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Statistical release

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Sales at constant 2012 prices: results for April 2014

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

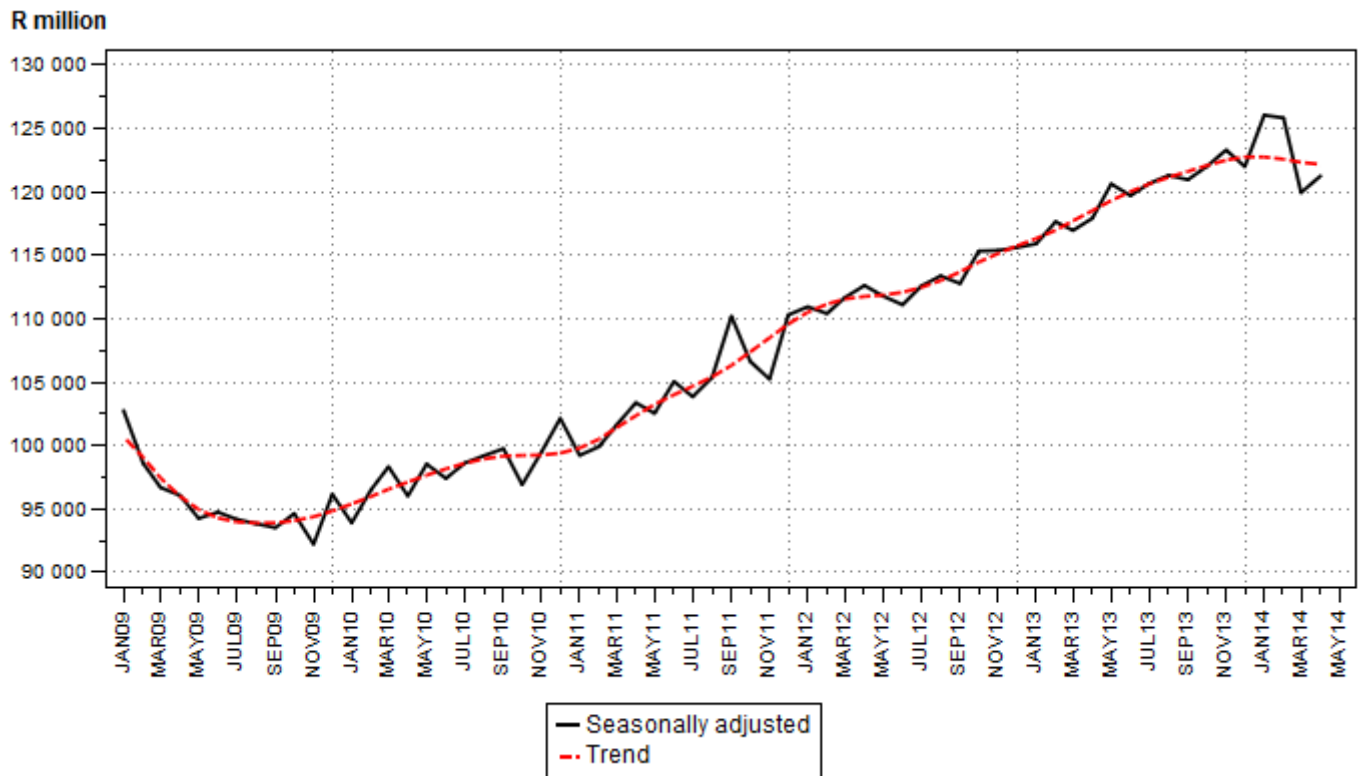
	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	5,7	6,4	8,7	7,2	6,7	-0,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,1	-1,1	3,3	-0,2	-4,7	1,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	1,3	1,2	1,9	2,1	1,2	-1,2

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 decreased by 0,7% year-on-year in April 2014. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 1,1% in April 2014 compared with March 2014. This followed month-on-month changes of -4,7% in March 2014 and -0,2% in February 2014.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales decreased by 1,2% in the three months ended April 2014 compared with the previous three months.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices



Sales at current prices: results for April 2014

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

	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	11,6	12,9	16,1	15,5	15,4	7,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,1	-2,0	3,3	1,6	-3,1	2,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	4,5	4,2	3,5	2,6	2,4	1,8

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 7,9% in April 2014 compared with April 2013. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (17,0% and contributing 3,9 percentage points); and
- machinery, equipment and supplies (11,6% 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 2013 (R million)	Weight	Feb – Apr 2014 (R million)	% change between Feb – Apr 2013 and Feb – Apr 2014	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Fee or contract basis	16 711	4,8	19 344	15,8	0,8
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	22 988	6,5	24 329	5,8	0,4
Food, beverages and tobacco	55 690	15,9	59 181	6,3	1,0
Textiles, clothing and footwear	7 684	2,2	8 754	13,9	0,3
Other household goods except precious stones	33 896	9,7	37 148	9,6	0,9
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	5 377	1,5	7 372	37,1	0,6
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	83 135	23,7	95 544	14,9	3,5
Metal and metal ores	10 196	2,9	10 175	-0,2	0,0
Construction and building materials	17 248	4,9	19 502	13,1	0,6
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	12 545	3,6	16 321	30,1	1,1
Machinery, equipment and supplies	47 302	13,5	58 195	23,0	3,1
Other goods	38 317	10,9	40 582	5,9	0,6
Total	351 090	100,0	396 446	12,9	12,9

Wholesale trade sales increased by 12,9% in the three months ended April 2014 compared with the three months ended April 2013. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (14,9% and contributing 3,5 percentage points);
- machinery, equipment and supplies (23,0% and contributing 3,1 percentage points); and
- ‘other’ intermediate products, waste and scrap (30,1% and contributing 1,1 percentage points) – see Table C.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Tables

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

Month	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 1/
Jan	93 359	90 909	81 816	86 961	98 214	104 817	113 909
Feb	100 920	92 995	91 044	94 455	109 215	111 873	119 892
Mar	102 959	98 354	99 784	105 560	113 422	112 988	120 575
Apr	105 674	89 364	90 892	94 631	103 597	113 537	112 787
May	104 341	91 685	96 356	101 274	112 627	121 187	
Jun	105 129	95 074	97 720	105 340	109 114	116 134	
Jul	107 840	95 435	98 122	101 280	111 076	121 167	
Aug	104 118	93 699	99 933	108 103	115 977	122 392	
Sep	106 993	95 675	101 944	111 456	111 345	120 673	
Oct	112 229	101 026	101 725	112 583	125 173	132 550	
Nov	118 203	102 874	112 873	119 905	131 023	138 532	
Dec	104 274	98 741	104 897	111 885	115 939	123 318	
Total	1 266 039	1 145 831	1 177 106	1 253 433	1 356 722	1 439 168	

1/ Latest month is preliminary.

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

Month	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014 year-to-date
Jan	-2,6	-10,0	6,3	12,9	6,7	8,7	8,7
Feb	-7,9	-2,1	3,7	15,6	2,4	7,2	7,9
Mar	-4,5	1,5	5,8	7,4	-0,4	6,7	7,5
Apr	-15,4	1,7	4,1	9,5	9,6	-0,7	5,4
May	-12,1	5,1	5,1	11,2	7,6		
Jun	-9,6	2,8	7,8	3,6	6,4		
Jul	-11,5	2,8	3,2	9,7	9,1		
Aug	-10,0	6,7	8,2	7,3	5,5		
Sep	-10,6	6,6	9,3	-0,1	8,4		
Oct	-10,0	0,7	10,7	11,2	5,9		
Nov	-13,0	9,7	6,2	9,3	5,7		
Dec	-5,3	6,2	6,7	3,6	6,4		
Total	-9,5	2,7	6,5	8,2	6,1		

