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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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



Statistical release P0041

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**Embargo: 13:00
Date: 29 April 1996**

Published by the
Central Statistical Service
Private Bag X44
PRETORIA
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Tel. (012) 310-8911

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CSS Library Cataloguing-in-Publication (CIP) Data

Statistics of civil cases for debt / Central Statistical Service. - 1996-
Pretoria: Central Statistical Service, 1996-
p. ; 30 cm. (Statistical release; P0041)
Series formerly available as: Statistiese nuusberig
= Statistical news release; P0041 and P13.2 and
Statistiese vrystelling = Statistical release;
P0041
Title continues in English only
Monthly
1. Debts, public. I. South Africa. Central Statistical Service. II. Title. III. Series.
(LCSH 11)

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MORE CIVIL CASES IN FEBRUARY

The number of civil cases for debt recorded during February 1996 shows an increase of 7,2% after seasonal adjustment compared with January 1996. The number of civil summonses for debt increased by 7,6%, while the number of civil judgements for debt increased by only 0,5%.

Noticeable increases in the number of civil cases were reported by magisterial offices in the Cape Peninsula (+5 487 cases), Johannesburg (+1 547 cases), East Rand (+1 635 cases) and in Pretoria (+1 919 cases).

A total number of 106 074 summonses for debt were issued in February 1996. Of these 22 583 (21,3%) were in respect of goods sold, while 15 791 (14,9%) and 26 743 (25,2%) were in respect of professional and non-professional services respectively. Cases involving money lent amounted to 12 465 or 11,7% of the total number of civil summonses.

The total number of judgements for debt was 47 219 in February 1996, which involved R266,3 million. Of this amount R38,4 million (14,4%) was in respect of goods sold and R112,2 million (42,1%) in respect of money lent.

P0041

Period	Number		Percentage change	
	Summonses for debt	Civil judgements for debt	Summonses for debt	Civil judgements for debt
Actual figures:				
Dec. 1995 - Feb. 1996	289 630	124 090	+10,0	+5,4
Dec. 1994 - Feb. 1995	245 117	117 781		
Seasonally adjusted figures:				
Dec. 1995 - Feb. 1996	304 396	139 459	+0,9	-1,9
Sep. 1995 - Nov. 1995	301 678	142 110		

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 previous months must thus be handled with circumspection.

