



Weekly Economic Highlights

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTEREST RATES.....	1
2. CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY	2
3. INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PRICE DEVELOPMENTS	4
4. EXCHANGE RATE DEVELOPMENTS	5
5. EQUITY MARKETS.....	6

Week Ending
24th February 2023

1. INTEREST RATES

Local Currency (ZWL) Deposit Rates

During the week ending 24th February 2023, minimum deposits rates for savings deposits and deposits of 3-month tenor increased, while those for deposits of 1 month tenor decreased. The week under review also saw maximum deposit rates for savings deposits decline, while those for deposits of 1 month and 3 month tenors 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 (%)
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
24-Feb-23	36.43	37.75	62.28	79.11	64.50	77.06

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

Local Currency (ZWL) Lending Rates

Commercial bank minimum and maximum lending rates for both individual and corporate clients declined, during the week ending 24th February 2023, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Lending Rates (per annum)

Date	Individual Clients		Corporate Clients	
	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)
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
24-Feb-23	68.85	108.73	86.23	169.40

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

Foreign Currency (USD) Deposit Rates

Average minimum and maximum deposit rates for savings deposits remained unchanged, during the week under review. However, marginal changes were recorded for the other classes of deposits in 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 (%)
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
24-Feb-23	1.27	1.69	2.94	4.69	3.30	5.03

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

Foreign Currency (USD) Lending Rates

Commercial bank minimum and maximum lending rates for both individual and corporate clients declined during the week ending 24th February 2023, 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
24-Feb-23	10.62	12.88	7.52	14.41

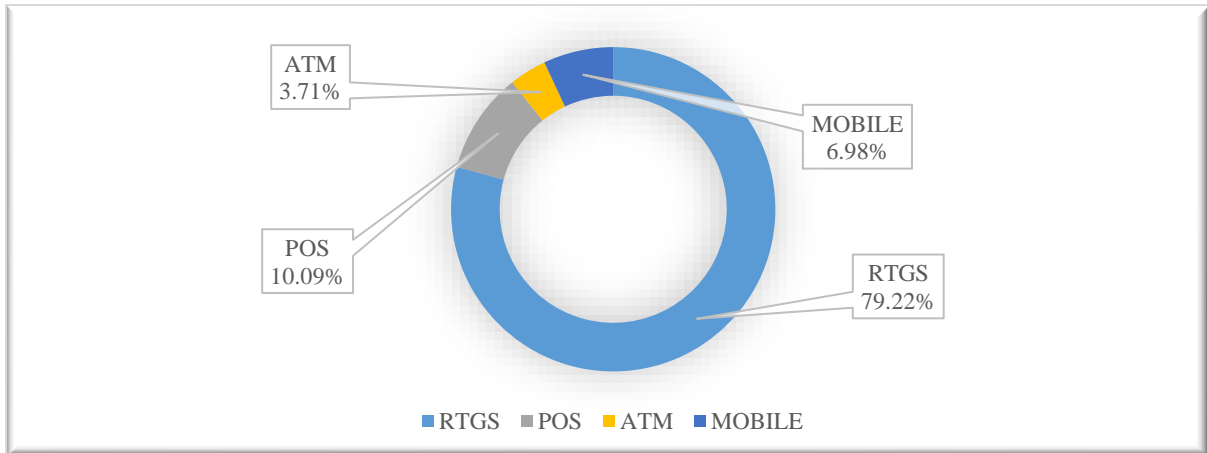
Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

2. CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

The aggregate value of transactions processed through the National Payment Systems (NPS) stood at ZW\$575.29 billion, during the week ending 24th February 2023. This represented a decrease of 21.28%, compared to ZW\$730.78 billion reported in the previous week. Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) transactions declined by 26.63% to ZW\$455.75 billion, from

ZW\$621.18 billion recorded in the preceding week. In proportions, the NPS transaction values were distributed as follows: RTGS, 79.22%, POS, 10.09%; Mobile, 6.98%; and ATM, 3.71%.

