



Weekly Economic Highlights

Table of Contents

1. INTEREST RATES.....	1
2. CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY	2
3. TOBACCO SALES	4
4. INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PRICE DEVELOPMENTS.....	5
5. EXCHANGE RATES.....	6
6. EQUITY MARKETS.....	7

Week Ending
20th April 2018

1. INTEREST RATES

Deposit Rates

During the week ending 20th April 2018, indicative average deposit rates on savings deposits were lower at 4.16%. Average deposit rates for deposits of 1 month and 3 month tenors were, however, higher at 3.47% and 3.78%, respectively.

Table 1: Average Deposit Rates (per annum)

Date	Savings Deposits (%)	1-Month Deposits (%)	3-Months Deposits (%)
23-March-18	4.35	3.81	4.09
29-March-18	4.22	3.43	3.74
06-April-18	4.22	3.43	3.74
13-April-18	4.22	3.43	3.74
20-April-18	4.16	3.47	3.78

Source: Banking Institutions, 2018

Lending Rates

Commercial bank weighted lending rates for individual clients declined from 9.36% in the previous week to 9.30%, during the week under review. Weighted lending rates for corporate clients, however, increased by 0.01 percentage points to end the week at 7.05%.

Table 2: Lending Rates

Date	Lending Rates ¹ (%)	
	Commercial Banks (weighted)	
	Individuals	Corporate clients
23-March-18	9.35	6.98
29-March-18	9.64	6.98
06 April-18	9.37	7.05
13 April-18	9.36	7.04
20 April-18	9.30	7.05

Source: Banking Institutions, 2018

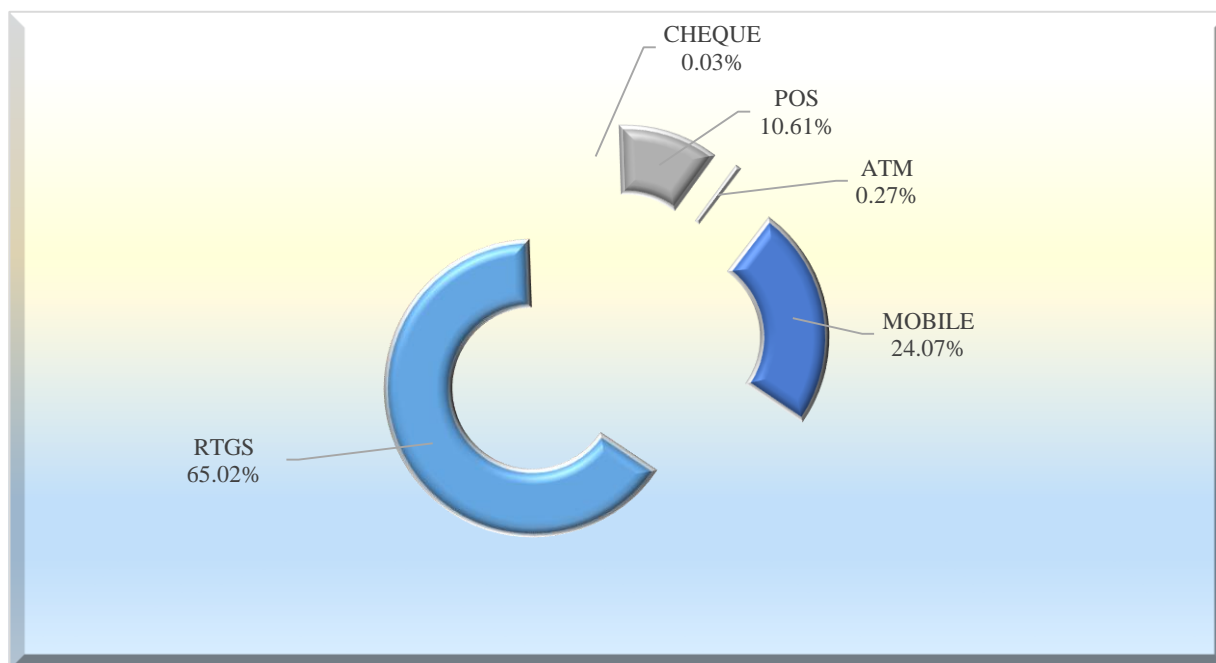
¹ Minimum weighted lending rates offered by commercial banks.

2. CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

During the week ending 20th April 2018, the total value of transactions processed through the National Payments System (NPS) declined to US\$2,016.48 million, from US\$2,146.38 million recorded in the previous week. Transactions processed through the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system decreased by 10.5%, to close the week under review at US\$1,311.21 million.

The total value of transactions processed through the NPS was distributed as follows: RTGS, 65.02%; Mobile, 24.07%; Point of Sale (POS), 10.61%; Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), 0.27%; and cheque transactions, 0.03%, as shown in Figure 1.

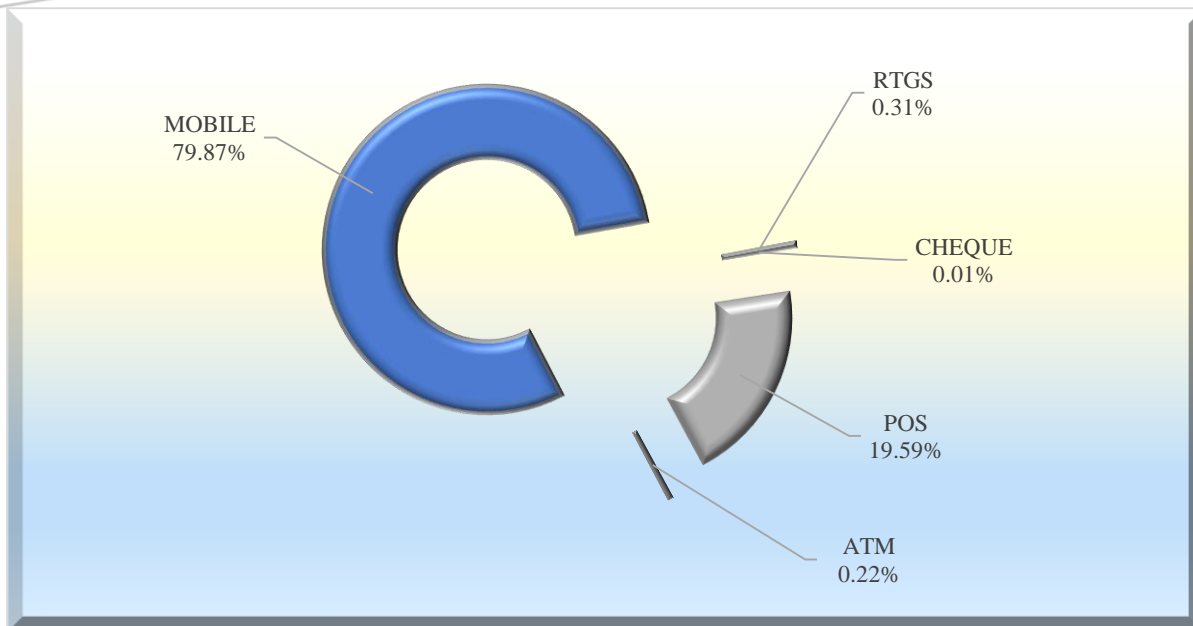
Figure 1: Composition of NPS Transactions in Value Terms



Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2018

In volume terms, NPS transactions increased by 2.3%, from 30,166,405 in the previous week to close the week under analysis at 30,861,100 transactions. Mobile-based transactions accounted for 79.87% of the total volume of transactions, followed by POS, 19.59%; ATM, 0.22%; RTGS, 0.31% and Cheque 0.01%, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Composition of NPS Transactions in Volume Terms



Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2018

Table 3: National Payment Systems Activity

PAYMENT STREAM	WEEK ENDING 13 th April 2018	WEEK ENDING 20 th April 2018	CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK	PROPORTION
VALUES IN US\$ (millions)				
RTGS	1,465.17	1,311.21	-10.5%	65.02%
CHEQUE	0.97	0.66	-31.9%	0.03%
POS	218.64	213.95	-2.1%	10.61%
ATM	5.33	5.36	0.6%	0.27%
MOBILE	456.27	485.29	6.4%	24.07%
TOTAL	2,146.38	2,016.48	-6.1%	100%
VOLUMES				
RTGS	119,178	95,658	-19.7%	0.31%
CHEQUE	5,148	3,337	-35.2%	0.01%
POS	6,308,299	6,045,695	-4.2%	19.59%
ATMs	64,074	68,739	7.3%	0.22%
MOBILE	23,669,706	24,647,671	4.1%	79.87%
TOTAL	30,166,405	30,861,100	2.3%	100%

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2018

3. TOBACCO SALES

As at 20th April 2018 or day 20 of the 2018 tobacco selling season, a cumulative total of 36,979,030 kilograms of tobacco had been sold. The quantity sold was 13.63% lower than the cumulative total of 42,814,081 kilograms sold during the same period in 2017.

The cumulative value of tobacco sales declined to US\$102.51 million, from US\$114.44 million realized during the corresponding period in 2017. The golden leaf, however, fetched a higher average price of US\$2.77/kg, compared to the US\$2.67/kg realized during the same period in 2017.

Table 4: Cumulative Tobacco Sales: Day 20 (20th April 2018)

	2017	2018	Variance (%)
Cumulative Quantity Sold (kgs)	42,814,081	36,979,030	(13.63)
Cumulative Average Price(US\$/kg)	2.67	2.77	3.7
Cumulative Value (US\$ million)	114,440,845	102,508,131	(10.43)

Source: Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board (TIMB), 2018

4. INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PRICE DEVELOPMENTS

The international commodity prices of gold, platinum, copper, nickel and crude oil prices increased, during the week ending 20th April 2018, as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Metal and Crude Oil Prices

	Gold	Platinum	Copper	Nickel	Crude Oil
Weekly Average (9 - 13 April)	1,335.91	927.63	6,868.63	13,522.50	70.91
10-Apr	1,337.45	931.00	6,896.50	13,550.00	70.69
11-Apr	1,347.98	932.00	6,929.00	13,660.00	72.27
12-Apr	1,334.53	927.00	6,883.00	13,720.00	72.09
13-Apr	1,334.88	931.00	6,837.50	13,975.00	72.50
20-Apr	1,338.45	932.00	6,969.00	14,950.00	74.06
Weekly Average (16 – 20 April)	1,344.95	936.00	6,919.40	14,616.00	73.05
<i>Weekly Change (%)</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>8.1</i>	<i>3.0</i>

Source: BBC, KITCO and Bloomberg 2018

Gold

Gold prices increased by 0.7%, from US\$1,335.91/oz. in the previous week to US\$ 1,344.95/oz., during the week under analysis. The persistent geopolitical tensions in the Middle East continued to fuel the demand for the yellow metal as a safe haven asset.

Platinum

Platinum prices increased by 0.9%, from a weekly average of US\$927.63/oz. in the previous week, to close the week under review at US\$936.00/oz. This was on account of strong investment demand for the precious metal.

Copper

Copper prices gained by 0.7%, from US\$6,868.63/ton in the previous week to US\$6,919.40/ton, during the week under review. This was on the back of positive investor sentiments, following the resumption of trade talks between the US and China.

Nickel

During the week ending 20th April 2018, nickel prices increased to US\$14,616.00/ton, from US\$13,522.50/ton in the previous week. This was on account of speculative buying, amid fears of supply bottlenecks, following the imposition of US sanctions on Russia, the world second biggest supplier of the base metal.

