

Statistical release

P6101

Wholesale trade industry, 2009

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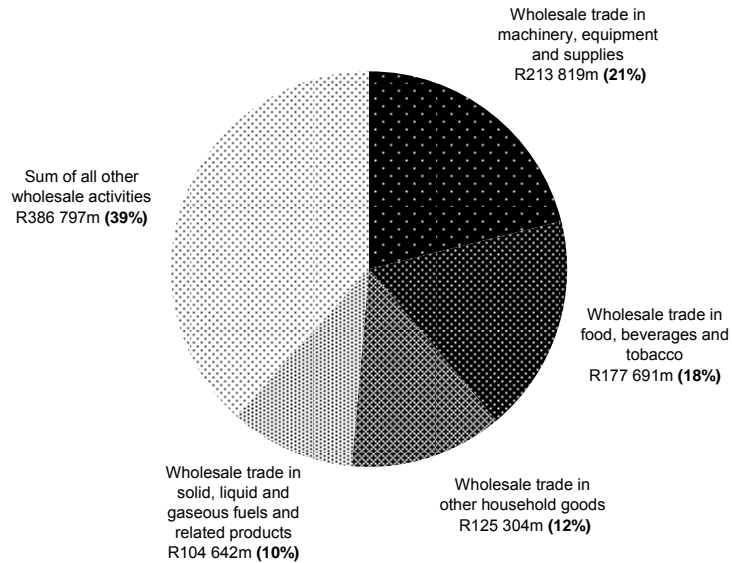
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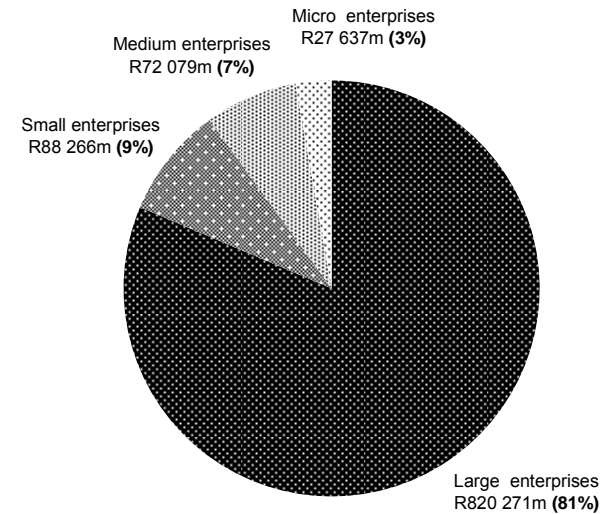
1. Summary of findings for the year 2009

Figure 1 – Income in the wholesale trade industry, 2009



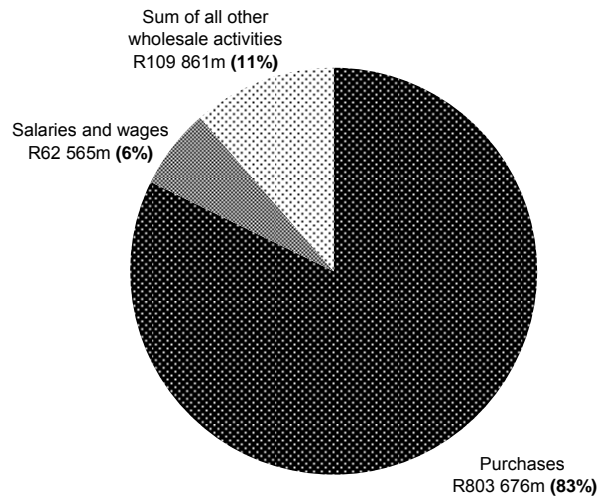
The total income for the wholesale trade industry in 2009 was R1 008 253 million. The largest contributor to the total income was 'wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies' (R213 819 million or 21%), followed by 'wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco' (R177 691 million or 18%) and 'wholesale trade in other household goods' (R125 304 million or 12%) (Figure 1 and Table 2, page 7).

