



Weekly Economic Highlights

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Week Ending
17th April 2015

1. INTEREST RATES

Deposit Rates

Average deposit rates for savings remained unchanged at 3.54%, whilst 1 month and 3month tenors closed the week ending 17th April 2015 lower at 9.22% and 10.82%, respectively.

Table 1: Average Deposit Rates

2015	Savings Deposits (%)	1-Month Deposits (%)	3-Months Deposits (%)
27-Mar	3.54	9.29	10.96
02-Apr	3.54	9.29	10.96
10-Apr	3.54	9.24	10.84
17-Apr	3.54	9.22	10.82

Source: Banking Institutions, 2015

Lending Rates

Weighted lending rates at commercial banks for individuals remained constant at 12.59%. Weighted lending rates for commercial bank's corporate clients, however, rose to 8.90%, up from 8.88% recorded in the previous week.

Table 2: Lending Rates

2015	Lending Rates (%)	
	Commercial Banks (weighted)	
	Individuals	Corporate clients
20-Mar	13.33	8.71
27-Mar	13.24	8.75
02-Apr	13.22	8.75
10-Apr	12.59	8.88
17-Apr	12.59	8.90

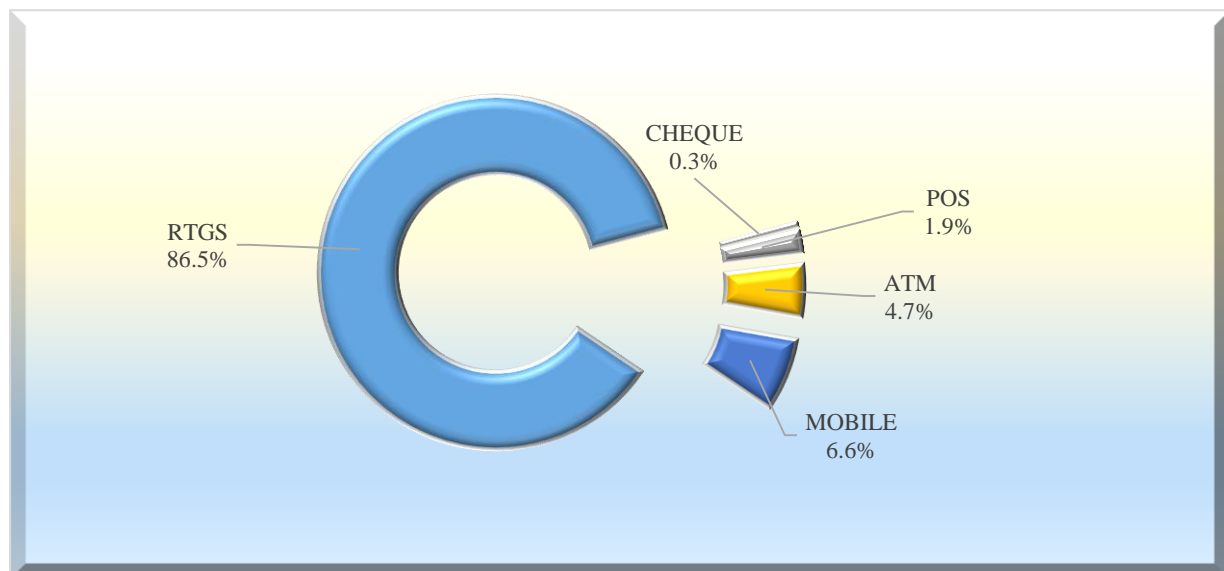
Source: Banking Institutions, 2015

2. CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

During the week ending 17th April 2015, transactions processed through the National Payment Systems (NPS) stood at US\$1 077.37 million, up from US\$1 040.47 million recorded in the previous week.

Transactions processed through the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system increased to US\$900.06 million, from US\$888.62 million recorded in the previous week. RTGS payments accounted for 86.5% of the total value of transactions processed through the NPS, followed by Mobile, 6.6%; Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), 4.7%; Point of Sale (POS), 1.9%; and cheques, 0.3%, respectively.

