



Launch of the Maiden Edition of “Ghana in Numbers 2025”

Speech

by

Dr Johnson Pandit Asiama

Governor, Bank of Ghana

Alisa Hotel, North Ridge, Accra | Thursday, 29 October 2026

Honourable Minister for Finance,

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Chairperson, Government Statistician and Members of the Governing Board of the Ghana Statistical Service,

Heads and Representatives of Government Institutions and Development Partners,

Representatives of the Private Sector, Academia, Civil Society and the Media,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I want to thank you for inviting the Bank to the official launch of this maiden edition of the **Ghana in Numbers 2025 Report**. Let me begin by commending the Ghana Statistical Service for this important initiative. I consider **Ghana in Numbers** a significant national resource that brings together authoritative and diverse information on the socio-economic conditions of our country. It is particularly valuable because it seeks to make official statistics more accessible and useful to policymakers, businesses, researchers, development partners and the public. It also provides an important basis for understanding our progress, identifying emerging challenges and shaping our national priorities.

High-Quality Data as the Foundation of Monetary Policy

At the Bank of Ghana, we recognise that effective monetary policy and financial-sector regulation depend fundamentally on the quality of the data available to us. As an inflation-targeting central bank, our decisions are both forward-looking and data-driven. We rely on data

to assess the inflation dynamics, and the interaction between inflation, exchange rates, economic activity, credit conditions and external developments. These assessments require rigorous economic research and sound analytical frameworks, supported by accurate and timely statistics.

Reliable statistics do more than inform policy. They strengthen transparency, enhance accountability and promote public confidence in institutions. They also help businesses and investors assess economic conditions, manage risks and make informed investment decisions.

This is why the inclusion of a dedicated monetary and financial-sector section in **Ghana in Numbers 2025**, drawing substantially on official data produced by the Bank of Ghana, is particularly welcome. Information on inflation, interest rates, credit to businesses and households, foreign reserves and banking-sector conditions helps to provide a clearer understanding of Ghana's economic and financial environment.

Advancing Data Analytics and Digital Access to Statistics

Advances in data science, artificial intelligence and machine learning are creating new opportunities to identify patterns, improve forecasts, assess risks and generate insights from increasingly large and complex datasets. For Bank of Ghana, these developments can complement conventional economic analysis and strengthen our ability to respond to changing economic conditions.

I believe that **Ghana in Numbers** can go a step further to enhance its value and impact by making the underlying data series available through a dedicated electronic portal in accessible, machine-readable and readily usable formats. Such a platform would enable researchers, academia, policymakers and other users to apply artificial intelligence, machine learning and advanced analytical tools to explore the data more deeply and uncover patterns, interrelationships and correlations that may not be readily apparent from the published tables and charts alone.

At the Bank of Ghana, we are advancing our institutional capacity in this area, including through the establishment of the Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence Department, which forms part of our broader effort to strengthen data governance, expand analytical capabilities and promote the responsible use of emerging technologies in policy analysis and institutional decision-making. We are also developing a directive to regulate the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the financial sector, in line with our policy to promote innovation while at the same time addressing emerging risks.

Macroeconomic Stability, Access to Finance and Youth Enterprise Development

The theme of this maiden edition, “**Youth and the Demographic Transition**”, addresses an issue of fundamental importance to Ghana’s long-term development. Our large youth population presents a significant source of innovation and entrepreneurship. However, realising this demographic potential will depend on our ability to equip them with relevant skills, support enterprise development and create an enabling environment for investment. This requires coordinated action and reliable data to understand the circumstances of our young people, identify gaps in opportunity and design policies that respond to their needs. In this regard, the **Ghana in Numbers** can make an important contribution by bringing relevant demographic, social and economic information together to support a more informed national discussion.

From the perspective of the Bank of Ghana, one important dimension of youth development is the role of a stable macroeconomic environment and a well-functioning financial system in supporting access to finance and productive economic activity. These principles have informed our macroeconomic management efforts over the last couple of years. And the results of our programmes and initiatives are evident – inflation is low and has been in single digits for 13 consecutive months, the exchange rate is relatively stable notwithstanding the external headwinds, and banking sector resilience has improved significantly.

These gains are also reflected in improved credit conditions, among others. Average lending rate has declined from 30.25 per cent in December 2024 to 15.78 per cent in September 2026, while growth in real private sector credit strengthened considerably from a growth of 0.20 per cent in December 2024 to 26.42 per cent in September 2026.

Beyond macroeconomic stability, the Bank of Ghana is also pursuing several complementary initiatives to promote financial inclusion and financial health, as well as encouraging responsible innovation in the financial sector. These efforts are intended to make formal financial services more accessible, affordable and convenient, particularly for young people, women, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and underserved communities.

In conclusion, as we launch this maiden edition, let us see **Ghana in Numbers** not merely as a statistical publication, but as a national resource for understanding our circumstances, evaluating our progress and making better decisions about our collective future.

I congratulate the Ghana Statistical Service, its Governing Board and Management, and all the institutions and individuals whose contributions have made this publication possible. It is my hope that **Ghana in Numbers** will become a trusted and enduring national reference – one that

strengthens transparency, supports evidence-based decisions and helps Ghana build a more productive, inclusive and prosperous future for all, especially its young people.

I thank you for your attention.

PUBLIC