



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.....	4
5. EXCHANGE RATES.....	6
6. EQUITY MARKETS.....	6

Week Ending
12TH APRIL 2019

1. INTEREST RATES

Deposit Rates

Average deposit rates for savings deposits and deposits of 1-month and 3-month tenors remained unchanged at 4.16%, 3.76% and 4.09%, respectively during the week ending 12th April 2019.

Table 1: Average Deposit Rates (per annum)

Date	Savings Deposits (%)	1-Month Deposit (%)	3-Month Deposit (%)
15-Mar-19	4.16	3.78	3.88
22-Mar-19	4.16	3.74	4.07
29-Mar-19	4.16	3.76	4.09
05-Apr-19	4.16	3.76	4.09
12-Apr-19	4.16	3.76	4.09

Source: Banking Institutions, 2019

Lending Rates

Weighted lending rates for individual clients decreased by 0.01 percentage points to 9.21%, during the week under review. Commercial bank weighted lending rates for corporate clients, however, remained unchanged at 7.31%, during the same week.

Table 2: Lending Rates

Date	Lending Rates ¹ (%)	
	Commercial Banks (weighted)	
	Individuals	Corporate clients
15-Mar-19	9.22	7.29
22-Mar-19	9.22	7.30
29-Mar-19	9.23	7.31
05-Apr-19	9.22	7.31
12-Apr-19	9.21	7.31

Source: Banking Institutions, 2019

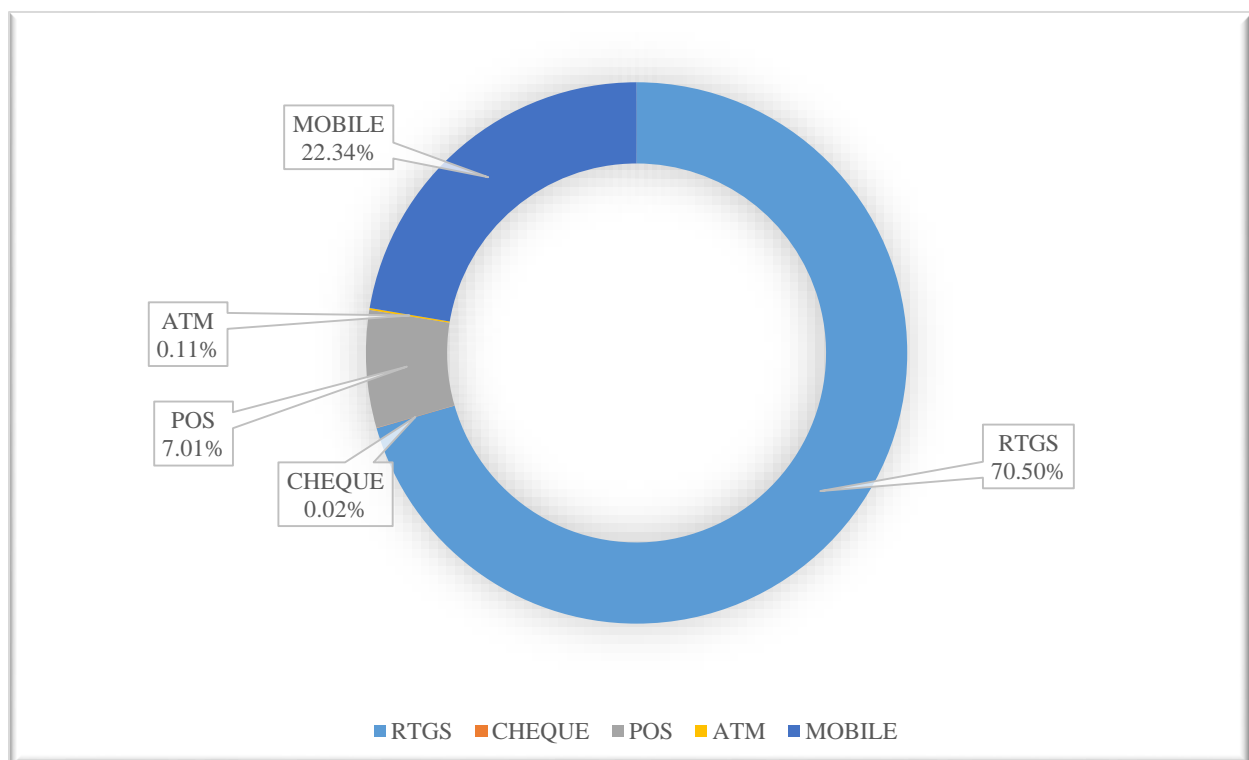
¹ Minimum weighted lending rates offered by commercial banks.

2. CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

Transactions processed through the National Payment System (NPS) amounted to \$3.9 billion, during the week ending 12th April 2019, reflecting an 18.6% increase from the \$3.3 billion worth of transactions processed during the preceding week. Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) transactions which accounted for the bulk of NPS transactions, increased by 31.5% to \$2.8 billion during the same week.

In value terms, the distribution of NPS transactions was as follows: RTGS, 70.50%; Mobile, 22.34%; Point of Sale (POS), 7.01%; Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), 0.11%; and Cheques, 0.02%, as shown in Figure 1.

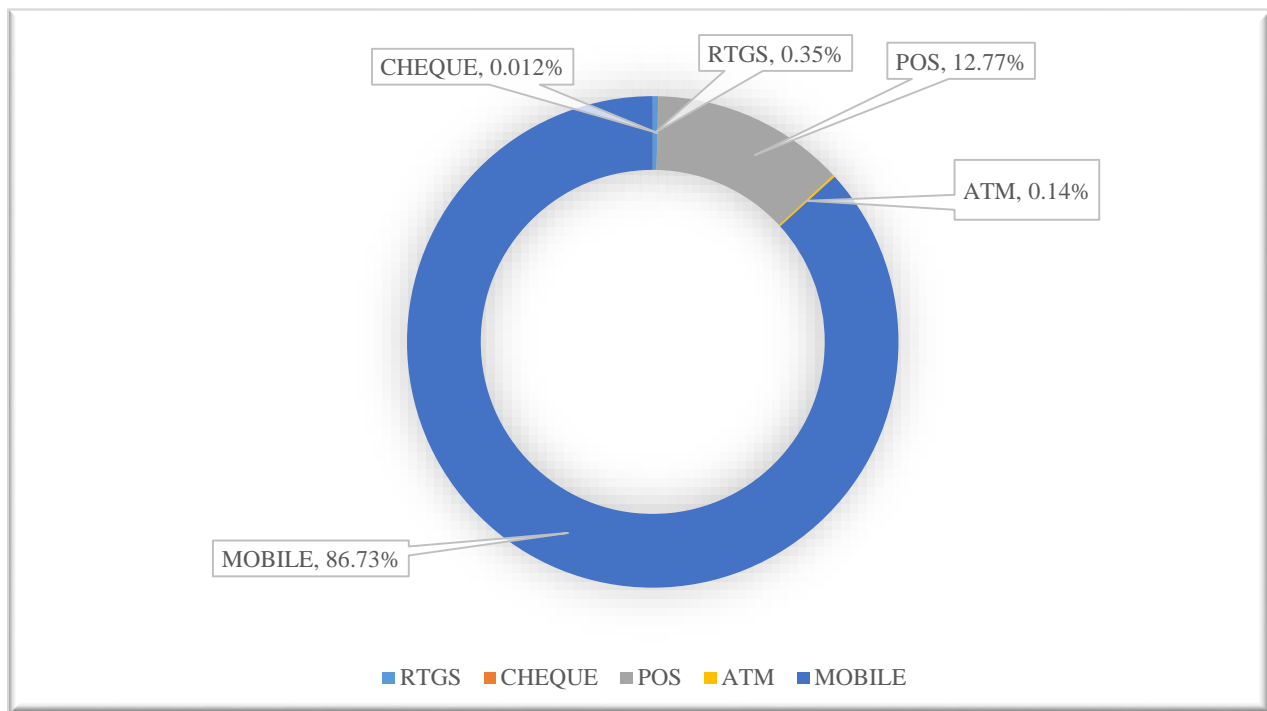
Figure 1: Composition of NPS Transactions in Value Terms



Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2019

The volume of NPS transactions decreased by 5.2%, from 38.69 million in the previous week to 36.68 million transactions, during the week under review. The composition of NPS transactions in volume terms was as follows: Mobile, 86.73%; POS, 12.77%; RTGS 0.35%; ATMs 0.14%; and Cheques 0.01%, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Composition of NPS Transactions in Volume Terms



Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2019

Table 3: National Payment Systems Activity

PAYMENT STREAM	WEEK ENDING 22 nd March 2019	WEEK ENDING 29 th MARCH 2019	% CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
VALUES IN \$ (millions)				
RTGS	2,119.01	2,786.52	31.5%	70.50%
CHEQUE	0.81	0.98	21.2%	0.02%
POS	298.22	277.20	-7.0%	7.01%
ATM	4.21	4.52	7.4%	0.11%
MOBILE	908.91	883.11	-2.8%	22.34%
TOTAL	3,331.16	3,952.34	18.6%	100%
VOLUMES				
RTGS	141,149	128,182	-9.2%	0.35%
CHEQUE	3,348	4,560	36.2%	0.012%
POS	5,320,663	4,684,404	-12.0%	12.77%
ATM	70,336	52,759	-25.0%	0.14%
MOBILE	33,147,946	31,816,013	-4.0%	86.73%
TOTAL	38,683,442	36,685,918	-5.2%	100%

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2019

3. TOBACCO SALES

The quantity of tobacco sold by the end of the 18th day of the 2019 tobacco selling season stood at 204,847 kilograms, down from 493,670 kilograms sold during the same period in 2018. Cumulatively, the value of tobacco sold registered a 75.9% decrease to US\$335,202 million, from US\$1,393,267 million realized during the corresponding period in 2018. The golden leaf was sold at an average price of US\$1.64/kg, compared to US\$2.82/kg realized during the same period in 2018.

Table 4: Cumulative Tobacco Sales: Day 18 (12th April 2019)

	2018	2019	Variance (%)
Cumulative Quantity Sold (kgs)	493,670	204,847	(58.5)
Cumulative Average Price(US\$/kg)	2.82	1.64	(42.0)
Cumulative Value (US\$ million)	1,393,267	335,202	(75.9)

Source: Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board (TIMB), 2019

4. INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PRICE DEVELOPMENTS

The international commodity prices of platinum, crude oil, gold and copper firmed, during the week ending 12th April 2019. Nickel prices, however, declined during the same week, as shown in Table

Table 4: International Commodity Prices

	Gold	Platinum	Copper	Nickel	Crude Oil
	US\$/ounce	US\$/ounce	US\$/tonne	US\$/tonne	US\$/barrel
Weekly Average (01 Apr-05 Apr)	1,289.73	869.40	6,451.00	13,077.60	69.69
8-Apr	1,298.55	912.50	6,468.75	13,108.50	70.98
9-Apr	1,302.43	904.00	6,474.50	13,143.00	70.77
10-Apr	1,305.13	891.00	6,444.50	13,100.50	71.41
11-Apr	1,301.73	901.00	6,432.50	13,020.00	71.10
12-Apr	1,295.23	899.00	6,483.00	12,929.25	71.43
weekly average (08 Apr-12 Apr)	1,300.61	901.50	6,460.65	13,060.25	71.14
Weekly Change (%)	0.84	3.69	0.15	(0.13)	2.08

Source: BBC, KITCO and Bloomberg, 2019

Gold

Gold prices firmed by 0.8%, from US\$1,289.73/oz recorded in the previous week to US\$1,300.61/oz, during the week under review. Prices of the precious metal rose amid investors' renewed concerns about the outlook of the global economy.

Platinum

Platinum prices rose by 3.7%, from a weekly average of US\$869,40/oz in the previous week, to US\$901,50/oz, during the week ending 12th April 2019. The prices were supported by strong demand by jewelers and the car manufacturing industry.

