

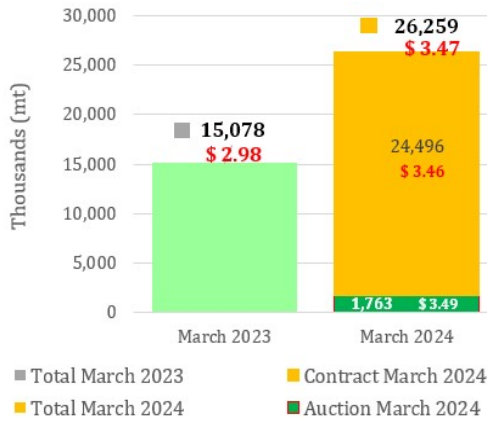


This issue...

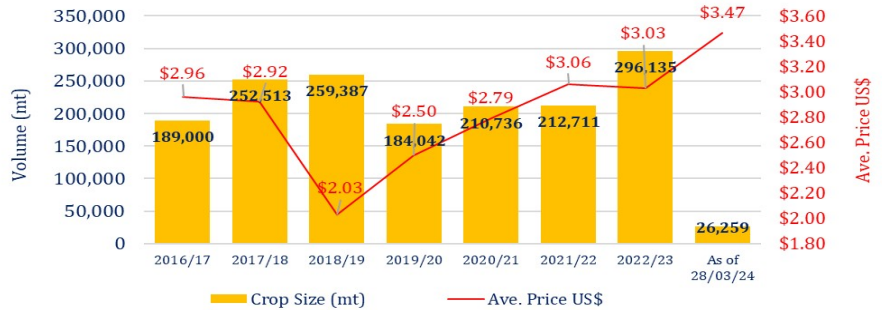
- Market Update
- Crop Status
- Large Scale Update
- Small Scale Update
- General News
- Inflation Rate / Exchange Rate

MARKET UPDATE

Monthly Purchase Comparison YoY



Zimbabwe Historical Volume and Average Price



The above graph shows Zimbabwe's historical volume and average price comparison. So far, a total crop size of 26,259 mt has been sold for the 2023/24 season.

- The opening of the 2024 tobacco marketing season took place at Tobacco Sales Floors (TSF) on the 13th of March, with the auction floors kicking off in full swing. This was followed closely by the opening of most merchant contract floors.
- The small-scale contract floor opened for sales on the 20th of March, and the commercial floor had its first sale on the 26th of March.
- The deliveries have mainly been lower to middle stalk. The quality throw has shown the majority clean lemon with some droughty natured styles from areas that were affected by the drought.
- The start of sales saw large increases in pricing for the lower stalk grades as compared to 2023. The national average price continues to slowly rise as more middle to upper stalk plant positions are coming onto the floors.
- We estimate a total crop size of 220,000-230,000mt.
- Below is a range of the current market pricing.

CROP STATUS

Auction Price		
Plant Position	Quality	Price Range
Priming and Lug	Top	\$ 3.80 - \$ 4.60
	Medium	\$ 3.00 - \$ 3.80
	Low	\$ 2.00 - \$ 3.00
Cutter	Top	\$ 4.50 - \$ 5.00
	Medium	\$ 3.50 - \$ 4.50
	Low	\$ 2.50 - \$ 3.30
Leaf	Top	\$ 4.90 - \$ 5.70
	Medium	\$ 3.80 - \$ 4.90
	Low	\$ 2.90 - \$ 3.80

Crop Status	Seedbeds	Transplanting	Topping	Curing	Grading	Buying	Processing
January							
February							
March							
April							
May							
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							

LARGE SCALE UPDATE

CROP PROGRESS: 85% of our total hectares planted has been reaped, cured, and stored either in slat packs, stick bulks or graded bales. About 15% of the remaining kg are still to be reaped over the next 6 weeks.

The late crop has continued to stress with lack of rain, limited power, and minimal rainfall. Farmers have had to adapt to the conditions and where possible have had to apply irrigation. which has helped considerably in crop maturity and curing.

RAINFALL RECIEVED: Rainfall has been sparse, and farmers who were lucky enough to receive any rainfall have been very welcoming. The rain for the most part hasn't helped with growing the crop out more, but has helped as a respite to the high temperatures, the wet bulb in the curing system, and to lock in required moisture with early land prep.

ELECTRICITY ISSUES: Electricity shortages have been very prevalent and are affecting cash flows for farmers as there has been a need to irrigate crops and to cure tobacco by means of diesel generators.

This is unlikely to improve over the next few months as dam levels have dropped for generating hydro power, and continued maintenance of Hwange Power Stations is hindering constant scheduled power supply to the large-scale farming areas.

Long term solutions would be for farmers to invest in solar farms to run their operations.

