



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
27th April 2018

1. INTEREST RATES

Deposit Rates

Average deposit rates on savings deposits remained unchanged at 4.16%, during the week ending 27th April 2018. Deposit rates for deposits of 1 month and 3 month tenors were, however, lower at 3.52% and 3.70%, respectively.

Table 1: Average Deposit Rates (per annum)

Date	Savings Deposits (%)	1-Month Deposits (%)	3-Months Deposits (%)
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
27-April-18	4.16	3.52	3.70

Source: Banking Institutions, 2018

Lending Rates

During the week under analysis, commercial bank weighted lending rates for individual clients and for corporate clients increased to 9.32% and 7.08%, from 9.30% and 7.05%, respectively from the previous week.

Table 2: Lending Rates

Date	Lending Rates ¹ (%)	
	Commercial Banks (weighted)	
	Individuals	Corporate clients
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
27 April-18	9.32	7.08

Source: Banking Institutions, 2018

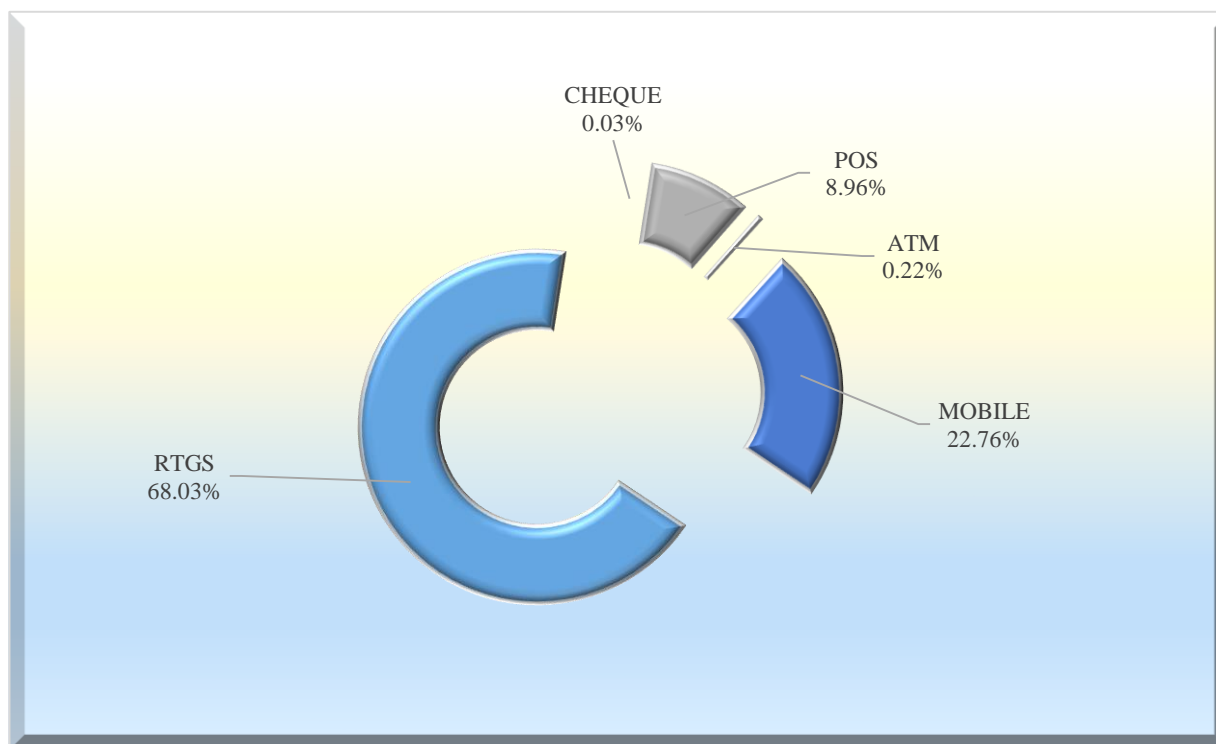
¹ Minimum weighted lending rates offered by commercial banks.

2. CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

The total value of transactions processed through the National Payments System (NPS) stood at US\$2,423.697 million during the week ending 27th April 2018, up from US\$2,016.48 million registered in the preceding week. Transactions processed through the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system increased by 25.8%, to close the week under review at US\$1,648.89 million.

Transactions processed through the NPS, in value terms, were distributed as follows: RTGS, 68.03%; Mobile, 22.76%; Point of Sale (POS), 8.96%; Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), 0.22%; and cheque transactions, 0.03%, as shown in Figure 1.

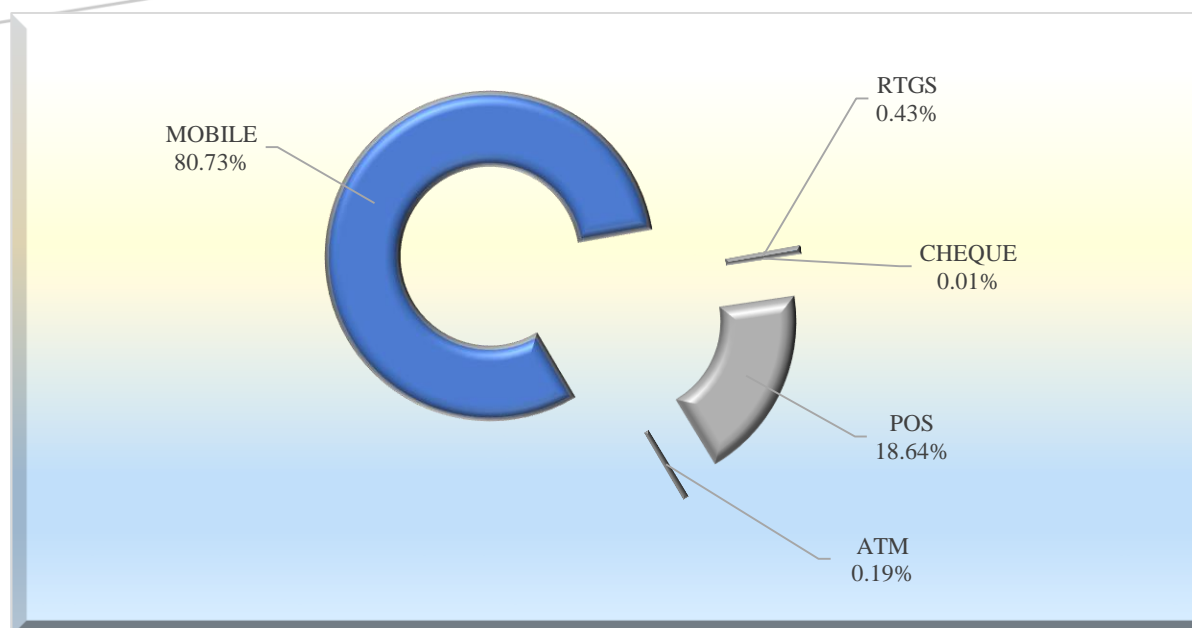
Figure 1: Composition of NPS Transactions in Value Terms



Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2018

In volume terms, NPS transactions increased by 2.3%, from 30,861,100 recorded in the previous week to close the week under analysis at 32,750,964 transactions. Mobile-based transactions accounted for 80.73% of the total volume of transactions, followed by POS, 18.64%; ATM, 0.19%; RTGS, 0.43% 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 20 th April 2018	WEEK ENDING 27 th April 2018	CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK	PROPORTION
VALUES IN US\$ (millions)				
RTGS	1,311.21	1,648.89	25.8%	68.03%
CHEQUE	0.66	0.65	-0.5%	0.03%
POS	213.95	217.28	1.6%	8.96%
ATM	5.36	5.22	-2.6%	0.22%
MOBILE	485.29	551.65	13.7%	22.76%
TOTAL	2,016.48	2,423.697	20.2%	100%
VOLUMES				
RTGS	95,658	141,564	48.0%	0.43%
CHEQUE	3,337	3,536	6.0%	0.01%
POS	6,045,695	6,104,405	1.0%	18.64%
ATMs	68,739	62,194	-9.5%	0.19%
MOBILE	24,647,671	26,439,265	7.3%	80.73%
TOTAL	30,861,100	32,750,964	6.1%	100%

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2018

3. TOBACCO SALES

As at 27th April 2018 or day 25 of the 2018 tobacco selling season, a cumulative total of 58,372,454 kilograms of tobacco had been sold. The quantity sold was 0.31% lower than the cumulative total of 58,554,106 kilograms sold during the same period in 2017.

