

The Spark Cash Index

Release version: September 2010

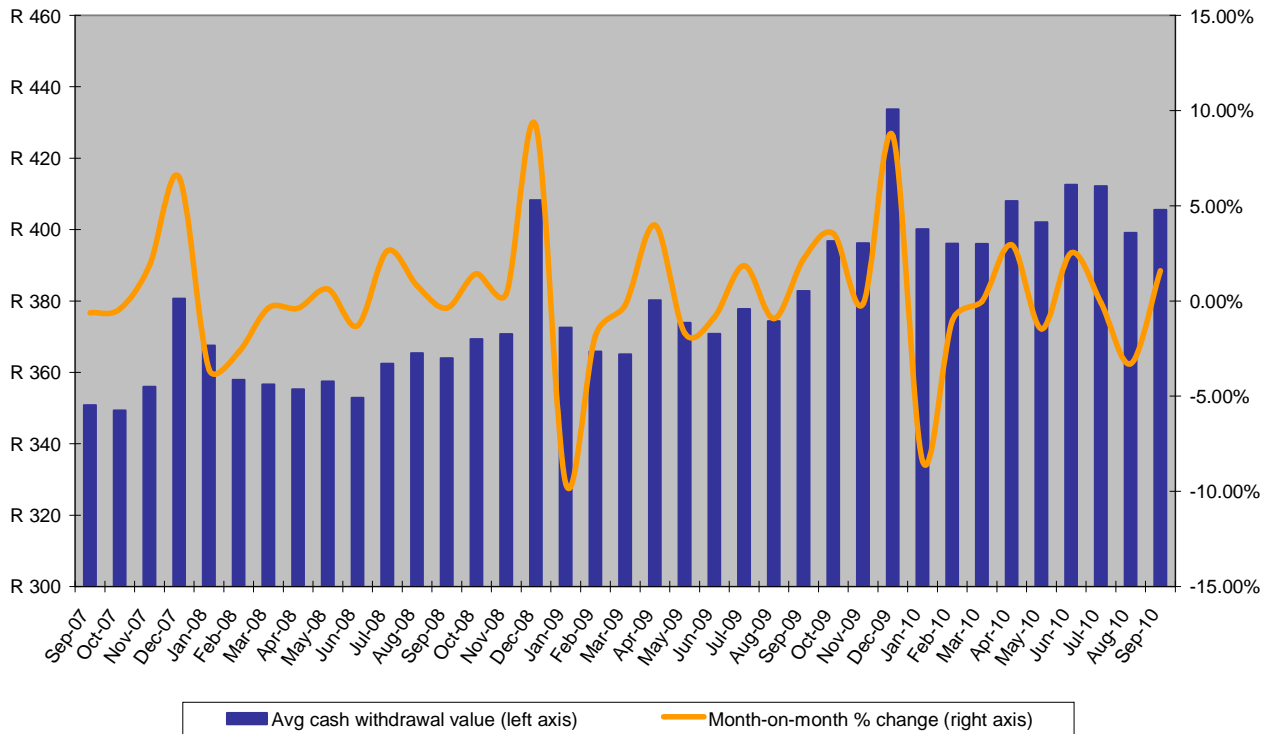
About Spark ATM Systems

Spark ATM Systems is South Africa's leading independent ATM provider, deploying convenience Automated Teller Machines ('ATMs') in retail, convenience and hospitality locations across South Africa.

