5.22	5.80	-10.0%
JAPAULGOLD	2.01	1.90	5.8%	UHOMEIT	46.15	51.25	-10.0%



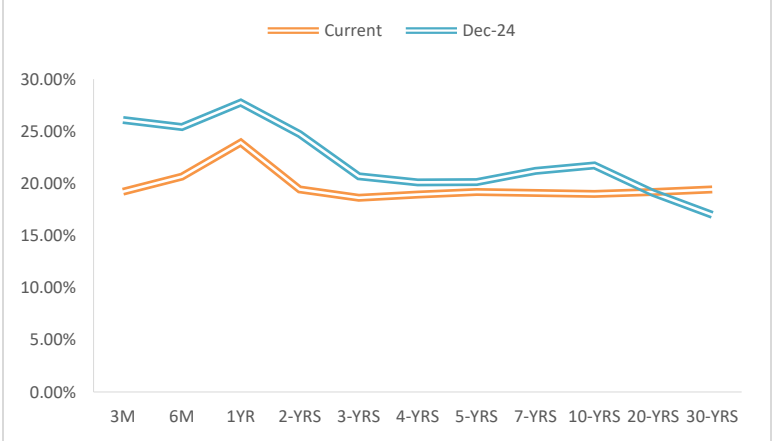
Evolution of Equities Performance Gauges



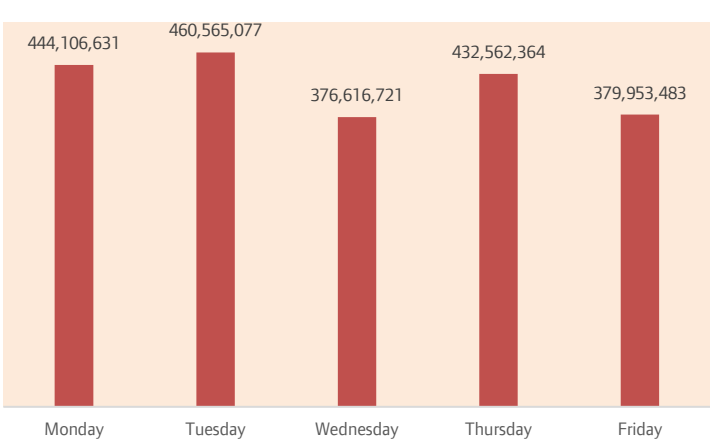
Daily Traded Value



NAIRA YIELD CURVE



Daily Traded Volume



FGN Eurobonds Trading Above 8% Yield as at Friday, April 11, 2025

FGN Eurobonds	Issue Date	TTM (years)	11-Apr-25 Price (N)	Weekly USD Δ	11-Apr-25 Yield	Weekly PPT Δ
7.625 21-NOV-2025	21-Nov-18	0.61	98.69	-0.94	9.9%	1.67
6.50 NOV 28, 2027	28-Nov-17	2.63	89.54	-2.64	11.2%	1.28
6.125 SEP 28, 2028	28-Sep-21	3.47	84.55	-2.72	11.7%	1.09
8.375 MAR 24, 2029	24-Mar-22	3.95	88.97	-2.94	12.0%	1.02
7.143 FEB 23, 2030	23-Feb-18	4.87	82.28	-3.11	12.1%	0.96
8.747 JAN 21, 2031	21-Nov-18	5.78	86.62	-3.45	12.0%	0.91
7.875 16-FEB-2032	16-Feb-17	6.85	80.98	-2.28	12.0%	0.57
7.375 SEP 28, 2033	28-Sep-21	8.47	76.40	-1.83	11.9%	0.41
7.696 FEB 23, 2038	23-Feb-18	12.88	72.31	-1.64	12.0%	0.31
7.625 NOV 28, 2047	28-Nov-17	22.65	67.18	-1.39	11.8%	0.24
9.248 JAN 21, 2049	21-Nov-18	23.80	79.31	-2.83	11.9%	0.43
8.25 SEP 28, 2051	28-Sep-21	26.48	69.37	-1.91	12.1%	0.33

