



# Weekly Economic Highlights

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Week Ending  
10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

## 1. INTEREST RATES

### Local Currency (ZWL) Deposit Rates

During the week ending 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023, minimum and maximum deposit rates for savings deposits remained at previous week levels. The same week saw both minimum and maximum deposits rates for deposits of 1-month and 3-months tenor register declines, 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 (%)
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
10-Mar-23	36.67	37.75	62.33	76,94	64,39	74,50

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

### Local Currency (ZWL) Lending Rates

Minimum commercial bank lending rates for both individual and corporate clients increased, during the week ending 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023. However, maximum lending rates for both individual and corporate clients declined in the same week, as shown in Table 2.

**Table 2: Lending Rates (per annum)**

Date	Individual Clients		Corporate Clients	
	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)
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
10-Mar-23	72.27	111.92	81.69	166.12

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

## Foreign Currency (USD) Deposit Rates

During the week under review, average minimum deposit rates for savings deposits softened, while those for deposits of 1-month and 3-month tenor increased. Maximum deposit rates for savings deposits remained at previous week levels, while those for deposits of 1-month and 3-month tenor declined during the same week, 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 (%)
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
10-Mar-23	1.27	1.69	3.00	4.29	3.55	4.94

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

## Foreign Currency (USD) Lending Rates

The week under review saw commercial bank minimum lending rates for both individual and corporate clients register marginal increases. Maximum lending rates for individual clients increased, while those for corporate clients declined during the same week, as shown in Table 4.

**Table 4: Lending Rates (per annum)**

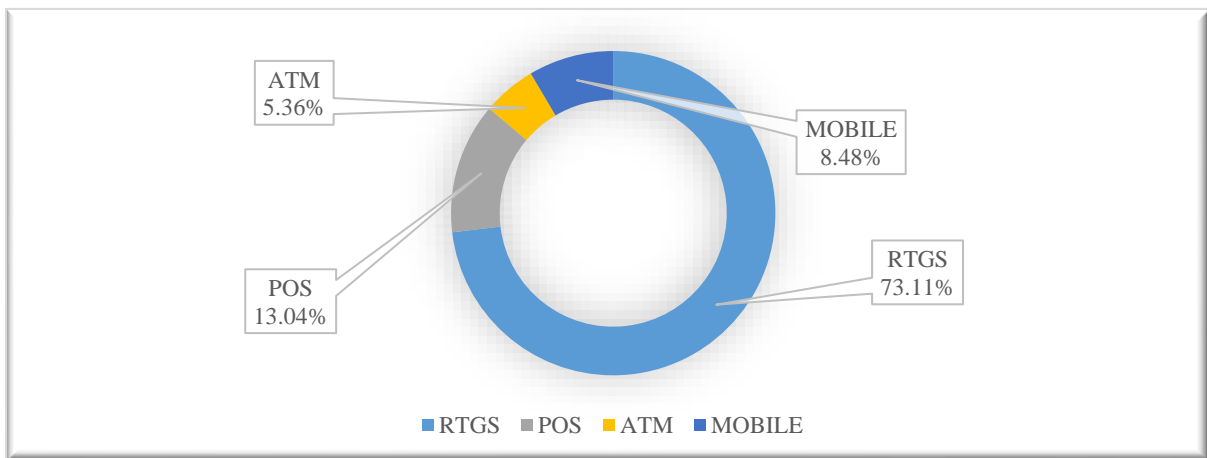
Date	Individual Clients		Corporate Clients	
	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)
10-Feb-23	10.98	13.16	7.31	14.58
17-Feb-23	11.04	13.18	7.60	14.62
24-Feb-23	10.62	12.88	7.52	14.41
3-Mar-23	10.93	13.37	7.70	14.66
10-Mar-23	11.07	13.40	7.73	14.61

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

## 2. CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

The total value of transactions processed through the National Payment Systems (NPS) amounted to ZW\$555.24 billion, during the week ending 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023. This represented a decrease of 20.07%, compared to ZW\$694.61 billion worth of transactions processed in the previous week. Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) transactions fell by 27.42% to ZW\$405.94 billion in the reporting week, from ZW\$559.30 billion recorded in the previous week. In proportions, the NPS transaction values were distributed as follows: RTGS, 73,11%, POS, 13.04%; Mobile, 8,48%; and ATM, 5.36%.

