



# Weekly Economic Highlights

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

## 1. INTEREST RATES

### Local Currency (ZWL) Deposit Rates

During the week ending 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023, average minimum and maximum deposits rates for savings deposits declined. However, minimum and maximum deposits rates for deposits of 1-month and 3-months tenor increased during the same week, 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 (%)
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
17-Mar-23	36.67	37.75	62.33	74.72	66.33	72.61
24-Mar-23	34.01	35.26	64.00	75.94	66.39	75.06

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

### Local Currency (ZWL) Lending Rates

Commercial bank minimum lending rates for individual clients increased marginally, while maximum lending rates declined during the week under review. Minimum and maximum lending rates for corporate clients marginally increased, as shown in Table 2.

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

Date	Individual Clients		Corporate Clients	
	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)
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
17-Mar-23	74.02	111.75	81.59	166.55
24-Mar-23	74.05	110.94	82.21	167.86

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

## Foreign Currency (USD) Deposit Rates

The week ending 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023 saw average minimum and maximum deposit rates for deposits of all classes remain unchanged at previous week levels, 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 (%)
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
17-Mar-23	1.27	1.69	3.00	4.29	3.55	4.94
24-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

Commercial bank minimum lending rates for both individual and corporate clients remained unchanged at previous week levels, while maximum lending rates softened marginally during the week ending 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023, as shown in Table 4.

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

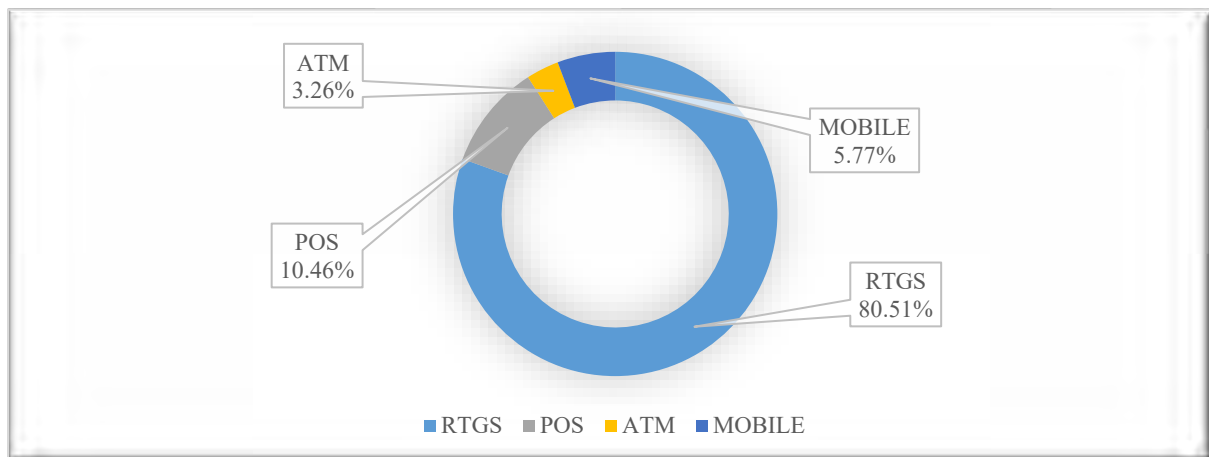
Date	Individual Clients		Corporate Clients	
	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)
24-Feb-23	10.62	12.88	7.52	14.41
3-Mar-23	10.93	13.37	7.70	14.66
10-Mar-23	11.07	13.40	7.73	14.61
17-Mar-23	11.16	13.35	7.74	14.64
24-Mar-23	11.16	13.34	7.74	14.63

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

## 2. CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

The value of transactions processed through the National Payment Systems (NPS) stood at ZW\$743.70 billion, during the week under review. This represented a decrease of 5.62%, from ZW\$788.00 billion worth of transactions processed in the previous week. Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) transactions decreased from \$666.80 billion in the previous week to \$597.75 billion, during the week ending 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023. In proportions, the NPS transaction values were distributed as follows: RTGS, 80.51%, POS, 10.46%; Mobile, 5.77%; and ATM, 3.26%.

