

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Consumer spending and cash withdrawals decreased marginally in April, following a spike in withdrawal activity during the March holiday period, according to the latest statistics released by Spark ATM Systems, South Africa's premier independent ATM deployer.

The Spark Cash Index (SCI)*, which measures the average value of cash withdrawals across more than 2 000 Spark ATMs throughout the country, revealed a month-on-month drop of 0.73% in April 2013 to R461.65 per transaction. However, the SCI also revealed that year-on-year withdrawal activity increased by 6.01%.

According to Ryan Tzamtzis, Operations Manager of Spark ATM Systems, the locations that recorded the largest decreases were retail (2.41%), wholesale (1.57%) and agricultural (1.48%) sites. "The decline at these sites illustrates that consumers spent less than they did in March, which saw an increase in cash withdrawals as a result of the Easter weekend, school holidays and other public holidays during the month."

AVERAGE CASH WITHDRAWAL VALUE

AVERAGE CASH WITHDRAWN APRIL 2013

R461.65

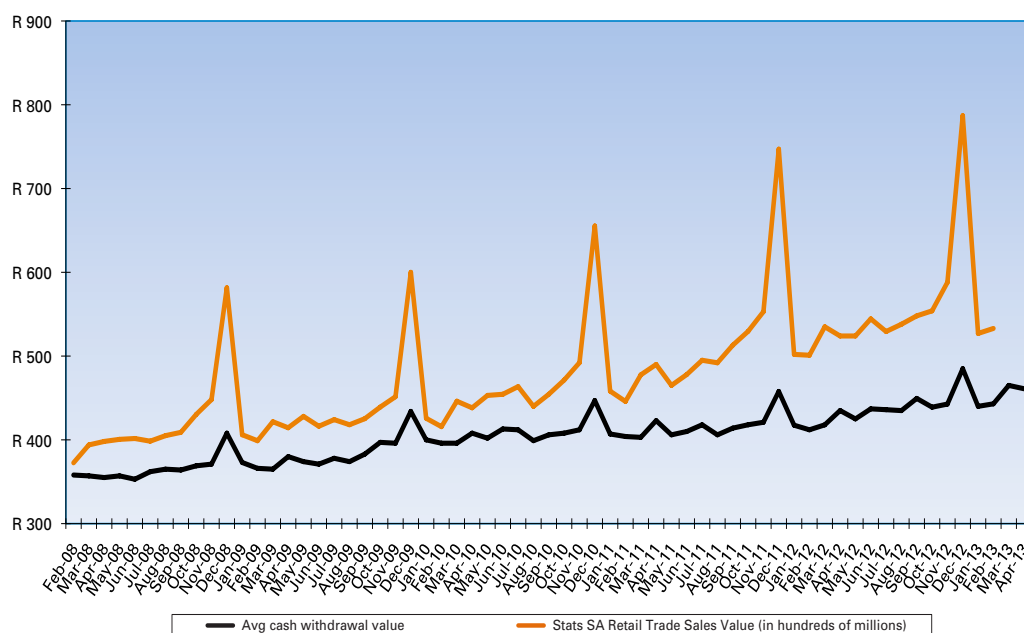
MONTH-ON-MONTH CHANGE MAR 2013 VS APR 2013

↓ -0.73%

YEAR-ON-YEAR CHANGE APR 2012 VS APR 2013

↑ 6.01%

AVERAGE CASH WITHDRAWAL VALUE VS STATS SA RETAIL TRADE SALES VALUE



Ronel Oberholzer, Principal Economist: Sub-Saharan Economics at IHS Global Insight, says that the SCI drop is to be expected as it indicates a drawback from the previous month's overspending. However, she says that a trend line through the annual figures shows a clear uptrend, which is encouraging for the economy going forward, as the figures in 2012 were not that low.