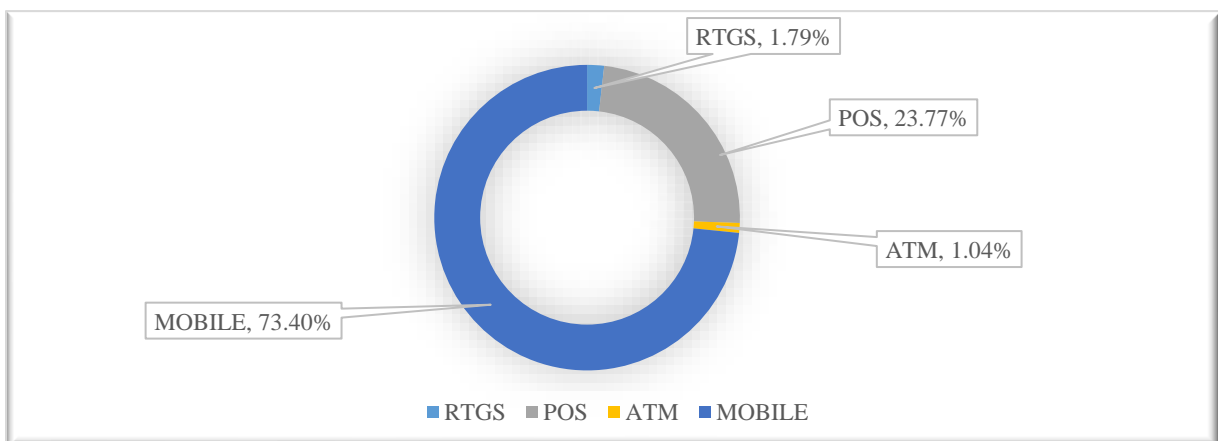
**Figure 1: Composition of NPS Transactions in Value Terms**



Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

The volume of NPS transactions decreased by 0,07% to 12.495 million, during the week under review, from 12.503 million recorded in the previous week. In terms of volume, the NPS transactions were distributed as follows: Mobile, 73.40%; POS, 23,77%; RTGS, 1,79%; and ATM, 1.04%, 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 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2023	WEEK ENDING 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	% CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK	PROPORTION %
<b>Values in ZW\$ Millions</b>				
RTGS	559,301.12	405,942.40	-27.42%	73.11%
POS	64,874.14	72,430.58	11.65%	13.04%
ATM	27,133.80	29,767.30	9.71%	5.36%
MOBILE	43,305.28	47,098.25	8.76%	8.48%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>694,614.34</b>	<b>555,238.53</b>	<b>-20.07%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Volumes</b>				
RTGS	327,007	223,068	-31.78%	1.79%
POS	2,886,885	2,970,076	2.88%	23.77%
ATM	127,268	129,912	2.08%	1.04%
MOBILE	9,162,088	9,171,984	0.11%	73.40%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,503,248</b>	<b>12,495,040</b>	<b>-0.07%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

### 3. INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PRICE DEVELOPMENTS

During the week ending 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023, international commodity prices for platinum, palladium, copper, nickel, and crude oil declined. However, gold prices marginally increased. The commodity price developments are shown in Table 6.

