



Weekly Economic Highlights

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Week Ending
30th January 2015

1. INTEREST RATES

Deposit Rates

During the week ending 30th January 2015, savings deposit rates remained unchanged at 3.31%. Deposit rates for deposits of 1 month and 3 months tenors, however, increased from 9.34% and 10.94% in the previous week, to close the week under analysis at 9.37% and 11.00%, respectively.

Table 1: Average Deposit Rates

2015	Savings Deposits (%)	1-Month Deposits (%)	3-Months Deposits (%)
09-Jan	3.31	9.37	10.94
16-Jan	3.31	9.93	10.94
23-Jan	3.31	9.34	10.94
30-Jan	3.31	9.37	11.00

Source: Banking Institutions, 2015

Lending Rates

At commercial banks, weighted lending rates for individuals and corporate clients declined from 14.19% to 14.16% and 9.68% to 9.66%, respectively. Lending rates at merchant banks for individuals and corporate clients, however, remained unchanged at 19% and 18%, respectively during the week under analysis.

Table 2: Lending Rates

2015	Lending Rates (%)			
	Commercial Banks (weighted)		Merchant Banks (nominal) ¹	
	Individuals	Corporate Clients	Individuals	Corporate Clients
09-Jan	14.18	9.85	19.00	18.00
16-Jan	14.17	9.67	19.00	18.00
23-Jan	14.19	9.68	19.00	18.00
30-Jan	14.16	9.66	19.00	18.00

Source: Banking Institutions, 2015

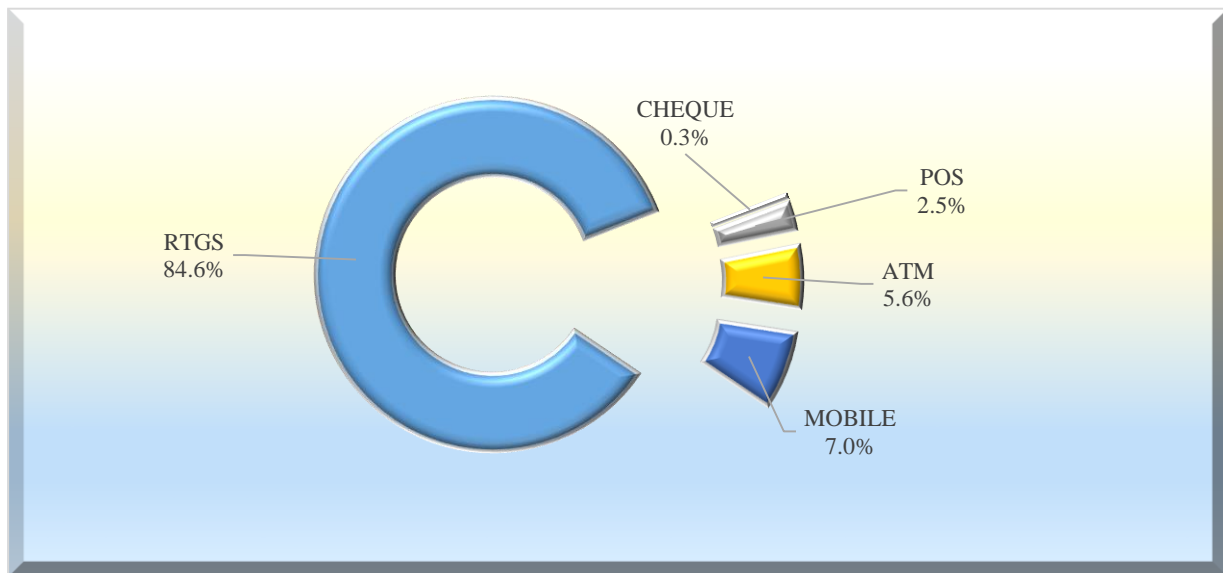
¹ One merchant bank left in operation.

2. CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

During the week ending 30th January 2015, total transactions processed through the National Payment System (NPS) rose by 13.13%, to US\$ 1 162.84 million. Transactions processed through the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system increased from US\$865 million to US\$984 million, in value terms. Mobile systems processed transactions stood at US\$81.51 million, up from US\$66.83 million during the same period.

In terms of proportions, RTGS payments accounted for 84.64% of the total value of transactions processed through the NPS, followed by Mobile transactions, 7.01%; Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), 5.59%; Point of Sale (POS), 2.47%; and cheque transactions, 0.29%.