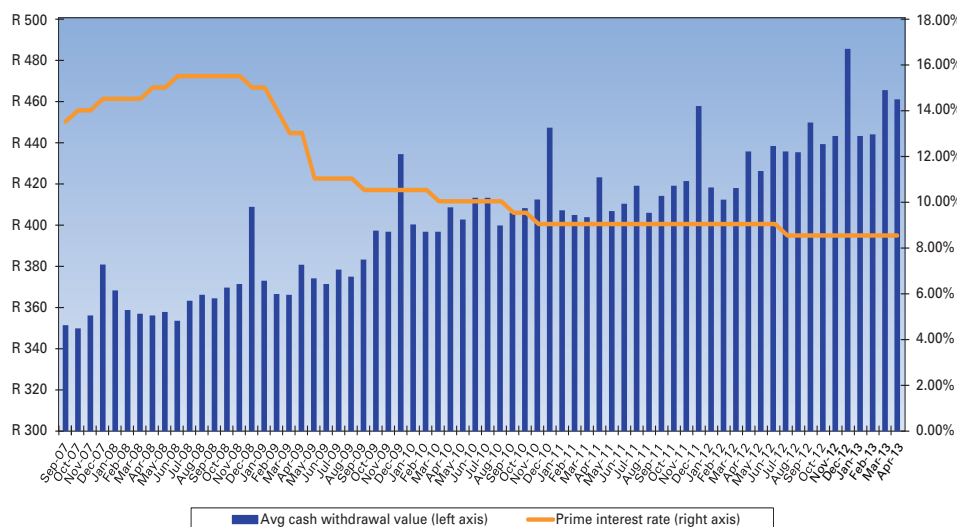
"Interestingly, if one draws a linear trend line through the monthly changes, one clearly sees that a gain in one month is often negated in the next month. The average growth percentage in cash withdrawals from 2012 until now is only about 0.16% which, although a positive figure, translates into the possible slowing of consumer disposable income," she says.

Tzamtzis adds that, "Wage increases and more use of unsecured credit has put more cash in the consumer's pocket, which is an indication of this slight upward trend."

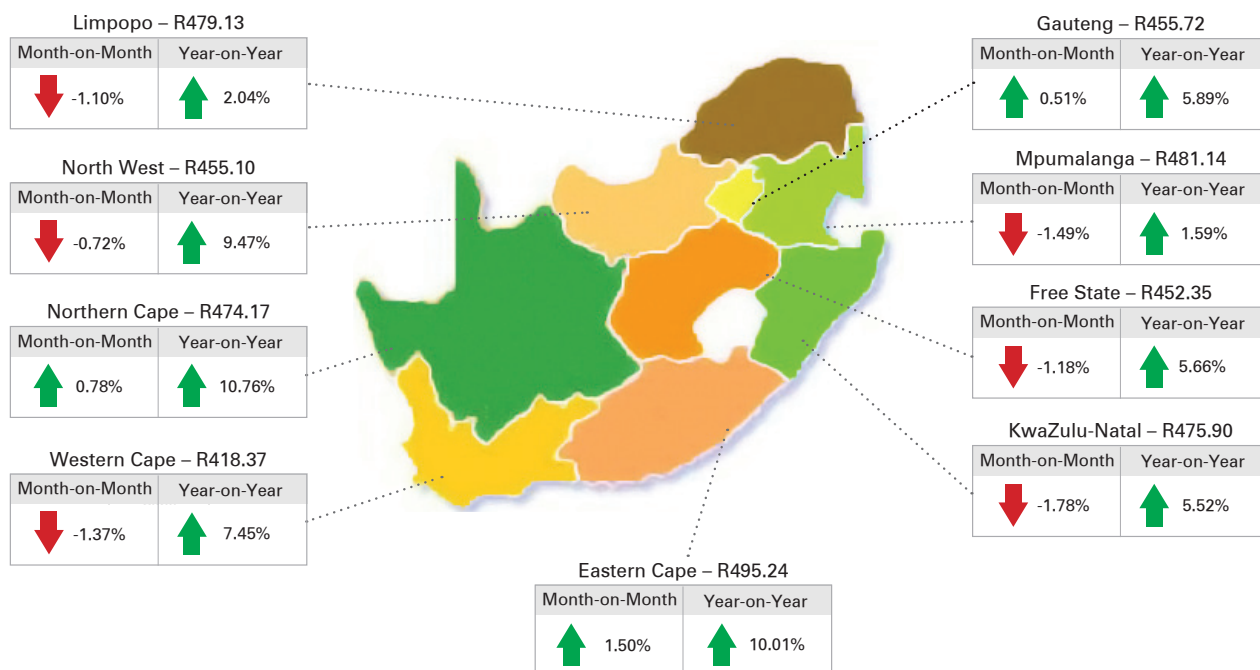
However, he says that although the uptrend is promising for the local economy, the country has seen that the consumers' use of unsecured credit is starting to slow. "Optimism may also begin to fade as the consumer finds his use of credit reaching its ceiling and as a result South Africans are having to cut back on spending following the holiday period."

