Statistics South Africa

Statistical release
P6343.2

Dipalopalo tsa Aforika Borwa • Statistieke Suid-Afrika • Tistatistiki ta Afrika-Dzonga • Ukuqokelelwa kwamanani eNingizimu Afrika

Motor trade sales
January 2005

Embargoed until: 14 April 2005, 11:30

In this publication Stats SA releases the results from the January 2005 survey for motor trade sales. These results are based on a new sample selected in July 2004 from Statistics South Africa's further enhanced business register. The publication also includes results for the months September to December 2004 from this sample as well as from the previous sample, which had been in operation since January 2003 and was based on Stats SA's then newly introduced business register.

The earlier sample, selected in late 2002, was drawn from a sampling frame consisting of businesses with an annual turnover of at least R300 000 and required to register with the South African Revenue Service (SARS) for value added tax (VAT) purposes. The new sample was drawn from an updated sampling frame, which also included businesses too small to be required to register for VAT, or otherwise exempt from registration. These businesses, details of which were obtained from SARS, come mainly from its list of businesses registered for income tax purposes.

Comparison of the series based on the two samples for the four months overlap shows that they ran largely in parallel and their month-to-month movements were consistent. Motor trade reflected a 10% growth in sales for January 2005 compared with January 2004. Comparison of estimates from the new and old samples shows a 15% higher level of sales from the new sample. This increase in level follows the same pattern as the surveys for manufacturing and retail trade also released today. However, comparison of estimates from the new and old samples of wholesale trade shows a decrease of 11% in the level of sales from the new sample, which is fully compensated by the higher levels of sales from the new samples for the surveys of manufacturing, retail trade and motor trade. This shift can be mostly attributed to reclassification of businesses to other industries based on shifts in their predominant activity as well as corrections to their previously assigned industry codes, and in small part to introducing non-VAT paying units into the business register.

The series has been backcast to the start of 1998 to assist those users requiring a time series. The backcast figures have been adjusted using September 2004 as the end point of the backcast series, and creating revised levels for earlier months using the month on month movements from the earlier sample.

More information about the changes is given in the article, *Changes to the monthly current indicator surveys and their impact on the statistical series,* to be found in the body of this release.

Private Bag X44 • Pretoria 0001 • South Africa
tel: +27(12) 310 8911
email: info@statssa.gov.za

170 Andries Street, Pretoria 0002
fax: +27(12) 321 7381
website: www.statssa.gov.za

Stats SA

Table A - Key figures as at the end of January 2005

Actual estimates	January 2005 R million	% change between January 2004 and January 2005	% change between November 2003 to January 2004 and November 2004 to January 2005
Motor trade sales	17 302	9,5	15,8

Seasonally adjusted estimates	January 2005 R million	% change between December 2004 and January 2005	% change between August to October 2004 and November 2004 to January 2005
Motor trade sales	17 317	-7,2	1,3

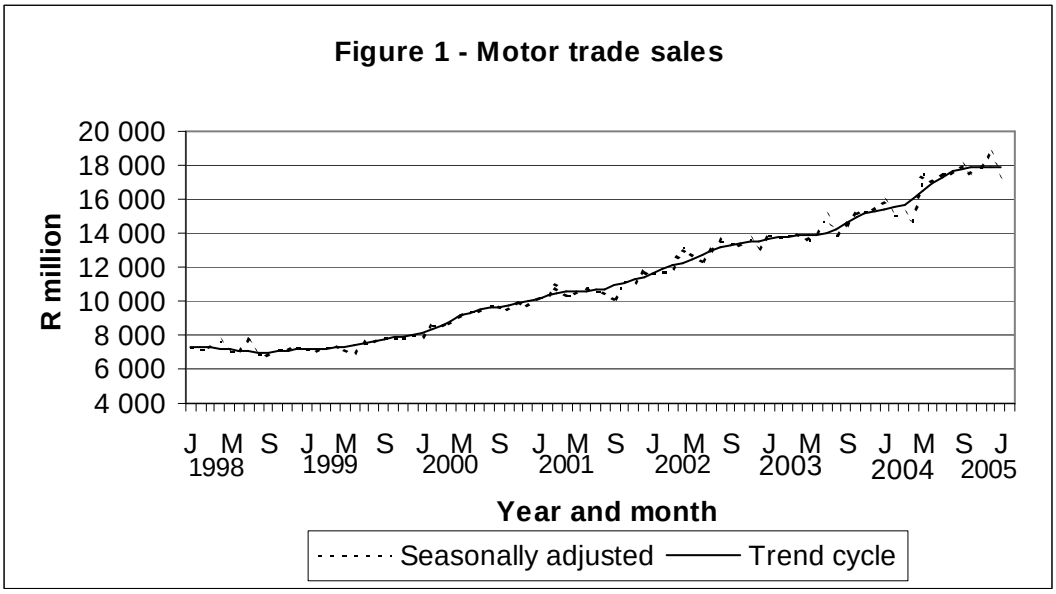
Key findings as at the end of January 2005

Motor trade sales increase

As indicated in table A, motor trade sales for the three months ended January 2005 increased by 15,8% compared with the three months ended January 2004. Furthermore, seasonally adjusted motor trade sales for the three months ended January 2005 increased by 1,3% compared with the previous three months.

