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Motor trade sales (Preliminary)

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Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for September 2023

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

	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-4,7	0,2	5,8	2,2	-2,4	-8,4
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,8	0,5	1,1	-0,4	-0,7	-2,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	-0,8	-0,5	0,0	0,5	0,7	-0,7

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 8,4% year-on-year in September 2023. The largest negative annual growth rates were recorded for:

- workshop income (-17,8%);
- new vehicle sales (-13,9%); and
- used vehicle sales (-12,2%) see Table 5.

The largest negative contributors to this decrease were:

- new vehicle sales (contributing -3,6 percentage points); and
- used vehicle sales (contributing -2,5 percentage points) see Table 6.

Seasonally adjusted motor trade sales decreased by 2,2% in September 2023 compared with August 2023. This followed month-on-month changes of -0,7% in August 2023 and -0,4% in July 2023. In the third quarter of 2023, seasonally adjusted motor trade sales decreased by 0,7% compared with the second quarter of 2023.

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

Type of activity	Jul – Sep 2022 (R million)	Weight (%)	Jul – Sep 2023 (R million)	% change between Jul – Sep 2022 and Jul – Sep 2023	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
New vehicle sales	46 423	25,5	42 981	-7,4	-1,9
Used vehicle sales	38 778	21,3	35 183	-9,3	-2,0
Workshop income	9 147	5,0	8 233	-10,0	-0,5
Income from the sales of accessories	36 673	20,1	37 238	1,5	0,3
Income from fuel sales	46 998	25,8	48 962	4,2	1,1
Income from convenience store sales 1	4 142	2,3	4 071	-1,7	0,0
Total	182 161	100,0	176 668	-3,0	-3,0

¹ Includes 'other' sales and trading income.

Motor trade sales decreased by 3,0% in the third quarter of 2023 compared with the third quarter of 2022. The main negative contributors to this decrease were:

- used vehicle sales (-9,3% and contributing -2,0 percentage points); and
- new vehicle sales (-7,4% and contributing -1,9 percentage points) see Table B.

Figure 1 - Motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices

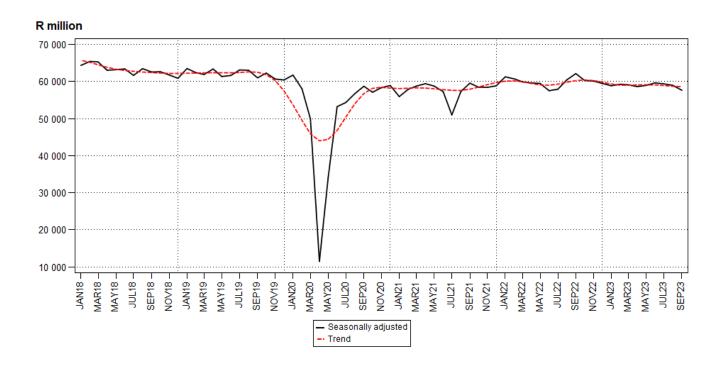
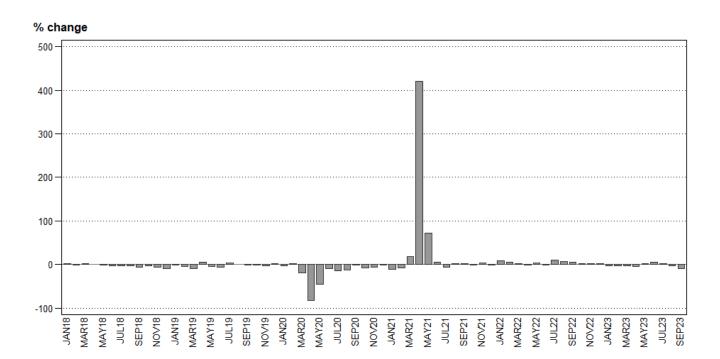


Figure 2 - Motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices: year-on-year percentage change



Sales at current prices: results for September 2023

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

	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	3,3	7,2	9,2	2,8	0,4	-2,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,2	1,1	1,2	-0,9	0,3	-0,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	-1,5	-0,2	1,3	1,5	1,3	0,1

