

Industrials slump as reporting season continues...

	Previous	Current	Change	%Change	YTD %
Industrial	137.47	137.08	0.3900	0.28	5.15
Mining	53.59	53.63	0.0400	0.07	8.34

The market capped the penultimate week of the month in the red amidst mixed trading on the bourse. The mixed trades on the market come in the wake of the ongoing reporting season with various companies releasing numbers. Meanwhile, the tobacco selling season entered its second week with expectations remaining high for an improved output in agriculture after received good high amounts of rainfall in the ongoing farming season. Tobacco sales along with expected cut on the food import bill are tipped to ease the country's balance of payments situation and reduce the foreign payments backlog that central bank pegged at \$350m in recent reports. The benchmark Industrial Index closed the week 0.28% softer after a series of mixed trades and ended at 137.08pts though pockets of demand continued to emerge in selected stocks. The resources stocks remain short of decent volumes but managed to scrap a marginal 0.07% gain which lifted the index to 53.63pts.

Weekly Risers

RISERS	PRICE	% Change
ARIS.ZW	0.0050	35.14
FML.ZW	0.0605	21.00
NTS.ZW	0.0110	8.91
PHL.ZW	0.1820	6.12
ZBFH.ZW	0.1100	4.76
PPC.ZW	0.6250	2.46
AXIA.ZW	0.0670	2.45
OKZ.ZW	0.0610	1.67
CFI.ZW	0.1105	0.82
SIM.ZW	0.1710	0.59

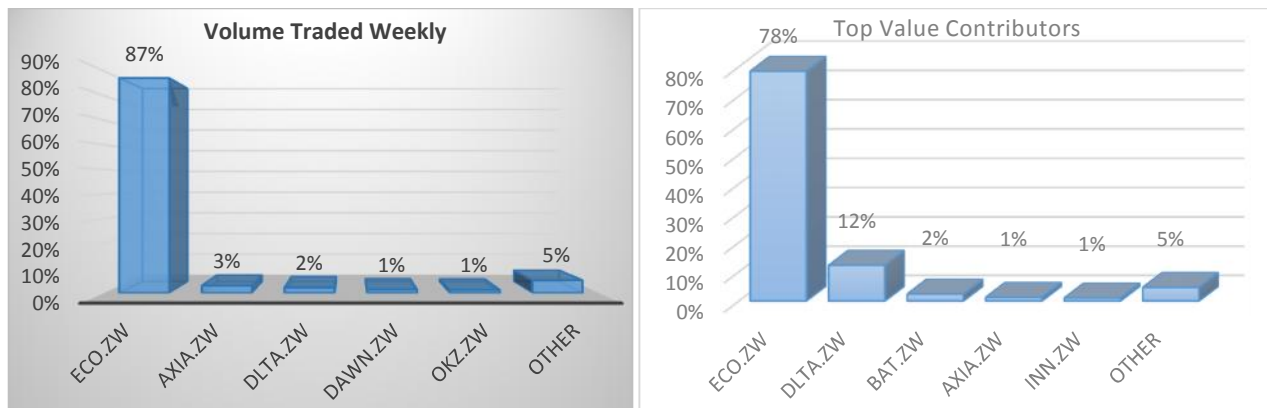
Seventeen counters traded in the positive with agricultural concern Ariston leading the charge with a 35.14% surge to close the week at \$0.0050 while, insurer FML rallied 21% to \$0.0605 on firming demand. Tyre manufacturer NTS put 8.91% to \$0.0110; Padenga added 6.12%, wrapping the week at a high of \$0.1820. Banking group ZB maintained its uptick with a 4.76% gain that took it to a high of \$ 0.1100 on persistent demand. Dually listed cement manufacturer PPC were up 2.46% on firming demand to \$0.6250. Axia and OKZIM added their weight on the gainers list for the week after rebounding 2.45% and 1.67% to end the week pegged at \$0.06700 and \$0.0610 respectively, while the duo of CFI and Simbisa completed the top ten set with gains of 0.82% and 0.59% to settle at \$0.1105 and \$0.1710 apiece.