Figure 2 – Income by enterprise size in the wholesale trade industry, 2009



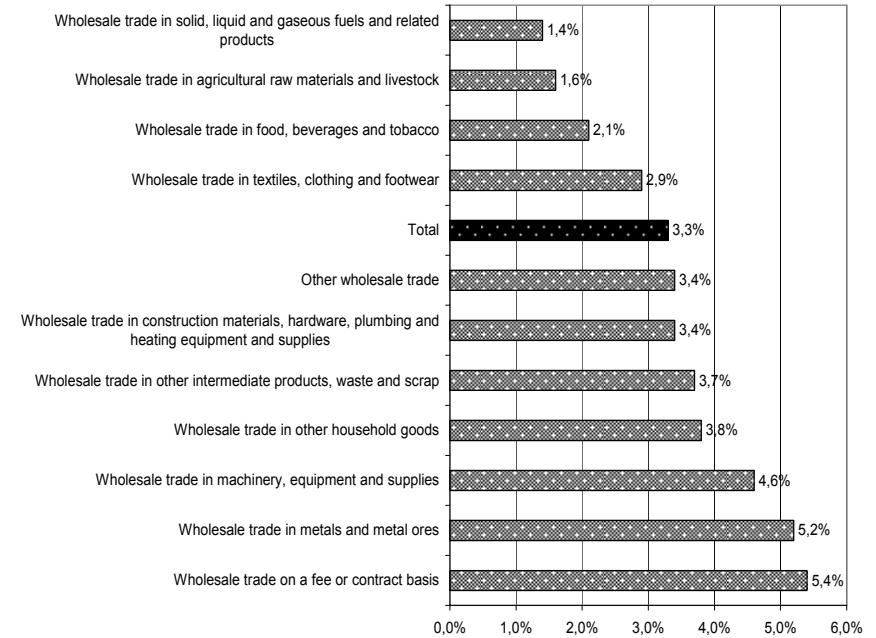
Large enterprises (those with a turnover equal to or greater than R64 million) generated R820 271 million or 81% of the total income of the wholesale trade industry in 2009, followed by small enterprises (R88 266 million or 9%), medium enterprises (R72 079 million or 7%) and micro enterprises (R27 637 million or 3%) (Figure 2 and Table 3, page 8).

Figure 3 – Composition of expenditure in the wholesale trade industry, 2009



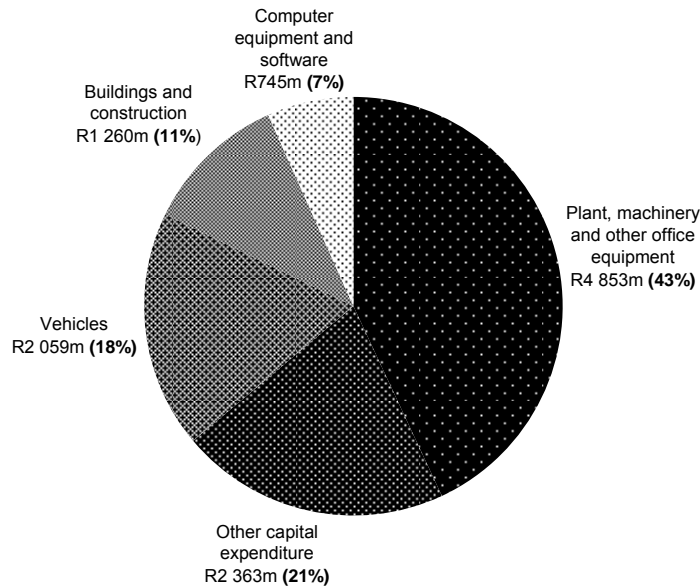
The total expenditure in the wholesale trade industry in 2009 was R976 102 million. The largest contributor to the total expenditure was 'purchases' (R803 676 million or 83%), followed by 'salaries and wages' (R62 565 million or 6%) (Figure 3 and Table 4, page 9).

Figure 4 – Profit margin in the wholesale trade industry, 2009



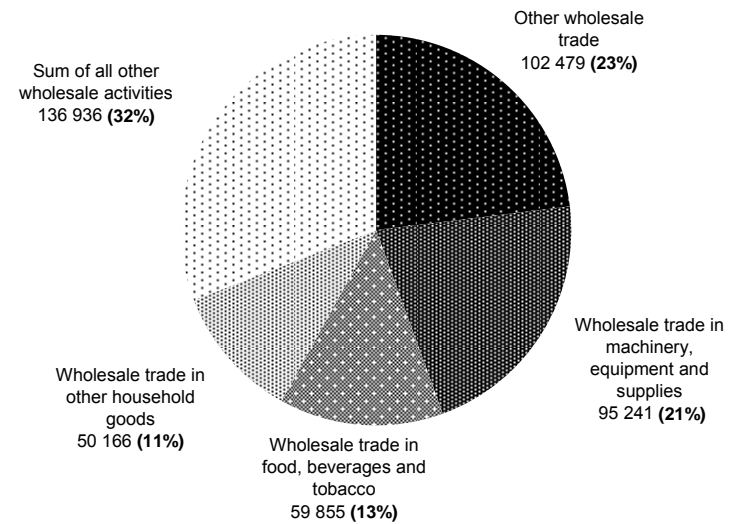
The profit margin for the wholesale trade industry was 3,3% in 2009. 'Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis' had the highest profit margin at 5,4%, followed by 'wholesale trade in metals and metal ores' at 5,2% and 'wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies' at 4,6% (Figure 4 and Table 1, page 6).