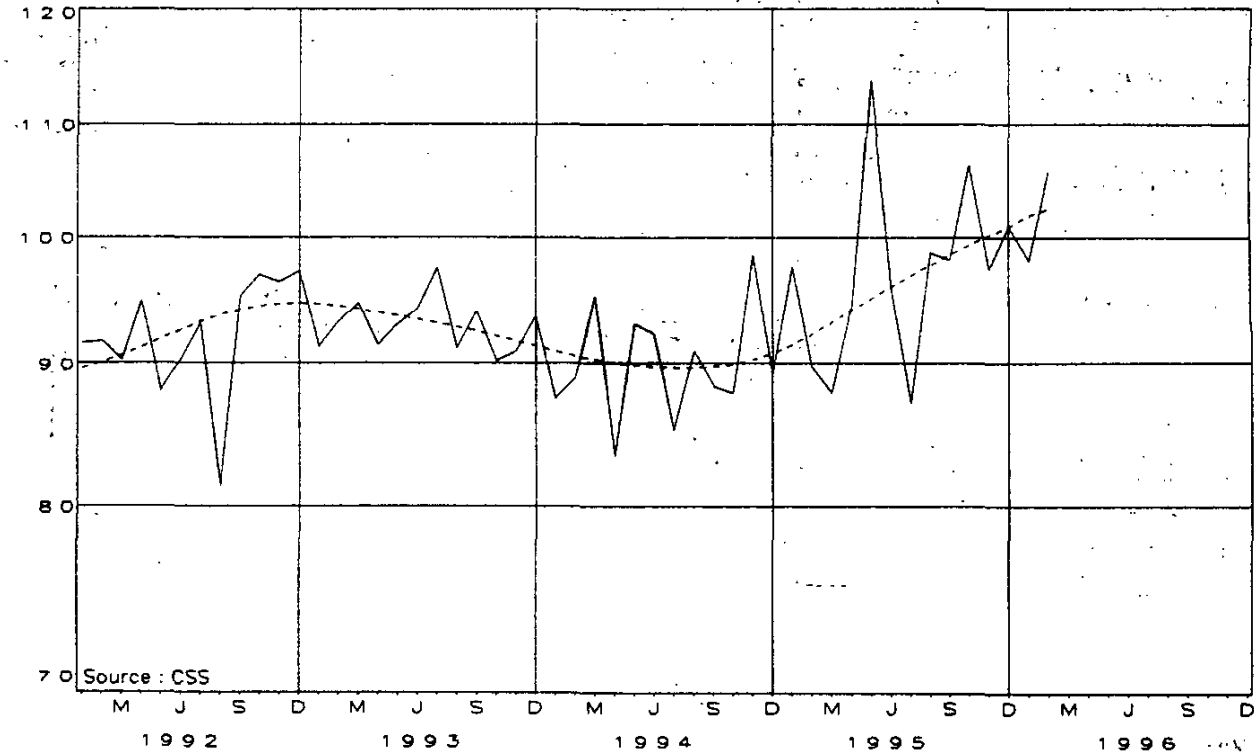
SMALL CLAIMS COURTS

Statistics in respect of small claims courts are furnished annually.

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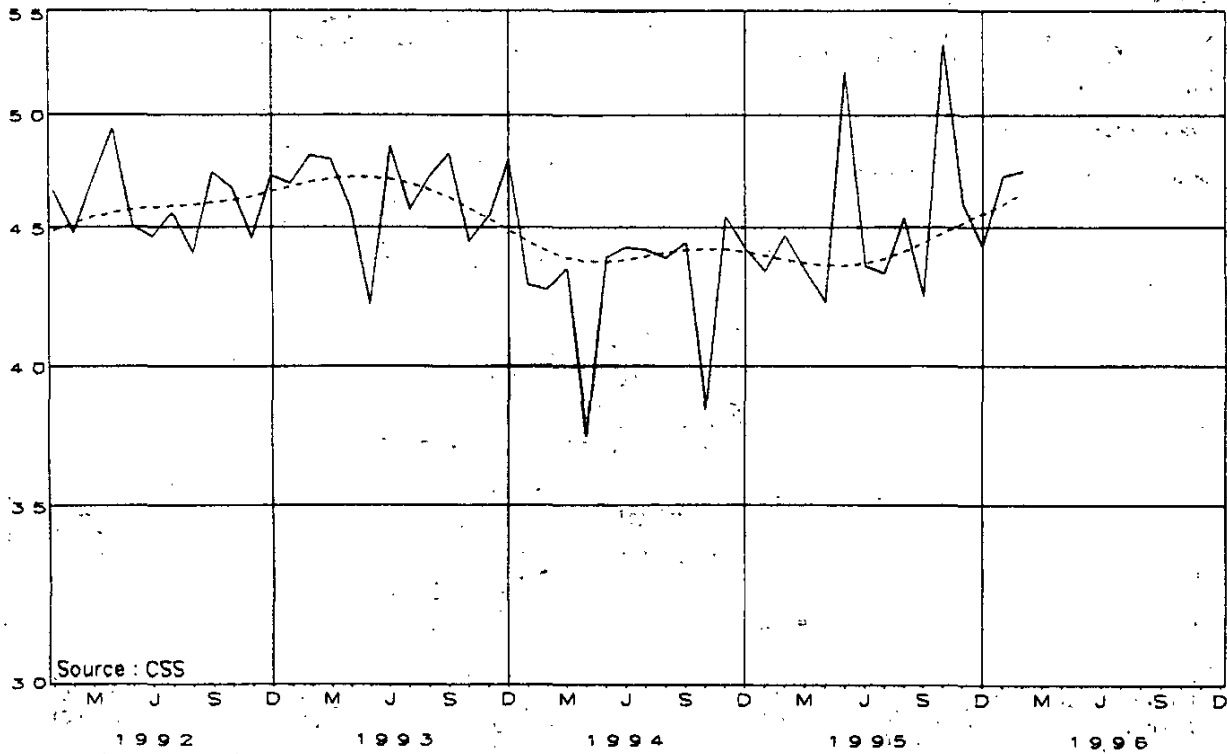
CIVIL SUMMONSES ISSUED - NUMBER Thousand



