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Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for July 2024

Table A – Key growth rates in motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices

	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	1,3	-10,2	3,4	-8,5	-9,5	0,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,5	-7,1	6,3	-6,1	5,3	1,0
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	3,0	-1,1	-2,6	-5,4	-1,3	-0,8

¹ Percentage change between the previous three months and the three months ending in the month indicated.

Measured in real terms (constant 2019 prices), motor trade sales increased by 0,3% year-on-year in July 2024.

The largest positive contributor to this increase was used vehicle sales (10,3% and contributing 2,0 percentage points).

The largest negative contributors were:

- fuel sales (-3,2% and contributing -0,9 of a percentage point); and
- sales of accessories (-3,2% and contributing -0,7 of a percentage point) – see Tables 5 and 6.

Seasonally adjusted motor trade sales increased by 1,0% in July 2024 compared with June 2024. This followed month-on-month changes of 5,3% in June 2024 and -6,1% in May 2024.

Table B – Motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices for the latest three months by type of activity

Type of activity	May – Jul 2023 (R million)	Weight (%)	May – Jul 2024 (R million)	% change between May – Jul 2023 and May – Jul 2024	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
New vehicle sales	44 198	24,7	39 611	-10,4	-2,6
Used vehicle sales	35 144	19,7	36 328	3,4	0,7
Workshop income	8 710	4,9	7 950	-8,7	-0,4
Income from the sales of accessories	38 152	21,4	34 562	-9,4	-2,0
Income from fuel sales	48 500	27,2	45 835	-5,5	-1,5
Income from convenience store sales ¹	3 920	2,2	3 740	-4,6	-0,1
Total	178 624	100,0	168 026	-5,9	-5,9

¹ Income from Quickshop and café sales at filling stations, including 'other' sales and trading income.

Motor trade sales decreased by 5,9% in the three months ended July 2024 compared with the three months ended July 2023. The main negative contributors to this decrease were:

- new vehicle sales (-10,4% and contributing -2,6 percentage points);
- sales of accessories (-9,4% and contributing -2,0 percentage points); and
- fuel sales (-5,5% and contributing -1,5 percentage points) – see Table B.

Table C – Seasonally adjusted motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices for the latest three months by type of activity

Type of activity	Feb – Apr 2024 (R million)	Weight (%)	May – Jul 2024 (R million)	% change between Feb – Apr 2024 and May – Jul 2024	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
New vehicle sales	40 729	23,7	41 329	1,5	0,4
Used vehicle sales	36 203	21,1	36 240	0,1	0,0
Workshop income	7 616	4,4	7 617	0,0	0,0
Income from the sales of accessories	35 044	20,4	34 397	-1,8	-0,4
Income from fuel sales	47 963	28,0	46 657	-2,7	-0,8
Income from convenience store sales ¹	3 988	2,3	3 903	-2,1	0,0
Total	171 544	100,0	170 142	-0,8	-0,8

¹ Income from Quickshop and café sales at filling stations, including 'other' sales and trading income.

Seasonally adjusted motor trade sales decreased by 0,8% in the three months ended July 2024 compared with the previous three months. The largest negative contributors to this decrease were:

- fuel sales (-2,7% and contributing -0,8 of a percentage point); and
- sales of accessories (-1,8% and contributing -0,4 of a percentage point).

The largest positive contributor was new vehicle sales (1,5% and contributing 0,4 of a percentage point) – see Table C.

