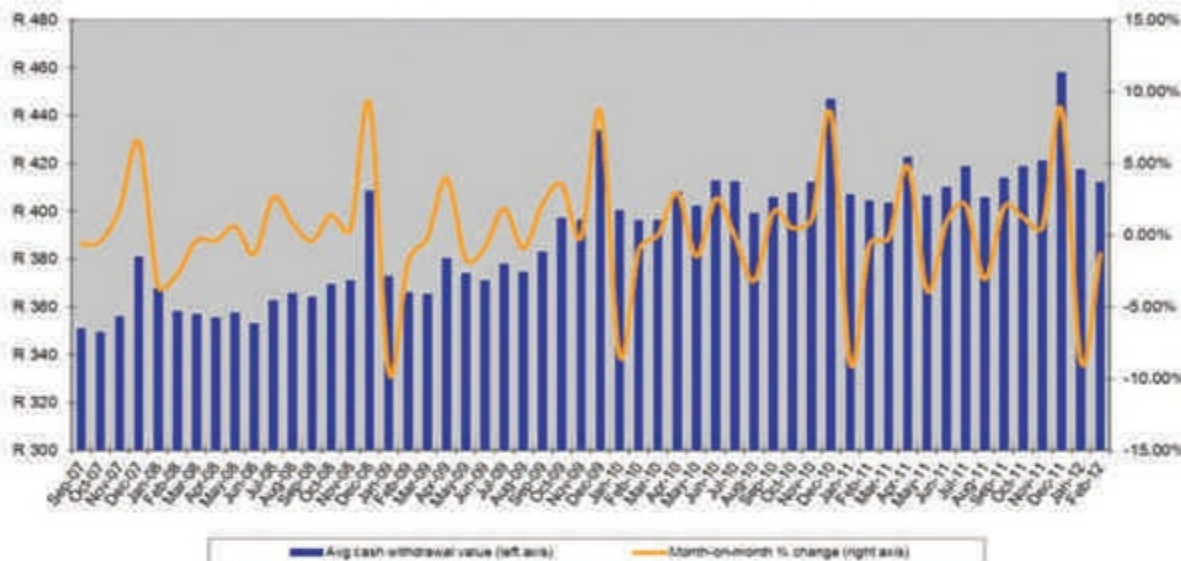


# Average cash from ATMs stabilises

Graph A  
Average cash withdrawal value



GRAPH: SUPPLIED

The Spark Cash Index stabilised in February 2012.

CONSUMER spending and trading conditions stabilised in February, after a quiet start to 2012 in January.

This is according to February ATM cash withdrawal statistics released by Spark ATM Systems, an independent ATM deployer.

This follows a significant drop-off in withdrawal values from December 2011 to January 2012.

The Spark Cash Index (SCI), which

measures the average value of cash withdrawals across more than 1 500 Spark ATMs in South Africa, revealed a small month-on-month drop of 1,31% in February to R412 per transaction, compared to the drop of 8,81% recorded in January.

The latest average withdrawal statistics also revealed a 1,93% year-on-year increase for February 2012. The figure of R412 is also the highest recorded average cash

withdrawal amount for February in four years.

Managing director Marc Sternberg said the stabilisation of average cash withdrawal values was in keeping with consumer cash withdrawal patterns recorded over the past four years.

He warned that rising inflation and challenging global conditions could eat into disposable income in the second half of 2012. — WR.