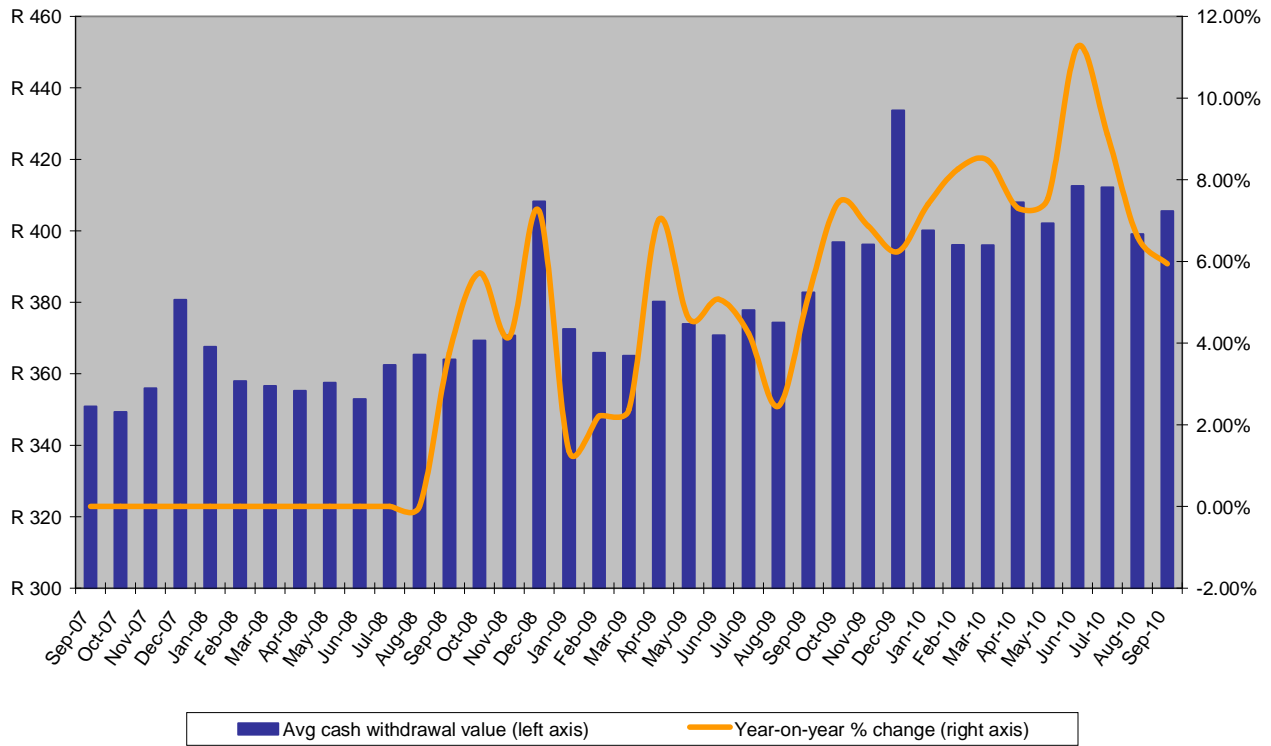
Introduction to the Spark Cash Index

The amount of cash withdrawn at ATMs is a real-time indicator of cash availability and consumer spending in the economy. From our records we have noticed that over time the average amount of cash withdrawn at our network of ATMs corresponds with general economic conditions in the country. We have also seen that consumers vary the amount of cash they withdraw based on prevailing economic conditions, particularly variations in the prime interest rate.

