



Weekly Economic Highlights

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Week Ending
13th April 2017

1. INTEREST RATES

Deposit Rates

Average deposit rates for all deposit classes softened during the week ending 13th April 2016. Savings deposit rates declined to 3.96%, from 3.98% recorded in the previous week. Deposit rates for 1 month and 3 month tenors also declined to 4.20% and 4.22%, respectively, during the same week.

Table 1: Average Deposit Rates (Yields in percent per annum)

Date	Savings Deposits (%)	1-Month Deposits (%)	3-Months Deposits (%)
17-March-17	3.01	5.33	5.50
24-March-17	3.01	5.31	5.50
31-March-17	3.55	4.97	5.43
07-April-17	3.98	4.71	4.91
13-April-17	3.96	4.20	4.22

Source: Banking Institutions, 2017

Lending Rates

Weighted lending rates at commercial banks for individuals remained unchanged at 9.22% during the week under review. Weighted lending rates for commercial bank's corporate clients, however, increased by 0.01 percentage points to close at 7.02% during the week under analysis.

Table 2: Lending Rates

Date	Lending Rates (%) Commercial Banks (weighted)	
	Individuals	Corporate clients
17-March-17	10.03	6.55
24-March-17	10.00	6.57
31-March-17	9.12	7.02
07-April-17	9.22	7.01
13-April-17	9.22	7.02

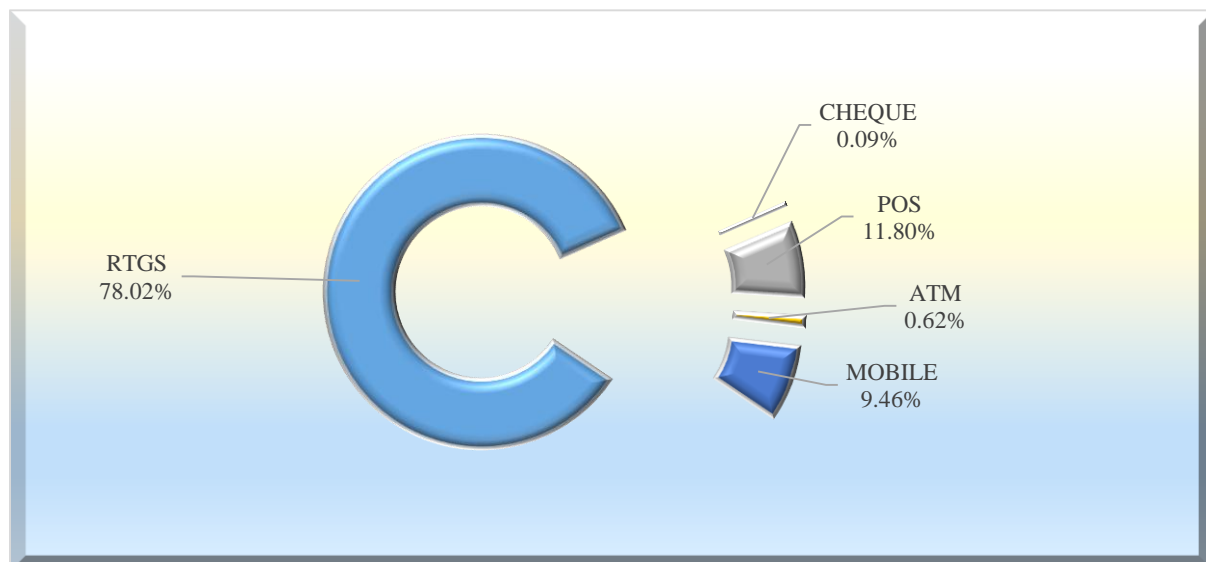
Source: Banking Institutions, 2017

2. CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

During the week ending 13th April 2017, the total value of transactions processed through the National Payment Systems (NPS) stood at US\$1 358.84 million, a 1% increase from US\$1 340.34 million in the previous week. Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) transactions recorded a 4% increase, from US\$1 019.01 million in the previous week, to US\$1 060.21 million during the week under analysis.

