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## **STATISTICAL RELEASE**

### **P0041**

# Statistics of civil cases for debt (Preliminary)

January 2023

This release provides an analysis of revisions. If you have any questions or comments, please send these to Joyce Essel-Mensah, [JoyceE@statssa.gov.za](mailto:JoyceE@statssa.gov.za)

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**Contents**

**Key results for January 2023** ..... **2**

    Table A – Key figures for the month of January 2023 ..... 2

    Figure 1 – Civil summonses issued for debt ..... 3

    Figure 2 – Civil judgements recorded for debt ..... 3

**Detailed results: Tables** ..... **4**

    Table 1 – Number of civil cases recorded and summonses issued for debt: Total and private persons ..... 4

    Table 2 – Number of civil default and consent judgements for debt: Total and private persons ..... 5

    Table 3 – Value of civil default and consent judgements for debt: Total and private persons (R'000) ..... 5

    Table 4 – Percentage change in the total number of civil summonses and judgements and the value of judgements recorded between the three months ended January 2022 and the three months ended January 2023 ..... 6

    Table 5 – Contribution of the different kinds of debt to the change in total number of civil summonses and judgements and the value of judgements recorded between the three months ended January 2022 and the three months ended January 2023 ..... 6

    Table 6 – Percentage change in the total number of civil summonses and judgements and the value of judgements recorded between the current month and the corresponding month of the previous year... 6

    Table 7 – Number of civil summonses issued for debt by province ..... 7

    Table 8 – Number of civil default and consent judgements for debt by province ..... 7

    Table 9 – Value of civil default and consent judgements for debt by province (R'000)..... 7

**Analysis of revisions**..... **8**

    Figure 3 – Civil judgements recorded for debt year-on-year growth rates: preliminary and revised..... 8

    Table 10 – Civil judgements recorded for debt year-on-year growth rates: preliminary and revised..... 9

    Figure 4 – Civil judgements recorded for debt year-on-year growth rates: histogram of revisions ..... 10

**Explanatory notes** ..... **11**

**Glossary**..... **12**

**General information** ..... **13**

**Technical enquiries**..... **13**

## Key results for January 2023

**Table A – Key figures for the month of January 2023**

Actual estimates	January 2023	% change between January 2022 and January 2023	% change between November 2021 – January 2022 and November 2022 – January 2023
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	34 760	3,9	10,8
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	9 879	-1,6	-4,8
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	227,9	-5,0	-5,6

### The number of civil summonses issued for debt

The total number of civil summonses issued for debt increased by 10,8% in the three months ended January 2023 compared with the three months ended January 2022.

The largest contributors to the 10,8% increase in civil summonses issued were:

- 'other' debts (contributing 7,5 percentage points); and
- services (contributing 4,2 percentage points) – see Table 5.

### The number of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 4,8% in the three months ended January 2023 compared with the three months ended January 2022.

The largest contributors to the 4,8% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- goods sold (contributing -5,0 percentage points); and
- rent (contributing -1,1 percentage points) – see Table 5.

### The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 5,6% in the three months ended January 2023 compared with the three months ended January 2022.

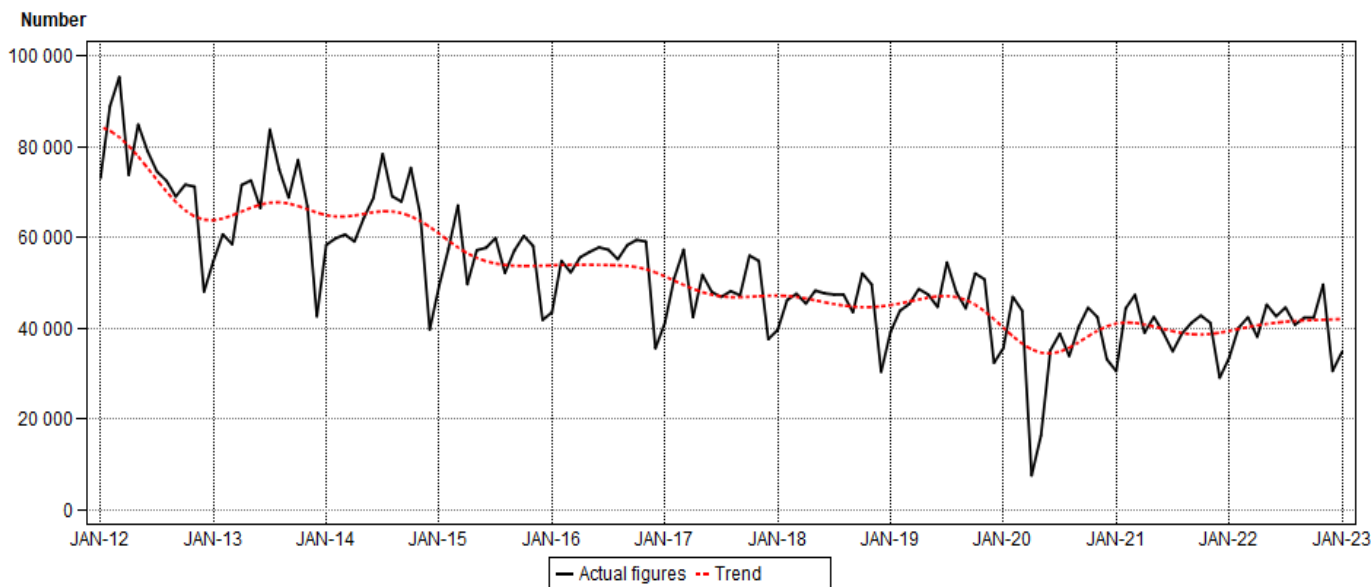
The largest contributors to the 5,6% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- goods sold (contributing -5,4 percentage points); and
- money lent (contributing -1,1 percentage points) – see Table 5.