Crude Oil

Crude oil prices closed the week under review at US\$73.05/barrel, up from US\$70.91/barrel recorded in the previous week. The increase was underpinned by fears of supply disruptions, amid the escalation of geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

4. EXCHANGE RATES

During the week ending 20th April 2018, the US dollar depreciated against the euro, pound Sterling and pula. The US dollar was weighed down by political uncertainties, following the US involvement in the Syrian conflict. The greenback, however, appreciated against the rand.

Table 5: International Exchange Rates per US\$

	ZAR	GBP	BWP	EURO
2018				
Weekly Average (9 - 13 April)	11.9967	0.7065	9.6535	0.8107
16-Apr	12.0733	0.7016	9.6665	0.8109
17-Apr	12.0469	0.6973	9.6246	0.8075
19-Apr	11.9241	0.7041	9.5785	0.8080
20-Apr	11.9735	0.7105	9.5969	0.8103
Weekly Average (16 - 20 April)	12.0044	0.7034	9.6167	0.8092
<i>Appr(+)/Depr(-) (%) of the USD</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>-0.4</i>	<i>-0.4</i>	<i>-0.2</i>

Source: Reuters, 2018

5. EQUITY MARKETS

During the week under review, the All Share Index gained 4.87 points to close at 95.44 points, from 90.57 points registered in the previous week.

The industrial index closed the week under analysis at 319.66 points, a 5.41% increase from 303.24 points registered during the week ending 20th April 2018. Gains in Delta Corporation Limited (13.70%), Zimplow Holdings limited (10.50%), Axia Corporation Limited (10.24%), Econet Wireless Zimbabwe Limited (9.89%) and Amalgamated Regional Trading (ART) (6.54%), largely accounted for the increase in the industrial index.

The mining index also increased by 0.15% to close the week under review at 123.52 points. This followed a 0.21% increase in RioZim's share price. Bindura Nickel Corporation (BNC) shares traded at previous week price levels, while Falgold and Hwange Colliery Company (HCC) remained inactive during the week under review.

Table 6: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) Statistics

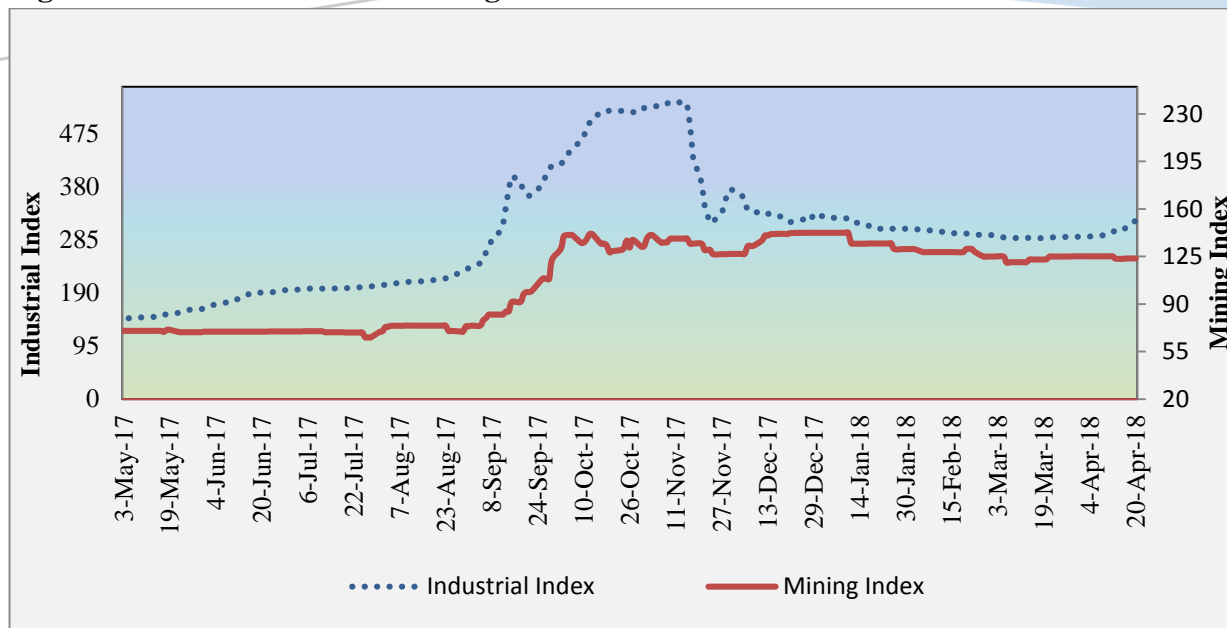
	All Share Index ² (points)	Top 10 index ³ (Points)	Industrial Index (points)	Mining Index (points)	Grand Market Capitalization (US\$)	Market Turnover (US\$)	Volume of Shares
23-March-18	86.87	85.21	290.62	124.91	8,279,282,091	7,338,638	8,193,604
29-March-18	86.98	85.71	291.00	125.09	8,290,413,094	11,457,783	16,603,363
06-April-18	87.21	86.04	291.78	125.09	8,312,174,764	18,954,972	139,484,511
13-April-18	90.57	90.32	303.24	123.33	8,632,182,149	9,811,128	24,752,192
20-April-18	95.44	96.71	319.66	123.52	9,094,909,257	4,546,245	14,759,909
Weekly Change (%)	5.38	7.07	5.41	0.15	5.36	-53.66	-40.37

Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE), 2018

² The All share Index shows the changing average value of shares of all companies on the market.

³ The Index is calculated using the market capitalisation method.

Figure 3: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange Indices

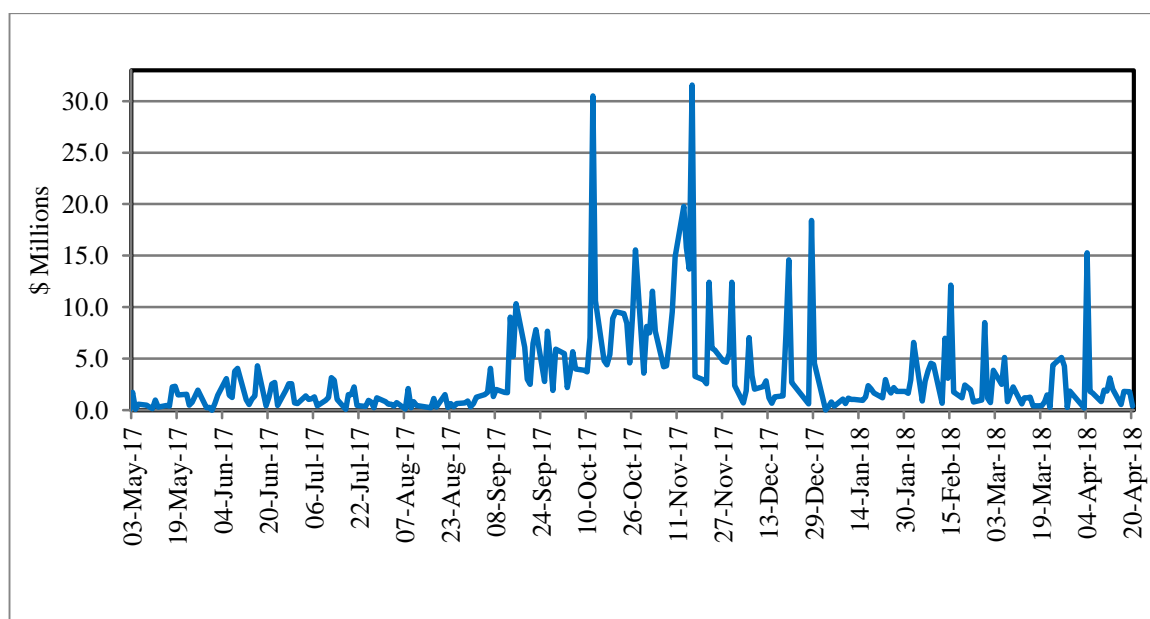


Source: Zimbabwe Stock exchange, 2018

Market Turnover and Volume

The volume of shares traded on the ZSE registered a 40.37% decline to close at 14.76 million shares, during the week ending 20th April 2018. The decrease in shares traded was on the back of a holiday shortened week, coupled with thin trading across the bourse. Similarly, ZSE market turnover value declined by 53.66% to US\$4.55 million, during the same week.