Motor trade sales for January 2005 increased by 9,5% compared with motor trade sales for January 2004.

Figure 1 below shows the seasonally adjusted and trend patterns for motor trade sales between January 1998 and January 2005. There has been a steady upward movement since the beginning of 1999.



P J Lehohla
Statistician-General

Contents

Notes

Forthcoming issue	Issue	Expected release date
	February 2005	12 May 2005

Purpose of the survey

The results of the monthly motor trade sales survey are used to compile estimates of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and its components, which are used in monitoring the state of the economy and formulation of economic policy. These statistics are also used in the analysis of comparative business and industry performance.

Article: Changes to the monthly current indicator surveys and their impact on the statistical series

Today's releases

Today Statistics South Africa releases results for four monthly surveys: manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade and motor trade. The latest results for manufacturing are for February 2005. The latest results for the other three surveys are for January 2005. These results are based on new samples selected in July 2004 from Stats SA's further enhanced business register, as discussed below.

The four monthly surveys released today cover a large proportion of South Africa's market economy. They all collect monthly sales by businesses. In addition, the manufacturing survey collects the levels of opening and closing inventories, which are used, together with the level of sales for the month, to calculate a value of production for the month which is converted to index form.

The four releases also contain results for each of the months September 2004 to December 2004 based on the samples selected in July 2004. Those samples were selected from Stats SA's business register, which had been further enhanced to include businesses too small or otherwise not required to register with the South African Revenue Service (SARS) for Value Added Tax (VAT). The business register already contained businesses with an annual turnover of R300 000 or more, which are required to register for VAT, but registered for income tax purposes.

Previous results

The releases for these surveys also contain results from the previous samples for each of the months from September 2004. These samples were first introduced from January 2003, but selected in September 2002 from a sampling frame established in July 2001. That frame was based on the first stage of construction of Stats SA's new business register, which incorporated the businesses required to register for VAT. The results of those surveys were first released in May 2004, for the months January 2003 to April 2004, together with parallel series for those months based on samples drawn from Stats SA's old business address register.

Comparing the results of the old and new samples

The level of sales from the four monthly surveys taken together, for the months September to December 2004, based on the samples drawn in July 2004 (hereafter referred to as the 'new' samples) from the enhanced business register, are about 0,8% higher than it was from the samples drawn in September 2002 (hereafter referred to as the 'old' samples). The movements in sales over the four months are very similar according to the old and new samples, so that the series for each of the four surveys move largely in parallel for those months in which the surveys were conducted based on both samples.

The effect of moving from the old to the new samples is illustrated in the table below, which shows sales for each of the broad industry sectors covered by the four surveys, and for the combination of these sectors, for the period September to December 2004.

Total sales, old and new samples, by industry sector - September to December 2004

Survey	New samples R million	Old samples R million	Difference R million	Difference %
Manufacturing	281 847	274 612	7 235	2,6
Wholesale trade	180 478	203 268	-22 790	-11,2
Retail trade	132 830	121 864	10 966	9,0
Motor trade	73 608	63 787	9 821	15,4
Total	**668 763**	**663 531**	**5 232**	**0,8**

As can be seen, the level of sales over this period for the four surveys taken together has increased by 0,8% through the move from the samples selected in September 2002 to those selected in July 2004.

In order to understand why the level of sales for the four surveys combined from the new samples, was higher by only a relatively small percentage from the level for the old samples, it is important to understand the estimation methods used in those samples, which differ in certain important respects. Each method was used to produce the best available estimate of level based on the currency of the business register at the time the respective samples were selected.

Changes to methods of estimation and their effect

The samples selected for these four surveys in September 2002 were based on a frame of businesses from the business register that had been created in July 2001. At that time it was logistically not possible, given the newness of the register system and of procedures for accessing businesses from information supplied by SARS, to start with a business register which was more current. In effect, the business register at that time could not contain businesses which had started between mid-2001 and end 2002, so the frame and the samples drawn from it related to businesses in existence in mid-2001. In addition, the samples drawn from the register in September 2002 could not be refreshed for new businesses coming onto the register after the samples were drawn. Refreshing had to await the next sample reselection, which occurred in July 2004 as previously indicated.

An estimation technique called a 'net new business provision' was adopted for the samples selected in September 2002 to compensate for the fact that the business register from which the sampling frame was created and samples were selected was by then already 18 months out of date in terms of births and deaths of businesses in the South African economy. This technique assumed that, taken overall, a new business had started for each business that had ceased since the register was created. The technique involved estimating a value of sales for every sampled business that had not responded, for whatever reason. Some of these businesses did not respond, of course, because they were no longer in operation. The estimation technique involved assigning to all non-responding businesses the average contribution of responding businesses in their industry by size cell.

It has been decided to use a different estimation technique for non-response in the new samples, based on the fact that the register from which the samples were selected in July 2004 is much closer to reflecting businesses actually in operation than was the case with the register from which the samples were selected in September 2002. Moreover, it will be refreshed at much more frequent intervals.

