



Weekly Economic Highlights

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Week Ending
3rd March 2023

1. INTEREST RATES

Local Currency (ZWL) Deposit Rates

During the week ending 3rd March 2023, minimum deposits rates for savings deposits increased, while maximum deposits rates on the same deposit class remained unchanged. Minimum deposits rates for deposits of 1-month tenor and 3-months tenor increased, while maximum deposits rates on the two deposit classes declined, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Average Deposit Rates (per annum)

Date	Savings deposits (%)		1- Month deposit's rates (%)		3- Month deposit rates (%)	
	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)
3-Feb-23	31.30	32.09	75.88	82.06	78.47	85.03
10-Feb-23	31.18	34.00	71.29	82.17	70.03	82.44
17-Feb-23	35.00	38.38	64.06	75.00	63.14	75.92
24-Feb-23	36.43	37.75	62.28	79.11	64.50	77.06
3-Mar-23	36.67	37.75	63.94	78.83	66.17	77.00

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

Local Currency (ZWL) Lending Rates

The week ending 3rd March 2023, saw a decline in commercial bank minimum lending rates for both individual and corporate clients. However, maximum lending rates for individual clients at commercial banks were higher than in the previous week, while those for corporate clients marginally softened during the same week, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Lending Rates (per annum)

Date	Individual Clients		Corporate Clients	
	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)
3-Feb-23	90.05	128.63	116.03	205.86
10-Feb-23	74.14	115.32	106.68	184.89
17-Feb-23	72.55	114.77	102.88	178.55
24-Feb-23	68.85	108.73	86.23	169.40
3-Mar-23	60.21	112.78	80.88	166.90

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

Foreign Currency (USD) Deposit Rates

Average minimum deposit rates for savings deposits and deposits of 3-months tenor marginally increased, while maximum deposit rates on the two deposit classes remained unchanged during the week ending 3rd March 2023. In the same week, minimum deposit rates for deposits of 1-month tenor increased, while maximum deposit rates declined, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Average Deposit Rates (per annum)

Date	Savings deposits (%)		1- Month deposit's rates (%)		3- Month deposit rates (%)	
	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)
3-Feb-23	0.91	1.22	2.68	4.28	2.88	4.33
10-Feb-23	0.91	1.22	2.94	4.28	2.90	4.22
17-Feb-23	1.27	1.69	3.00	4.53	3.38	5.07
24-Feb-23	1.27	1.69	2.94	4.69	3.30	5.03
3-Mar-23	1.29	1.69	2.97	4.58	3.40	5.03

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

Foreign Currency (USD) Lending Rates

During the week under review, commercial bank minimum and maximum lending rates for both individual and corporate clients increased, as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Lending Rates (per annum)

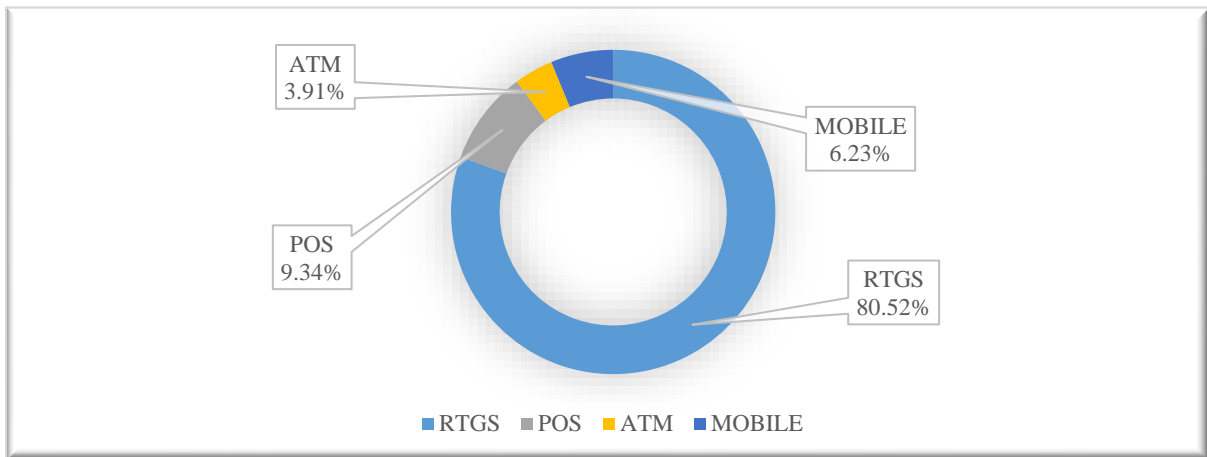
Date	Individual Clients		Corporate Clients	
	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)
3-Feb-23	11.35	12.86	6.60	13.52
10-Feb-23	10.98	13.16	7.31	14.58
17-Feb-23	11.04	13.18	7.60	14.62
24-Feb-23	10.62	12.88	7.52	14.41
3-Mar-23	10.93	13.37	7.70	14.66

