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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Statistics of civil cases  
for debt  
April 1996**



**Statistical release P0041**

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## MORE CIVIL CASES IN APRIL 1996

The total number of civil cases recorded for April 1996 shows an increase of 29,5% after seasonal adjustment compared with March 1996. Noticeable increases were recorded by the Magistrate's Offices in Port Elizabeth (+8 037); Durban (+965) and Pietermaritzburg (+329). However, marked decreases were recorded in the Magistrate's Offices of Johannesburg (-2 601); East Rand (-2 189) and Cape Peninsula (-1 869).

The total number of civil summonses and civil judgements for debt for April 1996 show increases of 29,3% and 23,1% respectively compared with the previous month. The increase in the number of civil summonses for debt can be largely attributed to more summonses issued in respect of non-professional services rendered (+8,7%) and rent (+9,0%).

The total number of judgements for debt was 47 318 in April 1996, which involved R301,0 million. Of this amount R32,7 million was in respect of goods sold on open account and R118,3 million in respect of money lent.

P0041

Period	Number		Percentage change	
	Summonses for debt	Civil judgements for debt	Summonses for debt	Civil judgements for debt
<b>Actual figures:</b>				
Feb. 1996 - Apr. 1996	307 841	140 783	+12,3	+8,0
Feb. 1995 - Apr. 1995	274 052	130 348		
<b>Seasonally adjusted figures:</b>				
Feb. 1996 - Apr. 1996	311 042	142 765	+5,3	+3,4
Nov. 1995 - Jan. 1996	295 464	138 104		

## NOTES

The particulars refer to all civil cases for debt recorded by Magistrate's Offices.

Except for cases recorded, all other information relates to debt cases only, i.e. claims for damages, ejection orders and other non-debt cases are excluded.

Default and consent judgements relate to judgements given in respect of undefended debt cases only.

## COMPARABILITY

The jurisdiction limit for civil cases handled by magistrate offices (R20 000 for liquid assets and R50 000 for non liquid assets) was increased to R100 000 as from 1 May 1995. A comparison with the period prior to May 1995 must thus be handled with circumspection.

## SMALL CLAIMS COURTS

Statistics in respect of small claims courts are furnished annually.

