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Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

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Summary of findings: Wholesale trade sales

Table A – Key figures as at the end of April 2009

Wholesale trade sales estimates	April 2009 (R million)	% change between April 2008 and April 2009	% change between February to April 2008 and February to April 2009	% change between January to April 2008 and January to April 2009
At current prices	76 037	-12,6	-5,3	-2,9
At constant 2000 prices	42 431	-15,1	-9,9	-8,4

Seasonally adjusted estimates	April 2009 (R million)	% change between March and April 2009	% change between November 2008 to January 2009 and February to April 2009
At current prices	83 624	-0,4	-5,9
At constant 2000 prices	46 107	0,2	-5,5

Key findings as at the end of April 2009

Wholesale trade sales in real terms decrease

Wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the three months ended April 2009 decreased by 9,9% compared with the three months ended April 2008, while growth for the same period in 2008 was 10,6%. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the three months ended April 2009 decreased by 5,5% compared with the three months ended January 2009.

Wholesale trade sales at current prices for April 2009 decreased by 12,6% compared with April 2008, while sales for the corresponding period in 2008 increased by 35,7%. Lower sales in April 2009 may be partly attributed to a shorter trading month as compared to April 2008 due to the Easter period that switched from March in 2008 to April in 2009.

Wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for April 2009 decreased by 15,1% compared with April 2008.

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for the three months ended April 2009 decreased by 5,3% compared with the three months ended April 2008. The major contributors to this decrease were dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-4,7 percentage points), dealers in metal and metal ores (-1,8 percentage points) and dealers in precious stones, jewellery and silverware (-0,9 of a percentage point) – see Table B on page 3. However, the decrease was partially offset by a positive contribution of 2,4 percentage points recorded by dealers in food, beverages and tobacco products.

Table B – Contribution of each type of dealer to the percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices

Type of wholesale dealer	Sales February to April 2008 (R million)	Weight 1/	Sales February to April 2009 (R million)	Difference in sales between February to April 2008 and February to April 2009 (R million)	Percentage change between February to April 2008 and February to April 2009	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in total sales 2/
Contract or fee basis	11 111	4,4	10 151	-960	-8,6	-0,4
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	9 656	3,9	9 692	36	0,4	0,0
Food, beverages and tobacco	39 116	15,7	45 085	5 969	15,3	2,4
Textiles, clothing and footwear	8 181	3,3	8 030	-151	-1,8	-0,1
Other household goods except precious stones	24 395	9,8	24 332	-63	-0,3	0,0
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	5 850	2,3	3 522	-2 328	-39,8	-0,9
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	48 927	19,6	37 089	-11 838	-24,2	-4,7
Metals and metal ores	11 847	4,7	7 346	-4 501	-38,0	-1,8
Construction and building materials	13 022	5,2	11 016	-2 006	-15,4	-0,8
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	9 116	3,6	7 622	-1 494	-16,4	-0,6
Machinery, equipment and supplies	48 804	19,5	50 233	1 429	2,9	0,6
Other goods	19 855	7,9	22 486	2 631	13,3	1,1
Total 3/	249 879	100,0	236 603	-13 276	-5,3	-5,3