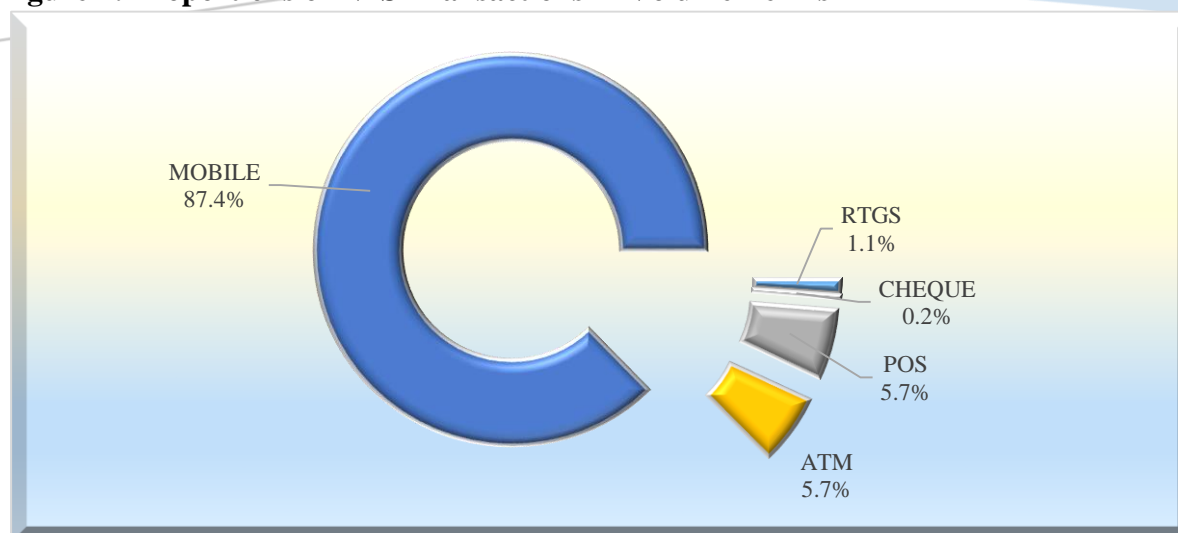
Figure 1: Proportions of NPS Transactions in Value Terms



Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe

Mobile-based transactions accounted for 87.36% of total transactions, in volume terms, followed by POS, 5.70%; ATMs, 5.68%; RTGS, 1.07%; 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 23 JANUARY 2015	WEEK ENDING 30 JANUARY 2015	CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK	PROPORTION
VALUES IN USD (millions)				
RTGS	864.87	984.22	14%	84.64%
CHEQUE	3.23	3.37	4%	0.29%
POS	32.04	28.72	-10%	2.47%
ATMS	60.87	65.02	7%	5.59%
MOBILE	66.83	81.51	22%	7.01%
TOTAL	1,027.84	1,162.84		100%
VOLUMES				
RTGS	42,038	46,834	11%	1.07%
CHEQUE	7,921	8,538	8%	0.20%
POS	258,764	248,927	-4%	5.70%
ATMs	253,581	248,232	-2%	5.68%
MOBILE	3,481,344	3,817,975	10%	87.36%
TOTAL	4,043,648	4,370,506		100%

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe

3. INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PRICE DEVELOPMENTS

The weekly average international commodity prices for gold, platinum, copper and crude oil retreated, while those for nickel firmed during the week ending 30th January 2015.

Table 4: Metals and Crude Oil Prices

Period	Gold	Platinum	Copper	Nickel	Crude Oil
2015	<i>US\$/ounce</i>	<i>US\$/ounce</i>	<i>US\$/tonne</i>	<i>US\$/tonne</i>	<i>US\$/barrel</i>
Weekly Average (23Jan)	1289.28	1268.70	5676.60	14631.50	49.12
26-Jan	1282.00	1253.50	5590.00	14715.00	48.57
27-Jan	1283.75	1259.50	5555.00	14670.00	48.31
28-Jan	1287.50	1260.00	5485.00	14925.00	48.90
29-Jan	1275.50	1238.00	5390.00	14700.00	49.05
30-Jan	1261.88	1225.50	5485.00	14925.00	49.45
Weekly Average (30 Jan)	1278.13	1247.30	5501.00	14787.00	48.86
Weekly Change (%)	<i>-0.9</i>	<i>-1.7</i>	<i>-3.1</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>-0.5</i>

Source: BBC, KITCO, Reuters and Bloomberg

Gold

Gold prices fell by 0.9% from a weekly average of US\$1289.28/oz in the previous week, to an average of US\$1278.13/oz during the week under review. This was on the back of a stronger US dollar which led to a decline in the demand for the metal.