**Table 6: Metal and Crude Oil Prices for the week ending 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

	Gold	Platinum	Palladium	Copper	Nickel	Crude Oil
2023	US\$/ounce	US\$/ounce	US\$/ounce	US\$/tonne	US\$/tonne	US\$/barrel
<b>Weekly Average (27 Feb-3 Mar 23)</b>	<b>1,829.19</b>	<b>954.30</b>	<b>1,430.60</b>	<b>8,959.00</b>	<b>24,851.00</b>	<b>84.03</b>
6-Mar-23	1,850.38	967.50	1,425.00	8,936.00	24,445.00	86.41
7-Mar-23	1,834.80	965.50	1,434.00	8,771.00	24,125.00	83.54
8-Mar-23	1,814.83	943.00	1,401.00	8,834.00	23,925.00	82.65
9-Mar-23	1,824.45	947.00	1,364.00	8,910.00	23,974.00	81.16
10-Mar-23	1,848.10	939.00	1,378.50	8,909.00	22,680.00	83.06
<b>Weekly Average (6-10 Mar 23)</b>	<b>1,834.51</b>	<b>952.40</b>	<b>1,400.50</b>	<b>8,872.00</b>	<b>23,829.80</b>	<b>83.36</b>
<b>Weekly Change (%)</b>	0.29	-0.20	-2.10	-0.97	-4.11	-0.79

Source: BBC, KITCO and Bloomberg, 2023

#### Gold

Gold prices increased by 0.29%, from US\$1,829.19 per ounce in the prior week to US\$1,834.51 per ounce, during the week ending 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The marginal increase was, in large part, underpinned by weak U.S. economic data as investors awaited U.S. jobs data.

## **Platinum**

During the week under review, platinum prices declined by 0.20% to US\$952.40 per ounce, from US\$954.30 per ounce recorded in the previous week. The marginal decline was reflective of a stronger US dollar against major currencies, a development that dampened prospects for investment demand for the metal.

## **Palladium**

Palladium prices declined by 2.10%, from US\$1,430.60 per ounce in the week ending 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 to US\$1,400.50 per ounce, during the reporting week. The sustained decline in the price of the metal continued to be underpinned by weak global industrial demand.

## **Copper**

Copper prices declined by 0.97%, from US\$8,959.00 per tonne in the previous week to US\$8,872.00 per tonne, during the week ending 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Prices eased as a stronger US dollar dented buying appetite from holders of other currencies. The decline was, however, partially offset by expectations of an improvement in demand in China, the world's largest metal consumer.

## **Nickel**

During the week ending 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023, nickel prices declined by 4.11%, from US\$24,851.00 per tonne in the preceding week to US\$23,829.80 per tonne. In line with developments in the other metal prices, nickel prices eased on account of a stronger US dollar which made dollar denominated metals less appealing to holders of other currencies.

## **Brent Crude Oil**

Brent crude oil prices fell from US\$84.03 per barrel in the previous week to US\$83.36 per barrel, during the week under review. This was due to indications of ample supplies from the U.S. Energy Information Administration's reports of inventory build-ups during the period under review.

## 4. EXCHANGE RATE DEVELOPMENTS

### Interbank Market

The Zimbabwe dollar (ZW\$) appreciated by 1.6%, from an average of ZW\$892.8117 per US\$1 in the previous week to ZW\$907.0376 per US\$1, during the week ending 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023, as shown in Table 7.

**Table 7: Interbank Market Exchange Rates<sup>1</sup>**

	USD	ZAR	GBP	BWP	EURO
<b>2023</b>					
<b>Weekly Average (27 Feb-3 Mar 23)</b>	<b>892.8117</b>	<b>48.6915</b>	<b>1,071.2001</b>	<b>67.1738</b>	<b>945.9362</b>
<b>06-Mar-23</b>	903.5621	49.7512	1087.1223	68.0941	961.6673
<b>07-Mar-23</b>	904.7156	49.7512	1089.3244	68.1343	966.8757
<b>08-Mar-23</b>	907.9236	48.7805	1073.0811	68.1881	956.3221
<b>09-Mar-23</b>	908.6308	49.0196	1077.2350	67.8339	958.7026
<b>10-Mar-23</b>	910.3559	49.1400	1085.3766	67.8376	963.9823
<b>Weekly Average (3 Mar-10 Mar 23)</b>	<b>907.0376</b>	<b>49.2885</b>	<b>1082.4279</b>	<b>68.0176</b>	<b>961.5100</b>
<b>Appr(-)/Depr(+)(%) of the ZWL</b>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>1.6</i>