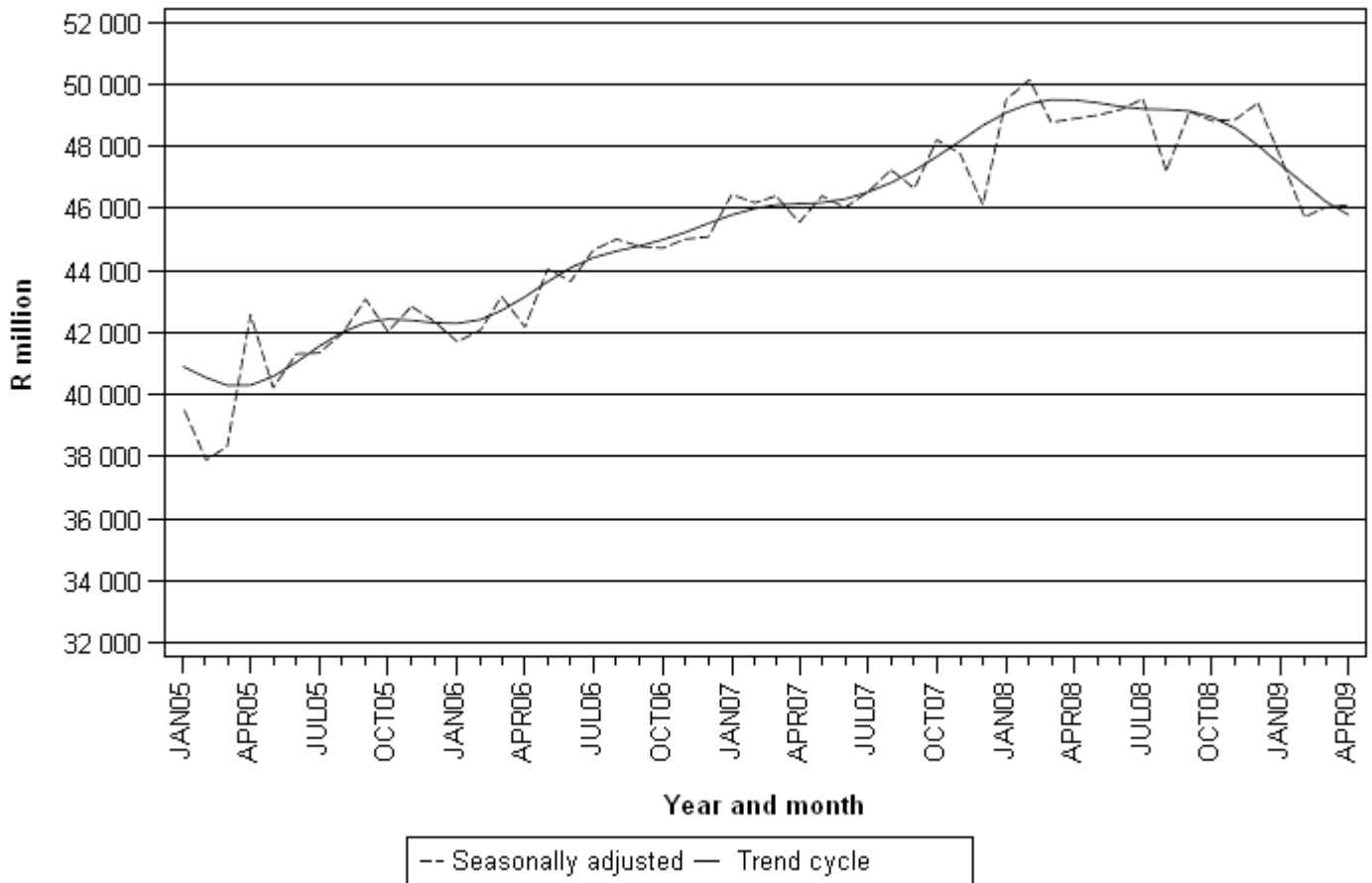
1/ Weight is the percentage contribution of each type of dealer to the total wholesale trade sales for the three months up to the current month of the previous year.

2/ The contribution to the percentage change is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of dealer with its corresponding weight.

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

Figure 1 below shows the seasonally adjusted and trend patterns for wholesale trade sales at constant (2000) prices between January 2005 and April 2009.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices



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Detailed results

Outlined below in Table 1 are wholesale trade sales according to type of dealer (see description of type of dealer on page 6).