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

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014
Jan	99 220	110 939	115 907	126 051	-2,9	0,6	0,3	3,3
Feb	99 913	110 407	117 645	125 831	0,7	-0,5	1,5	-0,2
Mar	101 610	111 674	116 962	119 945	1,7	1,1	-0,6	-4,7
Apr	103 371	112 619	117 921	121 248	1,7	0,8	0,8	1,1
May	102 538	111 780	120 628		-0,8	-0,7	2,3	
Jun	105 049	111 093	119 703		2,4	-0,6	-0,8	
Jul	103 851	112 577	120 663		-1,1	1,3	0,8	
Aug	105 357	113 373	121 298		1,5	0,7	0,5	
Sep	110 192	112 769	120 963		4,6	-0,5	-0,3	
Oct	106 636	115 332	122 003		-3,2	2,3	0,9	
Nov	105 231	115 379	123 301		-1,3	0,0	1,1	
Dec	110 293	115 608	121 997		4,8	0,2	-1,1	

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

Month	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 1/
Jan	74 352	78 327	71 709	79 433	95 462	107 792	125 175
Feb	81 538	79 762	80 031	87 662	106 998	115 383	133 250
Mar	85 077	84 450	88 086	98 978	111 745	117 506	135 652
Apr	88 938	76 616	81 134	88 822	102 631	118 201	127 544
May	92 421	77 692	86 031	95 324	112 388	126 102	
Jun	93 878	79 868	87 770	99 464	108 622	121 571	
Jul	97 413	80 646	87 736	96 612	110 671	127 734	
Aug	94 515	79 308	89 633	104 215	116 256	130 209	
Sep	95 629	80 634	91 061	108 567	111 965	129 164	
Oct	100 073	85 737	90 886	110 017	127 037	142 736	
Nov	103 910	88 108	101 562	117 597	134 173	149 725	
Dec	90 490	85 257	94 674	109 665	118 774	134 038	
Total	1 098 234	976 405	1 050 313	1 196 356	1 356 722	1 520 161	

1/ Latest month is preliminary.

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

Month	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014 year-to-date
Jan	5,3	-8,4	10,8	20,2	12,9	16,1	16,1
Feb	-2,2	0,3	9,5	22,1	7,8	15,5	15,8
Mar	-0,7	4,3	12,4	12,9	5,2	15,4	15,7
Apr	-13,9	5,9	9,5	15,5	15,2	7,9	13,7
May	-15,9	10,7	10,8	17,9	12,2		
Jun	-14,9	9,9	13,3	9,2	11,9		
Jul	-17,2	8,8	10,1	14,6	15,4		
Aug	-16,1	13,0	16,3	11,6	12,0		
Sep	-15,7	12,9	19,2	3,1	15,4		
Oct	-14,3	6,0	21,0	15,5	12,4		
Nov	-15,2	15,3	15,8	14,1	11,6		
Dec	-5,8	11,0	15,8	8,3	12,9		
Total	-11,1	7,6	13,9	13,4	12,0		

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014
Jan	90 017	106 555	118 265	136 674	-3,5	-1,6	0,4	3,3
Feb	92 231	111 088	120 752	138 905	2,5	4,3	2,1	1,6
Mar	96 105	109 075	121 471	134 602	4,2	-1,8	0,6	-3,1
Apr	95 846	110 637	121 735	137 534	-0,3	1,4	0,2	2,2
May	95 835	111 841	125 466		0,0	1,1	3,1	
Jun	99 656	110 185	125 106		4,0	-1,5	-0,3	
Jul	98 072	111 457	127 728		-1,6	1,2	2,1	
Aug	102 098	113 563	127 782		4,1	1,9	0,0	
Sep	106 182	112 857	129 107		4,0	-0,6	1,0	
Oct	104 897	119 202	133 472		-1,2	5,6	3,4	
Nov	105 624	119 194	134 977		0,7	0,0	1,1	
Dec	108 293	117 809	132 252		2,5	-1,2	-2,0	