Figure 1 – Motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices

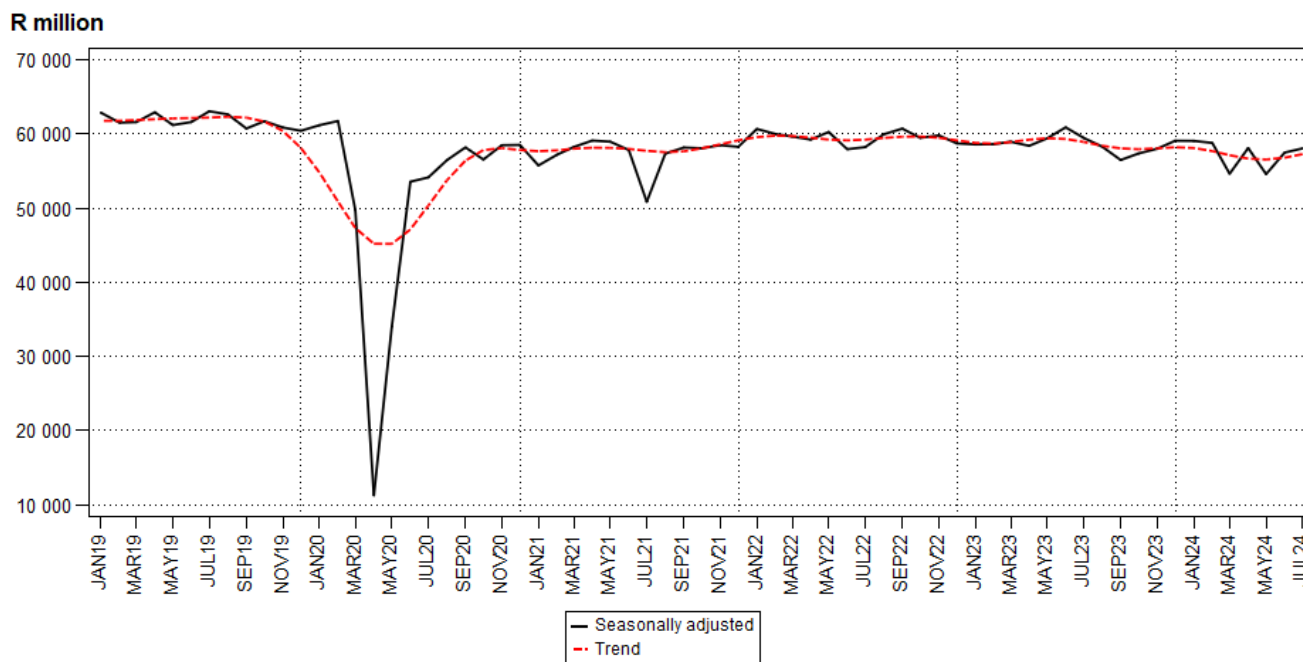
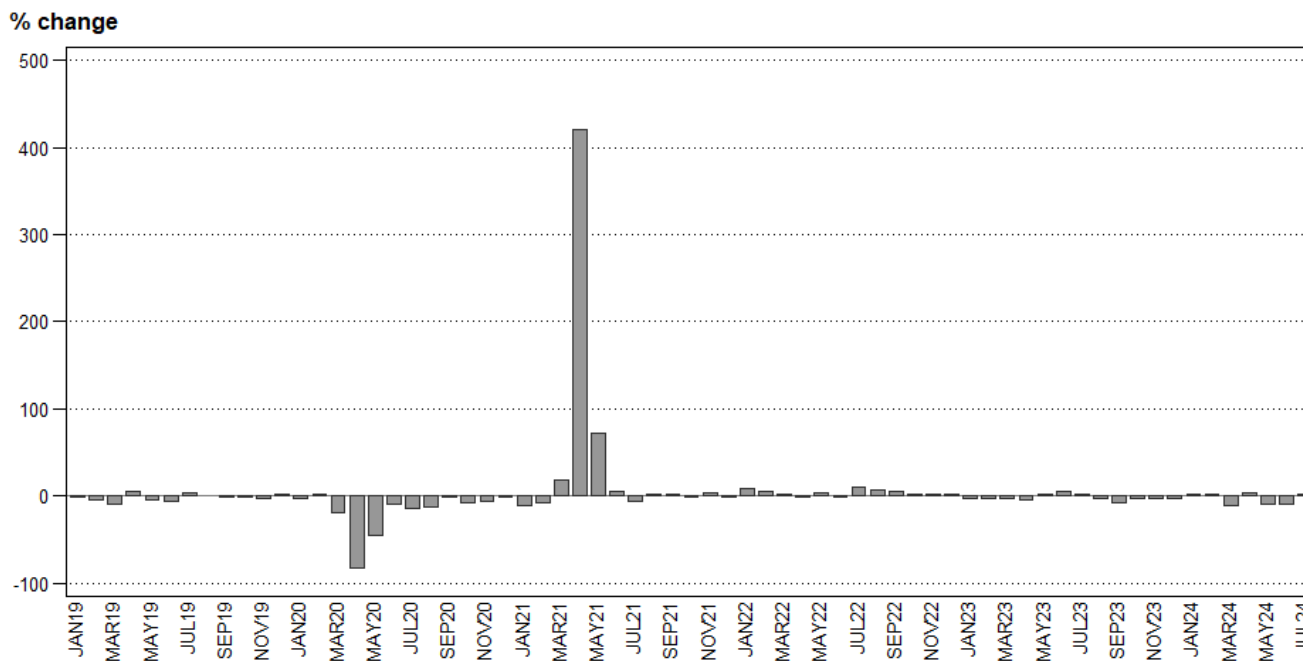