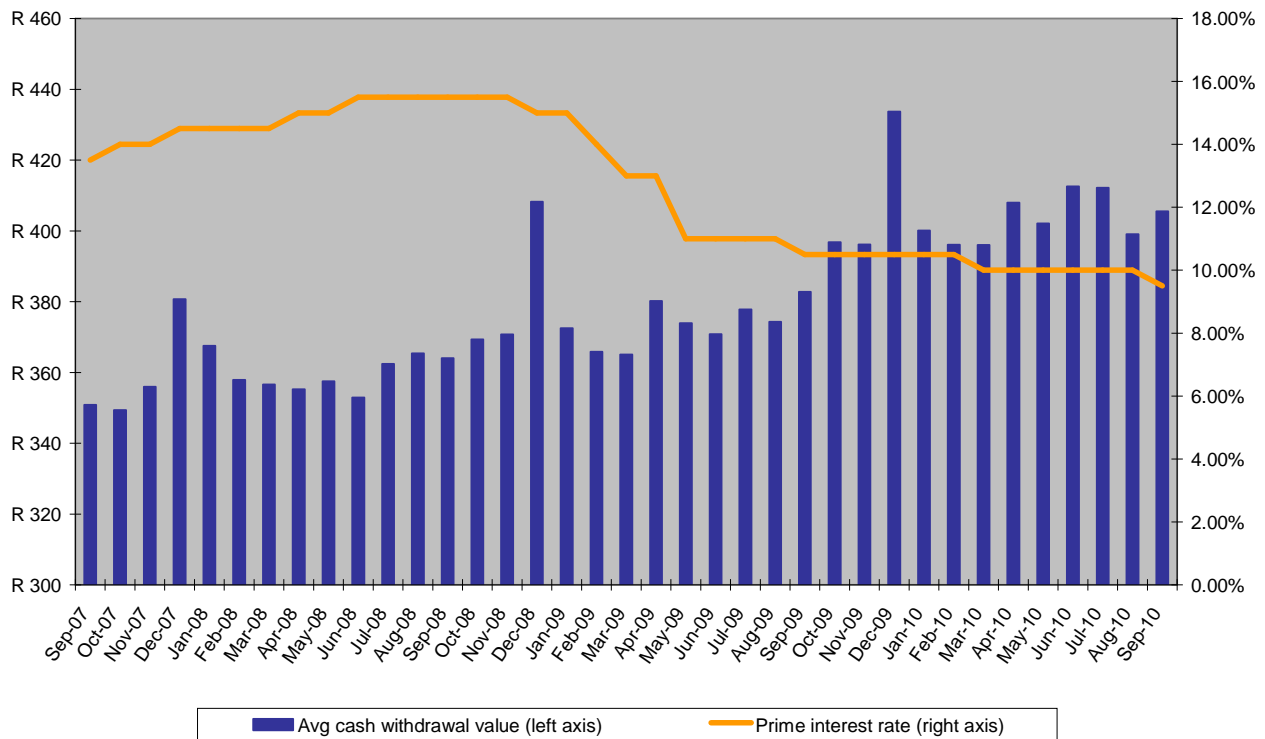
Graph A
Average cash withdrawal value



Graph B
Average cash withdrawal change year-on-year



Graph C
Avg cash withdrawal value vs Prime interest rate



Data Table

| Month | Avg Cash Withdrawal | Month on Month Change | Year on Year Change | Prime Interest Rate |
|---------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Sep-07 | R 351 | -0.62% | N/A | 13.50% |
| Oct-07 | R 349 | -0.43% | N/A | 14.00% |
| Nov-07 | R 356 | 1.86% | N/A | 14.00% |
| Dec-07 | R 381 | 6.49% | N/A | 14.50% |
| Jan-08 | R 368 | -3.58% | N/A | 14.50% |
| Feb-08 | R 358 | -2.69% | N/A | 14.50% |
| Mar-08 | R 357 | -0.37% | N/A | 14.50% |
| Apr-08 | R 355 | -0.38% | N/A | 15.00% |
| May-08 | R 357 | 0.62% | N/A | 15.00% |
| Jun-08 | R 353 | -1.30% | N/A | 15.50% |
| Jul-08 | R 362 | 2.63% | N/A | 15.50% |
| Aug-08 | R 365 | 0.81% | N/A | 15.50% |
| Sep-08 | R 364 | -0.37% | 3.76% | 15.50% |
| Oct-08 | R 369 | 1.43% | 5.72% | 15.50% |
| Nov-08 | R 371 | 0.38% | 4.15% | 15.50% |
| Dec-08 | R 408 | 9.19% | 7.23% | 15.00% |
| Jan-09 | R 373 | -9.58% | 1.36% | 15.00% |
| Feb-09 | R 366 | -1.83% | 2.22% | 14.00% |
| Mar-09 | R 365 | -0.22% | 2.37% | 13.00% |
| Apr-09 | R 380 | 3.98% | 7.02% | 13.00% |
| May-09 | R 374 | -1.68% | 4.60% | 11.00% |
| Jun-09 | R 371 | -0.84% | 5.07% | 11.00% |
| Jul-09 | R 378 | 1.85% | 4.24% | 11.00% |
| Aug-09 | R 374 | -0.92% | 2.45% | 11.00% |
| Sep-09 | R 383 | 2.21% | 5.16% | 10.50% |
| Oct-09 | R 397 | 3.53% | 7.44% | 10.50% |
| Nov-09 | R 396 | -0.16% | 6.87% | 10.50% |
| Dec-09 | R 434 | 8.65% | 6.24% | 10.50% |
| Jan-10 | R 400 | -8.40% | 7.40% | 10.50% |
| Feb-10 | R 396 | -1.02% | 8.26% | 10.50% |
| Mar-10 | R 396 | 0.00% | 8.47% | 10.00% |
| Apr-10 | R 408 | 2.94% | 7.31% | 10.00% |
| May-10 | R 402 | -1.47% | 7.53% | 10.00% |
| Jun-10 | R 413 | 2.54% | 11.26% | 10.00% |
| July-10 | R 412 | -0.09% | 9.10% | 10.00% |
| Aug-10 | R 399 | -3.29% | 6.61% | 10.00% |
| Sept-10 | R 406 | 1.59% | 5.94% | 9.50% |

Commentary

Consumer confidence is on the rise again now that consumers are over the August post World-Cup 'hangover'.

Economists across the country warned of the post World Cup 'hangover' and the August Spark Cash Index showed exactly that. Average cash withdrawals during August this year were down 3.29% to R399 per withdrawal when compared to July but September's 2010's results showed that consumer confidence is on the rise again. Average cash withdrawals recorded in September 2010 were **up by 1.59%** to R406 per withdrawal compared to August 2010, which indicates that consumers are bouncing back from overspending during the World Cup and now have more cash available.

The most recent Spark Cash Index also shows that average cash withdrawals during September 2010 are **up by 5.94%** when compared to September 2009, which had average cash withdrawals of R383.

September's interest rate cut also contributed to an increase in the Spark Cash Index as consumers respond quickly to increases in their disposable income. The Spark Cash Index tends to rise following an interest rate reduction and we noted this again in September 2010.

Explanatory Notes

The value for the Spark Cash Index value 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 Spark ATM's network of ATMs. The sample size is hundreds of thousands of transactions in both 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.

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