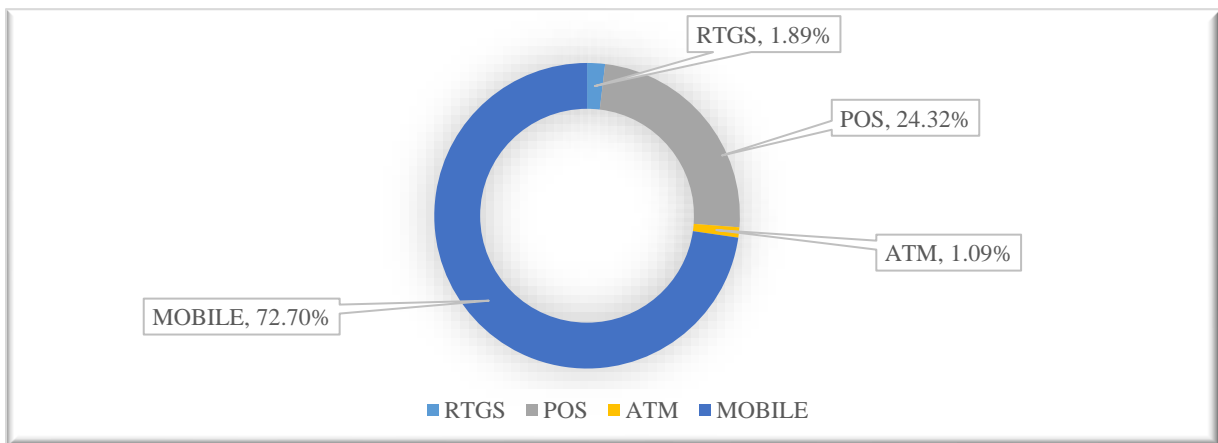
Figure 1: Composition of NPS Transactions in Value Terms



Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

The volume of NPS transactions increased by 11.79% to 5.26 million during the reporting week, from 10.93 million recorded in the preceding week. In terms of volume, the NPS transactions were distributed as follows; Mobile, 72.70%; POS, 24.32%; RTGS, 1.89%; and ATM, 1.09%, 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 th February 2023	WEEK ENDING 24 th February 2023	% CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK	PROPORTION %
Values in ZW\$ Millions				
RTGS	621,182.48	455,750.45	-26.63%	79.22%
POS	57,136.00	58,048.71	1.60%	10.09%
ATM	13,557.84	21,346.83	57.45%	3.71%
MOBILE	38,904.58	40,142.91	3.18%	6.98%
TOTAL	730,780.90	575,288.89	-21.28%	100%
Volumes				
RTGS	169,626	217,802	28.40%	1.89%
POS	2,574,516	2,797,319	8.65%	24.32%
ATM	68,844	124,807	81.29%	1.09%
MOBILE	8,112,337	8,360,455	3.06%	72.70%
TOTAL	10,925,323	11,500,383	5.26%	100%

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

3. INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PRICE DEVELOPMENTS

During the week ending 24th February 2023, commodity prices for gold, palladium, nickel and crude oil retreated. However, platinum and copper prices, increased during the same week as shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Metal and Crude Oil Prices for the week ending 24th February 2023

	Gold	Platinum	Palladium	Copper	Nickel	Crude Oil
2023	US\$/ounce	US\$/ounce	US\$/ounce	US\$/tonne	US\$/tonne	US\$/barrel
Weekly Average (13-17 Feb 23)	1,843.86	931.10	1,507.00	8,921.00	26,167.60	84.98
20-Feb-23	1,845.00	929.50	1,508.50	8,900.00	26,520.00	83.70
21-Feb-23	1,835.03	932.00	1,512.00	9,114.00	26,830.00	82.74
22-Feb-23	1,834.60	951.50	1,509.50	9,082.00	26,520.00	80.73
23-Feb-23	1,826.50	955.00	1,467.00	8,903.50	25,275.00	82.84
24-Feb-23	1,817.05	934.00	1,399.00	8,708.50	24,330.00	82.30
Weekly Average (20-24 Feb 23)	1,831.64	940.40	1,479.20	8,941.60	25,895.00	82.46
Weekly Change (%)	-0.66	1.00	-1.84	0.23	-1.04	-2.97

Source: BBC, KITCO and Bloomberg, 2023

Gold

Prices of the yellow metal retreated by 0.66%, from a weekly average of US\$1,843.86 per ounce in the previous week to US\$1,831.64 per ounce, during the week ending 24th February 2023. The decline was underpinned by a strong US dollar and the Federal Reserve's hawkish stance on interest rates.

Platinum

During the week ending 24th February 2023, platinum prices increased by 1.0%, from US\$931.10 per ounce in the week ending 17th February 2023 to US\$940.40 per ounce. The increase was, in large part, due to investor predictions of strong demand from automakers in China, as Beijing tightened its diesel and gasoline engine emission standards.