The technique now used is two-fold.

a) No estimates are included for businesses known to have ceased, on the assumption that ceased businesses in the sample are representative of ceased businesses in the population of businesses recorded on the business register.
b) The method of estimation for businesses which did not respond but are assumed to be still in existence has been modified: rather than assigning to all of them the average contribution of responding businesses in their industry by size cell, an attempt is now made to ascertain a recent value of sales for each of these businesses as reported by them to SARS for the purpose of estimating their liability for VAT. Wherever such a value can be obtained, it is used instead of the missing value of sales for that business in the Stats SA survey. Estimation by assigning the cell average sales to non-responding businesses is only done as a last resort.

Stats SA considers that the technique it now uses is the best currently available, provided that the business register is a reasonable proxy for businesses in operation in the South African economy. Not only has the coverage of the register been improved to the point where no further enhancements to coverage are planned, but the timeliness of its updating cycle has also been improved considerably. It will now be possible to undertake an annual reselection of samples from the register.

The estimation technique used with the old samples for the monthly surveys was highly effective in allowing for the net growth in number of businesses in the South African economy from the time the business register was created in mid-2001 to the time when the samples were reselected in July 2004. Understandably, it did not build into the estimates for the four surveys combined, the lift in level coming from access to non-VAT paying businesses, which were only given a chance of selection in July 2004. It is estimated that these enterprises, numbering approximately 400 000 in the non-agricultural market economy, contribute about 3% to total sales in the economy.

Changes to estimates from the old samples

Changes put through to the monthly estimates from the old samples are of two kinds:

(a) Changes due to late or revised returns received from some businesses, mainly for the early months of 2003, which were stockpiled, in according with Stats SA's revisions policy, if received after the estimates for the following month were published. According to that policy, estimates for a reference month remained preliminary until declared final with the release of the preliminary estimates for the following month, and thereafter they were only put through to previously published estimates at the time when a new sample was introduced. The revisions policy is being reviewed with a view to keeping estimates preliminary for a longer period, allowing late or revised information received from businesses to be incorporated in estimates when it is received.
(b) Adjustments to levels to take account of two elements: (i) the increase in coverage of the register to take account of non-VAT paying businesses; and (ii) changes of all kinds (births, deaths, mergers, acquisitions, changes in activity etc) to the in-scope business population since the register was created in July 2001.

As indicated earlier, the estimation method adopted for the old samples, whereby known ceased businesses were assigned the average values of responding businesses in their industry by size cell, took account very effectively of net growth in the business population in-scope of the four surveys (ii) above. It did not (and was not expected to) foreshadow the lift in coverage of the business register due to (i) above.

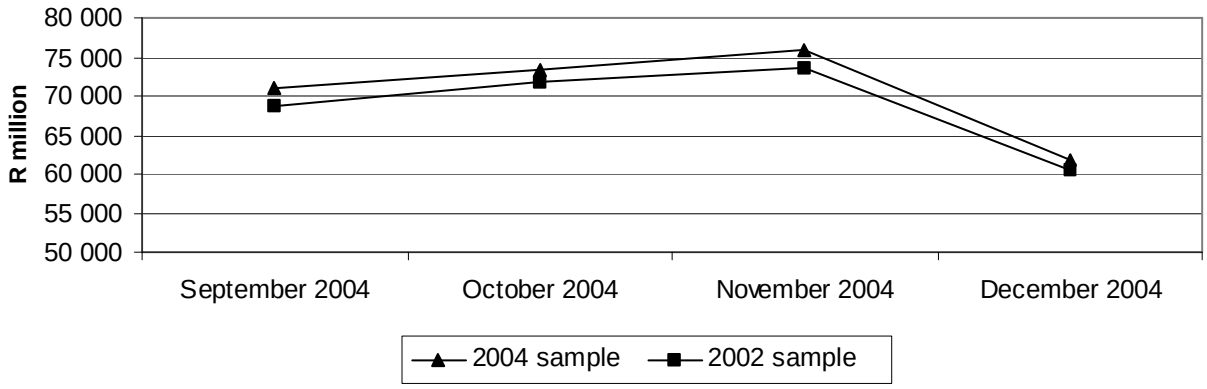
What the estimation method also could not do was reflect the changes to the recorded economic activity of businesses discerned between the time of creation of the business register and the samples from it, and the time the new samples were selected from the updated business register in July 2004. These changes, a mix of actual changes to economic activity and corrections to previously assigned industry codes based on later information about the activities of businesses, are now reflected on the business register, and as the preceding table shows, they have caused a shift in the recorded level of sales from the wholesale trade sector to the manufacturing, retail trade and motor trade sectors.

