



Weekly Economic Highlights

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Week Ending
23rd April 2021

1. INTEREST RATES

Deposit Rates

During the week ending 23rd April 2021, minimum deposit rates for savings deposits and deposits of 1month tenor were unchanged. Minimum deposit rates for deposits of 3-month tenor, however, registered a decline. Maximum deposit rates for savings deposits remained unchanged, while those for 1 month and 3 month tenors registered declines, during the same week, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Average Deposit Rates (per annum)

Date	Savings deposits (%)		1- Month deposit rates (%)		3- Month deposit rates (%)	
	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)
26-Mar-21	1.57	4.04	5.19	10.83	6.79	11.80
2-Apr-21	1.57	4.04	5.19	10.83	6.79	11.80
9-Apr-21	1.57	4.04	5.03	11.19	6.84	11.87
16-Apr-21	1.57	4.04	5.03	11.09	6.84	11.87
23-Apr-21	1.57	4.04	5.03	10.71	6.82	11.78

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2021

Lending Rates

Commercial bank minimum lending rates for individual clients declined by 0.12 percentage points, while those for corporate clients increased by 0.27 percentage points, during the week ending 23rd April 2021. Maximum lending rates for individual clients declined, while those for corporate clients increased, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Lending Rates (per annum)

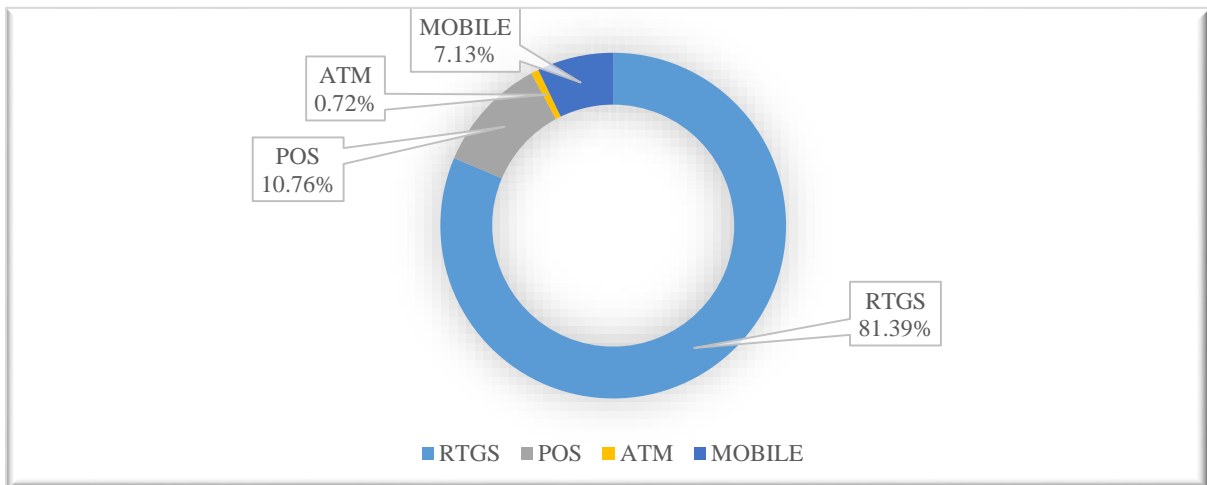
Date	Individual Clients		Corporate Clients	
	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)
26-Mar-21	35.83	55.77	22.61	59.03
2-April-21	35.83	55.77	22.61	59.03
9-Apr-21	35.34	57.28	22.32	59.39
16-Apr-21	35.34	57.28	22.32	59.39
23-Apr-21	35.22	57.08	22.59	59.75

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2021

2. CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

During the week under analysis, transactions processed through the National Payment System (NPS) declined by 17.20% to close at ZW\$73.22 billion, from ZW\$88.43 billion in the preceeding week. Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) transactions declined by 22.10% to close at ZW\$59.60 billion, during the same week. In proportions, NPS transaction values were constituted as follows: RTGS, 81.39%; POS, 10.76%; Mobile, 7.13% and ATM, 0.72%.

