



Weekly Economic Highlights

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Week Ending
17th February 2023

1. INTEREST RATES

Local Currency (ZWL) Deposit Rates

During the week ending 17th February 2023, average minimum and maximum deposits rates for savings deposits increased. However, minimum deposits rates for deposits of 1-month tenor and 3-months declined, while maximum deposits rates increased, 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 (%)
20-Jan-23	20.35	19.78	55.15	59.61	56.00	60.94
27-Jan-23	31.30	32.09	75.88	82.06	78.47	85.03
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

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

Local Currency (ZWL) Lending Rates

Minimum and maximum lending rates at commercial banks for both individual and corporate clients registered decreases during the week under analysis, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Lending Rates (per annum)

Date	Individual Clients		Corporate Clients	
	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)
20-Jan-23	92.41	130.35	112.77	242.11
27-Jan-23	90.05	128.63	116.03	205.86
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

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

Foreign Currency (USD) Deposit Rates

Average minimum and maximum deposits rates across all classes of deposits, registered increases during the week ending 17th February 2023, 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 (%)
27-Jan-23	0.85	1.17	2.68	4.28	2.88	4.33
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

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 firmed, as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Lending Rates (per annum)

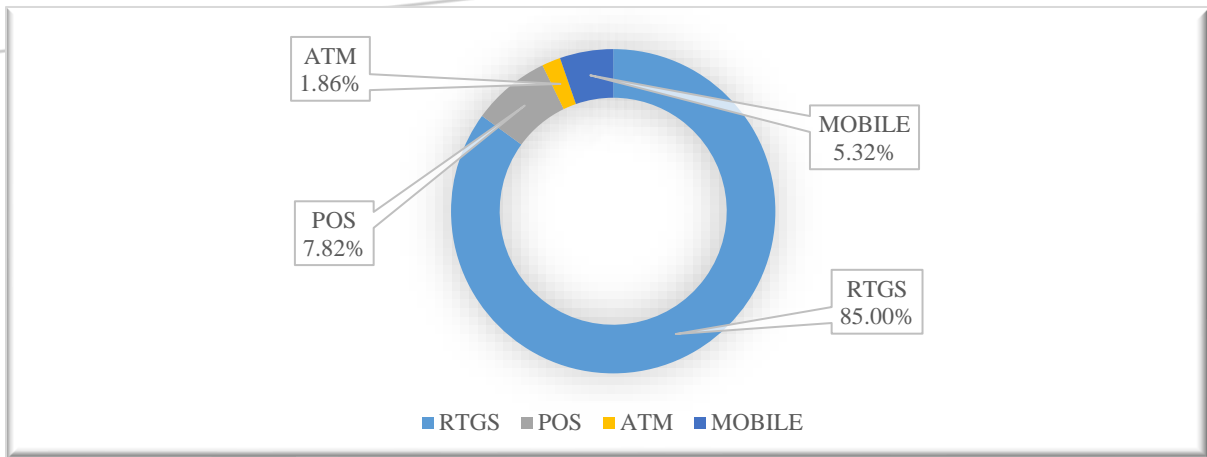
Date	Individual Clients		Corporate Clients	
	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)
27-Jan-23	11.35	12.86	6.60	13.52
3-Feb-23	11.35	12.86	6.60	13.52
10-Feb-23	10.98	13.16	7.31	14.58
17-Feb-23	11.04	13.18	7.60	14.62

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

2. CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

The National Payment System (NPS) processed transactions valued at ZW\$730.78 billion, during the week ending 17th February 2023. This represented an increase of 12.70%, compared to ZW\$648.41 billion reported in the previous week. Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) transactions increased by 19.28% to ZW\$621.18 billion, from ZW\$520.78 billion recorded in the preceding week. In proportions, the NPS transaction values were distributed as follows: RTGS, 85.00%, POS, 7.82%; Mobile, 5.32%; and ATM, 1.86%.