Levels and movements by sector

Manufacturing

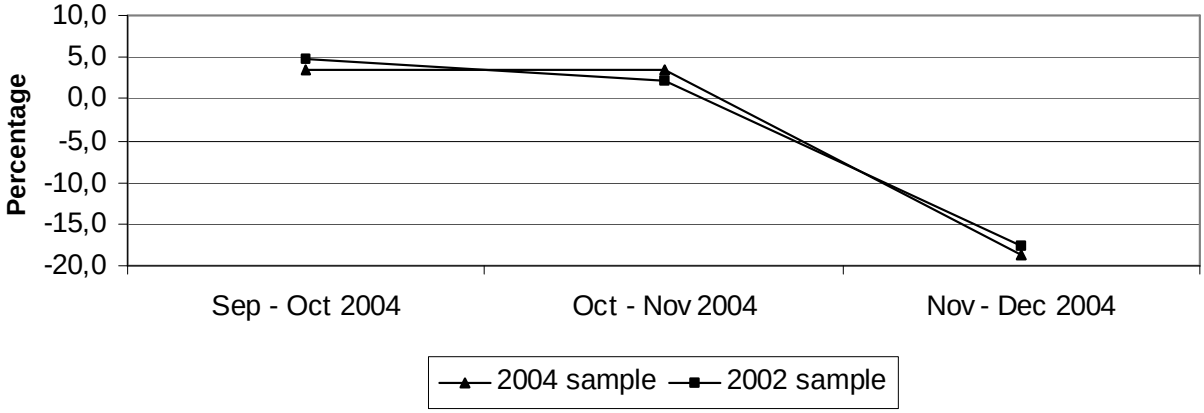
As can be seen from Figure A1, levels for manufacturing sales for the months September 2004 to December 2004 from the new sample are approximately 3% higher than those from the old sample.

Figure A1. MANUFACTURING SALES,
monthly levels, 2002 and 2004 samples,
September to December 2004



As can be seen from Figure A2, movements between months from the two samples were consistent.

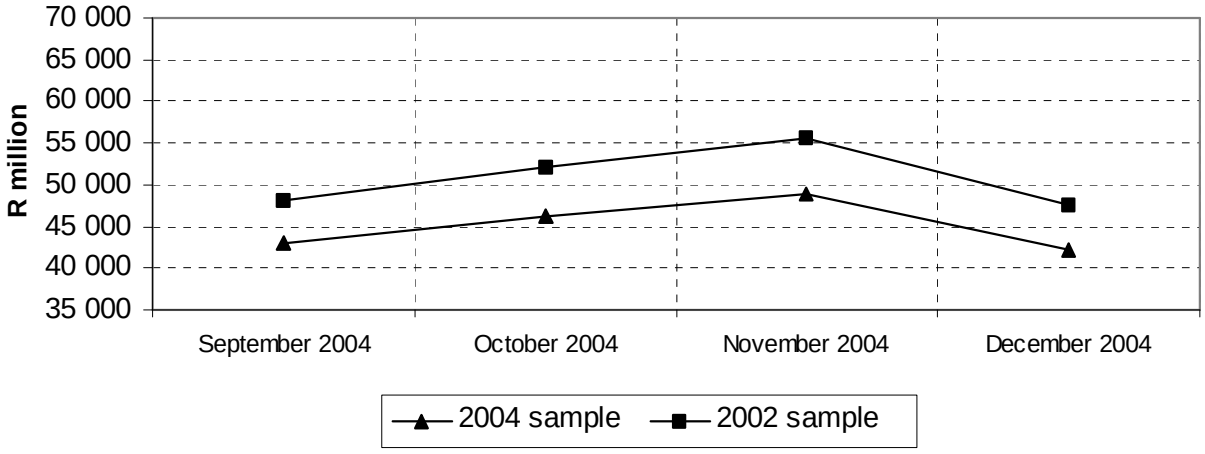
Figure A2. MANUFACTURING SALES,
month on month percentage change,
2002 and 2004 samples - September to December 2004



Wholesale trade

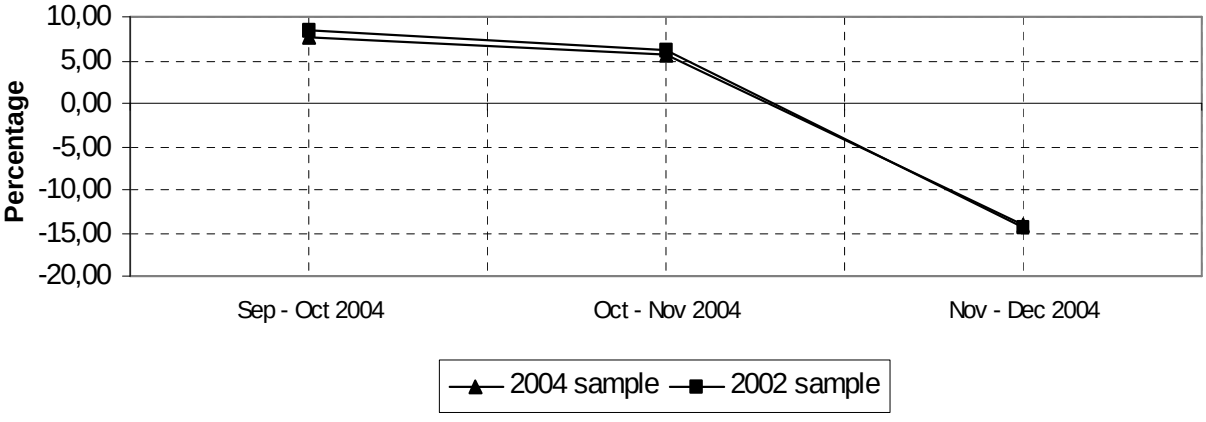
As can be seen from Figure B1, levels for wholesale trade sales for the months September 2004 to December 2004 from the new sample are approximately 11% lower than those from the old sample.

