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Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for May 2023

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

	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	1,8	-2,5	-2,2	-2,8	-3,8	-0,8
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,1	-1,7	1,3	-0,8	0,6	-0,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	-1,1	-2,0	-1,7	-1,3	-0,1	-0,2

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 decreased by 0,8% year-on-year in May 2023. The largest negative annual growth rates were recorded for:

- used vehicle sales (-10,3%); and
- convenience store sales (-6,6%) – see Table 5.

The largest negative contributor to this decrease was used vehicle sales (contributing -2,2 percentage points) – see Table 6.

Seasonally adjusted motor trade sales decreased by 0,4% in May 2023 compared with April 2023. This followed month-on-month changes of 0,6% in April 2023 and -0,8% in March 2023. In the three months ended May 2023, seasonally adjusted motor trade sales decreased by 0,2% compared with the previous three months.

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

Type of activity	Mar – May 2022 (R million)	Weight (%)	Mar – May 2023 (R million)	% change between Mar – May 2022 and Mar – May 2023	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
New vehicle sales	43 607	25,0	43 195	-0,9	-0,2
Used vehicle sales	37 322	21,4	32 826	-12,0	-2,6
Workshop income	11 733	6,7	11 848	1,0	0,1
Income from the sales of accessories	29 980	17,2	30 357	1,3	0,2
Income from fuel sales	45 857	26,3	46 298	1,0	0,3
Income from convenience store sales 1/	6 122	3,5	5 818	-5,0	-0,2
Total	174 621	100,0	170 342	-2,5	-2,5

1/ Includes 'other' sales and trading income.

Motor trade sales decreased by 2,5% in the three months ended May 2023 compared with the three months ended May 2022. The main negative contributor to this decrease was used vehicle sales (-12,0% and contributing -2,6 percentage points) – see Table B.