The NPS was dominated by RTGS transactions which contributed 78.02% of the total value of transactions, followed by Point of Sale (POS), 11.80%; Mobile 9.46%; Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), 0.62%; and Cheque, 0.09%, as shown in Figure 1

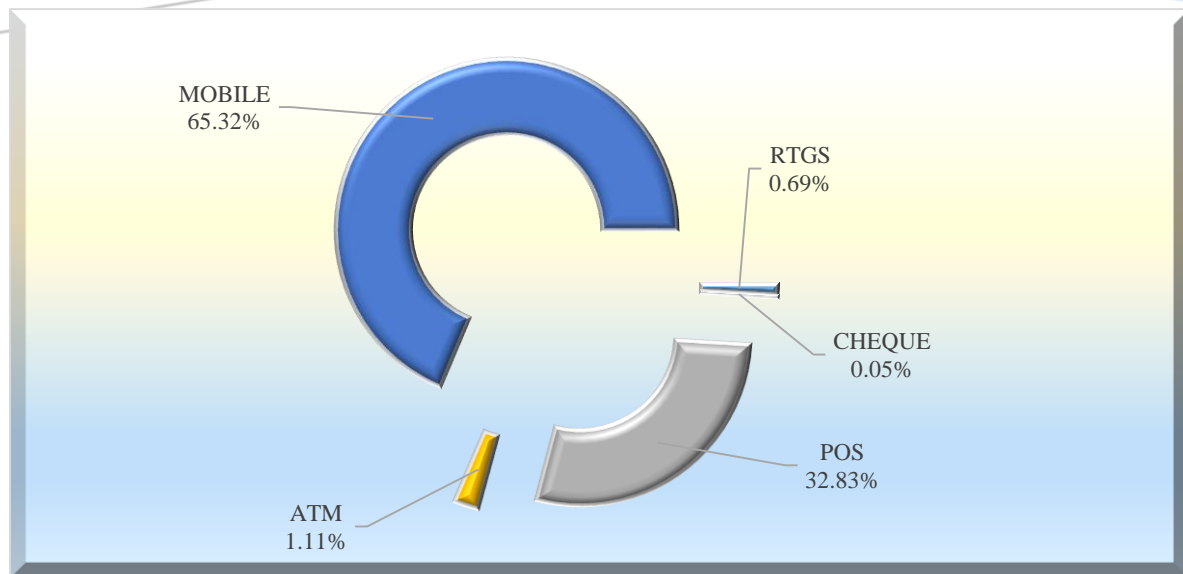
Figure 1: Proportions of NPS Transactions in Value Terms



Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe

The volume of transactions processed through the NPS amounted to 12 544 017 during the week under review, reflecting a 3% decrease from 12 970 675 in the prior week. The distribution of NPS transaction volumes was as follows: Mobile, 65.32%; POS, 32.83%; ATMs, 1.11%; RTGS, 0.69%; and Cheque, 0.05%, as shown in figure 2.

Figure 2: Proportions of NPS Transactions in Volume Terms



Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe.

Table 3: National Payment Systems Activity

PAYMENT STREAM	WEEK ENDING 7 April 2017	WEEK ENDING 13 April 2017	CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK	PROPORTION
VALUES IN USD (millions)				
RTGS	1,019.01	1,060.21	4%	78.02%
CHEQUE	1.47	1.29	-12%	0.09%
POS	165.34	160.33	-3%	11.80%
ATMS	9.41	8.46	-10%	0.62%
MOBILE	145.11	128.54	-11%	9.46%
TOTAL	1,340.34	1,358.84	1%	100%
RTGS	104,968	86,379	-18%	0.69%
CHEQUE	6,847	5,769	-16%	0.05%
POS	4,075,217	4,117,873	1%	32.83%
ATMs	149,952	139,847	-7%	1.11%
MOBILE	8,633,691	8,194,149	-5%	65.32%
TOTAL	12,970,675	12,544,017	-3%	100%

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe

3. TOBACCO SALES

As at 13th April 2017 or day 22 of the 2017 tobacco selling season, a cumulative total of 49 820 822 kilograms of tobacco had been sold, reflecting an increase of 38.91%, compared to 35 866 697 kilograms sold during the same period in 2016.

Notably, however, the golden leaf was sold at a lower average price of US\$2.69 per kg, compared to US\$2.72 per kg during the same period in 2016. Cumulative tobacco sales were valued at US\$133.9 million, which was 37.17% higher than the US\$97.6 million realized during the corresponding period in 2016.