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

## 5. EQUITY MARKETS

### Zimbabwe Stock Exchange

The Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) continued trading on a positive trajectory for the third consecutive week. As a result, the ZSE All Share index gained 2.92% to close at 30 049.98 points. All the major indices registered gains with the Top 10, Top 15, Medium and Small Cap indices adding 1.98%, 2.50%, 2.73% and 5.84% to close the week at 17 359.67 points, 20 600.50 points, 65 938.99 points and 678 863.75 points, respectively.

The increase in the mainstream index was a result of share price gains for Ariston Holdings Limited (34.79%), Mashonaland Holdings Limited (23.37%), Nampak Zimbabwe Limited (23.01%), Tanganda Tea Company Limited (19.92%) and TSL Limited (17.45%). Partially offsetting the gains were losses in share prices for CFI Holdings Limited (14.99%), Africa Sun Limited (7.20%), CBZ Holdings Limited (6.63%), Ecocash Holdings Zimbabwe Limited (5.72%) and First Capital Bank Limited (5.63%). The resources index<sup>2</sup> remained unchanged at 33 482.91 points during the week under review.

<sup>1</sup> Direct quote – the amount of domestic currency needed to exchange for 1 unit of foreign currency

<sup>2</sup> Resource Index – Comprise RioZim Limited Share Price

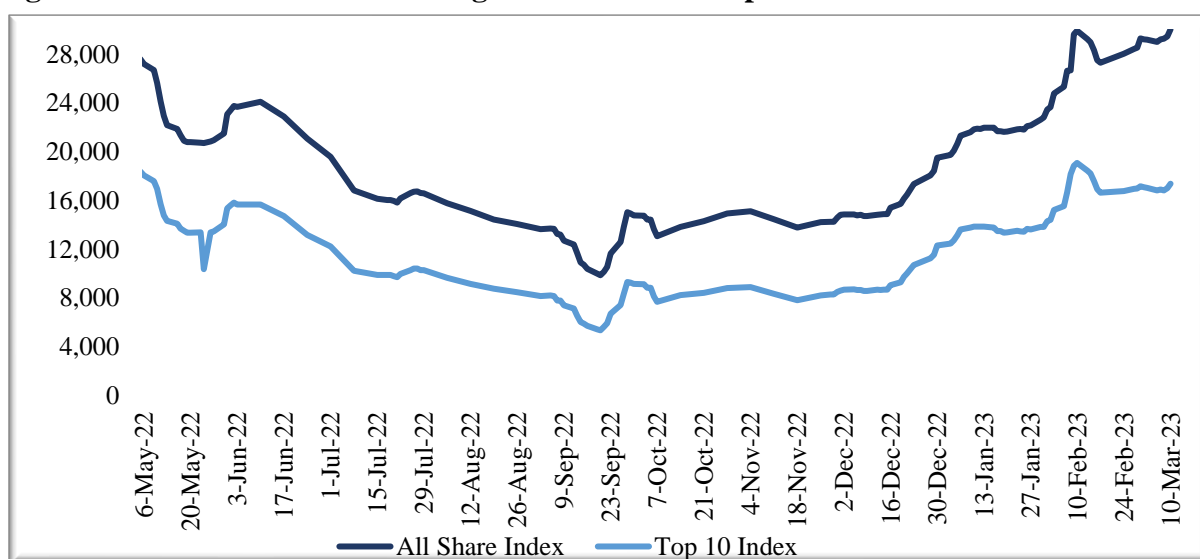
**Table 8: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange Statistics<sup>3</sup>**

