



Weekly Economic Highlights

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Week Ending
24th March 2016

1. INTEREST RATES

Deposit Rates

Average deposit rates for savings and deposits of 1 month and 3 month tenors closed the week ending 24th March 2016 at 3.03%, 6.57%, and 6.93%, respectively.

Table 1: Average Deposit Rates

Date	Savings Deposits (%)	1-Month Deposits (%)	3-Months Deposits (%)
26-Feb-16	2.93	6.57	7.00
04-Mar-16	2.93	6.57	7.00
11-Mar-16	3.03	6.57	6.93
18-Mar-16	3.03	6.57	6.93
24-Mar-16	3.03	6.57	6.93

Source: Banking Institutions, 2016

Lending Rates

Weighted commercial bank lending rates for individuals and corporate clients closed the week under review at 11.43% and 7.16%, respectively.

Table 2: Lending Rates

Date	Lending Rates (%)	
	Commercial Banks (weighted)	
	Individuals	Corporate clients
26-Feb-16	11.48	7.29
04-Mar-16	11.47	7.27
11-Mar-16	11.43	7.31
18-Mar-16	11.50	7.15
24-Mar-16	11.43	7.16

Source: Banking Institutions, 2016

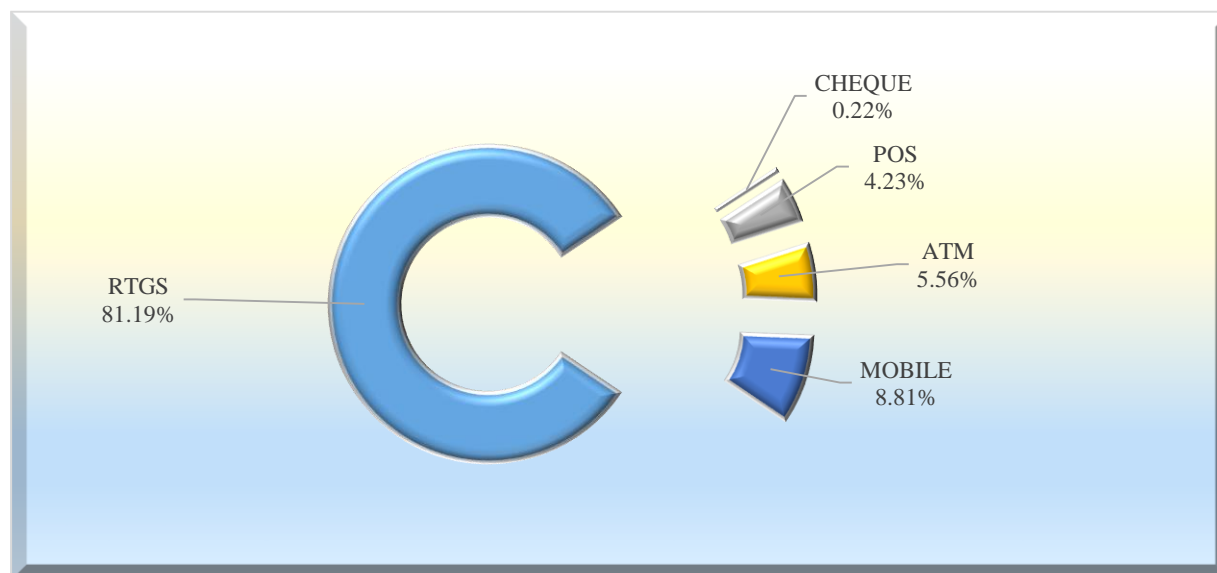
2. CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

Transactions processed through the National Payment Systems (NPS) increased to US\$959.04 million during the week ending 24th March 2016, from US\$922.33 million in the previous week.

During the same week, transactions processed through the Real Time Gross Settlement System (RGTS) stood at US\$778.61 million, up from US\$742.17 million in the previous week.

The contribution of RTGS payments to the total value of transactions processed through the NPS increased by 5 percentage points to 81.19% during the week under review. Mobile transactions accounted for 8.81% of the total value of NPS transactions; Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), 5.56%; Point of Sale (POS), 4.23% and cheque transactions, 0.22%.

Figure 1: Proportions of NPS Transactions in Value Terms



Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe

In volume terms, Mobile-Based transactions accounted for 88.07% of total transactions, followed by POS, 7.10%; ATMs, 4.10%; RTGS, 0.62% and cheques, 0.11%, as shown in Figure 2 below .

Figure 2: Proportions of NPS Transactions in Volume Terms



Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe.