Palladium

Palladium prices fell by 1.84% to US\$1,479.20 per ounce during the week ending 24th February 2023, from US\$1,507.00 per ounce recorded in the previous week. This followed expectations of a decline in demand, against an increase in the supply of the precious mineral.

Copper

Copper prices increased by 0.23%, from US\$8,921.00 per tonne recorded in the previous week to US\$8,941.60 per tonne, during the week ending 24th February 2023. The increase was accounted for by an improvement in demand from China, the top consumer of the metal and concerns about global supply constraints. However, the increase in the price of the red metal was moderated by a stronger U.S. dollar.

Nickel

The nickel prices retreated by 1.04%, from US\$26,167.60 per tonne recorded in the previous week to US\$25,895.00 per tonne, during the week under review. The decrease was a result of weak demand from China's downstream electric vehicle industry, which continued to exert downward pressure on domestic battery raw material prices.

Brent Crude Oil

During the week ending 24th February 2023, crude oil prices fell by 2.97% to US\$82.46 per barrel, from US\$84.98 per barrel recorded in the prior week. This was on account of weak global demand for the commodity, including in the U.S, as the Federal Reserve continued to tighten monetary policy.

4. EXCHANGE RATE DEVELOPMENTS

Interbank Market

On the interbank market, the Zimbabwe dollar (ZW\$) depreciated by 2.6% against the US dollar, from ZW\$855.5745 per US\$1 in the previous week to ZW\$878.1825 per US\$1, during the week under review, as shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Interbank Market Exchange Rates¹

	USD	ZAR	GBP	BWP	EURO
2023					
Weekly Average (13-17 Feb 23)	855.5745	47.5751	1,032.4506	65.1253	914.7514
20-Feb-23	871.1400	48.4262	1,048.2832	66.0401	930.9887
22-Feb-23	875.6100	47.9616	1,059.4472	66.2892	932.8365
23-Feb-23	881.7500	48.5437	1,063.2612	66.7090	936.3376
24-Feb-23	884.2300	48.5437	1,063.1184	66.6373	937.3776
Weekly Average (20-24 Feb 23)	878.1825	48.3688	1,058.5275	66.4189	934.3851
Appr(-)/Depr(+) (%) of the ZWL	2.6	1.7	2.5	2.0	2.1

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023

5. EQUITY MARKETS

Zimbabwe Stock Exchange

On the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE), the All-Share index gained 2.68% to close at 28 033.96 points, during the week ending 24th February 2023. The Top 10, Top 15, Medium and Small Cap indices added 0.67%, 2.27%, 7.11% and 10.49% to close the week at 16 757.59 points, 19 350.07 points, 60 929.82 points and 626 212.55 points, respectively.

The increase in the mainstream index was largely attributed to share price increases for African Sun Limited (43.12%), Ariston Holdings Limited (37.67%), Turnall Holdings Limited (31.90%), Zimre Holdings Limited (22.86%) and Tanganda Tea Company Limited (21.69%). Partially offsetting the gains, were losses in share prices for First Mutual Properties Limited (11.76%), NMBZ Holdings Limited (6.84%), Zimplow Holdings Limited (6.22%), Meikles Limited (5%) and Econet Wireless Zimbabwe Limited (1.69%). The resources index², also gained 0.31% to close the week under analysis at 29 207.92 points, compared to 29 116.96 recorded in the prior week.

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

² Resource Index – Comprise RioZim Limited Share Price

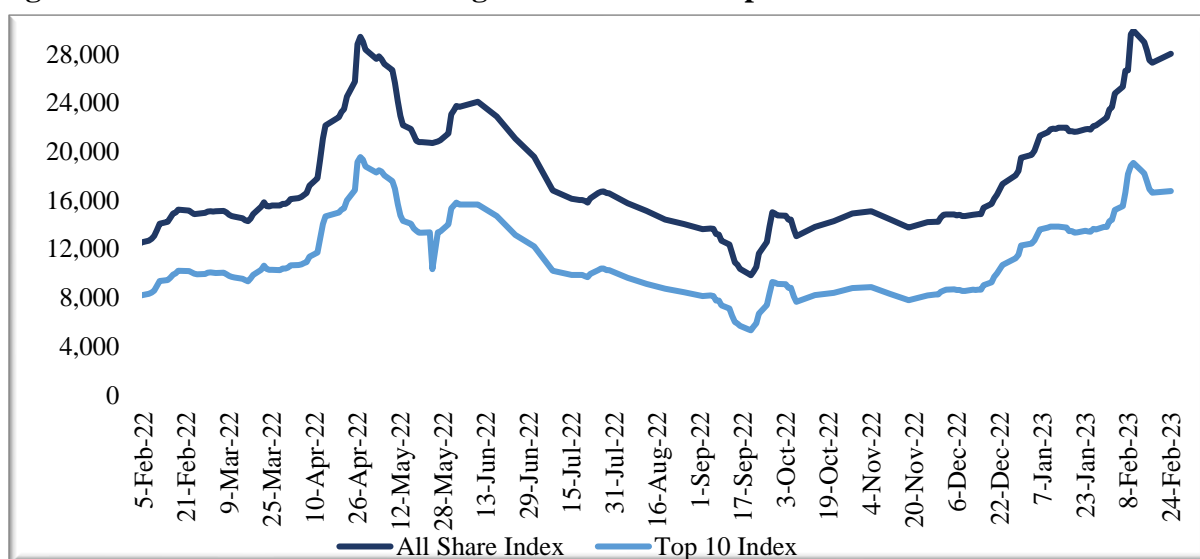
Table 8: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange Statistics³