	All Share Index Points	Top 10 index <sup>3</sup> (points)	Top 15 Index <sup>3</sup> points	Medium Cap <sup>3</sup> (points)	Small Cap <sup>3</sup> (points)	Mining Index (points)	Grand Market Capitalization (ZWL billion)	Market Turnover (ZWL million)	Volume of Shares (million)
<b>3-Feb-23</b>	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
<b>10-Feb-23</b>	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
<b>17-Feb-23</b>	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
<b>24-Feb-23</b>	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
<b>03-Mar-23</b>	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
<b>10-Mar-23</b>	30,049.98	17,359.67	20,600.50	65,938.99	678,863.75	33,482.91	2,602.37	2,664.27	29.14
<b>% Change</b>	<b>2.92</b>	<b>1.98</b>	<b>2.50</b>	<b>2.73</b>	<b>5.84</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3.16</b>	<b>-29.78</b>	<b>-3.12</b>

Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE), 2023

Figure 3 shows the trend in daily market turnover for the period from 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022 to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

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



Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2023

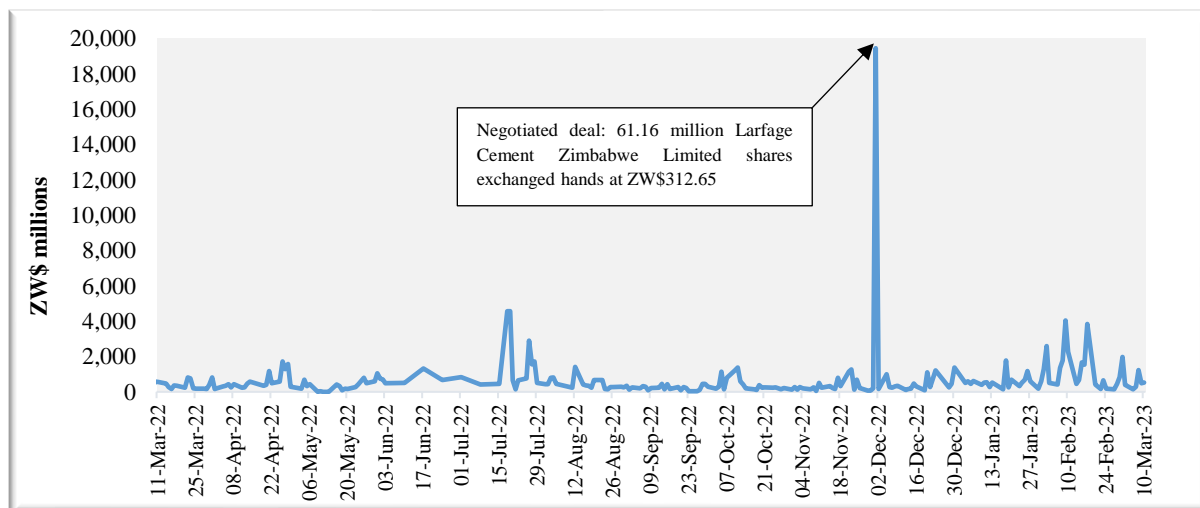
<sup>3</sup> The Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) adopted the Global Industry Classification Standards, effective from 1 January 2020. The ZSE indices constitute the following categories; Top 10 Index; Top 15; Top 25; Medium cap and Small cap Indices.



## Market Turnover and Volume

Trading activity on the ZSE was concentrated in some selected wealth preserving counters. As such, the cumulative volumes of shares traded declined by 3.12% to 29.14 million, compared to 30.08 million recorded in the preceding week. The turnover value of shares traded also decreased by 29.78% to ZW\$2.66 billion, from ZW\$3.79 billion recorded in the previous week. Figure 4 shows the trend in daily market turnover for the period from 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