Table 4: Cumulative Tobacco Sales: Day 22 (13 April 2017)

	2016	2017	Variance (%)
Cumulative Quantity Sold (kgs)	35,866,697	49,820,822	38.91
Cumulative Average Price(US\$/kg)	2.72	2.69	-1.10
Cumulative Value (US\$ million)	97,592,378	133,871,484	37.17

Source: Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board (TIMB), 2017

4. INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PRICE DEVELOPMENTS

The international commodity prices of gold and crude oil firmed during the week ending 13th April 2017. Platinum, copper and nickel, however, retreated during the same week, as shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Metal and Crude Oil Prices

	Gold	Platinum	Copper	Nickel	Crude Oil
2017	US\$/ounce	US\$/ounce	US\$/tonne	US\$/tonne	US\$/barrel
Week ending (3 - 7 April)	1,254.51	965.30	5,813.70	9,970.00	54.43
10-Apr	1,251.83	945.00	5,769.00	9,950.00	55.90
11-Apr	1,253.25	943.50	5,730.50	10,090.00	55.92
12-Apr	1,273.30	964.00	5,745.00	10,040.00	55.69
13-Apr	1,281.98	984.00	5,684.50	9,690.00	55.77
Week ending (10 - 13 April)	1,265.09	959.13	5,732.25	9,942.50	55.82
<i>Weekly Change (%)</i>	0.8%	(0.6%)	(1.4%)	(0.3%)	2.6%

Source: BBC, KITCO and Bloomberg

Gold

Gold prices rose by 0.8%, from a weekly average of US\$1,254.51/oz recorded in the previous week to US\$1,265.09/oz during the week under review. Prices firmed on account of increased appeal of gold as safe investment haven.

Platinum

Platinum prices declined by 0.6%, from US\$965.30/oz recorded in the prior week to US\$959.13/oz in the week under analysis. This was largely attributable to weaker demand for the metal.

Copper

Copper prices retreated by 1.4%, from US\$5,813.70/ton in the previous week to US\$5,732.25/ton in the week under review. The decline in prices was largely driven by rising supply in the global market.

Nickel

Nickel prices fell by 0.3 %, from a weekly average of US\$9,970.00/tonne registered in the previous week to close the week under review at an average of US\$9,942.00/tonne. This was in part, on account of rising expectations about increased nickel supply following the easing of a ban in nickel export shipments from Indonesia.

Crude Oil

Crude oil prices increased by 2.6% to US\$55.82/barrel during the week under analysis, from US\$54.43/barrel in the previous week. The prices surged on fears of supply disruptions following rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. In addition, prices were also supported by reports that OPEC plans to extend oil output cuts by an additional six months in order to shore up prices.

5. EXCHANGE RATES

The US dollar depreciated against the British pound and rand, during the week ending 13th January 2017. This followed reports of rising concerns about a stronger US dollar in the USA and the country's Presidency's publicly announced views about its preference for a relatively weaker US dollar. The greenback, however, appreciated against the euro, during the same period.

Table 6: International Exchange Rates per US\$

	GBP	EURO	ZAR
2017			
Weekly Average (3-7 April)	0.8018	0.9375	13.7612
10-Apr	0.8072	0.9443	13.8135
11-Apr	0.8054	0.9445	13.8961
12-Apr	0.8011	0.9429	13.7850
13-Apr	0.7965	0.9376	13.4443
Weekly Average (10-13 April)	0.8010	0.9417	13.7085
<i>Appr(+)/Depr(-) (%) of the USD</i>	<i>(0.10)</i>	<i>0.45</i>	<i>(0.38)</i>

Source: Reuters

6. EQUITY MARKETS

The Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) continued on a positive trend for the third consecutive week. Consequently, the industrial index increased by 0.60% to close the week under review at 140.92 points. This was due to gains realized in Hippo Valley Estates, 12.24%; FBC Holdings (FBCH), 5.93%; Econet Wireless, 5.52%; CFI Holdings, 0.80%; and Old Mutual Plc, 0.63%. Partially offsetting these gains were losses in Star Africa Corporation, 10.71%; NMBZ Holdings, 6.85%; Lafarge Cement, 6.77%; SeedCo, 0.43%; and Pretoria Portland Cement, 0.40%.