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

2. CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

During the week ending 3rd March 2023, the National Payment Systems (NPS) processed transactions worth ZW\$694.61 billion. This represented an increase of 20.74%, compared to ZW\$575.29 billion reported in the previous week. Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) transactions increased by 22.72% to ZW\$559.30 billion, from ZW\$455.75 billion recorded in the preceding week. In proportions, the NPS transaction values were distributed as follows: RTGS, 80.52%, POS, 9.34%; Mobile, 6.23%; and ATM, 3.91%.

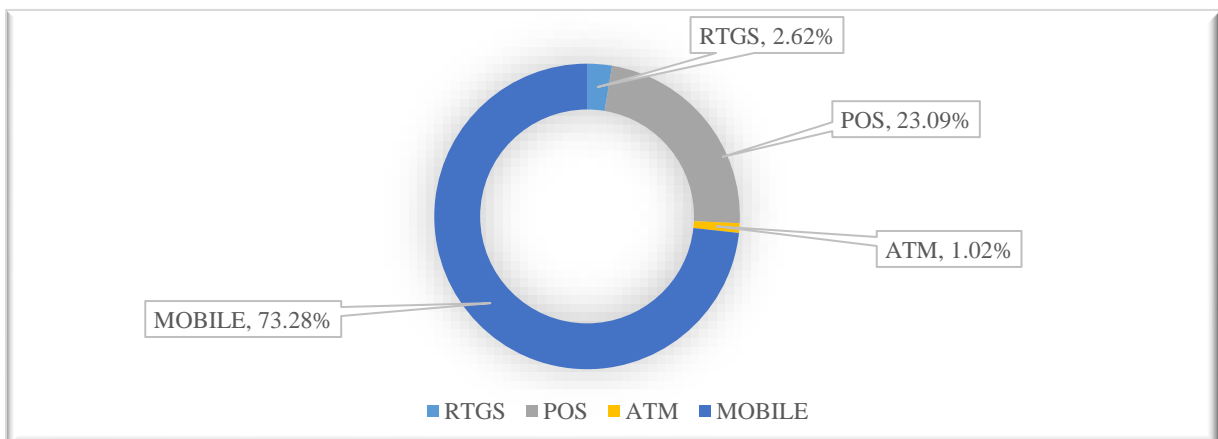
Figure 1: Composition of NPS Transactions in Value Terms



Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

The volume of NPS transactions increased by 8.72% to 12.50 million, during the week under review, from 11.50 million recorded in the preceding week. Mobile based transactions dominated NPS transactions volumes at 73.28% of the total, followed by POS, 23.09%; RTGS, 2.62%; and ATM, 1.02%, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Composition of NPS Transactions in Volume Terms



Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

Table 5: National Payment Systems Activity

PAYMENT STREAM	WEEK ENDING 24 th February 2023	WEEK ENDING 3 rd March 2023	% CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK	PROPORTION %
Values in ZW\$ Millions				
RTGS	455,750.45	559,301.12	22.72%	80.52%
POS	58,048.71	64,874.14	11.76%	9.34%
ATM	21,346.83	27,133.80	27.11%	3.91%
MOBILE	40,142.91	43,305.28	7.88%	6.23%
TOTAL	575,288.89	694,614.34	20.74%	100%
Volumes				
RTGS	217,802	327,007	50.14%	2.62%
POS	2,797,319	2,886,885	3.20%	23.09%
ATM	124,807	127,268	1.97%	1.02%
MOBILE	8,360,455	9,162,088	9.59%	73.28%
TOTAL	11,500,383	12,503,248	8.72%	100%

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

3. INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PRICE DEVELOPMENTS

Weekly average prices for gold, palladium and nickel declined during the week ending 3rd March 2023. However, platinum, copper and crude oil prices increased during the same week, as shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Metal and Crude Oil Prices for the week ending 3rd March 2023