Weekly Fallers

FALLERS	PRICE	% Change
EDGR.ZW	0.0390	9.30
AFDS.ZW	0.5500	8.33
DAWN.ZW	0.0130	7.14
ECO.ZW	0.1418	5.47
CBZ.ZW	0.1000	1.96
SACL.ZW	0.0112	1.75
HIPO.ZW	0.3815	1.55
DLTA.ZW	0.8525	0.87
SEED.ZW	0.9318	0.34
INN.ZW	0.4498	0.04

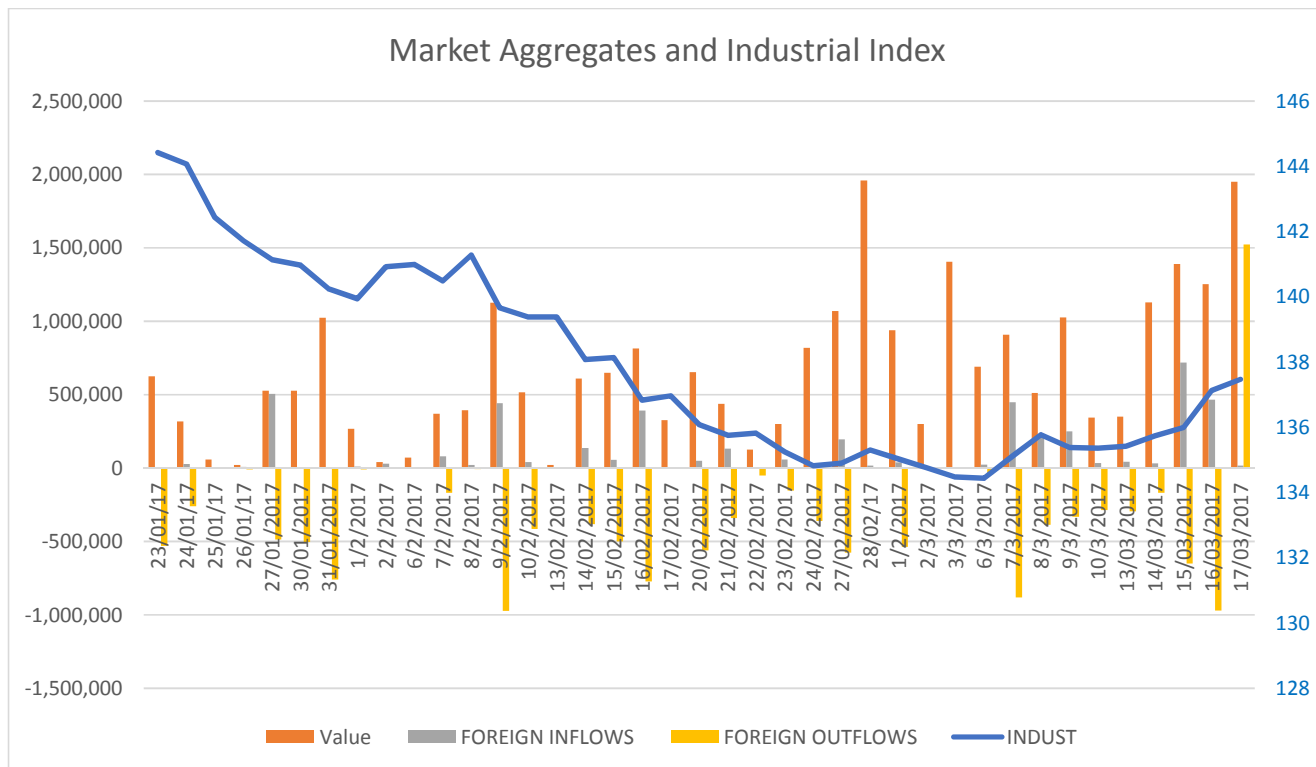
The weakly bears were led by clothing retailer Edgar's that shed 9.30% and settled at \$0.0390 albeit thin volumes exchanging hands. Spirits manufacturer AFDIS followed on an 8.33% retreat that took it to \$0.5500. Dawn and Star Africa continued to suffer with a price decline on weak demand and came off 7.14% and 1.75% to settle at \$0.0130 and \$0.01120 in that order. Heavies Econet and CBZ were in the fallers' zone for the week after succumbing 5.47% and 1.96% to close at \$0.1418 and \$0.1000. Econet's fall comes in the wake of a block trade in Friday's call where circa 52m shares exchanged hands at a discounted price of \$0.1400. Sugar producer, Hippo added 1.55% and closed the week settled at \$0.3815 though solid demand remains visible in the group. The trip of market heavies Delta, SeedCo and Innscor succumbed to marginal losses of 0.87%, 0.34% and 0.04%

Econet Block trades highlight trading week...