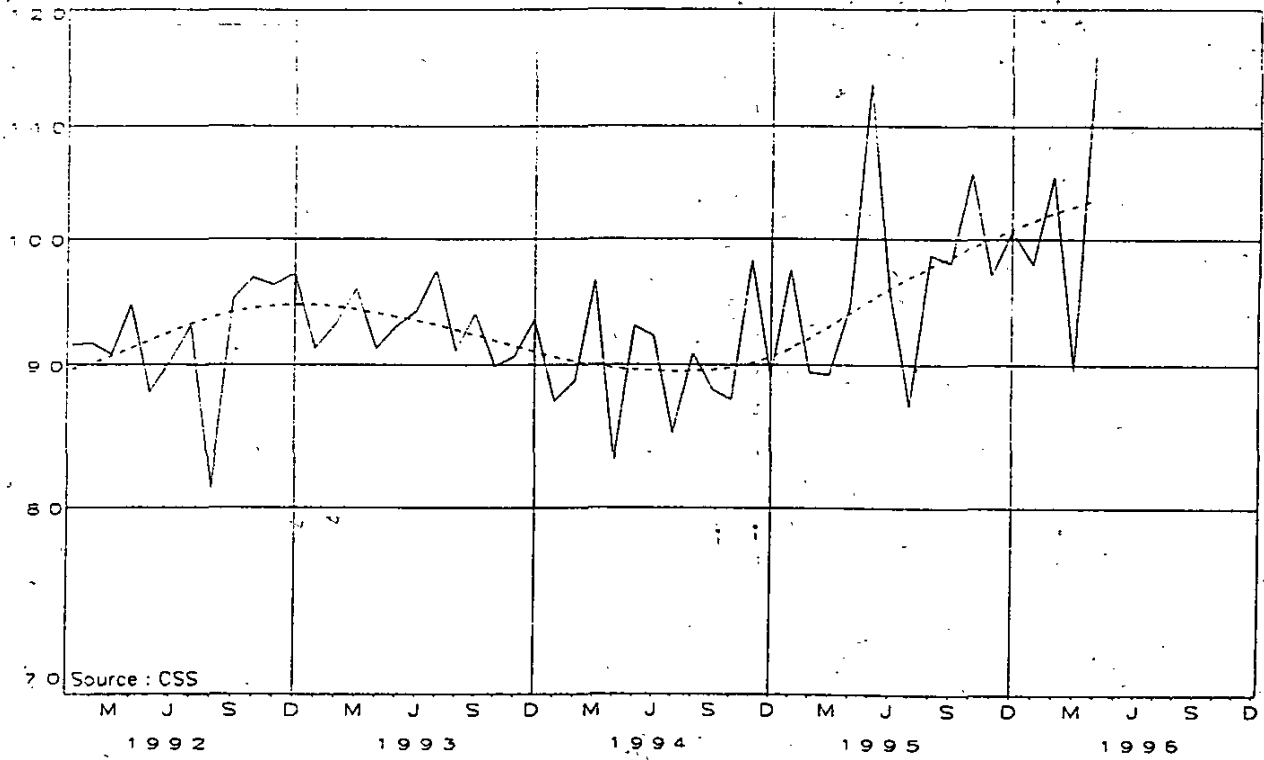
pp   
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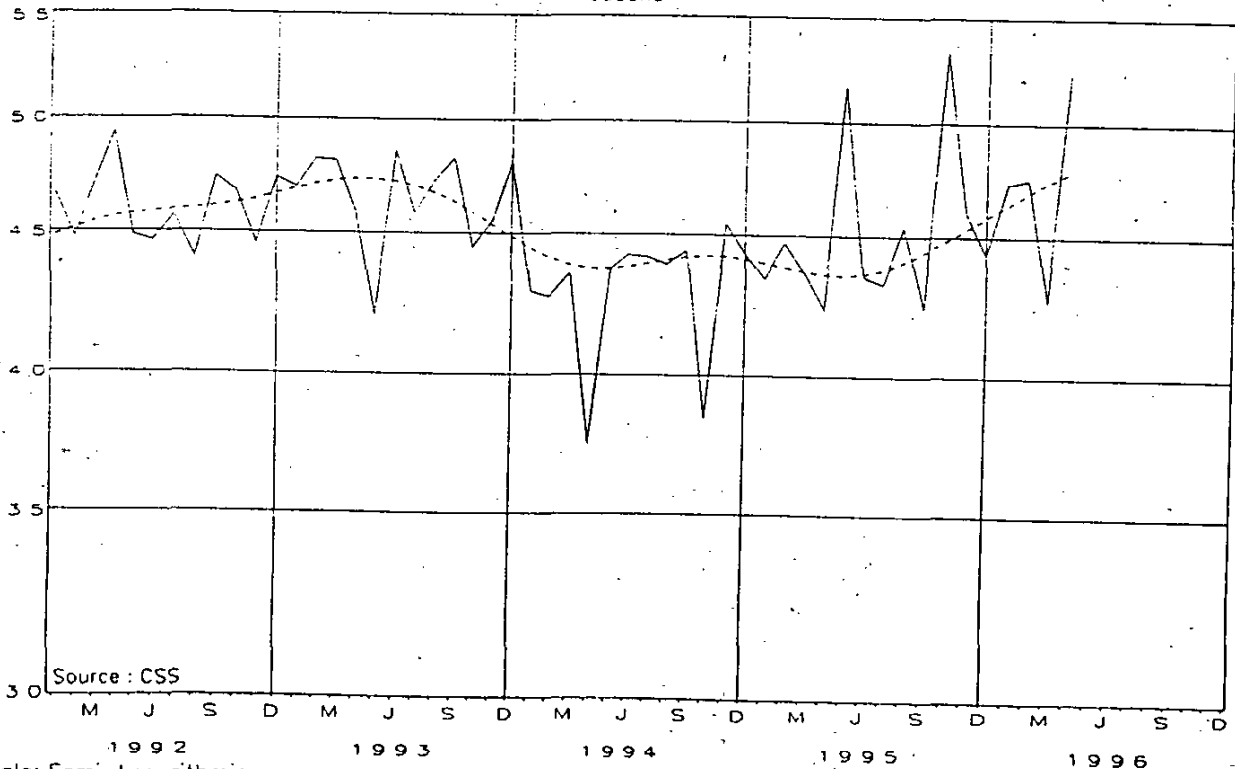
### CIVIL SUMMONSES ISSUED - NUMBER Thousand