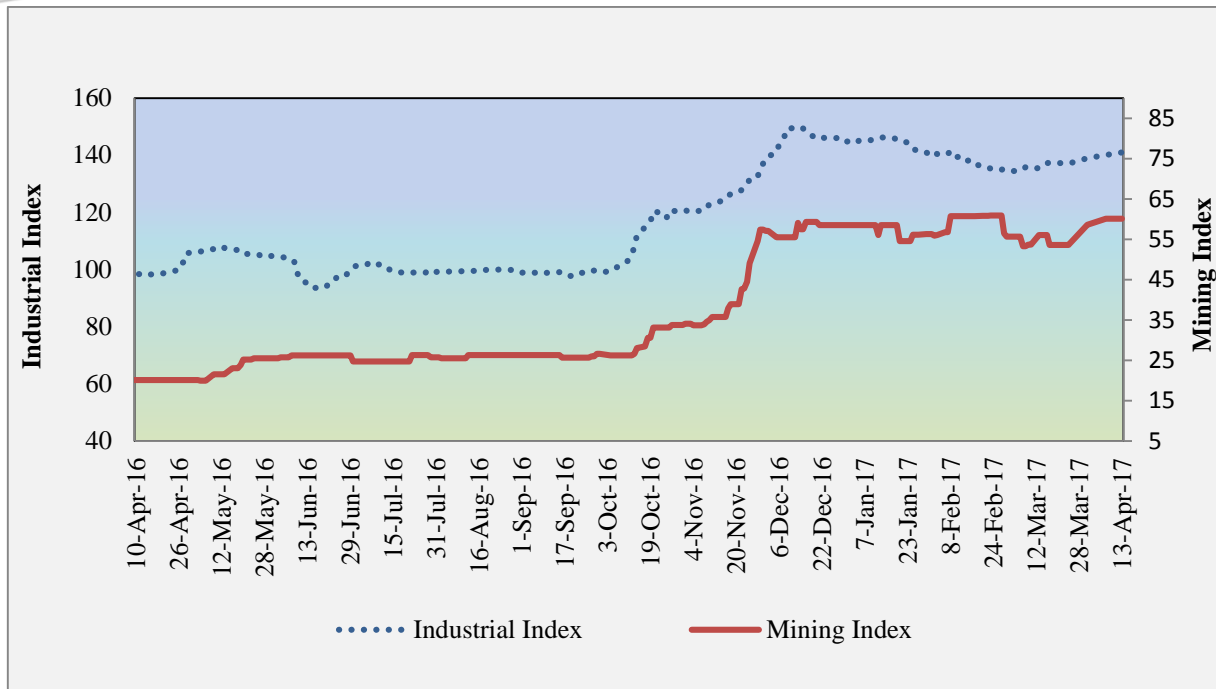
The mining index, however, remained unchanged at the previous week of 60.12 points. Bindura Nickel Corporation was the only traded mining counter that registered trades and it traded at the previous week's price.

Table 7: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) Statistics

	Industrial Index (points)	Mining Index (points)	Grand Market Capitalization (US\$)	Market Turnover (US\$)	Volume of Shares
17-March-17	137.47	53.59	3,822,960,955	6,076,205	35,434,550
24-March-17	137.08	53.63	3,812,496,830	11,791,989	74,396,040
31-March-17	138.96	58.56	3,871,279,708	2,933,379	16,543,339
7-April-17	140.08	60.12	3,904,206,448	4,035,658	6,467,470
13-April-17	140.92	60.12	3,926,840,215	1,051,943	29,009,254
Weekly Change (%)	0.60	0	0.58	(73.93)	348.54

Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE), 2017.