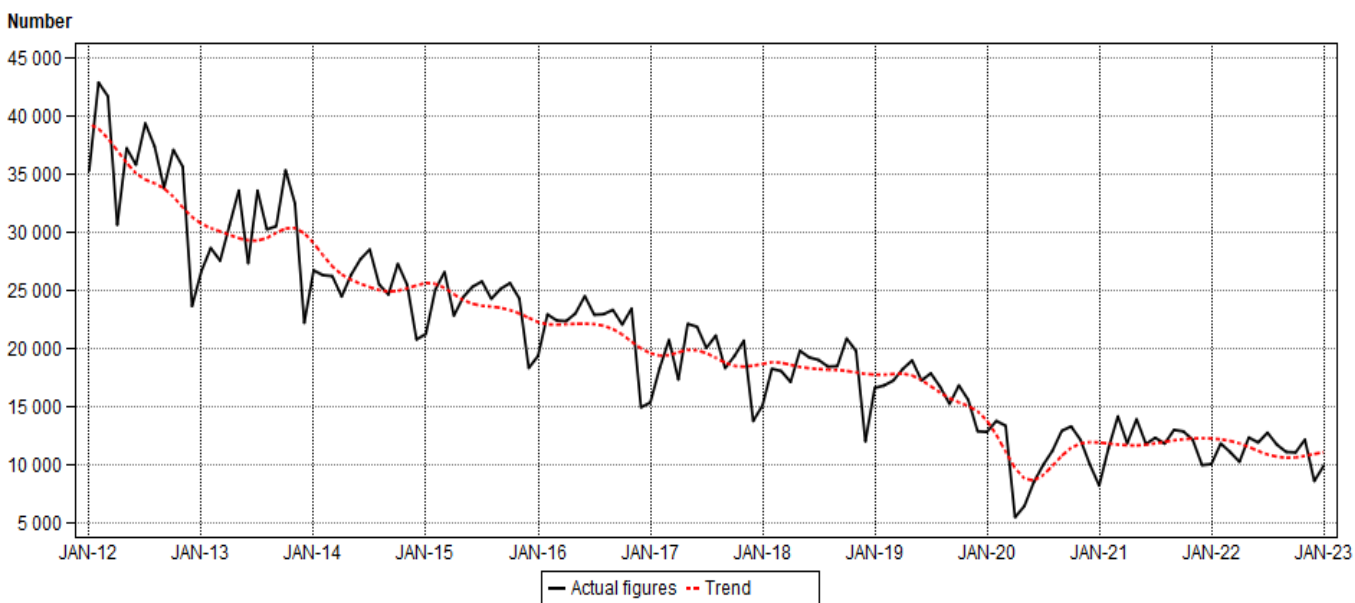
In January 2023, 9 879 civil judgements for debt amounting to R277,9 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

- money lent (R69,9 million or 30,7%);
- services (R49,7 million or 21,8%); and
- 'other' debts (R42,4 million or 18,6%) – see Tables 2 and 3.