Platinum

In tandem with the movement in gold prices, platinum prices declined from a weekly average of US\$1268.70/oz in the previous week, to an average of US\$1 247.30/oz during the week ending 30th January 2015.



Copper

Copper prices further declined during the week under analysis, shading 3.1% from a weekly average of US\$ 5 676.60/tonne to an average of US\$5 501.00/tonne. This was attributable to rising stocks and the weak demand outlook in China, the largest consumer of the base metal.

Nickel

Nickel prices increased by 1.1%, from a weekly average of US\$14 631.50/ton in the previous week, to an average of US\$14 787.00/ton. Concerns over a weak demand outlook for the metal, in large part, explained the decline.

Crude Oil

Crude Oil prices fell by 0.5%, from a weekly average of US\$49.12/barrel, to an average of US\$48.86/barrel during the week under analysis. The decline was mainly on account of increasing inventories in the US.

4. EQUITY MARKETS

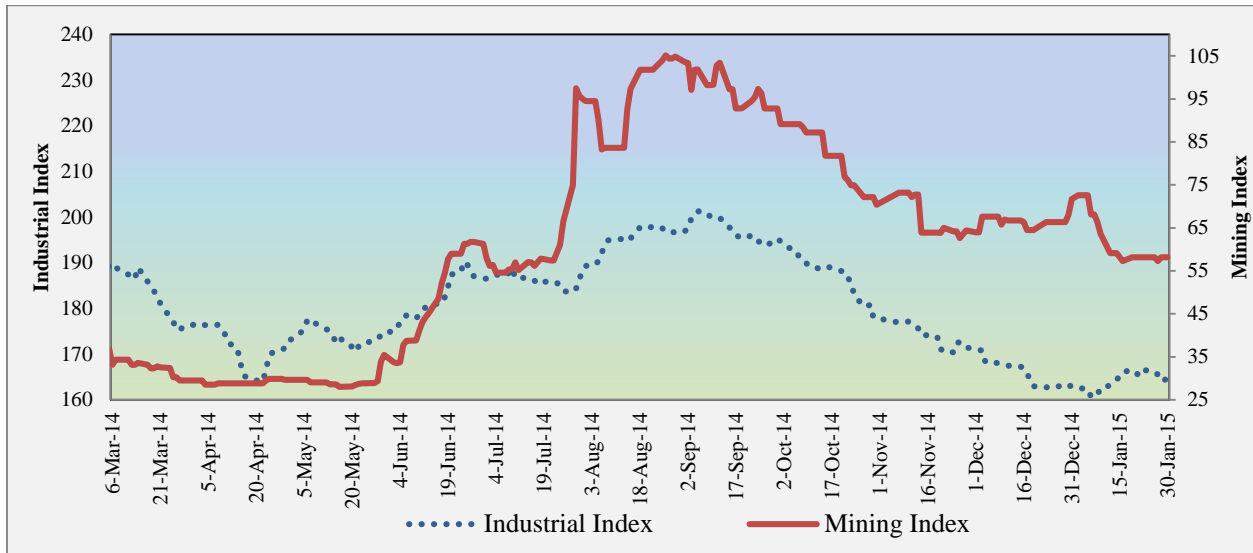
Low activity characterized trading on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, during the week ending 30th January 2015. The industrial index declined by 0.94% to close the week at 164.90 points, while the mining index declined by 0.02% to close at 58.13 points. The industrial index was weighed down by losses recorded in Zimplow, (8.33%); Econet, (7.41%); Inncor, (5.00%); Seedco, (6.86%); TSL, (1.89%) and Old Mutual, (0.41%). Partially offsetting these losses were gains realized in CFI (62.50%); Zimre holdings, (17.65%), Lafarge (11.11%) and Delta (0.09%) The decline in the resources index was largely owing to losses in Hwange, (0.25%). Bindura, RioZim and Falgold, however, traded unchanged during the week under review.