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

Type of dealer	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14 1/
Fee or contract basis	7 908	6 740	5 911	6 075	6 268	7 001
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	10 815	10 188	8 646	8 849	8 287	7 193
Food, beverages and tobacco	21 633	26 246	17 369	19 305	20 723	19 153
Textiles, clothing and footwear	4 268	2 471	2 485	2 581	3 380	2 793
Other household goods except precious stones	14 296	10 679	11 385	11 753	12 705	12 690
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	3 262	1 614	1 693	3 023	2 472	1 877
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	32 637	31 641	31 630	31 367	32 694	31 483
Metals and metal ores	3 918	2 136	3 123	3 656	3 162	3 357
Construction and building materials	7 093	4 841	5 995	6 836	6 352	6 314
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	6 216	4 526	4 926	6 304	5 104	4 913
Machinery, equipment and supplies	20 881	16 997	18 867	19 368	21 295	17 532
Other goods	16 798	15 959	13 144	14 133	13 211	13 238
Total	149 725	134 038	125 175	133 250	135 652	127 544

1/ Preliminary.

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

Type of dealer	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14
Fee or contract basis	16,3	3,5	10,5	20,2	18,2	10,2
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	10,4	6,8	15,2	16,7	15,9	-12,8
Food, beverages and tobacco	6,1	12,5	6,7	8,5	4,3	6,2
Textiles, clothing and footwear	22,2	11,4	35,0	13,8	31,7	-2,0
Other household goods except precious stones	7,4	9,2	12,4	9,4	10,7	8,8
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	73,1	29,7	89,2	92,4	13,0	15,9
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	12,1	20,8	17,3	15,3	12,7	17,0
Metals and metal ores	7,4	9,0	9,5	6,2	-2,5	-4,4
Construction and building materials	0,2	14,9	27,8	22,2	11,0	6,5
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	15,0	15,2	27,9	46,2	32,5	12,1
Machinery, equipment and supplies	23,3	16,8	24,4	16,2	42,7	11,6
Other goods	2,9	4,1	7,2	7,5	8,4	2,0
Total	11,6	12,9	16,1	15,5	15,4	7,9

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-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14
Fee or contract basis	0,8	0,2	0,5	0,9	0,8	0,6
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	0,8	0,5	1,1	1,1	1,0	-0,9
Food, beverages and tobacco	0,9	2,5	1,0	1,3	0,7	0,9
Textiles, clothing and footwear	0,6	0,2	0,6	0,3	0,7	0,0
Other household goods except precious stones	0,7	0,8	1,2	0,9	1,0	0,9
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	1,0	0,3	0,7	1,3	0,2	0,2
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	2,6	4,6	4,3	3,6	3,1	3,9
Metals and metal ores	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	-0,1	-0,1
Construction and building materials	0,0	0,5	1,2	1,1	0,5	0,3
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	0,6	0,5	1,0	1,7	1,1	0,4
Machinery, equipment and supplies	2,9	2,0	3,4	2,3	5,4	1,5
Other goods	0,4	0,5	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,2
Total	11,6	12,9	16,1	15,5	15,4	7,9

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 2013 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 2014 was 87,9%. The improved collection rate for March 2014 was 90,3%.

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;• <i>Stats in Brief</i> issued annually; and• <i>South African 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 website. To access the data electronically, use the following link: http://beta2.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=1849
Past publications	12	Past wholesale trade sales releases are available on the Stats SA website. To access the releases electronically, use the following link: http://beta2.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=1866&PPN=P6141.2&SCH=5717

Technical notes

Survey methodology and design

- 1 The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of about 1 050 enterprises from a population of about 19 300 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 2013 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:

$$n_h = n * (N_h * S_h) / [\sum (N_i * S_i)].$$

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 6,0%.

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	27 000 000
Small	3	27 000 001	128 000 000
Medium	2	144 000 001	288 000 000
Large	1	288 000 001	

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-12-ARIMA 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. The X-12-ARIMA procedure for wholesale trade sales is described in more detail on the Stats SA website:
http://www.statssa.gov.za/Publications/P61412/Seasonal_adjustment_wholesale_Jun13.pdf

Trend cycle	6	The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-12-ARIMA 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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General information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities. Stats SA releases are published in English only.

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