Table 1 – Total wholesale trade sales according to the type of dealer at current prices (R million)

Year and month 1/	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/	
2008	January	2 986	3 039	13 263	1 813	6 918	573	13 441	2 845	3 340	2 577	15 834	6 073	72 701
	February	3 647	3 497	12 838	2 612	7 771	1 695	14 631	3 667	4 465	3 086	15 611	6 208	79 728
	March	3 613	2 860	13 442	2 463	6 961	1 979	17 191	3 839	4 263	2 862	17 462	6 253	83 188
	April	3 851	3 299	12 836	3 106	9 663	2 176	17 105	4 341	4 294	3 168	15 731	7 394	86 963
	May	3 896	3 878	13 461	2 827	8 357	1 995	19 034	4 350	4 472	3 556	16 902	7 639	90 368
	June	3 465	3 999	14 309	1 958	8 273	2 295	19 524	4 743	4 100	3 331	18 212	7 586	91 795
	July	4 629	4 502	13 442	1 799	8 498	1 770	21 224	4 873	4 493	4 144	18 356	7 521	95 250
	August	4 686	4 182	15 291	1 825	8 497	647	20 395	4 583	4 337	4 285	16 584	7 107	92 417
	September	4 322	3 789	14 842	2 108	9 246	1 077	18 434	4 199	4 410	3 731	20 029	7 318	93 505
	October	3 612	3 769	14 458	2 373	10 461	1 915	19 287	4 447	5 224	3 990	20 124	8 191	97 852
	November	3 381	4 579	16 965	2 509	9 836	1 757	18 405	3 647	4 771	4 028	21 863	9 861	101 602
	December	3 336	3 956	18 182	1 944	8 395	566	19 388	2 214	2 820	2 511	15 819	9 349	88 481
Total	45 424	45 349	173 329	27 337	102 876	18 445	218 059	47 748	50 989	41 269	212 527	90 500	1 073 850	
2009	January	2 859	3 383	15 004	1 654	7 478	386	14 958	2 645	2 931	2 929	15 398	6 963	76 588
	February	3 269	3 408	15 017	2 412	7 916	823	12 132	2 656	3 710	2 681	16 326	7 641	77 992
	March	3 522	3 343	15 224	2 903	8 431	1 384	13 030	2 547	3 904	2 691	17 826	7 771	82 574
	April	3 360	2 941	14 844	2 715	7 985	1 315	11 927	2 143	3 402	2 250	16 081	7 074	76 037

1/ Preliminary.

2/ The figures have been rounded off. Therefore, discrepancies may occur between the 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 gaseous 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 4 on page 10.

Tables 2 and 3 show wholesale trade sales (actual values and annual percentage changes) at current prices over the period January 2002 – April 2009. Table 4 shows seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices over the same period.

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

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 ^{1/}	2009 ^{1/}
January	34 827	37 849	39 623	44 336	49 213	60 806	72 701	76 588
February	36 696	43 299	44 751	46 408	53 971	65 220	79 728	77 992
March	39 029	44 542	48 444	49 559	58 412	69 832	83 188	82 574
April	38 882	41 288	43 264	50 966	52 913	64 062	86 963	76 037
May	39 611	43 644	52 224	53 006	61 413	72 542	90 368	
June	38 915	45 089	53 777	54 961	62 147	72 651	91 795	
July	38 306	45 948	51 517	54 806	64 179	74 253	95 250	
August	39 481	44 102	52 545	56 457	66 649	76 764	92 417	
September	41 424	45 056	53 143	58 642	66 673	75 873	93 505	
October	46 486	47 450	57 533	60 608	71 025	83 769	97 852	
November	45 874	48 444	61 307	64 949	75 651	87 599	101 602	
December	41 633	41 407	52 896	56 198	65 760	73 962	88 481	
Total	481 164	528 118	611 024	650 896	748 006	877 333	1 073 850	

^{1/} Preliminary.

