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Motor trade sales (Preliminary)

November 2024

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Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for November 2024

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

	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-9,7	-0,7	-3,9	-6,7	2,0	-2,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	3,7	0,1	-1,0	-1,8	2,6	-0,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	-1,3	-0,9	2,2	-0,2	-0,1	-1,0

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 2,2% year-on-year in November 2024. The largest negative contributors to this decrease were:

- fuel sales (-6,5% and contributing -1,8 percentage points);
- sales of accessories (-5,6% and contributing -1,1 percentage points); and
- workshop income (-8,1% and contributing -0,5 of a percentage point).

The largest positive contributor was new vehicle sales (4,4% and contributing 1,1 percentage points) – see Table 5 and Table 6.

Seasonally adjusted motor trade sales decreased by 0,8% in November 2024 compared with October 2024. This followed month-on-month changes of 2,6% in October 2024 and -1,8% in September 2024.

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

Type of activity	Sep – Nov 2023 (R million)	Weight (%)	Sep – Nov 2024 (R million)	% change between Sep – Nov 2023 and Sep – Nov 2024	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
New vehicle sales	45 354	25,2	43 761	-3,5	-0,9
Used vehicle sales	33 744	18,7	36 338	7,7	1,4
Workshop income	10 280	5,7	9 479	-7,8	-0,4
Income from the sales of accessories	36 252	20,1	34 448	-5,0	-1,0
Income from fuel sales	49 100	27,3	46 972	-4,3	-1,2
Income from convenience store sales 1	5 361	3,0	5 004	-6,7	-0,2
Total	180 091	100,0	176 002	-2,3	-2,3

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

Motor trade sales decreased by 2,3% in the three months ended November 2024 compared with the three months ended November 2023. The main negative contributors to this decrease were:

- fuel sales (-4,3% and contributing -1,2 percentage points);
- sales of accessories (-5,0% and contributing -1,0 percentage point);
- new vehicle sales (-3,5% and contributing -0,9 of a percentage point); and
- workshop income (-7,8% and contributing -0,4 of a percentage point).

The only positive contributor was used vehicle sales (7,7% and contributing 1,4 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	Jun – Aug 2024 (R million)	Weight (%)	Sep – Nov 2024 (R million)	% change between Jun – Aug 2024 and Sep – Nov 2024	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
New vehicle sales	41 485	24,2	41 737	0,6	0,1
Used vehicle sales	34 401	20,0	34 260	-0,4	-0,1
Workshop income	9 471	5,5	9 203	-2,8	-0,2
Income from the sales of accessories	33 412	19,5	33 627	0,6	0,1
Income from fuel sales	47 755	27,8	46 251	-3,1	-0,9
Income from convenience store sales ¹	5 217	3,0	4 962	-4,9	-0,1
Total	171 741	100,0	170 038	-1,0	-1,0

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

Seasonally adjusted motor trade sales decreased by 1,0% in the three months ended November 2024 compared with the previous three months. The largest negative contributor to this decrease was fuel sales (-3,1% and contributing -0,9 of a percentage point) – see Table C.

Figure 1 - Motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices

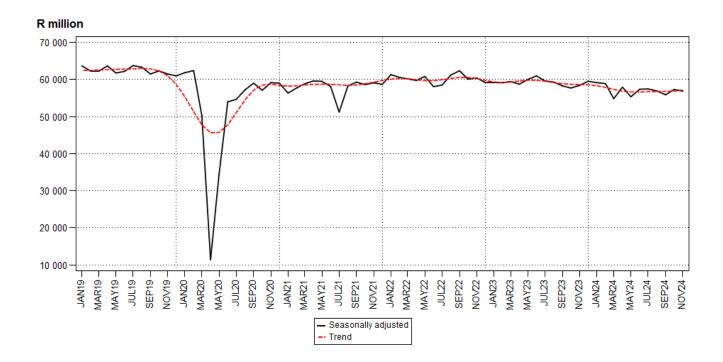
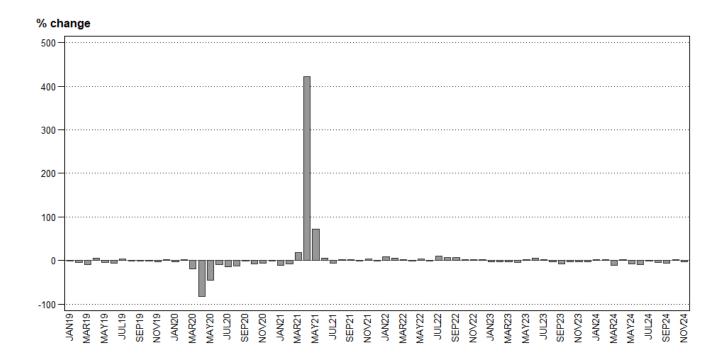


