# MAIN EXPORT CROPS OF ZIMBABWE

Issued 11th March 2014

*(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 1 of 2014)*[2]

Over the last decade Zimbabwe has embarked on a number of projects to boost agricultural output. As a result, exports now include stone fruits, soft fruits to seed oils, tree and ground nuts and vegetables such as mange-tout peas to name a few.



**30c: Flower Exports**

Since its peak in the late 90's Horticulture production has significantly decreased. According to the Zimbabwe Budget there has been a slow increase in production in recent years and this is forecast to continue increasing in 2014. This may be attributed to new horticultural projects and Government drive. Main horticultural products in Zimbabwe include cut flowers, mange-tout peas and spices.



**75c: Cotton**

Cotton was considered to be white gold in Zimbabwe. Having centralised sales cotton has long been a popular small-holding crop in Zimbabwe. Outputs of cotton have been used in the textile industries, animal feed and fertilizer industries. Both raw cotton and cotton-based products have been exported by Zimbabwe in the past. The 2014 Zimbabwe budget states that the increased global competition in cotton-related industries have made cotton a low-returns crop and as a result cotton growing has declined significantly in recent years. Cotton production efforts in 2014 have been shifted to focus on increasing per hectare volume and quality of cotton produced.



**85c: Tea**

About 6 million hectares of tea is grown in Zimbabwe's Honde Valley and Chipinge in the Eastern Highlands. National production amounts to about 15 million kg of tea. 80% is exported mainly to Europe, Britain, Middle East and Southern African states. 20% is consumed locally. Young tea shoots are picked and withered in overnight troughs to reduce moisture then pass through cutting machines. The tea is oxidised and dried. This tea is graded and packed for export.

**$1: Tobacco**



Flue cured tobacco output in Zimbabwe has increased by almost 300% in the last 5 years. Tobacco's high returns has made a popular small holding farmer crop. Tobacco accounts for more than 10% of Zimbabwe's GDP making it important to Zimbabwe's economy. In 2013 over 160 thousand tonnes of flue cured tobacco were produced. About 88,600 ha of tobacco was planted in 2013. Zimbabwe exports to a number of countries but China remains the main export destination for Zimbabwe's tobacco.

## The Stamps



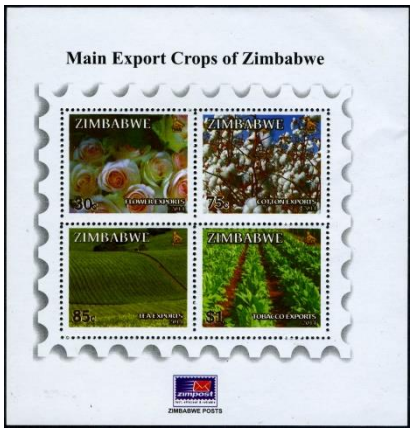













(Reduced to 50% of size)

## Catalogue Listings

| SG | ZSC[1] | Value | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1363 | 765 | 30c | Flower Exports |
| 1364 | 766 | 75c | Cotton Exports |
| 1365 | 767 | 85c | Tea Exports |
| 1366 | 768 | $1 | Tobacco Exports |
| MS1367 | MS33 | | Miniature sheet with four stamps in se-tenant block |

## Technical details

| | |
|---|---|
| **Stamp size:** | Sheet stamps: 35 x 30 mm<br>Miniature sheet: 105 x 110 mm |
| **Sheet Size:** | 50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes per printed sheet |
| **Artist:** | Cindy Stamps |
| **Paper:** | ZSC paper type J: paper described by Zimpost as "Chancellor Litho PVA Gummed Postage Stamp Paper". This paper is produced by Tullis Russell Coaters of Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland. Under UV there is no fluorescence either front or back, the stamp appears to be very dark |
| **Print colours:** | Cyan, magenta, yellow & black |
| **Perforations**: | SG 14½ x 14; ZSC 14¼ x 14<br>Sheet stamps:<br>Top margin: Perforated through<br>Other margins: Imperforate<br><br>Miniature sheet: Imperforate margins |
| **Printer:** | NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe |
| **Printer's Imprint:** | Sheet stamps only: Bottom Margin, below Row 10 Column 3. Imprint printed in black |
| **Cylinder numbers:** | Sheet stamps only: Top margin above R1/1. Colours from left – cyan, magenta, yellow, black |
| **Colour register:** | Sheet stamps only: Type TL 4– round boxed – left margin opposite R1/1. Colours reading down – cyan, magenta, yellow, black |
| **Sheet Value:** | Sheet stamps only: Top margin, above R1/5, printed in black |
| **Sheet Number:** | Type SN 7 with printed 'ZIMPOST' prefix, right margin opposite R1/5 reading down |
| **Print numbers:** | 30c 600,000 75c 10,000<br>85c 10,000 $1 10,000<br>Miniature sheet: 1,500 |
| **Issue date:** | 11th March 2014 |

## Listed Varieties

No listed varieties have been reported.

