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Sales at constant 2012 prices: results for April 2013

Table A – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices

| | Nov-12 | Dec-12 | Jan-13 | Feb-13 | Mar-13 | Apr-13 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Year-on-year % change, unadjusted | 9,5 | 3,3 | 6,7 | 2,2 | -0,5 | 7,2 |
| Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted | 0,4 | -2,3 | 3,8 | -1,9 | -5,8 | 8,8 |
| 3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/ | 2,1 | 4,6 | 3,6 | 2,4 | -0,9 | -1,4 |

1/ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

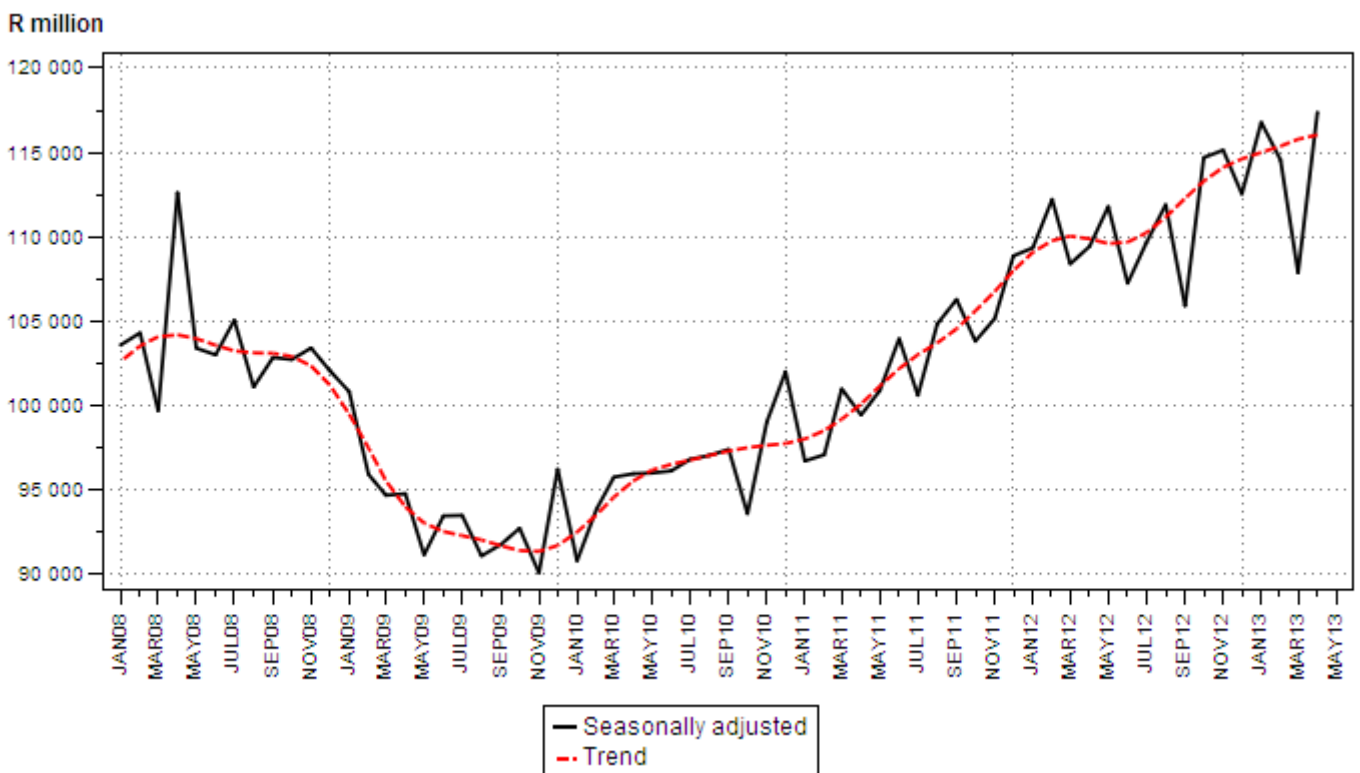
Measured in real terms (constant 2012 prices), wholesale trade sales increased by 7,2% year-on-year in April 2013. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 8,8% in April 2013 compared with March 2013. This followed month-on-month changes of -5,8% in March 2013 and -1,9% in February 2013.