Figure 2 - Motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices: year-on-year percentage change



Sales at current prices: results for November 2024

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

	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-4,1	3,5	-0,6	-6,6	-1,7	-4,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	2,5	0,4	-0,5	-4,3	3,8	-0,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	-1,2	-0,8	1,8	-0,8	-1,2	-2,3

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	Sep – Nov 2023 (R million)	Weight (%)	Sep – Nov 2024 (R million)	% change between Sep – Nov 2023 and Sep – Nov 2024	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
New vehicle sales	58 375	23,7	58 421	0,1	0,0
Used vehicle sales	42 621	17,3	46 022	8,0	1,4
Workshop income	11 964	4,9	11 542	-3,5	-0,2
Income from the sales of accessories	47 996	19,5	48 490	1,0	0,2
Income from fuel sales	78 213	31,8	64 868	-17,1	-5,4
Income from convenience store sales 1	7 098	2,9	6 945	-2,2	-0,1
Total	246 269	100,0	236 286	-4,1	-4,1

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	Jun – Aug 2024 (R million)	Weight (%)	Sep – Nov 2024 (R million)	% change between Jun – Aug 2024 and Sep – Nov 2024	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
New vehicle sales	55 254	23,5	57 416	3,9	0,9
Used vehicle sales	43 859	18,6	43 965	0,2	0,0
Workshop income	11 351	4,8	11 252	-0,9	0,0
Income from the sales of accessories	46 904	19,9	46 937	0,1	0,0
Income from fuel sales	70 852	30,1	63 466	-10,4	-3,1
Income from convenience store sales 1	7 199	3,1	6 868	-4,6	-0,1
Total	235 416	100,0	229 904	-2,3	-2,3

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



Tables

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

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	63 009	62 444	60 300	53 412	58 226	57 004	58 109
Feb	63 400	60 426	60 641	56 248	59 140	57 949	58 343
Mar	69 541	63 367	51 639	61 522	62 687	61 347	54 819
Apr	58 200	61 090	10 955	57 144	57 006	54 262	55 623
May	64 958	62 633	34 056	58 808	60 721	60 814	55 865
Jun	63 065	59 487	53 699	56 847	56 761	60 234	54 362
Jul	63 858	65 931	56 326	53 053	58 325	59 612	59 197
Aug	64 976	64 939	56 628	58 225	62 195	60 380	58 004
Sep	61 266	60 367	59 370	59 793	63 548	58 452	54 539
Oct	66 638	66 297	60 780	60 257	61 895	60 156	61 337
Nov	66 318	64 202	60 454	62 715	63 436	61 483	60 126
Dec	57 903	58 301	57 682	57 170	58 567	57 076	
Total	763 132	749 484	622 530	695 194	722 507	708 769	

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	-3,4	-11,4	9,0	-2,1	1,9	1,9
Feb	-4,7	0,4	-7,2	5,1	-2,0	0,7	1,3
Mar	-8,9	-18,5	19,1	1,9	-2,1	-10,6	-2,9
Apr	5,0	-82,1	421,6	-0,2	-4,8	2,5	-1,6
May	-3,6	-45,6	72,7	3,3	0,2	-8,1	-3,0
Jun	-5,7	-9,7	5,9	-0,2	6,1	-9,7	-4,1
Jul	3,2	-14,6	-5,8	9,9	2,2	-0,7	-3,6
Aug	-0,1	-12,8	2,8	6,8	-2,9	-3,9	-3,7
Sep	-1,5	-1,7	0,7	6,3	-8,0	-6,7	-4,0
Oct	-0,5	-8,3	-0,9	2,7	-2,8	2,0	-3,4
Nov	-3,2	-5,8	3,7	1,1	-3,1	-2,2	-3,3
Dec	0,7	-1,1	-0,9	2,4	-2,5		
Total	-1,8	-16,9	11,7	3,9	-1,9		

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

		R mi	llion		Month-on-month % change			
Month	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	56 336	61 323	59 177	59 146	-4,5	4,5	0,0	-0,6
Feb	57 751	60 541	59 138	58 897	2,5	-1,3	-0,1	-0,4
Mar	58 845	60 193	59 459	54 820	1,9	-0,6	0,5	-6,9
Apr	59 606	59 722	58 739	57 934	1,3	-0,8	-1,2	5,7
May	59 513	60 839	60 002	55 335	-0,2	1,9	2,2	-4,5
Jun	58 112	58 074	60 974	57 381	-2,4	-4,5	1,6	3,7
Jul	51 206	58 489	59 618	57 455	-11,9	0,7	-2,2	0,1
Aug	58 243	61 204	59 308	56 905	13,7	4,6	-0,5	-1,0
Sep	59 299	62 347	58 283	55 873	1,8	1,9	-1,7	-1,8
Oct	58 614	60 089	57 694	57 303	-1,2	-3,6	-1,0	2,6
Nov	59 110	60 419	58 416	56 862	0,8	0,5	1,3	-0,8
Dec	58 685	59 186	59 525		-0,7	-2,0	1,9	