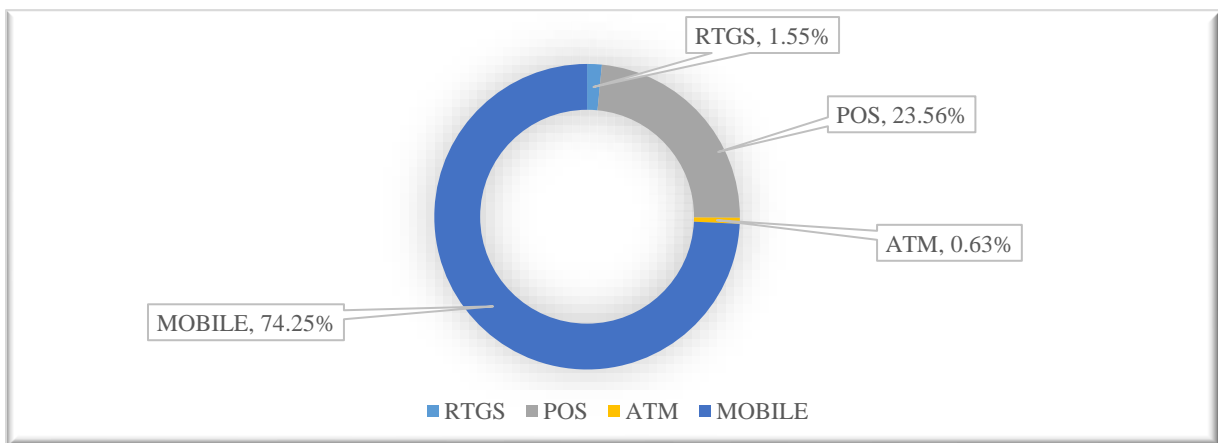
Figure 1: Composition of NPS Transactions in Value Terms



Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

The volume of NPS transactions declined by 11.79% to 10.93 million, during the week under review, from 12.39 million recorded in the preceding week. Mobile based transactions accounted for the largest proportion of NPS transaction volumes at 74.25% of the total, followed by POS, 23.56%; RTGS, 1.55%; and ATM, 0.63%, 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 10 th February 2023	WEEK ENDING 17 th February 2023	% CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK	PROPORTION %
Values in ZW\$ Millions				
RTGS	520,777.28	621,182.48	19.28%	85.00%
POS	62,235.05	57,136.00	-8.19%	7.82%
ATM	19,516.33	13,557.84	-30.53%	1.86%
MOBILE	45,879.04	38,904.58	-15.20%	5.32%
TOTAL	648,407.70	730,780.90	12.70%	100%
Volumes				
RTGS	204,030	169,626	-16.86%	1.55%
POS	2,796,818	2,574,516	-7.95%	23.56%
ATM	97,244	68,844	-29.20%	0.63%
MOBILE	9,288,068	8,112,337	-12.66%	74.25%
TOTAL	12,386,160	10,925,323	-11.79%	100%

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

3. INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PRICE DEVELOPMENTS

International commodity prices for gold, platinum, palladium, and nickel declined during the week ending 17th February 2023. The commodity prices declined as the dollar strengthened against other major international currencies. However, crude oil and copper prices increased during the same week. The US dollar firmed, boosted by a recent series of strong US data, which bolstered the case for more multiple rate hikes by the Fed in the months to come. The commodity prices developments during the week under review are shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Metal and Crude Oil Prices for the week ending 17th February 2023