	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)
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
24-Feb-23	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
% Change	2.68	0.67	2.27	7.11	10.49	0.31	-13.63	-82.78	-48.05

Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE), 2023

Figure 3 shows the trend in daily market turnover for the period from 5th February 2022 to 24th February 2023.

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



Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2023

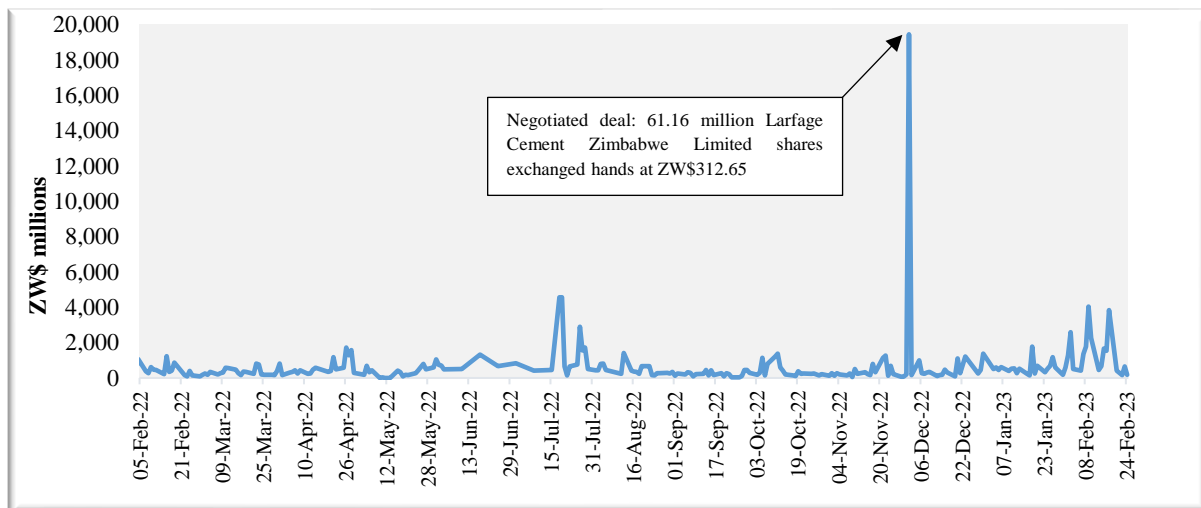
Market Turnover and Volume

Trading activity on the ZSE was concentrated on selected medium to small-tier counters. In this regard, the cumulative volumes of shares traded declined by 48.05% to 14.91 million, compared to 28.70 million recorded in the prior week. The turnover value of shares traded also decreased

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.

by 82.78% to ZW\$1.41 billion, from ZW\$8.16 billion recorded in the previous week. Figure 4 shows the trend in daily market turnover for the period from 5th February 2022 to 24th February 2023.

Figure 4: Daily Market Turnover



Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2023

Market Capitalization

ZSE market capitalization stood at ZW\$2.52 trillion during the week ending 24th February 2023, up from ZW\$2.92 trillion reported in the preceding week, reflecting a decrease of 13.63%. Figure 5 shows the evolution of ZSE market capitalization for the period from 5th February 2022 to 24th February 2023.