Figure 1 – Motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices

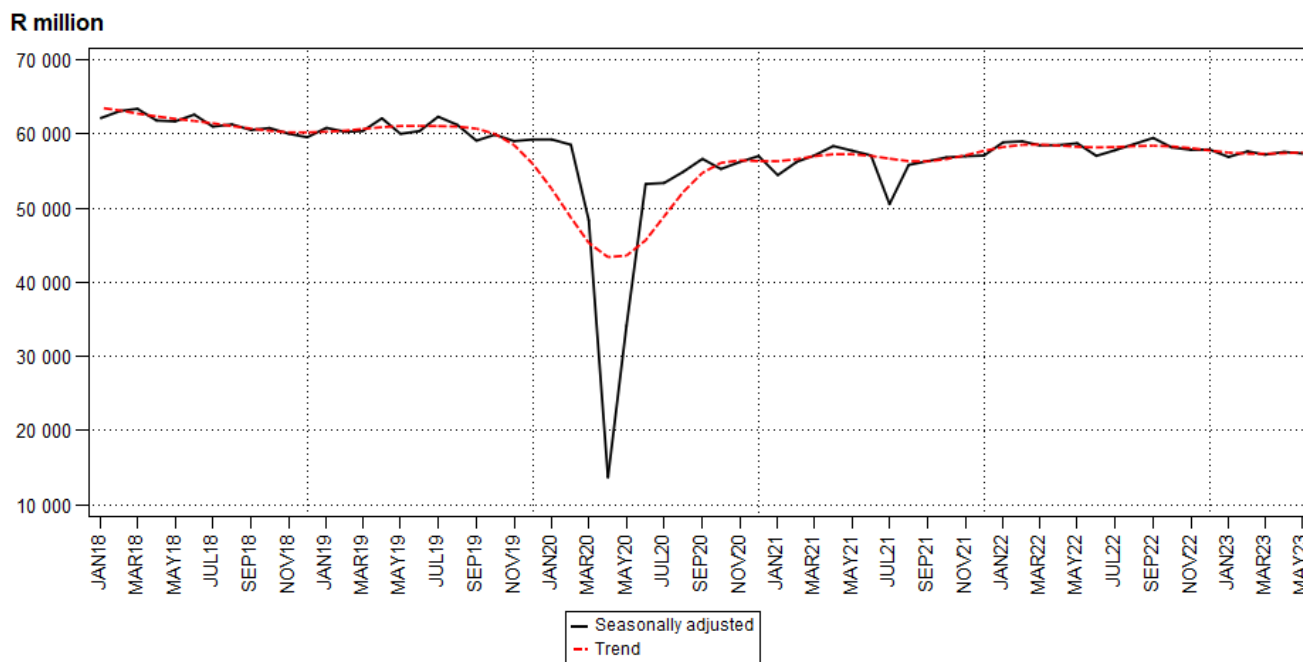
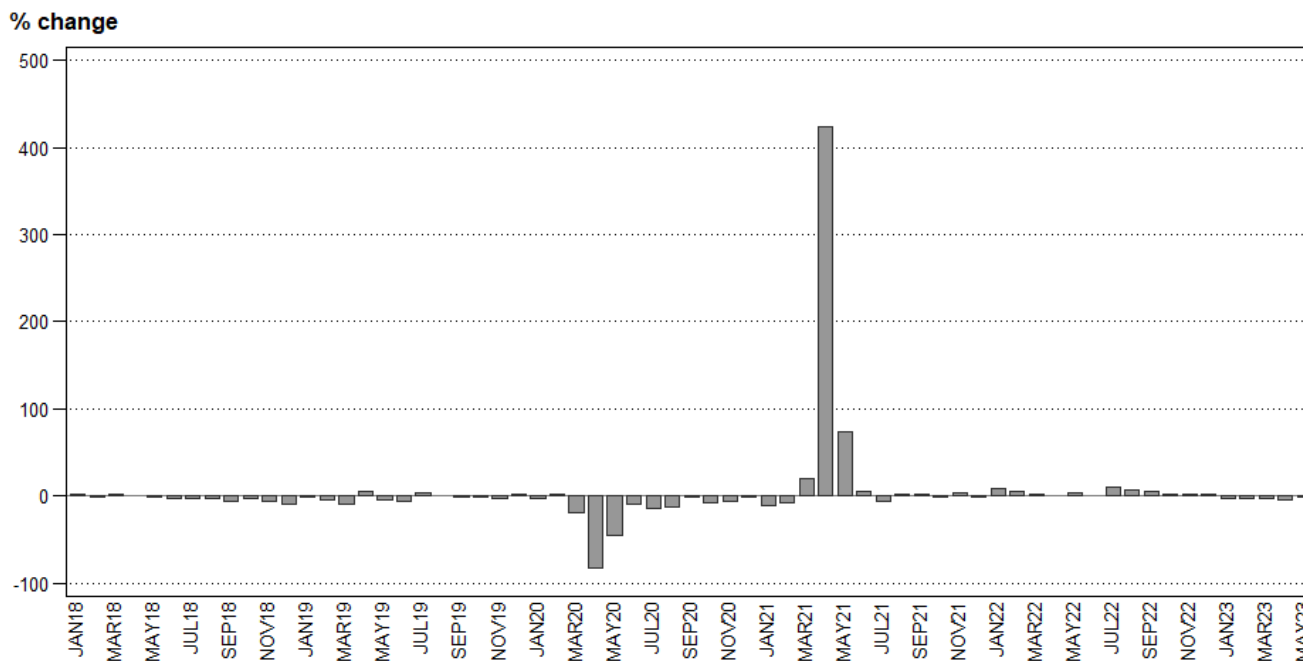


Figure 2 – Motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices: year-on-year percentage change



Sales at current prices: results for May 2023

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

	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	16,0	8,6	7,9	6,6	4,2	6,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,4	-3,3	0,8	0,0	0,5	0,0
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	1,4	-0,4	-1,4	-2,3	-1,2	-0,3

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

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

Type of activity	Mar – May 2022 (R million)	Weight (%)	Mar – May 2023 (R million)	% change between Mar – May 2022 and Mar – May 2023	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
New vehicle sales	49 829	23,7	53 685	7,7	1,8
Used vehicle sales	40 442	19,3	40 122	-0,8	-0,2
Workshop income	12 791	6,1	13 700	7,1	0,4
Income from the sales of accessories	36 138	17,2	38 802	7,4	1,3
Income from fuel sales	63 815	30,4	68 104	6,7	2,0
Income from convenience store sales 1/	6 883	3,3	7 430	7,9	0,3
Total	209 897	100,0	221 841	5,7	5,7

1/ Includes 'other' sales and trading income.