## Unlisted Varieties

Numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps were noted in the examination of the sheets with missing black printing.




**30c:** Shift of perforations to the left
*(Source: eBay March 2021)*




**30c:** Shift of perforations to right
*(Source eBay May 2021)*




**30c:** Shift of perforations down through ‘Zimbabwe’, and to right
*(Source eBay December 2021)*




**30c:** Additional magenta splashes on roses
*(Courtesy of Milton Mutengezanwa)*




**30c:** Imperforate, possible proof
*(Source eBay January 2022)*



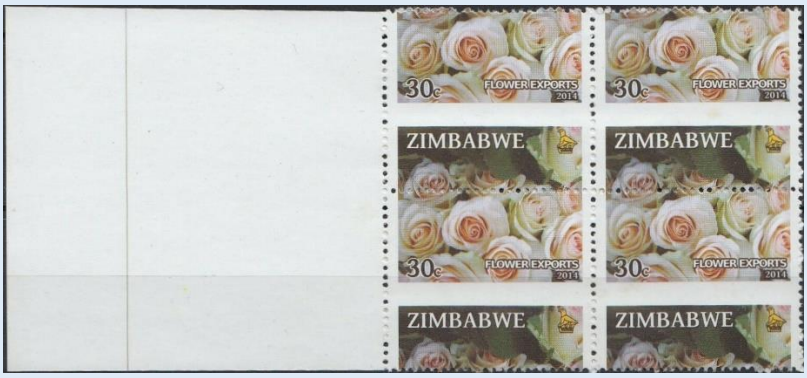

**30c:** Movement of perforations upwards above the stamp value




**30c:** Movement of perforations with horizontal perfs through middle of stamps




**30c:** Interpanneau block spanning 1A and 1B panes,
With some movement of perforations downwards.

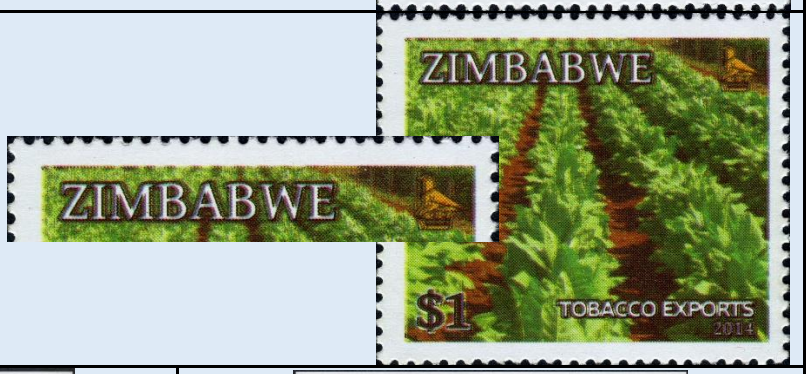


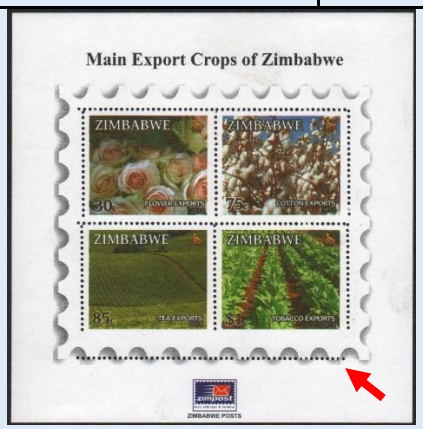

**30c:** Perforation movement downwards, with very wide left margin
*(Source eBay March 2022)*

**85c:** Movement of printing plates. See outline of 'Zimbabwe;', the Zimbabwe bird and the edges of the image.

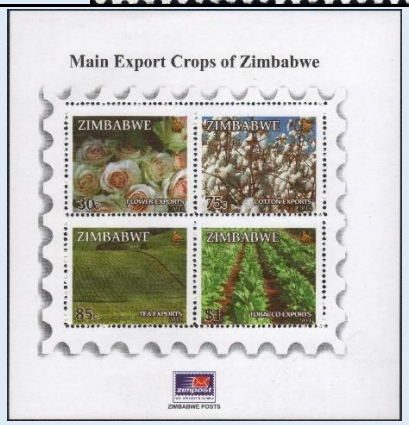



**$1:** Movement of printing plates. See outline of 'Zimbabwe;', the Zimbabwe bird and the edges of the image.

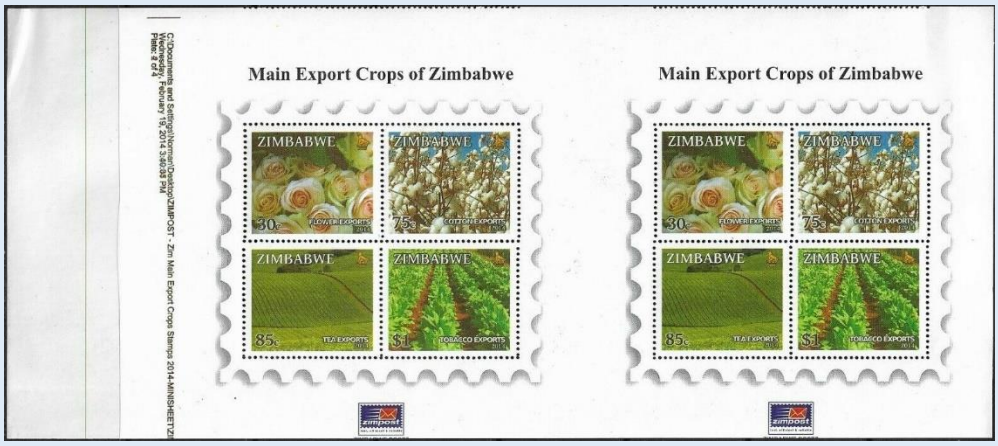


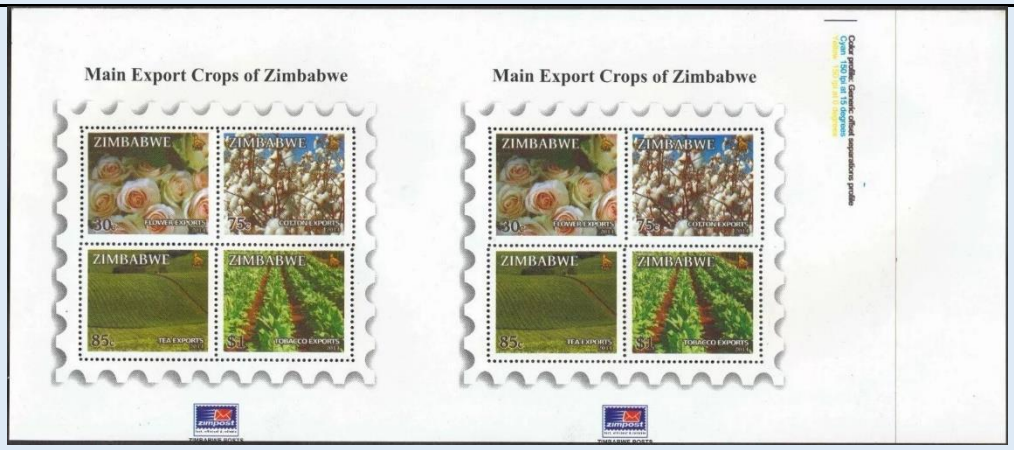

**Miniature sheet:** Bottom horizontal perforation movement downwards
*(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)*