Figure 5 – Capital expenditure on new assets in the wholesale trade industry, 2009



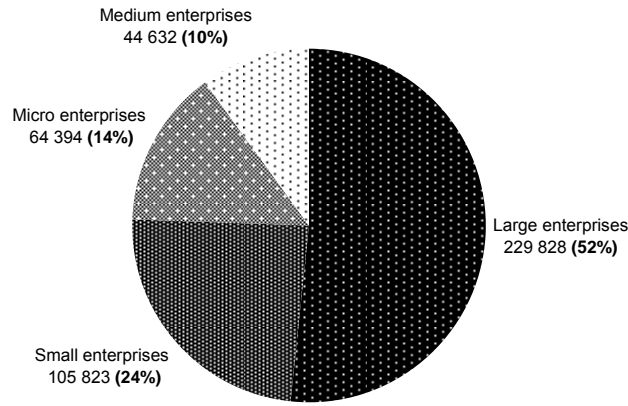
The total capital expenditure on new assets in the wholesale trade industry in 2009 was R11 280 million. The largest category of capital expenditure was 'plant, machinery and other office equipment' (R4 853 million or 43%), followed by 'other capital expenditure' (R2 363 million or 21%), 'vehicles' (R2 059 million or 18%) and 'buildings and construction' (R1 260 million or 11%) (Figure 5 and Table 8, page 15).

Figure 6 – Employment in the wholesale trade industry, 2009



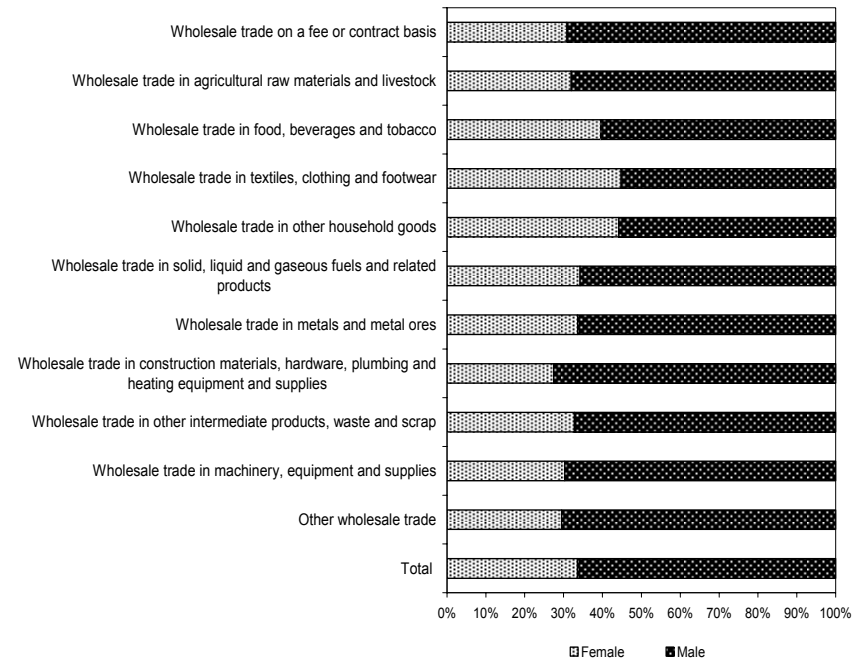
The total number of persons employed in the wholesale trade industry at the end of June 2009 was 444 677. 'Other wholesale trade' had the largest number of employees (102 479 or 23%), followed by 'wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies' (95 241 or 21%) and 'wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco' (59 855 or 13%) (Figure 6 and Table 9, page 16).

Figure 7 – Employment by enterprise size in the wholesale trade industry, 2009



Employment by enterprise size indicates that the large enterprises (those with turnover equal to or greater than R64 million) had 229 828 employees (52%), followed by small enterprises with 105 823 employees (24%), micro enterprises with 64 394 employees (14%) and medium enterprises with 44 632 employees (10%) (Figure 7 and Table 10, page 17).