Figure 5: Daily Market Capitalization in ZW\$ billions



Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2023

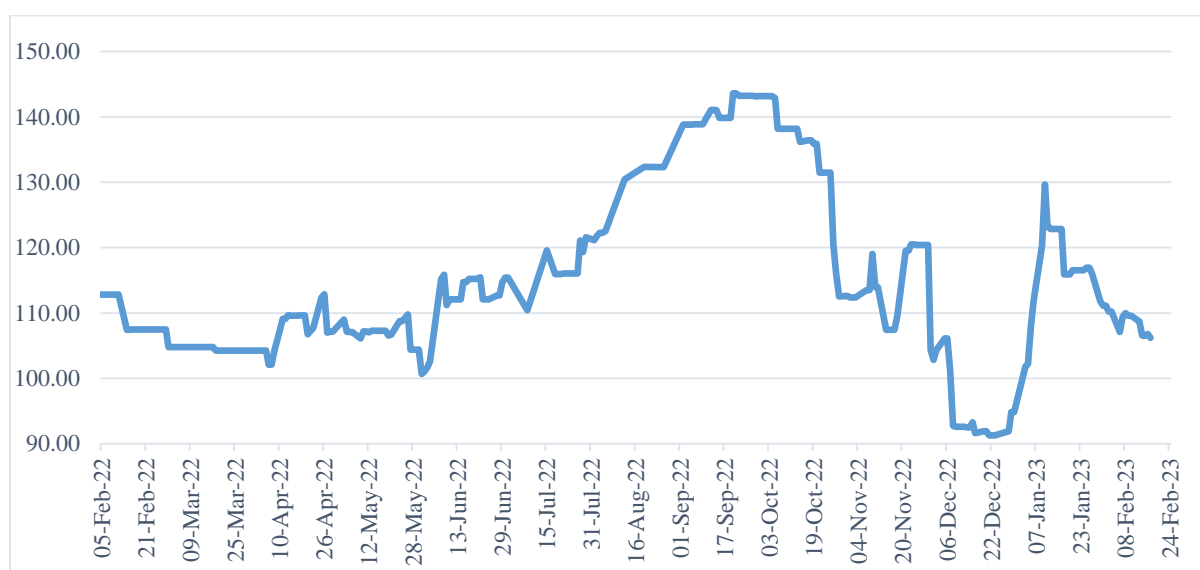
Victoria Falls Stock Exchange

The Victoria Falls Stock Exchange (VFEX) was characterised by positive trading, during the week under analysis. Resultantly, the VFEX All Share index gained 0.03% to close at 106.21 points. Share price gains were recorded for SeedCo International (9.85%) and Simbisa Brands Limited (1.77%). Decreases in the share prices of Bindura Nickel Corporation (BNC) (20%) and Padenga Holdings Limited (3.77%), partially offset the aforementioned gains.

The cumulative volume and value of shares traded on the VFEX increased by 1,037.93% to 3.07 million and 17.63% to US\$0.13 million, respectively, during the reporting week. The increase in the volume of shares traded was largely driven by increased trading activity in Bindura Nickel Corporation shares, where 2.9 million shares exchanged hands at US\$0.0168 each on 22nd February 2023.

VFEX market capitalization stood at US\$0.60 billion, reflecting an increase of 0.02% or US\$0.001 billion, from US\$0.60 billion recorded in the previous week. Figure 6 shows the trend in the VFEX All Share Index (ASI) for the period from 5th February 2022 to 24th February 2023.