	Gold	Platinum	Palladium	Copper	Nickel	Crude Oil
2023	US\$/ounce	US\$/ounce	US\$/ounce	US\$/tonne	US\$/tonne	US\$/barrel
Weekly Average (6 – 10 Feb 23)	1,875.62	972.80	1,617.90	8,914.20	27,184.00	84.31
13-Feb-23	1,857.28	941.50	1,549.50	8,953.50	26,470.00	86.07
14-Feb-23	1,862.10	953.00	1,568.50	8,917.50	26,485.00	84.85
15-Feb-23	1,833.33	926.50	1,461.50	8,906.50	25,990.00	85.91
16-Feb-23	1,833.13	914.00	1,465.50	8,957.50	26,100.00	84.26
17-Feb-23	1,833.45	920.50	1,490.00	8,870.00	25,793.00	83.83
Weekly Average (13-17 Feb 23)	1,843.86	931.10	1,507.00	8,921.00	26,167.60	84.98
Weekly Change (%)	-1.69	-4.29	-6.85	0.08	-3.74	0.80

Source: BBC, KITCO and Bloomberg, 2023

Gold

The price of the yellow metal retreated during the week under review, as the greenback appreciated against major currencies following fresh hawkish rhetoric from the U.S. Federal Reserve officials. In addition, investor concerns over possible interest rate hikes by the U.S. Federal Reserve also negatively impacted prices of the precious metal. Prices declined by 1.69%

to US\$1,843.86 per ounce during the week under analysis, from US\$1,875.62 per ounce in the prior week.

Platinum

Platinum prices decreased by 4.29%, from US\$972.80 per ounce in the preceding week to US\$931.10 per ounce during the week under analysis. Rising supply against a background of stagnant demand erode the prices of the precious metal.

Palladium

Palladium prices continued on a negative trajectory as the US dollar strengthened against most major international currencies, falling below US\$1,600 per ounce. Prices of the metal fell by 6.85% to close the week under review at US\$1,507.00 per ounce.

Copper

Copper prices marginally increased by 0.08%, from US\$8,914.20 per tonne in the previous week to US\$8,921.00 per tonne, during the week ending 17th February 2023. Prices of the red metal were largely influenced by hopes for higher demand in China, the world's largest consumer of metals.

Nickel

During the week under review, nickel prices fell by 3.4% to US\$26,167.60 per tonne from US\$27,184.00 per tonne recorded in the previous week. Prices declined as the global market expected surpluses on rising supply, led by mines in Indonesia.

Brent Crude Oil

Brent crude oil prices increased during the week ending 17th February 2023, following expectations of a spike in demand in Asia, the world's largest fuel consuming continent. Prices rose by 0.8%, from US\$84.31 per barrel in the previous week to US\$84.98 per barrel, during the week under review.

4. EXCHANGE RATE DEVELOPMENTS

Interbank Market

On the interbank market, the Zimbabwe dollar (ZW\$) depreciated by 3.5% against the US dollar, from ZW\$826.9948 per US\$1 in the previous week to ZW\$855.5745 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 (6-10 Feb 23)	826.9948	46.9513	998.1016	63.8819	888.4395
13-Feb-23	846.1039	47.1698	1,019.0095	64.5663	902.2909
14-Feb-23	850.0785	47.7327	1,032.8042	64.7072	912.9020
15-Feb-23	856.8403	47.7327	1,041.2764	65.5949	918.1952
16-Feb-23	860.7678	47.8469	1,036.8390	65.2975	921.3263
17-Feb-23	864.0822	47.3934	1,032.3241	65.4605	919.0429
Weekly Average (13-17 Feb 23)	855.5745	47.5751	1,032.4506	65.1253	914.7514
Appr(-)/Depr(+) (%) of the ZWL	3.5	1.3	3.4	1.9	3.0

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

5. EQUITY MARKETS

Zimbabwe Stock Exchange

During the week under review, mixed sentiments characterised trading on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE). As a result, the ZSE All Share index lost 8.83% to close at 27 301.03 points. The Top 10 and Top 15 indices lost 12.79% and 10.48% to close the week at 16 645.38 points and 18 920.78 points. The Small and Medium Cap indices, however, gained 9.26% and 2.31% to close at 566 763.43 points and 56 883.05 points, respectively.

