Wholesale trade sales
April 2005

Embargoed until:
13 July 2005
11:00

Table A - Key figures as at the end of April 2005

Estimates	April 2005 R million	% change between April 2004 and April 2005	% change between February to April 2004 and February to April 2005	% change between January to April 2004 and January to April 2005
Wholesale trade sales				
at current prices	40 298	+16,7	+7,6	+8,7
at constant 2000 prices	31 118	+14,0	+5,1	+6,3

Seasonally adjusted estimates	April 2005 R million	% change between March and April 2005	% change between November 2004 to January 2005 and February to April 2005
Wholesale trade sales			
at current prices	42 475	+8,0	-6,3
at constant 2000 prices	32 839	+7,5	-6,6

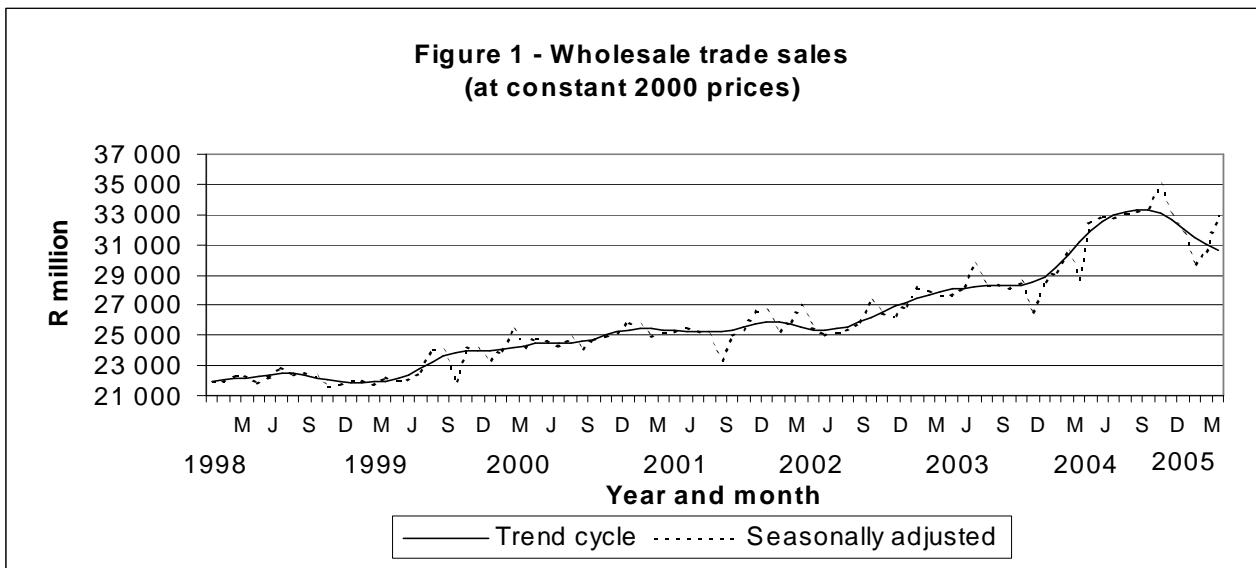**Key findings as at the end of April 2005**

Wholesale trade sales increase

As indicated in table A, wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the three months ended April 2005 increased by 5,1% compared with the three months ended April 2004. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the three months ended April 2005 showed a decrease of 6,6% compared with the previous three months.

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, increased by 16,7% for the month of April 2005 compared with April 2004. This is attributed, in part, to a longer working month in 2005 compared with 2004 (Easter holidays were in April in 2004).

Wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for January to April 2005 increased by 6,3% compared with the same period last year.

Please note that the estimates for April and May of last year (2004) have been revised.

Wholesale trade sales, April 2005

Figure 1 below shows the seasonally adjusted and trend patterns for wholesale trade sales at constant (2000) prices between January 1998 and April 2005. The trend cycle, after a brief decline towards the end of 2003, assumed an upward movement for most of 2004 and starts showing a decline from October 2004.

**Figure 1 - Wholesale trade sales
(at constant 2000 prices)**

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Statistician-General**

Contents

Notes

Forthcoming issue	Issue	Expected release date
	May 2005	11 August 2005

Purpose of the survey   The results of the monthly wholesale trade sales survey are used to compile estimates of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and its components, which are used in monitoring the state of the economy and formulation of economic policy. These statistics are also used in the analysis of comparative business and industry performance.

Detailed results

Outlined below in table 1 are wholesale trade sales according to type of dealer.