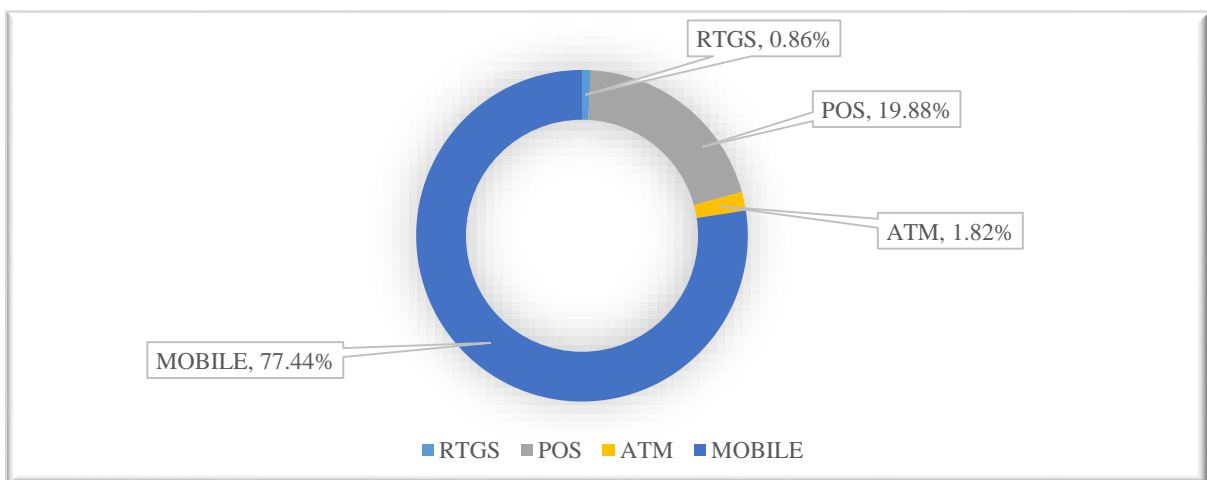
Figure 1: Composition of NPS Transactions in Value Terms



88Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2021

The volume of NPS transactions registered a marginal decline of 2.04% to close at 20.67 million transactions, during the week under review. The distribution of NPS transaction volumes was as follows: Mobile, 74.44%; POS, 19.88%; ATM, 1.82% and RTGS, 0.86%.

Figure 2: Composition of NPS Transactions in Volume Terms



Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2021

Table 3: National Payment Systems Activity

PAYMENT STREAM	WEEK ENDING 16 th APRIL 2021	WEEK ENDING 23 rd APRIL 2021	% CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK	PROPORTION %
Values in ZW\$ Millions				
RTGS	76,503.35	59,596.94	-22.10%	81.39%
POS	6,687.80	7,877.24	17.79%	10.76%
ATM	498.12	526.26	5.65%	0.72%
MOBILE	4,745.51	5,223.98	10.08%	7.13%
TOTAL	88,434.78	73,224.41	-17.20%	100%
Volumes				
RTGS	192,692	177,770	-7.74%	0.86%
POS	3,622,230	4,110,237	13.47%	19.88%
ATM	365,446	375,940	2.87%	1.82%
MOBILE	16,919,899	16,006,899	-5.40%	77.44%
TOTAL	21,100,267	20,670,846	-2.04%	100%

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2021

3. INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PRICE DEVELOPMENTS

On the global commodity markets, prices of gold, platinum, copper and crude oil firmed, while those for nickel eased, during the week ending 23rd April 2021. Table 4 shows developments in commodity prices, during the week under review.