	Previous	Current	Change	%Change
Values	6,076,204.32	11,794,489.61	5,718,285.28	94.11
Volumes	76,347,215.00	74,446,040.00	1,901,175	2.49

Weekly market spend ballooned 94.11% and closed at \$11.79m anchored by hyper activity in telecoms giant Econet while block trade on Friday fired the group to the top of the market activity aggregates tables. Econet accounted for 78% of the market spend while driving 87% of the volumes exchanged over the week. Weekly volumes were little changed at 74.4m shares after shedding 2.49% on the prior week's comparable outturn.



In the news:**BAKHRESA CLEARS \$20M BLUE RIBBON DEBTS**

Blue Ribbon Industries says it has cleared over \$20 million in debts and liabilities to creditors, financial institutions and staff following acquisition of entire stake by Tanzanian grain milling giant, Bakhresa Group. <http://www.herald.co.zw/bakhresa-clears-20m-bri-debts/>

CBZ HOLDINGS TO LAUNCH SMEs PENSION FUND

CBZ Holdings is set to establish a pension fund for small to medium enterprises to be underwritten by its Life business. CBZ Holdings chief executive Never Nyemudzo told media at the SME's International Indaba in Bulawayo yesterday that the product comes out of the group's need to include small business within the financial services system. <http://www.herald.co.zw/cbz-holdings-to-launch-smes-pension-fund/>

FBC CLOSING IN ON \$90M LOAN

FBC Holdings is close to securing a \$90 mln loan facility for its banking division FBC Bank, which is a follow-on to a previous \$60 mln facility, group CEO John Mushayavanhu has said. The CEO told analysts today that the \$60 mln syndicated loan facility that FBC Bank secured in 2014 was maturing in July and would be repaid expediently, and that the group had already moved to secure a successor facility. <http://www.herald.co.zw/fbc-closes-in-on-90m-loan/>

EDGARS PROFIT DECLINE ON RETRENCHMENT EXERCISE

Clothing and retail giant Edgars Stores Limited saw its profit dipping to \$500 000 in 2016 from the comparable year's \$4,5 million after the group undertook its first retrenchment exercise in 70 years. <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2017/03/23/edgars-profit-retrenchment-exercise/>

MEIKLES LIMITED IN BOARDROOM SUCCESSION WAR

A BOARDROOM succession war has erupted at Meikles Limited amid revelations that executive chairman, John Moxon's wife was allegedly interfering with the board and management. <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2017/03/24/meikles-limited-boardroom-succession-war/>

BOND NOTES NOT SOLUTION TO ZIM PROBLEMS-RBZ

THE Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) says bond notes were a temporary measure and the solution to the country's problems lies in production. <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2017/03/23/bond-notes-not-solution-zims-problems-rbz/>

MANGUDYA SPEAKS INTEREST RATES CAP

Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) governor John Mangudya says the capping of lending interest rates to a maximum of 12% is a step in ensuring they reflect the currency Zimbabwe is using. <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2017/03/21/mangudya-speaks-interest-rates-cap/>



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EFE RESEARCH – Weekly Market Review
Weekending 24.03.2017

OLD MUTUAL DEFIES ECONOMIC HEADWINDS

DESPITE a challenging operating environment characterised by a deepening liquidity crunch, which has eroded confidence in the financial services sector, the country's integrated financial services group, Old Mutual Zimbabwe (OMZ), registered a stellar performance during the year to December 31, 2016. <http://www.financialgazette.co.zw/old-mutual-defies-economic-headwinds/>

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