Table 1 - Total wholesale trade sales according to type of dealer at current prices (R million) for 2005

Month	Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D	Type E	Type F	Type G	Type H	Type I	Type J	Type K	Type L	Total 2/
January 1/	1 409	2 320	6 859	808	3 011	1 659	4 093	1 142	2 463	1 326	5 662	4 874	35 632
February 1/	1 650	2 260	7 089	1 116	3 099	916	4 485	1 343	2 764	1 271	6 547	4 514	37 058
March 1/	1 756	1 863	7 329	1 220	3 592	2 017	4 904	1 292	2 831	1 404	6 523	5 041	39 778
April 1/	1 719	1 869	7 217	1 192	3 690	2 135	5 207	1 328	2 944	1 302	6 514	5 174	40 298
May													
June													
July													
August													
September													
October													
November													
December													

1/ Preliminary
2/ The figures have been rounded-off. Therefore, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.

Description of type of dealers included in indicated group types in table 1 1/

Group type	Type of dealers included in group type
Type A	Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis
Type B	Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock
Type C	Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco
Type D	Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear
Type E	Wholesale trade in other household goods except precious stones
Type F	Wholesale trade in precious stones, jewellery and silverware
Type G	Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gases fuels and related products
Type H	Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores
Type I	Wholesale trade in construction and building materials
Type J	Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap
Type K	Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies
Type L	Wholesale trade in other goods

1/ See note 3 on page 9

Outlined below in tables 2 and 3 are details of the behaviour of wholesale trade sales at current prices over the period January 1998 to April 2005. Table 4 gives details of the behaviour of the seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices over the same period.

Table 2 - Total wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million)

Month	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 1/	2005
January	16 924	17 862	20 225	24 376	27 785	30 199	31 612	35 632
February	18 350	19 457	22 672	26 243	29 278	34 546	35 705	37 059
March	19 172	19 834	24 675	26 283	31 140	35 537	38 653	39 779
April	18 575	19 465	22 770	25 528	31 024	32 943	*34 520	40 298
May	18 858	20 171	24 466	27 098	31 603	34 821	*41 667	
June	19 330	20 295	24 533	27 576	31 049	35 973	42 907	
July	19 895	20 604	23 739	26 697	30 564	36 659	41 103	
August	20 162	22 620	25 108	27 205	31 501	35 186	41 924	
September	20 963	23 068	25 125	26 016	33 052	35 949	43 020	
October	21 341	22 203	27 133	29 796	37 089	37 858	46 353	
November	21 027	24 860	27 953	30 854	36 600	38 654	48 989	
December	19 622	23 144	26 310	30 003	33 219	33 038	42 116	
Total	**234 219**	**253 583**	**294 709**	**327 675**	**383 904**	**421 363**	***488 569**	

1/ Preliminary
* Revised

Table 3 - Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at current prices 1/

Month	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
January	-	5,5	13,2	20,5	14,0	8,7	4,7	12,7
February	-	6,0	16,5	15,8	11,6	18,0	3,4	3,8
March	-	3,5	24,4	6,5	18,5	14,1	8,8	2,9
April	-	4,8	17,0	12,1	21,5	6,2	*4,8	16,7
May	-	7,0	21,3	10,8	16,6	10,2	*19,7	
June	-	5,0	20,9	12,4	12,6	15,9	19,3	
July	-	3,6	15,2	12,5	14,5	19,9	12,1	
August	-	12,2	11,0	8,4	15,8	11,7	19,1	
September	-	10,0	8,9	3,5	27,0	8,8	19,7	
October	-	4,0	22,2	9,8	24,5	2,1	22,4	
November	-	18,2	12,4	10,4	18,6	5,6	26,7	
December	-	17,9	13,7	14,0	10,7	-0,5	27,5	
Total	**-**	**8,3**	**16,2**	**11,2**	**17,2**	**9,8**	***15,9**	

* Revised
1/ The percentage change is the difference between wholesale trade sales of the relevant year and those of the previous year expressed as a percentage

Table 4 - Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million)

Month	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
January	18 777	19 746	22 320	26 990	30 927	33 841	35 695	40 490
February	18 809	19 933	23 174	26 849	29 907	35 326	36 488	37 889
March	19 066	19 718	24 507	26 035	30 844	35 144	38 248	39 317
April	19 367	20 302	23 803	26 788	32 655	34 693	36 359	42 475
May	19 012	20 282	24 507	26 997	31 324	34 421	41 133	
June	19 457	20 405	24 583	27 470	30 688	35 392	42 139	
July	20 268	21 020	24 292	27 386	31 354	37 568	42 062	
August	19 889	22 396	24 976	27 224	31 676	35 520	42 365	
September	20 681	22 773	24 802	25 714	32 664	35 532	42 465	
October	19 955	20 737	25 311	27 725	34 461	35 055	42 822	
November	19 432	22 980	25 788	28 430	33 680	35 547	45 012	
December	19 458	22 992	26 160	29 937	33 180	33 084	42 272	

Outlined below in tables 5 and 6 are details of the behaviour of wholesale trade sales at constant prices over the period January 1998 to April 2005. Table 7 gives details of the behaviour of the seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant prices over the same period.