Figure 8 – Gender ratios in the wholesale trade industry, 2009



The proportion of males out of the total persons employed was 66% and that of females was 34%. The industry with the highest proportion of females employed was 'wholesale trade in textile, clothing and footwear' (45%) whilst 'wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies' had the highest proportion of males employed (73%) (Figure 8 and Table 9, page 16).

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Statistician-General

2. Tables

Table 1 – Principal statistics in the wholesale trade industry, 2009

Type of wholesale trade	Total income	Total expenditure	Total value of opening inventory	Total value of closing inventory	Net profit before tax	Carrying value of fixed assets at the beginning of the financial year	Carrying value of fixed assets at the end of the financial year	Capital expenditure on new assets	Net profit after tax	Turnover	Profit margin
	R million										%
Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis	26 566	24 803	1 142	1 491	2 112	1 693	2 068	493	1 399	26 026	5,4
Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock	72 610	70 915	5 222	5 029	1 502	1 032	1 273	332	1 117	71 035	1,6
Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco	177 691	172 706	9 550	10 110	5 545	6 024	6 825	1 722	3 635	175 285	2,1
Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear	27 963	27 275	3 422	3 855	1 121	712	713	138	794	27 317	2,9
Wholesale trade in other household goods	125 304	121 165	13 190	15 571	6 520	6 857	6 949	1 034	4 590	121 995	3,8
Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	104 642	104 664	1 118	3 167	2 027	3 459	3 879	627	1 436	103 203	1,4
Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores	46 907	43 684	4 231	4 427	3 419	1 608	2 054	518	2 368	45 609	5,2
Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	63 437	60 311	9 334	9 086	2 878	4 068	4 186	653	2 116	62 625	3,4
Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap	47 258	46 919	5 281	6 912	1 970	2 044	2 293	443	1 711	46 540	3,7
Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies	213 819	205 003	24 380	28 993	13 429	10 709	12 245	3 837	9 581	209 185	4,6
Other wholesale trade	102 056	98 657	7 759	8 902	4 542	5 525	6 033	1 483	3 420	99 139	3,4
Total	1 008 253	976 102	84 629	97 543	45 065	43 731	48 518	11 280	32 167	987 959	3,3

Table 2 – Income in the wholesale trade industry, 2009

Type of wholesale trade	Sales	Services	Leasing income	Interest	Dividends	Profit on foreign loans	Profit on financial and other assets	Royalties	Other income	Total income
	R million									
Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis	19 482	6 512	32	183	9	107	67	81	93	26 566
Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock	70 269	664	102	648	87	141	103	0	596	72 610
Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco	174 312	856	117	441	344	156	97	65	1 303	177 691
Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear	27 139	128	50	210	1	73	34	9	319	27 963
Wholesale trade in other household goods	117 690	4 241	64	842	331	592	365	32	1 147	125 304
Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	102 767	185	251	273	4	124	853	0	185	104 642
Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores	45 240	346	23	263	447	241	46	0	301	46 907
Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	62 152	298	175	306	34	39	124	0	309	63 437
Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap	46 093	394	53	319	10	123	130	1	135	47 258
Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies	196 986	10 652	1 547	1 668	326	512	676	7	1 445	213 819
Other wholesale trade	95 992	3 037	110	1 488	85	281	120	469	474	102 056
Total	958 122	27 313	2 524	6 641	1 678	2 389	2 615	664	6 307	1 008 253

Table 3 – Income by enterprise size in the wholesale trade industry, 2009

Type of wholesale trade	Large enterprises	Medium enterprises	Small enterprises	Micro enterprises	Total of all enterprises
	R million				
Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis	18 978	2 135	3 567	1 886	26 566
Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock	69 053	1 358	1 928	271	72 610
Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco	154 975	10 088	8 985	3 643	177 691
Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear	17 948	4 093	4 990	932	27 963
Wholesale trade in other household goods	106 331	7 931	7 725	3 317	125 304
Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	98 650	3 443	2 305	244	104 642
Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores	45 336	1 122	404	45	46 907
Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	42 567	9 433	9 807	1 630	63 437
Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap	41 219	2 211	3 275	553	47 258
Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies	173 215	15 462	19 551	5 591	213 819
Other wholesale trade	51 999	14 803	25 729	9 525	102 056
Total	820 271	72 079	88 266	27 637	1 008 253