**Figure 1 – Civil summonses issued for debt**



**Figure 2 – Civil judgements recorded for debt**



**Risenga Maluleke**  
**Statistician-General**

**Detailed results: Tables****Table 1 – Number of civil cases recorded and summonses issued for debt: Total and private persons**

Item		Total				Private Persons			
		2022	Jan-22	1/ Dec-22	1/ Jan-23	2022	Jan-22	1/ Dec-22	1/ Jan-23
<b>Cases recorded</b>	<b>Actual figures</b>	<b>514 313</b>	<b>34 107</b>	<b>32 194</b>	<b>36 583</b>	<b>440 408</b>	<b>28 759</b>	<b>27 897</b>	<b>31 114</b>
	<b>Seasonally adjusted</b>		45 080	44 617	44 081		38 383	39 025	37 833
<b>Civil summonses for debt</b>	Goods sold - Open account	23 283	1 823	1 073	1 203	14 644	1 232	687	694
	Goods sold - Instalment sale transactions	14 865	1 228	1 295	1 620	11 953	1 017	1 137	1 462
	Services - Professional	56 909	3 888	3 122	4 235	46 261	3 285	2 530	3 471
	Services - Other	73 223	5 079	3 938	4 641	62 347	4 038	3 462	3 938
	Rent	25 277	2 197	1 950	1 870	18 116	1 665	1 401	1 292
	Money lent	121 157	8 210	8 254	8 950	113 760	7 504	7 816	8 437
	Promissory notes, bills, R/D cheques, credit cards and other acknowledgements of debt	45 232	3 479	2 737	2 759	41 612	2 898	2 592	2 578
	Other debts	132 399	7 556	8 230	9 482	119 167	6 570	7 480	8 501
	<b>Total - Actual figures</b>	<b>492 345</b>	<b>33 460</b>	<b>30 599</b>	<b>34 760</b>	<b>427 860</b>	<b>28 209</b>	<b>27 105</b>	<b>30 373</b>
	<b>Total - Seasonally adjusted</b>		44 274	42 489	42 502		38 039	37 414	37 219

1/ Preliminary.

**Table 2 – Number of civil default and consent judgements for debt: Total and private persons**

Item		Total				Private Persons			
		2022	Jan-22	1/ Dec-22	1/ Jan-23	2022	Jan-22	1/ Dec-22	1/ Jan-23
<b>Number of civil judgements</b>	Goods sold - Open account	7 147	672	443	494	4 555	474	232	213
	Goods sold - Instalment sale transactions	5 230	378	165	202	4 167	272	115	158
	Services - Professional	21 161	1 476	1 432	1 809	17 970	1 212	1 163	1 521
	Services - Other	24 638	1 757	1 658	1 807	21 605	1 500	1 472	1 479
	Rent	10 712	738	691	734	7 990	547	456	490
	Money lent	32 148	2 422	2 140	2 329	28 679	2 161	1 957	2 148
	Promissory notes, bills, R/D cheques, credit cards and other acknowledgements of debt	11 637	884	610	672	10 470	751	529	637
	Other debts	22 012	1 711	1 432	1 832	19 212	1 495	1 165	1 646
	<b>Total - Actual figures</b>	<b>134 685</b>	<b>10 038</b>	<b>8 571</b>	<b>9 879</b>	<b>114 648</b>	<b>8 412</b>	<b>7 089</b>	<b>8 292</b>
	<b>Total - Seasonally adjusted</b>		13 150	11 462	10 896		11 045	9 551	9 207

1/ Preliminary.

**Table 3 – Value of civil default and consent judgements for debt: Total and private persons (R'000)**

Item		Total				Private Persons			
		2022	Jan-22	1/ Dec-22	1/ Jan-23	2022	Jan-22	1/ Dec-22	1/ Jan-23
<b>Value of civil judgements</b>	Goods sold - Open account	163 474	13 178	9 837	11 572	70 273	6 216	3 007	3 912
	Goods sold - Instalment sale transactions	153 418	11 456	5 234	4 449	121 713	7 588	3 223	3 229
	Services - Professional	223 539	11 989	13 528	18 250	163 199	9 406	8 711	10 848
	Services - Other	447 767	32 482	25 384	31 422	379 058	26 046	21 621	25 551
	Rent	355 745	20 313	21 119	22 124	261 772	13 231	17 303	15 416
	Money lent	1 034 851	81 517	76 158	69 948	967 961	76 793	71 624	67 441
	Promissory notes, bills, R/D cheques, credit cards and other acknowledgements of debt	416 381	27 096	20 668	27 755	370 656	25 248	18 469	26 364
	Other debts	627 541	41 781	41 590	42 362	513 075	35 335	29 732	35 864
	<b>Total - Actual figures</b>	<b>3 422 716</b>	<b>239 812</b>	<b>213 518</b>	<b>227 882</b>	<b>2 847 707</b>	<b>199 863</b>	<b>173 690</b>	<b>188 625</b>
	<b>Total - Seasonally adjusted</b>		298 130	262 092	280 905		247 575	211 051	233 834

1/ Preliminary.