**Miniature sheet:** Horizontal perforation movement upwards into edge of design
*(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)*




**Miniature sheet:** Probable interpanneau proof sheet, with sheet annotations to left. Slighltly miscut
*(Source eBay April 2022)*




**Miniature sheet:** Probable interpanneau proof sheet, with sheet annotations to right. Slighltly miscut
*(Source eBay October 2024)*

## First Day Cover

No first day covers were made available by the Philatelic Bureau, covers can, however be found with the Harare First Day of Issue canceller on plain covers and Bureau manila stationery.

**Bibliography:**


1. "The Zimbabwean Concise Postage Stamp Catalogue", published by Harare Stamp Company, edited by Ken Allanson, Mike Amos and Geoff Brakspear. The catalogue continues to be updated and expanded by Geoff Brakspear, and is now published on the Rhodesian Study Circle website.
2. Zimbabwe Post, Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 1 of 2014


| **Additions/Changes since December 2020** | |
|---|---|
| 8/2021 | 30c: shift of perforations to left and to right – 2 x blocks of 4 |
| 3/2022 | 30c: two new examples of perforation shifts |
| | 30c: imperforate, possible proof |
| | 30c: Interpanneau block |
| 8/2022 | 30c: Perf movement down, with wide left margin |
| | Miniature sheet: miscut possible proof |
| 12/2022 | 30c: perfs through centre of stamps |
| | 30c: additional magenta splashes |
| 12/2024 | MS interpanneau block |