

Statistical release

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Motor trade sales (Preliminary)

July 2011

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Summary of findings: Motor trade sales

Table A – Key figures for July 2011

Actual estimates	July 2011 (R million)	% change between July 2010 and July 2011	% change between May to July 2010 and May to July 2011	% change between January to July 2010 and January to July 2011
Motor trade sales	35 147	10,2	12,5	13,7

Seasonally adjusted estimates	July 2011 (R million)	% change between June and July 2011	% change between February to April 2011 and May to July 2011
Motor trade sales	33 596	-5,0	0,2

Motor trade sales for the three months ended July 2011 increased by 12,5% compared with the three months ended July 2010. Sales for the corresponding period in 2010 increased by 15,3%.

The major contributors to the increase of 12,5% were fuel sales (23,4% and contributing 5,9 percentage points) and new vehicle sales (13,6% and contributing 3,6 percentage points) – see Table B.

Motor trade sales rose by 10,2% year-on-year in July 2011. The highest annual growth rate was recorded for fuel sales (22,9%), followed by new vehicle sales (12,7%) – see Table 5.

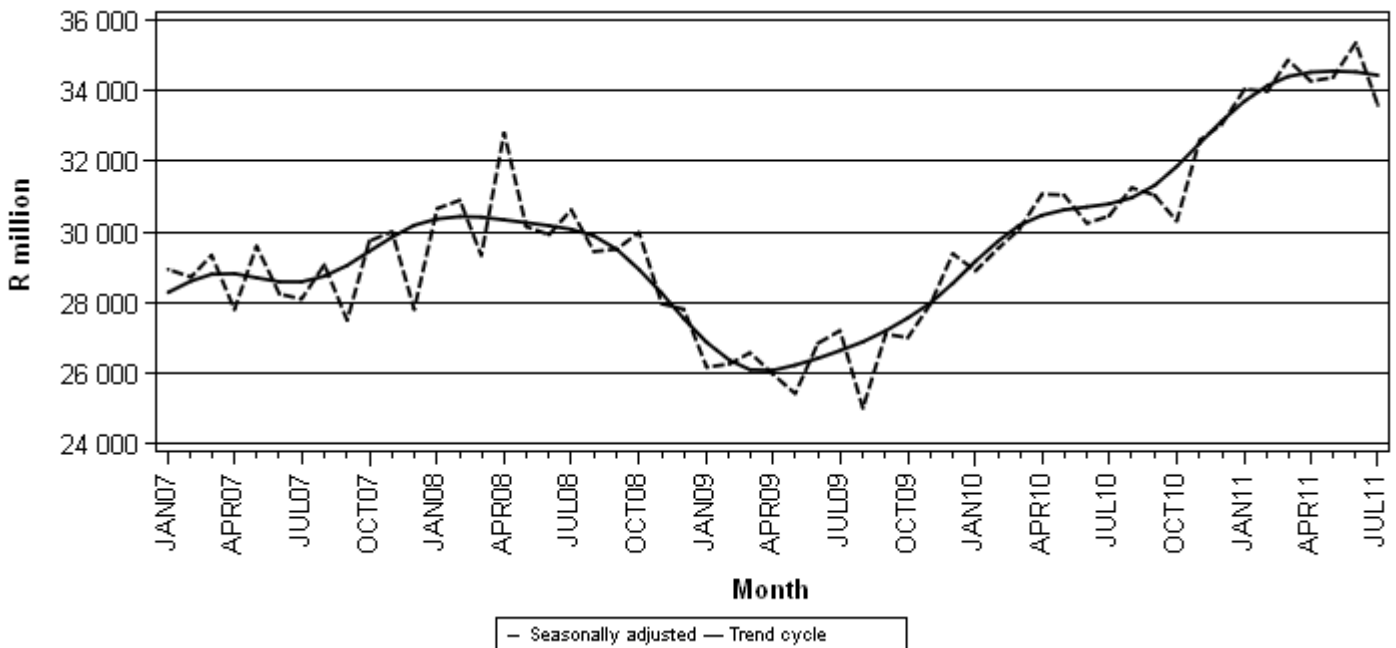
In July 2011 seasonally adjusted motor trade sales decreased by 5,0% month-on-month, following month-on-month changes of 2,9% in June 2011 and 0,3% in May 2011. Seasonally adjusted motor trade sales for the three months ended July 2011 increased by 0,2% compared with the three months ended April 2011.