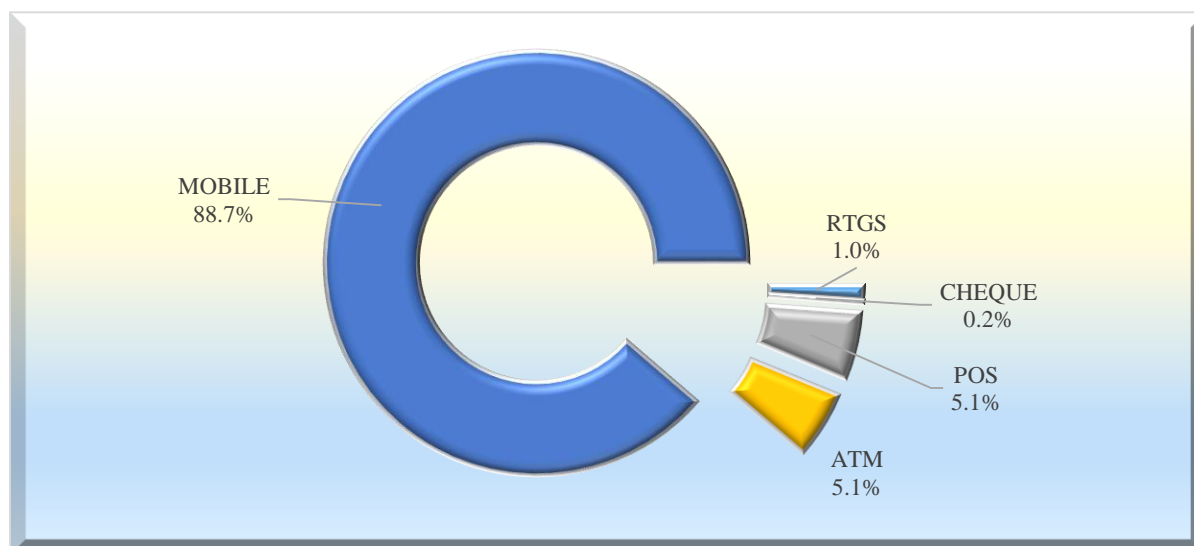
Figure 1: Proportions of NPS Transactions in Value Terms



Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe

Mobile-based transactions accounted for 88.7% of total transactions in volume terms, followed by POS, 5.1%; ATMs, 5.1%; RTGS, 1.0%; and Cheque, 0.2%.

Figure 2: Proportions of NPS Transactions in Volume Terms



Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe.

Table 3: National Payment Systems Activity

PAYMENT STREAM	WEEK ENDING 10 APRIL 2015	WEEK ENDING 17 APRIL 2015	CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK	PROPORTION
VALUES IN USD (millions)				
RTGS	888.62	900.06	1%	86.51%
MOBILE	74.84	69.00	-8%	6.63%
ATMS	72.94	49.00	-33%	4.71%
POS	38.75	19.77	-49%	1.90%
CHEQUE	2.22	2.67	20%	0.26%
TOTAL	1,077.37	1,040.47		100%
VOLUMES				
RTGS	35,220	41,579	18%	0.99%
CHEQUE	5,713	7,537	32%	0.18%
POS	308,622	213,580	-31%	5.07%
ATMs	304,563	213,410	-30%	5.06%
MOBILE	3,840,544	3,737,618	-3%	88.70%

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe

3. TOBACCO SALES

As at 17th April 2015 (day 31 of the 2015 tobacco selling season), a cumulative total of 44 848 437 kilograms of tobacco had been sold. This represents a 6.62% decline from 48 030 326 kilograms sold during the same period in 2014. The average selling price for the golden leaf stood at US\$2.79 per kg, which was 11.24% lower than the average price of US\$3.14 per kg during the same period in 2014.