Cautionary note:

Note that the Easter weekend fell partly in March and partly in April in 2013, whereas in 2012 it fell in April. This may have positively affected the performance of wholesale trade in April 2013, which should be taken into account in assessing the increase of 7,2% year-on-year in April 2013. There were 18 working days in April 2012 compared with 21 working days in April 2013. The seasonally adjusted increase of 8,8% between March and April 2013 should also be treated with caution. Stats SA’s current methodology for the seasonal adjustment of wholesale trade does not adjust for shifts in the timing of Easter, so when Easter is spread over the end of March and the beginning of April, it is advisable to consider the two months together. If the “Easter effect” were to be split between March and April 2013, the month-on-month seasonally adjusted outcome for April would reflect a weaker performance than indicated here. Stats SA is working on the rollout of an improved seasonal adjustment methodology (already implemented in retail trade) to all its seasonally adjusted series. For further information on seasonal adjustment, see note 5 on page 10.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales decreased by 1,4% in the three months ended April 2013 compared with the previous three months.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices



Sales at current prices: results for April 2013

Table B – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at current prices

| | Nov-12 | Dec-12 | Jan-13 | Feb-13 | Mar-13 | Apr-13 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Year-on-year % change, unadjusted | 14,2 | 7,9 | 12,9 | 7,6 | 5,1 | 12,7 |
| Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted | 1,5 | -3,0 | 6,4 | -3,0 | -4,3 | 8,7 |
| 3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/ | 4,0 | 6,3 | 5,5 | 3,8 | 1,1 | -0,1 |

1/ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Measured in nominal terms (current prices), wholesale trade sales increased by 12,7% in April 2013 compared with April 2012. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- ‘other’ household goods except precious stones (25,0% and contributing 2,8 percentage points);
- agricultural raw materials and livestock (44,6% and contributing 2,1 percentage points);
- food, beverages and tobacco (10,5% and contributing 1,6 percentage points); and
- ‘other’ goods (15,7% and contributing 1,5 percentage points) – see Tables 8 and 9.

Table C – Wholesale trade sales at current prices for the latest three months by type of dealer

| Type of dealer | Feb – Apr 2012 (R million) | Weight | Feb – Apr 2013 (R million) | % change between Feb – Apr 2012 and Feb – Apr 2013 | Contribution (% points) to the total % change |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Fee or contract basis | 16 968 | 5,4 | 15 368 | -9,4 | -0,5 |
| Agricultural raw materials and livestock | 15 525 | 4,9 | 19 529 | 25,8 | 1,3 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco | 46 374 | 14,7 | 52 727 | 13,7 | 2,0 |
| Textiles, clothing and footwear | 7 494 | 2,4 | 7 911 | 5,6 | 0,1 |
| Other household goods except precious stones | 34 525 | 10,9 | 39 576 | 14,6 | 1,6 |
| Precious stones, jewellery and silverware | 3 256 | 1,0 | 4 806 | 47,6 | 0,5 |
| Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products | 78 649 | 24,9 | 84 558 | 7,5 | 1,9 |
| Metal and metal ores | 10 689 | 3,4 | 11 154 | 4,4 | 0,1 |
| Construction and building materials | 15 354 | 4,9 | 16 423 | 7,0 | 0,3 |
| Other intermediate products, waste and scrap | 12 250 | 3,9 | 12 237 | -0,1 | 0,0 |
| Machinery, equipment and supplies | 44 800 | 14,2 | 43 974 | -1,8 | -0,3 |
| Other goods | 30 283 | 9,6 | 34 413 | 13,6 | 1,3 |
| Total | 316 167 | 100,0 | 342 677 | 8,4 | 8,4 |