	Gold	Platinum	Palladium	Copper	Nickel	Crude Oil
2023	US\$/ounce	US\$/ounce	US\$/ounce	US\$/tonne	US\$/tonne	US\$/barrel
Weekly Average (20-24 Feb 23)	1,831.64	940.40	1,479.20	8,941.60	25,895.00	82.46
27-Feb-23	1,813.85	934.00	1,438.50	8,819.00	25,400.00	82.44
28-Feb-23	1,817.40	945.00	1,423.00	9,049.00	24,890.00	83.99
01-Mar-23	1,837.38	962.50	1,420.00	9,052.00	25,000.00	84.15
02-Mar-23	1,833.98	955.50	1,426.00	8,958.50	24,395.00	84.44
03-Mar-23	1,843.35	974.50	1,445.50	8,916.50	24,570.00	85.15
Weekly Average (27 Feb-3 Mar 23)	1,829.19	954.30	1,430.60	8,959.00	24,851.00	84.03
Weekly Change (%)	-0.13	1.48	-3.29	0.19	-4.03	1.91

Source: BBC, KITCO and Bloomberg, 2023

Gold

Gold prices continued on a negative trajectory, declining by 0.13%, from US\$1,831.64 per ounce recorded in the preceding week to US\$1,829.19 per ounce, during the week under review. The outlook for bullion prices remained clouded by prospects of further interest rate hikes by the U.S Federal Reserve.

Platinum

During the week under review, platinum prices increased by 1.48%, from US\$940.40 per ounce in the preceding week to US\$954.30 per ounce, during the week ending 3rd March 2023. This was, in large part, due to improved demand in the automotive industry.

Palladium

Palladium prices continued the downward trend during the week ending 3rd March 2023, following low demand for the commodity. The precious metal price slipped by 3.29%, from a weekly average of US\$1,479.20 per ounce in the prior week to US\$1,430.60 per ounce, during the week under review.

Copper

During the reporting week, copper prices increased by 0.19% to US\$8,959.00 per tonne, from US\$8,941.60 per tonne recorded in the previous week. Prices rose after better-than-expected data on manufacturing activity was released in China, positively impacting on the demand for the commodity.

Nickel

Nickel prices declined by 4.03%, from US\$25,895.00 per tonne in the week ending 24th February 2023 to US\$24,851.00 per tonne, during the week under review. The decrease resulted from weak demand from China's downstream manufacturers that had not fully resumed operations.

Brent Crude Oil

During the week under review, international crude oil prices rebounded by 1.91%, from US\$82.46 per barrel in the previous week to US\$84.03 per barrel. Prices increased due to signs of improving economic activities in China, which were expected to boost the demand for fuel.

4. EXCHANGE RATE DEVELOPMENTS

Interbank Market

On the interbank market, the Zimbabwe dollar (ZWL) depreciated by 1.7% against the US dollar, from ZWL878.1825 per US\$1 in the previous week to ZWL892.8117 per US\$1 during the week under review, as is shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Interbank Market Exchange Rates¹

	USD	ZAR	GBP	BWP	EURO
2023					
Weekly Average (20-24 Feb 23)	878.1825	48.3688	1,058.5275	66.4189	934.3851
27-Feb-23	885.9619	47.9616	1,057.7958	66.4930	934.0759
28-Feb-23	889.1325	48.1928	1,070.6569	66.7310	941.1531
01-Mar-23	892.6349	48.7805	1,074.9571	67.1784	945.4850
02-Mar-23	896.9030	49.1400	1,075.8409	67.6844	954.5796
03-Mar-23	899.4263	49.3827	1,076.7497	67.7824	954.3873
Weekly Average (27 Feb-3 Mar 23)	892.8117	48.6915	1,071.2001	67.1738	945.9362
Appr(-)/Depr(+)(%) of the ZWL	1.7	0.7	1.2	1.1	1.2

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

5. EQUITY MARKETS

Zimbabwe Stock Exchange

The Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) was characterised by positive trading, during the week ending 3rd March 2023. As a result, the ZSE All Share index added 4.15% to close at 29 196.89 points. All the major indices registered gains with the Top 10, Top 15, Medium and Small Cap indices adding 1.58%, 3.86%, 5.34% and 2.43% to close the week at 17 022.75 points, 20 097.27 points, 64 184.73 points and 641 428.45 points, respectively.