Tzamtzis also says that growth in average cash withdrawals recorded in the SCI for 2013 is likely to remain in the lower digits for the remainder of the year as increased food, electricity, transport costs and debt repayments eat into expendable cash flows.

AVERAGE CASH WITHDRAWAL VS PRIME INTEREST RATE



AVERAGE CASH WITHDRAWAL BY REGION



*Month-on-Month = March 2012 vs. April 2013, Year-on-Year = April 2012 vs. April 2013

The Eastern Cape reported the biggest provincial average cash withdrawal value of R495.24 for April 2013, followed closely by Mpumalanga (R481.14) and Limpopo (R479.13).

Of the nine regions, the Eastern Cape experienced the largest month-on-month withdrawal growth of 1.50%. The Eastern Cape also recorded the second highest year-on-year increase of 10.01%, indicating that the demand for convenient access to cash in the province is growing significantly.

Tzamtzis points to latest employment figures released by Statistics South Africa in its Quarterly Labour Force Survey, which reveals that the Eastern Cape experienced the biggest gain in employment numbers for the first quarter of 2013. "This employment growth corresponds with the growth in average cash withdrawals recorded in the SCI for the Eastern Cape region and could possibly have contributed to large year-on-year growth of average cash withdrawals too, as more people are earning a salary and are able to dispose of it as a result," adds Tzamtzis.

Following the March Holiday period Gauteng and the Northern Cape also illustrated month-on-month growth of 0.51% and 0.78% respectively. "However, the Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, the North West and the Western Cape all showed a drop in month-on-month withdrawal values. Every region recorded a year-on-year increase, signifying that consumer spending has grown since April 2012."

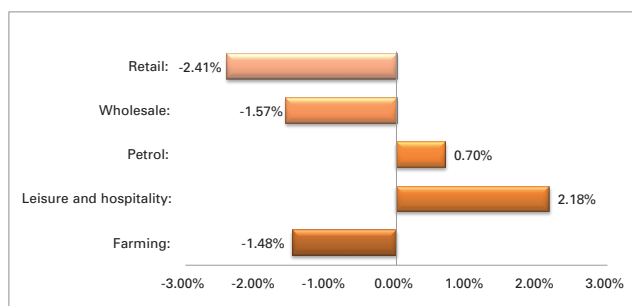
REGIONAL AVERAGE CASH WITHDRAWAL DATA TABLE

Month	Eastern Cape	Free State	Gauteng	KwaZulu-Natal	Limpopo	Mpumalanga	Northern Cape	North West	Western Cape	National
Apr-12	R 450.18	R 428.11	R 430.35	R 451.01	R 469.54	R 473.60	R 428.10	R 415.72	R 389.36	R 435.47
May-12	R 445.90	R 411.90	R 435.26	R 440.94	R 448.81	R 454.08	R 427.15	R 408.37	R 380.01	R 425.94
Jun-12	R 456.31	R 420.15	R 445.17	R 451.26	R 452.99	R 457.16	R 429.82	R 418.00	R 387.99	R 437.71
Jul-12	R 468.85	R 421.34	R 443.43	R 447.57	R 455.88	R 470.04	R 433.13	R 422.83	R 383.20	R 435.54
Aug-12	R 461.41	R 415.02	R 443.57	R 450.32	R 456.83	R 475.72	R 430.00	R 424.17	R 383.38	R 434.93
Sep-12	R 472.15	R 438.48	R 457.95	R 462.15	R 477.25	R 503.48	R 446.78	R 440.25	R 389.30	R 449.47
Oct-12	R 464.91	R 416.41	R 454.51	R 450.50	R 458.14	R 477.96	R 447.03	R 430.36	R 387.52	R 439.27
Nov-12	R 465.11	R 417.88	R 453.51	R 460.30	R 454.29	R 475.75	R 456.47	R 431.59	R 391.48	R 442.71
Dec-12	R 520.71	R 439.39	R 491.90	R 508.87	R 491.16	R 512.61	R 482.24	R 468.25	R 428.13	R 485.07
Jan-13	R 475.59	R 412.06	R 450.69	R 451.59	R 446.55	R 459.36	R 434.16	R 432.79	R 405.73	R 440.53
Feb-13	R 467.44	R 429.57	R 456.93	R 458.60	R 457.25	R 459.89	R 435.09	R 434.77	R 406.32	R 443.56
Mar-13	R 487.94	R 457.77	R 453.40	R 484.50	R 484.44	R 488.44	R 470.51	R 458.40	R 424.16	R 465.04
Apr-13	R 495.24	R 452.35	R 455.72	R 475.90	R 479.13	R 481.14	R 474.17	R 455.10	R 418.37	R 461.65