Table 4: Metal and Crude Oil Prices for the week-ending 23rd April 2021

2021	Gold US\$/ounce	Platinum US\$/ounce	Copper US\$/tonne	Nickel US\$/tonne	Crude Oil US\$/barrel
Weekly Average (12 – 16 Apr)	1,747.54	1,184.00	9,067.90	16,211.60	65.57
19-Apr	1,781.45	1,220.50	9,415.00	16,063.00	67.18
20-Apr	1,771.68	1,193.00	9,396.50	16,144.00	66.15
21-Apr	1,789.63	1,189.50	9,382.50	16,035.00	65.09
22-Apr	1,786.70	1,208.50	9,475.50	16,009.00	65.63
23-Apr	1,783.55	1,229.50	9,545.50	16,150.00	66.12
Weekly Average (19 – 23 April)	1,782.60	1,208.20	9,443.00	16,080.20	66.03
Weekly Change (%)	2.0	2.0	4.1	-0.8	0.7

Source: BBC, KITCO and Bloomberg, 2021

Gold

Gold prices sustained a bullish run during the week mainly driven by a weaker US dollar, sliding U.S Treasury yields and renewed concerns about the coronavirus pandemic, a development which drove investors towards safe haven assets. The price of the precious metal

rose by 2.0%, from a weekly average of US\$1,747.54 per ounce in the previous week to US\$1,782.60 per ounce, during the week ending 23rd April 2021

Platinum

Platinum prices surged by 2.0% during the week under review, to close at a weekly average of US\$1,208.20 per ounce, on brighter demand prospects. This came as researchers had established that the metal could be used to create a catalyst that could significantly reduce energy usage in various industrial and pharmaceutical processes. Renewed efforts around the world to reduce carbon emissions also continued to boost demand prospects for the metal in the car industry.

Copper

Copper prices remained buoyant during the week also on account of a weaker US dollar, which made greenback-priced metals more appealing to holders of other currencies. The decision by the U.S and other countries to hike targets for slashing greenhouse gas emissions also bolstered the demand outlook for the red metal, as the metal is expected to benefit from green investments into electric vehicles or renewable energy. Against this backdrop, prices increased by 4.1% to close the week under review at an average of US\$9,443.00 per tonne.

Nickel

Nickel prices continued to be weighed down by easing supply worries and signs of a build-up in refined nickel inventories in China, the world's largest consumer of the base metal. The decline was, however, capped by the impact of a weaker US dollar on commodity prices. Consequently, nickel prices eased by a marginal 0.8%, from a weekly average of US\$16,211.60 per ounce in the prior week to US\$16,080.20 per tonne, during the week under review.

Brent Crude Oil

Crude oil prices rose by 0.7%, from a weekly average of US\$65.57 per barrel in the previous week to US\$66.03 per barrel, during the week ending 23rd April 2021. The increase largely reflected a drop in supply from Libya and the recovery in oil demand, particularly in the US, the world's largest oil consumer.

4. EXCHANGE RATE DEVELOPMENTS

On the weekly foreign exchange auction market, the Zimbabwe dollar (ZWL) depreciated by a marginal 0.04% against the US dollar, from an average of ZWL\$84.4484 per US\$1 in the previous week to ZWL\$84.4826 per US\$1, during the week ending 23rd April 2021. The developments in selected exchange rates is shown in Table 5.

Table 5: International Exchange Rates¹

	USD	ZAR	GBP	BWP	EURO
2021					
Weekly Average (12 - 16 Apr)	84.4484	5.8333	116.08	7.7376	100.799
20-Apr	84.4827	5.9471	118.2378	7.8276	101.8735
21-Apr	84.4826	5.8980	117.7139	7.7899	101.6581
22-Apr	84.4826	5.9224	117.6885	7.8193	101.6497
23-Apr	84.4826	5.9119	117.0718	7.8107	101.6159
Weekly Average (20 - 23 April)	84.4826	5.9198	117.6780	7.8119	101.6993
<i>Appr(-)/Depr(+) (%) of the ZWL</i>	<i>0.04</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>0.9</i>

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2021

5. EQUITY MARKETS

The Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) recovered from losses recorded in the previous week, with all the major indices registering gains, during the week ending 23rd April 2021. The All Share, Top 10 and Top 15 indices rose by 5.15%, 5.87%, and 5.84% to close at 4 444.19 points, 2 563.85 points and 2 918.92 points, respectively.