Scale: Semi-Logarithmic

Seasonally adjusted _____
Trend cycle - - - - -

CIVIL JUDGEMENTS FOR DEBT - NUMBER Thousand



Scale: Semi-Logarithmic

Seasonally adjusted _____
Trend cycle - - - - -

TABLE 1 - NUMBER OF CIVIL CASES RECORDED AND SUMMONSES FOR DEBTT ISSUED

Item	Business enterprises and private persons						Private persons							
	1995		1996		1996		1995		1996		1996			
	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.			
1. Cases recorded	1 206	468	110	303	87	637	95	821	98	863	78	590	86	694
1.1 Actual figures			108	658	101	374	94	133	96	889	91	347	84	779
1.2 Seasonally adjusted														
2. Civil summonses for debt	1 165	376	106	074	84	731	90	668	95	418	76	085	82	045
2.1 Total			105	494	98	084	89	816	94	548	88	317	80	998
2.1.1 Actual figures														
2.1.2 Seasonally adjusted														
2.2 Goods sold	270	161	22	583	16	861	22	992	19	950	14	616	20	752
2.2.1 Open account	28	649	1	985	2	261	2	297	1	683	2	007	2	120
2.2.2 Instalment sale transactions														
2.3 Services	186	798	15	791	13	684	16	397	14	730	12	759	15	857
2.3.1 Professional	255	337	26	743	16	604	18	472	24	525	14	925	16	695
2.3.2 Other														
2.4 Rent	57	443	6	406	5	262	5	962	4	972	3	940	4	465
2.5 Money lent	137	350	12	462	12	302	7	363	130	076	11	708	6	784
2.6 Promissory notes, bills, R/D cheques, credit cards and other acknowledgements of debt	95	678	7	987	6	410	7	780	6	991	5	761	7	121
2.7 Other	133	960	12	117	11	347	9	405	10	747	10	369	8	251

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

TABLE 3 - CIVIL DEFAULT AND CONSENT JUDGEMENTS FOR DEBT

Item	Business enterprises and private persons						Private persons					
	1995		1996		1996		1995		1996		1995	
	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	
	Number											
1. Judgements												
1.1 Total	545 056	47 219	40 540	44 423	502 215	43 935	37 403	40 909				
1.1.1 Actual figures		47 655	47 426	44 822		44 337	43 880	41 289				
1.1.2 Seasonally adjusted												
1.2 Goods sold												
1.2.1 Open account	142 928	11 837	9 828	11 862	131 499	10 818	8 961	11 040				
1.2.2 Instalment sale transactions	9 643	575	625	810	9 086	540	579	740				
1.3 Services												
1.3.1 Professional	92 980	7 427	6 835	8 017	90 842	7 247	6 630	7 877				
1.3.2 Other	102 429	8 645	7 066	7 389	93 991	7 987	6 470	6 643				
1.4 Rent	29 044	2 705	1 946	2 087	23 139	2 282	1 497	1 637				
1.5 Money lent	55 095	5 892	4 979	4 044	53 477	5 709	4 808	3 961				
1.6 Promissory notes, bills bills, R/D cheques, credit cards and other acknowledgements of debt	43 862	3 808	3 496	3 822	39 980	3 512	3 176	3 542				
1.7 Other	69 075	6 330	5 765	6 392	60 201	5 840	5 282	5 469				
	R1 000											
1. Judgements												
1.1 Total	2 987 064	266 250	252 481	226 620	2 400 613	223 655	216 906	179 099				
1.2 Goods sold												
1.2.1 Open account	308 567	29 965	26 686	20 983	216 798	20 481	17 947	15 742				
1.2.2 Instalment sale transactions	128 521	8 468	8 842	7 883	115 351	7 786	8 373	6 883				
1.3 Services												
1.3.1 Professional	98 148	8 182	8 025	10 805	86 654	7 470	7 259	6 370				
1.3.2 Other	222 129	18 153	14 457	11 128	181 312	13 709	11 501	8 787				
1.4 Rent	129 448	12 523	10 806	11 316	96 750	9 134	6 566	8 433				
1.5 Money lent	1 017 941	112 154	108 776	77 779	950 442	105 072	101 991	75 012				
1.6 Promissory notes, bills bills, R/D cheques, credit cards and other acknowledgements of debt	343 252	25 902	25 523	27 183	301 289	23 234	22 139	25 036				
1.7 Other	739 058	50 903	49 366	59 543	452 017	36 769	41 130	32 836				