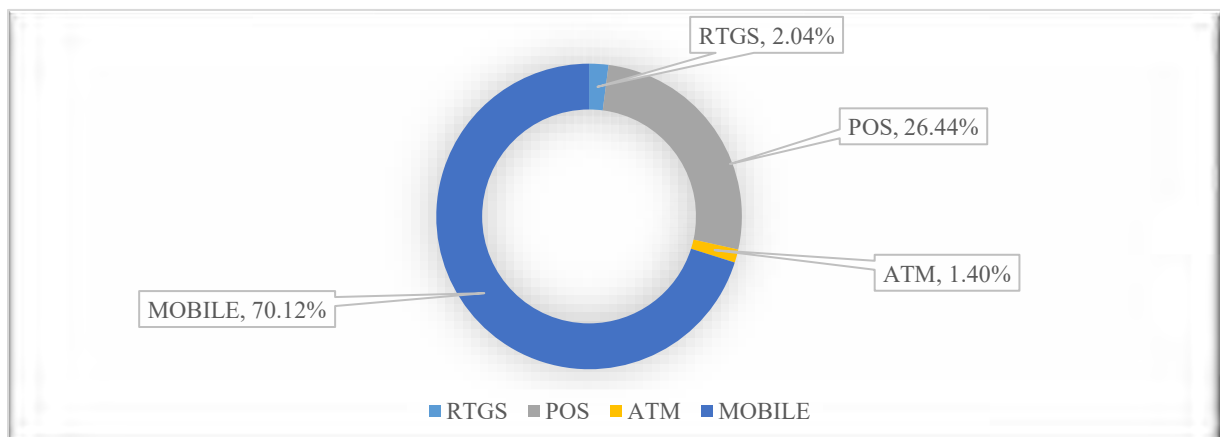
**Figure 1: Composition of NPS Transactions in Value Terms**



Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

The volume of NPS transactions increased by 5.10% to 11.61 million, during the week under review, from 11.05 million recorded in the previous week. Mobile based transactions dominated NPS transaction volumes at 70.12% of the total, followed by POS, 26.44%; RTGS, 2.04%; and ATM, 1.40%, 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 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	WEEK ENDING 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	% CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK	PROPORTION %
<b>Values in ZW\$ Millions</b>				
RTGS	666,798.02	598,753.91	-10.20%	80.51%
POS	60,844.08	77,797.63	27.86%	10.46%
ATM	19,041.28	24,206.05	27.12%	3.26%
MOBILE	41,316.40	42,945.46	3.94%	5.77%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>787,999.77</b>	<b>743,703.04</b>	<b>-5.62%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Volumes</b>				
RTGS	177,555	237,210	33.60%	2.04%
POS	2,554,880	3,069,169	20.13%	26.44%
ATM	99,443	163,025	63.94%	1.40%
MOBILE	8,214,368	8,140,168	-0.90%	70.12%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,046,246</b>	<b>11,609,572</b>	<b>5.10%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

### 3. TOBACCO SALES

A cumulative total of 19.53 million kilograms of tobacco had been sold as at day 13 of the 2023 tobacco selling season. This was a 19.02% decrease from the 24.12 million kilograms sold during the same period in 2022. In value terms, tobacco sales registered a 14.74% decrease to US\$58.73 million, from US\$68.88 million realized during the corresponding period in 2022, as shown in Table 6.

**Table 6: Weekly Cumulative Tobacco Sales: Day 13 (24<sup>th</sup> March 2023)**

	2022	2023	Variance (%)
<b>Cumulative quantity sold (million kgs)</b>	24,117,036	19,530,117	(19.02)
<b>Average price (US\$/kg)</b>	2.86	3.01	5.15
<b>Cumulative value (US\$ million)</b>	68,883,479	58,732,821	(14.74)

Source: Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board (TIMB), 2022

The golden leaf was sold at an average price of US\$3.01 per kilogram, up from US\$2.86 per kilogram realised in the same period last year.

### 4. INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PRICE DEVELOPMENTS

On the global commodity markets, prices for gold, platinum and copper firmed, while prices for palladium, nickel and crude oil softened, during the week ending 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The commodity price developments for the reporting week are shown in Table 7.