The increase in the market indices was buoyed by share price gains for Medtech Holdings Limited (32.97%), Masimba Holdings Limited (24.94%), Ariston Holdings Limited (24.64%), Dairibord Holdings Limited (20.70%) and Padenga Holdings Limited (19.49%). Partially offsetting the aforementioned gains were losses in the share prices of Unifreight Africa Limited (28.57%), National Tyre Services Limited (10%), NMBZ Holdings Limited (9.08%), African Sun Limited (7.96%) and Mashonaland Holdings Limited (6.08%).

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

The resources index was 9.86% lower to close at 4 774.73 points, during the week under analysis. This resulted from a 14.06% share price loss for Bindura Nickel Corporation Limited. RioZim Limited shares prices, however, remained unchanged, albeit trading on thin volumes.

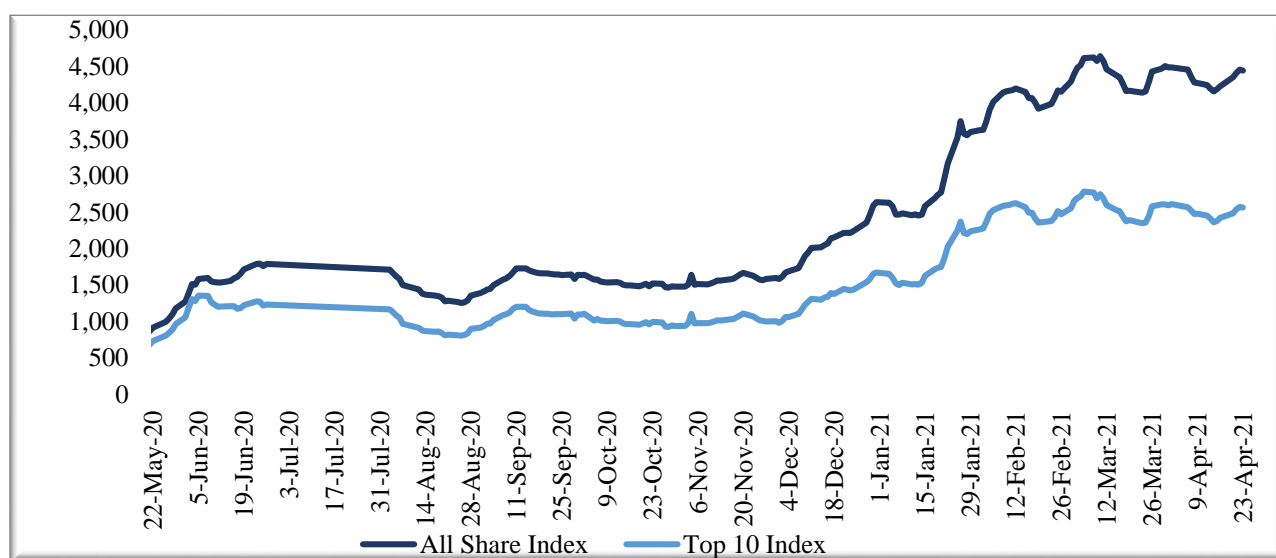
Table 6: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange Statistics²

	All Share Index Points	Top 10 index (points)	Top 15 Index ³ points	Medium Cap ³ (points)	Small Cap ³ (points)	Mining Index (points)	Grand Market Capitalization (ZWL million)	Market Turnover (ZWL million)	Volume of Shares (million)
19-March-21	4 168.14	2 391.23	2 762.25	10 082.42	44 875.78	5 984.98	502.30	331.53	35.33
26- March-21	4 432.50	2 580.33	2 949.65	10 487.48	47 327.53	5 532.09	521.69	463.29	27.89
1-April-21	4 488.78	2 610.46	2 977.97	10 640.47	47 749.22	5 317.90	530.80	322.54	30.59
9-April-21	4 270.34	2 479.11	2 790.88	10 117.07	47 343.47	5 587.95	498.88	581.52	56.84
16-April-21	4 226.47	2 421.68	2 757.75	10 225.21	46 792.22	5 296.93	493.10	679.26	36.22
23-April-21	4 444.19	2 563.85	2 918.92	10 706.35	43 231.89	4 774.73	517.58	811.04	70.70
% Change	5.15	5.87	5.84	4.71	-7.61	-9.86	4.96	19.40	95.20

Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE), 2021

Figure 1 shows developments on the ZSE's All Share, Top 10 and mining indices from the period from the 22nd May 2020 to the 23rd April 2021.