**Table 4 – Percentage change in the total number of civil summonses and judgements and the value of judgements recorded between the three months ended January 2022 and the three months ended January 2023**

Actual estimates	Actual estimates Nov 2021 – Jan 2022	Actual estimates Nov 2022 – Jan 2023	% change between Nov 2021 – Jan 2022 and Nov 2022 – Jan 2023	Difference between Nov 2021 – Jan 2022 and Nov 2022 – Jan 2023
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	103 773	115 003	10,8	11 230
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	32 130	30 593	-4,8	-1 537
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	822,0	775,6	-5,6	-46,4

**Table 5 – Contribution of the different kinds of debt to the change in total number of civil summonses and judgements and the value of judgements recorded between the three months ended January 2022 and the three months ended January 2023 1/**

Item	Contribution (% points) to the % change in the total		
	Civil summonses for debt	Number of civil judgements	Value of civil judgements
Goods sold - Open account	-1,3	-3,0	-2,0
Goods sold - Instalment sale transactions	0,8	-2,0	-3,4
Services - Professional	2,2	1,7	1,6
Services - Other	2,0	-1,0	-1,5
Rent	-0,1	-1,1	-0,9
Money lent	1,8	-0,8	-1,1
Promissory notes, bills, R/D cheques, credit cards and other acknowledgements of debt	-2,0	1,2	2,0
Other debts	7,5	0,2	-0,5
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,8</b>	<b>-4,8</b>	<b>-5,6</b>

1/ The contribution (percentage points) is calculated by multiplying the three-monthly percentage change of each kind of debt by the percentage contribution to the total during November 2021 to January 2022, divided by 100. Due to rounding off, contributions might not add up to the total.

**Table 6 – Percentage change in the total number of civil summonses and judgements and the value of judgements recorded between the current month and the corresponding month of the previous year**

Actual estimates	Actual estimates January 2022	Actual estimates January 2023	% change between January 2022 and January 2023	Difference between January 2022 and January 2023
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	33 460	34 760	3,9	1 300
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	10 038	9 879	-1,6	-159
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	239,8	227,9	-5,0	-11,9

**Table 7 – Number of civil summonses issued for debt by province**

Period 1/	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	South Africa	
2022	Jan	6 524	2 508	460	2 604	4 803	1 539	11 160	2 178	1 684	<b>33 460</b>
	Feb	8 115	2 993	466	3 399	6 799	1 888	12 214	2 545	1 682	<b>40 101</b>
	Mar	8 213	3 083	517	2 919	7 633	2 342	13 658	2 301	1 766	<b>42 432</b>
	Apr	7 778	3 309	505	2 681	5 755	1 695	12 341	2 391	1 646	<b>38 101</b>
	May	8 361	3 659	472	3 308	8 286	2 126	13 324	3 621	2 086	<b>45 243</b>
	Jun	7 922	3 399	620	3 114	7 355	2 077	13 279	3 093	1 792	<b>42 651</b>
	Jul	7 727	3 343	421	2 662	9 140	1 955	14 969	2 647	1 741	<b>44 605</b>
	Aug	7 033	3 323	325	2 782	8 122	2 259	12 815	2 507	1 627	<b>40 793</b>
	Sep	7 941	2 737	538	2 231	8 318	1 715	14 601	2 658	1 625	<b>42 364</b>
	Oct	8 109	2 905	627	2 303	8 275	2 178	13 851	2 544	1 560	<b>42 352</b>
	Nov	10 318	3 390	463	2 483	10 934	1 900	14 812	3 591	1 753	<b>49 644</b>
Dec	7 259	2 627	426	1 450	5 856	994	8 300	2 244	1 443	<b>30 599</b>	
2023	Jan	5 929	2 289	226	2 239	7 652	2 000	10 458	2 414	1 553	<b>34 760</b>

1/ Latest three months are preliminary.

**Table 8 – Number of civil default and consent judgements for debt by province**

Period 1/	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	South Africa	
2022	Jan	1 676	1 288	129	1 726	1 687	340	1 550	557	1 085	<b>10 038</b>
	Feb	2 868	1 257	175	1 851	1 348	597	1 814	678	1 221	<b>11 809</b>
	Mar	2 005	766	246	2 036	1 302	637	1 965	916	1 205	<b>11 078</b>
	Apr	2 126	760	100	2 157	1 179	352	1 774	672	1 115	<b>10 235</b>
	May	2 632	1 033	186	2 271	1 400	600	1 840	1 008	1 357	<b>12 327</b>
	Jun	2 583	1 273	284	2 077	1 287	620	1 992	564	1 221	<b>11 901</b>
	Jul	3 034	1 046	145	1 948	1 256	695	2 560	782	1 276	<b>12 742</b>
	Aug	2 508	1 074	123	1 379	1 446	771	2 244	898	1 271	<b>11 714</b>
	Sep	2 792	817	120	1 099	1 104	561	2 414	1 007	1 170	<b>11 084</b>
	Oct	2 925	987	210	1 100	1 237	525	2 215	754	1 090	<b>11 043</b>
	Nov	2 509	1 088	311	1 607	1 362	398	2 529	1 091	1 248	<b>12 143</b>
Dec	1 574	887	62	811	1 045	325	1 835	1 005	1 027	<b>8 571</b>	
2023	Jan	1 739	1 044	139	849	1 057	384	2 130	1 521	1 016	<b>9 879</b>

1/ Latest three months are preliminary.

