

## Global – Doing Business reforms on the rise...

According to the World Bank, the 2019 Doing Business Report captured a record 314 regulatory reforms between June 2017 and May 2018. In fact, the global multilateral lender noted that 128 economies introduced substantial regulatory improvements making it easier to do business. **Table 1** below outlines the top 10 economies that registered the most notable improvements led by Afghanistan, Djibouti and China.

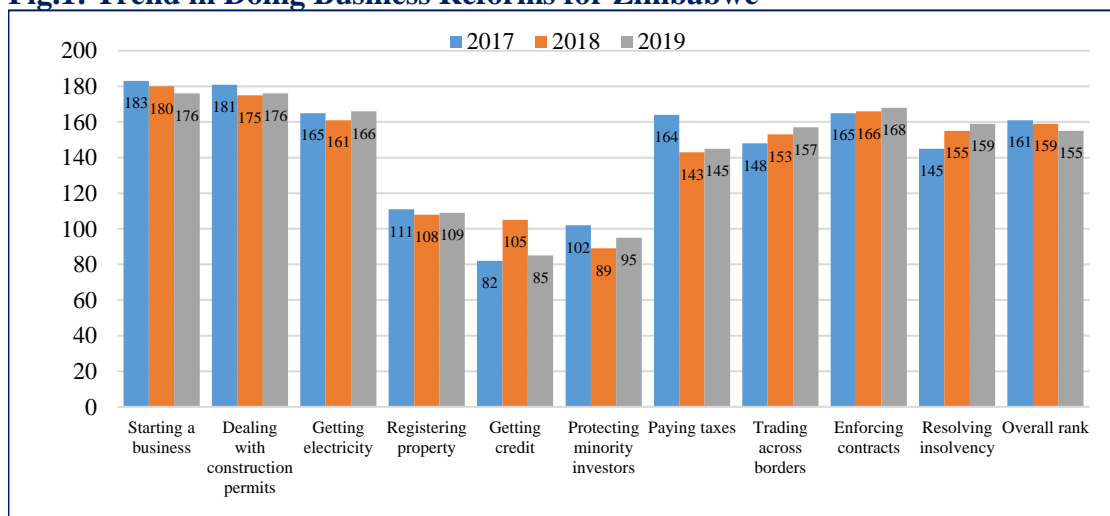
**Table 1: Top 10 economies with notable improvements in 2017/18**

Economy	Ease of doing business rank	Change in ease of doing business score	Reforms making it easier to do business									
			Starting a business	Dealing with construction permits	Getting electricity	Registering property	Getting credit	Protecting minority investors	Paying taxes	Trading across borders	Enforcing contracts	Resolving insolvency
Afghanistan	167	+10.64	✓				✓	✓	✓			✓
Djibouti	99	+8.87	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
China	46	+8.64	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Azerbaijan	25	+7.10		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
India	77	+6.63	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		
Togo	137	+6.32	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	
Kenya	61	+5.25				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Côte d'Ivoire	122	+4.94	✓	✓			✓		✓		✓	
Turkey	43	+4.34	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Rwanda	29	+4.15	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓

Source: Doing Business 2019

Meanwhile, the trio of New Zealand, Singapore and Denmark maintained their rankings for the second year in a row at a global level (**Table 2** across), whilst Mauritius was ranked as the top economy in Africa with the most conducive environment for the private sector – **Table 3** across. On the domestic front, Zimbabwe's ranking improved to 155 from 159 in the prior year driven by; (a) starting a business – *reduced time to obtain a license*, (b) dealing with construction permits – *faster issuance of building permits through one stop shop*, (c) getting credit – *improved access to credit information by increasing credit registry coverage*, and (d) enforcing contracts. **Fig 1** below outlines the trends in Doing Business Reforms for Zimbabwe.

**Fig.1: Trend in Doing Business Reforms for Zimbabwe**



Source: Doing Business 2019

The attainment of an upper-middle income economy status requires swift and continuous improvement in business regulation and strong political will. In fact, the World Bank concluded that “the diversity of the top ten improvers - including large and small; rich and poor economies - shows that, regardless of background, any economy can improve business regulation when the will of policymakers is strong.”

**Table 2: Top 10 ranked economies globally**

2019 Rank	Economy	2018 Rank
1	New Zealand	1
2	Singapore	2
3	Denmark	3
4	Hong Kong SAR, China	5
5	Korea Rep	4
6	Georgia	9
7	Norway	8
8	USA	6
9	UK	7
10	Macedonia, FYR	11

Source: Doing Business 2019

**Table 3: Top-10 ranked economies in Africa**

Africa Rank	Economy	2019 Global Rank	2018 Global Rank
1	Mauritius	20	25
2	Rwanda	29	41
3	Kenya	61	80
4	Tunisia	80	88
5	South Africa	82	82
6	Botswana	86	81
7	Zambia	87	85
8	Lesotho	106	104
9	Namibia	107	106
10	Malawi	111	110

Source: Doing Business 2019

## Markets Summary

### 1. Equities

On the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, the All Share Index further fell by 6.1% to end the week at 158.49 as part of market correction. Meanwhile, weekly turnover improved by 39% to US\$16.4 million with renewed activity by foreign investors. Elsewhere, most global and selected regional markets recovered lost ground due to news of a potential softening in the US-China trade war and a better than expected US jobs report for October 2018. **Table 4** below outlines the local as well as major regional and global equities markets' performance as at 02 November 2018.

...All share index fell by 6.1%...

