

Nigeria's GDP growth hits 3.84% in Q4 2024, says NBS

Nigeria's economy grew by 3.84% year-on-year in real terms in the fourth quarter of 2024. This marked an improvement from 3.46% recorded in both the same period of 2023 and the preceding quarter. The latest GDP data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed that the growth was largely driven by the Services sector, which expanded by 5.37% and contributed 57.38% to the country's total GDP. The report read, "Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 3.84% (year-on-year) in real terms in the fourth quarter of 2024. This growth rate is higher than the 3.46% recorded in the fourth quarter of 2023 and the third quarter of 2024 growth rate (approximately 3.46%). "The performance of the GDP in the fourth quarter of 2024 was driven mainly by the Services sector, which recorded a growth of 5.37% and contributed 57.38% to the aggregate GDP."

Despite this, the agriculture sector recorded a slower growth rate of 1.76%, a decline from 2.10% in Q4 2023.

The industry sector also underperformed, growing by 2.00%, lower than the 3.86% growth posted in Q4 2023. For the full year 2024, Nigeria's GDP grew by 3.40%, an increase from 2.74% in 2023. In nominal terms, aggregate GDP for Q4 2024 stood at N78.37 trillion, reflecting an 18.91% increase from N65.91 trillion recorded in Q4 2023.

Although NBS said it planned to unveil a rebased GDP, analysts observed that the Q4 2024 figures were calculated using the old methodology. As reported, the revised framework was expected to take effect from Q1 2025.

Oil sector falters despite higher output; Nigeria's average daily oil production in Q4 2024 stood at 1.54 million barrels per day (mbpd), slightly lower than 1.56 mbpd recorded in Q4 2023 but an improvement from 1.47 mbpd in Q3 2024. The oil sector recorded 1.48% real GDP growth, a sharp decline from 12.11% posted in Q4 2023 and lower than the 5.17% growth in Q3 2024. The sector contributed 4.60% to GDP, down from 4.70% in the same period of 2023 and significantly lower than 5.57% in Q3 2024. However, for the full year, the sector grew by 5.54%, recovering from a -2.22% contraction in 2023.



Non-Oil sector dominates GDP growth; The non-oil sector remained the backbone of the economy, expanding by 3.96% in Q4 2024, higher than 3.07% in Q4 2023 and 3.37% in Q3 2024. This sector accounted for 95.40% of total GDP, up from 95.30% in Q4 2023. Growth in the non-oil sector was driven by Financial and Insurance Services, Information and Communication (Telecoms), Agriculture (Crop Production), Trade, and Manufacturing. The transportation sector, particularly road transport, also contributed positively.

Sectoral breakdown: Who's leading and lagging? Financial and Insurance Sector: The financial services sector was one of the top-performing industries, growing by 27.78% in real terms in Q4 2024, although

slightly lower than the 29.77% recorded in Q3 2024. The sector contributed 6.10% to GDP, an increase from 4.95% in Q4 2023. Information & Communication: Nigeria's telecoms industry continued its strong performance, expanding by 5.90% in real terms in Q4 2024,

slightly lower than 6.32% in Q4 2023. The sector contributed 17.00% to total GDP, an increase from 16.66% recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2023. Trade: The trade sector recorded 1.19% real GDP growth, down from 1.40% in Q4 2023 but up from 0.65% in Q3 2024.

It accounted for 15.11% of GDP. Manufacturing: The manufacturing sector posted 1.79% real GDP growth, up from 1.38% in Q3 2024. However, its share of GDP declined to 8.07%, compared to 8.23% in Q4 2023. Construction: The construction sector grew by 2.95% in real terms, slightly below 3.70% in Q4 2023. Its GDP contribution stood at 3.44%, lower than 3.47% in the same period last year.

Transportation and Storage: The transport sector rebounded, growing by 18.61% in real terms, a significant turnaround from the -29.00% contraction in Q4 2023. The sector's GDP contribution rose to 1.26%. Electricity and Energy: The electricity, gas, and steam sector continued to struggle, contracting by -5.04% in real terms, down from 6.17% in Q4 2023. Its GDP share stood at 0.49%.