Figure 2 – Motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices: year-on-year percentage change



Sales at current prices: results for July 2024

Table D – Key growth rates in motor trade sales at current prices

	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	7,6	-4,2	10,1	-2,5	-3,9	4,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,0	-5,8	4,2	-4,0	3,1	1,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	1,2	-1,9	-2,0	-4,3	-1,2	-0,9

¹ Percentage change between the previous three months and the three months ending in the month indicated.

Table E – Motor trade sales at current prices for the latest three months by type of activity

Type of activity	May – Jul 2023 (R million)	Weight (%)	May – Jul 2024 (R million)	% change between May – Jul 2023 and May – Jul 2024	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
New vehicle sales	55 765	23,9	52 066	-6,6	-1,6
Used vehicle sales	43 443	18,6	46 245	6,4	1,2
Workshop income	10 081	4,3	9 636	-4,4	-0,2
Income from the sales of accessories	49 293	21,1	48 129	-2,4	-0,5
Income from fuel sales	69 692	29,9	70 659	1,4	0,4
Income from convenience store sales ¹	5 084	2,2	5 141	1,1	0,0
Total	233 357	100,0	231 876	-0,6	-0,6

¹ Income from Quickshop and café sales at filling stations, including 'other' sales and trading income.

Table F – Seasonally adjusted motor trade sales at current prices for the latest three months by type of activity

Type of activity	Feb – Apr 2024 (R million)	Weight (%)	May – Jul 2024 (R million)	% change between Feb – Apr 2024 and May – Jul 2024	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
New vehicle sales	51 129	21,8	52 233	2,2	0,5
Used vehicle sales	46 051	19,6	46 088	0,1	0,0
Workshop income	9 460	4,0	9 193	-2,8	-0,1
Income from the sales of accessories	47 931	20,4	47 514	-0,9	-0,2
Income from fuel sales	74 426	31,7	71 954	-3,3	-1,0
Income from convenience store sales ¹	5 475	2,3	5 384	-1,7	0,0
Total	234 474	100,0	232 366	-0,9	-0,9

¹ Income from Quickshop and café sales at filling stations, including 'other' sales and trading income.


Risenga Maluleke
 Statistician-General

Tables

Table 1 – Motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices (R million)

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	62 312	61 753	59 702	52 879	57 639	56 393	57 942
Feb	62 692	59 753	60 040	55 693	58 531	57 321	58 077
Mar	68 754	62 693	51 126	60 913	62 043	60 688	54 525
Apr	57 551	60 446	10 861	56 575	56 417	53 792	55 626
May	64 236	61 985	33 714	58 216	60 095	60 198	55 071
Jun	62 367	58 869	53 146	56 275	56 175	59 426	53 754
Jul	63 154	65 249	55 759	52 518	57 738	59 000	59 201
Aug	64 255	64 265	56 059	57 647	61 553	60 076	
Sep	60 591	59 748	58 770	59 193	62 870	57 946	
Oct	65 909	65 621	60 169	59 648	61 234	59 641	
Nov	65 580	63 553	59 843	62 098	62 745	60 933	
Dec	57 263	57 716	57 097	56 602	57 923	56 467	
Total	754 664	741 651	616 286	688 257	714 963	701 881	

Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 year-to-date
Jan	-0,9	-3,3	-11,4	9,0	-2,2	2,7	2,7
Feb	-4,7	0,5	-7,2	5,1	-2,1	1,3	2,0
Mar	-8,8	-18,5	19,1	1,9	-2,2	-10,2	-2,2
Apr	5,0	-82,0	420,9	-0,3	-4,7	3,4	-0,9
May	-3,5	-45,6	72,7	3,2	0,2	-8,5	-2,5
Jun	-5,6	-9,7	5,9	-0,2	5,8	-9,5	-3,7
Jul	3,3	-14,5	-5,8	9,9	2,2	0,3	-3,1
Aug	0,0	-12,8	2,8	6,8	-2,4		
Sep	-1,4	-1,6	0,7	6,2	-7,8		
Oct	-0,4	-8,3	-0,9	2,7	-2,6		
Nov	-3,1	-5,8	3,8	1,0	-2,9		
Dec	0,8	-1,1	-0,9	2,3	-2,5		
Total	-1,7	-16,9	11,7	3,9	-1,8		

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	55 757	60 682	58 600	59 073	-4,7	4,1	-0,2	0,0
Feb	57 204	60 007	58 627	58 800	2,6	-1,1	0,0	-0,5
Mar	58 247	59 661	58 962	54 638	1,8	-0,6	0,6	-7,1
Apr	59 116	59 250	58 403	58 106	1,5	-0,7	-0,9	6,3
May	58 967	60 274	59 413	54 586	-0,3	1,7	1,7	-6,1
Jun	57 835	57 950	60 898	57 496	-1,9	-3,9	2,5	5,3
Jul	50 855	58 230	59 483	58 060	-12,1	0,5	-2,3	1,0
Aug	57 356	59 964	58 294		12,8	3,0	-2,0	
Sep	58 173	60 725	56 491		1,4	1,3	-3,1	
Oct	58 075	59 484	57 381		-0,2	-2,0	1,6	
Nov	58 492	59 816	58 012		0,7	0,6	1,1	
Dec	58 271	58 740	59 092		-0,4	-1,8	1,9	

Table 4 – Motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices by type of activity (R million)

Type of activity	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24
New vehicle sales	14 369	12 126	12 882	12 755	12 694	14 162
Used vehicle sales	11 733	11 317	12 255	12 025	11 613	12 690
Workshop income	2 674	2 461	2 556	2 633	2 499	2 818
Income from the sales of accessories	12 183	11 360	11 329	11 573	10 687	12 302
Income from fuel sales	15 791	15 823	15 356	14 840	15 041	15 954
Income from convenience store sales ¹	1 327	1 438	1 248	1 245	1 220	1 275
Total	58 077	54 525	55 626	55 071	53 754	59 201

¹ Income from Quickshop and café sales at filling stations, including 'other' sales and trading income.

Table 5 – Year-on-year percentage change in motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices by type of activity

Type of activity	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24
New vehicle sales	-3,9	-23,7	-0,5	-13,7	-16,2	-0,8
Used vehicle sales	4,4	-8,1	18,8	0,2	-0,2	10,3
Workshop income	0,5	-11,9	-0,1	-14,8	-14,7	4,7
Income from the sales of accessories	3,5	-9,7	5,1	-7,9	-17,0	-3,2
Income from fuel sales	2,6	1,0	-3,0	-9,8	-3,4	-3,2
Income from convenience store sales ¹	2,2	0,1	-7,8	-4,7	-4,7	-4,4
Total	1,3	-10,2	3,4	-8,5	-9,5	0,3

¹ Income from Quickshop and café sales at filling stations, including 'other' sales and trading income.

Table 6 – Contribution of each type of activity to the year-on-year percentage change in motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices

Type of activity	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24
New vehicle sales	-1,0	-6,2	-0,1	-3,4	-4,1	-0,2
Used vehicle sales	0,9	-1,6	3,6	0,0	0,0	2,0
Workshop income	0,0	-0,5	0,0	-0,8	-0,7	0,2
Income from the sales of accessories	0,7	-2,0	1,0	-1,7	-3,7	-0,7
Income from fuel sales	0,7	0,3	-0,9	-2,7	-0,9	-0,9
Income from convenience store sales ¹	0,1	0,0	-0,2	-0,1	-0,1	-0,1
Total	1,3	-10,2	3,4	-8,5	-9,5	0,3

¹ Income from Quickshop and café sales at filling stations, including 'other' sales and trading income.