The cumulative value of tobacco sales increased by 2.99% to US\$163.82 million, from US\$159.06 million realized during the corresponding period in 2017. The golden leaf fetched a higher average price of US\$2.81/kg, compared to the US\$2.72/kg realized during the comparative period in 2017.

Table 4: Cumulative Tobacco Sales: Day 25 (27th April 2018)

	2017	2018	Variance (%)
Cumulative Quantity Sold (kgs)	58,554,106	58,372,454	(0.31)
Cumulative Average Price(US\$/kg)	2.72	2.81	3.3
Cumulative Value (US\$ million)	159,057,619	163,818,153	2.99

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

4. INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PRICE DEVELOPMENTS

During the week ending 27th April 2018 the international commodity prices of gold, platinum and nickel prices declined. Copper and crude oil price, however, increased as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Metal and Crude Oil Prices

	Gold	Platinum	Copper	Nickel	Crude Oil
Weekly Average (16 – 20 April)	1,344.95	936.00	6,919.40	14,616.00	73.05
23-Apr	1,326.15	921.00	7,016.50	14,810.00	74.88
24-Apr	1,328.10	919.00	6,944.50	14,265.00	73.87
25-Apr	1,323.68	919.50	6,977.00	14,130.00	74.40
26-Apr	1,321.30	910.50	6,975.00	14,065.00	74.57
27-Apr	1,319.50	909.50	6,935.50	14,230.00	74.19
Weekly Average (23 - 27 April)	1,323.75	915.90	6,969.70	14,300.00	74.38
<i>Weekly Change (%)</i>	<i>(1.6)</i>	<i>(2.1)</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>(2.2)</i>	<i>1.8</i>

Source: BBC, KITCO and Bloomberg 2018

Gold

Gold prices close the week ending 27th April 2018 at US\$1,323.75/oz., down from US\$1,344.95/oz. recorded in the previous week. This was largely attributable to the dampening demand of the precious metal as a safe asset, amid a waning in geopolitical tensions.

Platinum

Platinum prices declined by 2.1%, from a weekly average of US\$936.00/oz. in the previous week, to close the week under review at US\$915.90/oz. This was, in large part, on account of a rise in the returns on US Treasury securities, which dampened the investment demand for precious metal.

Copper

Copper prices gained by 0.7%, from US\$6,919.40/ton in the previous week to US\$6,969.70/ton, during the week under review. The prices were boosted by rising global demand for the metal.

Nickel

Nickel prices declined by 2.2%, from US\$14,616.00/ton in the previous week to US\$14,300.00/ton, during the week under review. The weakening of the prices was underpinned by the anticipated lower supply shortage risks, following the easing of tensions between the US and Russia.

Crude Oil

Crude oil prices closed the week under review at US\$74.38/barrel, up from US\$73.05/barrel recorded in the previous week. The oil risk premium increased on renewed threats of imposition of sanctions on Iran. In addition, the global oil supply market continued to remain tight as a result of output cuts by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

4. EXCHANGE RATES

During the week ending 20th April 2018, the US dollar appreciated against the euro, pound Sterling, rand and pula. The strengthening of the greenback was boosted by the rise in U.S. Treasury yields.