Wholesale trade sales increased by 8,4% in the three months ended April 2013 compared with the three months ended April 2012. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- food, beverages and tobacco (13,7% and contributing 2,0 percentage points);
- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (7,5% and contributing 1,9 percentage points); and
- ‘other’ household goods except precious stones (14,6% and contributing 1,6 percentage points) – see Table C.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Tables

Table 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices (R million)

| Month | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 1/ |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
| Jan | 84 717 | 91 639 | 89 233 | 80 307 | 85 357 | 96 439 | 102 909 |
| Feb | 90 313 | 99 060 | 91 282 | 89 365 | 92 713 | 107 211 | 109 542 |
| Mar | 95 198 | 101 062 | 96 540 | 97 944 | 103 615 | 111 334 | 110 827 |
| Apr | 85 974 | 103 726 | 87 716 | 89 216 | 92 885 | 102 389 | 109 794 |
| May | 96 066 | 102 417 | 89 996 | 94 581 | 99 406 | 110 269 | |
| Jun | 95 281 | 103 191 | 93 322 | 95 917 | 103 399 | 106 579 | |
| Jul | 96 794 | 105 852 | 93 676 | 96 314 | 99 413 | 107 887 | |
| Aug | 99 660 | 102 199 | 91 973 | 98 091 | 106 110 | 113 527 | |
| Sep | 98 275 | 105 021 | 93 911 | 100 065 | 109 402 | 109 119 | |
| Oct | 107 289 | 110 161 | 99 163 | 99 849 | 110 507 | 121 889 | |
| Nov | 111 779 | 116 023 | 100 978 | 110 793 | 117 696 | 128 825 | |
| Dec | 94 092 | 102 352 | 96 920 | 102 963 | 109 823 | 113 462 | |
| Total | 1 155 438 | 1 242 703 | 1 124 710 | 1 155 405 | 1 230 326 | 1 328 930 | |

1/ Latest month is preliminary.

Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices

| Month | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2013 year-to-date |
|--------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------|-------------------|
| Jan | 8,2 | -2,6 | -10,0 | 6,3 | 13,0 | 6,7 | 6,7 |
| Feb | 9,7 | -7,9 | -2,1 | 3,7 | 15,6 | 2,2 | 4,3 |
| Mar | 6,2 | -4,5 | 1,5 | 5,8 | 7,4 | -0,5 | 2,6 |
| Apr | 20,6 | -15,4 | 1,7 | 4,1 | 10,2 | 7,2 | 3,8 |
| May | 6,6 | -12,1 | 5,1 | 5,1 | 10,9 | | |
| Jun | 8,3 | -9,6 | 2,8 | 7,8 | 3,1 | | |
| Jul | 9,4 | -11,5 | 2,8 | 3,2 | 8,5 | | |
| Aug | 2,5 | -10,0 | 6,7 | 8,2 | 7,0 | | |
| Sep | 6,9 | -10,6 | 6,6 | 9,3 | -0,3 | | |
| Oct | 2,7 | -10,0 | 0,7 | 10,7 | 10,3 | | |
| Nov | 3,8 | -13,0 | 9,7 | 6,2 | 9,5 | | |
| Dec | 8,8 | -5,3 | 6,2 | 6,7 | 3,3 | | |
| Total | 7,6 | -9,5 | 2,7 | 6,5 | 8,0 | | |