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

Tables

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

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 1/
Jan	59 894	60 742	60 226	58 216	51 631	56 349	54 952
Feb	61 174	61 120	58 299	58 548	54 390	57 242	56 005
Mar	66 790	67 052	61 130	49 858	59 501	60 683	58 976
Apr	56 107	56 128	58 953	10 560	55 282	55 267	53 142
May	63 401	62 652	60 455	32 848	56 899	58 671	58 224
Jun	62 578	60 844	57 431	51 868	54 997	55 016	
Jul	62 781	61 614	63 642	54 436	51 332	56 372	
Aug	64 180	62 695	62 688	54 737	56 341	60 044	
Sep	62 822	59 111	58 278	57 399	57 863	61 413	
Oct	66 111	64 314	64 005	58 754	58 309	59 883	
Nov	67 686	64 014	61 976	58 439	60 698	61 159	
Dec	61 354	55 876	56 288	55 738	55 345	56 346	
Total	754 878	736 162	723 371	601 401	672 588	698 445	

1/ Figures for the latest month are preliminary.

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

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 year-to-date
Jan	1,4	-0,8	-3,3	-11,3	9,1	-2,5	-2,5
Feb	-0,1	-4,6	0,4	-7,1	5,2	-2,2	-2,3
Mar	0,4	-8,8	-18,4	19,3	2,0	-2,8	-2,5
Apr	0,0	5,0	-82,1	423,5	0,0	-3,8	-2,8
May	-1,2	-3,5	-45,7	73,2	3,1	-0,8	-2,4
Jun	-2,8	-5,6	-9,7	6,0	0,0		
Jul	-1,9	3,3	-14,5	-5,7	9,8		
Aug	-2,3	0,0	-12,7	2,9	6,6		
Sep	-5,9	-1,4	-1,5	0,8	6,1		
Oct	-2,7	-0,5	-8,2	-0,8	2,7		
Nov	-5,4	-3,2	-5,7	3,9	0,8		
Dec	-8,9	0,7	-1,0	-0,7	1,8		
Total	-2,5	-1,7	-16,9	11,8	3,8		

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

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	59 265	54 448	58 883	56 902	0,0	-4,5	3,1	-1,7
Feb	58 554	56 254	59 011	57 661	-1,2	3,3	0,2	1,3
Mar	48 346	57 093	58 484	57 218	-17,4	1,5	-0,9	-0,8
Apr	13 651	58 376	58 506	57 583	-71,8	2,2	0,0	0,6
May	34 129	57 759	58 751	57 375	150,0	-1,1	0,4	-0,4
Jun	53 259	57 112	57 053		56,1	-1,1	-2,9	
Jul	53 391	50 541	57 809		0,2	-11,5	1,3	
Aug	54 903	55 831	58 637		2,8	10,5	1,4	
Sep	56 646	56 340	59 472		3,2	0,9	1,4	
Oct	55 276	56 842	58 186		-2,4	0,9	-2,2	
Nov	56 244	57 002	57 870		1,8	0,3	-0,5	
Dec	57 024	57 096	57 913		1,4	0,2	0,1	

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

Type of activity	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23 1/
New vehicle sales	15 085	13 445	14 656	15 494	13 333	14 368
Used vehicle sales	10 145	10 975	10 746	11 576	9 847	11 403
Workshop income	3 583	3 328	3 657	3 847	3 689	4 312
Income from the sales of accessories	8 997	9 549	10 286	10 695	9 171	10 491
Income from fuel sales	16 275	15 656	14 814	15 345	15 143	15 810
Income from convenience store sales 2/	2 261	1 999	1 846	2 019	1 959	1 840
Total	56 346	54 952	56 005	58 976	53 142	58 224

1/ Figures are preliminary.