**Table 7: Metal and Crude Oil Prices for the week ending 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

	<b>Gold</b>	<b>Platinum</b>	<b>Palladium</b>	<b>Copper</b>	<b>Nickel</b>	<b>Crude Oil</b>
<b>2023</b>	US\$/ounce	US\$/ounce	US\$/ounce	US\$/tonne	US\$/tonne	US\$/barrel
<b>Weekly Average (13-17 Mar 23)</b>	<b>1,916.69</b>	<b>976.80</b>	<b>1,442.20</b>	<b>8,668.10</b>	<b>23,203.00</b>	<b>75.96</b>
20-Mar-23	1,975.65	978.00	1,401.00	8,665.00	22,795.00	73.08
21-Mar-23	1,959.23	987.00	1,412.50	8,761.50	22,475.00	74.85
22-Mar-23	1,945.60	984.50	1,409.50	8,948.00	22,765.00	76.04
23-Mar-23	1,977.75	988.00	1,444.00	9,072.00	22,535.00	75.84
24-Mar-23	1,994.98	976.50	1,418.50	8,959.50	22,750.00	75.31
<b>Weekly Average (20-24 Mar 23)</b>	<b>1,970.64</b>	<b>982.80</b>	<b>1,442.20</b>	<b>8,881.20</b>	<b>22,664.00</b>	<b>75.02</b>
<b>Weekly Change (%)</b>	2.82	0.61	-1.74	2.46	-2.32	-1.24

Source: BBC, KITCO and Bloomberg, 2023

### Gold

Gold prices increased by 2.82%, from US\$1,916.69 per ounce in the week ending 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023 to US\$1,970.64 per ounce, during the week under review. Prices rose as investors predicted the end of the US Federal Reserve’s cycle of interest rate rises. In addition, the turmoil in the US banking sector increased the safe - haven demand for the yellow metal.

### Platinum

Platinum prices rose by 0.61%, from US\$976.8 per ounce in the prior week to US\$982.80 per ounce, during the reporting week. The increase was underpinned by strong demand for the precious metal from the automotive industry.

### Palladium

During the week ending 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023, palladium prices fell by 1.74%, from a weekly average of US\$1,442.20 per ounce in the preceding week to US\$1,442.20 per ounce. Prices declined amid on-going concerns about the instability in the US banking sector, coupled with a strengthening US dollar.

### Copper

Copper prices rebounded during the week under review, on account of improved demand in China, the biggest consumer of the base metal. Prices increased by 2.46%, from US\$8,668.10 per tonne recorded in the prior week to US\$8,881.20 per tonne, during the week under analysis.

### Nickel

Nickel prices were on a negative trajectory on account of a stronger US dollar and the continuous rise in global inventories. Prices declined by 2.32%, from a weekly average of US\$23,203.00 per tonne in the previous week to US\$22,664.00 per tonne, during the week under review.

## Brent Crude Oil

Oil prices fell by 1.24%, from a weekly average of US\$75.96 per barrel in the previous week to US\$75.02 per barrel during the week ending 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023, ahead of a US Federal Reserve update on interest rates and other monetary policy measures.

## 5. EXCHANGE RATE DEVELOPMENTS

### Interbank Market

On the interbank market, the Zimbabwe dollar (ZWS) appreciated by 0.3%, from an average of ZW\$912.4320 per US\$1 in the previous week to ZW\$915.31634 per US\$1, during the week ending 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023, as shown in Table 8.

**Table 8: Interbank Market Exchange Rates<sup>1</sup>**

	USD	ZAR	GBP	BWP	EURO
<b>2023</b>					
<b>Weekly Average (10-17 Mar 23)</b>	<b>912.4320</b>	<b>50.0263</b>	<b>1,106.7548</b>	<b>68.8514</b>	<b>974.8053</b>
<b>20-Mar-23</b>	914.4678	49.7512	1,114.1022	68.8685	976.0176
<b>21-Mar-23</b>	914.9547	49.2611	1,121.4157	68.8550	980.1056
<b>22-Mar-23</b>	915.1822	49.5050	1,119.3654	68.7805	985.6573
<b>23-Mar-23</b>	915.8636	50.5051	1,129.1239	69.3400	999.1216
<b>24-Mar-23</b>	916.1134	50.6329	1,125.5845	69.9506	999.1216
<b>Weekly Average (20-24 Mar 23)</b>	<b>915.31634</b>	<b>49.93104798</b>	<b>1,121.91833</b>	<b>69.15889</b>	<b>988.00473</b>
<b>Appr(-)/Depr(+) (%) of the ZWL</b>	0.3	-0.2	1.4	0.4	1.4