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices

| Month | R million | | | | Month-on-month % change | | | |
|-------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------|------|------|------|
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| Jan | 90 811 | 96 728 | 109 348 | 116 786 | -5,6 | -5,2 | 0,4 | 3,8 |
| Feb | 93 857 | 97 096 | 112 212 | 114 547 | 3,4 | 0,4 | 2,6 | -1,9 |
| Mar | 95 770 | 101 000 | 108 400 | 107 870 | 2,0 | 4,0 | -3,4 | -5,8 |
| Apr | 95 973 | 99 450 | 109 434 | 117 366 | 0,2 | -1,5 | 1,0 | 8,8 |
| May | 96 014 | 100 899 | 111 793 | | 0,0 | 1,5 | 2,2 | |
| Jun | 96 141 | 103 974 | 107 250 | | 0,1 | 3,0 | -4,1 | |
| Jul | 96 825 | 100 612 | 109 652 | | 0,7 | -3,2 | 2,2 | |
| Aug | 97 056 | 104 842 | 111 906 | | 0,2 | 4,2 | 2,1 | |
| Sep | 97 415 | 106 291 | 105 907 | | 0,4 | 1,4 | -5,4 | |
| Oct | 93 606 | 103 821 | 114 694 | | -3,9 | -2,3 | 8,3 | |
| Nov | 99 039 | 105 153 | 115 134 | | 5,8 | 1,3 | 0,4 | |
| Dec | 102 015 | 108 873 | 112 540 | | 3,0 | 3,5 | -2,3 | |

Table 4 – Wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million)

| Month | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 1/ |
|--------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
| Jan | 61 041 | 72 982 | 76 883 | 70 387 | 77 968 | 93 702 | 105 804 |
| Feb | 65 472 | 80 035 | 78 293 | 78 555 | 86 046 | 105 026 | 113 002 |
| Mar | 70 100 | 83 509 | 82 893 | 86 462 | 97 154 | 109 686 | 115 318 |
| Apr | 64 309 | 87 299 | 75 203 | 79 638 | 87 184 | 101 455 | 114 357 |
| May | 72 823 | 90 717 | 76 261 | 84 446 | 93 566 | 110 073 | |
| Jun | 72 931 | 92 148 | 78 396 | 86 151 | 97 631 | 106 150 | |
| Jul | 74 540 | 95 617 | 79 160 | 86 119 | 94 831 | 107 517 | |
| Aug | 77 060 | 92 773 | 77 847 | 87 981 | 102 293 | 113 859 | |
| Sep | 76 166 | 93 866 | 79 148 | 89 383 | 106 566 | 109 756 | |
| Oct | 84 092 | 98 229 | 84 156 | 89 210 | 107 989 | 123 658 | |
| Nov | 87 938 | 101 994 | 86 484 | 99 690 | 115 430 | 131 874 | |
| Dec | 74 247 | 88 822 | 83 685 | 92 928 | 107 644 | 116 175 | |
| Total | 880 719 | 1 077 991 | 958 409 | 1 030 950 | 1 174 302 | 1 328 931 | |

1/ Latest month is preliminary.

Table 5 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices

| Month | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2013 year-to-date |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------|-------------------|
| Jan | 19,6 | 5,3 | -8,4 | 10,8 | 20,2 | 12,9 | 12,9 |
| Feb | 22,2 | -2,2 | 0,3 | 9,5 | 22,1 | 7,6 | 10,1 |
| Mar | 19,1 | -0,7 | 4,3 | 12,4 | 12,9 | 5,1 | 8,3 |
| Apr | 35,7 | -13,9 | 5,9 | 9,5 | 16,4 | 12,7 | 9,4 |
| May | 24,6 | -15,9 | 10,7 | 10,8 | 17,6 | | |
| Jun | 26,3 | -14,9 | 9,9 | 13,3 | 8,7 | | |
| Jul | 28,3 | -17,2 | 8,8 | 10,1 | 13,4 | | |
| Aug | 20,4 | -16,1 | 13,0 | 16,3 | 11,3 | | |
| Sep | 23,2 | -15,7 | 12,9 | 19,2 | 3,0 | | |
| Oct | 16,8 | -14,3 | 6,0 | 21,1 | 14,5 | | |
| Nov | 16,0 | -15,2 | 15,3 | 15,8 | 14,2 | | |
| Dec | 19,6 | -5,8 | 11,0 | 15,8 | 7,9 | | |
| Total | 22,4 | -11,1 | 7,6 | 13,9 | 13,2 | | |