Table B – Contribution of each type of activity to the percentage change in motor trade sales

Type of activity	May to July 2010 (R million)	Weight 1/	May to July 2011 (R million)	Difference in sales between May to July 2010 and May to July 2011 (R million)	% change between May to July 2010 and May to July 2011	Contribution (percentage points) to the % change in total sales 2/
New vehicle sales	24 484	26,5	27 819	3 335	13,6	3,6
Used vehicle sales	16 160	17,5	17 604	1 444	8,9	1,6
Workshop income	7 096	7,7	7 181	85	1,2	0,1
Income from the sales of accessories	17 332	18,8	18 428	1 096	6,3	1,2
Income from fuel sales	23 427	25,3	28 908	5 481	23,4	5,9
Income from convenience store sales 3/	3 916	4,2	4 026	110	2,8	0,1
Total 4/	92 419	100,0	103 963	11 544	12,5	12,5

1/ Weight is the percentage contribution of each type of activity to the total motor trade sales for the three months up to the current month of the previous year.
 2/ The contribution to the percentage change is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of activity with the corresponding weight, divided by 100.
 3/ Includes other sales and trading income.
 4/ The figures have been rounded off. Therefore discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and totals.

Figure 1 – Total motor trade sales



PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

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

Business register and samples

Today Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publishes results for the monthly survey of motor trade sales from a new sample drawn in April 2011, which replaces the previous sample that was drawn in April 2010. The sample was drawn from a business register of enterprises with an annual turnover of at least R1 000 000 and that are required to register with the South African Revenue Service (SARS) for value added tax.

Owing to the evolving nature of business, the business register is maintained on a continuous basis. The maintenance process is aimed, amongst other things, at capturing changes related to new businesses, ceased businesses, merged businesses and classification changes. In addition, Stats SA undertakes quality improvement surveys related to the business register, the primary objective of which is to capture up-to-date information about the structures and activities of large and complex businesses. This process enables Stats SA to review classification codes for these businesses. These changes are an essential part of the statistical architecture.

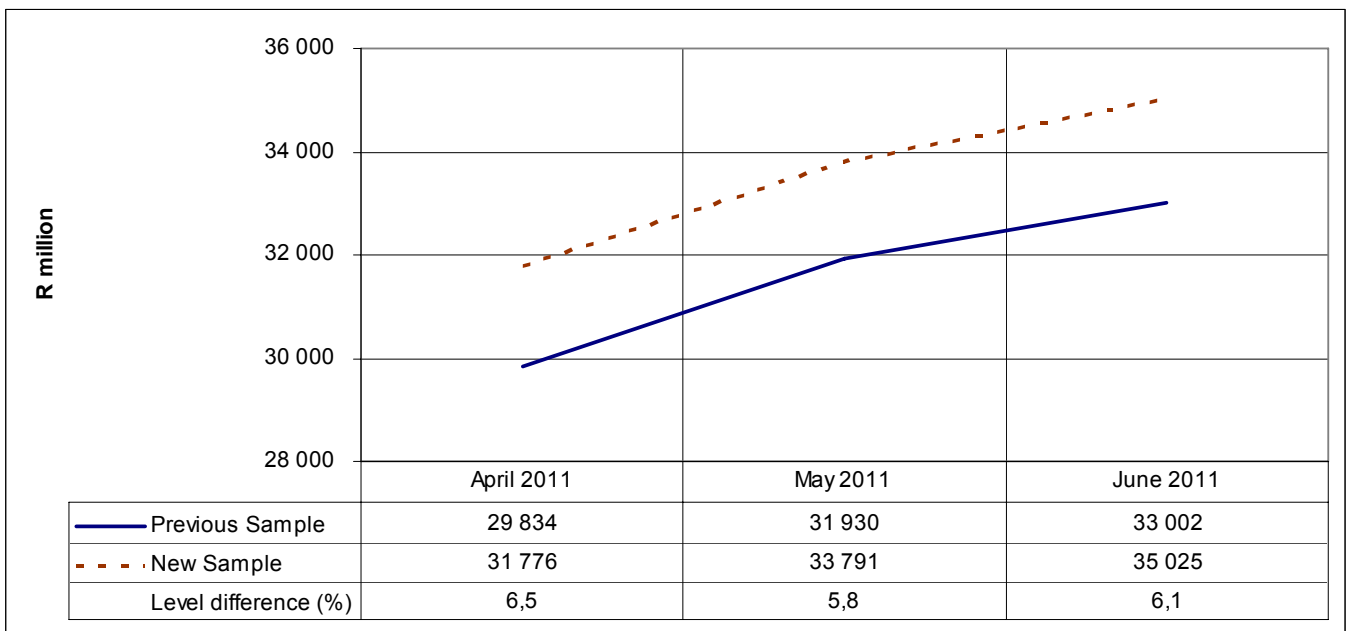
Comparison of total sales between the previous and new samples of the motor trade industry