The increase in the mainstream index was largely attributed to share price increases for Ariston Holdings Limited (27.12%), CFI Holdings (21.81%), Rainbow Tourism Group (RTG) Limited (19.70%), Bridgefort Capital Limited (15%) and Zimplow Holdings Limited (13.83%). Partially offsetting the gains were losses in share prices for OK Zimbabwe Limited (5.04%), Amalgamated Regional Trading (ART) Limited (4.76%), AFDIS Limited (1.74%), Ecocash Holdings Zimbabwe Limited (1.39%) and Fidelity Life Assurance Limited (1.14%). The Resource Index², also gained 14.64% to close the week at 33 482.91 points, compared to 29 207.92 points recorded in the prior week.

¹ Direct quote – the amount of domestic currency needed to exchange for 1 unit of foreign currency

² Resource Index – Comprised of RioZim Limited Share Price

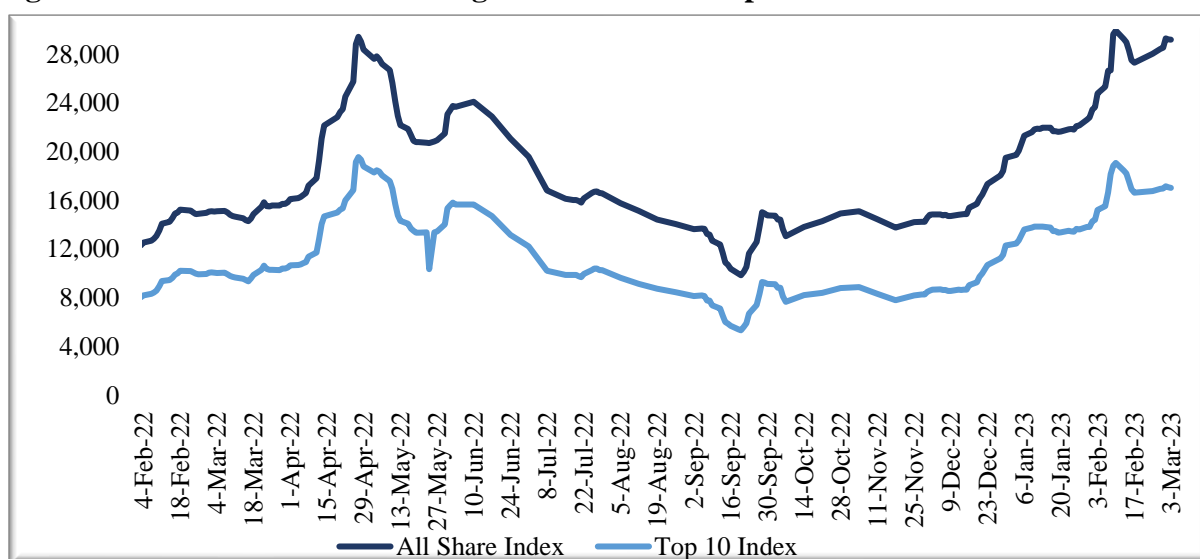
Table 8: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange Statistics³

	All Share Index Points	Top 10 index ³ (points)	Top 15 Index ³ points	Medium Cap ³ (points)	Small Cap ³ (points)	Mining Index (points)	Grand Market Capitalization (ZWL billion)	Market Turnover (ZWL million)	Volume of Shares (million)
27-Jan-23	22,142.52	13,612.50	15,166.91	45,157.58	474,766.97	25,496.86	2,392.19	3,308.22	24.51
3-Feb-23	24,782.89	15,222.34	17,012.45	50,707.50	504,953.31	25,505.95	2,673.14	5,166.00	69.29
10-Feb-23	29,944.34	19,085.82	21,136.88	55,596.86	518,724.23	29,116.96	3,226.91	9,865.72	56.27
17-Feb-23	27,301.03	16,645.38	18,920.78	56,883.05	566,763.43	29,116.96	2,916.51	8,164.24	28.70
24-Feb-23	28,033.96	16,757.59	19,350.07	60,929.82	626,212.55	29,207.92	2,519.09	1,405.69	14.91
03-Mar-23	29,196.89	17,022.75	20,097.27	64,184.73	641,428.45	33,482.91	2,522.77	3,794.12	30.08
% Change	4.15	1.58	3.86	5.34	2.43	14.64	0.15	169.91	101.81

Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE), 2023

Figure 3 shows the trend in daily market turnover for the period from 4th February 2022 to 3rd March 2023.