Table 7 – Seasonally adjusted motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices by type of activity (R million)

Type of activity	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Month-on-month % change
New vehicle sales	14 872	11 823	14 034	13 094	13 976	14 259	2,0
Used vehicle sales	11 867	11 699	12 637	11 695	12 585	11 960	-5,0
Workshop income	2 486	2 526	2 604	2 395	2 569	2 653	3,3
Income from the sales of accessories	12 104	11 228	11 712	11 430	11 144	11 823	6,1
Income from fuel sales	16 137	15 985	15 841	14 674	15 926	16 057	0,8
Income from convenience store sales ¹	1 334	1 376	1 278	1 298	1 296	1 309	1,0
Total	58 800	54 638	58 106	54 586	57 496	58 060	1,0

¹ Income from Quickshop and café sales at filling stations, including 'other' sales and trading income.

Table 8 – Motor trade sales at current prices (R million)

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	58 657	59 541	60 290	54 016	65 933	71 808	77 952
Feb	58 963	57 901	60 690	57 837	67 781	73 197	78 726
Mar	64 527	61 534	51 552	64 253	73 561	78 787	75 478
Apr	54 884	60 799	10 237	60 682	68 150	70 413	77 536
May	61 995	62 861	31 301	62 612	73 534	78 795	76 795
Jun	61 110	59 989	51 939	60 618	70 764	77 244	74 224
Jul	62 377	65 542	56 241	56 989	75 235	77 318	80 857
Aug	63 692	64 618	56 829	63 528	79 174	79 511	
Sep	60 197	60 231	59 720	65 406	79 964	78 544	
Oct	66 798	66 304	60 910	66 285	78 039	82 456	
Nov	66 810	64 044	60 418	70 375	81 154	83 220	
Dec	56 927	58 296	57 354	65 177	76 054	77 295	
Total	736 937	741 660	617 481	747 778	889 343	928 588	

Table 9 – Year-on-year percentage change in motor trade sales at current prices

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 year-to-date
Jan	1,5	1,3	-10,4	22,1	8,9	8,6	8,6
Feb	-1,8	4,8	-4,7	17,2	8,0	7,6	8,1
Mar	-4,6	-16,2	24,6	14,5	7,1	-4,2	3,7
Apr	10,8	-83,2	492,8	12,3	3,3	10,1	5,3
May	1,4	-50,2	100,0	17,4	7,2	-2,5	3,6
Jun	-1,8	-13,4	16,7	16,7	9,2	-3,9	2,3
Jul	5,1	-14,2	1,3	32,0	2,8	4,6	2,7
Aug	1,5	-12,1	11,8	24,6	0,4		
Sep	0,1	-0,8	9,5	22,3	-1,8		
Oct	-0,7	-8,1	8,8	17,7	5,7		
Nov	-4,1	-5,7	16,5	15,3	2,5		
Dec	2,4	-1,6	13,6	16,7	1,6		
Total	0,6	-16,7	21,1	18,9	4,4		

Table 10 – Seasonally adjusted motor trade sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	57 843	69 663	74 509	79 397	-1,6	4,5	-4,2	-1,4
Feb	59 788	69 764	75 148	80 214	3,4	0,1	0,9	1,0
Mar	61 431	70 538	75 914	75 545	2,7	1,1	1,0	-5,8
Apr	62 425	70 866	74 820	78 715	1,6	0,5	-1,4	4,2
May	63 269	73 221	77 378	75 604	1,4	3,3	3,4	-4,0
Jun	61 989	72 377	78 562	77 943	-2,0	-1,2	1,5	3,1
Jul	55 351	75 343	77 440	78 819	-10,7	4,1	-1,4	1,1
Aug	63 063	77 680	78 084		13,9	3,1	0,8	
Sep	64 476	78 627	78 084		2,2	1,2	0,0	
Oct	64 762	76 454	79 868		0,4	-2,8	2,3	
Nov	66 317	77 386	79 352		2,4	1,2	-0,6	
Dec	66 661	77 756	80 511		0,5	0,5	1,5	

Table 11 – Motor trade sales at current prices by type of activity (R million)