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	Jul – Sep 2022 (R million)	Weight (%)	Jul – Sep 2023 (R million)	% change between Jul – Sep 2022 and Jul – Sep 2023	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
New vehicle sales	54 146	23,1	55 095	1,8	0,4
Used vehicle sales	44 262	18,9	43 982	-0,6	-0,1
Workshop income	10 204	4,4	9 547	-6,4	-0,3
Income from the sales of accessories	44 839	19,1	48 960	9,2	1,8
Income from fuel sales	76 017	32,4	72 009	-5,3	-1,7
Income from convenience store sales 1	4 904	2,1	5 323	8,5	0,2
Total	234 373	100,0	234 919	0,2	0,2

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	61 436	62 312	61 753	59 702	52 879	57 639	56 393
Feb	62 749	62 692	59 753	60 040	55 693	58 531	57 321
Mar	68 520	68 754	62 693	51 126	60 913	62 043	60 688
Apr	57 569	57 551	60 446	10 861	56 575	56 417	53 792
May	65 043	64 236	61 985	33 714	58 216	60 095	60 198
Jun	64 194	62 367	58 869	53 146	56 275	56 175	59 426
Jul	64 418	63 154	65 249	55 759	52 518	57 738	59 000
Aug	65 841	64 255	64 265	56 059	57 647	61 553	60 076
Sep	64 449	60 591	59 748	58 770	59 193	62 870	57 592
Oct	67 808	65 909	65 621	60 169	59 648	61 234	
Nov	69 411	65 580	63 553	59 843	62 098	62 745	
Dec	62 913	57 263	57 716	57 097	56 602	57 923	
Total	774 351	754 664	741 651	616 286	688 257	714 963	

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	-0,9	-3,3	-11,4	9,0	-2,2	-2,2
Feb	-0,1	-4,7	0,5	-7,2	5,1	-2,1	-2,1
Mar	0,3	-8,8	-18,5	19,1	1,9	-2,2	-2,1
Apr	0,0	5,0	-82,0	420,9	-0,3	-4,7	-2,7
May	-1,2	-3,5	-45,6	72,7	3,2	0,2	-2,1
Jun	-2,8	-5,6	-9,7	5,9	-0,2	5,8	-0,9
Jul	-2,0	3,3	-14,5	-5,8	9,9	2,2	-0,4
Aug	-2,4	0,0	-12,8	2,8	6,8	-2,4	-0,7
Sep	-6,0	-1,4	-1,6	0,7	6,2	-8,4	-1,6
Oct	-2,8	-0,4	-8,3	-0,9	2,7		
Nov	-5,5	-3,1	-5,8	3,8	1,0		
Dec	-9,0	0,8	-1,1	-0,9	2,3		
Total	-2,5	-1,7	-16,9	11,7	3,9		

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

NA (I)		R mi	Ilion		Month-on-month % change			
Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	61 738	55 932	61 268	58 858	2,2	-5,1	4,1	-1,1
Feb	58 030	57 911	60 702	59 262	-6,0	3,5	-0,9	0,7
Mar	49 936	58 755	59 923	59 096	-13,9	1,5	-1,3	-0,3
Apr	11 446	59 413	59 597	58 635	-77,1	1,1	-0,5	-0,8
May	33 945	58 766	59 486	58 953	196,6	-1,1	-0,2	0,5
Jun	53 220	57 287	57 515	59 622	56,8	-2,5	-3,3	1,1
Jul	54 332	50 977	57 913	59 361	2,1	-11,0	0,7	-0,4
Aug	56 723	57 269	60 441	58 955	4,4	12,3	4,4	-0,7
Sep	58 722	59 549	62 135	57 641	3,5	4,0	2,8	-2,2
Oct	57 103	58 473	60 293		-2,8	-1,8	-3,0	
Nov	58 356	58 420	60 122		2,2	-0,1	-0,3	
Dec	58 917	58 842	59 486		1,0	0,7	-1,1	