Figure 3: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange All Share and Top 10 Indices



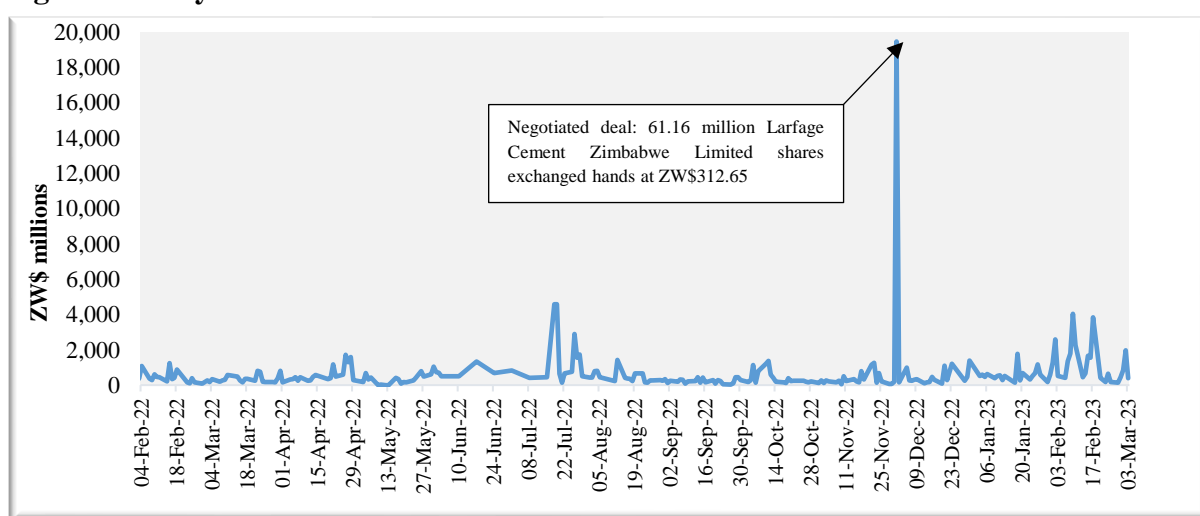
Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2023

³ The Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) adopted the Global Industry Classification Standards, effective from 1 January 2020. The ZSE indices constitute the following categories; Top 10 Index; Top 15; Top 25; Medium cap and Small cap Indices.

Market Turnover and Volume

The cumulative volume of shares traded on the ZSE increased by 101.81% to 30.08 million, during the week under analysis, from 14.91 million recorded in the prior week. A 169.91% to ZW\$3.79 billion increase in turnover value of shares traded was recorded during the reporting week, from ZW\$1.41 billion recorded in the previous week. The surge in market turnover was largely informed by block trades in which 3.17 million Econet Wireless Zimbabwe Limited shares and 2.06 million Delta Corporation Limited shares exchanged hands at ZW\$170.06 and ZW\$525.74 per share, respectively. Figure 4 shows the trend in daily market turnover for the period from 4th February 2022 to 3rd March 2023.

Figure 4: Daily Market Turnover



Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2023

Market Capitalization

Reflecting the positive momentum on the ZSE during the week under review, the market added ZW\$3.68 billion, or 0.15% worth of capitalisation to close at ZW\$2,522.77 billion. Figure 5 shows the evolution of ZSE market capitalization for the period from 4th February 2022 to 3rd March 2023.