The reported level of total sales for the monthly survey of the motor trade industry for the months April to June 2011 based on the new sample was 6,1% higher than the level of total sales recorded for the previous sample (see Table C and Figure 2). The previous sample was drawn in April 2010 and was operational for the last half of 2010 and the first half of 2011.

Table C – Total sales for previous and new samples for the motor trade sales industry – April to June 2011

Motor trade industry	Previous sample (R million)	New sample (R million)	Difference (R million)	Difference (percentage)
	94 766	100 592	5 826	6,1

Figure 2 – Total value of motor trade sales: monthly levels of previous and new samples for April to June 2011



Comparison of sales between the previous and new samples by type of activity

The differences in sales between the previous and new samples by type of activity are shown in Table D. The largest change in relative (i.e. percentage) terms took place in the income from the sales of accessories (11,2% higher in the new sample). The largest change in absolute (i.e. rand) terms took place in the income from fuel sales (R1 875 million higher in the new sample), followed by income from the sales of accessories (R1 771 million higher in the new sample) and new vehicle sales (R1 062 million higher in the new sample). Various data quality improvements account for these differences, for example the reclassification of enterprises from one industry to another.

Table D – Motor trade sales for previous and new samples by type of activity: April to June 2011

Type of activities	Previous sample	New sample	Difference	Difference
	R million	R million	R million	(percentage) 1/
New vehicle sales	25 663	26 725	1 062	4,1
Used vehicle sales	15 732	16 706	974	6,2
Workshop income	6 482	6 845	363	5,6
Income from the sales of accessories	15 878	17 649	1 771	11,2
Income from fuel sales	26 771	28 646	1 875	7,0
Income from convenience store sales 2/	4 240	4 022	-218	-5,2
Total 3/	94 766	100 592	5 826	6,1

1/ The percentage difference is the difference between the April to June 2011 sales as recorded in the new sample divided by the April to June 2011 sales as recorded in the previous sample, expressed as a percentage.

2/ Includes other sales and trading income.

3/ The figures have been rounded off. Therefore discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and totals.

Backcasting

In order to assist users of time series, the levels from the new sample for the survey have been adjusted back to the start of 1998, using the level for April 2011 as the end point for the backcast series.

Detailed results

Table 1 – Total motor trade sales (R million)

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 ^{1/}
January	18 362	20 031	23 258	27 620	29 048	24 684	27 160	31 880
February	17 399	20 091	24 192	27 780	29 942	25 454	28 586	32 844
March	17 633	21 017	25 427	29 687	30 099	27 483	31 267	36 334
April	16 475	21 446	23 364	25 604	30 218	23 978	28 757	31 776
May	20 266	22 871	26 102	29 788	30 138	25 250	30 655	33 791
June	19 575	22 613	25 354	27 552	29 247	26 356	29 881	35 025
July	20 783	24 100	28 194	29 579	32 193	28 562	31 883	35 147
August	20 690	24 595	28 268	30 352	30 752	26 050	32 511	
September	21 177	24 391	28 129	27 801	29 569	26 968	30 790	
October	20 856	24 155	27 903	30 656	30 989	27 958	31 417	
November	21 642	25 519	28 452	31 100	28 918	28 862	33 638	
December	21 830	23 785	26 692	27 435	27 664	29 429	33 270	
Total	236 688	274 614	315 335	344 954	358 777	321 034	369 815	

1/ Preliminary.