Copper

Copper prices increased by 0.2%, to a weekly average of US\$6,460.65/tonne. The base metal price was on a positive trajectory, due to a weaker dollar and optimism on the on-going US-China trade negotiations.

Nickel

Nickel prices fell by 0.13%, from US\$13,077.60/tonne in the previous week to US\$13,060.25/tonne, during the week under review.

Crude Oil

Brent crude oil weekly average prices firmed by 2.08%, from a US\$69.69/barrel in the week ending 5th April 2019 to US\$71.14/barrel, during the week under review. This followed sustained pressure applied by the US on all countries, to refrain from buying crude oil from Iran and Venezuela, a development that had negative implications on supplies.

EXCHANGE RATES

During the week ending 12th April 2019, the US dollar appreciated by 2.87% and 0.29% against the RTGS dollar and pound Sterling, respectively. The greenback, however, depreciated against the rand, pula and euro, as shown in Table 5.

Table 5: International Exchange Rates per US\$

	ZWL	ZAR	GBP	BWP	EURO
2019					
Weekly Average (25-29 Mar)	3.0491	14.1882	0.7626	10.6138	0.8905
8-Apr	3.1163	14.1701	0.7656	10.6213	0.8908
9-Apr	3.1277	14.1325	0.7643	10.6270	0.8879
10-Apr	3.1383	14.0750	0.7653	10.6045	0.8880
11-Apr	3.1422	13.9129	0.7635	10.5485	0.8863
12-Apr	3.1579	13.9911	0.7656	10.5820	0.8860
Weekly Average (8 Apr-12 Mar)	3.1365	14.0563	0.7648	10.5967	0.8878
<i>Appr(+)/Depr(-) (%) against the USD</i>	2.87	(0.93)	0.29	(0.16)	(0.30)

5. EQUITY MARKETS

The Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) continued to trade on a positive trajectory, with the All Share and Top 10 indices registering gains of 1.91% and 2.50% , respectively, during the week under analysis.

Share price gains for Zimplow Holdings Limited (22.45%); Rainbow Tourism Group Limited (19.83%); Simbisa Brands Limited (13.72%); Innscor Africa Limited (12.41%); and Meikles Limited (12.06%), largely explained the increase in the mainstream index. The aforementioned gains were, however, partially offsetted by share price losses for Nampak Zimbabwe Limited (14.03%); Dawn Properties Limited (7.69%); Axia Corporation Limited (4.26%); Bindura Nickel Corporation Limited (4.10%) and Masimba Holdings Limited (2.33%).

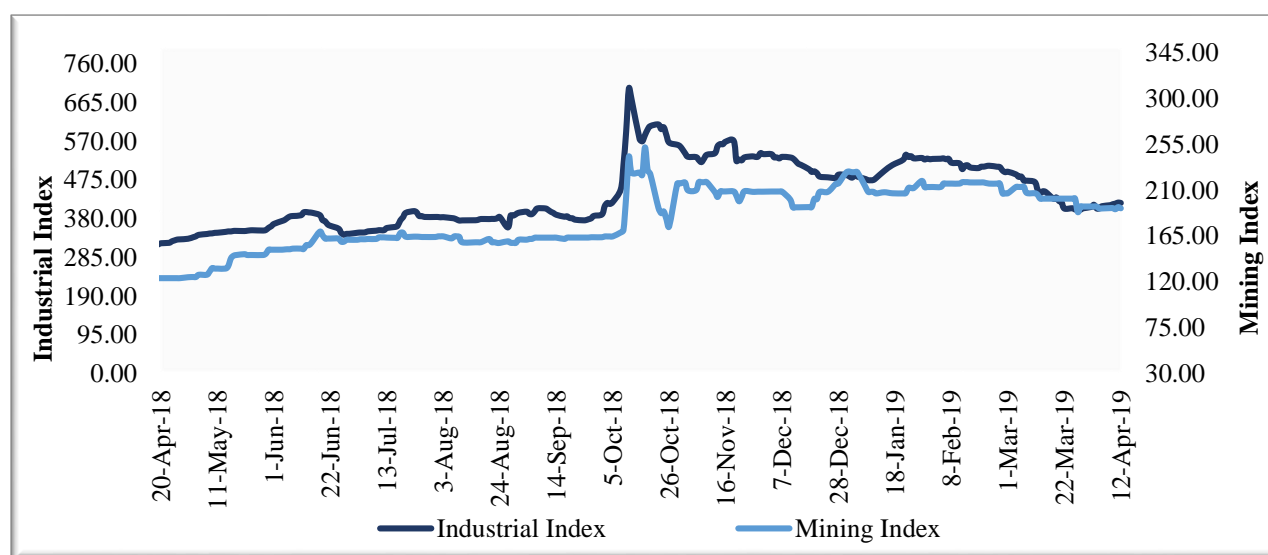
The mining index increased by 0.09%, from 192.06 points recorded in the previous week to 192.23 points, during the week under review. The increase was attributable to share price gains for Bindura Nickel Corporation, 4.10% and RioZim Limited, 1.54%.

