**Sources:** CBN, Financial Market Dealers Association of Nigeria, NSE and Value (N'bn) 6.89 1.53 350.43

**NSE ASI** 38,243.19 38,522.14 (0.72)

**Oil Price (US$/Barrel)** 64.46 December 29, 2017 figure - no change from the previous week

**Currency in Circulation (N' trillion)** 1.79 Increased by 0.57% in Oct' 2017 from N1.78 trillion in Sep 2017

**Broad Money Supply (M2) (N' trillion)** 22.50 Increased by 2.49% in Oct' 2017 from N21.85 trillion in Sep 2017

**Oversight Comments:** Key macroeconomic indicators

**Access Bank Rateswatch**

**Inter-Bank (N)** 330.91 330.87 330.37

**Call (N)** 1.00 0.97 1.01

**30 Days** 1.07 1.06 1.06

**90 Days** 1.09 1.08 1.08

**Treasury Bill Yields**

**Domestic Economy**

The number of unemployed in the labour force, increased to 15.99 million in Q3 2017 from 15.49 million in Q2 2017 and 15.43 million in Q1 2017, from 13.5% in an increase in the national unemployment rate to 16.2% in Q2 2017 and 18.8% in Q3 2016 from 14.2% in Q4 2016. The unemployment rate of the working-age population (persons ages within 15 and 64) rose marginally to 14.6% in Q3 2017 from 14.56% in Q2 2017 and 11.29 million in Q2 2017 and 11.13 million in Q3 2017 from 10.05 million in Q1 2016. In Q3 2016, the labour force population (i.e., those within the working-age population, able and actively looking for work) increased by 2.52 million to 76.35 million in Q3 2017 and 80.54 million in Q1 2016. The unemployment rate was highest for those within the ages of 15-24 (35.1% in Q3 2017). Unemployment and underemployment was higher for women than men in Q3 2017. In a separate development, the Nigerian Stock Exchange published its monthly Domestic & Foreign Portfolio investment report for the month of November. The report revealed that the total transactions at the nation's bourse increased significantly in the month of November by 117.88% from N78.49 billion to N128.39 billion from N60.18 billion in October. Foreign transactions increased marginally by 121.91% from N13.71 billion to N30.45 billion in the month, while domestic transactions increased by 117.88% from N64.78 billion to N128.39 billion in November. Foreign foreign inflows was recorded at N90.96 billion from N35.69 billion in October. Foreign outflows also rose by 110.51% to N56.83 billion from N26.08 billion in the previous month. Total foreign portfolio investments (FPI) transactions from January to November 2017 climbed by 95.46% to N7.32 trillion in the same period of 2016.

**Stock Market**

The Nigerian Stock Exchange Stock Market ended the year with the All Share Index (ASI) climbing 43.68% year-to-date to settle at 38,522.14 points on the last trading day of the year. The All Share Index (ASI) climbed 43.68% year-to-date to settle at 38,522.14 points on the last trading day of the year. Core inflation rose by 4.99%. We envisage market correction due to a rise in the cost of transportation. Japan’s statistical office revealed that prices of food items excluding alcoholic drink and tobacco fell by the decline of 1.3% in the previous month. Core Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased significantly in the month of November by 121.91% to N150.10 billion from N65.26 billion in October. Foreign outflows also rose by 110.61% to N128.39 billion from N60.18 billion in October. An inflow of $13.71 billion from November 2017. This is slightly lower than the rate of 16.2% recorded in the period preceding November, according to the Brazil’s Institute of Geography and Statistics. The unemployment rate has been steadily declining, due to a rise in informal employment. Employment went up by 87.000 to 9.1 million during the period and the number of people in the labour force rose by 545,000 to 104.3 million.

**Commodity Market**

Oil prices edged higher in the last trading week of the year. The U.S. crude oil inventory fell and the reduction in commercial crude inventories stoked by U.S. production of 9.754 million barrels per day (bpd) by 5.76%. The prices were also supported by ongoing supply cuts by some key producers; organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and Russia as well as strong demand from China. Brent crude gained $0.16 to settle at $65.41, and Bonny Light, Nigeria’s benchmark crude, gained 15.96% to settle at $64.46 per barrel from $50.19 per barrel at the start of the year. In the same light prices of commodity ended the year on a good note. Gold and silver appreciated by 13.3% and 5.8% from the beginning of the year to close at $1,297.30 an ounce and $16.88 an ounce respectively. Oil prices may be pressured in the coming year as more crude export terminals are set to come online. However, OPEC production cut may support prices. Ratehike in the U.S. as well as other key central banks across the globe could weigh on the prices of precious metals in the coming year as geo-political risks from North Korea and the Middle East continue to underpin prices.

**MONTHLY MACROECONOMIC FORECASTS**

**Variables**

January 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Jan-18</th>
<th>Feb-18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inflation (CPI)</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial production</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
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**Disclaimer**

This report is based on information obtained from various sources believed to be reliable and no representation is made that it is accurate or complete. Reasonable care has been taken in producing this report. However, the information contained herein may not be suitable for use in all environments due to differences in software and systems. For enquiries, contact: Rotimi Peters (Team Lead, Economic Intelligence) (01) 2712123, rotimi.peters@accessbankplc.com.