Figure 5: Daily Market Capitalization in ZW\$ billions

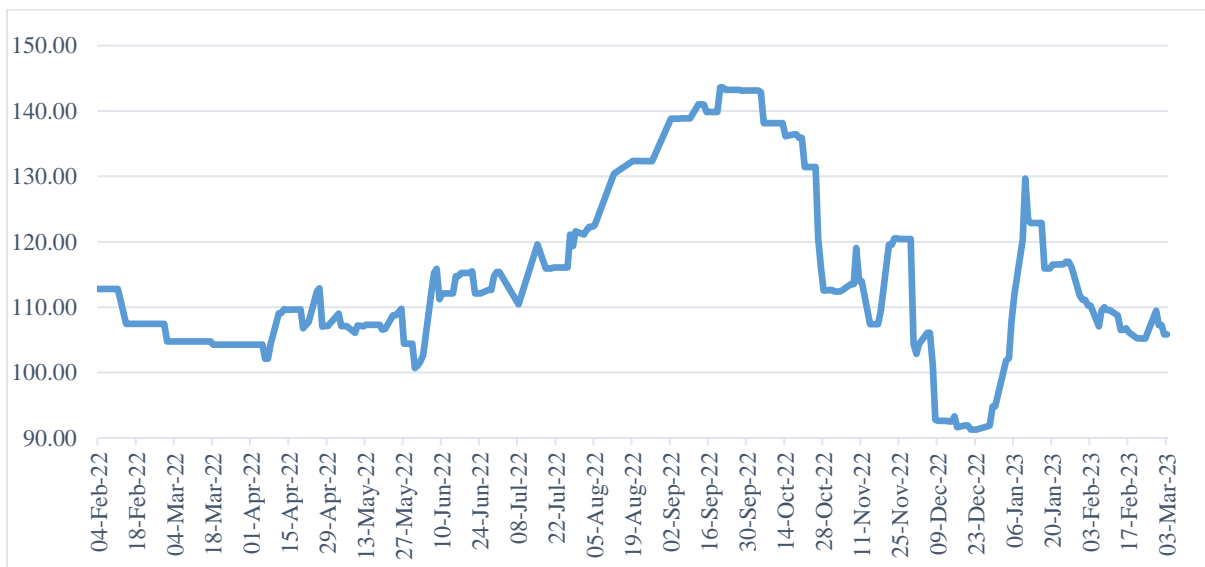


Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2023

Victoria Falls Stock Exchange

The Victoria Falls Stock Exchange (VFEX) exhibited bearish sentiments, during the week ending 3rd March 2023. Resultantly, the VFEX All Share index lost 0.36% to close at 105.82 points. The cumulative volume of shares traded on the VFEX declined by 69.50% to 0.94 million. However, the value of shares traded increased by 144.94% to USD0.32 million, during the same week. VFEX market capitalization increased by 76.14% to US\$1.06 billion, compared to US\$0.60 billion recorded in the previous week. Figure 6 shows the trend in the VFEX All Share Index (ASI) for the period from 4th February 2022 to 3rd March 2023.

Figure 6: Victoria Falls Stock Exchange All Share Index



Source: Victoria Falls Stock Exchange, 2023

Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Developments

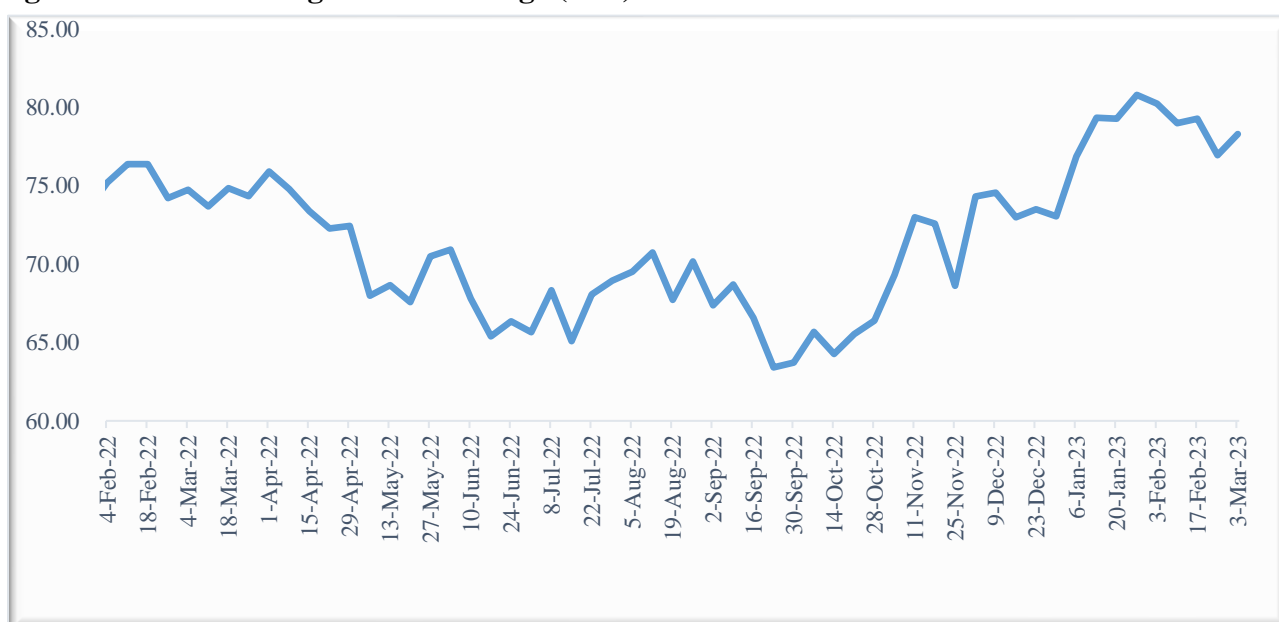
The Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) All Share Index increased from 76,937.77 points in the previous week to close at 78,293.01 points, during the week ending 3rd March 2023. JSE market capitalization also increased by 2.34% to ZAR22.25 trillion, during the same week.