APRIL FORECAST: Minimum and maximum temperatures are still quite contrasting. Which has slowed the remainder of the crop considerably. With most farmers only reaping 1.5 leaves a week.

In saying this 95% of the crop would have been stripped and cured by end of April.

With firmer pricing being attained on the sales floors, sales volumes are likely to increase over the course of April.

SMALL SCALE UPDATE

WEATHER AND RAINFALL UPDATE: March has generally been hot and dry with very little if any rainfall at all. There have been reports of areas receiving isolated showers, thereby causing the crops to green up in those areas and improve the quality slightly. The field staff have been urging the growers to slow down on reaping and curing, according to the ripeness of the leaf and applying lots of water to the barns to enhance as good a colour as possible to the cured tobacco.

CATEGORIES	MASH WEST	MASH CENTRAL	MASH EAST	SMALL SCALE AVERAGE
Higest Recorded Amount and Area for Current Month	104mls Karoi Southeast	92mls Guruve Northwest Kachuta	65mls Headlands North	
Lowest Recorded Amount and Area for Current Month	4mls Tengwe Central	0mls Mount Darwin South/Madziwa	0mls Nyamatawa, Mutoko SW, Headlands NE	
Monthly Overall Average	36.2mls	28.8mls	24mls	29.7mls
Higest Seasonal Total and Area	620mls Raffingora North	760mls Chiweshe	590mls Mutoko SW	
Lowest Seasonal Total and Area	309mls Tengwe Central	271mls Bindura Northeast/Shamva	204mls Mutoko South	
Progressive Seasonal Average For Province / Region	451mls	512.7mls	417mls	460.2mls

mls = millilitres

CURRENT FARMING ACTIVITIES: The main activities that have been seen in March are reaping, curing, grading and preparation of bales for selling.

CROP STAGE:

CATEGORIES	MASH WEST	MASH CENTRAL	MASH EAST	SMALLSCALE TOTALS
% AGE OF GROWERS PLANTED TO DATE	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
% AGE OF Ha PLANTED TO DATE	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
% AGE OF GROWERS TOPPED	99.8%	100.0%	98.0%	99.3%
% AGE OF GROWERS REAPING & CURING	98.3%	100.0%	95.0%	97.8%
% AGE OF GROWERS GRADING	0.1%	21.5%	3.0%	8.2%

FORESTRY: All forestry prizes have been handed out to growers who had the best remaining plant stand after a year.

OTHER BUSINESS: The barn building, and conversion project is very close to completion at 97% and will be complete by the middle of April.

General News

Zimbabwe is grappling with some economic hardships, including hyperinflation, currency instability, and El Nino induced food shortages. In a bid to curb the challenges the government is planning to introduce a new structured currency which will be backed by gold reserves. The new currency, backed by the value of the ZiG, an RBZ gold-backed token, aims to stabilize the exchange rate and mitigate inflation. The move towards a structured currency is seen as a response to Zimbabwe's prolonged economic crisis marked by currency volatility, inflation, and economic problems exacerbated by arbitrage. The currency has repeatedly failed to maintain stability. The new currency is expected to coexist with the US dollar, which will remain legal tender until 2030, as per government regulations. The launch of the structured currency aims to restore confidence and stability in the economy, providing a stable medium of exchange amidst ongoing economic challenges. Meanwhile a new RBZ Governor with vast banking knowledge and experience has been appointed and will oversee the launch and transition into the new currency.

To ensure national food security while lessening the consequences of the drought caused by El Nino, Zimbabwe has loosened restrictions on the importation of grains at the household level. Among other initiatives considered, the government announced the removal of duty on imported rice and potato seed as well as the duty-free importation of maize, rice, and cooking oil with effect from July 2024. There will be importation of Genetically Modified maize for stock feed.

The annual March inflation rate increased to 55.3%, up from 47.6% in February, amid the sharp depreciation of the local currency. The domestic currency depreciated by more than 70% against the US dollar since the beginning of the year. The central bank is reportedly enabling its currency to plummet freely as it prepares to introduce a gold-backed currency to replace the country's local currency. On a monthly basis, consumer prices rose by 4.9% in March, down from the February rate of 5.4%.

Inflation Rate

Month	Monthly	Annual
March' 24	4.9 %	55.3 %

Exchange Rate U.S. Dollar against other currencies

Month	U.S. Dollar	Chinese	Zambian	British	Euro	Zimbabwe
March' 24	USD 1.00	RMB 7.20	ZWK 25.11	GBP 0.79	EUR 0.93	ZWL 22,913.71

End of Report

The views expressed in this report are those of the Company's representative unless specifically attributed. ATC Worldwide Limited makes no representation concerning and does not guarantee the source, originality, accuracy, completeness or reliability of any statement, information, data, finding, interpretation, advice, opinion, or view represented.