Table 5 - Total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million)

Month	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	1/ 2005
January	19 680	19 858	21 046	23 371	23 922	24 073	25 361	27 991
February	21 400	21 523	23 458	25 041	24 707	27 483	28 484	29 009
March	22 333	21 783	25 425	25 019	26 048	28 271	30 860	30 968
April	21 400	21 343	23 069	24 060	25 523	26 218	*27 299	31 118
May	21 626	21 842	24 700	25 349	25 809	28 014	*32 912	
June	22 167	21 941	24 631	25 616	25 253	28 562	33 339	
July	22 481	22 119	23 704	24 662	24 599	28 922	31 974	
August	22 502	24 167	24 798	24 947	25 111	27 870	32 588	
September	23 305	24 633	24 717	23 857	26 368	28 817	33 675	
October	23 831	23 583	26 523	26 940	29 389	30 360	36 114	
November	23 454	26 238	27 034	27 573	28 910	31 110	38 139	
December	21 948	24 311	25 347	26 669	26 343	26 558	32 942	
Total	**266 127**	**273 341**	**294 452**	**303 104**	**311 982**	**336 258**	***383 687**	

* Revised
1/ Preliminary

Table 6 - Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices 1/

Month	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
January	-	0,9	6,0	11,0	2,4	0,6	5,4	10,4
February	-	0,6	9,0	6,7	-1,3	11,2	3,6	1,8
March	-	-2,5	16,7	-1,6	4,1	8,5	9,2	0,3
April	-	-0,3	8,1	4,3	6,1	2,7	*4,1	14,0
May	-	1,0	13,1	2,6	1,8	8,5	*17,5	
June	-	-1,0	12,3	4,0	-1,4	13,1	16,7	
July	-	-1,6	7,2	4,0	-0,3	17,6	10,6	
August	-	7,4	2,6	0,6	0,7	11,0	16,9	
September	-	5,7	0,3	-3,5	10,5	9,3	16,9	
October	-	-1,0	12,5	1,6	9,1	3,3	19,0	
November	-	11,9	3,0	2,0	4,8	7,6	22,6	
December	-	10,8	4,3	5,2	-1,2	0,8	24,0	
Total	**-**	**2,7**	**7,7**	**2,9**	**2,9**	**7,8**	***14,1**	

* Revised
1/ The percentage change is the difference between wholesale trade sales of the relevant year and those of the previous year expressed as a percentage

Table 7 - Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million)

Month	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
January	21 908	22 024	23 281	25 911	26 613	26 924	28 535	31 668
February	21 916	22 045	23 985	25 630	25 249	28 119	29 123	29 660
March	22 355	21 784	25 388	24 896	25 863	27 964	30 492	30 558
April	22 353	22 300	24 154	25 282	26 899	27 644	28 788	32 839
May	21 862	22 022	24 793	25 282	25 590	27 694	32 496	
June	22 306	22 052	24 691	25 550	25 028	28 202	32 879	
July	22 951	22 610	24 286	25 313	25 244	29 660	32 754	
August	22 332	24 061	24 789	25 073	25 360	28 268	33 107	
September	22 609	23 943	24 099	23 383	25 924	28 383	33 136	
October	22 253	22 000	24 711	25 046	27 294	28 125	33 400	
November	21 670	24 244	24 915	25 369	26 539	28 528	34 939	
December	21 721	24 105	25 160	26 572	26 278	26 557	33 010	

Outlined below in tables 8.1 and 8.2 are the percentage changes in wholesale trade sales at current prices, constant prices and seasonally adjusted estimates.

Table 8 – Estimates and percentage changes in total wholesale trade sales

Table 8.1 - Quarterly and cumulative estimates and percentage changes

Estimates	February to April 2004 R million	February to April 2005 R million	% change between February to April 2004 and February to April 2005	January to April 2004 R million	January to April 2005 R million	% change between January to April 2004 and January to April 2005
Wholesale trade sales at current prices	108 878	117 136	+7,6	140 490	152 768	+8,7
at constant 2000 prices	86 643	91 095	+5,1	112 004	119 086	+6,3

Table 8.2 - Seasonally adjusted estimates with monthly and quarterly percentage changes.

Seasonally adjusted estimates	March 2005 R million	April 2005 R million	% change between March and April 2005	November 2004 to January 2005 R million	February to April 2005 R million	% change between November 2004 to January 2005 and February to April 2005
Wholesale trade sales at current prices	39 317	42 475	+8,0	127 774	119 681	-6,3
at constant 2000 prices	30 558	32 839	+7,5	99 617	93 057	-6,6

Explanatory notes

Introduction 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey of the wholesale trade industry, covering wholesale enterprises (see 4 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from the 2004 Business Sampling Frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value-added tax (VAT) and income tax. Wholesale trade sales exclude value-added tax (VAT).