Figure 3 : Zimbabwe Stock Exchange Indices

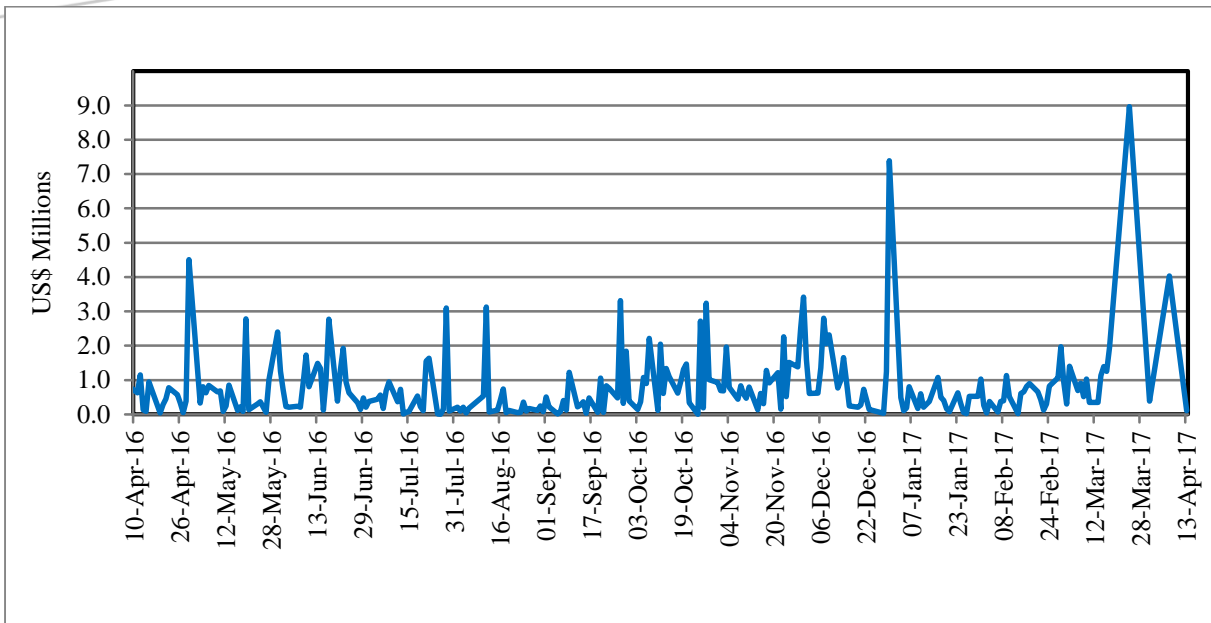


Source: Zimbabwe Stock exchange

Market Turnover and Volume

During the week ending 13th April 2017, market turnover declined by 73.93%, there was a significant decline of 73.93% in market turnover value, due to low investor activity. The volume of shares traded, however, increased by 348.54% to close at 29 009 254 shares in the same week. This was a reflective of block trade in Zimre Property Investments, of 15.28 million shares.