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



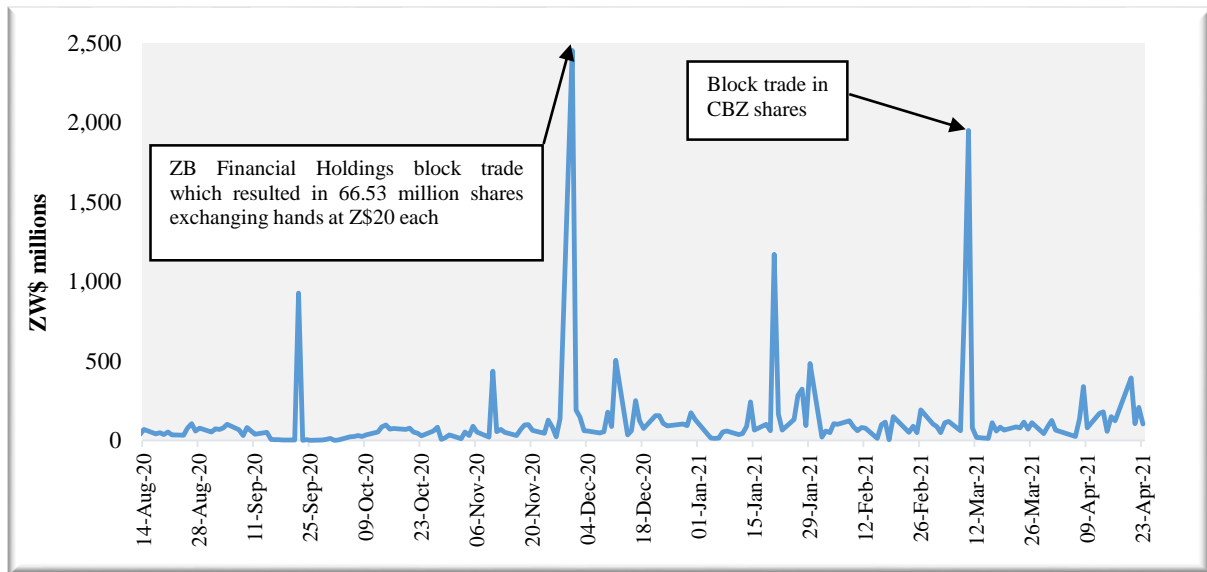
Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2021

² 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

Owing to improved trading activity during the week under review, the cumulative volume and value of shares traded increased by 95.22% and 19.40% to 70.70 million shares and ZW\$811.04 million, respectively. Figure 2 shows the trend in daily market turnover for the period from 8th June 2020 to 23rd April 2021.