Table 3: National Payment Systems Activity

PAYMENT STREAM	WEEK ENDING 18 Mar 2016	WEEK ENDING 24 Mar 2016	CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK	PROPORTION
VALUES IN USD (millions)				
RTGS	742.17	778.61	5%	81.19%
CHEQUE	2.48	2.07	-16%	0.22%
POS	45.75	40.54	-11%	4.23%
ATMS	49.32	53.34	8%	5.56%
MOBILE	82.61	84.47	2%	8.81%
TOTAL	922.33	959.04	4%	100%
VOLUMES				
RTGS	32,966	31,302	-5%	0.62%
CHEQUE	6,922	5,790	-16%	0.11%
POS	355,511	361,371	2%	7.10%
ATMs	217,512	208,542	-4%	4.10%
MOBILE	4,537,604	4,480,169	-1%	88.07%
TOTAL	5,150,515	5,087,174	-1%	100%

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe

3. INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PRICE DEVELOPMENTS

During the week ending 24th March 2016, the international commodity prices of platinum, copper, nickel, and Brent crude oil firmed. Gold prices, however, retreated during the same period.

Table 4: Metals and Crude Oil Prices

Period	Gold	Platinum	Copper	Nickel	Crude Oil
2016	US\$/ounce	US\$/ounce	US\$/tonne	US\$/tonne	US\$/barrel
Weekly Average (14-18 March)	1,246.92	969.00	4,964.60	8,615.00	40.15
21-Mar	1,244.58	972.00	4,945.00	8,650.00	41.31
22-Mar	1,252.15	986.00	5,070.00	8,650.00	41.65
23-Mar	1,224.90	972.50	5,060.50	8,650.00	40.71
24-Mar	1,218.73	954.50	4,930.50	8,580.00	40.06
Weekly Average (21-24 March)	1,235.09	971.25	5,001.50	8,632.50	40.93
Weekly Change (%)	-0.9	0.2	0.7	0.2	1.9

Source: BBC, KITCO, Reuters and Bloomberg

Gold

Gold prices declined by 0.9%, from a weekly average of US\$1 246.92/oz in the previous week to US\$1 235.09/oz during the week under analysis. The decline was largely due to the strengthening of the US dollar, coupled with speculation about a possible interest rate hike by the U.S. Federal Reserve in the short to medium term.

Platinum

Platinum prices remained unchanged at a weekly average of US\$969.00/oz during the week under review. This was largely due to relative static market conditions for the industrial metal.



Copper

Copper prices increased by 0.7%, from a weekly average of US\$4 964.60/ton to close the week under analysis at an average of US\$5 001.50/ton. This was on account of positive sentiments about demand in China, the largest consumer of the metal.

Nickel

Nickel prices firmed by 0.2%, to close the week under review at a weekly average of US\$8 632.50 /ton, following mounting optimism on demand for base metals in China.

Brent crude oil

Crude oil prices increased by 1.9% from a weekly average of US\$40.15/barrel recorded in the previous week, to US\$40.93/barrel recorded during the week under review. This followed news that the world's major oil producers had scheduled a meeting for the 17th of April 2016, to consider an output freeze in order to exert upward pressure on global oil prices.

4. EQUITY MARKETS

During the week ending 24th March 2016, the benchmark industrial index was subdued, easing by 1.68% to close the week under review at 98.18 points, largely owing to negative trading in the blue chip stocks. The resources index, however, increased by 1.61% to 19.53 points during the week under review.