**Figure 4: Daily Market Turnover**

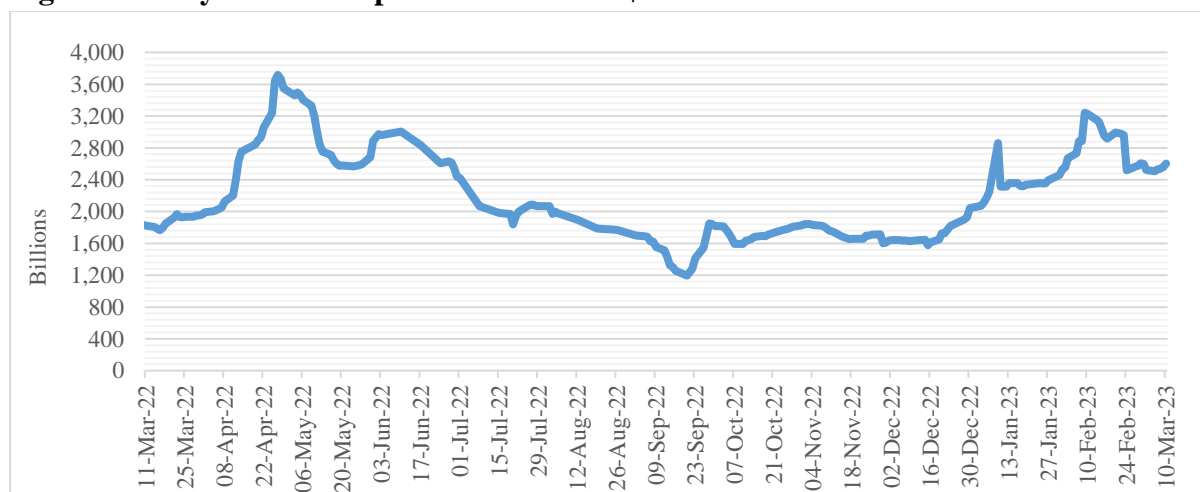


Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2023

## Market Capitalization

ZSE market capitalization stood at ZW\$2.60 trillion during the reporting week, up by 3.16% from ZW\$2.52 trillion recorded in the preceding week. Figure 5 shows the evolution of ZSE market capitalization for the period from 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