**Table 4: Local, Regional and Global Stock Market Performance**

Domestic	26-Oct-18	02-Nov-18	Weekly change (%)	Previous week change (%)	YTD Change (%)
All Share Index	168.84	158.49	-6.1%	-6.7%	58.5%
Industrial Index	566.92	532.06	-6.1%	-6.7%	59.8%
Mining Index	216.79	209.86	-3.2%	-3.9%	47.4%
Top 10 Index	174.48	160.71	-7.9%	-8.9%	60.7%
Mkt cap - US\$m	18.46	17.35	-6.0%	-7.8%	81.1%
Turnover - US\$m	11.81	16.43	39.1%	-75.0%	
<b>African</b>					
Botswana	7,951.28	7,945.80	-0.1%	0.1%	-10.3%
Ghana	2,820.65	2,736.57	-3.0%	-1.5%	6.1%
Kenya	145.89	147.89	1.4%	-0.3%	-13.6%
Malawi	30,818.01	30,620.09	-0.6%	-3.3%	41.8%
South Africa	50,837.57	54,271.19	6.8%	-2.4%	-8.8%
Nigeria	32,907.33	32,124.94	-2.4%	0.2%	-16.0%
Zambia	5,218.63	5,240.75	0.4%	-0.6%	-1.6%
Mauritius	2,240.01	2,238.93	0.0%	0.3%	1.6%
<b>Global</b>					
U.S. - Dow	24,688.31	25,270.83	2.4%	-3.0%	2.2%
U.S. - S&P500	2,658.69	2,723.06	2.4%	-3.9%	1.8%
U.K. - FTSE 100	6,939.56	7,094.12	2.2%	-1.6%	-7.7%
Japan - NIKKEI 225	21,128.08	21,898.99	3.6%	-6.6%	-3.8%
China - Shanghai Index	2,535.81	2,660.50	4.9%	-4.3%	-19.6%

Source: Various

### 2. Commodities

Mixed trades were registered across major commodities for the second consecutive week. On the upside, platinum advanced by 4.2% to US\$868/oz sustained by anticipated supply disruptions in South Africa. On the other hand, oil prices fell by 6.2% to US\$72.8/b due to rising production and trade war-related concerns over global oil demand - **Table 5** below.

**Table 5: Commodities Price Performance**

Commodities	26-Oct-18	02-Nov-18	Weekly change (%)	Previous Week Change (%)	YTD Change (%)
<b>Metals</b>					
Gold - US\$/oz	1,233.85	1,231.15	-0.2%	0.5%	-4.6%
Platinum - US\$/oz	833.00	868.00	4.2%	-0.2%	-7.0%
Copper - US\$/t	6,210.00	6,070.00	-2.3%	0.3%	-15.2%
Nickel - US\$/t	12,135.00	11,555.00	-4.8%	-2.7%	-5.8%
Oil - US\$/b	77.62	72.83	-6.2%	-2.7%	8.9%
<b>Agricultural</b>					
Wheat - US\$/t	185.47	186.84	0.7%	-1.8%	19.2%
Soybeans - US\$/t	317.46	329.49	3.8%	0.0%	-17.2%
Sugar - US\$/pound	13.84	13.44	-2.9%	-0.4%	-10.4%
Cotton - US\$/pound	78.53	78.79	0.3%	-1.9%	0.0%

Source: Various

...oil prices fell for the 4<sup>th</sup> week in a row...

### 3. Currencies

The US dollar traded firm supported by strong US jobs growth, which rebounded sharply in October 2018, and wages recorded their largest annual gain in close to 10 years. Subsequently, the positive jobs data raised expectations of a further policy rate increase by the US Federal Reserve. Thus, the dollar index marginally rose by 0.1% to end the week at 96.39. Elsewhere, the South African Rand recovered by 2.0% to ZAR 14.3/US\$ as investors moved back into riskier assets. **Table 6** below outlines currencies performance as at 02 November 2018.

...US dollar remained firm on jobs data...

**Table 6: Currencies Performance**

Currencies	26-Oct-18	02-Nov-18	Weekly change (%)	Previous week change(%)	YTD Change (%)
USD/ZAR	14.6297	14.3358	-2.0%	1.6%	16.0%
USD/BWP	10.5991	10.5176	-0.8%	1.1%	8.6%
USD/ZMK	11.5700	11.8196	2.2%	-2.1%	18.8%
USD/NGN	362.7910	362.2260	-0.2%	0.1%	1.6%
USD/GBP	0.7800	0.7697	-1.3%	1.7%	3.9%
USD/EUR	0.8788	0.8765	-0.3%	0.9%	5.0%
USD/JPY	111.998	112.975	0.9%	-0.4%	0.3%
USD/CNY	6.947	6.8967	-0.7%	0.2%	5.9%
Dollar Index - DXY	96.32	96.39	0.1%	0.6%	4.6%

Source: Oanda

### Week Ahead

Date	Event	Period	Forecast	Previous
<b>Local</b>				
07-Nov-18	OK Zimbabwe Analysts Briefing, 4pm, OK Mart Functions Room, 30 Chiremba Rd, Hillside			
09-Nov-18	Afdis AGM, 1130am, Head Office, St Mamock's, Lomagundi Road, Stapleford			
<b>Regional and International</b>				
06-Nov-18	Euro Markit Composite PMI	Oct-18	52.70	52.70
07-Nov-18	South Africa Business Confidence	Oct-18		93.30
08-Nov-18	South Africa Mining Production	Sep-18	0.30%	-9.10%
08-Nov-18	US Fed Interest Rate Decision		2.25%	2.25%
09-Nov-18	UK GDP - YoY	Q3 2018	1.50%	1.20%

Source: Various

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