2/ Includes '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	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23
New vehicle sales	21,6	0,2	1,8	-3,0	-3,6	4,1
Used vehicle sales	-12,0	-10,4	-12,6	-11,5	-14,6	-10,3
Workshop income	8,1	-4,9	-4,6	-2,3	1,1	4,0
Income from the sales of accessories	-3,2	-1,9	4,1	3,0	-2,3	2,7
Income from fuel sales	-1,2	1,3	-0,4	0,9	2,1	0,0
Income from convenience store sales 1/	-3,5	-0,3	-5,6	-3,8	-4,6	-6,6
Total	1,8	-2,5	-2,2	-2,8	-3,8	-0,8

1/ Includes '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	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23
New vehicle sales	4,8	0,0	0,5	-0,8	-0,9	1,0
Used vehicle sales	-2,5	-2,3	-2,7	-2,5	-3,1	-2,2
Workshop income	0,5	-0,3	-0,3	-0,1	0,1	0,3
Income from the sales of accessories	-0,5	-0,3	0,7	0,5	-0,4	0,5
Income from fuel sales	-0,4	0,4	-0,1	0,2	0,6	0,0
Income from convenience store sales 1/	-0,1	0,0	-0,2	-0,1	-0,2	-0,2
Total	1,8	-2,5	-2,2	-2,8	-3,8	-0,8

1/ Includes 'other' sales and trading income.

Table 7 – Motor trade sales at current prices (R million)

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 1/
Jan	53 674	57 211	58 073	58 804	52 684	64 307	69 808
Feb	55 299	57 509	56 474	59 193	56 411	66 109	71 360
Mar	60 342	62 936	60 017	50 282	62 668	71 747	76 458
Apr	50 530	53 531	59 300	9 984	59 186	66 563	69 342
May	57 943	60 467	61 310	30 529	61 068	71 587	76 041
Jun	56 987	59 603	58 510	50 658	59 124	69 060	
Jul	56 489	60 840	63 926	54 854	55 584	73 233	
Aug	58 110	62 122	63 025	55 427	61 961	77 045	
Sep	57 576	58 713	58 745	58 247	63 794	77 864	
Oct	61 135	65 150	64 669	59 408	64 650	76 149	
Nov	62 889	65 163	62 465	58 928	68 640	78 848	
Dec	57 515	55 523	56 859	55 940	63 570	73 737	
Total	688 489	718 768	723 373	602 254	729 340	866 249	

1/ Figures for the latest month are preliminary.

Table 8 – Year-on-year percentage change in motor trade sales at current prices

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 year-to-date
Jan	6,6	1,5	1,3	-10,4	22,1	8,6	8,6
Feb	4,0	-1,8	4,8	-4,7	17,2	7,9	8,2
Mar	4,3	-4,6	-16,2	24,6	14,5	6,6	7,6
Apr	5,9	10,8	-83,2	492,8	12,5	4,2	6,8
May	4,4	1,4	-50,2	100,0	17,2	6,2	6,7
Jun	4,6	-1,8	-13,4	16,7	16,8		
Jul	7,7	5,1	-14,2	1,3	31,8		
Aug	6,9	1,5	-12,1	11,8	24,3		
Sep	2,0	0,1	-0,8	9,5	22,1		
Oct	6,6	-0,7	-8,1	8,8	17,8		
Nov	3,6	-4,1	-5,7	16,5	14,9		
Dec	-3,5	2,4	-1,6	13,6	16,0		
Total	4,4	0,6	-16,7	21,1	18,8		

Table 9 – Seasonally adjusted motor trade sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	60 713	56 138	68 209	73 238	1,5	-3,3	4,3	-3,3
Feb	61 700	58 687	68 492	73 793	1,6	4,5	0,4	0,8
Mar	48 643	60 162	69 275	73 820	-21,2	2,5	1,1	0,0
Apr	13 930	62 526	70 200	74 181	-71,4	3,9	1,3	0,5
May	30 073	60 751	70 614	74 183	115,9	-2,8	0,6	0,0
Jun	51 260	60 264	70 576		70,5	-0,8	-0,1	
Jul	52 668	53 802	72 520		2,7	-10,7	2,8	
Aug	54 947	60 710	74 848		4,3	12,8	3,2	
Sep	57 009	62 256	75 646		3,8	2,5	1,1	
Oct	56 326	62 870	74 791		-1,2	1,0	-1,1	
Nov	56 596	65 120	75 470		0,5	3,6	0,9	
Dec	58 055	65 401	75 770		2,6	0,4	0,4	