Table 2 – Percentage change in total motor trade sales 1/

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
January	14,8	9,1	16,1	18,8	5,2	-15,0	10,0	17,4
February	9,2	15,5	20,4	14,8	7,8	-15,0	12,3	14,9
March	11,9	19,2	21,0	16,8	1,4	-8,7	13,8	16,2
April	9,9	30,2	8,9	9,6	18,0	-20,6	19,9	10,5
May	27,0	12,9	14,1	14,1	1,2	-16,2	21,4	10,2
June	22,0	15,5	12,1	8,7	6,2	-9,9	13,4	17,2
July	16,4	16,0	17,0	4,9	8,8	-11,3	11,6	10,2
August	26,0	18,9	14,9	7,4	1,3	-15,3	24,8	
September	25,0	15,2	15,3	-1,2	6,4	-8,8	14,2	
October	15,9	15,8	15,5	9,9	1,1	-9,8	12,4	
November	17,1	17,9	11,5	9,3	-7,0	-0,2	16,5	
December	21,0	9,0	12,2	2,8	0,8	6,4	13,1	
Total	18,1	16,0	14,8	9,4	4,0	-10,5	15,2	

1/ The percentage change is the difference between motor trade sales of the relevant month of the current year and the corresponding month of the previous year expressed as percentage.

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

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
January	18 759	20 570	24 107	28 939	30 661	26 164	28 896	34 047
February	17 870	20 766	25 046	28 718	30 899	26 255	29 539	33 987
March	17 956	21 305	25 453	29 340	29 332	26 573	30 070	34 874
April	17 769	23 202	25 354	27 799	32 807	25 964	31 070	34 278
May	20 023	22 571	25 832	29 598	30 154	25 413	31 046	34 379
June	19 898	23 097	25 930	28 241	29 920	26 841	30 245	35 362
July	20 041	23 091	26 875	28 095	30 627	27 199	30 451	33 596
August	19 976	23 641	27 111	29 069	29 444	25 004	31 252	
September	20 724	23 848	27 633	27 492	29 509	27 103	31 040	
October	20 348	23 535	27 128	29 742	29 985	27 001	30 306	
November	20 688	24 418	27 322	30 004	27 962	27 964	32 597	
December	22 221	24 285	27 160	27 799	27 806	29 382	33 049	

Table 4 – Motor trade sales by type of activity (R million) 1/

Year and month 2/		New vehicle sales	Used vehicle sales	Workshop income	Income from the sales of accessories	Income from fuel sales	Income from convenience store sales 3/	Total 4/
2009	January	5 925	4 545	1 916	5 159	5 936	1 202	24 684
	February	6 262	5 023	2 202	5 142	5 780	1 046	25 454
	March	6 860	5 275	2 239	5 365	6 478	1 267	27 483
	April	4 764	4 469	2 183	4 909	6 407	1 247	23 978
	May	5 131	5 121	2 103	5 249	6 493	1 152	25 250
	June	6 084	5 041	2 158	5 393	6 546	1 134	26 356
	July	6 709	5 418	2 366	5 653	7 187	1 229	28 562
	August	5 994	4 631	2 183	5 182	6 879	1 181	26 050
	September	6 162	5 135	2 204	5 254	7 027	1 186	26 968
	October	6 713	5 412	2 184	5 608	6 763	1 278	27 958
	November	7 153	5 381	2 271	5 662	7 059	1 336	28 862
	December	7 668	5 213	1 974	5 119	8 036	1 418	29 429
	Total	75 425	60 664	25 983	63 695	80 591	14 676	321 034
2010	January	6 889	4 929	2 091	5 064	6 986	1 201	27 160
	February	7 830	5 305	2 229	5 269	6 729	1 223	28 586
	March	8 997	5 489	2 409	5 909	7 150	1 313	31 267
	April	7 544	4 795	2 187	5 274	7 743	1 214	28 757
	May	8 159	5 322	2 458	5 654	7 800	1 261	30 655
	June	7 860	5 075	2 246	5 687	7 686	1 326	29 881
	July	8 465	5 763	2 392	5 991	7 941	1 329	31 883
	August	9 255	5 995	2 341	5 738	7 897	1 285	32 511
	September	7 869	5 950	2 312	5 802	7 593	1 266	30 790
	October	8 003	5 898	2 439	5 928	7 832	1 318	31 417
	November	9 094	6 209	2 505	6 443	8 070	1 318	33 638
	December	9 182	5 650	2 206	5 553	9 144	1 535	33 270
	Total	99 147	66 380	27 815	68 312	92 571	15 589	369 815
2011	January	8 559	5 970	2 116	5 567	8 335	1 332	31 880
	February	9 469	6 024	2 212	5 873	8 032	1 233	32 844
	March	10 624	6 199	2 527	6 496	9 087	1 400	36 334
	April	8 445	5 030	2 052	5 419	9 500	1 331	31 776
	May	9 004	5 612	2 300	5 961	9 597	1 318	33 791
	June	9 277	6 064	2 493	6 270	9 549	1 373	35 025
	July	9 538	5 928	2 388	6 197	9 762	1 335	35 147