Figure B1. WHOLESALE TRADE SALES,
monthly levels, 2002 and 2004 samples,
September to December 2004



As can be seen from Figure B2, movements between months from the two samples were consistent.

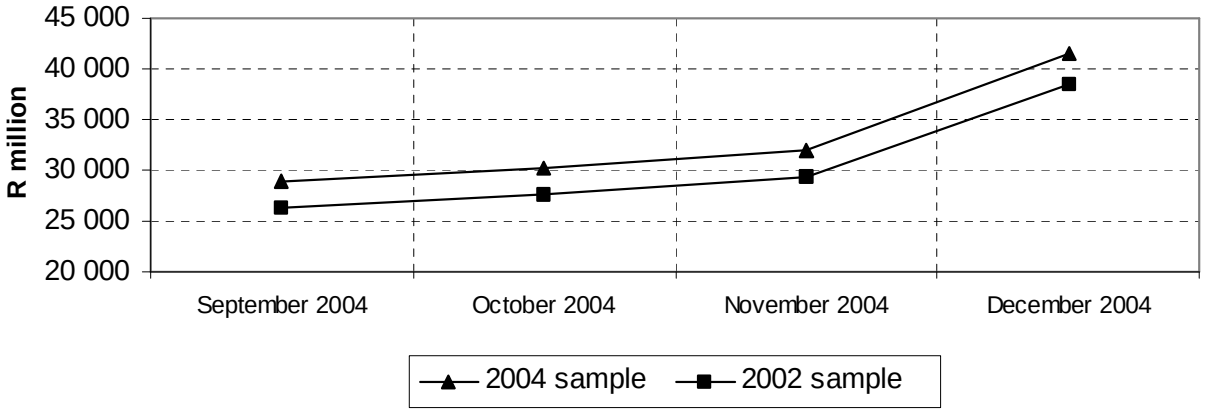
Figure B2. WHOLESALE TRADE SALES,
month on month percentage change,
2002 and 2004 samples - September to December 2004



Retail trade

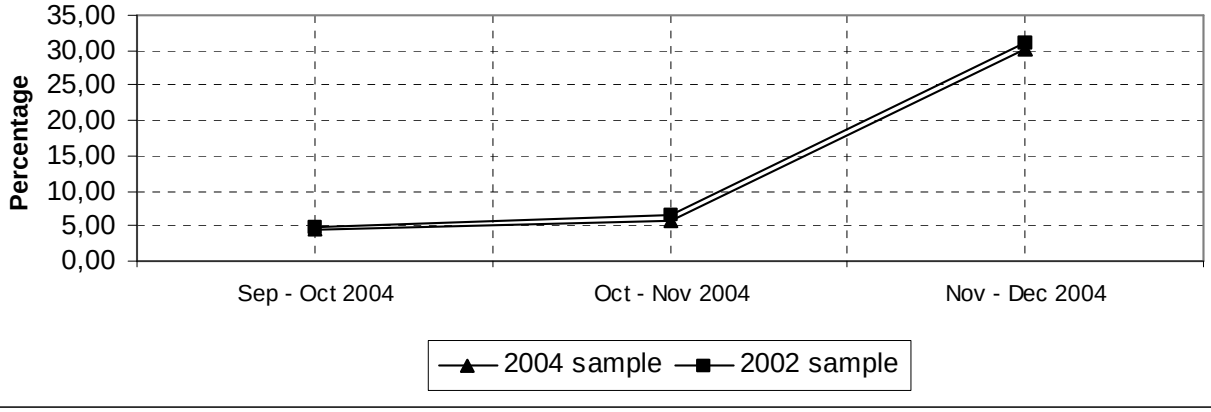
As can be seen from Figure C1, levels for retail trade sales for the months September 2004 to December 2004 from the sample selected in the new sample are approximately 9% higher than those from the old sample.

Figure C1. RETAIL TRADE SALES,
monthly levels, 2002 and 2004 samples,
September to December 2004



As can be seen from Figure C 2, movements between months from the two samples were consistent.