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

## 6. EQUITY MARKETS

### Zimbabwe Stock Exchange

The Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) maintained a positive momentum for the fifth consecutive week, during the week under analysis. As a result, the ZSE All Share index added 13.06% to close at 38 119.28 points. All the major ZSE indices registered gains, with the Top 10, Top 15, Small and Medium Cap indices adding 11.76%, 11.02%, 1.05% and 7.99% to close the week at 22 334.80 points, 26 177.51 points, 678 365.52 points and 73 828.83 points, respectively.

The rise in the mainstream index emanated from share price gains for First Capital Bank Limited (73.03%), Hippo Valley Estates Limited (20.00%), Proplastics Limited (18.75%), OK Zimbabwe Limited (15.30%) and FBC Holdings Limited (15.12%). Partially offsetting the increases were declines in share prices for ZB Financial Holdings Limited (15.25%), StarAfrica

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

Corporation Limited (3.49%), Ariston Holdings Limited (3.28%), British American Tobacco (BAT) Zimbabwe Limited (2.56%) and Nampak Zimbabwe Limited (2.52%). The resources index<sup>2</sup> remained unchanged at 33 482.91 points, during the reporting week.

**Table 9: 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>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	641428.45	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>17-Mar-23</b>	33,715.26	19,984.56	23,578.08	68,364.97	671,319.22	33,482.91	2,953.44	3,431.13	16.58
<b>24-Mar-23</b>	38,119.28	22,334.80	26,177.51	73,828.83	678,365.52	33,482.91	3,281.91	2,818.75	14.62
<b>% Change</b>	<b>13.06</b>	<b>11.76</b>	<b>11.02</b>	<b>7.99</b>	<b>1.05</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>11.12</b>	<b>-11.79</b>	<b>-11.79</b>

Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE), 2023

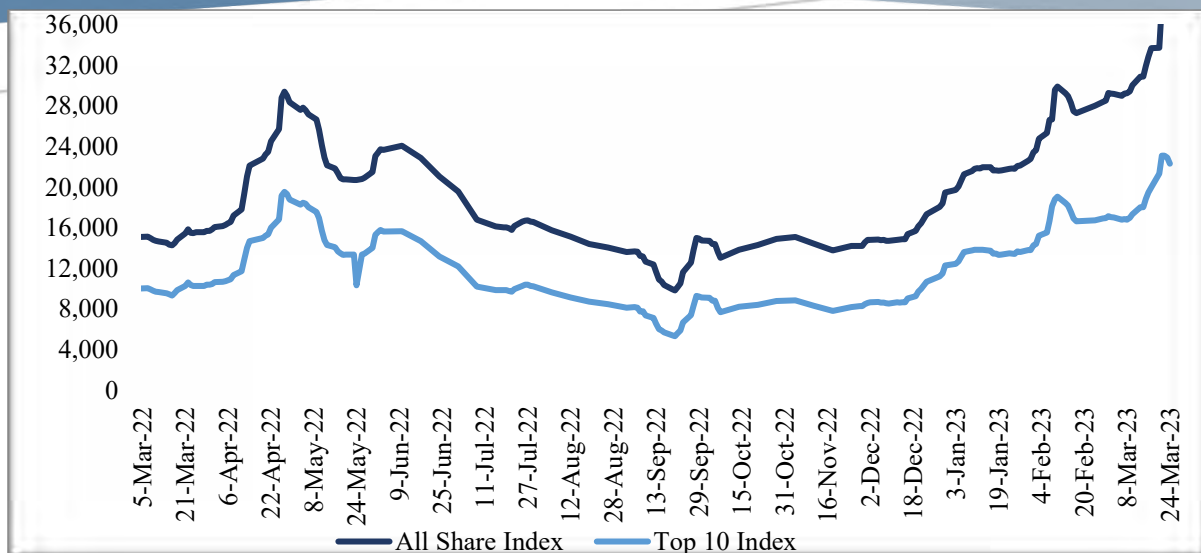
Figure 3 shows the trend in daily market turnover for the period from 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

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

<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.