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices

| Month | R million | | | | Month-on-month % change | | | |
|-------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------|------|------|------|
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| Jan | 80 429 | 89 276 | 107 468 | 121 537 | -3,0 | -2,6 | 1,4 | 6,4 |
| Feb | 82 954 | 90 252 | 109 725 | 117 836 | 3,1 | 1,1 | 2,1 | -3,0 |
| Mar | 84 936 | 95 093 | 107 236 | 112 764 | 2,4 | 5,4 | -2,3 | -4,3 |
| Apr | 85 388 | 93 278 | 108 599 | 122 566 | 0,5 | -1,9 | 1,3 | 8,7 |
| May | 85 395 | 94 761 | 111 500 | | 0,0 | 1,6 | 2,7 | |
| Jun | 86 275 | 98 201 | 106 918 | | 1,0 | 3,6 | -4,1 | |
| Jul | 85 807 | 95 209 | 108 415 | | -0,5 | -3,0 | 1,4 | |
| Aug | 86 891 | 101 049 | 112 338 | | 1,3 | 6,1 | 3,6 | |
| Sep | 87 292 | 103 858 | 106 839 | | 0,5 | 2,8 | -4,9 | |
| Oct | 83 538 | 101 284 | 116 085 | | -4,3 | -2,5 | 8,7 | |
| Nov | 89 260 | 103 160 | 117 837 | | 6,8 | 1,9 | 1,5 | |
| Dec | 91 644 | 105 987 | 114 279 | | 2,7 | 2,7 | -3,0 | |

Table 7 – Wholesale trade sales at current prices by type of dealer (R million)

| Type of dealer | Nov-12 | Dec-12 | Jan-13 | Feb-13 | Mar-13 | Apr-13 1/ |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Fee or contract basis | 6 492 | 6 338 | 5 051 | 4 692 | 4 973 | 5 703 |
| Agricultural raw materials and livestock | 8 595 | 8 005 | 6 387 | 6 525 | 5 969 | 7 035 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco | 19 797 | 22 812 | 15 461 | 16 899 | 19 220 | 16 608 |
| Textiles, clothing and footwear | 3 583 | 2 317 | 1 901 | 2 348 | 2 644 | 2 919 |
| Other household goods except precious stones | 15 182 | 11 193 | 11 556 | 12 463 | 13 196 | 13 917 |
| Precious stones, jewellery and silverware | 1 777 | 1 147 | 780 | 1 380 | 1 933 | 1 493 |
| Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products | 29 691 | 26 838 | 27 452 | 27 687 | 29 435 | 27 436 |
| Metals and metal ores | 3 970 | 2 184 | 3 065 | 3 726 | 3 500 | 3 928 |
| Construction and building materials | 6 881 | 4 067 | 4 485 | 5 323 | 5 450 | 5 650 |
| Other intermediate products, waste and scrap | 5 313 | 3 757 | 3 787 | 4 282 | 3 809 | 4 146 |
| Machinery, equipment and supplies | 16 234 | 13 518 | 14 668 | 15 787 | 14 156 | 14 031 |
| Other goods | 14 359 | 13 997 | 11 210 | 11 890 | 11 032 | 11 491 |
| Total | 131 874 | 116 175 | 105 804 | 113 002 | 115 318 | 114 357 |

1/ Preliminary.