Table 4 – Expenditure in the wholesale trade industry, 2009

Type of wholesale trade	Purchases	Salaries and wages	Interest	Excise and customs duty	Depreciation	Advertising	Bank charges	Computers
	R million							
Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis	17 029	3 683	166	2	303	319	81	53
Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock	63 639	2 153	891	109	168	136	41	32
Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco	152 879	6 769	722	899	800	700	184	79
Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear	20 776	2 154	296	503	170	388	47	35
Wholesale trade in other household goods	91 842	9 408	1 191	312	800	3 126	138	191
Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	91 057	1 313	368	6 446	456	15	22	13
Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores	39 110	1 551	386	96	185	22	34	33
Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	46 406	5 868	767	309	529	343	136	108
Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap	40 134	2 071	410	43	261	105	52	50
Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies	161 530	19 627	2 296	103	1 892	820	231	285
Other wholesale trade	79 274	7 968	1 702	191	736	341	149	129
Total	803 676	62 565	9 195	9 013	6 300	6 315	1 115	1 008

Table 4 – Expenditure in the wholesale trade industry, 2009 (continued)

Type of wholesale trade	Containers and packaging materials	Insurance	Losses on assets	Motor vehicle running expenditure	Operational leasing and hiring of plant, machinery equipment	Railage and transport-out	Rental of land	Repair and maintenance
	R million							
Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis	17	126	204	189	222	177	221	257
Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock	24	84	781	146	61	925	100	123
Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco	332	231	291	927	432	1 001	842	385
Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear	33	85	129	138	84	189	300	83
Wholesale trade in other household goods	98	280	272	540	453	1 579	828	223
Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	0	94	1 610	194	56	232	134	215
Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores	9	70	50	186	40	235	99	90
Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	41	274	245	722	271	340	871	158
Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap	27	97	86	258	167	652	128	280
Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies	27	613	366	1 137	885	655	992	290
Other wholesale trade	26	278	201	950	393	536	734	234
Total	634	2 232	4 235	5 387	3 064	6 521	5 249	2 338

Table 4 – Expenditure in the wholesale trade industry, 2009 (concluded)

Type of wholesale trade	Security services (including IT security services)	Total paper, printing and stationery	Total telecommunication services	Water and electricity	Other expenditure	Total expenditure
	R million					
Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis	92	85	125	74	1 378	24 803
Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock	23	29	71	57	1 322	70 915
Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco	103	78	199	232	4 621	172 706
Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear	63	37	88	52	1 625	27 275
Wholesale trade in other household goods	133	161	309	106	9 175	121 165
Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	15	13	45	10	2 356	104 664
Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores	20	17	48	28	1 375	43 684
Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	70	95	259	59	2 440	60 311
Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap	40	26	66	38	1 928	46 919
Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies	218	183	682	176	11 995	205 003
Other wholesale trade	69	125	324	118	4 179	98 657
Total	846	849	2 216	950	42 393	976 102

Table 5 – Carrying value of assets as at the end of financial year in the wholesale trade industry, 2009

Type of wholesale trade	Land, buildings and construction	Computers, network and other IT equipment	Motor vehicles and other transport	Plant, machinery and other office equipment	Intangible assets	Other assets	Total carrying value of fixed assets
	R million						
Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis	906	64	194	750	122	32	2 068
Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock	456	25	189	457	49	97	1 273
Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco	1 813	132	986	2 332	1 340	222	6 825
Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear	26	41	188	221	195	42	713
Wholesale trade in other household goods	1 486	197	595	1 497	2 852	322	6 949
Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	1 101	18	873	1 613	189	85	3 879
Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores	485	25	209	904	318	113	2 054
Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	701	90	736	998	1 526	135	4 186
Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap	238	25	357	537	1 074	62	2 293
Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies	1 910	364	1 632	3 394	2 834	2 111	12 245
Other wholesale trade	1 875	109	1 436	1 619	735	259	6 033
Total	10 997	1 090	7 395	14 322	11 234	3 480	48 518

