



By Michael du Preez, Executive, Product and Marketing, Tracker South Africa and Linda Reid, Head of Data, Lightstone

A LOCKDOWN ON DRIVING AND SPENDING

Due to movement restrictions, most South African vehicles have had little use during lockdown, resulting in savings on time and money for owners.

Tracker's anonymised vehicle tracking data, aggregated from the company's installed vehicle base and analytics from Lightstone, indicates that, on average, reduced use of passenger vehicles saved 1150 km of driving, 30 hours on the road and R1350 in fuel during the first month of lockdown, compared to the average kilometres driven, time spent on the road and money spent on fuel in the previous month.

Persons who travelled more before lockdown stood to gain greater savings than those with

“Vehicles previously travelling less than 500 km per month saved four hours on the road and R100 in fuel.”

lower mileages. On average, passenger vehicles previously travelling less than 500 km per month saved four hours on the road and R100 in fuel, while those with a typical mileage of 1500 km to 2000 km per month saved 40 hours in drive time and R1800 on fuel. Furthermore, 500-1000 km and 1000-1500 km drivers respectively saved 20 and 30 hours on the road plus R750 and R1250 in fuel spend.

In savings of time on the road, where not only fewer trips played a role, but also the time saved getting from point A to point B due to less traffic, benefits differed across municipalities. Cape Town experienced the biggest time saving of 36 hours, followed by Johannesburg and Polokwane at 33 hours, then Tshwane, Ekurhuleni and eThekwinini at 31 hours, and Rustenburg at 28 hours.

Across the country, the trend during lockdown was greater use of smaller vehicles, particularly by households with more than one vehicle. In Johannesburg, the shift was from 65% before lockdown to 70% of travel being done in small vehicles during lockdown. Durban experienced a similar shift from 66% to 70%, while Tshwane

went from 58% to 62%. For Cape Town, which has the greatest use of smaller vehicles, the shift was from 71% to 73%.

With many vehicles standing idle during lockdown it is not surprising that motorists have saved a lot of time and money during this period. Unfortunately, with travel significantly curtailed, many motorists would not have been able to take advantage of savings from the record fuel price decrease during April, which was close to R2 for petrol and more than R1 for diesel.

However, the drop may have provided some relief to a few commercial operators. While probably not enough to make a substantial difference to the negative economic impact of the lockdown for companies, which we are already picking up in the data, perhaps this was a little helpful in containing costs for some. Distances travelled by panel vans are down from 2350 km to 750 km, while distances travelled by trucks are down from 3100 km to 1100 km. The impact on small businesses can be clearly seen in the distances driven by bakkies, which are down from 2200 km to 700 km. 📉