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

Type of activity	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23 ¹
New vehicle sales	12 944	14 777	15 142	14 279	14 574	14 128
Used vehicle sales	10 319	12 003	11 638	11 503	12 271	11 409
Workshop income	2 558	3 091	2 928	2 691	2 896	2 646
Income from the sales of accessories	10 781	12 566	12 873	12 713	12 663	11 862
Income from fuel sales	15 837	16 455	15 565	16 480	16 312	16 170
Income from convenience store sales ²	1 353	1 306	1 280	1 334	1 360	1 377
Total	53 792	60 198	59 426	59 000	60 076	57 592

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

Type of activity	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
New vehicle sales	-8,9	3,6	11,2	4,4	-10,7	-13,9
Used vehicle sales	-13,3	-9,2	-6,9	-10,0	-5,6	-12,2
Workshop income	-3,0	3,4	1,8	-7,9	-3,6	-17,8
Income from the sales of accessories	-0,8	5,8	12,2	8,2	2,1	-5,3
Income from fuel sales	2,9	0,4	7,9	8,1	5,6	-0,9
Income from convenience store sales ¹	-4,0	-4,5	-0,5	-2,3	-0,8	-2,1
Total	-4,7	0,2	5,8	2,2	-2,4	-8,4

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	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
New vehicle sales	-2,2	0,9	2,7	1,0	-2,8	-3,6
Used vehicle sales	-2,8	-2,0	-1,5	-2,2	-1,2	-2,5
Workshop income	-0,1	0,2	0,1	-0,4	-0,2	-0,9
Income from the sales of accessories	-0,2	1,1	2,5	1,7	0,4	-1,1
Income from fuel sales	0,8	0,1	2,0	2,1	1,4	-0,2
Income from convenience store sales ¹	-0,1	-0,1	0,0	-0,1	0,0	0,0
Total	-4,7	0,2	5,8	2,2	-2,4	-8,4

¹ Includes 'other' sales and trading income.

¹ Figures are preliminary. ² 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	55 031	58 657	59 541	60 290	54 016	65 933	71 808
Feb	56 698	58 963	57 901	60 690	57 837	67 781	73 197
Mar	61 868	64 527	61 534	51 552	64 253	73 561	78 787
Apr	51 807	54 884	60 799	10 237	60 682	68 150	70 413
May	59 408	61 995	62 861	31 301	62 612	73 534	78 795
Jun	58 428	61 110	59 989	51 939	60 618	70 764	77 244
Jul	57 917	62 377	65 542	56 241	56 989	75 235	77 318
Aug	59 579	63 692	64 618	56 829	63 528	79 174	79 511
Sep	59 031	60 197	60 231	59 720	65 406	79 964	78 090
Oct	62 681	66 798	66 304	60 910	66 285	78 039	
Nov	64 479	66 810	64 044	60 418	70 375	81 154	
Dec	58 969	56 927	58 296	57 354	65 177	76 054	
Total	705 896	736 937	741 660	617 481	747 778	889 343	

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	8,9	8,9
Feb	4,0	-1,8	4,8	-4,7	17,2	8,0	8,4
Mar	4,3	-4,6	-16,2	24,6	14,5	7,1	8,0
Apr	5,9	10,8	-83,2	492,8	12,3	3,3	6,8
May	4,4	1,4	-50,2	100,0	17,4	7,2	6,9
Jun	4,6	-1,8	-13,4	16,7	16,7	9,2	7,3
Jul	7,7	5,1	-14,2	1,3	32,0	2,8	6,6
Aug	6,9	1,5	-12,1	11,8	24,6	0,4	5,7
Sep	2,0	0,1	-0,8	9,5	22,3	-2,3	4,7
Oct	6,6	-0,7	-8,1	8,8	17,7		
Nov	3,6	-4,1	-5,7	16,5	15,3		
Dec	-3,5	2,4	-1,6	13,6	16,7		
Total	4,4	0,6	-16,7	21,1	18,9		