Table 6: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange 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
15-Mar-19	133.72	128.53	445.95	201.72	17,760,572,971	12,626,851	23,404,659
22-Mar-19	121.56	113.32	404.89	201.72	15,997,165,999	14,358,069	14,103,578
29-Mar-19	121.66	114.61	405.57	193.98	16,084,866,459	23,761,920	37,630,561
05-Apr-19	123.16	116.17	410.71	192.06	16,231,279,762	29,994,220	28,525,476
12-Apr-19	125.51	119.08	418.65	192.23	16,523,960,264	22,311,532	16,435,215
Weekly Change (%)	1.91	2.50	1.93	0.09	1.80	(25.61)	(42.38)

Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE), 2019

Figure 3: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange Indices



Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2019

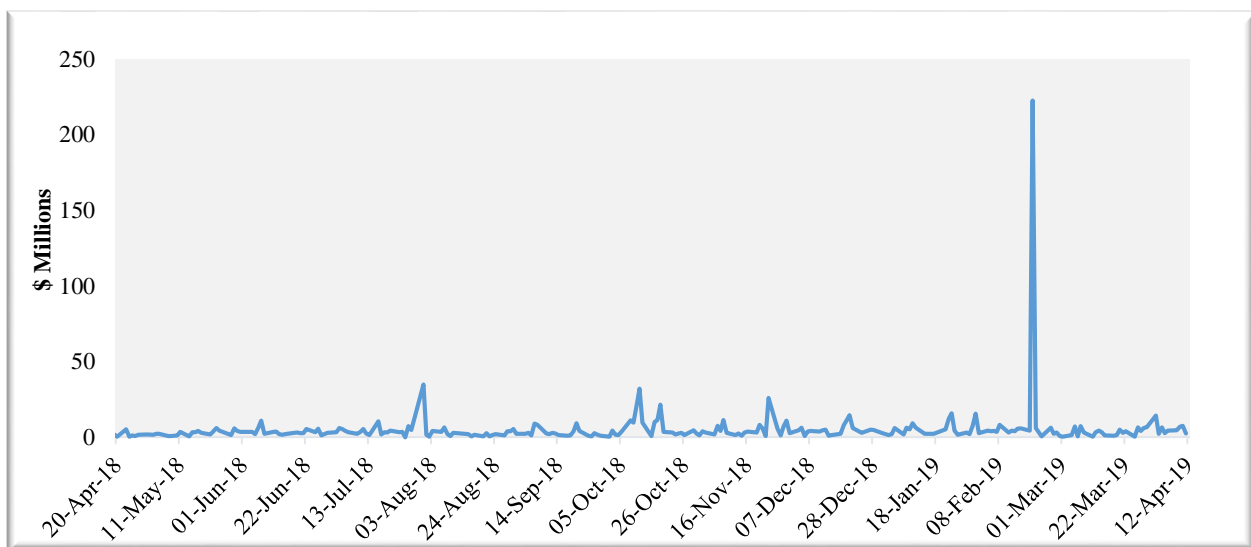
² The All Share index shows the changing average value of shares of all companies on the market.