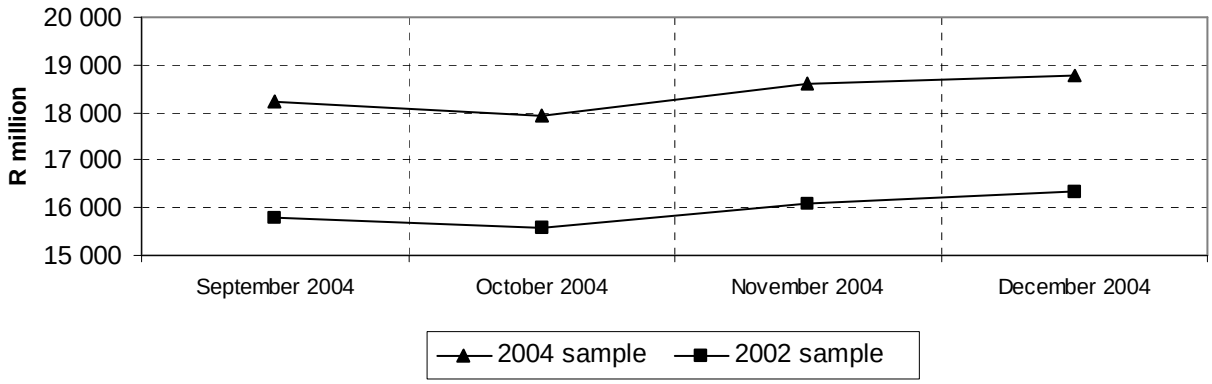
Figure C2. RETAIL TRADE SALES,
month on month percentage change,
2002 and 2004 samples - September to December 2004



Motor trade

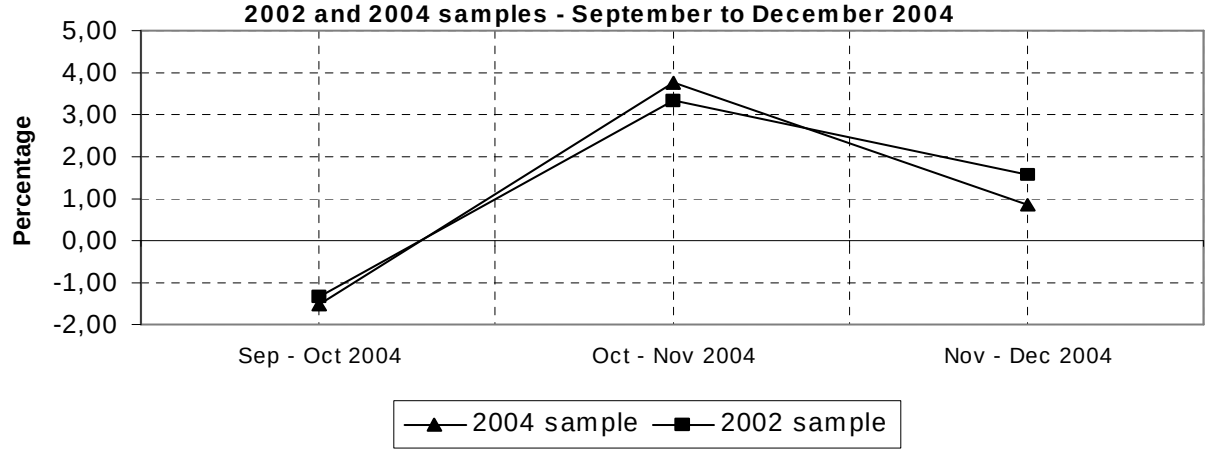
As can be seen from Figure D1, levels for motor trade sales for the months September 2004 to December 2004 from the new sample are approximately 15% higher than those from the old sample.

Figure D1. MOTOR TRADE SALES,
monthly levels, 2002 and 2004 samples,
September to December 2004



As can be seen from Figure D2, movements between months from the two samples were consistent.

Figure D2.MOTOR TRADE SALES,
month on month percentage change,
2002 and 2004 samples - September to December 2004



Backcasting

Under ideal conditions growth in series should reflect the actual birth of new businesses, as well as the performance of existing businesses. Information about the birth of businesses was not available from SARS on a monthly basis from July 2001 when the business register was created to July 2004. As a result, it was decided that it would be more beneficial to users to adjust the levels of the series rather than attempt to adjust their month to month movements. As indicated above, while the estimation method adopted to account for non-response in the old samples largely took account of births of businesses since the register was created as well as the increase in coverage of the register to take account of non-VAT paying businesses, there is still a small lift in the level of sales for the four sectors taken together. Also, that estimation method could not take account of the shifts in recorded sales between wholesale trade and the other sectors. Accordingly, to assist users of time series the levels from the new samples for the four surveys have been adjusted back to the start of 1998, using the level for September 2004 as the end point of the backcast series. Taking the series back to then (as was done when the previous samples for these surveys were introduced from January 2003) prevents a break in series.

Detailed results

Outlined below in tables 1 and 2 are details of the behaviour of motor trade sales over the period January 1998 to January 2005. Table 3 gives details of the behaviour of the seasonally adjusted motor trade sales over the same period.