Type of activity	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24
New vehicle sales	18 788	15 917	16 932	16 771	16 666	18 629
Used vehicle sales	14 928	14 413	15 613	15 317	14 784	16 144
Workshop income	3 215	2 973	3 093	3 184	3 022	3 430
Income from the sales of accessories	16 407	15 387	15 668	15 968	14 961	17 200
Income from fuel sales	23 595	24 834	24 526	23 849	23 112	23 698
Income from convenience store sales ¹	1 792	1 953	1 705	1 706	1 679	1 756
Total	78 726	75 478	77 536	76 795	74 224	80 857

¹ Income from Quickshop and café sales at filling stations, including 'other' sales and trading income.

Table 12 – Year-on-year percentage change in motor trade sales at current prices by type of activity

Type of activity	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24
New vehicle sales	3,1	-18,5	4,7	-9,4	-12,2	1,9
Used vehicle sales	9,9	-3,7	23,8	3,8	2,8	12,9
Workshop income	5,0	-8,0	4,5	-10,9	-10,9	10,0
Income from the sales of accessories	10,0	-4,5	14,2	-0,8	-10,1	3,9
Income from fuel sales	8,2	7,3	5,6	-1,3	4,2	1,6
Income from convenience store sales ¹	10,8	7,6	-1,7	1,4	1,1	0,9
Total	7,6	-4,2	10,1	-2,5	-3,9	4,6

¹ Income from Quickshop and café sales at filling stations, including 'other' sales and trading income.

Table 13 – Contribution of each type of activity to the year-on-year percentage change in motor trade sales at current prices

Type of activity	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24
New vehicle sales	0,8	-4,6	1,1	-2,2	-3,0	0,4
Used vehicle sales	1,8	-0,7	4,3	0,7	0,5	2,4
Workshop income	0,2	-0,3	0,2	-0,5	-0,5	0,4
Income from the sales of accessories	2,0	-0,9	2,8	-0,2	-2,2	0,8
Income from fuel sales	2,4	2,1	1,8	-0,4	1,2	0,5
Income from convenience store sales ¹	0,2	0,2	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Total	7,6	-4,2	10,1	-2,5	-3,9	4,6

¹ Income from Quickshop and café sales at filling stations, including 'other' sales and trading income.

Table 14 – Seasonally adjusted motor trade sales at current prices by type of activity (R million)

Type of activity	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Month-on-month % change
New vehicle sales	18 574	15 246	17 309	16 674	17 699	17 860	0,9
Used vehicle sales	15 209	14 756	16 086	15 011	15 526	15 551	0,2
Workshop income	3 231	3 097	3 132	2 950	3 096	3 147	1,6
Income from the sales of accessories	16 358	15 739	15 834	15 299	15 749	16 466	4,6
Income from fuel sales	24 987	24 819	24 620	23 894	24 079	23 981	-0,4
Income from convenience store sales ¹	1 855	1 887	1 733	1 775	1 795	1 814	1,1
Total	80 214	75 545	78 715	75 604	77 943	78 819	1,1

¹ Income from Quickshop and café sales at filling stations, including 'other' sales and trading income.

Explanatory notes

- Introduction** 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey covering enterprises in the motor trade industry (see point 3 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from Stats SA’s 2023 statistical business register (SBR) that contains businesses registered at the South African Revenue Service (SARS) for value-added tax (VAT). Stats SA continuously updates its SBR, which is linked to the SARS administrative data. Published motor trade sales estimates exclude VAT.

- Purpose of the survey** 2 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** 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;
 - motorcycle 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. Each enterprise is classified to the industry which reflects its predominant activity. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC group four-digit level.

- Collection rate** 5 The preliminary collection rate for the survey on motor trade sales for July 2024 was 71,5%. The revised collection rate for June 2024 was 75,3%.

- Statistical unit** 6 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.

- Revised figures** 7 Revised figures are mainly due to late submission of data to Stats SA, or respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures. The reasons for routine revisions are outlined in the following schedule. Any unscheduled revisions will be promptly indicated in relevant tables to maintain transparency and accuracy. It is important to note that seasonally adjusted figures are revised monthly.