**Table 9 – Value of civil default and consent judgements for debt by province (R'000)**

Period 1/	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	South Africa	
2022	Jan	48 137	20 494	3 439	28 982	45 395	5 377	70 829	11 212	5 947	<b>239 812</b>
	Feb	86 699	26 031	3 286	26 090	65 365	8 740	65 794	14 494	10 383	<b>306 882</b>
	Mar	51 204	16 296	3 691	26 573	49 998	9 640	69 635	19 668	10 786	<b>257 491</b>
	Apr	59 314	15 686	1 636	27 155	46 933	5 011	66 041	11 872	5 996	<b>239 644</b>
	May	98 217	21 145	2 973	29 239	50 136	8 996	71 388	20 450	12 834	<b>315 378</b>
	Jun	72 828	27 652	3 195	27 052	50 610	9 920	73 827	12 184	9 786	<b>287 054</b>
	Jul	97 064	15 767	2 429	27 202	41 498	9 574	91 632	13 852	11 697	<b>310 715</b>
	Aug	80 404	25 292	2 161	25 576	48 822	16 780	83 850	16 494	11 243	<b>310 622</b>
	Sep	91 455	22 358	1 997	18 654	43 461	9 992	74 974	18 322	9 612	<b>290 825</b>
	Oct	89 021	22 811	2 929	21 239	49 796	11 352	93 229	19 080	7 151	<b>316 608</b>
	Nov	73 682	24 375	7 457	30 096	47 946	7 580	105 194	24 549	13 288	<b>334 167</b>
Dec	57 645	19 558	1 109	12 588	37 465	5 755	62 864	11 058	5 476	<b>213 518</b>	
2023	Jan	48 201	23 145	2 715	17 834	41 082	6 105	59 324	24 540	4 936	<b>227 882</b>

1/ Latest three months are preliminary.



## Analysis of revisions

### Introduction

Preliminary monthly numbers of civil judgements recorded for debt are published approximately seven weeks after the reference month, e.g. preliminary numbers of civil judgements recorded for debt for June are published around mid-August. The preliminary values are revised over the following three months, using additional information received from respondents.

Note that seasonally adjusted values are revised monthly.

### Analysis

Revisions may be analysed in terms of several dimensions, namely numbers and/or rand values and/or growth rates (e.g. month-on-month percentage changes, year-on-year percentage changes); seasonally adjusted and/or unadjusted data; totals and/or components; preliminary estimate compared with first revision and/or latest available revision; and various combinations of these options.

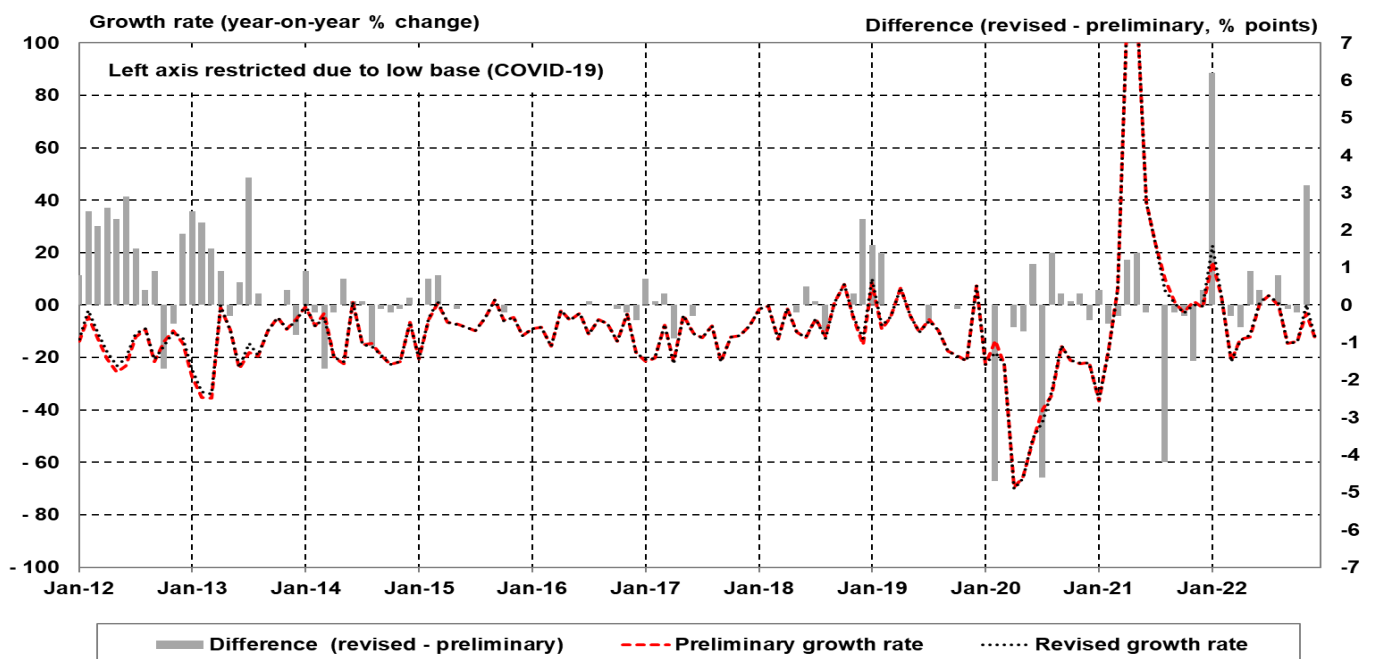
This analysis is confined to the following:

- Total number of civil judgements recorded for debt, year-on-year growth rate, unadjusted.
- Preliminary growth rates are compared with the latest available revised growth rates, where the preliminary growth rate refers to the first year-on-year growth rate published for the month in question.
- Time period: January 2012 to December 2022.

Figure 3 shows the preliminary and revised growth rates (line chart, left vertical axis) and the difference between them (bar chart, right vertical axis, where difference = revised - preliminary).

Table 10 provides key results relating to revisions.

**Figure 3 – Civil judgements recorded for debt year-on-year growth rates: preliminary and revised**



**Table 10 – Civil judgements recorded for debt year-on-year growth rates: preliminary and revised**

Description	Value / outcome	Comment
Average year-on-year growth rate over the whole period	Preliminary: -9,39% Revised: -9,17%	The average of revised growth rates is slightly higher than the average of preliminary growth rates
Mean revision	0,22 of a percentage point	This is the average of the revisions
Mean absolute revision	0,67 of a percentage point	Average of the revisions, but based on the absolute value of each revision (positives and negatives do not cancel each other)
Largest upward revision	6,2 percentage points	Preliminary 16,5% was revised up to 22,7% (January 2022)
Largest downward revision	-4,7 percentage points	Preliminary -13,5% was revised down to -18,2% (February 2020)
Range for all revisions	-4,7 to 6,2 percentage points	
Range within which 90% of the revisions lie	-1,2 to 2,5 percentage points	This may be regarded as the normal range for revisions, with revisions outside this range being outliers
Number of upward revisions	49 (or 37,1% of the total observations)	
Number of downward revisions	38 (or 28,8% of the total observations)	
Number of zero revisions	45 (or 34,1% of the total observations)	
Is the mean revision (0,22) significantly different from zero?	No	This indicates that there is no bias in the preliminary estimate – see Note 1
Standard deviation of the revisions	1,25 percentage points	Standard deviation is a measure of dispersion about the mean – see the row below
Percentage of revisions that lie within one standard deviation of the mean	84,1%	This is the percentage of revisions that lie between -1,03 and 1,47 percentage points; the higher the percentage, the lower is the dispersion about the mean – see Figure 4

**Note 1:** Is the mean revision significantly different from zero?

The formula for the test statistic is as follows:

$$\text{test statistic} = \frac{\bar{R}}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{n(n-1)}\right) \left(\sum_{t=1}^n \hat{\epsilon}_t^2 + \frac{3}{4} \sum_{t=2}^n \hat{\epsilon}_t \hat{\epsilon}_{t-1} + \frac{2}{3} \sum_{t=3}^n \hat{\epsilon}_t \hat{\epsilon}_{t-2}\right)}}$$