Scale: Semi-Logarithmic

Seasonally adjusted \_\_\_\_\_  
Trend cycle - - - - -

### CIVIL JUDGEMENTS FOR DEBT - NUMBER Thousand



Scale: Semi-Logarithmic

Seasonally adjusted \_\_\_\_\_  
Trend cycle - - - - -



TABLE 2 - THE NUMBER OF CIVIL CASES RECORDED IN SELECTED MAGISTRATES OFFICES

Year or month	Cape Peninsula	Port Elizabeth	East-London	Kimberley	Pietermaritzburg	Durban	Johannesburg	East Rand	West Rand	Pretoria	Vereeniging and Vanderbijlpark	Bloemfontein
1994	159 827	40 173	16 363	8 215	31 228	90 646	130 635	57 110	29 569	94 627	18 864	21 885
1995	166 609	47 639	15 445	10 823	30 290	89 776	142 943	69 380	30 690	96 226	16 908	24 289
1995 - J	10 246	3 617	1 265	582	2 646	6 778	12 384	4 119	2 453	9 609	990	1 488
F	15 202	3 209	1 329	510	2 803	8 377	8 179	4 895	2 146	6 988	1 819	1 986
M	14 671	4 452	1 247	836	2 711	8 474	12 938	6 350	2 007	5 197	1 715	3 261
A	13 146	2 537	1 063	537	2 120	7 172	7 567	3 830	2 407	8 437	956	3 276
M	15 555	4 512	1 417	1 248	2 728	8 500	12 110	5 390	2 559	11 899	1 273	1 940
J	17 078	3 525	1 344	2 928	2 737	8 352	13 560	5 898	2 545	8 283	1 764	1 825
J	14 713	3 809	1 107	948	2 577	7 122	9 731	5 958	2 482	7 473	1 237	1 620
A	15 393	4 593	1 507	672	2 972	8 450	11 575	7 268	2 877	8 261	1 571	1 792
S	13 259	4 232	1 380	547	2 220	6 366	12 026	7 876	2 535	8 657	1 649	1 682
O	11 979	3 887	1 545	663	2 245	6 936	16 925	7 910	2 820	7 365	1 632	2 044
N	14 276	4 095	1 363	557	2 691	7 763	15 004	5 275	3 997	8 389	1 405	1 775
D	11 091	5 171	878	795	1 840	5 486	10 944	4 611	1 862	5 668	897	1 600
1996 - J	13 286	1 298	1 605	697	2 376	5 758	9 212	6 073	2 293	7 783	1 195	1 852
F	18 773	2 009	1 794	729	2 754	6 709	10 759	7 709	2 510	9 702	2 051	1 910
M	15 367	1 710	1 685	861	2 735	6 547	14 043	7 224	2 423	8 631	2 066	2 116
A	13 498	9 747	1 103	484	3 064	7 512	11 442	5 035	2 096	8 069	1 536	1 907

TABLE 3 - CIVIL DEFAULT AND CONSENT, JUDGEMENTS FOR DEBT

Item	Business enterprises and private persons				Private persons			
	1996		1995		1996		1995	
	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	Mar.
	Number							
1. Judgements								
1.1 Total	545 056	47 318	46 246	38 382	502 215	43 682	42 783	35 051
1.1.1 Actual figures	52 473	42 631	42 247	42 247	49 060	39 732	39 141	
1.1.2 Seasonally adjusted								
1.2 Goods sold	142 928	10 323	10 579	10 601	131 499	9 333	9 654	9 747
1.2.1 Open account	9 643	613	586	684	9 086	558	538	613
1.2.2 Instalment sale transactions								
1.3 Services	92 980	8 512	7 723	6 781	90 842	8 228	7 514	6 547
1.3.1 Professional	102 429	10 011	9 135	6 640	93 991	9 357	8 556	5 936
1.3.2 Other								
1.4 Rent	29 044	2 757	2 529	2 249	23 139	2 244	2 001	1 914
1.5 Money lent	55 095	5 629	5 719	3 739	53 477	5 497	5 542	3 588
1.6 Promissory notes, bills, cheques, R/D and other acknowledgements of debt	43 862	3 030	3 621	3 260	39 980	2 696	3 272	2 951
1.7 Other	69 075	6 443	6 354	4 428	60 201	5 769	5 706	3 755
	R1 000							
1. Judgements								
1.1 Total	2 987 064	300 977	266 382	195 541	2 400 613	255 624	224 838	158 024
1.2 Goods sold	308 567	32 742	28 730	18 646	216 798	22 093	18 312	13 165
1.2.1 Open account	128 521	9 508	9 755	11 011	115 351	8 314	9 081	10 284
1.2.2 Instalment sale transactions								
1.3 Services	98 148	8 641	8 186	7 503	86 654	8 150	7 431	6 911
1.3.1 Professional	222 129	20 870	16 833	14 502	181 312	16 411	13 092	12 034
1.3.2 Other								
1.4 Rent	129 448	10 610	12 982	9 686	96 750	8 167	10 185	7 130
1.5 Money lent	1 017 941	118 328	111 712	69 458	950 442	114 342	105 602	60 744
1.6 Promissory notes, bills, cheques, R/D and other acknowledgements of debt	343 252	38 738	27 738	24 444	301 289	35 410	23 959	22 197
1.7 Other	739 058	61 540	50 446	40 291	452 017	42 737	37 176	25 559