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

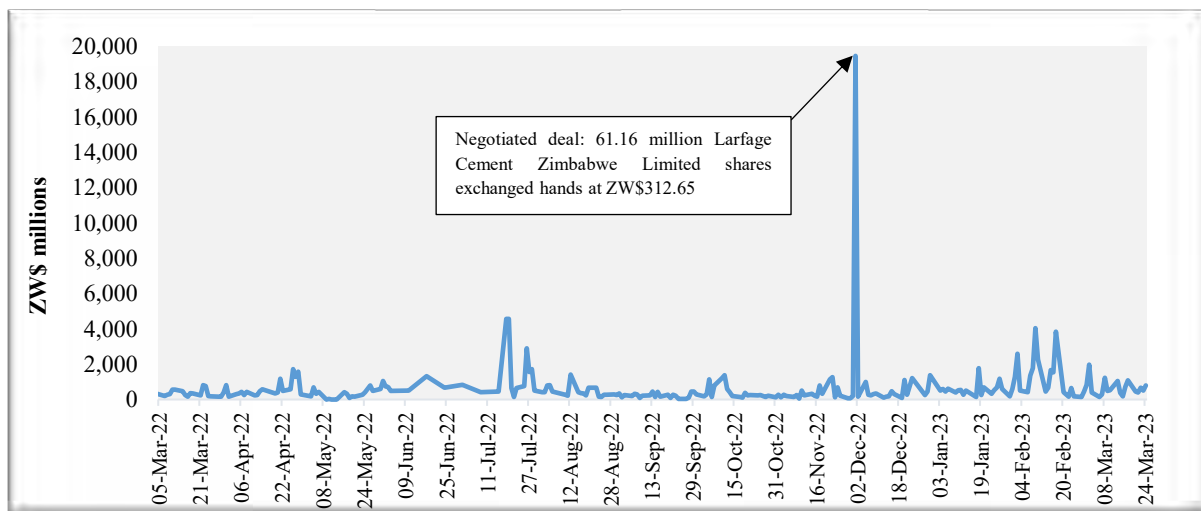


Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2023

### Market Turnover and Volume

The cumulative volume of shares traded on the ZSE declined by 11.79% to 14.62 million, from 16.58 million recorded in the preceding week. The turnover value of shares traded also declined by 17.85% to ZW\$2.81 billion, from ZW\$3.43 billion recorded in the previous week. Figure 4 shows the trend in daily market turnover for the period from 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

**Figure 4: Daily Market Turnover**



Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2023

### Market Capitalization

The local bourse added 11.12%, or ZW\$328.47 billion worth of capitalization to close at ZW\$3.28 trillion during the week ending 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023, from ZW\$2.95 trillion recorded in the preceding week. Figure 5 shows the developments on ZSE market capitalization for the period from 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