The decline in the mainstream index was a result of share price losses for Delta Corporation Limited (22.98%), Econet Wireless Zimbabwe Limited (19.94%), CBZ Holdings Limited (15.15%), SeedCo Limited (13.35%) and Star Africa Corporation Limited (10.29%). Partially offsetting the losses were gains in share prices for Africa Sun Limited (24.81%), Ariston Holdings Limited (21.25%), Edgars Stores Limited (19.82%), Mashonaland Holdings Limited (17.13%) and CFI Holdings Limited (14.99%). The resources index² remained unchanged at 29 116.96 points, during the reporting 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

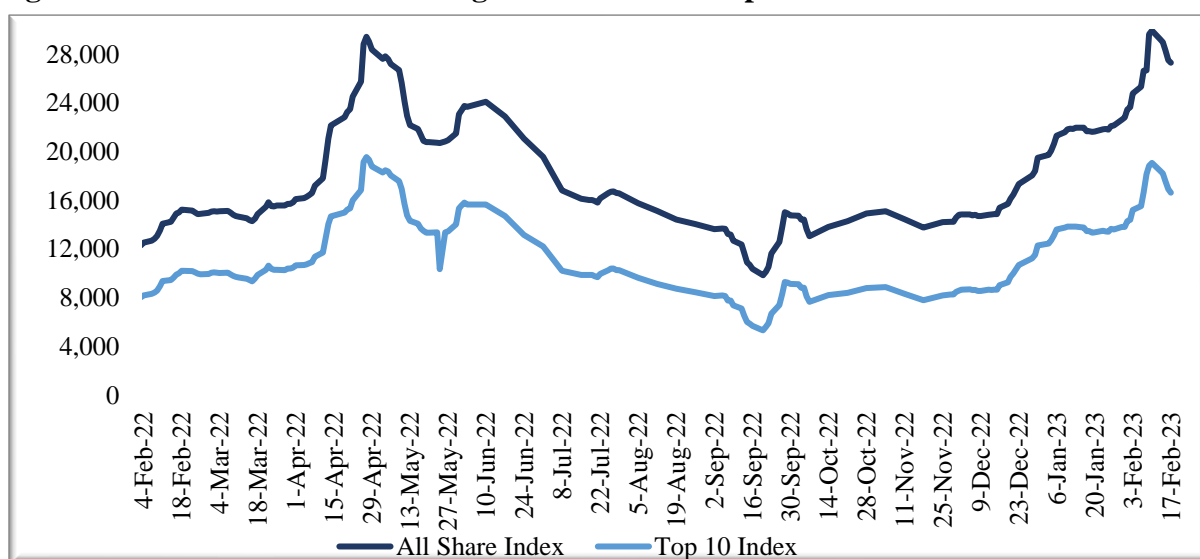
Table 8: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange Statistics³

	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)
13-Jan-23	21,981.41	13,860.17	15,293.15	41,929.97	457,148.25	25,496.86	2,356.79	2,269.90	24.44
20-Jan-23	21,665.00	13,349.26	14,851.04	43,623.29	469,419.34	25,496.86	2,341.88	3,088.23	18.99
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
% Change	-8.83	-12.79	-10.48	2.31	9.26	0.00	-9.62	-17.25	-49.00

Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE), 2023

Figure 3 shows the trend in daily market turnover for the period from 4th February 2022 to 17th February 2023.