Table 8 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices by type of dealer

| Type of dealer | Nov-12 | Dec-12 | Jan-13 | Feb-13 | Mar-13 | Apr-13 |
|--|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Fee or contract basis | 16,5 | -1,9 | -3,2 | -11,0 | -18,2 | 1,5 |
| Agricultural raw materials and livestock | 29,5 | 28,2 | 22,5 | 18,4 | 15,9 | 44,6 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco | 17,8 | 20,1 | 6,5 | 14,6 | 15,8 | 10,5 |
| Textiles, clothing and footwear | 11,6 | 2,0 | -12,2 | -0,6 | -0,9 | 18,6 |
| Other household goods except precious stones | 13,0 | 3,9 | 18,5 | 13,8 | 6,1 | 25,0 |
| Precious stones, jewellery and silverware | 74,2 | -26,4 | -1,0 | 21,7 | 98,5 | 30,1 |
| Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products | 12,9 | 7,8 | 23,6 | 1,7 | 16,2 | 5,1 |
| Metals and metal ores | -2,0 | -4,8 | 4,6 | -1,6 | -6,1 | 23,8 |
| Construction and building materials | 10,4 | -7,1 | 7,3 | 5,7 | -2,5 | 19,5 |
| Other intermediate products, waste and scrap | 4,9 | -6,1 | -13,5 | -4,6 | -9,9 | 17,3 |
| Machinery, equipment and supplies | 10,5 | -1,9 | 30,0 | 9,1 | -14,7 | 2,1 |
| Other goods | 15,7 | 16,5 | 1,4 | 18,2 | 7,1 | 15,7 |
| Total | 14,2 | 7,9 | 12,9 | 7,6 | 5,1 | 12,7 |

Table 9 – Contribution of type of dealer to the year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices

| Type of dealer | Nov-12 | Dec-12 | Jan-13 | Feb-13 | Mar-13 | Apr-13 |
|--|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Fee or contract basis | 0,8 | -0,1 | -0,2 | -0,6 | -1,0 | 0,1 |
| Agricultural raw materials and livestock | 1,7 | 1,6 | 1,3 | 1,0 | 0,7 | 2,1 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco | 2,6 | 3,5 | 1,0 | 2,0 | 2,4 | 1,6 |
| Textiles, clothing and footwear | 0,3 | 0,0 | -0,3 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,4 |
| Other household goods except precious stones | 1,5 | 0,4 | 1,9 | 1,4 | 0,7 | 2,8 |
| Precious stones, jewellery and silverware | 0,7 | -0,4 | 0,0 | 0,2 | 0,9 | 0,3 |
| Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products | 2,9 | 1,8 | 5,6 | 0,4 | 3,7 | 1,3 |
| Metals and metal ores | -0,1 | -0,1 | 0,1 | -0,1 | -0,2 | 0,7 |
| Construction and building materials | 0,6 | -0,3 | 0,3 | 0,3 | -0,1 | 0,9 |
| Other intermediate products, waste and scrap | 0,2 | -0,2 | -0,6 | -0,2 | -0,4 | 0,6 |
| Machinery, equipment and supplies | 1,3 | -0,2 | 3,6 | 1,3 | -2,2 | 0,3 |
| Other goods | 1,7 | 1,8 | 0,2 | 1,7 | 0,7 | 1,5 |
| Total | 14,2 | 7,9 | 12,9 | 7,6 | 5,1 | 12,7 |

Survey information

- Introduction**
- 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey covering enterprises in the wholesale trade industry (see 4 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from Stats SA's 2012 business sampling frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered at the South African Revenue Service (SARS) for value added tax (VAT) and income tax (IT). Stats SA continuously updates its BSF, which is linked to the SARS administrative data.
 - 2 In order to improve timeliness, some information for the latest month had to be estimated due to late response. These estimates will be revised in future statistical releases as soon as information becomes available. Published wholesale trade sales estimates exclude VAT.
- Purpose of the survey**
- 3 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.
- Scope of the survey**
- 4 This survey covers wholesale enterprises according to the following types of dealers:
 - 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. This group includes 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 materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies;
 - Wholesale trade in 'other' intermediate products, waste and scrap;
 - Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies; and
 - Wholesale trade in 'other' goods. This group covers general wholesale trade and 'other' wholesale trade not classified elsewhere.
- Classification**
- 5 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. Each enterprise is classified to the industry which reflects its predominant activity. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC four digit level.
- Collection rate**
- 6 The preliminary collection rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for April 2013 was 86,3%. The improved collection rate for March 2013 was 90,6%.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Statistical unit | 7 | 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. The statistical units are derived from and linked to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) administrative data. |
| Revised figures | 8 | Revised figures are mainly due to late submission of data to Stats SA, or respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures. Preliminary figures, as indicated in the relevant tables, are subject to change and when revised will not be indicated as such. |
| Related publications | 9 | Users may also refer to the following publications available from Stats SA: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Bulletin of Statistics</i> issued quarterly; and• <i>SA Statistics</i> issued annually. |
| Rounding-off of figures | 10 | Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals. |
| Historical data | 11 | Historical wholesale trade sales data are available on the Stats SA webpage. To access the data electronically, use the following link: http://www.statssa.gov.za/timeseriesdata/timeseriesdata.asp |
| Past publications | 12 | Past wholesale trade sales releases are available on the Stats SA webpage. To access the releases electronically, use the following link: http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/statspastfuture.asp?PPN=P6141.2&SCH= |