Table 3 – Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at current prices ^{1/}

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	-	8,7	4,7	11,9	11,0	23,6	19,6	5,3
February	-	18,0	3,4	3,7	16,3	20,8	22,2	-2,2
March	-	14,1	8,8	2,3	17,9	19,6	19,1	-0,7
April	-	6,2	4,8	17,8	3,8	21,1	35,7	-12,6
May	-	10,2	19,7	1,5	15,9	18,1	24,6	
June	-	15,9	19,3	2,2	13,1	16,9	26,4	
July	-	19,9	12,1	6,4	17,1	15,7	28,3	
August	-	11,7	19,1	7,4	18,1	15,2	20,4	
September	-	8,8	17,9	10,3	13,7	13,8	23,2	
October	-	2,1	21,2	5,3	17,2	17,9	16,8	
November	-	5,6	26,6	5,9	16,5	15,8	16,0	
December	-	-0,5	27,7	6,2	17,0	12,5	19,6	
Total	-	9,8	15,7	6,5	14,9	17,3	22,4	

^{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	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	38 787	42 592	45 082	50 868	56 602	69 707	82 999	87 175
February	37 646	44 755	46 622	48 825	57 288	69 690	85 515	83 744
March	38 796	44 321	48 372	49 698	58 967	70 769	84 498	83 983
April	41 307	44 281	46 847	55 648	58 101	70 441	95 641	83 624
May	39 409	43 321	51 854	52 520	60 803	71 784	89 458	
June	38 525	44 424	52 882	54 022	61 107	71 657	90 757	
July	38 983	46 440	51 575	54 389	63 155	72 687	92 912	
August	39 554	44 042	52 037	55 456	65 034	74 705	89 733	
September	40 743	44 196	51 917	57 242	65 014	74 024	91 244	
October	43 033	43 777	53 035	55 867	65 598	77 416	90 451	
November	41 705	43 595	54 699	57 560	66 883	77 439	89 972	
December	41 689	41 697	53 542	57 040	66 745	75 097	89 971	

Tables 5 and 6 show wholesale trade sales (actual values and annual percentage changes) at constant (2000) prices over the period January 2002 – April 2009. Table 7 shows 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	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 ^{1/}	2009 ^{1/}
January	29 985	30 171	31 787	34 828	36 699	41 113	44 088	42 549
February	30 967	34 446	35 701	36 327	40 187	43 978	47 684	43 474
March	32 647	35 435	38 678	38 582	43 284	46 446	48 762	45 977
April	31 988	32 860	34 214	39 356	38 821	41 925	49 950	42 431
May	32 349	35 112	41 251	40 727	44 567	46 892	49 463	
June	31 651	35 799	41 785	41 606	43 827	45 967	48 957	
July	30 830	36 251	40 075	41 038	44 492	46 408	49 481	
August	31 472	34 932	40 843	42 085	45 370	47 724	47 761	
September	33 047	36 117	41 599	43 976	45 713	47 569	50 083	
October	36 835	38 051	44 825	45 433	48 267	52 014	52 665	
November	36 235	38 989	47 728	48 433	51 064	54 224	55 399	
December	33 016	33 285	41 373	41 876	44 583	45 613	48 804	
Total	391 022	421 448	479 859	494 267	526 874	559 873	593 097	

^{1/} Preliminary.

Table 6 – Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices ^{1/}

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	-	0,6	5,4	9,6	5,4	12,0	7,2	-3,5
February	-	11,2	3,6	1,8	10,6	9,4	8,4	-8,8
March	-	8,5	9,2	-0,2	12,2	7,3	5,0	-5,7
April	-	2,7	4,1	15,0	-1,4	8,0	19,1	-15,1
May	-	8,5	17,5	-1,3	9,4	5,2	5,5	
June	-	13,1	16,7	-0,4	5,3	4,9	6,5	
July	-	17,6	10,5	2,4	8,4	4,3	6,6	
August	-	11,0	16,9	3,0	7,8	5,2	0,1	
September	-	9,3	15,2	5,7	3,9	4,1	5,3	
October	-	3,3	17,8	1,4	6,2	7,8	1,3	
November	-	7,6	22,4	1,5	5,4	6,2	2,2	
December	-	0,8	24,3	1,2	6,5	2,3	7,0	
Total	-	7,8	13,9	3,0	6,6	6,3	5,9	