Cumulative tobacco sales amounted to US\$125 million, compared to US\$151 million realized during the corresponding period in 2014.

Table 4: Cumulative Tobacco Sales: Day 31 (17/04/15)

	2014	2015	Variance (%)
Cumulative Quantity Sold (kgs)	48 030 326	44 848 437	-6.62%
Cumulative Average Price(US\$/kg)	3.14	2.79	-11.24%
Cumulative Value (US\$ million)	150 870 466	125 043 434	-17%

Source: Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board (TIMB), 2015

4. INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PRICE DEVELOPMENTS

During the week ending 17th April 2015, international commodity prices for gold, platinum, copper, and nickel retreated whilst crude oil prices firmed. The table below shows commodity price developments realized during the week under analysis.

Table 4: Metals and Crude Oil Prices

Period	Gold	Platinum	Copper	Nickel	Crude Oil
2015	US\$/ounce	US\$/ounce	US\$/tonne	US\$/tonne	US\$/barrel
Weekly Average (10 April)	1,204.78	1,166.88	6,047.25	12,692.50	57.55
13-Apr	1,198.38	1,155.50	6,011.00	12,510.00	58.61
14-Apr	1,193.10	1,147.00	5,916.00	12,260.00	58.41
15-Apr	1,191.38	1,147.50	5,920.50	12,260.00	59.28
16-Apr	1,204.18	1,166.50	5,950.00	12,290.00	59.50
17-Apr	1,203.95	1,162.50	6,080.00	12,730.00	64.33
Weekly Average (17 April)	1,198.20	1,155.80	5,975.50	12,410.00	60.03
Weekly Change (%)	<i>(0.5)</i>	<i>(0.9)</i>	<i>(1.2)</i>	<i>(2.2)</i>	<i>4.3</i>

Source: BBC, KITCO, Reuters and Bloomberg

Gold

Gold prices marginally retreated by 0.5%, from a weekly average of US\$1,204.78/oz to US\$1,198.20/oz during the week ending 17th April 2015. The decline in gold prices was largely attributed to the waning attractiveness of the precious metal as a safe haven investment asset, as the strengthening US dollar brightened recovery prospects in the US economy.

Platinum

Improved economic recovery prospects in the US have also precipitated the weakening of platinum prices from US\$1,166.88/oz recorded in the previous week, to US\$1,155.80/oz during the week under analysis. In addition, the deceleration of economic activity in China coupled with mixed sentiments regarding the Asian giant's prospects for recovery also continued to weigh down global platinum prices.

Copper

Notwithstanding the gains recorded in the previous week, copper prices declined by 1.2%, to close the week under review at US\$5,975.50/ton. The decline in copper prices was occasioned by subdued demand from China as its import absorption has contracted in concomitance with the economic slowdown currently experienced.

Nickel

Similarly, nickel prices retreated by 2.2%, from a weekly average of US\$12,692.50/ton to US\$12,410.00/ton during the week under analysis. The sustained decline in nickel prices is underpinned by slackening demand on the back of significant inventory build-ups in the global nickel market.

Crude Oil

Crude oil prices continued on an upward trend during the week ending 17th April 2015, gaining 4.3% from a weekly average of US\$57.55/barrel, to a weekly average of US\$60.03/barrel. Oil prices increased on account of expected slowdown in production owing to scheduled refinery maintenance work in the US.

5. EQUITY MARKETS

During the week ending 17th April 2015, the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) continued to trade in the positive, largely anchored on some isolated gains in mid to heavyweight counters. Both the industrial and mining indices increased by 0.68 points and 13.51 points to close at 157.19 points and 47.82 points, respectively. Notable gains in Masimba Holdings (77.78%), Dawn (37.72%), ZPI (31.25%), Fidelity (20.73%), National Foods (5.33%) and DZLH (4.82%) largely attributed to the increase in the industrial index.