Table 5: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) Statistics

Period	Industrial Index (points)	Mining Index (points)	Grand Market Capitalization (US\$)	Market Turnover (US\$)	Volume of Shares
02-Jan-15	162.57	72.61	4,323,173,821	5,071,602	16,689,321
09-Jan-15	162.70	63.61	4,314,173,584	5,262,232	16,139,709
16-Jan-15	166.15	57.24	4,395,719,222	3,359,225	17,125,141
23-Jan-15	166.46	58.14	4,405,177,051	5,668,477	12,709,045
30-Jan-15	164.90	58.13	4,347,569,893	1,942,127	10,399,733

Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE), 2015

Figure 3 : Zimbabwe Stock Exchange Indices

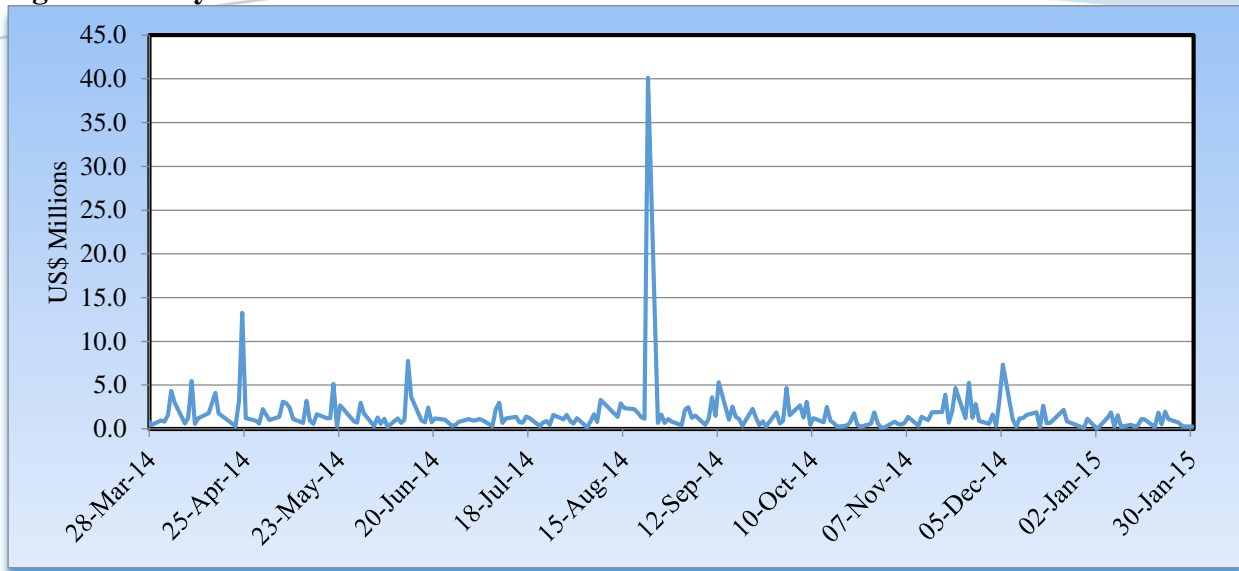


Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2015

Market Turnover and Volume

Market turnover stood at US\$1.94 million during the week under review, a significant decline from US\$5.7 million in the previous week. This followed investors' subdued demand in the blue chip counters. In terms of volume, 10 399 733 shares were traded, down from 12 709 045 in the previous week.