Table 9: Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Statistics

Period	All Share Index (points)	Market Capitalization (ZAR trillions)
27-Jan-23	80,791.36	23.28
3-Feb-23	80,240.92	23.08
10-Feb-23	78,985.35	22.87
17-Feb-23	79,271.78	22.93
24-Feb-23	76,937.77	22.23
03-Mar-23	78,293.01	22.75
% Change	1.76	2.34

Source: <https://www.jse.co.za/services/market-data/market-statistics>, 2023

Figure 7: Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) All Share Index



Source: <https://www.jse.co.za/services/market-data/market-statistics>, 2023

APPENDIX 1: FOREIGN EXCHANGE AUCTION RESULTS FOR MAINFX⁴ AND SMEFX⁵

	MAINFX				SMEFX			
	10-Feb-23	17-Feb-23	24-Feb-23	03-Mar-23	10-Feb-23	17-Feb-23	24-Feb-23	03-Mar-23
Total Bids (US\$ dollars)	20,220,645.23	19,718,948.31	18,253,090.41	15,396,789.23	2,735,597.08	1,962,394.00	1,869,245.41	2,195,734.20
Amount Allotted (US\$ dollars)	16,897,319.04	18,443,098.62	17,818,400.18	15,396,789.23	2,269,815.79	1,811,479.70	1,814,191.43	2,165,675.36
Highest Rate	885	935	950	990	890	930	980	990
Lowest Bid Rate	830	85	875	885	830	855	875	885
Lowest Bid Rate Allotted	830	855	875	885	830	855	875	885
Weighted Average Rate	831.8147	856.8403	881.7513	892.6349	831.8147	856.8403	881.7513	892.6349
Number of Bids Received	223	225	252	182	305	271	262	216
Number of Bids Rejected	8	9	10	8	4	5	6	7

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

⁴ Main Foreign Currency Auction

⁵ Small and Medium Enterprises Foreign Currency Auction

APPENDIX 2: SUMMARY OF FOREIGN CURRENCY AUCTION ALLOTMENTS BY PURPOSE

Purpose	MAINFX				SMEFX			
	10-Feb-23	17-Feb-23	24-Feb-23	03-Mar-23	10-Feb-23	17-Feb-23	24-Feb-23	03-Mar-23
Raw Materials	9,293,740.16	10,000,202.79	9,494,073.30	7,856,434.10	706,607.35	627,827.09	461,549.44	652,589.50
Machinery and Equipment	1,910,567.54	2,649,877.10	2,286,372.19	2,891,433.86	698,196.71	497,787.04	573,835.73	525,704.45
Consumables (Incl. Spares, Tyres, Packaging)	967,339.85	1,096,000.56	1,263,725.85	1,264,055.69	293,632.88	145,787.04	271,121.06	339,961.23
Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals	457,478.57	476,325.00	638,772.41	353,928.77	82,140.37	95,150.16	66,306.19	85,531.27
Services (Loans, Dividends and Disinvestments)	1,316,528.01	1,611,306.39	1,689,705.06	1,333,618.55	196,237.43	209,979.44	232,887.33	197,421.92
Retail and Distribution	2,336,520.86	2,124,303.39	1,885,312.83	991,023.07	227,561.66	170,889.75	138,759.60	251,868.14
Fuel, Electricity and Gas	-	-	-	-	-	9,331.86	-	9,860.16
Paper and Packaging	615,144.05	485,083.39	560,438.54	706,295.19	65,439.39	55,465.81	69,732.08	102,738.69
TOTAL	16,897,319.04	18,443,08.62	17,818,400.18	15,396,789.23	2,269,815.79	1,811,479.70	1,814,191.43	2,165,675.36

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023