Table 1 - Total motor trade sales (R million)

Month	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
January	6 890	6 791	7 569	9 835	11 447	13 774	15 806	1/ 17 302
February	7 357	7 233	8 744	10 536	11 886	13 719	14 979	
March	7 345	7 335	8 674	10 780	11 775	13 566	14 865	
April	7 135	6 925	8 095	9 628	12 128	12 904	13 586	
May	7 085	7 204	9 229	10 564	12 901	13 738	17 447	
June	7 114	6 965	9 485	10 760	12 310	13 811	16 850	
July	7 840	7 747	9 609	10 836	13 148	15 374	17 891	
August	7 123	7 894	10 031	10 876	13 719	14 137	17 813	
September	6 822	7 945	9 784	10 231	13 468	14 584	18 231	
October	7 278	8 046	9 797	11 461	13 630	15 488	17 955	
November	7 287	8 014	10 267	11 399	14 128	15 907	18 630	
December	7 139	7 791	9 629	11 603	13 061	15 533	18 792	
Total	**86 415**	**89 890**	**110 913**	**128 509**	**153 601**	**172 535**	**202 845**	

1/Preliminary

Table 2 - Percentage change in total motor trade sales[1]

Month	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
January	-	-1,4	11,5	29,9	16,4	20,3	14,8	9,5
February	-	-1,7	20,9	20,5	12,8	15,4	9,2	
March	-	-0,1	18,3	24,3	9,2	15,2	9,6	
April	-	-2,9	16,9	18,9	26,0	6,4	5,3	
May	-	1,7	28,1	14,5	22,1	6,5	27,0	
June	-	-2,1	36,2	13,4	14,4	12,2	22,0	
July	-	-1,2	24,0	12,8	21,3	16,9	16,4	
August	-	10,8	27,1	8,4	26,1	3,0	26,0	
September	-	16,5	23,1	4,6	31,6	8,3	25,0	
October	-	10,6	21,8	17,0	18,9	13,6	15,9	
November	-	10,0	28,1	11,0	23,9	12,6	17,1	
December	-	9,1	23,6	20,5	12,6	18,9	21,0	
Total	**-**	**4,0**	**23,4**	**15,9**	**19,5**	**12,3**	**17,6**	

1/ The percentage change is the change in motor trade sales of the relevant year compared with motor trade sales of the previous year expressed as a percentage

Table 3 - Seasonally adjusted total motor trade sales (R million)

Month	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
January	7 322	7 181	7 932	10 180	11 689	13 901	15 854	17 317
February	7 220	7 100	8 596	10 409	11 810	13 750	15 096	
March	7 238	7 236	8 588	10 779	11 869	13 824	15 232	
April	7 608	7 392	8 670	10 359	13 087	13 951	14 677	
May	7 097	7 197	9 204	10 509	12 835	13 673	17 383	
June	7 048	6 918	9 459	10 783	12 379	13 947	17 082	
July	7 656	7 577	9 415	10 629	12 893	15 058	17 507	
August	6 922	7 675	9 777	10 630	13 480	13 932	17 585	
September	6 813	7 934	9 746	10 168	13 353	14 443	18 043	
October	7 127	7 877	9 572	11 214	13 313	15 133	17 532	
November	7 136	7 837	9 998	11 041	13 617	15 271	17 859	
December	7 286	7 946	9 789	11 748	13 092	15 456	18 657	

Outlined below in tables 4,1 and 4,2 are the estimates and percentage changes in motor trade sales and seasonally adjusted estimates.

Table 4 - Estimates and percentage changes in total motor trade sales.

Table 4,1 - Monthly and quarterly estimates with percentage changes

Estimates	January 2004 R million	January 2005 R million	% change between January 2004 and January 2005	November 2003 to January 2004 R million	November 2004 to January 2005 R million	% change between November 2003 to January 2004 and November 2004 to January 2005
Motor trade sales	15 806	17 302	9,5	47 246	54 724	15,8

Table 4,2 - Seasonally adjusted estimates with monthly and quarterly percentage changes.

Seasonally adjusted Estimates	December 2004 R million	January 2005 R million	% change between December 2004 and January 2005	August to October 2004 R million	November 2004 to January 2005 R million	% change between August to October 2004 and November 2004 to January 2005
Motor trade sales	18 657	17 317	-7,2	53 160	53 833	1,3

Explanatory notes

Introduction

1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey of the motor trade industry, covering motor enterprises (see 3 below). This statistical release provides information on the behaviour in terms of level and movement of the sales series based on comparisons of the two parallel surveys run between September and December 2004, as well as estimates from the January 2005 survey. The 2004 sample is based on a sample drawn from the 2004 Business Sampling Frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value-added tax (VAT) and income tax. The backcast figures have been adjusted using September 2004 as the end point of the backcast series, and creating revised levels for earlier months using the month on month movements from the earlier sample. Motor trade sales exclude value-added tax (VAT).

2 As is usual, information for the latest month has had to be estimated for respondents who have not reported by the cut-off date for production of results. These estimates will be revised in future statistical releases when their reported information becomes available.

Scope of the survey

3 The survey collects information from a sample of enterprises in South Africa that are predominantly involved in motor trade.
These enterprises include -

- motor vehicle dealers, filling stations and workshops;
- motor cycle dealers;
- spares and accessories;
- tyre dealers;
- automotive electricians;
- radiator repairs;
- panel beaters and spray painters;
- other specialised motor repair services; and
- other motor trade.

Classification

4 The 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)*, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 *International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC)* with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC division (two digit) level. Each enterprise is classified to the industry, which reflects its predominant activity.

