



Weekly Economic Highlights

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Week Ending
26TH APRIL 2019

1. INTEREST RATES

Deposit Rates

Average deposit rates for deposits of 3-month tenor decreased by 0.03 percentage points to 4.17%, during the week ending 26th April 2019. Deposit rates for saving deposits and deposits of 1-month tenor, however, remained unchanged at 4.16% and 3.95%, respectively.

Table 1: Average Deposit Rates (per annum)

Date	Savings Deposits (%)	1-Month Deposit (%)	3-Month Deposit (%)
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
17-Apr-19	4.16	3.95	4.20
26-Apr-19	4.16	3.95	4.17

Source: Banking Institutions, 2019

Lending Rates

Commercial bank weighted lending rates for corporate clients increased by 0.07 percentage points to 7.38%, during the week under review. Weighted lending rates for individual clients also went up from 9.21% in the previous week to 9.30%, during the week ending 26th April 2019.

Table 2: Lending Rates

Date	Lending Rates ¹ (%)	
	Commercial Banks (weighted)	
	Individuals	Corporate clients
29-Mar-19	9.23	7.31
05-Apr-19	9.22	7.31
12-Apr-19	9.21	7.31
17-Apr-19	9.21	7.31
26-Apr-19	9.30	7.38

Source: Banking Institutions, 2019

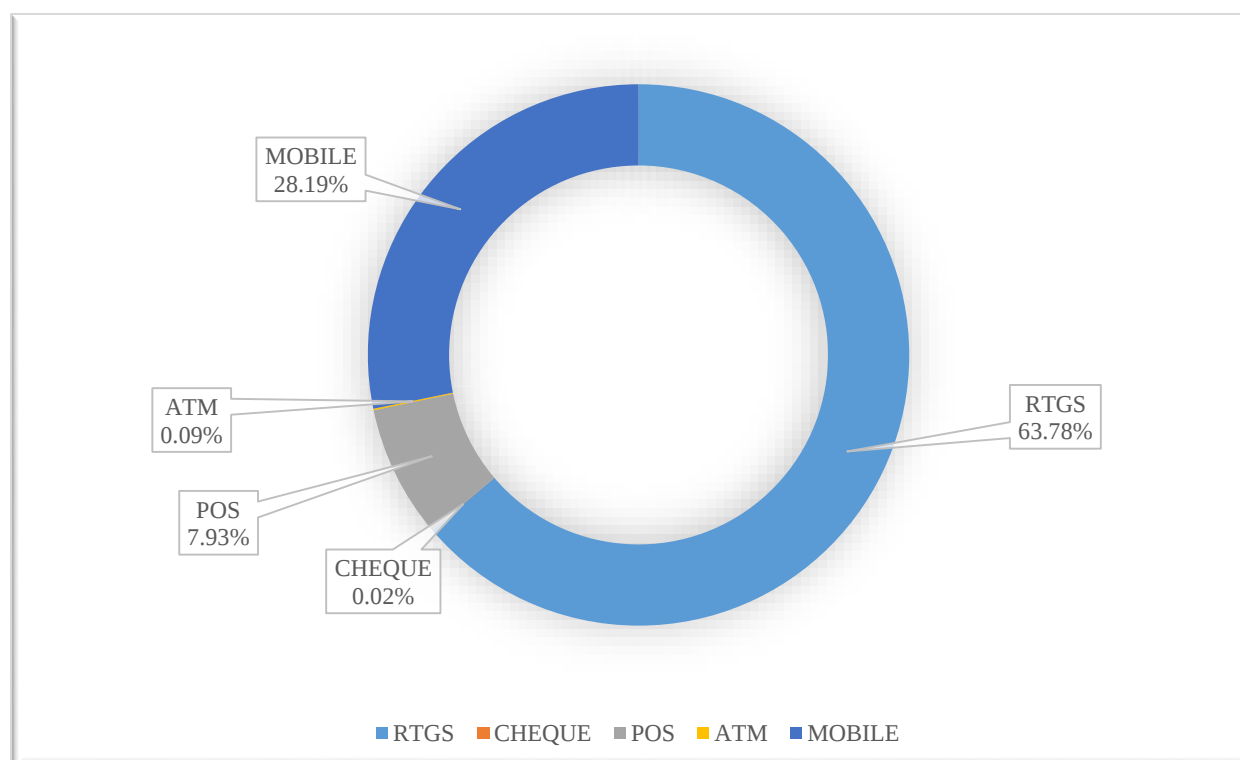
¹ Minimum weighted lending rates offered by commercial banks.

2. CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

During the week ending 26th April 2019, the value of transactions processed through the National Payment System (NPS) increased by 5.55% to \$3.24 billion, from \$3.07 billion in the previous week. The increase was largely due to the 4.71% increase in the value of transactions processed through the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system. RTGS transaction values stood at \$2.07 billion, during the week under analysis.

The distribution of NPS transaction values was as follows: RTGS, 63.78%; Mobile, 28.19%; Point of Sale (POS), 7.93%; Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), 0.09%; and Cheque, 0.02%, as shown in Figure 1.

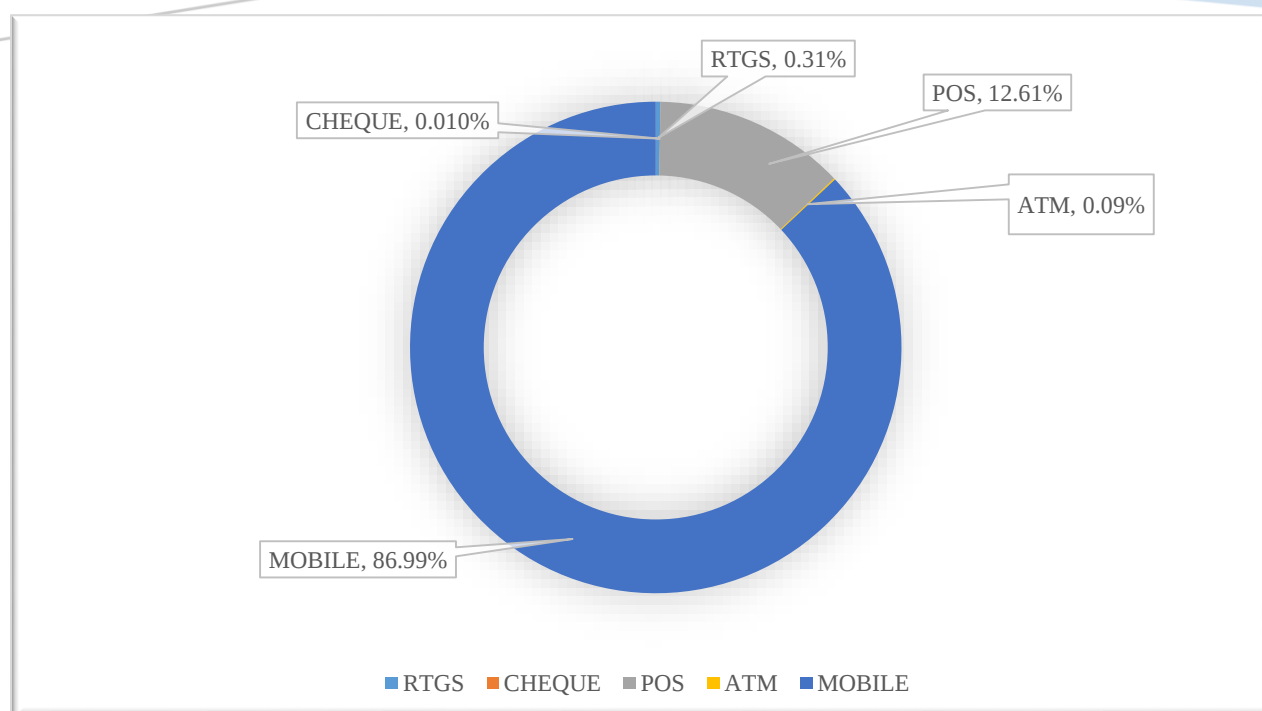
Figure 1: Composition of NPS Transactions in Value Terms



Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2019

Transaction volumes processed through the NPS amounted to 35.7 million during the week under review, up from 37.4 million transactions recorded in the previous week. The transaction volumes were distributed as follows: Mobile, 86.99%; POS, 12.61%; RTGS, 0.31%; ATM, 0.09%; and Cheque 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 17 th April 2019	WEEK ENDING 26 th April 2019	% CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
VALUES IN \$ (Millions)				
RTGS	1,974.74	2,067.80	4.71%	63.78%
CHEQUE	0.54	0.55	1.48%	0.02%
POS	292.04	257.02	-11.99%	7.93%
ATM	3.73	2.83	-23.97%	0.09%
MOBILE	800.92	914.13	14.14%	28.19%
TOTAL	3,071.97	3,242.33	5.55%	100%
VOLUMES				
RTGS	86,063	109,018	26.67%	0.31%
CHEQUE	2,395	2,221	-7.27%	0.01%
POS	4,776,430	4,498,710	-5.81%	12.61%
ATM	41,239	32,671	-20.78%	0.09%
MOBILE	32,455,639	31,030,912	-4.39%	86.99%
TOTAL	37,361,766	35,673,532	-4.52%	100%

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2019

3. TOBACCO SALES

As at 26th April 2019 or day 26 of the 2019 tobacco selling season, a cumulative total of 315,713 kilograms of tobacco had been sold. This represented a 48% decrease from the 607,203 kilograms sold during the same period in 2018. The cumulative value of tobacco sales registered a 73.4% decrease to US\$488,212 million, from US\$1,836,003 million realized during the corresponding period in 2018.

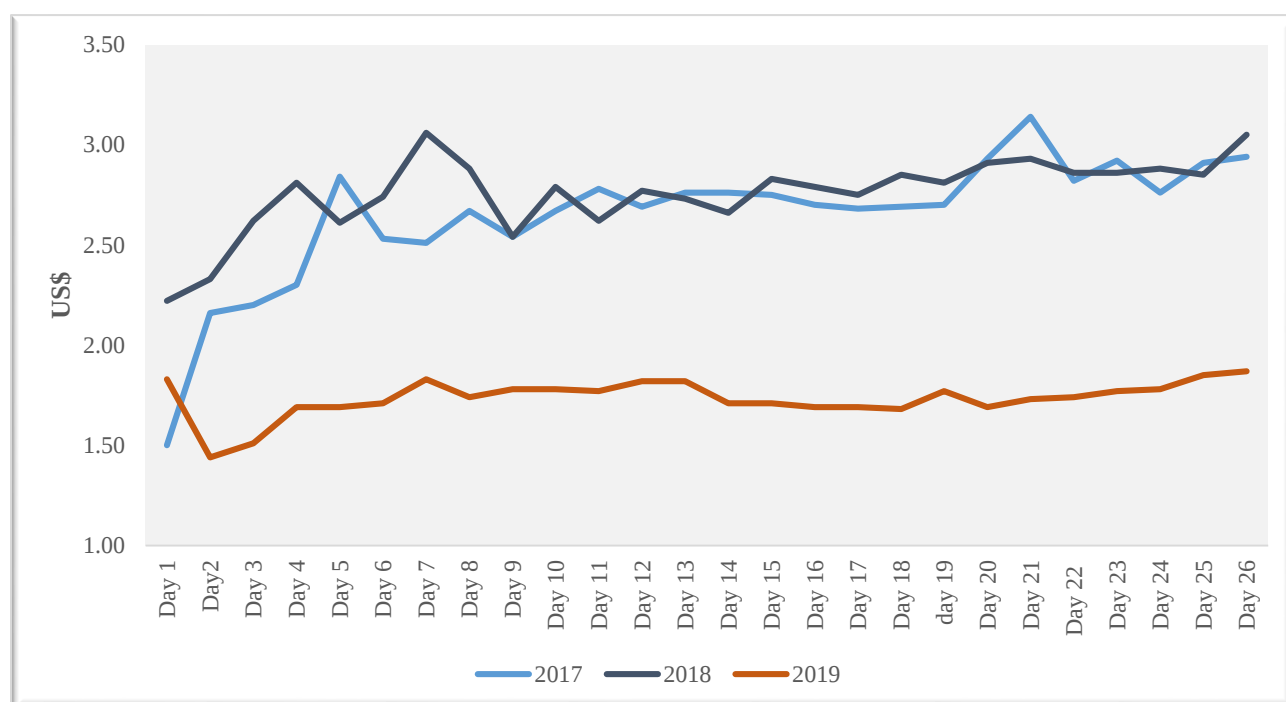
Table 4: Cumulative Tobacco Sales: Day 25 (26th April 2019)