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



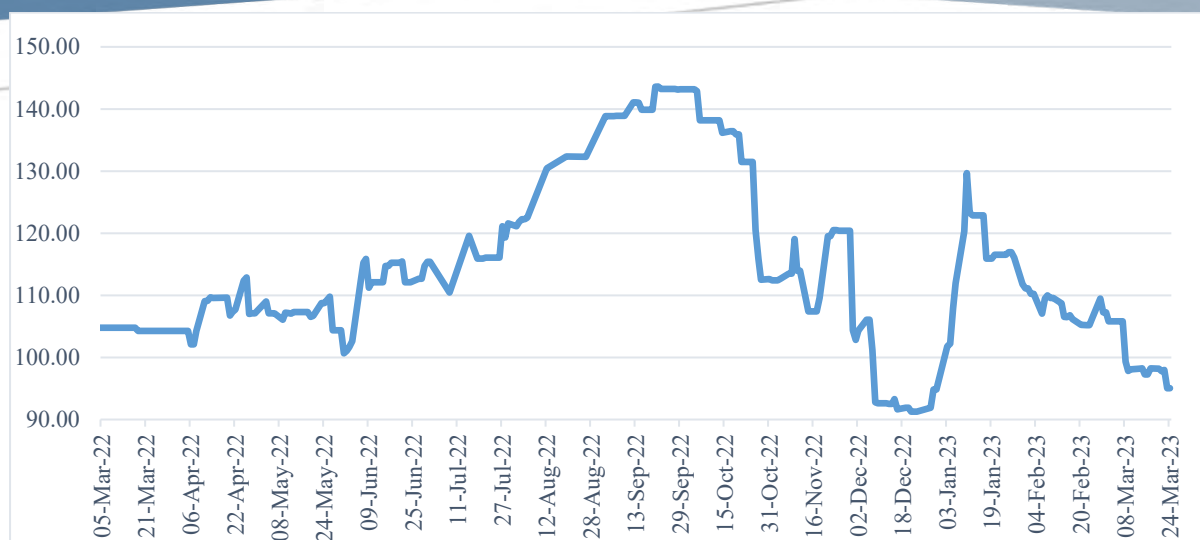
Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2023

### **Victoria Falls Stock Exchange (VFEX)**

The week ending 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023 saw the VFEX All Share index shed 5.22% to close at 93.09 points. Share price decreases were recorded for Padenga Holdings Limited (11.82%), Inncor Africa Limited (7.13%), Axia Corporation Limited (3.77%), Simbisa Brands Limited (3.50%) and SeedCo International (2.96%), against a 20% share price increase for Caledonia Mining Corporation.

The cumulative volume of shares traded on the VFEX increased by 131.86% to 0.89 million, while the value of shares traded declined by 72.22% to US\$0.05 million, during the reporting week. VFEX market capitalization lost 5.23%, or US\$55.56 million worth of capitalisation to US\$1.01 billion in the week under review, compared to US\$1.06 billion recorded in the previous week. Figure 6 shows the trend in the VFEX All Share Index for the period from 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to 24<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

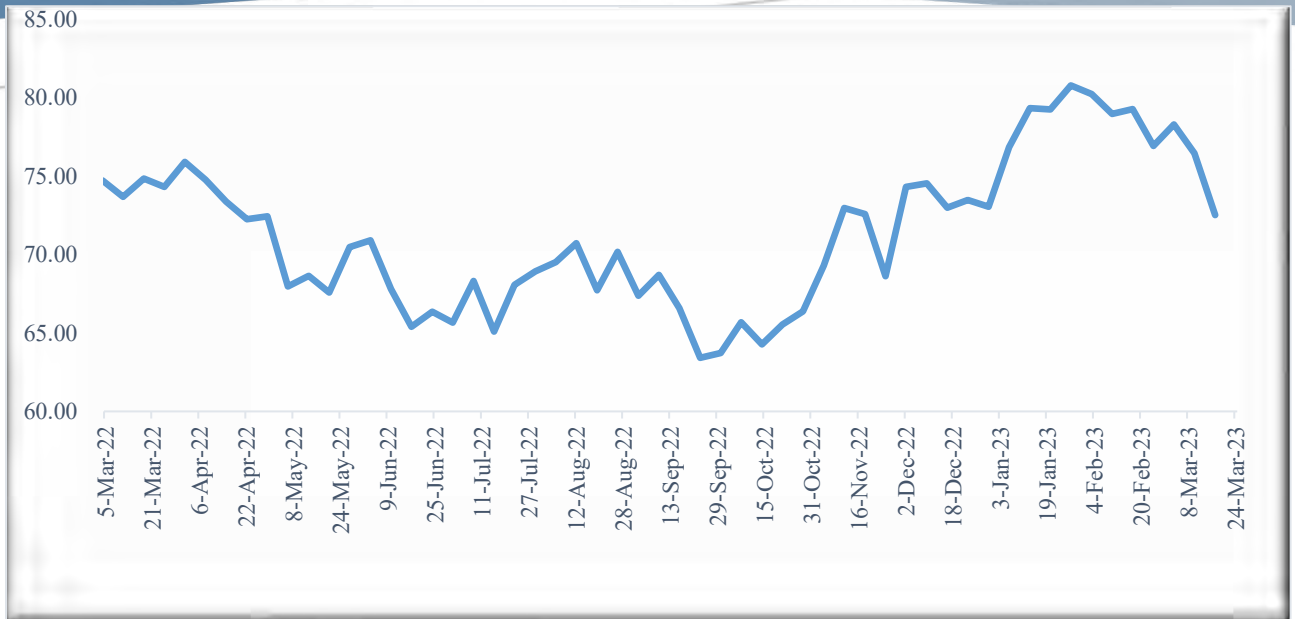
The Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) All Share Index increased from 72,527.92 points in the previous week to close at 74,695.04 points, during the week ending 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023. JSE market capitalization also rose by 2.99% to ZAR21.07 trillion, during the same week.