Rebasing and Debasing Nigeria

By Jibrin Ibrahim

I spent the last few days trying hard to understand the on-going rebasing of the Nigerian economy starting with the rebasing of the consumer price index. I watched the statistician general of the country explain on television that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which measures the rate of change in prices of goods and commodities declined to 24.48 per cent year on year in January. Nonetheless, the Director-General of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) added that this does not mean prices have declined from the previous rate of 34.80 per cent which was the case up till the end of December last year. It simply means the numbers have been rebased from 2009 to 2024, brilliant explanation I guess. To reassure the sceptics, he told us all countries regularly rebase their economies by updating the reference year used to gauge price levels in the country and by essentially changing the basket of goods and services used to measure inflation, to better reflect current consumer spending patterns and ensure the inflation data accurately reflects the economy's current state. It was reassuring to know that all countries tinker with their numbers, not to lie with statistics, but to make their numbers look better and more real so let's leave it at that, after all, the people do know how much suffering they are undergoing from inflation. As I was trying to understand rebasing, I did feel that my country was being debased when I heard the Chief of Defence Staff complain of being denied a visa to visit Canada to watch the Invictus games. I thought that was supposed to happen to only ordinary citizens like myself especially when I heard the National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu, publicly declare in anger "to hell with Canada". I did wonder however whether a nicer, more quiet diplomatic way could not have been found to address the issue. Maybe not, what else could we have gossiped about during the week.

Well, there were other items. The announcement by the American Congressman, Scott Perry that USAID has been sponsoring terrorist organizations including Boko Haram in Nigeria was sobering. It is well known that decades ago, the American government has been sponsoring Islamic terrorist organizations in Afghanistan and other countries so there would be no surprise if they are repeat offenders. The problem however is that it is very difficult to tell when the regime is being truthful or is engaging in presenting "alternative facts", the new word the Trump Former Adviser Kellyanne Conway coined for lies in 2017. What is known is that the regime is determined to dismantle USAID and heaping all the negatives in the world on them at this time is good tactic to erode their reputation. I will wait and see. Maybe the most debasing event of the week was the storming by security agents of the Lagos State House of Assembly to apparently take sides in the on-going internal strife following the impeachment of the once powerful Speaker of the Assembly. I don't know enough about Lagos politics to decipher which of the Abuja-based powers had the strength and opportunity to send federal forces to Lagos to support their faction. Nonetheless, it is always distressing to see the abuse of federal power as it is weaponized to interfere with and mess up local level politics. Yesterday, the

Senate plenary was temporarily disrupted after Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan, representing Kogi Central Senatorial District, protested the relocation of her seat without prior notice. The session, presided over by Senate President, Senator Godswill Akpabio, was underway when Chief Whip Senator Mohammed Ali Monguno raised a point of order, drawing attention to what he described as Senator Akpoti-Uduaghan's "improper sitting position." Before Monguno could conclude his point, Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan engaged in a heated exchange, demanding explanations for the sudden change of her seat. The situation escalated into a shouting match, prompting the intervention of the Sergeant-At-Arms, who attempted to restore order. Trust the defiant Senator, she would always fight for her rights. As is his usual strong-arm tactics towards her, Senate President Akpabio became furious and ordered the Sergeant-At-Arms to take Natasha out of the chamber, but the Kogi Central Senator remained adamant, accusing Akpabio of deliberate silencing of her voice and asserting her right to fully represent her people. Fight on Senator.

Also yesterday, over three decades after the annulment of the June 12, 1993 presidential election, General Ibrahim Babangida, the former military president, has finally told his side of the story. In a memoir launched yesterday – 'A Journey in Service', said he was in Katsina when the annulment of the election, won by MKO Abiola of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), was announced by the press secretary of his second-in-command without his knowledge or permission. So now we know it was not the fault of the boss, his subaltern was the guilty one. Babangida, who did a national broadcast on June 24, 1993 to officially announce the annulment of the election, said Abacha had become a major force in a "factionalized" military and it was difficult to remove him when he stepped down from power. The June 12 election has always been considered a missed opportunity for the military to redeem their image of deliberately and "endlessly" prolonging the transition process so that they could continue in power while pretending to be working hard in an effort to transfer power to elected civilians. In a series of well-planned trickery, the journey to the June 12 annulment had begun two days before D-Day when a judge granted an injunction stopping the electoral management body from going ahead with the election. A group known as the Association to Better Nigeria (ABN), led by Arthur Nzeribe, had filed the lawsuit. Babangida was said to have admitted in the memoir, published by Bookcraft Ltd, that Nzeribe was close to him, but denied supporting the activities of ABN. The Babangida story is that on June 23, he left Abuja for Katsina to commiserate with the Yar'Adua family over the death of their patriarch, Musa Yar'Adua, former minister of Lagos affairs and father of Umaru, the late Nigerian president who died in office in 2007. It was while he has giving his condolences that it was whispered to him that the elections had been annulled. Sign. Is a military dictator not a dictator? And to think we had to wait thirty years to hear this story. Sigh.