



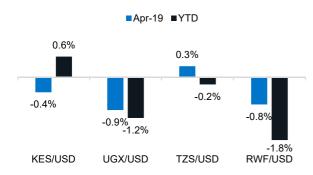
Sanlam Investments East Africa Limited

Regional Inflation & Key Interest Rates

	Kenya	Uganda	Tanzania	Rwanda
Inflation (latest)	6.6%	3.5%	3.1%	1.1%
Central Bank Rate	9.0%	10.0%	12.0%	5.5%
91 Day T-Bill	7.3%	9.3%	4.1%	4.7%
2 Year Bond Yield	10.3%	14.0%	12.0%	n/a

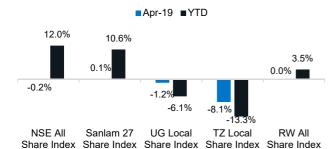
Source: Kenya and Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics & Bloomberg

Regional Currency Performance



Source: Central Bank of Kenya, Bank of Uganda, National Bank of Rwanda & Bank of Tanzania

Regional Stock Market Performance



Source: Nairobi Securities Exchange & Bloomberg

Global Markets Dashboard

INDEX	Apr-19	YTD	12 Months
MSCI World	3.4%	11.9%	4.4%
MSCI Emerging Markets	2.0%	9.6%	-7.3%
Brent Crude Oil	7.2%	22.7%	5.0%
Gold	-0.7%	0.8%	-2.4%

Source: Bloomberg

Monthly Market Commentary

Economic Update: The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) confirmed that Kenya's economy grew by 6.3% in 2018 anchored on agriculture, manufacturing and transport sectors. The growth come from a low base in 2017 that was plagued by political instability and adverse weather conditions. The late onset of the long rains in Kenya's food producing regions and drought in some parts of the country saw inflation accelerate to 6.6% in April from 4.4% in March. Food inflation at 6.9% was the highest registered monthly increase in food prices in over a decade.

Uganda's headline inflation increased by 50 basis points to 3.5% in March 2019. The increase in inflation was mainly due to increase in prices of food crops and related items. An increase in the prices of both food and nonfood items saw inflation in Tanzania increase to 3.7% in March from 3.1% in February. Similarly, Rwanda's inflation rose to 1.1% in March compared to 0.8% in February mainly emanating from a rise in food and alcoholic beverages.

Interest Rates: Corporate tax remittance obligations spawned the tightening of liquidity in the money markets causing a marginal increase in interbank rates in Kenya. In contrast, high liquidity caused rates to decline marginally in Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda as witnessed by the increased demand for government papers. The Bank of Uganda left its Bank Rate unchanged at 10.0% supported by a well anchored level of inflation which is expected to remain within target for the next for the rest of the year.

Currencies: Dividend repatriation saw East African currencies come under pressure during the month. Additionally, the local import demand increased in March in April causing the Kenya shilling to depreciate by 0.4%. The increased diaspora remittances towards the end of the month coupled with foreign demand for local infrastructure papers however, subdued further depreciation. The Uganda shilling depreciated by 0.9% against the US Dollar. Increased value of export of goods and services and reduced import bill supported the stability of the Tanzania shilling. Structural trade deficit between goods and services has continued to precipitate the depreciation of the Rwandan Franc.

Equities: Equity markets across East Africa were weaker in April. Stable macro-economic environment and an increased level of merger and acquisition activity has invigorated the Kenyan market. The NIC-CBA merger announced last year, KCB's bid for the National Bank of Kenya and Equity Group's intention to acquire Atlas Mara's banking assets in Zambia, Mozambique, Rwanda and Tanzania indicate a consolidation of the banking sector within the region. Safaricom released record earnings of KShs 63 billion (US\$ 620m) up 14.7% from the previous financial year. The key performance drivers were MPESA and mobile internet. The Uganda Local Index was down by 1.2%, mainly driven by reduced demand for local counters. Tanzania Breweries traded down 12% following weak full year 2018 financial results that were negatively impacted by higher production costs and reduced volumes.

Global Markets: Global stocks rallied during the month on positive earnings sentiments supported by strong corporate earnings that topped analyst expectations. The dovish stance adopted by the Federal Reserve Bank also helped sentiment. This is amid renewed concerns over the US-China trade war after President Trump recently renewed his threats of further tariffs against Chinese imports.

Outlook: Increased food imports and reduced cash crop exports if the drought persists could see the Kenya Shilling come under pressure. This could be toned down by the sufficient forex reserves held by the Central Bank, strong diaspora remittances and proceeds from the new Eurobond issue. Rwanda currency is expected to depreciate further from development expenditure. Interest rates are likely to remain stable, with a downward bias supported by liquidity and accommodative policies by central banks in the region. The US-China trade war poses a risk to the markets should the parties fail to reach a trade deal.





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Last updated April 2018