where

$n$  = number of observations

$\bar{R}$  = mean revision

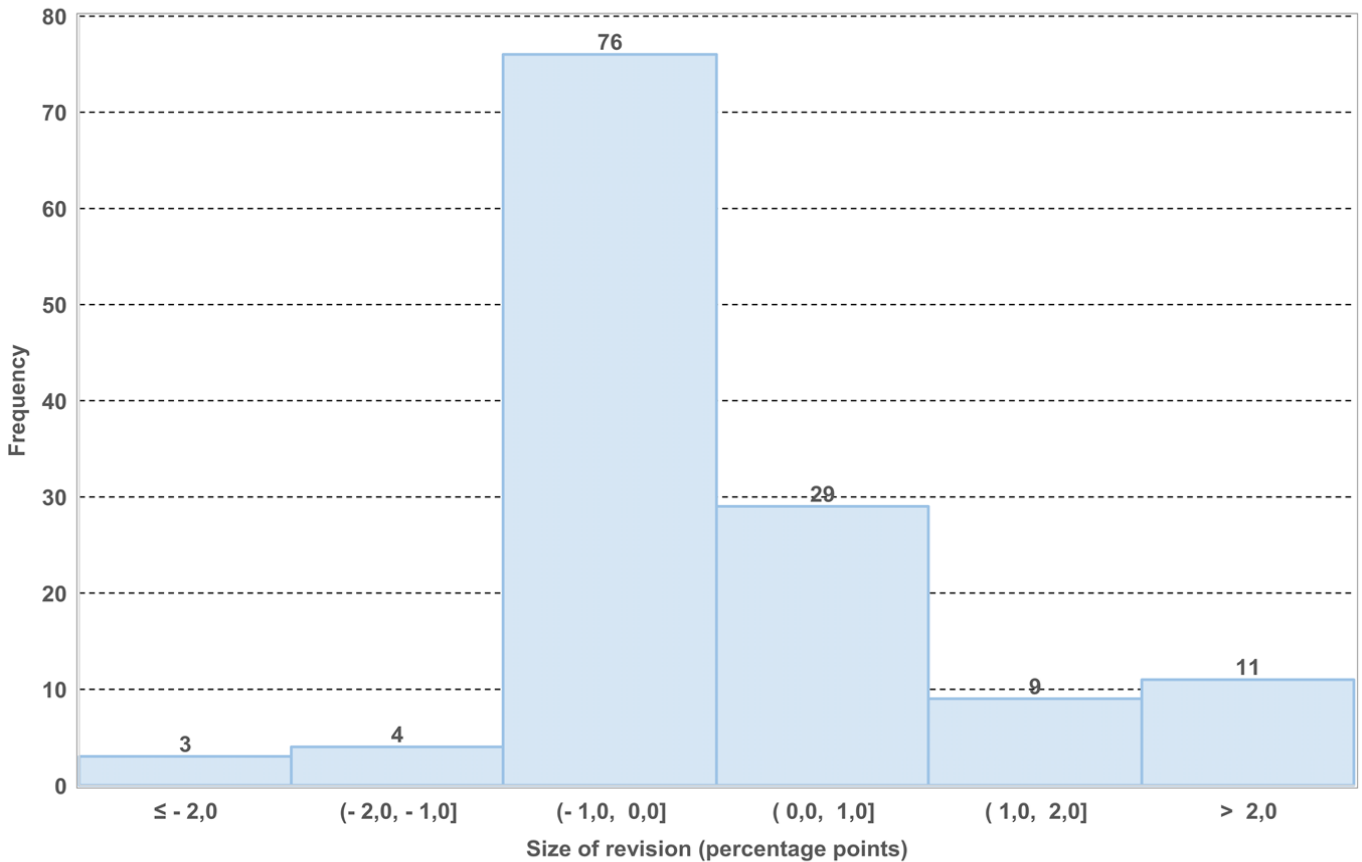
$\hat{\epsilon}_t = R_t - \bar{R}$ , with  $R_t$  = revision in period  $t$

Note that if the test statistic shows that the mean revision (MR) is significantly different from zero, then there is bias in the preliminary estimates. Bias in a series suggests there is scope to enhance the compilation of that series in an attempt to remove or minimise the bias.  $MR > 0$  (statistically significant) implies under-estimation of the preliminary estimates.  $MR < 0$  (statistically significant) implies over-estimation of the preliminary estimates.

In this case the test statistic is 1,81, which lies below the critical value of 1,98, indicating that the MR is not significantly different from zero at a 5% significance level. Accordingly, no bias is detected in the preliminary estimates.

Figure 4 shows the revisions in terms of a histogram. There were 76 revisions between -1,0 and 0,0 ( $-1,0 < \text{revision} \leq 0,0$ ) and 29 revisions between 0,0 and 1,0 ( $0,0 < \text{revision} \leq 1,0$ ). 79,5% of revisions lay between -1,0 and 1,0 percentage point.