Table 5: International Exchange Rates per US\$

	ZAR	GBP	BWP	EURO
2018				
Weekly Average (16 - 20 April)	12.0044	0.7034	9.6167	0.8092
23-Apr	12.0883	0.7133	9.5877	0.8148
24-Apr	12.3219	0.7171	9.7609	0.8185
25-Apr	12.3677	0.7161	9.7656	0.8188
26-Apr	12.4443	0.7172	9.8135	0.8214
27-Apr	12.3970	0.7184	9.8087	0.8261
Weekly Average (23 - 27 April)	12.3238	0.7164	9.7473	0.8199
<i>Appr(+)/Depr(-) (%) of the USD</i>	<i>2.7</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>1.3</i>

Source: Reuters, 2018

5. EQUITY MARKETS

The Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) maintained a bullish trend for the sixth consecutive week, during the week ending 27th April 2018. Resultantly, the All Share Index increased by 2.95% to close at 98.26 points, from 95.44 points registered in the previous week.

The industrial index increased by 2.98%, to close at 329.18 points during the same week. The increase emanated from share price gains in Simbisa Brands Limited (12.60%), Pretoria Portland Cement (PPC) (12.24%), British American Tobacco (B.A.T.) (12.01%), Delta Corporation Limited (7.63%) and Padenga Holdings Limited (7.44%).

The mining index, however, remained unchanged at 123.52 points, during the week under review. Bindura Nickel Corporation (BNC), Hwange Colliery Company (HCC) and RioZim traded at previous price levels, while Falgold did not register any trades.

Table 6: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) Statistics

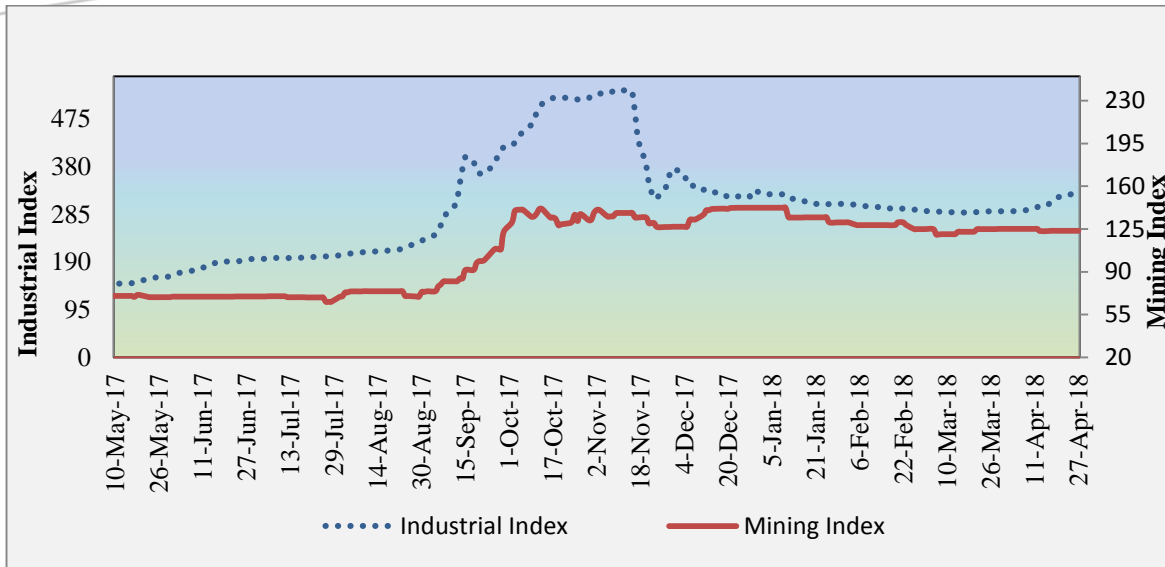
	All Share Index ² (points)	Top 10 index ³ (Points)	Industrial Index (points)	Mining Index (points)	Grand Market Capitalization (US\$)	Market Turnover (US\$)	Volume of Shares
29-March-18	86.98	85.71	291.00	125.09	8,290,413,094	11,457,783	16,603,363
06-April-18	87.21	86.04	291.78	125.09	8,312,174,764	18,954,972	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
27-April-18	98.26	100.26	329.18	123.52	9,362,234,489	9,192,805	11,401,734
Weekly Change (%)	2.95	3.67	2.98	0	2.94	102.21	-22.75