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



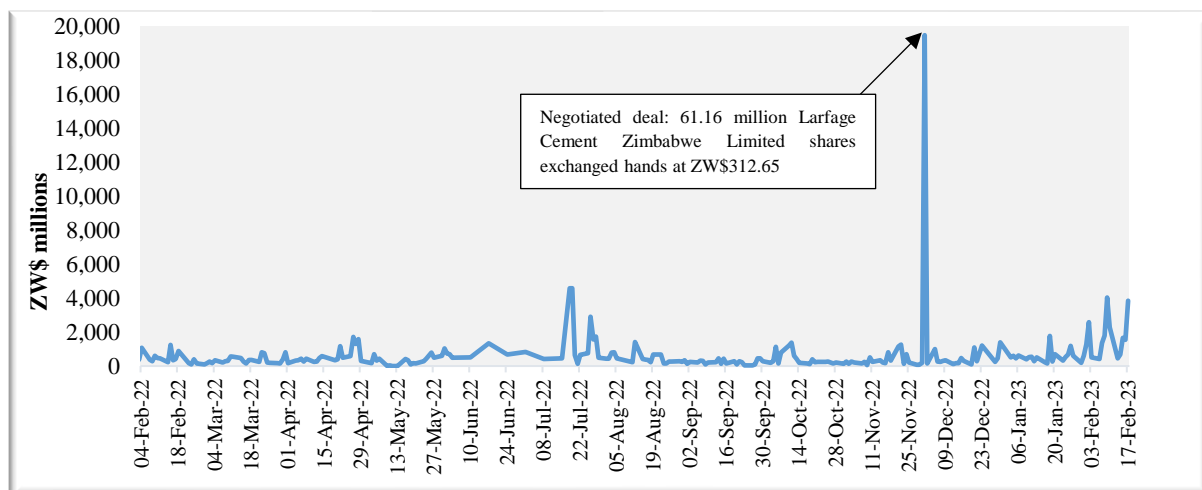
Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2023

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

During the week under analysis, trading activity on the ZSE was concentrated in selected medium to small-tier counters. The cumulative volumes of shares traded declined by 49.0% to 28.70 million, from 56.27 million recorded in the prior week. In terms of turnover value, a 17.25% decrease was recorded, from ZW\$9.87 billion in the previous week to ZW\$8.16 billion in the reporting week. Figure 4 shows the trend in daily market turnover for the period from 4th February 2022 to 17th February 2023.

Figure 4: Daily Market Turnover



Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2023

Market Capitalization

During the week ending 17th February 2023, ZSE market capitalization stood at ZW\$2.92 trillion, compared to ZW\$3.23 trillion, reported during the preceding week. Figure 5 shows the developments on ZSE market capitalization for the period from 4th February 2022 to 17th February 2023.