Table 9 – Seasonally adjusted motor trade sales at current prices

Month		R mi	llion		Month-on-month % change				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Jan	62 284	57 643	70 039	75 373	1,6	-3,2	4,5	-3,5	
Feb	63 341	60 242	70 322	75 801	1,7	4,5	0,4	0,6	
Mar	49 885	61 726	71 055	76 092	-21,2	2,5	1,0	0,4	
Apr	14 561	64 414	72 326	75 908	-70,8	4,4	1,8	-0,2	
May	30 697	62 148	72 343	76 743	110,8	-3,5	0,0	1,1	
Jun	52 201	61 264	71 634	77 660	70,1	-1,4	-1,0	1,2	
Jul	53 973	55 169	74 532	76 927	3,4	-9,9	4,0	-0,9	
Aug	56 346	62 189	76 851	77 181	4,4	12,7	3,1	0,3	
Sep	58 507	63 964	77 872	76 474	3,8	2,9	1,3	-0,9	
Oct	57 786	64 550	76 771		-1,2	0,9	-1,4		
Nov	58 022	66 734	77 682		0,4	3,4	1,2		
Dec	59 529	67 028	78 120		2,6	0,4	0,6		

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

Type of activity	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23 ¹
New vehicle sales	16 169	18 507	18 976	18 282	18 697	18 116
Used vehicle sales	12 614	14 755	14 387	14 301	15 340	14 341
Workshop income	2 959	3 574	3 390	3 117	3 360	3 070
Income from the sales of accessories	13 719	16 104	16 641	16 548	16 749	15 663
Income from fuel sales	23 219	24 173	22 190	23 329	23 588	25 092
Income from convenience store sales ²	1 734	1 683	1 661	1 740	1 776	1 807
Total	70 413	78 795	77 244	77 318	79 511	78 090

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

Type of activity	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
New vehicle sales	-0,5	13,0	20,6	14,8	-1,8	-5,5
Used vehicle sales	-2,2	1,7	3,5	-0,7	3,4	-4,5
Workshop income	2,3	8,8	6,8	-4,1	0,4	-14,8
Income from the sales of accessories	4,7	11,1	17,8	15,8	10,8	1,6
Income from fuel sales	8,4	3,7	-0,7	-9,5	-6,4	0,1
Income from convenience store sales ¹	9,8	7,8	12,0	9,0	9,3	7,4
Total	3,3	7,2	9,2	2,8	0,4	-2,3

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	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
New vehicle sales	-0,1	2,9	4,6	3,1	-0,4	-1,3
Used vehicle sales	-0,4	0,3	0,7	-0,1	0,6	-0,8
Workshop income	0,1	0,4	0,3	-0,2	0,0	-0,7
Income from the sales of accessories	0,9	2,2	3,6	3,0	2,1	0,3
Income from fuel sales	2,6	1,2	-0,2	-3,3	-2,0	0,0
Income from convenience store sales ¹	0,2	0,2	0,3	0,2	0,2	0,2
Total	3,3	7,2	9,2	2,8	0,4	-2,3

¹ Includes 'other' sales and trading income.

¹ Figures are preliminary. ² Includes 'other' sales and trading income.

Survey information

Introduction

- 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 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.
- 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

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

- 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

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

The preliminary collection rate for the survey on motor trade sales for September 2023 was 70,6%. The improved collection rate for August 2023 was 72,8%.

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:
 - Stats in Brief issued annually.

Rounding-off	of	
figures		

Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.

Historical data

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

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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 ten days after the end of the reference month. Email, fax and telephone reminders are used to follow up on non-respondents.
- 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 three below).

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

$$nh = n * (Nh * Sh) / [\Sigma (Ni * Si)].$$

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

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, small and very 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

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

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

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

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

- Bota 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.
- 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 10 error

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 – September 2023

	Lower limit (R million)	Sales (R million)	Upper limit (R million)	Relative standard error (RSE) %	
Motor trade sales	72 599	78 090	83 580	3,5	

Month-on-month percentage change

11

13

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

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)

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 GDP Gross domestic product

abbreviations ISIC International Standard Industrial Classification

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

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