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

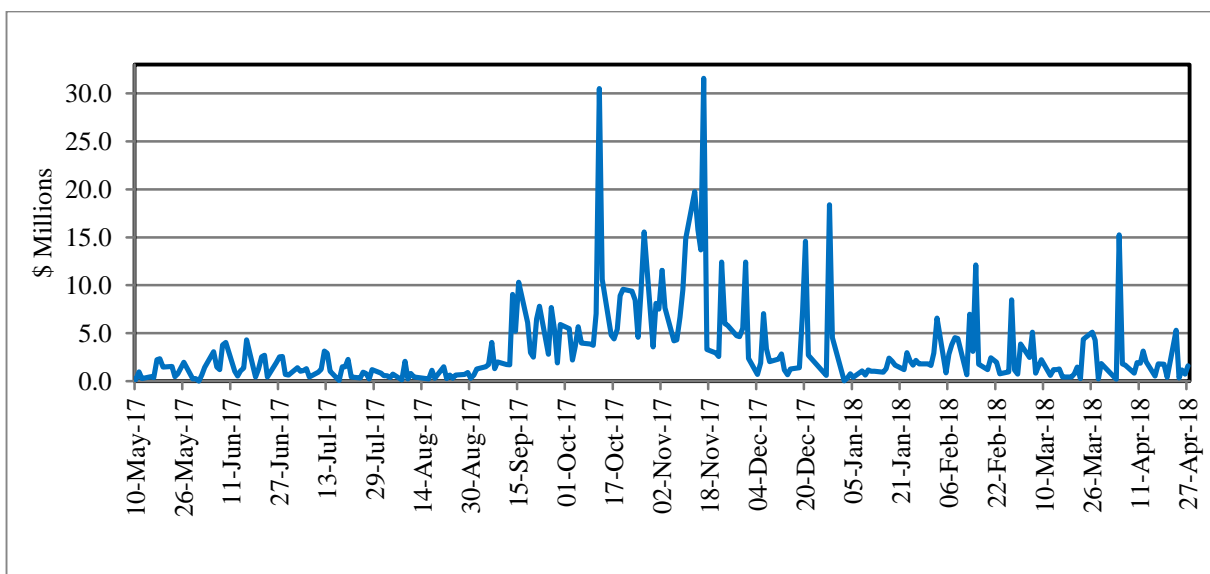


Source: Zimbabwe Stock exchange, 2018

Market Turnover and Volume

During the week ending 27th April 2018, the volume of shares traded on the ZSE registered a 22.75% decline, to close at 11.40 million shares. ZSE market turnover value, however, increased by 101.21% to US\$9.19 million during the same week. Trading activity on the local bourse was concentrated in heavyweight counters, albeit on thin volumes.