Table 6 – Details of assets in the wholesale trade industry, 2009

Type of wholesale trade	Current assets					Non-current assets					Total assets
	Bank	Debtors	Inventory	Other current assets	Total current assets	Fixed non-current assets	Goodwill	Long-term investment	Other non-current assets	Total non-current assets	
	R million					R million					
Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis	1 296	3 197	1 491	911	6 895	1 949	116	4 062	259	6 386	13 281
Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock	1 313	7 432	5 029	1 044	14 818	1 299	41	861	846	3 047	17 865
Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco	3 765	15 123	10 110	2 089	31 087	5 518	1 229	1 911	2 198	10 856	41 943
Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear	1 405	5 207	3 855	590	11 057	548	221	683	546	1 998	13 055
Wholesale trade in other household goods	5 467	22 337	15 573	4 441	47 818	4 748	2 363	1 485	3 309	11 905	59 723
Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	1 960	6 885	3 167	295	12 307	3 843	184	903	707	5 637	17 944
Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores	2 355	6 188	4 427	591	13 561	1 707	259	1 987	389	4 342	17 903
Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	2 155	9 301	9 086	507	21 049	3 003	1 102	749	1 178	6 032	27 081
Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap	2 262	6 735	6 912	469	16 378	1 369	1 031	317	1 150	3 867	20 245
Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies	13 820	29 287	28 993	5 044	77 144	9 546	2 519	2 574	7 244	21 883	99 027
Other wholesale trade	5 581	12 317	8 902	9 311	36 111	5 104	361	1 528	2 936	9 929	46 040
Total	41 379	124 009	97 545	25 292	288 225	38 634	9 426	17 060	20 762	85 882	374 107

Table 7 – Details of liabilities and owners’ equity in the wholesale trade industry, 2009

Type of wholesale trade	Current liabilities				Non-current liabilities			Total liabilities	Owners' equity	Equity and liabilities
	Creditors	Overdraft	Other current liabilities	Total current liabilities	Long-term loans	Other non-current liabilities	Total non-current liabilities			
	R million									
Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis	3 405	417	1 513	5 335	476	427	903	6 238	7 043	13 281
Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock	5 023	1 848	4 460	11 331	973	201	1 174	12 505	5 360	17 865
Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco	18 414	1 813	6 246	26 473	4 305	1 278	5 583	32 056	9 887	41 943
Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear	4 313	812	1 078	6 203	1 331	787	2 118	8 321	4 734	13 055
Wholesale trade in other household goods	15 678	3 263	11 719	30 660	5 120	2 187	7 307	37 967	21 756	59 723
Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	8 298	193	3 330	11 821	1 307	951	2 258	14 079	3 865	17 944
Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores	5 328	568	1 985	7 881	668	662	1 330	9 211	8 692	17 903
Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	9 458	1 549	1 727	12 734	2 088	1 422	3 510	16 244	10 837	27 081
Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap	8 137	1 461	3 796	13 394	973	1 018	1 991	15 385	4 860	20 245
Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies	31 935	3 010	19 011	53 956	8 178	6 648	14 826	68 782	30 245	99 027
Other wholesale trade	15 799	3 069	9 536	28 404	3 608	1 721	5 329	33 733	12 307	46 040
Total	125 788	18 003	64 401	208 192	29 027	17 302	46 329	254 521	119 586	374 107

Table 8 – Capital expenditure on new assets in the wholesale trade industry, 2009

Type of wholesale trade	Buildings and construction	Computer equipment and software	Vehicles	Plant, machinery and other office equipment	Other capital expenditure	Total capital expenditure on new assets
	R million					
Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis	0	18	53	412	10	493
Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock	31	17	61	140	83	332
Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco	372	89	329	788	144	1 722
Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear	1	26	28	59	24	138
Wholesale trade in other household goods	126	117	231	435	125	1 034
Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	15	9	69	489	45	627
Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores	25	21	73	246	153	518
Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	34	47	193	323	56	653
Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap	11	68	129	147	88	443
Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies	479	249	522	1 193	1 394	3 837
Other wholesale trade	166	84	371	621	241	1 483
Total	1 260	745	2 059	4 853	2 363	11 280

Table 9 – Employment in the wholesale trade industry at the end of June 2009

Type of wholesale trade	Permanent employees			Temporary employees			Casual employees			Female employees	Male employees	Total employees
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total			
	Number of employees											
Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis	9 564	20 223	29 787	1 002	1 655	2 657	221	2 282	2 503	10 787	24 160	34 947
Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock	3 768	7 502	11 270	282	766	1 048	56	467	523	4 106	8 735	12 841
Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco	20 484	32 346	52 830	2 159	2 403	4 562	1 050	1 413	2 463	23 693	36 162	59 855
Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear	7 320	8 682	16 002	401	603	1 004	242	522	764	7 963	9 807	17 770
Wholesale trade in other household goods	20 103	24 730	44 833	1 125	1 160	2 285	942	2 106	3 048	22 170	27 996	50 166
Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	2 503	4 821	7 324	107	113	220	44	165	209	2 654	5 099	7 753
Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores	2 964	5 782	8 746	110	291	401	6	22	28	3 080	6 096	9 175
Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	10 921	27 985	38 906	443	1 845	2 288	74	443	517	11 438	30 273	41 711
Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap	3 705	6 970	10 675	419	1 019	1 438	52	574	626	4 176	8 563	12 739
Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies	28 080	63 643	91 723	694	1 755	2 449	101	968	1 069	28 875	66 366	95 241
Other wholesale trade	28 127	57 515	85 642	1 078	4 767	5 845	997	9 995	10 992	30 202	72 277	102 479
Total	137 539	260 199	397 738	7 820	16 377	24 197	3 785	18 957	22 742	149 144	295 533	444 677