**Figure 4 – Civil judgements recorded for debt year-on-year growth rates: histogram of revisions**



## Explanatory notes

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>	<p>Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly sample survey of civil cases recorded and civil summonses for debt issued in South Africa. This information is obtained from selected magistrates' offices.</p> <p>2 Except for cases recorded, all other information relates to debt cases only, therefore claims for damages, ejectment orders and other non-debt cases are excluded.</p>
<b>Purpose of the survey</b>	<b>3</b>	<p>The survey of civil cases for debt covers a sample of magistrates' offices in South Africa. This survey collects information regarding civil cases recorded, civil summonses issued and civil judgements recorded in order to provide users with information on the extent of unpaid debt in South Africa. The results of the survey are used by the private and public sectors as an indicator of economic performance.</p>
<b>Scope of the survey</b>	<b>4</b>	<p>This survey covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• number of civil cases recorded;</li> <li>• number of civil summonses issued for debt;</li> <li>• number of civil judgements recorded for debt; and</li> <li>• value of civil judgements recorded for debt.</li> </ul>
<b>Statistical unit</b>	<b>5</b>	<p>The statistical unit for collection of information is a magistrate's office. Magistrates' offices include the small claims courts.</p> <p>The largest magistrates' offices in South Africa are included in the monthly survey of civil cases for debt. The monthly survey of 203 magistrates' courts represents approximately 98% of all cases in South Africa.</p>
<b>Survey methodology and design</b>	<b>6</b>	<p>The survey is conducted by email, fax and telephone each month from 203 magistrates' offices.</p>
<b>Collection rate</b>	<b>7</b>	<p>The preliminary collection rate for the civil cases for debt survey for January 2023 was 75,4%. The improved collection rate for December 2022 was 79,3%.</p>
<b>Seasonal adjustment</b>	<b>8</b>	<p>Seasonally adjusted estimates of all categories are generated each month, using the X-12 Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the United States Census Bureau. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences, which may be present in any particular month. Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variations. Therefore, the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour. The X-12-ARIMA procedure for civil cases for debt is described in more detail on the Stats SA website:  <a href="#">Click to download seasonal adjustment for civil cases for debt February 2022.</a></p>
<b>Trend cycle</b>	<b>9</b>	<p>The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimate the underlying trend cycle.</p>
<b>Unpublished statistics</b>	<b>10</b>	<p>In some cases Stats SA can also make available statistics which are not published.</p>
<b>Symbols and abbreviations</b>	<b>11</b>	<p>R/D Refer to drawer  Stats SA Statistics South Africa  * Revised figures</p>

## Glossary

<b>Acknowledgement of debt</b>	Acknowledgement of debt is a statement by a person/debtor in which he admits that he owes money to an individual or a company or a bank.
<b>Bills</b>	Bills are statements of charges for services rendered or for amounts owed.
<b>Cases recorded</b>	Includes civil debt and non-debt cases recorded.
<b>Civil judgements</b>	Civil judgements are decisions taken in a civil matter or a dispute between two people or parties.
<b>Civil summonses</b>	Civil summonses are notices to appear before the court of law where a dispute between two parties or people has to be heard, i.e. not for a criminal offence.
<b>Consent judgements</b>	Consent judgements refer to where a debtor agrees to subject himself/herself to obey or accept a judgement of a court against him for debt he owes without defending the action.
<b>Default judgements</b>	Default judgements refer to where the court gives a judgement or a ruling against the defendant who is not present in court and was previously given a notice that was ignored, i.e. a judgement was given against a party or an individual while not present in court.
<b>Instalment sale transaction</b>	Instalment sale transaction relates to where a person buys goods on credit and pays for them in instalments, e.g. every week or month, until he/she settles the debt.
<b>Litigants</b>	Litigants are people who take part in court proceedings, usually against each other, like a debtor and a creditor.
<b>Litigants referred</b>	Litigants referred relates to a case where the parties have been referred to another instance/court.
<b>Open account transaction</b>	Open account transactions are revolving credit, i.e. where an account does not have a final payment date and a person can always take more goods and keep paying as long as he has credit.
<b>Other services</b>	Other services refers to municipal services (except outstanding assessment rates), plumbers, builders, mechanics, panel beaters and electricians.
<b>Other debts</b>	Other debts refers to all other kinds of outstanding debt such as salaries and wages, medical fund debt, sponsored debt, class and tuition debt, tax, assessment rates and property levies.
<b>Plaintiff</b>	Plaintiff is a person/party in a civil case who asks the court for judgement against another person.
<b>Professional services</b>	Professional services refer to medical doctors, dentists, advocates, attorneys, auditors, accountants, architects, engineers, hospital services, etc.
<b>Promissory note</b>	Promissory note is a written undertaking, signed by a person or party, to pay money to another person or to the bearer of such a note on a specific date or on demand.
<b>Reference month</b>	Reference month refers to one calendar month.
<b>Refer to drawer (R/D) cheques</b>	R/D cheques refer to dishonoured cheques. The drawer is the owner of the cheque. When a person issues a cheque and there is no money in the cheque account, the bank will refuse to pay the bearer. The cheque will be referred back to the drawer.

## General information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

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