**Figure 5: Daily Market Capitalization in ZW\$ billions**

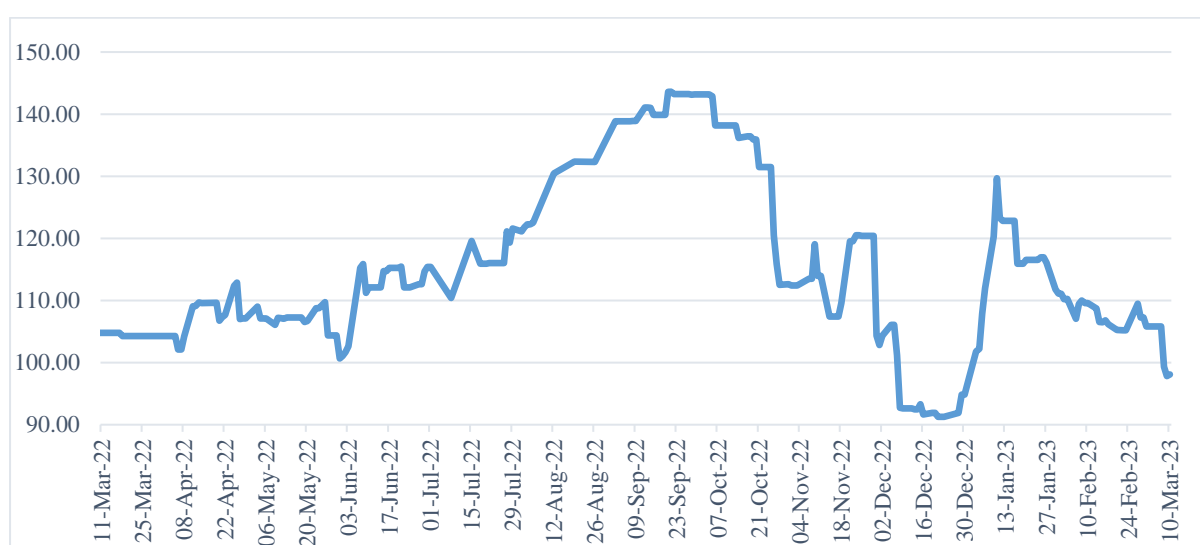


Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2023

## Victoria Falls Stock Exchange

The Victoria Falls Stock Exchange (VFEX) remained on a negative trajectory for the second consecutive week. Resultantly, the VFEX All Share index lost 7.33% to close at 98.07 points. Cumulatively, the volume of shares traded on the VFEX declined by 49.58% to 0.47 million, during the week under analysis. In concomitance, the value of shares traded also declined by 37.29% to US\$0.20 million, during the same week. VFEX market capitalization decreased by 7.32% to US\$0.98 billion, from US\$1.06 billion recorded in the previous week. Figure 6 shows the trend in the VFEX All Share Index (ASI) for the period from 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

**Figure 6: Victoria Falls Stock Exchange All Share Index**



Source: Victoria Falls Stock Exchange, 2023

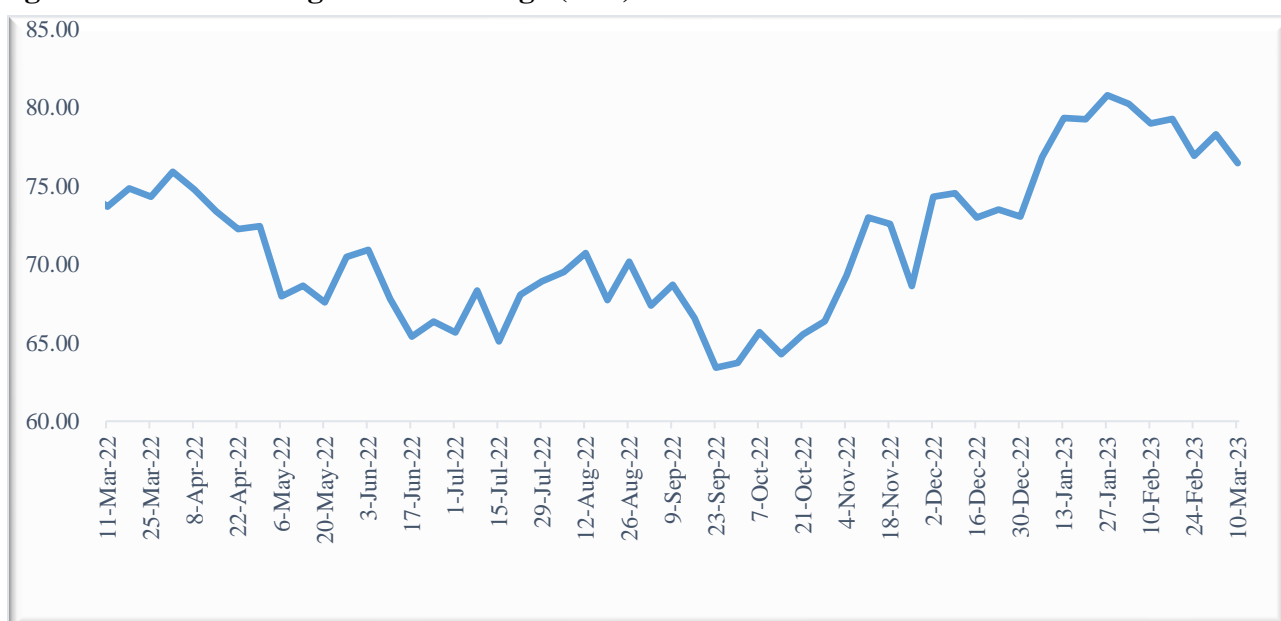
## Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Developments

The Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) All Share Index declined from 78,293.01 points in the previous week to close at 76,454.36 points, during the week ending 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023. JSE market capitalization also declined by 1.21% to ZAR21.98 trillion, during the same week.