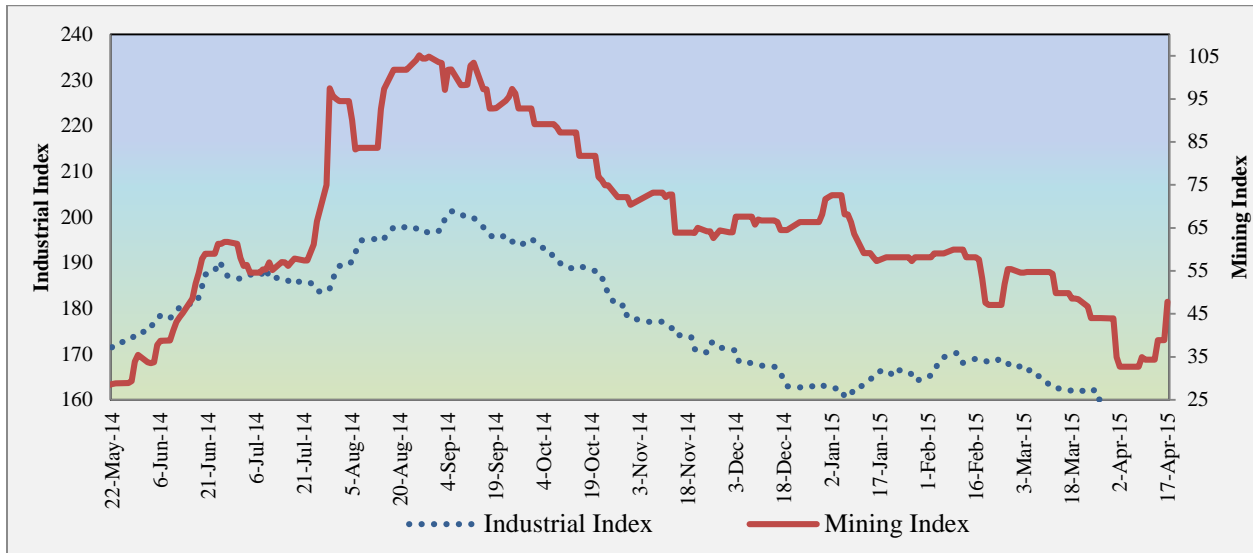
The increase in the mining index was a result of a significant gain in Bindura of 50%, while the rest of the resource counters remained stagnant. The nickel miners' increase follows reports that the company's Trojan Nickel Mine 2015 first quarter performance improved significantly.

Table 5: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) Statistics

Period	Industrial Index (points)	Mining Index (points)	Grand Market Capitalization (US\$)	Market Turnover (US\$)	Volume of Shares
20-Mar-15	162.36	48.42	4,229,143,000	6,691,927	302,625,018
27-Mar-15	160.10	44.01	4,165,182,467	1,636,641	6,940,987
02-Apr-15	155.89	32.67	4,042,058,693	2,271,865	33,319,568
10-Apr-15	156.51	34.31	4,059,987,899	15,910,953	495,108,011
17-Apr-15	157.19	47.82	4,096,028,252	4,567,268	14,768,000

Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE), 2015

Figure 3 : Zimbabwe Stock Exchange Indices

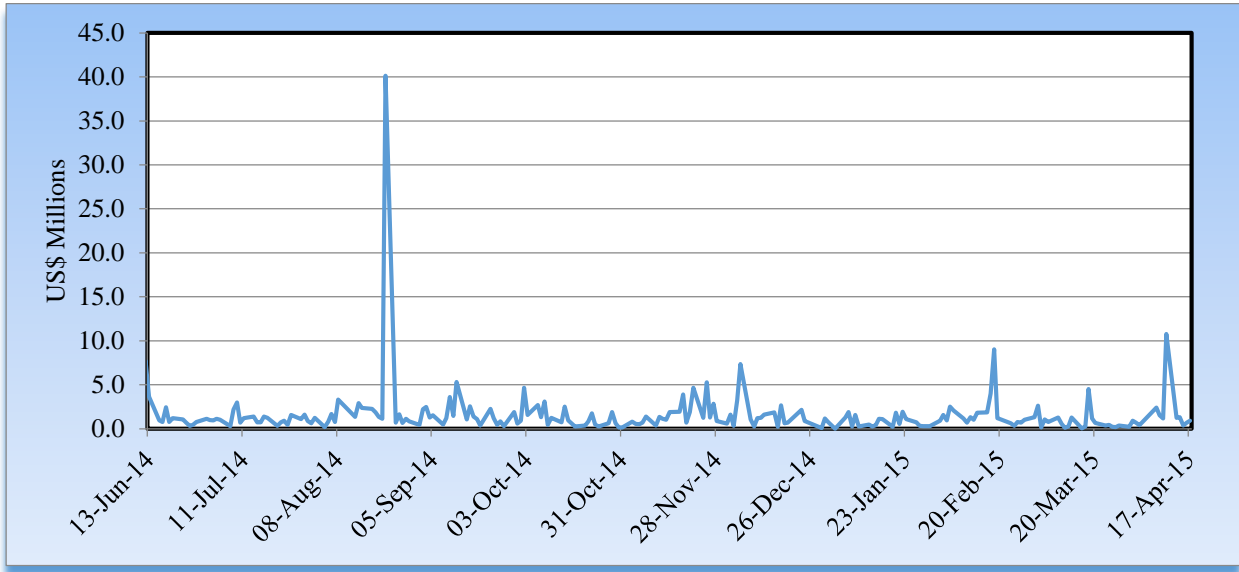


Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2015

Market Turnover and Volume

Owing to thin trading and the absence of block trades which boosted turnover in the previous week, market turnover declined by 71.19%, from US\$15.9 million to US\$4.58 million. The prevailing liquidity challenges on the market has seen continued foreign investor dominance on the stock market with foreign purchases accounting for 42.52% of total value of trades. In terms of volume, 14 768 000 shares were traded, down from 495 108 011 shares in the previous week.