Technical notes

Survey methodology and design

- 1 The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of about 1 000 enterprises from a population of about 19 600 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within 10 days after the end of the reference month. Email, fax and telephone reminders are used to follow up on non-respondents.
- 2 A stratified random sample was drawn at the SIC four-digit level in April 2012 from Stats SA’s business sampling frame (BSF). Strata were formed using a combination of Standard Industrial Classification and the measure of size classes for enterprises (see point 3 below).

The Neyman optimal allocation formula given below was used to allocate samples to each stratum.

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

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 5,6%.

Class limits

- 3 The wholesale sampling frame 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). The total value of sales of the large enterprises (size group one) is added to the weighted totals of size group two, three and four to reflect the total value of sales.

Measure of size classes (Rand)

| Enterprise size | Size group | Lower limits | Upper limits |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Very small | 4 | 0 | 24 000 000 |
| Small | 3 | 24 000 001 | 128 000 000 |
| Medium | 2 | 128 000 001 | 256 000 000 |
| Large | 1 | 256 000 001 | |

Sample weighting

- 4 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 group estimates. These procedures are consistent with international best practice.

| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| Seasonal adjustment | 5 | 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. Currently, no adjustment is made for changes in the timing of Easter. Therefore, the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour. |
| Trend cycle | 6 | 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. |
| Constant prices | 7 | <p>Stats SA compiles its monthly estimates of wholesale trade sales at current prices from a survey of wholesalers in the formal sector. For January 1998 to December 2011 wholesale trade sales at constant prices were calculated using the “all groups” PPI for domestic output, but excluding electricity and other utilities.</p> <p>From January 2012, wholesale trade sales at constant prices are compiled in three stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Deflate sales of dealers in agricultural raw materials and livestock using the PPI for agriculture. (2) Deflate sales of dealers in food, beverages and tobacco using the PPI for food products, beverages and tobacco. (3) Deflate the remaining wholesale trade sales with the headline PPI (final manufacturing) excluding the PPIs for food products, beverages and tobacco; and transport equipment. <p>Total wholesale trade sales at constant prices is obtained by aggregating (1), (2) and (3).</p> |
| Reliability of estimates | 8 | 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. |
| | 9 | 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. |
| Month-on-month percentage change | 10 | The month-on-month percentage change in a variable for any given month is the change between that month and the previous month, expressed as a percentage of the latter. |
| Year-on-year percentage change | 11 | The year-on-year percentage change in a variable for any given period is the change between that period and the corresponding period of the previous year, expressed as a percentage of the latter. |
| Contribution (percentage points) | 12 | The contribution (percentage points) to the year-on-year percentage change is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of wholesaler by its corresponding weight, divided by 100. The weight is the percentage contribution of each type of wholesaler to total wholesale trade sales in the corresponding period of the previous year. |

Glossary

Enterprise An 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)*.

Symbols and abbreviations

| | |
|----------|---|
| 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 |

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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