Table 10 – Employment by enterprise size in the wholesale trade industry at the end of June 2009

Type of wholesale trade	Large enterprises	Medium enterprises	Small enterprises	Micro enterprises	Total of all enterprises
	Number of employees				
Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis	13 121	8 684	5 697	7 445	34 947
Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock	8 835	476	2 700	830	12 841
Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco	42 717	2 948	6 170	8 020	59 855
Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear	8 947	2 505	4 360	1 958	17 770
Wholesale trade in other household goods	30 163	2 551	11 115	6 337	50 166
Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	4 281	1 513	1 466	493	7 753
Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores	8 050	627	459	39	9 175
Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	25 308	6 537	6 510	3 356	41 711
Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap	6 411	1 680	4 455	193	12 739
Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies	56 182	10 270	18 113	10 676	95 241
Other wholesale trade	25 813	6 841	44 778	25 047	102 479
Total	229 828	44 632	105 823	64 394	444 677

Explanatory notes

Background	<p>The results presented in this publication have been derived from the 2009 wholesale trade large sample survey. This is a periodic survey, which measures economic activity in the wholesale trade industry of the South African economy. This survey is based on a sample of private and public enterprises operating in the wholesale trade industry.</p> <p>The sample was drawn from Stats SA's business register. Stats SA continuously upgrades its business register, based on units registered for value added tax (VAT) and income tax (IT) at the South African Revenue Service (SARS).</p> <p>All figures exclude value added tax (VAT).</p>
Reference period	<p>The information was collected from enterprises for their financial year, which ended on any date between 1 July 2008 and 30 June 2009.</p>
Purpose of the survey	<p>Results of the survey are used within Stats SA for compiling South Africa's national accounts, e.g. the gross domestic product (GDP) and gross fixed capital formation. These statistics are also used by the private sector in analyses of comparative business and industry performance.</p>
Scope and coverage	<p>This survey covers the following income tax-registered private and public enterprises that are mainly engaged in wholesale trade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis (SIC 6110).(ii) Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock (SIC 6121).(iii) Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco (SIC 6122).(iv) Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear (SIC 6131).(v) Wholesale trade in other household goods (SIC 6139).(vi) Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (SIC 6141).(vii) Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores (SIC 6142).(viii) Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies (SIC 6143).(ix) Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap (SIC 6149).(x) Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies (SIC 6150).(xi) Other wholesale trade (SIC 6190).
Classification by industry	<p>The 1993 edition of the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</i> (SIC), Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-09-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</i> (ISIC) with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Statistics in this publication are presented at 4-digit SIC level (group). Each enterprise is classified to an industry, which reflects its predominant activity.</p>
Statistical unit	<p>The statistical unit for the collection of the information is an enterprise. An enterprise is a legal unit (or a combination of legal units) that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its activities.</p>

Size groups

The enterprises are divided into four size groups according to the value of their business register turnover. Large enterprises are enterprises with an annual turnover of R64 million and more. Table A presents the size groups defined using the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) cut-off points.

Table A – Size groups for the wholesale trade industry

Size group	Turnover
Large	≥ R64 000 000
Medium	R32 000 000 ≤ VAT turnover < R64 000 000
Small	R6 000 000 ≤ VAT turnover < R32 000 000
Micro	< R6 000 000

Survey methodology and design

The survey was conducted by post, email, fax, telephone and personal visits.

A sample of approximately 3 000 enterprises was drawn from a frame of approximately 36 000 enterprises using stratified simple random sampling. The enterprises were first stratified at 4-digit level according to the SIC and then by size of enterprise. All large enterprises were completely enumerated. Business register turnover was used as the measure of size for stratification. The response rate was 82,6%.

Weighting methodology

For those size groups not completely enumerated, the weights to produce estimates are the inverse ratio of the sampling fraction, modified to take account of non-response in the survey. Stratum estimates were calculated and then aggregated with the completely enumerated stratum to form group estimates. These procedures, which are in line with international best practice, are described in more detail on the Stats SA website at www.statssa.gov.za/publications/publicationsearch.asp.