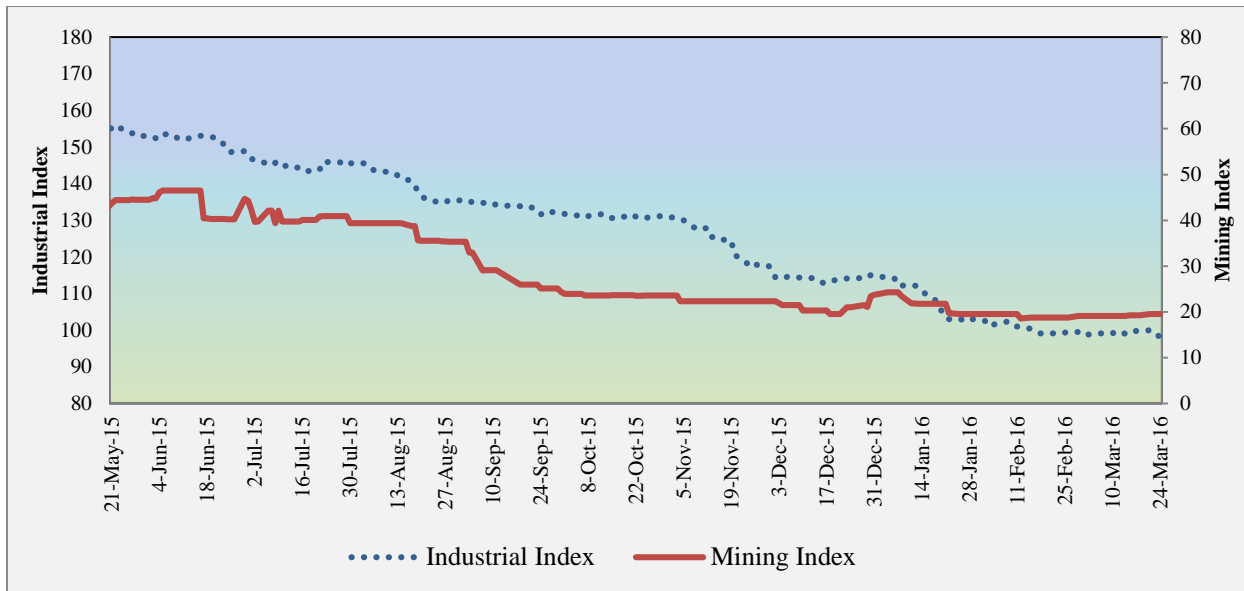
The benchmark index was dragged downwards by losses in Seed Co (19.89%), DZHL (11.76%), African Sun (11.76%), PPC (8.79%). and National Foods (8.76%)

Table 5: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) Statistics

Period	Industrial Index (points)	Mining Index (points)	Grand Market Capitalization (US\$)	Market Turnover (US\$)	Volume of Shares
26-Feb-16	99.40	19.14	2,692,304,381	1,089,351	15,115,000
04-Mar	98.80	19.14	2,676,267,846	1,468,435	15,214,996
11-Mar	99.81	19.14	2,703,197,391	5,164,124	31,518,794
18-Mar	99.86	19.22	2,704,672,600	4,899,095	19,225,544
24-Mar	98.18	19.53	2,660,399,955	3,045,468	12,430,036
Weekly Change (%)	(1.68)	1.61	(1.64)	(37.84)	(35.35)

Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE), 2016

Figure 3 : Zimbabwe Stock Exchange Indices

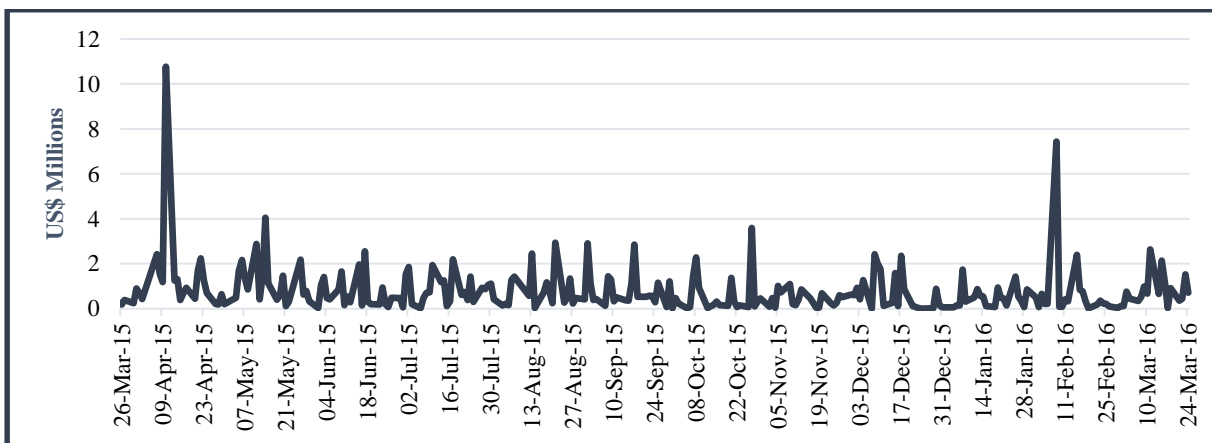


Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2016

Market Turnover and Volume

During the week under review, the total number of shares traded on the ZSE declined by 35.4% to 12 430 036 shares. Consequently, market turnover also declined by 37.84% to close the week under analysis at US\$3.05 million.