Figure 4: Daily Market Turnover

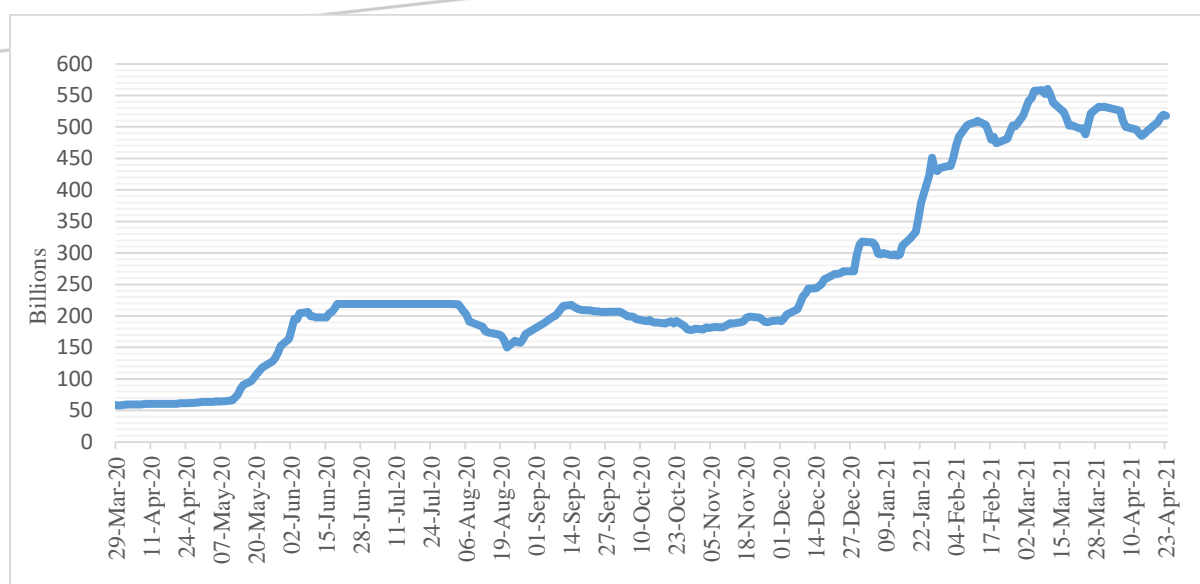


Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2021

Market Capitalization

The local bourse gained ZW\$24.47 billion, or 4.96% worth of market capitalisation to close at ZW\$517.58 billion, during the week under review, compared to ZW\$493.10 billion recorded in the previous week.

Figure 5: Daily Market Capitalization in ZW\$ billions



Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2021

Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Developments

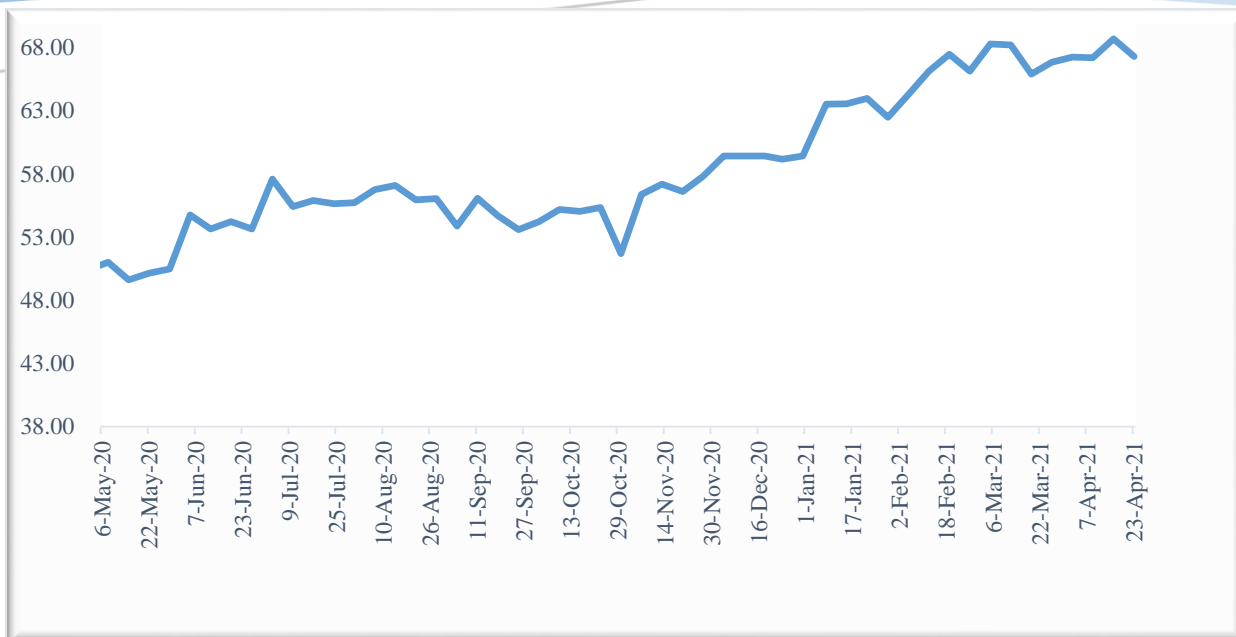
The Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) All share index lost 2.04%, from 68,698.78 points in the previous week to close at 67,295.74 points, during the week under review. JSE market capitalization was 1.53% lower to close at ZAR19.33 trillion.