1/ The types of activities in motor trade refer to the enterprises classified within the motor trade industry and engaged in the activities mentioned above.

2/ 2011 figures are preliminary.

3/ Includes other sales and trading income.

4/ The figures have been rounded off. Therefore discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and totals.

Table 5 – Year-on-year percentage change in motor trade sales by type of activity 1/

Year and month		New vehicle sales	Used vehicle sales	Workshop income	Income from the sales of accessories	Income from fuel sales	Income from convenience store sales	Total
2009	January	-37,2	-11,1	-1,9	17,0	-12,3	-12,1	-15,0
	February	-35,8	-5,8	-1,6	11,7	-11,3	-30,1	-15,0
	March	-27,4	-1,2	9,0	23,5	-9,6	-27,6	-8,7
	April	-48,2	-11,3	-3,8	-6,3	-10,7	-4,2	-20,6
	May	-41,2	-1,7	-7,1	13,8	-17,1	-23,0	-16,2
	June	-25,0	8,1	-3,3	15,2	-20,1	-16,9	-9,9
	July	-25,9	-0,4	-4,3	8,7	-15,3	-20,3	-11,3
	August	-26,4	-15,2	2,5	7,8	-20,9	-22,1	-15,3
	September	-21,4	0,2	-1,7	5,0	-9,7	-25,2	-8,8
	October	-15,4	-6,1	-3,1	-2,6	-12,6	-17,6	-9,8
	November	-0,3	-1,7	13,0	9,7	-7,3	-9,9	-0,2
	December	18,0	-0,2	-1,2	12,4	5,4	-19,5	6,4
	Total	-25,5	-4,0	-0,5	9,1	-12,0	-19,4	-10,5
2010	January	16,3	8,4	9,1	-1,8	17,7	-0,1	10,0
	February	25,0	5,6	1,2	2,5	16,4	16,9	12,3
	March	31,2	4,1	7,6	10,1	10,4	3,6	13,8
	April	58,4	7,3	0,2	7,4	20,9	-2,6	19,9
	May	59,0	3,9	16,9	7,7	20,1	9,5	21,4
	June	29,2	0,7	4,1	5,5	17,4	16,9	13,4
	July	26,2	6,4	1,1	6,0	10,5	8,1	11,6
	August	54,4	29,5	7,2	10,7	14,8	8,8	24,8
	September	27,7	15,9	4,9	10,4	8,1	6,7	14,2
	October	19,2	9,0	11,7	5,7	15,8	3,1	12,4
	November	27,1	15,4	10,3	13,8	14,3	-1,3	16,5
	December	19,7	8,4	11,8	8,5	13,8	8,3	13,1
	Total	31,5	9,4	7,1	7,2	14,9	6,2	15,2
2011	January	24,2	21,1	1,2	9,9	19,3	10,9	17,4
	February	20,9	13,6	-0,8	11,5	19,4	0,8	14,9
	March	18,1	12,9	4,9	9,9	27,1	6,6	16,2
	April	11,9	4,9	-6,2	2,7	22,7	9,6	10,5
	May	10,4	5,4	-6,4	5,4	23,0	4,5	10,2
	June	18,0	19,5	11,0	10,3	24,2	3,5	17,2
	July	12,7	2,9	-0,2	3,4	22,9	0,5	10,2