Figure 4: Daily Market Turnover

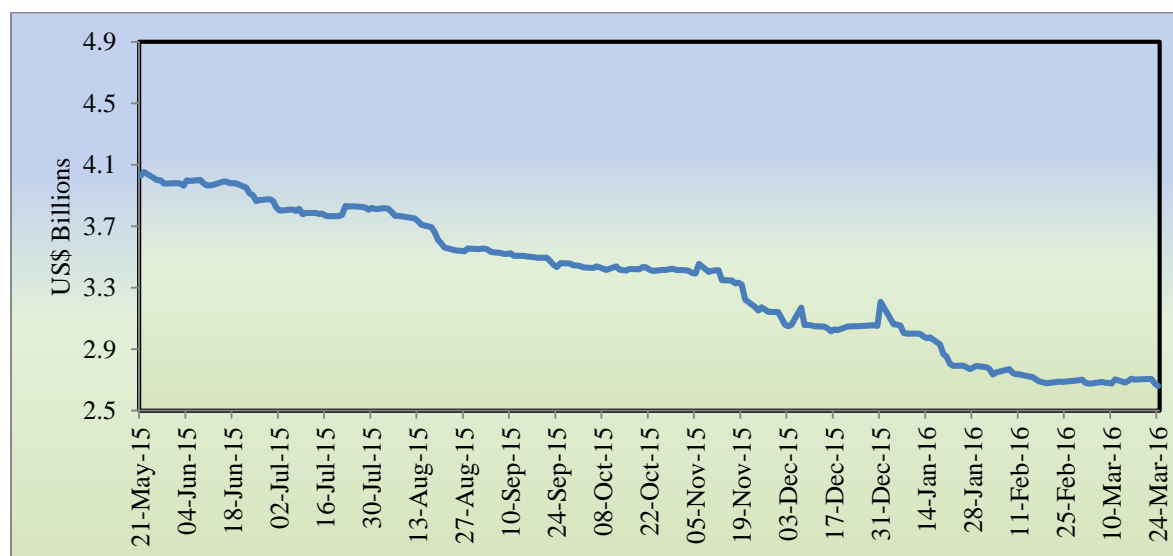


Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2016

Market Capitalisation

The ZSE market capitalisation declined by 1.64% to close the week under review at US\$2.66 billion.

Figure 5 : Market Capitalisation



Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2016

Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Developments

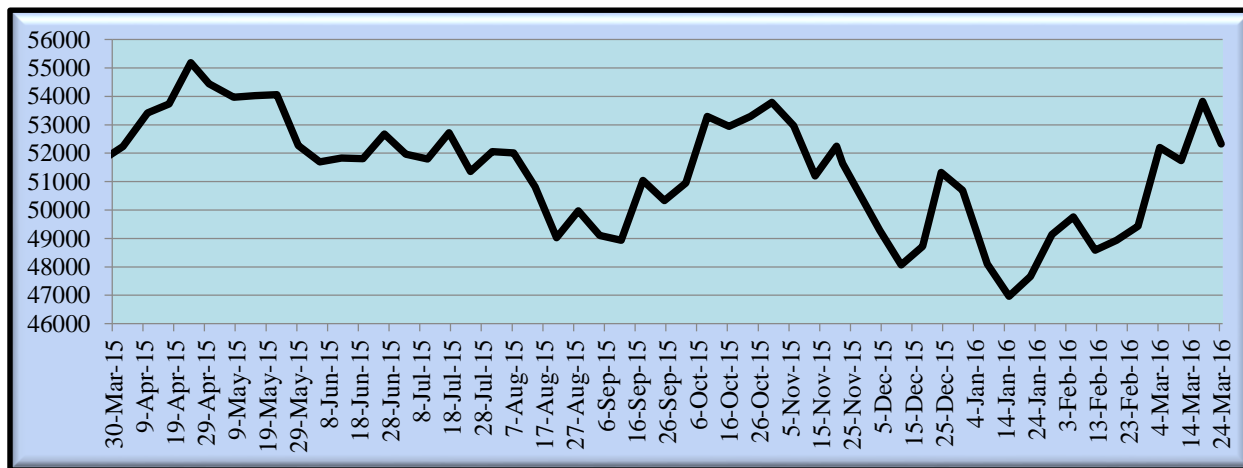
The JSE All Share index stood 52,323.78 points during the week ending 24th March 2015, down from 53,824.28 points in the previous week. Concomitantly, the JSE market capitalization closed the week under review at R15.34 trillion, down from R15.63 trillion in the previous week.

Table 6: Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Statistics

Period	All Share Index (points)	Market Capitalisation (R trillion)
26-Feb-16	49,429.40	14.55
04-Mar-16	52,200.71	15.19
11-Mar-16	51,739.83	15.08
18-Mar-16	53,824.28	15.63
24-Mar-16	52,323.78	15.34

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

31th MARCH 2016