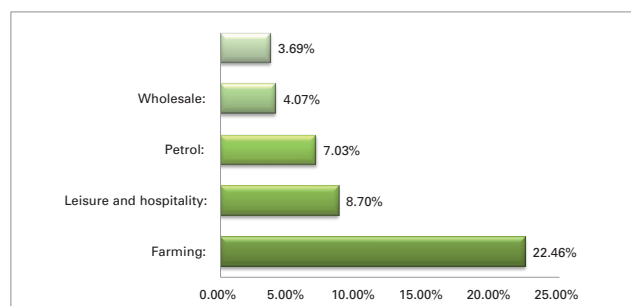
AVERAGE CASH WITHDRAWAL BY SITE CATEGORY

Retail	Wholesale	Petrol	Leisure & hospitality	Farming
R 444.14	R472.23	R 472.04	R 424.43	R 409.77

MONTH-ON-MONTH CHANGE MARCH 2013 – APRIL 2013



YEAR-ON-YEAR CHANGE APRIL 2012 – APRIL 2013



According to the April 2013 SCI statistics, wholesale locations recorded the highest average value of cash withdrawals for the third month in a row at R472.23. "Petrol stations followed closely behind with R472.04 with the April fuel price increase contributing to withdrawal growth at these locations, while retail followed third recording a location withdrawal value of R444.14."

The highest month-on-month growth was recorded by leisure locations at 2.18%, which also recorded the second highest year-on-year increase of 8.70%. "This increase is possibly in line with long weekends and public holidays running into April, which would contribute to consumer spending at those sites," Tzamtzis says.

Since the beginning of the year, farming locations have recorded the highest year-on-year growth with April recording a figure of 22.46%. "This indicates a strong link to recent wage increases in the agricultural sector where consumer cash withdrawals have grown considerably."

**Retail sites includes supermarkets, convenience stores, fast food outlets, pharmacies, hardware stores, liquor stores and butcheries.

SITE CATEGORY AVERAGE CASH WITHDRAWAL DATA TABLE

Month	Retail	Wholesale	Petrol	Leisure & hospitality	Farming
Apr-12	R 428.33	R 453.76	R 441.03	R 390.45	R 334.61
May-12	R 419.45	R 439.65	R 434.65	R 386.55	R 355.93
Jun-12	R 428.95	R 446.41	R 442.79	R 391.91	R 396.81
Jul-12	R 426.95	R 451.66	R 439.81	R 393.77	R 401.95
Aug-12	R 430.82	R 449.47	R 435.25	R 393.52	R 343.61
Sep-12	R 445.66	R 468.46	R 448.54	R 395.41	R 401.90
Oct-12	R 432.95	R 450.16	R 440.05	R 401.28	R 454.68
Nov-12	R 434.28	R 456.30	R 439.38	R 402.21	R 442.39
Dec-12	R 476.78	R 509.51	R 476.52	R 427.70	R 455.99
Jan-13	R 427.44	R 445.77	R 448.11	R 429.40	R 410.91
Feb-13	R 432.20	R 451.79	R 445.31	R 423.82	R 375.51
Mar-13	R 455.12	R 479.75	R 468.75	R 415.39	R 415.92
Apr-13	R 444.14	R 472.23	R 472.04	R 424.43	R 409.77

DATA TABLE

Below is the data table including all relevant statistics from April 2010 to April 2013. The table demonstrates the average cash withdrawal value across South Africa, the changes in withdrawal values from month-to-month and year-to-year as well as the Stats SA retail trade sales value.