³ The Index is calculated using the market capitalisation method.

Market Turnover and Volume

The cumulative value of shares traded on the ZSE decreased by 25.61% to \$22.23 million, during the week ending 12th April 2019. Similarly, the cumulative volume of shares declined by 42.38% to 16.43 million shares, during the same week. This, notwithstanding, there were block trades of 717 472 Delta Corporation Limited shares which traded at \$2.27 each and 532 707 Old Mutual Zimbabwe shares at \$8.27 each.

Figure 4: Daily Market Turnover



Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2019

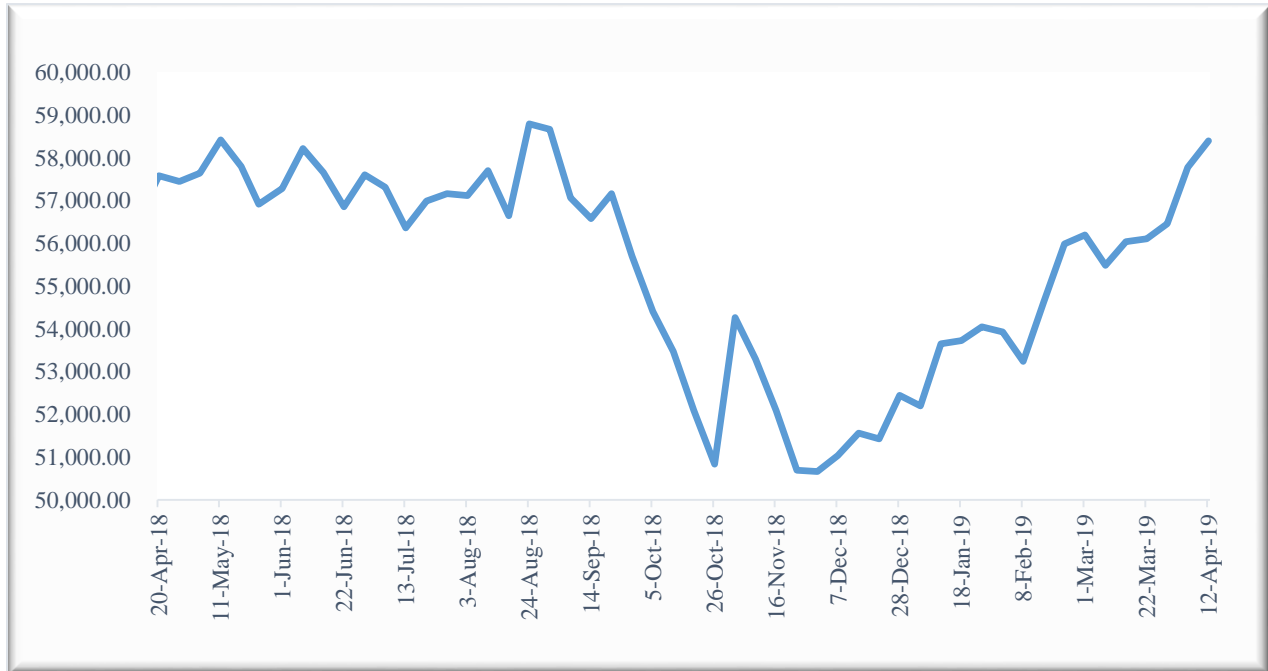
Note: The spike in the daily market turnover on 19th February 2019 was largely on account of block trades, which saw 81 million Econet shares and 66 million Cassava Smartech Zimbabwe Limited shares exchanging hands at 146.29 cents and 145.50 cents, respectively.

Market Capitalization

ZSE market capitalization rose by 1.8%, from \$16.23 in the previous week to close at \$16.53 billion, during the week ending 12th April 2019.



Figure 6: Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) All Share Index



Source: <https://www.jse.co.za/services/market-data/market-statistics,2019>

RESERVE BANK OF ZIMBABWE

19TH APRIL 2019