Table 7: Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Statistics

Period	All Share Index (points)	Market Capitalization (ZAR trillions)
19-March-21	65,911.27	19.09
26-March-21	66,833.99	19.35
2-April-21	67,236.31	19.41
9-April-21	67,191.27	19.34
16-April-21	68,698.78	19.63
23-April-21	67,295.74	19.33
% Change	-2.04	-1.53

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,2021>

RESERVE BANK OF ZIMBABWE

APPENDIX 1: FOREIGN EXCHANGE AUCTION RESULTS FOR MAINFX³ AND SMEFX⁴

	MAINFX				SMEFX			
	30-Mar-21	9-Apr-21	16-Apr-21	23-Apr-21	30-Mar-21	9-Apr-21	16-Apr-21	23-Apr-21
Total Bids (US\$ dollars)	32,185,461.06	23,191,023.66	29,174,807.16	30,207,699.94	3,583,457.16	2,059,745.29	3,749,275.87	3,900,835.28
Amount Allotted (US\$ dollars)	32,185,461.06	23,191,023.66	29,174,807.16	30,207,699.94	3,583,457.16	2,059,745.29	3,749,275.87	3,900,835.28
Highest Rate	87.5	87	87	89	87.5	87.5	87.5	88
Lowest Rate	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82
Lowest Accepted Rate	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82
Weighted Average Rate	84.4001	84.3970	84.4827	84.4826	84.4001	84.3970	84.4827	84.4826
Number of Bids Received	344	226	316	332	300	171	298	310
Number of Bids Rejected	68	36	49	65	47	27	41	57

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2021

³ Main Foreign Currency Auction

⁴ Small and Medium Enterprises Foreign Currency Auction

APPENDIX 2: SUMMARY OF FOREIGN CURRENCY AUCTION ALLOTMENTS BY PURPOSE

Purpose	MAINFX				SMEFX			
	30-Mar-21	9-Apr-21	16-Apr-21	23-Apr-21	30-Mar-21	9-Apr-21	16-Apr-21	23-Apr-21
Raw Materials	15,506,292.00	11,049,489.74	13,631,643.45	12,258,325.81	863,671.91	532,813.59	1,045,035.55	1,030,911.59
Machinery and Equipment	5,554,725.50	4,671,962.75	5,573,039.47	5,698,750.65	727,234.26	387,153.98	709,343.36	773,605.26
Consumables (Incl. Spares, Tyres, Packaging)	2,530,389.92	1,681,657.81	1,464,270.32	2,726,391.14	765,857.48	507,803.04	962,300.09	733,886.14
Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals	2,034,427.64	1,082,138.71	1,908,556.73	1,518,160.80	381,707.66	133,365.58	163,698.61	409,657.02
Services (Loans, Dividends and Disinvestments)	2,096,811.56	1,752,384.92	2,410,695.77	2,241,848.94	342,653.71	162,158.26	223,047.33	304,363.14
Retail and Distribution	1,867,442.03	1,423,411.02	2,319,489.46	2,786,171.86	282,478.40	156,723.84	366,024.43	277,714.13
Fuel, Electricity and Gas	2,139,094.89	1,258,426.38	1,747,149.46	2,186,334.60	134,905.24	119,937.00	176,263.34	215,992.65
Paper and Packaging	456,277.52	271,552.33	119,962.50	791,716.14	84,948.50	59,790.00	103,563.16	154,705.35
TOTAL	32,185,461.06	23,191,023.66	29,174,807.16	30,207,699.94	3,583,457.16	2,059,745.29	3,749,275.87	3,900,835.28

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2021