Statistical release	Reason for revision	Period subject to revision
Jul-24	Additional information from respondents	Jun-24
Aug-24	Additional information from respondents	Jul-24
Sep-24	Additional information from respondents	Aug-24
Oct-24	Additional information from respondents	Sep-24
Nov-24	Additional information from respondents	Oct-24
Dec-24	Additional information from respondents	Nov-24
Jan-25	Additional information from respondents	Dec-24
Feb-25	Additional information from respondents	Jan-25
Mar-25	Additional information from respondents	Feb-25
Apr-25	Additional information from respondents	Mar-25
May-25	Additional information from respondents	Apr-25
Jun-25	Additional information from respondents	May-25
New weights for motor deflators in 2025/26 - periodic, approximately four- to five-year intervals		
New base year in 2027/28 - periodic, approximately four- to five-year intervals		

- Related publications** 8 Users may also refer to the *Stats in Brief* publication available from Stats SA.
- Rounding-off of figures** 9 Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.
- Historical data** 10 Historical motor trade data are available on the Stats SA website. To access the data electronically, use the following link: [Click to download historical data](#).
- Past publications** 11 Past motor trade releases are available on the Stats SA website. To access the releases electronically, use the following link: [Click to download past releases](#).

Technical notes

- Survey methodology and design** 1 The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of 978 enterprises from a population of 10 515 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within 10 days after the end of the reference month. Email, fax and telephone reminders are used to follow up on non-respondents.
- 2 A stratified random sample was drawn in April 2023 from Stats SA’s statistical business register (SBR) at the SIC four-digit level. Strata were formed using a combination of SIC and the measure of size classes for enterprises (see point 3 below).

The Neyman optimal allocation formula given below was used to allocate samples to each stratum.

$$n_h = n * (N_h * S_h) / [\sum (N_i * S_i)] .$$

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 was 6,6%.

- Class limits** 3 Each motor trade classification group (SIC at four-digit level) is divided into four size groups. All large enterprises (size group one) are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to medium and small enterprises (size groups two, three and four). The total value of sales of the large enterprises (size group one) per classification group is added to the weighted totals of size groups two, three and four to reflect the total value of sales.

Measure of size classes (Rand)

Enterprise size	Size group	Lower limit	Upper limit
Very small	4	2 663 691	18 000 000
Small	3	18 000 001	85 500 000
Medium	2	85 500 001	175 500 000
Large	1	175 500 001	

- Sample weighting** 4 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 classification group estimates. These procedures are consistent with international best practice.

- Seasonal adjustment** **5** Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month using the X-12-ARIMA 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 recognised more clearly. 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 motor trade sales is described in more detail on the Stats SA website at:
[Click to download seasonal adjustment motor trade sales January 2023.](#)
- Trend cycle** **6** 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 estimates of the underlying trend cycle.
- Constant prices** **7** Motor trade sales at constant prices by type of activity are obtained by deflating estimated sales at current prices by the relevant weighted price index. To obtain total motor trade sales at constant prices, estimates of the deflated sales for each type of activity are aggregated.
- Reliability of estimates** **8** 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.

9 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.
- Relative standard error** **10** One measure is the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of enterprises was used. The relative standard error (RSE) provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and thus avoids the need to refer to the size of the estimate.

Estimates of total motor trade sales within 95% confidence limits – July 2024

	Lower limit (R million)	Sales (R million)	Upper limit (R million)	Relative standard error (RSE) %
Motor trade sales	74 740	80 857	86 974	3,8

- Month-on-month percentage change** **11** The month-on-month percentage change in a variable for any given month is the change between that month and the previous month, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
- Year-on-year percentage change** **12** The year-on-year percentage change in a variable for any given period is the change between that period and the corresponding period of the previous year, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
- Contribution (percentage points)** **13** The contribution (percentage points) to the year-on-year percentage change is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of activity by its corresponding weight, divided by 100. The weight is the percentage contribution of each type of activity to total motor trade sales in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Glossary

Enterprise

An 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 (SIC)*, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993.

Symbols and abbreviations

GDP	Gross domestic product
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities
SARS	South African Revenue Service
SBR	Statistical business register
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
VAT	Value-added tax
*	Revised figures

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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 12 official languages. Since the releases are used extensively locally and by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

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