Figure 4: Daily Market turnover

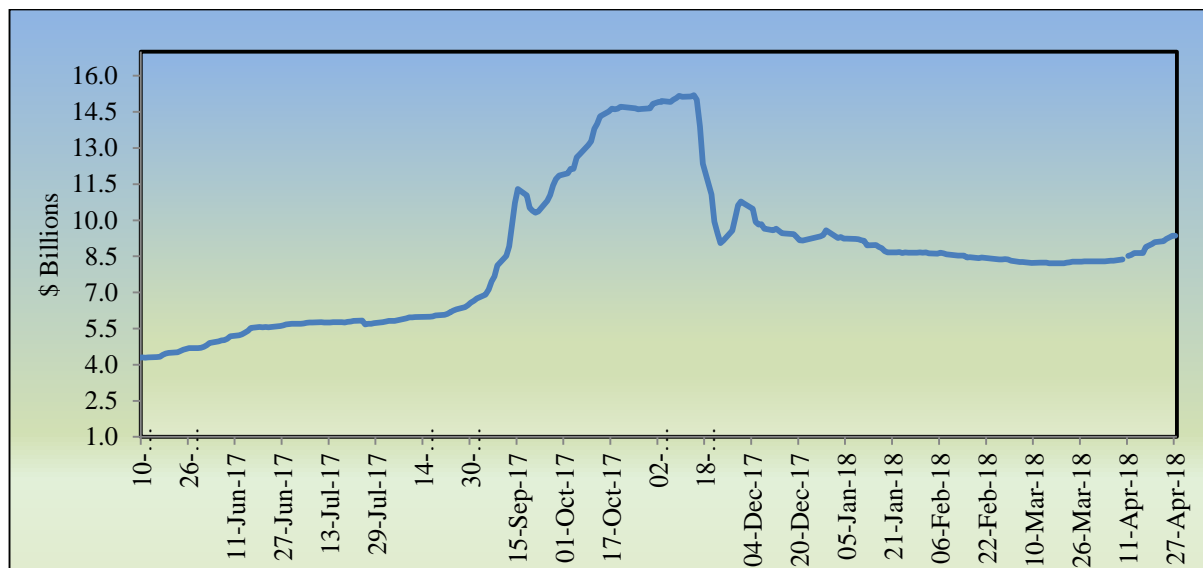


Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2018

Market Capitalization

ZSE market capitalization increased by 2.94%, to close the week under review at US\$9.36 billion. This was attributable to gains in the industrial index.

Figure 5: Market Capitalization



Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2018

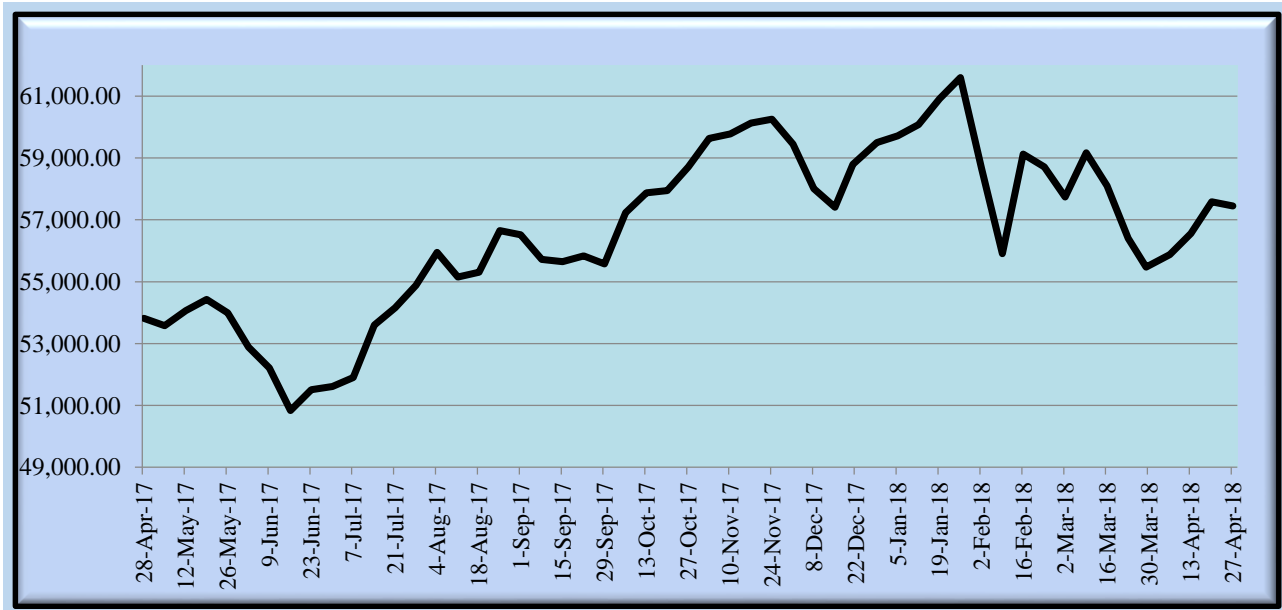
Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Developments

The JSE All Share index registered a 0.22% decrease to 57 453.04 points, during the week under review, from 57 581.73 points in the previous week. JSE market capitalization, however, registered a 0.83% gain to R14.63 trillion, during the same week.

Period	All Share Index (points)	Market Capitalization (ZAR trillion)
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
27-April-18	57 453.04	14.63
% Change	(0.22)	0.83

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

3TH MAY 2018