Figure 4: Daily Market turnover

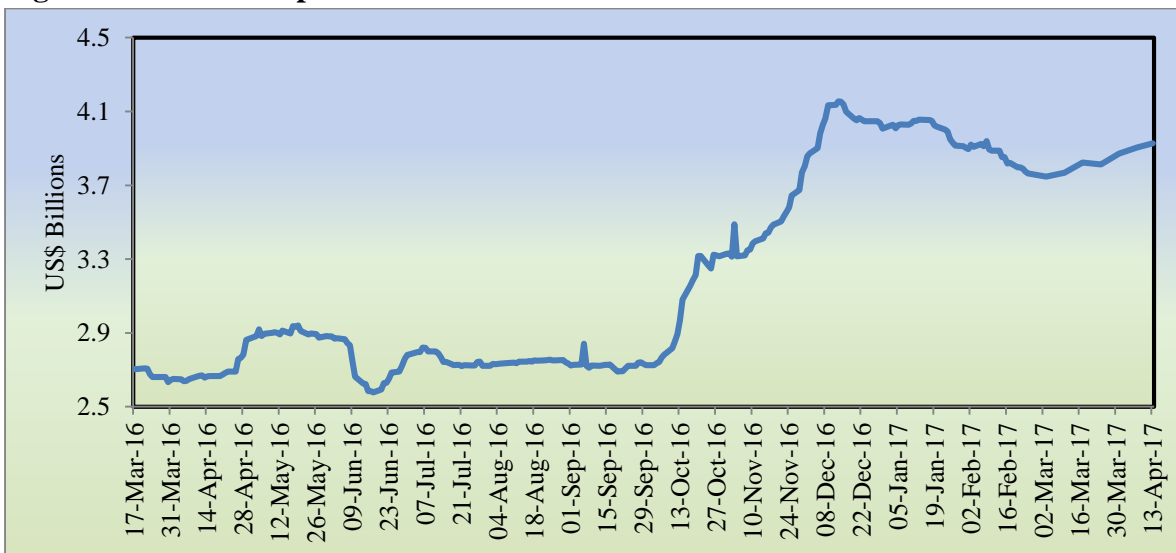


Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2017

Market Capitalization

Market capitalization stood at US\$3.93 billion, representing a 0.58% increase from US\$3.90 billion recorded in the previous week. This was in large part on account of gains in the industrial index.

Figure 5 : Market Capitalization



Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2017

Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Developments

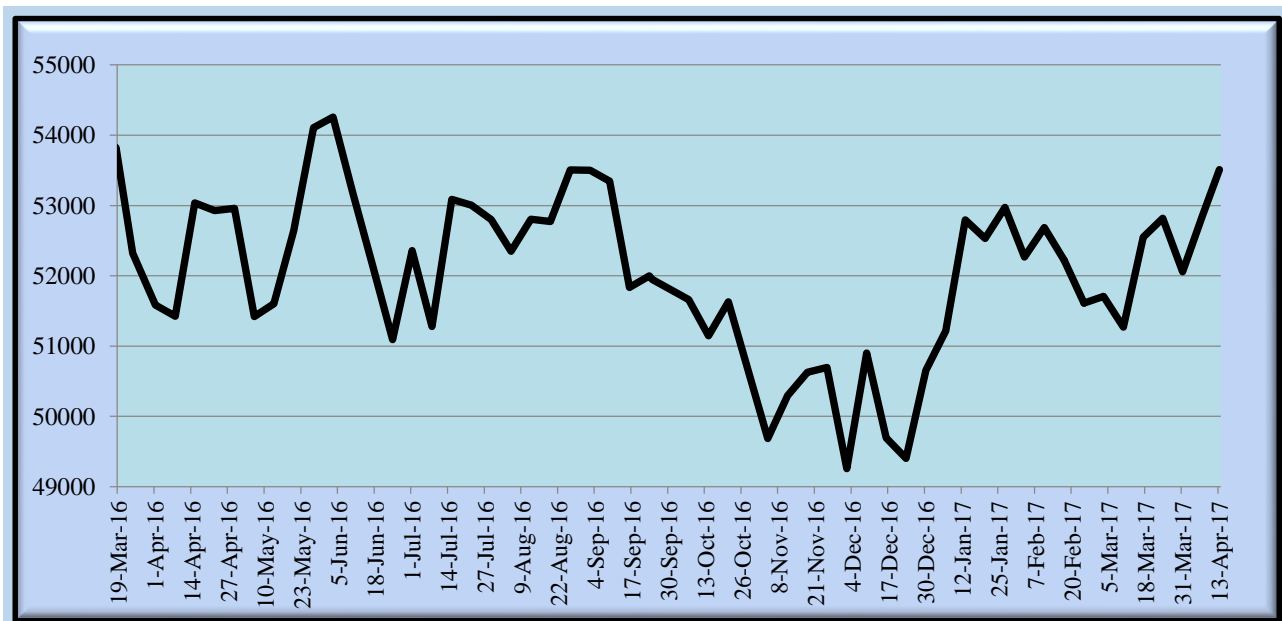
The JSE All Share index registered a 1.24% increase, from 52 853.36 points in the previous week, to close the week ending 13th April 2017 at 53 510.22 points. JSE market capitalization declined from R14.09 trillion to R14.07 trillion during the week under review.

Table 8: Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Statistics

Period	All Share Index (points)	Market Capitalization (ZAR trillion)
10-March-17	51 269.54	13.46
17-March-17	52 550.99	13.77
24-March-17	52 816.33	13.49
31-March-17	52 056.06	13.81
07-April-17	52 853.36	14.09
13-April-17	53 510.22	14.07

Source: <https://www.jse.co.za/services/market-data/market-statistics>

Figure 6: Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) All Share Index



Source: <https://www.jse.co.za/services/market-data/market-statistics>

RESERVE BANK OF ZIMBABWE

21th APRIL 2017