Weekly Stock Recommendations as at Friday, April 11, 2025

Stock	Current EPS	Forecast EPS	BV/S	P/B Ratio	P/E Ratio	52 WKs' High	52 WKs' Low	Current Price	Price Target	Short term Stop Loss	Short term Take Profit	Potential Upside	Recommendation
ACCESSCORP PLC	12.40	14.38	92.87	0.22	1.67x	28.9	15.95	20.45	27.0	17.6	23.9	30.12	Buy
HONEYWELL	1.10	1.31	4.01	2.76	10.01x	15.31	3.00	11.10	14.0	9.4	12.7	26.52	Buy
LIVESTOCK FEEDS	0.64	0.73	1.13	7.23	12.66x	10.83	1.3	8.54	11.0	6.9	9.4	34.80	Buy
UPDC PLC	0.07	0.09	0.54	5.55	41.11x	4.15	1.2	2.85	3.7	2.54	3.44	22.50	Buy
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA	21.73	24.17	99.96	0.35	1.62x	39.95	18.90	35.30	48.0	30.0	40.5	36.17	Buy

U.S.-dollar foreign-exchange rates as at 4:30 PM GMT+1, Friday, April 11, 2025

MAJOR	11-Apr-25	Previous	Δ from Last	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
EURUSD	1.1369	1.1199	1.51%	3.83%	4.44%	6.88%
GBPUSD	1.3083	1.2969	0.88%	1.54%	0.93%	5.10%
USDCHF	0.8123	0.8245	-1.48%	-5.56%	-7.87%	-11.11%
USD RUB	83.7563	83.4975	0.31%	-0.87%	-3.89%	-10.35%
USDNGN	19.2081	19.3689	-0.83%	4.39%	4.44%	33.12%
USDZAR	19.2081	19.3689	-0.83%	0.60%	4.89%	1.76%
USDEGP	51.3315	51.3212	0.02%	1.57%	1.41%	7.94%
USDCAD	20.40	20.4889	-0.44%	-2.15%	-3.22%	1.00%
USDMXN	20.40	20.4889	-0.44%	-0.25%	0.96%	22.45%
USDBRL	5.91	5.8850	0.40%	1.09%	1.83%	15.41%
AUDUSD	0.5790	0.5753	0.64%	3.11%	-1.47%	-3.61%
NZDUSD	0.5790	-0.0600	0.64%	3.42%	1.13%	-2.45%
USDJPY	7.2872	7.3091	-0.30%	-2.66%	-3.51%	-6.63%
USDCNY	7.2872	7.3091	-0.30%	-0.13%	0.63%	0.28%
USDINR	86.1640	86.2762	-0.13%	0.72%	-1.16%	3.04%

Global Commodity Prices as at 3:30 PM GMT+1, Friday, April 11, 2025

Commodity		11-Apr-25	Previous	Δ from Last	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
CRUDE OIL	USD/Bbl	860.0	863.0	-0.35%	-3.48%	-11.60%	-30.15%
BRENT	USD/Bbl	63.1	63.3	-0.33%	-3.71%	-11.00%	-30.19%
NATURAL GAS	USD/MMBtu	3.5	9.8	-1.82%	-8.90%	-14.41%	72.28%
GASOLINE	USD/Gal	2.0	2.0	0.17%	-5.04%	-8.75%	-29.86%
COAL	USD/T	96.3	96.5	-0.26%	-3.17%	-8.25%	-27.08%
GOLD	USD/t.oz	3,229.2	3,189.0	1.26%	6.30%	9.88%	37.78%
SILVER	USD/t.oz	31.7	31.2	1.67%	7.42%	-4.54%	14.02%
WHEAT	USD/Bu	548.5	538.0	1.95%	3.87%	-0.82%	-1.17%
PALM-OIL	MYR/T	4,226.0	4,200.8	0.60%	-2.38%	-5.86%	-1.24%
COCOA	USD/T	8,338.3	8,136.5	2.48%	-1.76%	1.78%	-22.94%



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