1/ The year-on-year percentage change is the difference between the motor trade sales by type of activity of the relevant month of the current year and the corresponding month of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

Table 6 – Three-monthly and annual cumulative estimates and percentage changes

Actual estimates	May to July 2010 (R million)	May to July 2011 (R million)	% change between May to July 2010 and May to July 2011	January to July 2010 (R million)	January to July 2011 (R million)	% change between January to July 2010 and January to July 2011
Motor trade sales	92 419	103 963	12,5	208 189	236 797	13,7

Table 7 – Seasonally adjusted estimates with monthly and three-monthly percentage changes

Seasonally adjusted estimates	June 2011 (R million)	July 2011 (R million)	% change between June and July 2011	February to April 2011 (R million)	May to July 2011 (R million)	% change between February to April 2011 and May to July 2011
Motor trade sales	35 362	33 596	-5,0	103 139	103 337	0,2

Explanatory notes

Introduction	1	Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey covering enterprises in the motor trade industry (see 4 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from the 2011 business sampling frame (BSF), which contains businesses registered for value added tax (VAT).
	2	Information for the latest month is 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. Motor trade sales estimates exclude value added tax (VAT).
Purpose of the survey	3	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.
Scope of the survey	4	The survey collects information from a sample of enterprises in South Africa that are predominantly involved in motor trade. These enterprises include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	5	The 1993 edition of the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)</i> , Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC)</i> with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Each enterprise is classified to the industry which reflects its predominant activity. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC group (four digits) level.
Response rate	6	The preliminary response rate for the survey on motor trade sales for July 2011 was 78,0%.
Statistical unit	7	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 and service activities.
Survey methodology and design	8	The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of about 860 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.
	9	The value of sales is obtained monthly from the sample of about 860 enterprises, which was drawn in April 2011 from a population then of about 11 000 motor trade enterprises. The motor trade industry is divided into four size groups. The sample is drawn at the SIC four-digit level. All large and medium enterprises (size groups one and two), are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to small enterprises (size groups three and four). The total value of sales of the large and medium enterprises (size groups one and two) per classification group is added to the weighted totals of size groups three and four to reflect the total value of sales.

Weighting methodology	10	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 group 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	11	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	12	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	13	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 trade industry in South Africa. Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.																				
	14	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	15	Normally revised figures are due to respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures and late submission of their data to Stats SA. Preliminary figures are indicated in the relevant tables. Data are edited at the enterprise level.																				
Related publications	16	Users may also wish to refer to the following publications available from Stats SA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bulletin of Statistics</i> issued quarterly • <i>SA Statistics</i> issued annually 																				
Rounding-off of figures	17	Where necessary, the figures in the tables have been rounded off to the nearest digit shown.																				
Symbols and abbreviations	18	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>BR</td> <td>Business register</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BSF</td> <td>Business sampling frame</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GDP</td> <td>Gross domestic product</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ISIC</td> <td>International Standard Industrial Classification</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SIC</td> <td>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SARS</td> <td>South African Revenue Service</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stats SA</td> <td>Statistics South Africa</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VAT</td> <td>Value added tax</td> </tr> <tr> <td>*</td> <td>Revised</td> </tr> <tr> <td>-</td> <td>Figures not available</td> </tr> </table>	BR	Business register	BSF	Business sampling frame	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
BR	Business register																					
BSF	Business sampling frame																					
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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																					

Change in this publication **19** The results published today are based on a new sample drawn in April 2011. The periodic introduction of a new sample is part of Stats SA strategic approach in improving the basis from which surveys are conducted.

The new sample was conducted in parallel with the previous sample for April to June 2011. Comparison of estimates from the new and previous samples reflects a level increase of 6,1%.

Technical note

Neyman Optimal allocation

A stratified random sample was drawn from the population of enterprises on Stats SA’s business sampling frame (BSF). 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.

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

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 strata did not exceed 8,0%.

Class limits

Enterprise size	Size group	Lower limits	Upper limits
Very small	4	0	18 000 000
Small	3	18 000 001	85 500 000
Medium	2	85 500 001	175 500 000
Large	1	175 500 001	

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.

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