Relative standard error

Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all enterprises in the wholesale trade industry in South Africa.

One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of enterprises was used. The relative standard error (RSE) provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have accrued due to sampling.

Table B – Income in the wholesale trade industry within 95% confidence limit, 2009

Type of wholesale trade	Lower limit	Total income	Upper limit	Relative standard error
	R million			%
Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis	20 682	26 566	32 449	11,3
Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock	71 613	72 610	73 606	0,7
Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco	170 377	177 691	185 004	2,1
Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear	25 277	27 963	30 648	4,9
Wholesale trade in other household goods	121 620	125 304	128 987	1,5
Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	103 001	104 642	106 282	0,8
Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores	46 631	46 907	47 182	0,3
Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	59 458	63 437	67 415	3,2
Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap	44 942	47 258	49 573	2,5
Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies	207 113	213 819	220 524	1,6
Other wholesale trade	91 254	102 056	112 857	5,4
All wholesale	994 419	1 008 253	1 022 086	0,7

Non-sampling errors

Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in the collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by careful design of questionnaires, testing them in pilot studies, editing reported data and implementing efficient operating procedures. Non-sampling errors occur in both sample surveys and censuses.

Rounding-off of figures

The figures in the tables have, where necessary, been rounded off to the nearest final digit shown. There may therefore be slight discrepancies between the sums of the constituent items and the totals shown.

Symbols and abbreviations

DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
GDP	Gross domestic product
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities
IT	Income tax
RSE	Relative standard error
SARS	South African Revenue Service
SE	Standard error
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities
SNA	System of National Accounts
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
VAT	Value added tax
0	Nil or less than half the final digit shown

Glossary

Casual employees	Casual employees are employees who fall neither within the 'permanent employees' category nor the 'temporary employees' category. Such employees are typically working daily or hourly.
Current assets	Assets on the balance sheet which are expected to be sold or otherwise used up in the near future, usually within one year. They include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• trade and other receivables;• cash and bank;• inventories; and• other current assets.
Current liabilities	Current liabilities are debts or obligations that are due within one year. They include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• trade and other payables;• bank overdraft; and• other current liabilities.
Employees	Employees are those people employed by the business or organisation who received payment (in salaries, wages, commission, piece rates or payments in kind) for the last pay period ended on or before 30 June 2009.
Leasing income	Leasing income includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• leasing and hiring of motor vehicles and other transport equipment;• leasing and hiring of plant, machinery, equipment and vehicles; and• rental of land, buildings and other structures.
Net profit or loss before tax	Net profit or loss before tax is derived as: Total income plus closing value of inventories minus total expenditure minus opening value of inventories

Non-current assets	<p>Non-current assets are assets which are not easily convertible to cash or not expected to become cash within the next year. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• property, plant and equipment and intangible assets;• long-term investments; and• other non-current assets.
Non-current liabilities	<p>Non-current liabilities are liabilities not due to be paid within one year during the normal course of business. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• long-term loans; and• other non-current liabilities.
Other expenditure	<p>Other expenditure includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• accommodation;• bursaries;• containers and packaging materials;• donations;• entertainment;• excise and customs duty;• losses on liabilities;• losses on foreign exchange;• mineral rights leases;• postal and courier services;• property tax;• provisions;• research and development;• royalties;• severance, termination and redundancy payments;• skills development levy;• staff training (payment to outside organisations)• subcontracting expenses;• subscriptions;• travelling; and• other.
Other income	<p>Other income includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• profit for redemption, liquidation or revaluation of liabilities;• mineral rights;• provisions;• subsidies; and• other.

Owners' equity	Owners' equity is the residual interest in the entity's assets after deducting its liabilities.
Permanent employees	Permanent employees are employees appointed on an open-ended contract with no stipulated termination date or a fixed-term contract for periods of more than one year.
Profit margin	Profit margin is derived as: Net profit after tax <i>divided by</i> turnover <i>multiplied by</i> 100
Statistical unit	A statistical unit is a unit about which statistics are tabulated, compiled or published. The statistical units are derived from and linked to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) administrative data.
Stratum	A stratum is constructed by concatenating the SIC classification and size group variables.
Temporary employees	Temporary employees are employees appointed on a short-term contract basis with a stipulated termination date for periods not exceeding one year.
Turnover	Turnover includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• value of sales of goods;• amount received for services rendered;• rent and lease payments received for land and buildings; and• rent, leasing and hiring received for machinery, vehicles and other equipment.

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