^{1/} The percentage change is the difference between wholesale trade 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	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	33 369	33 852	35 947	39 604	41 700	46 446	49 503	47 590
February	31 786	35 572	37 045	37 885	42 076	46 179	50 151	45 728
March	32 440	35 146	38 369	38 321	43 159	46 399	48 777	46 033
April	33 912	35 082	36 798	42 582	42 175	45 545	54 261	46 107
May	32 142	34 752	40 799	40 216	44 039	46 404	49 005	
June	31 428	35 437	41 382	41 310	43 653	46 024	49 185	
July	31 486	36 863	40 518	41 335	44 658	46 531	49 527	
August	31 696	35 182	40 951	41 960	45 007	47 239	47 201	
September	32 415	35 419	40 706	43 072	44 774	46 644	49 130	
October	34 112	35 175	41 439	42 026	44 720	48 215	48 820	
November	32 878	35 034	42 520	42 840	45 014	47 764	48 869	
December	33 073	33 496	41 797	42 364	45 080	46 113	49 398	

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

Outlined below in tables 8.1 and 8.2 are the percentage changes in wholesale trade sales at current prices, constant (2000) prices and seasonally adjusted estimates.

Table 8.1 – Quarterly estimates and percentage changes

Wholesale trade sales estimates	February to April 2008 (R million)	February to April 2009 (R million)	% change between February to April 2008 and February to April 2009	January to April 2008 (R million)	January to April 2009 (R million)	% change between January to April 2008 and January to April 2009
At current prices	249 879	236 603	-5,3	322 580	313 191	-2,9
At constant 2000 prices	146 396	131 882	-9,9	190 484	174 431	-8,4

Table 8.2 – Seasonally adjusted estimates with monthly and quarterly percentage changes

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales estimates	March 2009 (R million)	April 2009 (R million)	% change between March and April 2009	November 2008 to January 2009 (R million)	February to April 2009 (R million)	% change between November 2008 to January 2009 and February to April 2009
At current prices	83 983	83 624	-0,4	267 118	251 351	-5,9
At constant 2000 prices	46 033	46 107	0,2	145 857	137 868	-5,5

Explanatory notes

Introduction	1	<p>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 2008 Business Sampling Frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value-added tax (VAT).</p> <p>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. Published wholesale trade sales estimates exclude VAT.</p>
Purpose of the survey	3	<p>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.</p>
Scope of the survey	4	<p>This survey covers wholesale enterprises according to the following types of dealer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis • 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	5	<p>The 1993 edition of the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)</i>, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, 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 (ISIC)</i> with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC division (four digit) level. Each enterprise is classified to the industry which reflects its predominant activity.</p>
Response rate	6	<p>The preliminary response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for April 2009 was 97,0%. The improved response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for March 2009 was 98,3%.</p>
Statistical unit	7	<p>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.</p>
Survey methodology and design	8	<p>The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of about 1 000 enterprises from a population of about 21 000 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.</p>

- 9 The value of sales is obtained monthly from the sample of about 1 000 enterprises (which was drawn in April 2008 at the SIC four-digit level) from a population of about 21 000 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 the remaining size groups (medium, small and very small size 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** 10 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** 11 The total sales at constant prices are calculated using a combination of the Production Price Indices (PPI) for consumption in South Africa and for total output of South African industry groups to deflate the sales at current prices. However, with the discontinuation of the PPI for consumption in South Africa in January 2008, total sales at constant prices are calculated using the total output of South African industry groups from the PPI to deflate the sales at current prices.
- Seasonal adjustment** 12 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** 13 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** 14 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.
- 15 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** 16 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** 17 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** 18 Where figures have been rounded-off discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.

Pre-release policy **19** Stats SA's pre-release policy may be inspected at its Website, www.statssa.gov.za.

Symbols and abbreviations **20** 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

A stratified random sample was drawn from the population of enterprises on the Business Sampling Frame (BSF). 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 strata did not exceed 4,8%.

Class limits

Enterprise size	Size Group	Lower limits	Upper limits
Very small	4	0	6 000 000
Small	3	6 000 001	32 000 000
Medium	2	32 000 001	64 000 000
Large	1	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 March 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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