Table 10 – Motor trade sales at current prices by type of activity (R million)

Type of activity	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23 1/
New vehicle sales	18 094	16 303	17 861	19 035	16 655	17 995
Used vehicle sales	12 111	13 182	12 984	14 067	12 037	14 018
Workshop income	4 020	3 818	4 205	4 446	4 268	4 986
Income from the sales of accessories	11 229	12 002	13 024	13 686	11 671	13 445
Income from fuel sales	25 528	22 038	20 989	22 676	22 202	23 226
Income from convenience store sales 2/	2 755	2 465	2 298	2 549	2 510	2 371
Total	73 737	69 808	71 360	76 458	69 342	76 041

1/ Figures are preliminary.

2/ Includes 'other' sales and trading income.

Table 11 – Year-on-year percentage change in motor trade sales at current prices by type of activity

Type of activity	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23
New vehicle sales	29,3	7,6	9,4	4,8	5,3	13,5
Used vehicle sales	2,0	3,2	0,0	0,5	-3,6	0,4
Workshop income	14,4	2,4	2,9	5,1	6,6	9,4
Income from the sales of accessories	4,2	5,5	11,6	10,8	3,1	7,9
Income from fuel sales	22,3	15,6	11,1	9,7	7,5	3,3
Income from convenience store sales 1/	8,4	12,2	6,9	9,4	9,1	5,3
Total	16,0	8,6	7,9	6,6	4,2	6,2

1/ Includes 'other' sales and trading income.

Table 12 – Contribution of each type of activity to the year-on-year percentage change in motor trade sales at current prices

Type of activity	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23
New vehicle sales	6,4	1,8	2,3	1,2	1,3	3,0
Used vehicle sales	0,4	0,6	0,0	0,1	-0,7	0,1
Workshop income	0,8	0,1	0,2	0,3	0,4	0,6
Income from the sales of accessories	0,7	1,0	2,0	1,9	0,5	1,4
Income from fuel sales	7,3	4,6	3,2	2,8	2,3	1,0
Income from convenience store sales 1/	0,3	0,4	0,2	0,3	0,3	0,2
Total	16,0	8,6	7,9	6,6	4,2	6,2

1/ Includes 'other' sales and trading income.

Survey information

Introduction	1	Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey covering enterprises in the motor trade industry (see point 4 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from Stats SA's 2022 business sampling frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered at the South African Revenue Service (SARS) for value-added tax (VAT). Stats SA continuously updates its BSF, which is linked to the SARS administrative data.
	2	In order to improve timeliness, some information for the latest month had to be estimated due to late response. These estimates will be revised in future statistical releases as soon as information becomes available. Published motor trade sales estimates exclude 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</i> (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 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities</i> (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	6	The preliminary collection rate for the survey on motor trade sales for May 2023 was 78,9%. The improved collection rate for April 2023 was 83,2%.
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.
Revised figures	8	Revised figures are mainly due to late submission of data to Stats SA, or respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures. Preliminary figures, as indicated in the relevant tables, are subject to change and when revised will not be indicated as such.
Related publications	9	Users may also refer to the following publication available from Stats SA: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Stats in Brief</i> issued annually.

- Rounding-off of figures** 10 Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.
- Historical data** 11 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** 12 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 910 enterprises from a population of 10 328 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within ten 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 2022 from Stats SA's business sampling frame (BSF) at the SIC four-digit level. Strata were formed using a combination of SIC and the measure of size classes for enterprises (see point three 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 3,8%.

- 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	2 334 640	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 – May 2023

	Lower limit (R million)	Sales (R million)	Upper limit (R million)	Relative standard error (RSE) %
Motor trade sales	70 992	76 041	81 090	3,3

- 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

BSF	Business sampling frame
GDP	Gross domestic product
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
IT	Income tax
Rm	Rand million
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities
SARS	South African Revenue Service
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
VAT	Value-added tax

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