2 As is usual, information for the latest month has had to be estimated for respondents who have not reported by the cut-off date for production of results. These estimates will be revised in future statistical releases when their reported information becomes available.

Scope of the survey 3 This survey covers wholesale enterprises according to the following types of dealer:
- Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis (not covered in previous survey)
    - Sales by commission agents, commodity brokers, auctioneers and other wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis;
- Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock;
- Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco;
- Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear;
- Wholesale trade in other household goods except precious stones
    - Wholesale trade in household furniture, requisites and appliances, wholesale trade in books and stationery, wholesale trade in pharmaceuticals and toiletries and wholesale trade in other household goods not elsewhere classified;
- Wholesale trade in precious stones, jewellery and silverware;
- Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products;
- Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores;
- Wholesale trade in construction and building materials
    - Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies;
- Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies;
- Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap; and
- Wholesale trade in other goods
    - General wholesale trade and other wholesale trade not elsewhere classified.

Classification 4 The 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)*, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 *International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC)* with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC division (two digit) level. Each enterprise is classified to the industry, which reflects its predominant activity.

Statistical unit 5 The statistical unit for which information is compiled and published is the enterprise, defined as a legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.

Survey methodology and design 6 The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of about 800 enterprises from a population of about 19 000 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within 10 days after the end of the reference month. Fax and telephone reminders are used to follow up non-respondents.

7 The value of sales is obtained monthly from the sample of 800 enterprises (which was drawn in September 2004 at the SIC four-digit level) from a population then of about 19 000 wholesale enterprises. The wholesale industry is divided into four size groups. All large enterprises (size group one) are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to size groups two (medium sized), three and four (small) enterprises. The total value of sales of the large enterprises (size group one) is added to the weighted totals of size groups two, three and four to reflect the total value of sales.

Weighting methodology	**8**	For those strata 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 are calculated and then aggregated with the completely enumerated stratum to form division estimates. These procedures, which are in line with international best practice, are described in more detail on the Stats SA website at http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/publicationsearch.asp.
Constant prices	**9**	The constant prices for the 2004 series are calculated using a combination of the production price indices for consumption in South Africa and total output of South African industry groups from the Production Price Index (PPI) to deflate the current prices. From January 2005 onwards, only the total sales will be deflated and not the type of dealer.
Seasonal adjustment	**10**	Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month, using the X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the US Bureau of the Census, 1968. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences, which may be present in any particular month. Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variations. Therefore the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour.
Trend cycle	**11**	The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimates of the underlying trend cycle.
Reliability of estimates	**12**	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 industry in South Africa. Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Preliminary figures are indicated in the tables.
	13	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. Fluctuations may occur in consecutive months as a result of seasonal and economic factors.
Revised figures	**14**	Revised figures are due to respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures and late submission of their data to Stats SA. Preliminary figures are indicated in the relevant tables. Data are edited at the enterprise level.
Related publications	**15**	Users may also wish to refer to the following publications available from Stats SA - • *Bulletin of Statistics* issued quarterly. • *SA Statistics* issued annually.
Rounding of figures	**16**	Where figures have been rounded-off discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.
Pre-release policy	**17**	Stats SA's pre-release policy may be inspected at its Website, www.statssa.gov.za.

Symbols and abbreviations	**18**	BSF	Business sampling frame
		GDP	Gross Domestic Product
		ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
		SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities
		SARS	South African Revenue Service
		Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
		VAT	Value-added tax
		*	Revised
		-	Figures not available

Technical note

Neyman optimal allocation

Before drawing in each of the surveys the population of enterprises on the Business Sampling Frame (BSF) was stratified. Strata were formed using a combination of Standard Industrial Classification and the measure of size classes for enterprises. The Neyman optimal allocation formula given below was used to allocate samples to each stratum.

$$n_h = \frac{N_h S_h}{\sum N_h S_h}$$

where N_h and S_h are the stratum population size and the stratum variance, respectively.

Neyman allocation formula not only allocates sample sizes to each stratum but also calculates the relative precision for each stratum as well as the relative precision for all strata. The relative precision for these surveys did not exceed 6.4%.

Class limits

Enterprise size	**Lower limits**	**Upper limits**
Very small	0	6 000 000
Small	6 000 001	32 000 000
Medium	32 000 001	64 000 000
Large	64 000 001	

Glossary

Enterprise   The enterprise is a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.

Industry   An industry is made up of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the *System of National Accounts (SNA)* in the same way as in the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993 (SIC).*

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.

Wholesale trade   Wholesale trade includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to other wholesalers, retailers, agricultural, industrial, commercial, institutional and professional users either directly or through agents on a fee or contract basis.

Wholesaler   A wholesaler is an enterprise deriving 50% or more of its turnover from sales of goods to other businesses and institutions.

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