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

Type of activity	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
New vehicle sales	13 001	14 326	14 357	12 651	15 202	15 908
Used vehicle sales	10 821	11 925	11 941	10 945	13 274	12 119
Workshop income	3 142	3 254	3 085	3 012	3 191	3 276
Income from the sales of accessories	10 416	11 987	11 286	10 800	12 036	11 612
Income from fuel sales	15 348	16 013	15 602	15 491	15 983	15 498
Income from convenience store sales ¹	1 634	1 692	1 733	1 640	1 651	1 713
Total	54 362	59 197	58 004	54 539	61 337	60 126

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	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
New vehicle sales	-17,0	-2,2	-3,4	-13,2	-2,2	4,4
Used vehicle sales	-1,0	10,7	4,5	3,1	19,7	0,7
Workshop income	-13,5	-1,6	-12,6	-9,6	-5,6	-8,1
Income from the sales of accessories	-16,5	-2,7	-7,9	-7,0	-2,4	-5,6
Income from fuel sales	-3,4	-5,0	-5,8	-6,2	-0,1	-6,5
Income from convenience store sales ¹	-0,4	-1,1	-1,2	-9,0	-8,0	-2,9
Total	-9,7	-0,7	-3,9	-6,7	2,0	-2,2

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	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
New vehicle sales	-4,4	-0,5	-0,8	-3,3	-0,6	1,1
Used vehicle sales	-0,2	1,9	0,9	0,6	3,6	0,1
Workshop income	-0,8	-0,1	-0,7	-0,5	-0,3	-0,5
Income from the sales of accessories	-3,4	-0,6	-1,6	-1,4	-0,5	-1,1
Income from fuel sales	-0,9	-1,4	-1,6	-1,8	0,0	-1,8
Income from convenience store sales ¹	0,0	0,0	0,0	-0,3	-0,2	-0,1
Total	-9,7	-0,7	-3,9	-6,7	2,0	-2,2

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	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Month- on-month % change
New vehicle sales	13 923	13 994	13 568	13 398	14 020	14 319	2,1
Used vehicle sales	11 716	11 214	11 471	11 253	11 585	11 422	-1,4
Workshop income	3 179	3 130	3 162	3 090	3 062	3 051	-0,4
Income from the sales of accessories	10 827	11 495	11 090	10 842	11 653	11 132	-4,5
Income from fuel sales	16 019	15 891	15 845	15 625	15 376	15 250	-0,8
Income from convenience store sales 1	1 716	1 731	1 770	1 666	1 607	1 689	5, 1
Total	57 381	57 455	56 905	55 873	57 303	56 862	-0,8

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	59 276	60 170	60 926	54 586	66 628	72 566	78 149
Feb	59 585	58 512	61 331	58 448	68 496	73 970	79 055
Mar	65 209	62 183	52 097	64 931	74 337	79 618	75 862
Apr	55 463	61 440	10 344	61 323	68 870	71 017	77 567
May	62 650	63 524	31 632	63 273	74 310	79 567	77 819
Jun	61 754	60 622	52 487	61 258	71 511	78 256	75 059
Jul	63 036	66 234	56 835	57 590	76 029	78 104	80 854
Aug	64 364	65 300	57 428	64 198	80 009	79 886	79 422
Sep	60 832	60 866	60 350	66 096	80 807	79 214	74 009
Oct	67 502	67 004	61 553	66 984	78 863	83 158	81 785
Nov	67 515	64 720	61 056	71 118	82 010	83 897	80 492
Dec	57 528	58 911	57 960	65 864	76 857	78 120	
Total	744 714	749 486	623 999	755 669	898 727	937 373	

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

Table 10 - Seasonally adjusted motor trade sales at current prices

Month		R mi	llion		Month-on-month % change				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Jan	58 723	70 743	75 604	79 860	-1,0	5,1	-3,6	-1,7	
Feb	60 407	70 510	75 970	80 614	2,9	-0,3	0,5	0,9	
Mar	62 061	71 257	76 791	75 996	2,7	1,1	1,1	-5,7	
Apr	63 118	71 571	75 429	78 775	1,7	0,4	-1,8	3,7	
May	63 840	73 887	78 015	76 473	1,1	3,2	3,4	-2,9	
Jun	62 398	72 880	79 242	78 423	-2,3	-1,4	1,6	2,5	
Jul	55 861	76 057	78 194	78 700	-10,5	4,4	-1,3	0,4	
Aug	63 693	78 358	78 150	78 293	14,0	3,0	-0,1	-0,5	
Sep	65 305	79 702	79 076	74 894	2,5	1,7	1,2	-4,3	
Oct	65 419	77 316	80 574	77 716	0,2	-3,0	1,9	3,8	
Nov	67 137	78 306	80 194	77 294	2,6	1,3	-0,5	-0,5	
Dec	67 294	78 461	81 268		0,2	0,2	1,3		