Figure 4: Daily Market Turnover

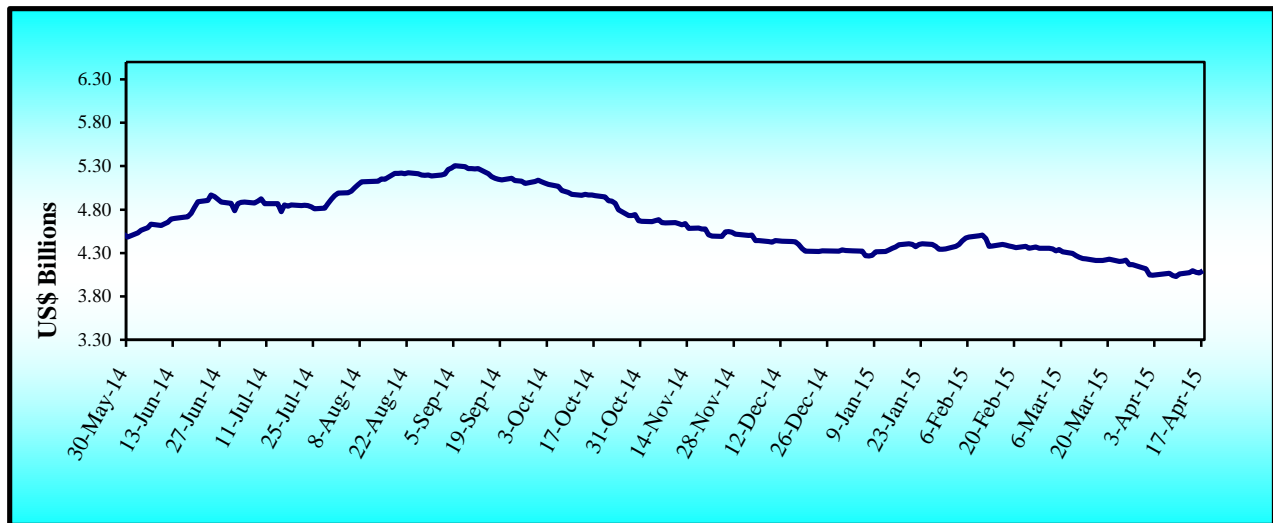


Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2015

Market Capitalization

During the week under review, market capitalization marginally increased by 0.89%, from US\$4.06 billion to US\$4.096 billion resulting mainly from positive trading in the heavily capitalized counters such as DZLH and National Foods.

Figure 5 : Market Capitalization



Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2015

Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Developments

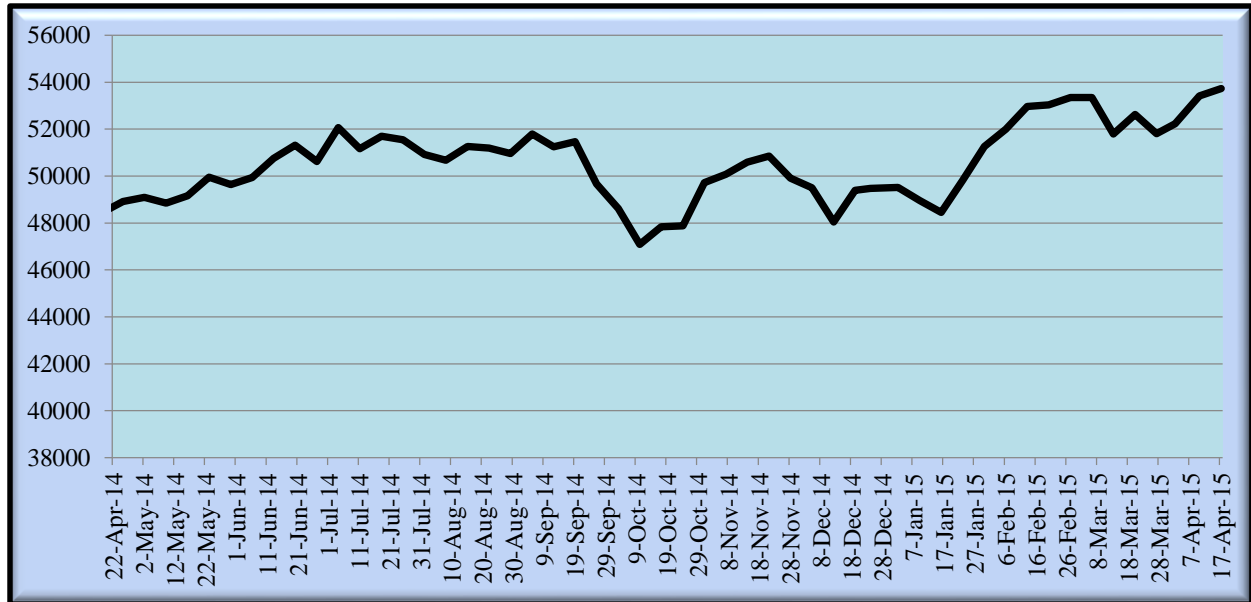
During the week ending 17th April 2015, the JSE market capitalization rose from R12 207.70 billion in the previous week, to R12 437.81 during the week under review. The All Share index also increased by 0.59%, from 53 420.78 points to 53 734.04 points during the same week.

Table 6: Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Statistics

Period- 2015	All Share Index (points)	Market Capitalization (R billion)
20-Mar	52,631.78	12,012.83
27-Mar	51,810.16	11,820.43
02-Apr	52,229.32	11,921.95
10-Apr	53,420.78	12,207.70
17-Apr	53,734.04	12,437.81

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

28ND APRIL 2015