	2018	2019	Variance (%)
Cumulative Quantity Sold (kgs)	607,203	315,713	(48.0)
Cumulative Average Price(US\$/kg)	3.02	1.55	(48.9)
Cumulative Value (US\$ million)	1,836,003	488,212	(73.4)

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

The golden leaf was sold at an average price of US\$1.55/kg, compared to US\$3.02/kg realised during the same period in 2018.

Figure 3: Average Tobacco Daily Price (US\$)



Source:TIMB, 2019

4. INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PRICE DEVELOPMENTS

The weekly average international commodity prices of gold, copper and nickel retreated, during the week under analysis. Crude oil and platinum prices, however, went up during the same week, as shown in Table 5.

Table 5: International Commodity Prices

	Gold	Platinum	Copper	Nickel	Crude Oil
	US\$/ounce	US\$/ounce	US\$/tonne	US\$/tonne	US\$/barrel
Weekly average (15-18 Apr)	1,279.52	886.50	6,470.56	12,848.38	71.56
23-Apr	1,271.48	890.00	6,429.65	12,317.00	74.19
24-Apr	1,272.73	888.50	6,436.25	12,334.50	74.94
25-Apr	1,279.33	880.00	6,337.50	12,237.50	73.13
26-Apr	1,282.85	889.00	6,396.75	12,352.50	71.75
Weekly average (22 -26 Apr)	1,276.59	886.88	6,400.04	12,310.38	73.50
Weekly Change (%)	(0.23)	0.04	(1.09)	(4.19)	2.71

Source: BBC, KITCO and Bloomberg, 2019

Gold

The weekly average gold price fell by 0.23%, from US\$1,279.52 /oz. in the previous week to US\$1,276.59/oz., during the week ending 26th April 2019. This was, in part, attributable to a stronger US dollar, which dampened the demand for the precious metal as a safe haven asset, as investors shifted to stocks and high yielding US government bonds.

Platinum

Platinum prices were 0.04% higher, averaging US\$886.88/oz. during the week under review, compared to US\$886/oz. in the previous week. Prices were partially supported by positive investment demand.

Copper

Copper prices delined by 1.1%, from US\$6,470.56/tonne in the previous week to US\$6,400.04/tonne, during the week under review. Prices were affected by low demand for the base metal from Asia and Europe.

Nickel

Nickel prices declined by 4.19%, from a weekly average of US\$12,848.38/tonne in the previous week to US\$12,310.38/tonne, during the week under review. This was underpinned by subdued investor and consumer demand for the base metal, as a result of slowing economic growth prospects in China.

Crude Oil

Crude oil prices closed the week under review at US\$73.50/barrel, a 2.7% increase from US\$71.56/barrel recorded in the previous week. Prices remained high as the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries continued to cut supply.