Figure 4: Daily Market turnover

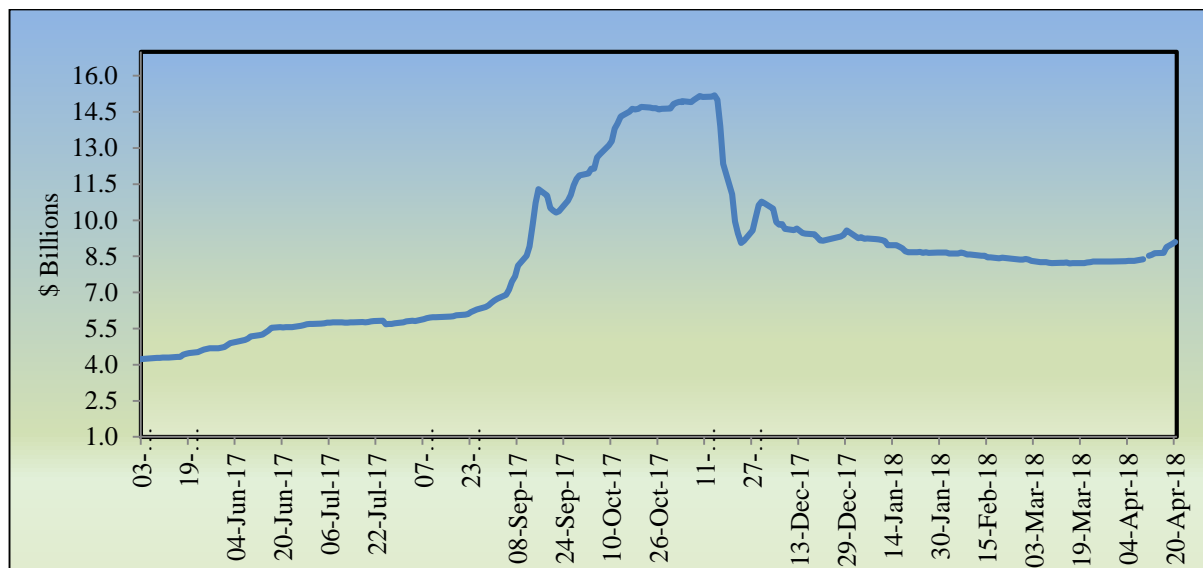


Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2018

Market Capitalization

ZSE market capitalization registered a 5.36% increase, to close the week under review at US\$9.09 billion. This was attributable to gains in both the mining and industrial indices.

Figure 5: Market Capitalization



Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2018

Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Developments

During the week ending 20th April 2018, the JSE All Share index registered a 1.80% increase to 57 581.73 points, from 56 563.17 points in the previous week. JSE market capitalization also increased, from R14.42 trillion in the previous week to R14.51 trillion, during the week under review.

Period	All Share Index (points)	Market Capitalization (ZAR trillion)
23-March-18	56 405.64	14.31
29-March-18	55 474.52	14.29
6-April-18	55 878.81	14.46
13-April-18	56 563.17	14.42
20-April-18	57 581.73	14.51
% Change	1.80	0.62

Source: <https://www.jse.co.za/services/market-data/market-statistics>, 2018

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



Source: <https://www.jse.co.za/services/market-data/market-statistics,2018>

RESERVE BANK OF ZIMBABWE

27TH APRIL 2018