Figure 4: Daily Market Turnover

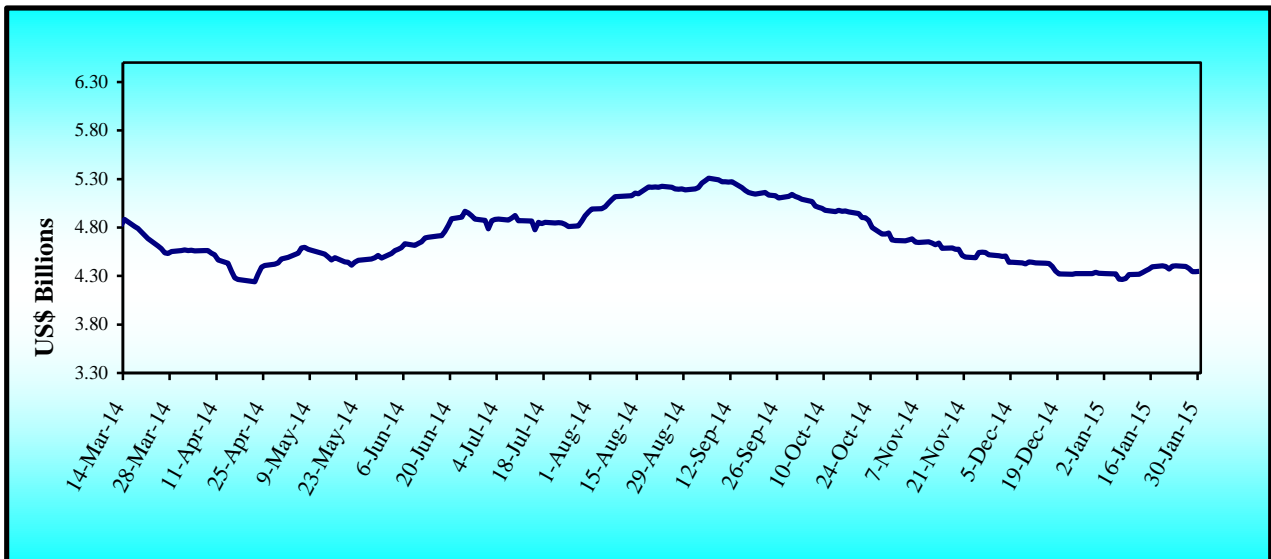


Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2015

Market Capitalization

The ZSE market capitalization fell from US\$4.41 billion in the previous week, to US\$4.34 billion during the week ending 30th January 2015.

Figure 5 : Market Capitalization



Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2015

Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Developments

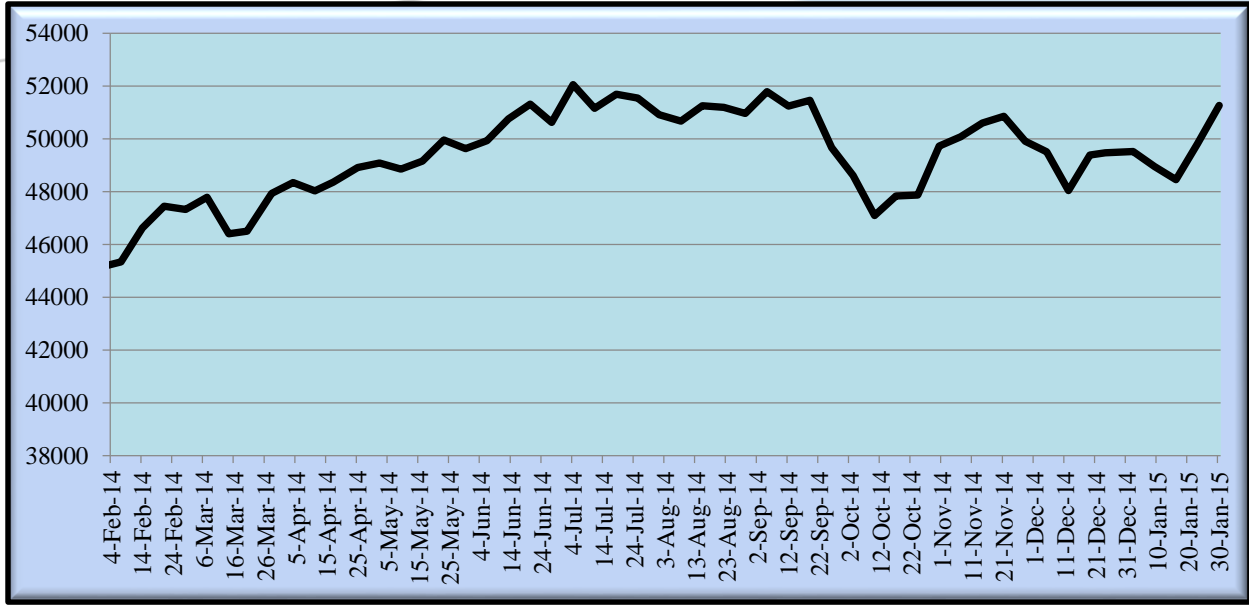
During the week ending 30th January 2015, the JSE All Share index rose from 49 816.57 points in the previous week to 51 266.81 points. Market capitalization stood at R11 761.16 billion, up from R11 433.46 billion in the previous week.

Table 6: Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Statistics

Period- 2015	All Share Index (points)	Market Capitalization (R billion)
02-Jan	49, 518.48	11,435.45
09-Jan	48,950.50	11,277.78
16-Jan	48,458.25	11,150.54
23-Jan	49,816.57	11,433.46
30-Jan	51,266.81	11,761.16

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

03RD FEBRUARY 2015