**Table 10: Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Statistics**

Period	All Share Index (points)	Market Capitalization (ZAR trillions)
<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>17-Mar-23</b>	72,527.92	21.07
<b>24-Mar-23</b>	74,695.04	21.70
<b>% Change</b>	<b>2.99</b>	<b>2.99</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			
	03-Mar-23	10-Mar-23	17-Mar-23	24-Mar-23	03-Mar-23	10-Mar-23	17-Mar-23	24-Mar-23
<b>Total Bids (US\$ dollars)</b>	15,396,789.23	15,934,169.51	17,386,596.77	16,819,543.59	2,195,734.20	2,172,305.53	2,554,011.87	1,950,094.82
<b>Amount Allotted (US\$ dollars)</b>	15,396,789.23	15,934,169.51	17,289,752.50	16,769,787.14	2,165,675.36	2,144,924.87	2,530,187.62	1,950,094.82
<b>Highest Rate</b>	990	996	996	1,000	990	995	996	1,010
<b>Lowest Bid Rate</b>	885	900	910	915	885	900	910	915
<b>Lowest Bid Rate Allotted</b>	885	900	910	915	885	900	910	915
<b>Weighted Average Rate</b>	892.6349	907.9236	912.5828	915.1822	892.6349	907.9236	912.5828	915.1822
<b>Number of Bids Received</b>	182	202	219	271	216	201	220	238
<b>Number of Bids Rejected</b>	8	12	6	5	7	7	6	9

*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			
	03-Mar-23	10-Mar-23	17-Mar-23	24-Mar-23	03-Mar-23	10-Mar-23	17-Mar-23	24-Mar-23
<b>Raw Materials</b>	7,856,434.10	7,959,704.89	9,572,202.10	7,324,594.15	652,589.50	630,795.73	742,403.42	572,024.56
<b>Machinery and Equipment</b>	2,891,433.86	3,262,466.97	2,429,410.70	3,187,757.32	525,704.45	630,601.33	730,643.76	578,298.43
<b>Consumables (Incl. Spares, Tyres, Packaging)</b>	1,264,055.69	966,846.51	1,091,171.52	1,338,761.04	339,961.23	230,563.99	407,072.60	301,083.28
<b>Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals</b>	353,928.77	410,374.94	418,023.70	683,282.50	85,531.27	84,198.09	99,076.09	64,907.54
<b>Services (Loans, Dividends and Disinvestments)</b>	1,333,618.55	1,306,547.18	1,101,088.97	1,468,144.95	197,421.92	208,993.30	206,857.61	148,676.81
<b>Retail and Distribution</b>	991,023.07	1,182,639.25	1,800,702.01	2,164,656.62	251,868.14	347,457.00	291,079.27	252,715.86
<b>Fuel, Electricity and Gas</b>	-	-	30,000.00	-	9,860.16	3,409.13	-	9,936.75
<b>Paper and Packaging</b>	706,295.19	845,589.77	847,153.50	602,590.56	102,738.69	35,906.30	53,054.87	22,451.59
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,396,789.23</b>	<b>15,934,169.51</b>	<b>17,289,752.50</b>	<b>16,769,787.14</b>	<b>2,165,675.36</b>	<b>2,144,924.87</b>	<b>2,530,187.62</b>	<b>1,950,094.82</b>

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023