Statistical unit

5 The statistical unit for which information is compiled and published is the enterprise, defined as a legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.

Survey methodology and design

6 The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of about 600 enterprises from a population of about 11 000 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within 10 days after the end of the reference month. Fax and telephone reminders are used to follow up non-responses.

7 The value of sales is obtained monthly from the sample of about 600 enterprises, which was drawn in September 2004 from a population then of about 11 000 motor trade enterprises. The motor industry is divided into four size groups. The sample is drawn at the SIC two-digit level. All large enterprises (size group one), are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to size group two (medium sized) enterprises, and to size groups three and four (small) enterprises. The total value of sales of the large enterprises (size group one) in a division is added to the weighted totals of size groups two, three and four to reflect the total value of sales.

Weighting methodology **8** For those strata not completely enumerated, the weights to produce estimates are the inverse ratio of the sampling fraction, modified to take account of non-response in the survey. Stratum estimates are calculated and then aggregated with the completely enumerated stratum to form division estimates. These procedures, which are in line with international best practice, are described in more detail on the Stats SA website at http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/publicationsearch.asp.

Seasonal adjustment **9** Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month, using the X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the US Bureau of the Census, 1968. 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.

Trend cycle **10** The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimates of the underlying trend cycle.

Reliability of estimates **11** Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all enterprises in the motor industry in South Africa. Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Figures for the latest month are preliminary.

12 Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in the collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by careful design of questionnaires, testing them in pilot studies, editing reported data and implementing efficient operating procedures. Fluctuations may occur in consecutive months as a result of seasonal and economic factors.

Revised figures **13** Revised figures are due to respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures and late submission of their data to Stats SA. Figures for the last 6 months are regarded as preliminary. Data are edited at the enterprise level.

Related publications **14** Users may also wish to refer to the following publications available from Stats SA -

- *Bulletin of Statistics* issued quarterly.
- *SA Statistics* issued annually.

These will, in due course, be revised on the basis of the backcast series.

Rounding of figures **15** The figures in the tables have, where necessary, been rounded to the nearest digit shown.

Symbols and abbreviations **16**

GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities
SARS	South African Revenue Service
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
VAT	Value-added tax
*	Revised
-	Figures not available

Comparability with previously published information **17** As indicated earlier, the levels of sales for 2004 in this statistical release, based on the 2004 sample, are about 15% higher than the levels previously published for total motor trade sales.

18 The higher values of sales from the new sample can mainly be attributed to the following:

- The greater currency of the frame now being used compared to the frame drawn from the previous business register and
- The improved coverage, particularly for smaller enterprises as a result of access to income tax registered units to update the new business register.

Technical note

Neyman Optimal allocation

Before drawing in each of the surveys the population of enterprises on the BSF was stratified. Strata were formed using a combination of Standard Industrial Classification and the measure of size classes for enterprises. The Neyman optimal allocation formula given below was used to allocate samples to each stratum.

$$n_h = \frac{N_h S_h}{\sum N_h S_h}$$

where N_h and S_h are the stratum population size and the stratum variance, respectively.

Neyman allocation formula not only allocates sample sizes to each stratum but also calculates the relative precision for each stratum as well as the relative precision for all strata. The relative precision for these surveys did not exceed 6.4%.

Class limits

Enterprise size	Lower limits	Upper limits
Very small	0	4 000 000
Small	4 000 001	19 000 000
Medium	19 000 001	39 000 000
Large	39 000 001	

Glossary

Enterprise The enterprise is a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.

Industry An industry is made up of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the *System of National Accounts (SNA)* in the same way as in the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993 (SIC).*

Statistical unit A statistical unit is a unit about which statistics are tabulated, compiled or published. The statistical units are derived from and linked to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) administrative data.

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.

Advance release calendar

An advance release calendar is disseminated on www.statssa.gov.za

Stats SA products

A complete set of Stats SA publications is available at the Stats SA Library and the following libraries:

National Library of South Africa, Pretoria Division
National Library of South Africa, Cape Town Division
Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg
Library of Parliament, Cape Town
Bloemfontein Public Library
Johannesburg Public Library
Eastern Cape Library Services, King William's Town
Central Regional Library, Polokwane
Central Reference Library, Nelspruit
Central Reference Collection, Kimberley
Central Reference Library, Mmabatho

Stats SA also provides a subscription service.

Electronic services

A large range of data are available via on-line services, diskette and computer printouts. For more details about our electronic data services, contact (012) 310 8600/8390/8351/4892/8496/8095.

You can visit us on the internet at: www.statssa.gov.za

Enquiries

Telephone number:	(012) 310 8600/8390/8351/4892/8496/8095 (user information services) (012) 310 8930 (technical enquiries) (012) 310 8161 (orders) (012) 310 8490 (library)
Fax number:	(012) 310 8332 (technical enquiries)
Email address:	Thabomak@statssa.gov.za (technical enquiries) Info@statssa.gov.za (user information services) distribution@statssa.gov.za (orders)
Postal address:	Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

Produced by Stats SA