Figure 5: Daily Market Capitalization in ZW\$ billions

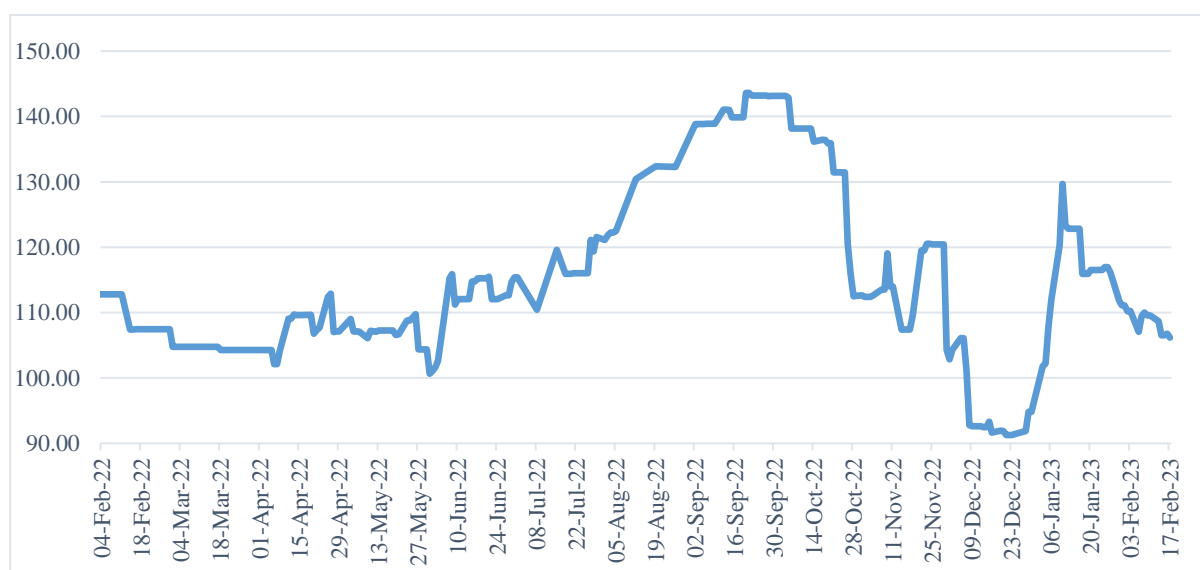


Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2023

Victoria Falls Stock Exchange

During the week ending 17th February 2023, the Victoria Falls Stock Exchange (VFEX) All Share index lost 3.09% to close at 106.18 points. However, the cumulative volume and value of shares traded on the VFEX increased by 242.39% to 0.27 million and 189.35% to USD0.11 million, respectively, during the week under review. The increase in turnover volumes and values of shares traded largely emanated from trading in SeedCo International, Simbisa Brands Limited and Padenga Holdings Limited counters. The SeedCo international counter saw 57 683 shares worth US\$14 986.06 exchange hands at US\$0.26/share. On the 14th, 15th and 16th of February 2023, a total of 74 900; 11 737; and 21 555 Simbisa Brands Limited shares worth US\$32,643.70; US\$3,050.90; and US\$9,278.30 exchanged hands at US\$0.44/share; US\$0.26/share; and US\$0.26/share, respectively. On the 17th February 2023, a total of 53,494 shares for Padenga Holdings Limited worth US\$13 897.50 exchanged hands at US\$0.26/share. VFEX market capitalization stood at US\$0.60 billion, reflecting a decline of 3.09% or US\$0.02 billion, from US\$0.62 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 17th February 2023.

Figure 6: Victoria Falls Stock Exchange All Share Index



Source: Victoria Falls Stock Exchange, 2023

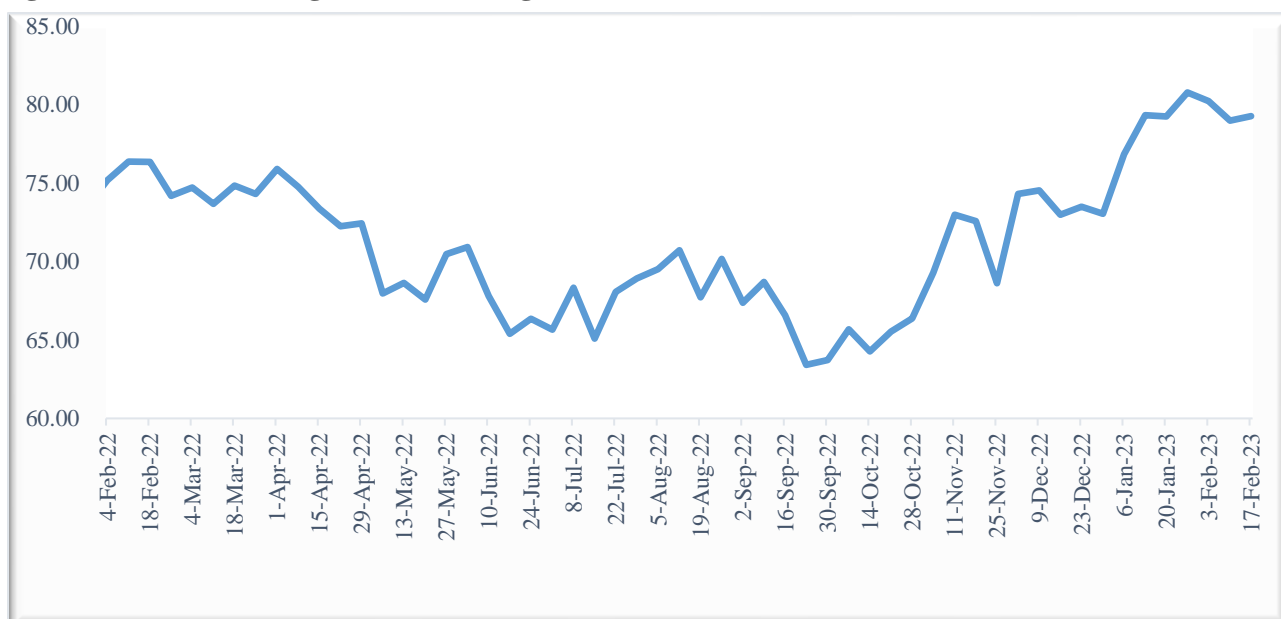
Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Developments

The Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) All Share Index increased from 78,985.35 points in the previous week to close at 79,271.78 points, during the week ending 17th February 2023. JSE market capitalization also increased by 0.26% to ZAR22.93 trillion, during the same week.

Table 9: Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Statistics

Period	All Share Index	Market Capitalization
	(points)	(ZAR trillions)
13-Jan-23	79,333.72	22.88
20-Jan-23	79,269.77	23.02
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
% Change	0.36	0.26

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 MAINFX⁴ AND SMEFX⁵

	MAINFX				SMEFX			
	27-Jan-23	03-Feb-23	10-Feb-23	17-Feb-23	27-Jan-23	03-Feb-23	10-Feb-23	17-Feb-23
Total Bids (US\$ dollars)	21,082,463.27	23,950,602.74	20,220,645.23	19,718,948.31	2,846,970.79	2,898,898.05	2,735,597.08	1,962,394.00
Amount Allotted (US\$ dollars)	12,348,070.16	16,458,668.21	16,897,319.04	18,443,098.62	1,515,043.86	1,837,006.31	2,269,815.79	1,811,479.70
Highest Rate	825	860	885	935	790	860	890	930
Lowest Bid Rate	750	800	830	85	750	800	830	855
Lowest Bid Rate Allotted	750	800	830	855	750	800	830	855
Weighted Average Rate	779.3101	801.6023	831.8147	856.8403	779.3101	801.6023	831.8147	856.8403
Number of Bids Received	190	215	223	225	267	289	305	271
Number of Bids Rejected	8	4	8	9	4	7	4	5

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			
	27-Jan-23	3-Feb-23	10-Feb-23	17-Feb-23	27-Jan-23	3-Feb-23	10-Feb-23	17-Feb-23
Raw Materials	6,885,424.64	9,031,988.33	9,293,740.16	10,000,202.79	502,062.29	539,931.64	706,607.35	627,827.09
Machinery and Equipment	1,181,848.16	2,249,805.58	1,910,567.54	2,649,877.10	318,370.58	531,593.60	698,196.71	497,787.04
Consumables (Incl. Spares, Tyres, Packaging)	627,949.67	814,010.56	967,339.85	1,096,000.56	196,015.31	280,482.82	293,632.88	145,787.04
Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals	458,282.76	508,381.27	457,478.57	476,325.00	94,549.87	32,926.65	82,140.37	95,150.16
Services (Loans, Dividends and Disinvestments)	1,435,533.87	1,431,344.34	1,316,528.01	1,611,306.39	223,614.09	200,888.67	196,237.43	209,979.44
Retail and Distribution	1,182,651.25	1,626,672.39	2,336,520.86	2,124,303.39	126,391.73	159,891.49	227,561.66	170,889.75
Fuel, Electricity and Gas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,331.86
Paper and Packaging	576,379.81	796,465.74	615,144.05	485,083.39	54,039.99	91,291.44	65,439.39	55,465.81
TOTAL	12,348,070.16	16,458,668.21	16,897,319.04	18,443,08.62	1,515,043.86	1,837,006.31	2,269,815.79	1,811,479.70

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023