Figure 6: Victoria Falls Stock Exchange All Share Index



Source: Victoria Falls Stock Exchange, 2023

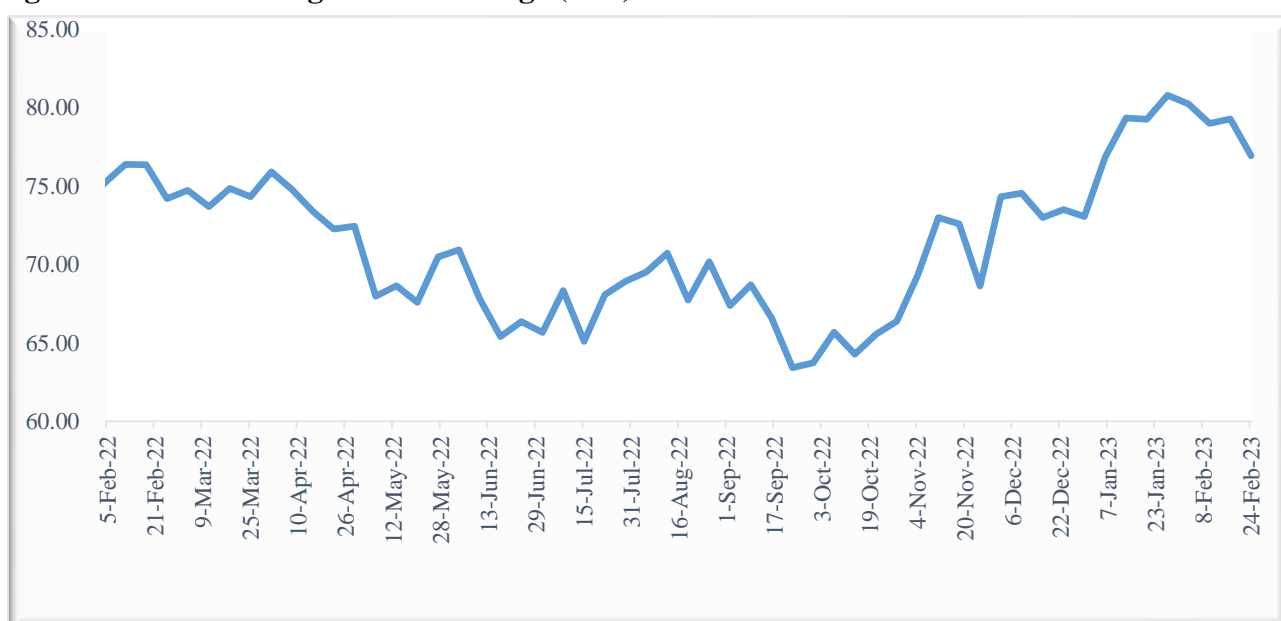
Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Developments

The Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) All Share Index fell from 79,271.78 points in the previous week to close at 76,937.77 points, during the week ending 24th February 2023. JSE market capitalization registered a decline of 3.05% to ZAR22.23 trillion, during the same week.

Table 9: Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Statistics

Period	All Share Index (points)	Market Capitalization (ZAR trillions)
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
24-Feb-23	76,937.77	22.23
% Change	-2.94	-3.05

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			
	03-Feb-23	10-Feb-23	17-Feb-23	24-Feb-23	03-Feb-23	10-Feb-23	17-Feb-23	24-Feb-23
Total Bids (US\$ dollars)	23,950,602.74	20,220,645.23	19,718,948.31	18,253,090.41	2,898,898.05	2,735,597.08	1,962,394.00	1,869,245.41
Amount Allotted (US\$ dollars)	16,458,668.21	16,897,319.04	18,443,098.62	17,818,400.18	1,837,006.31	2,269,815.79	1,811,479.70	1,814,191.43
Highest Rate	860	885	935	950	860	890	930	980
Lowest Bid Rate	800	830	85	875	800	830	855	875
Lowest Bid Rate Allotted	800	830	855	875	800	830	855	875
Weighted Average Rate	801.6023	831.8147	856.8403	881.7513	801.6023	831.8147	856.8403	881.7513
Number of Bids Received	215	223	225	252	289	305	271	262
Number of Bids Rejected	4	8	9	10	7	4	5	6

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			
	3-Feb-23	10-Feb-23	17-Feb-23	24-Feb-23	3-Feb-23	10-Feb-23	17-Feb-23	24-Feb-23
Raw Materials	9,031,988.33	9,293,740.16	10,000,202.79	9,494,073.30	539,931.64	706,607.35	627,827.09	461,549.44
Machinery and Equipment	2,249,805.58	1,910,567.54	2,649,877.10	2,286,372.19	531,593.60	698,196.71	497,787.04	573,835.73
Consumables (Incl. Spares, Tyres, Packaging)	814,010.56	967,339.85	1,096,000.56	1,263,725.85	280,482.82	293,632.88	145,787.04	271,121.06
Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals	508,381.27	457,478.57	476,325.00	638,772.41	32,926.65	82,140.37	95,150.16	66,306.19
Services (Loans, Dividends and Disinvestments)	1,431,344.34	1,316,528.01	1,611,306.39	1,689,705.06	200,888.67	196,237.43	209,979.44	232,887.33
Retail and Distribution	1,626,672.39	2,336,520.86	2,124,303.39	1,885,312.83	159,891.49	227,561.66	170,889.75	138,759.60
Fuel, Electricity and Gas	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,331.86	-
Paper and Packaging	796,465.74	615,144.05	485,083.39	560,438.54	91,291.44	65,439.39	55,465.81	69,732.08
TOTAL	16,458,668.21	16,897,319.04	18,443,08.62	17,818,400.18	1,837,006.31	2,269,815.79	1,811,479.70	1,814,191.43

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2023