

# Spending off to good start

FESTIVE season spending is off to a good start in the first few days of the month, cash withdrawal statistics released by Spark ATM Systems, South Africa's premier independent ATM deployer, have revealed.

The Spark Cash Index, which measures the average value of withdrawals across more than 1 500 Spark ATMs throughout the country, reflected a 2.12% year-on-year increase for the period December 1 to 11, increasing from R425 to R434.

While Stats SA's Retail Trade Sales report releases figures two months in arrears, the SCI provides real-time insight into retail trading and cash availability conditions. It has proven to be an accurate leading indicator of retail sales since September 2007.

"The spending spike has yet to kick in, but so far the increase in the value of cash in circulation for the first few days of the month is positive and in line with the trend for this time of the year," said Spark ATM Systems managing director Marc Sternberg — *I-Net Bridge*