EXCHANGE RATE

During the week ending 26th April 2019, the ZWL depreciated against USD, pound Sterling, pula, and euro. The ZWL, however, appreciated against South African rand, as shown in Table 6.

Table 6: International Exchange Rates per ZWL

	USD	ZAR	GBP	BWP	EURO
2019					
Weekly Average (15 Apr-17 Apr)	0.3141	4.3965	0.2400	3.3217	0.2777
23-Apr	0.3108	4.4055	0.2395	3.2965	0.2763
24-Apr	0.3097	4.4371	0.2394	3.3167	0.2762
25-Apr	0.3092	4.4553	0.2396	3.3328	0.2772
26-Apr	0.3086	4.4399	0.2252	3.3300	0.2771
Weekly Average (23 Apr-26 Apr)	0.3096	4.4344	0.2359	3.3190	0.2767
Appr(+)/Depr(-) (%) of the ZWL	<i>(1.42)</i>	<i>0.86</i>	<i>(1.71)</i>	<i>(0.08)</i>	<i>(0.37)</i>

Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2019

5. EQUITY MARKETS

The Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) was characterised by bullish sentiments, during the week ending 26th April 2019. As a result, the All Share Index gained 4.45 points to close at 130.73 points, while the Top 10 Index gained 4.50 points to close the week at 124.30 points.

The industrial index closed at 436.50 points during the week under review, up from 421.48 points recorded in the previous week. The increase was driven by share price gains at Africa Sun Limited (43.13%); Zimbabwe Newspapers (20.00%); CBZ Holdings Limited (16.67%); Medtech Holdings Limited (16.67%); and OK Zimbabwe Limited (16.19%). Partially offsetting the gains were share price losses at National Tyre Services Limited (19.91%); Mashonaland Holdings Limited (19.67%); Rainbow Tourism Group Limited (19.66%); Lafarge Cement Zimbabwe Limited (17.29%); and Zimre Holdings Limited (10.00%).

The mining index, declined by 0.17%, to close the week under analysis at 186.47 points. This was largely driven by share price losses at Bindura Nickel Corporation (0.72%) and Riozim Limited (2.15%).

Table 7: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange Statistics

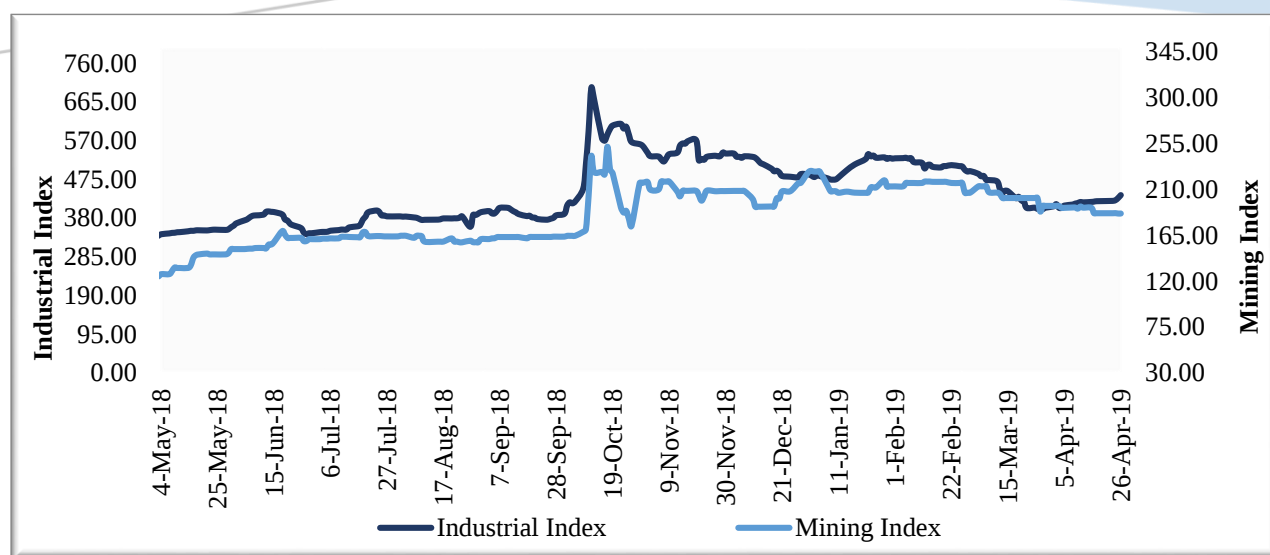
	All Share Index ² (points)	Top 10 index ³ (points)	Industrial Index (points)	Mining Index (points)	Grand Market Capitalization (US\$)	Market Turnover (US\$)	Volume of Shares
29-Mar-19	121.66	114.61	405.57	193.98	16,084,866,459	23,761,920	37,630,561
05-Apr-19	123.16	116.17	410.71	192.06	16,231,279,762	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
17-Apr-19	126.28	119.80	421.48	186.78	16,616,405,792	26,802,911	39,307,722
26-Apr-19	130.73	124.30	436.50	186.47	17,140,792,759	28,706,189	40,461,683
Weekly Change (%)	3.52	3.76	3.56	(0.17)	3.16	7.10	2.94

Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE), 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.

Figure 4: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange Indices

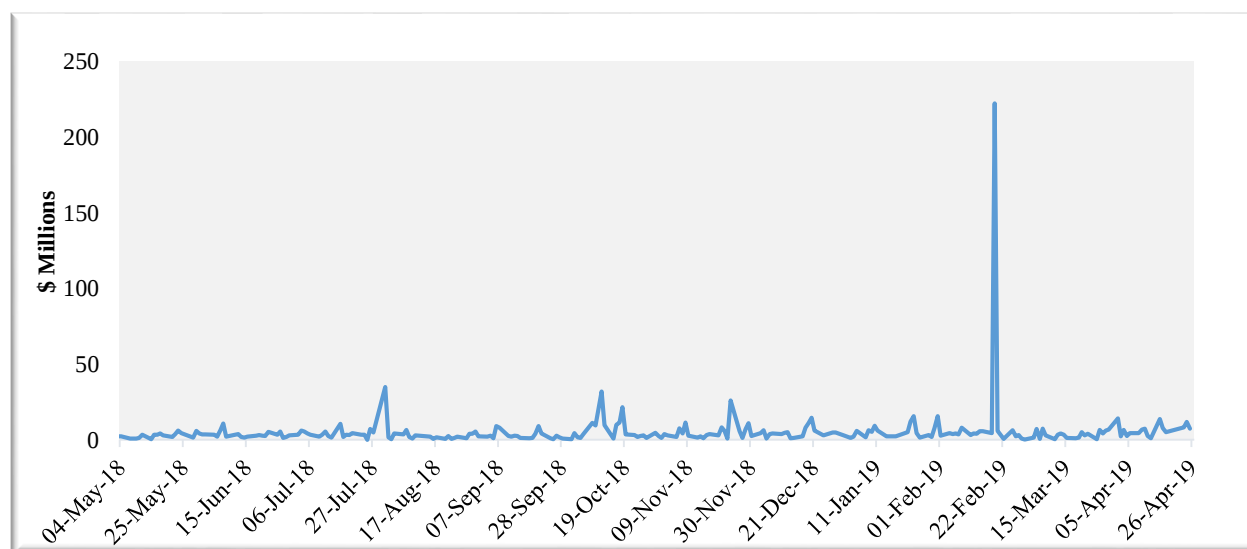


Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2019

Market Turnover and Volume

ZSE market turnover increased by 7.10% to \$28.71 million, during the week ending 26th April 2019. The volume of shares traded also increased by 2.94%, to close the week at 40.5 million shares.