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

Type of activity	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
New vehicle sales	17 069	18 845	19 093	16 870	20 290	21 261
Used vehicle sales	13 775	15 171	15 172	13 883	16 813	15 326
Workshop income	3 800	3 961	3 754	3 666	3 884	3 992
Income from the sales of accessories	14 582	16 760	15 939	15 236	16 884	16 370
Income from fuel sales	23 584	23 786	23 070	22 081	21 618	21 169
Income from convenience store sales ¹	2 248	2 331	2 393	2 274	2 297	2 374
Total	75 059	80 854	79 422	74 009	81 785	80 492

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	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
New vehicle sales	-13,1	0,5	0,2	-9,6	1,3	8,0
Used vehicle sales	1,9	13,3	6,2	4,0	20,0	0,4
Workshop income	-9,7	3,4	-8,3	-5,2	-1,3	-4,1
Income from the sales of accessories	-9,6	4,5	-1,6	-0,7	3,4	0,2
Income from fuel sales	4,1	-0,3	-3,7	-13,9	-18,3	-18,9
Income from convenience store sales ¹	5,6	4,5	4,5	-3,8	-3,5	0,9
Total	-4,1	3,5	-0,6	-6,6	-1,7	-4,1

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	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
New vehicle sales	-3,3	0,1	0,0	-2,3	0,3	1,9
Used vehicle sales	0,3	2,3	1,1	0,7	3,4	0,1
Workshop income	-0,5	0,2	-0,4	-0,3	-0,1	-0,2
Income from the sales of accessories	-2,0	0,9	-0,3	-0,1	0,7	0,0
Income from fuel sales	1,2	-0,1	-1,1	-4,5	-5,8	-5,9
Income from convenience store sales ¹	0,2	0,1	0,1	-0,1	-0,1	0,0
Total	-4,1	3,5	-0,6	-6,6	-1,7	-4,1

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	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Month- on-month % change
New vehicle sales	18 181	18 203	18 870	17 476	19 510	20 430	4,7
Used vehicle sales	14 493	14 611	14 755	14 064	15 451	14 450	-6,5
Workshop income	3 832	3 794	3 725	3 724	3 733	3 795	1,7
Income from the sales of accessories	15 324	16 030	15 550	15 513	15 779	15 645	-0,8
Income from fuel sales	24 212	23 660	22 980	21 841	21 011	20 614	-1,9
Income from convenience store sales ¹	2 383	2 402	2 414	2 275	2 232	2 361	5,8
Total	78 423	78 700	78 293	74 894	77 716	77 294	-0,5

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

Explanatory notes

Introduction

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 2024 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

- 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

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 November 2024 was 54,4%. The revised collection rate for October 2024 was 60,4%.

Statistical unit

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				
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				
Jul-25	Additional information from respondents New sample	Jan-98–Jun-25				
Aug-25	Additional information from respondents	Jul-25				
Sep-25	Additional information from respondents	Aug-25				
Oct-25	Additional information from respondents	Sep-25				
New weights for motor deflators in 2025/26 - periodic, approximately four- to five-year intervals						
New base year in 202	27/28 - periodic, approximately four- to five-year in	tervals				

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

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

Past motor trade releases are available on the Stats SA website. To access the releases electronically, use the following link: <u>Click to download past releases</u>.

Technical notes

Survey methodology and design

- The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of 907 enterprises from a population of 9 252 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.
- A stratified random sample was drawn in April 2024 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.

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

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 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	4 659 360	20 000 000
Small	3	20 000 001	95 000 000
Medium	2	95 000 001	195 000 000
Large	1	195 000 001	

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

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

- 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.
- 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

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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 – November 2024

	Lower limit (R million)	Sales (R million)	Upper limit (R million)	Relative standard error (RSE) %	
Motor trade sales	74 423	80 492	86 560	3,8	

Month-on-month percentage change

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 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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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 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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Advance release calendar

A release calendar is disseminated on www.statssa.gov.za.

Stats SA products

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

National Library of South Africa, Pretoria Division National Library of South Africa, Cape Town Division Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg Library of Parliament, Cape Town Bloemfontein Public Library Johannesburg Public Library Eastern Cape Library Services, Qonce Central Regional Library, Polokwane Central Reference Library, Mbombela Central Reference Collection, Kimberley Central Reference Library, Mmabatho

Stats SA also provides a subscription service.

Electronic services

A large range of data is available via online services. For more details about our electronic services, contact Stats SA's user information service at (012) 310 8600.

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

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