**Table 9: Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Statistics**

Period	All Share Index (points)	Market Capitalization (ZAR trillions)
<b>3-Feb-23</b>	80,240.92	23.08
<b>10-Feb-23</b>	78,985.35	22.87
<b>17-Feb-23</b>	79,271.78	22.93
<b>24-Feb-23</b>	76,937.77	22.23
<b>03-Mar-23</b>	78,293.01	22.25
<b>10-Mar-23</b>	76,454.36	21.98
<b>% Change</b>	<b>-2.34</b>	<b>-1.21</b>

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

**RESERVE BANK OF ZIMBABWE**

## APPENDIX 1: FOREIGN EXCHANGE AUCTION RESULTS FOR MAINFX<sup>4</sup> AND SMEFX<sup>5</sup>

	MAINFX				SMEFX			
	17-Feb-23	24-Feb-23	03-Mar-23	10-Mar-23	17-Feb-23	24-Feb-23	03-Mar-23	10-Mar-23
<b>Total Bids (US\$ dollars)</b>	19,718,948,31	18,253,090.41	15,396,789.23	15,934,169.51	1,962,394.00	1,869,245.41	2,195,734.20	2,172,305.53
<b>Amount Allotted (US\$ dollars)</b>	18,443,098.62	17,818,400.18	15,396,789.23	15,934,169.51	1,811,479.70	1,814,191.43	2,165,675.36	2,144,924.87
<b>Highest Rate</b>	935	950	990	996	930	980	990	995
<b>Lowest Bid Rate</b>	85	875	885	900	855	875	885	900
<b>Lowest Bid Rate Allotted</b>	855	875	885	900	855	875	885	900
<b>Weighted Average Rate</b>	856.8403	881.7513	892.6349	907.9236	856.8403	881.7513	892.6349	907.9236
<b>Number of Bids Received</b>	225	252	182	202	271	262	216	201
<b>Number of Bids Rejected</b>	9	10	8	12	5	6	7	7

*Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023*

<sup>4</sup> Main Foreign Currency Auction

<sup>5</sup> Small and Medium Enterprises Foreign Currency Auction

## APPENDIX 2: SUMMARY OF FOREIGN CURRENCY AUCTION ALLOTMENTS BY PURPOSE

Purpose	MAINFX				SMEFX			
	17-Feb-23	24-Feb-23	03-Mar-23	10-Mar-23	17-Feb-23	24-Feb-23	03-Mar-23	10-Mar-23
<b>Raw Materials</b>	10,000,202.79	9,494,073.30	7,856,434.10	7,959,704.89	627,827.09	461,549.44	652,589.50	630,795.73
<b>Machinery and Equipment</b>	2,649,877.10	2,286,372.19	2,891,433.86	3,262,466.97	497,787.04	573,835.73	525,704.45	630,601.33
<b>Consumables (Incl. Spares, Tyres, Packaging)</b>	1,096,000.56	1,263,725.85	1,264,055.69	966,846.51	145,787.04	271,121.06	339,961.23	230,563.99
<b>Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals</b>	476,325.00	638,772.41	353,928.77	410,374.94	95,150.16	66,306.19	85,531.27	84,198.09
<b>Services (Loans, Dividends and Disinvestments)</b>	1,611,306.39	1,689,705.06	1,333,618.55	1,306,547.18	209,979.44	232,887.33	197,421.92	208,993.30
<b>Retail and Distribution</b>	2,124,303.39	1,885,312.83	991,023.07	1,182,639.25	170,889.75	138,759.60	251,868.14	347,457.00
<b>Fuel, Electricity and Gas</b>	-	-	-	-	9,331.86	-	9,860.16	3,409.13
<b>Paper and Packaging</b>	485,083.39	560,438.54	706,295.19	845,589.77	55,465.81	69,732.08	102,738.69	35,906.30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,443,08.62</b>	<b>17,818,400.18</b>	<b>15,396,789.23</b>	<b>15,934,169.51</b>	<b>1,811,479.70</b>	<b>1,814,191.43</b>	<b>2,165,675.36</b>	<b>2,144,924.87</b>

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023