Figure 5: Daily Market Turnover



Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2019

Market Capitalization

ZSE market capitalization stood at \$17.14 billion, during the week under review, up from \$16.6 billion recorded in the previous week.

Figure 6: Daily Market Capitalization



Source: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, 2019

Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Developments

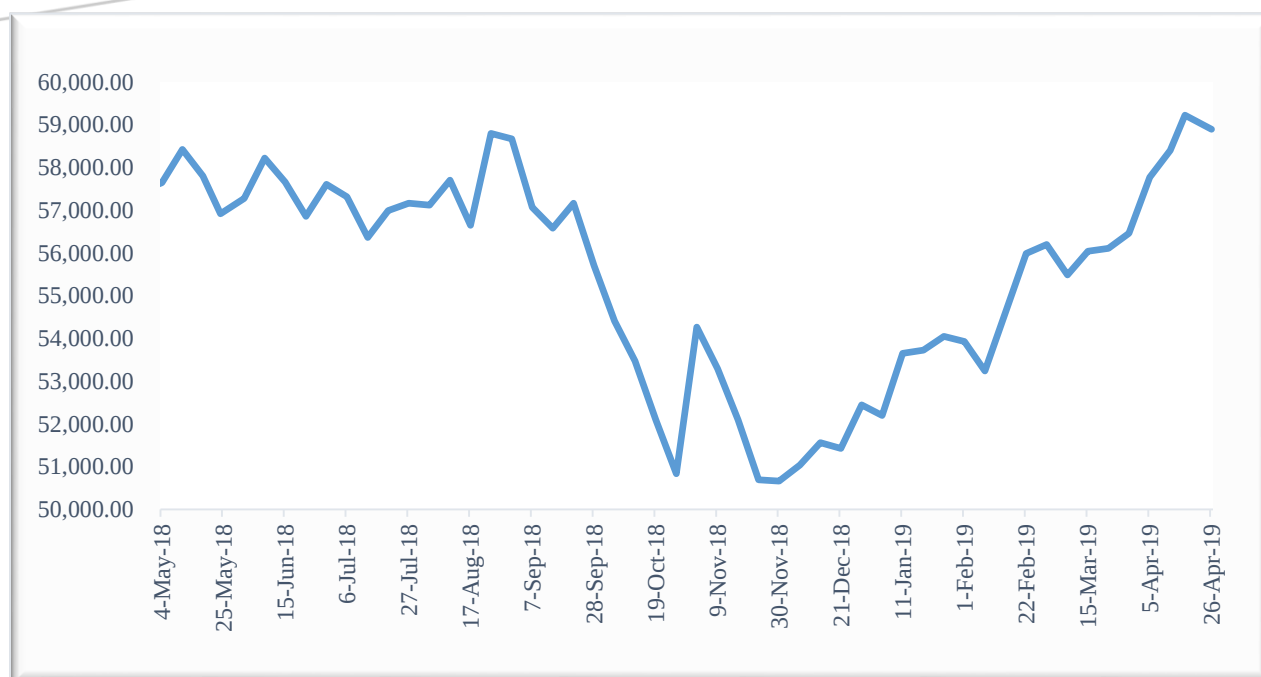
The JSE All Share Index declined by 0.55%, to close at 58,894.19 points, during the week under review. Market capitalisation registered a 0.84% fall, to close at R16.57 trillion during the same week.

Table 7: Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Statistics

Period	All Share Index (points)	Market Capitalization (ZAR billion)
29-Mar-19	56,462.55	16.18
05-Apr-19	57,776.36	16.42
12-Apr-19	58,405.30	16.52
17-Apr-19	59,222.47	16.71
26-Apr-19	58,894.19	16.57
% Change	(0.55)	(0.84)

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

Figure 7: Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) All Share Index



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

RESERVE BANK OF ZIMBABWE

3RD MAY 2019