Month	Average Cash Withdrawal	Month-on-Month Change	Year-on-Year Change	Stats SA retail TradeSales Value
Apr-10	R 407.88	2.96%	7.32%	R 438
May-10	R 402.33	-1.36%	7.53%	R 453
Jun-10	R 411.04	2.16%	10.84%	R 454
Jul-10	R 411.92	0.21%	9.12%	R 464
Aug-10	R 401.46	-2.54%	7.2%	R 440
Sep-10	R 405.47	1.00%	5.93%	R 454
Oct-10	R 407.58	0.52%	2.78%	R 471
Nov-10	R 411.98	1.08%	3.96%	R 492
Dec-10	R 446.56	8.39%	3.04%	R 655
Jan-11	R 407.06	-8.85%	1.66%	R 458
Feb-11	R 404.28	-0.68%	2.08%	R 446
Mar-11	R 403.11	-0.29%	1.76%	R 478
Apr-11	R 422.30	4.76%	3.54%	R 490
May-11	R 406.41	-3.76%	1.01%	R 465
Jun-11	R 409.95	0.87%	-0.26%	R 478
Jul-11	R 418.40	2.06%	1.57%	R 495
Aug-11	R 405.69	-3.04%	1.05%	R 492
Sep-11	R 413.88	2.02%	2.07%	R 513
Oct-11	R 418.79	1.19%	2.75%	R 530
Nov-11	R 420.84	0.49%	2.15%	R 553
Dec-11	R 457.67	8.75%	2.49%	R 747
Jan-12	R 417.85	-8.70%	2.65%	R 502
Feb-12	R 411.82	-1.44%	1.87%	R 503
Mar-12	R 417.92	1.48%	3.67%	R 535
Apr-12	R 435.47	4.20%	3.12%	R 524
May-12	R 425.94	-2.19%	4.81%	R 524
Jun-12	R 437.71	2.76%	6.77%	R 544
Jul-12	R 435.54	-0.50%	4.10%	R 529
Aug-12	R 434.93	-0.14%	7.21%	R 538
Sep-12	R 449.47	3.34%	8.60%	R 548
Oct-12	R 439.27	-2.27%	4.89%	R 554
Nov-12	R 442.71	0.78%	5.20%	R 588
Dec-12	R 485.07	9.57%	5.99%	R 787
Jan-13	R 440.53	-9.18%	5.43%	R 527
Feb-13	R 443.56	0.69%	7.71%	R 533
Mar-13	R 465.64	4.84%	11.28%	Not yet released
Apr-13	R 461.65	-0.73%	6.01%	Not yet released

ABOUT THE SPARK CASH INDEX (SCI)

The amount of cash withdrawn at ATMs is a real-time indicator of cash availability and consumer spending in the economy. From Spark ATM Systems' records the company has noticed that over time the average amount of cash withdrawn at its network of ATMs corresponds with general economic conditions in South Africa. The SCI also points to consumer trends such as the variations in cash withdrawn based on prevailing economic conditions, particularly variations in the prime interest rate and seasonal peaks and dips.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The value for the Spark Cash Index is obtained using the following formula: Cash dispensed for the month divided by the number of cash withdrawals for the month across a selection of our ATM network. The sample size is very large and spans urban and rural areas across all nine provinces of South Africa, therefore representing a very good cross section of South African consumers. The data presented is raw data and has not been adjusted for seasonality or for the effects of inflation.

ABOUT SPARK ATM SYSTEMS

Spark ATM Systems is the premier independent ATM deployer in South Africa importing, installing and maintaining world-leading Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) for the South African convenience ATM market.

Convenience ATMs have taken the world and South Africa by storm and today are found in every conceivable type of retail, hospitality, leisure and convenience location for one simple reason - consumers expect them wherever they need cash and merchants recognise their many benefits.

Established in 2005, Spark ATM Systems has grown into a national organisation with sales and technical capabilities across South Africa. From our headquarters in Cape Town, our Head Office team coordinates the sales, installation, maintenance, processing, settlement, reconciliation, monitoring, reporting, customer relationship and contact centre requirements for our ever-growing national network of ATMs. We boast a national list of independent and corporate customers across all major retail, convenience, wholesale, leisure and hospitality operators. Visit www.sparkatm.co.za for more information.

CONTACT DETAILS

Epic Communications
Greg Botoulas
Tel: 021 439 8008
Email: greg@epiccommunications.co.za

Spark ATM Systems
Maggie Banda
Tel: 021 512 3100
Mobile: 072 221 9841
Email: maggie@sparkatm.co.za