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Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

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Results for August 2012

Table A – Key figures for wholesale trade sales

Actual wholesale trade sales estimates	August 2012 (R million)	% change between August 2011 and August 2012	% change between June to August 2011 and June to August 2012	% change between January to August 2011 and January to August 2012
At current prices	113 376	10,8	11,0	15,0
At constant 2000 prices	54 098	7,0	6,5	9,2

Seasonally adjusted estimates	August 2012 (R million)	% change between July and August 2012	% change between March to May 2012 and June to August 2012
At current prices	111 355	3,2	-0,5
At constant 2000 prices	53 244	2,2	-0,7

Wholesale trade sales in real terms

Measured in real terms (constant 2000 prices), seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 2,2% in August 2012 compared with July 2012. This followed month-on-month changes of 1,3% in July 2012 and -4,2% in June 2012.

Wholesale trade sales in real terms increased by 7,0% year-on-year in August 2012.

Wholesale trade sales in nominal terms

Measured in nominal terms (current prices), wholesale trade sales increased by 11,0% in the three months ended August 2012 compared with the three months ended August 2011. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (14,5% and contributing 3,3 percentage points);
- agricultural raw materials and livestock (25,4% and contributing 1,5 percentage points);
- 'other' goods (15,9% and contributing 1,5 percentage points); and
- machinery, equipment and supplies (11,2% and contributing 1,5 percentage points) – see Table B on page 3.

Wholesale trade sales in nominal terms increased by 10,8% year-on-year in August 2012.

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

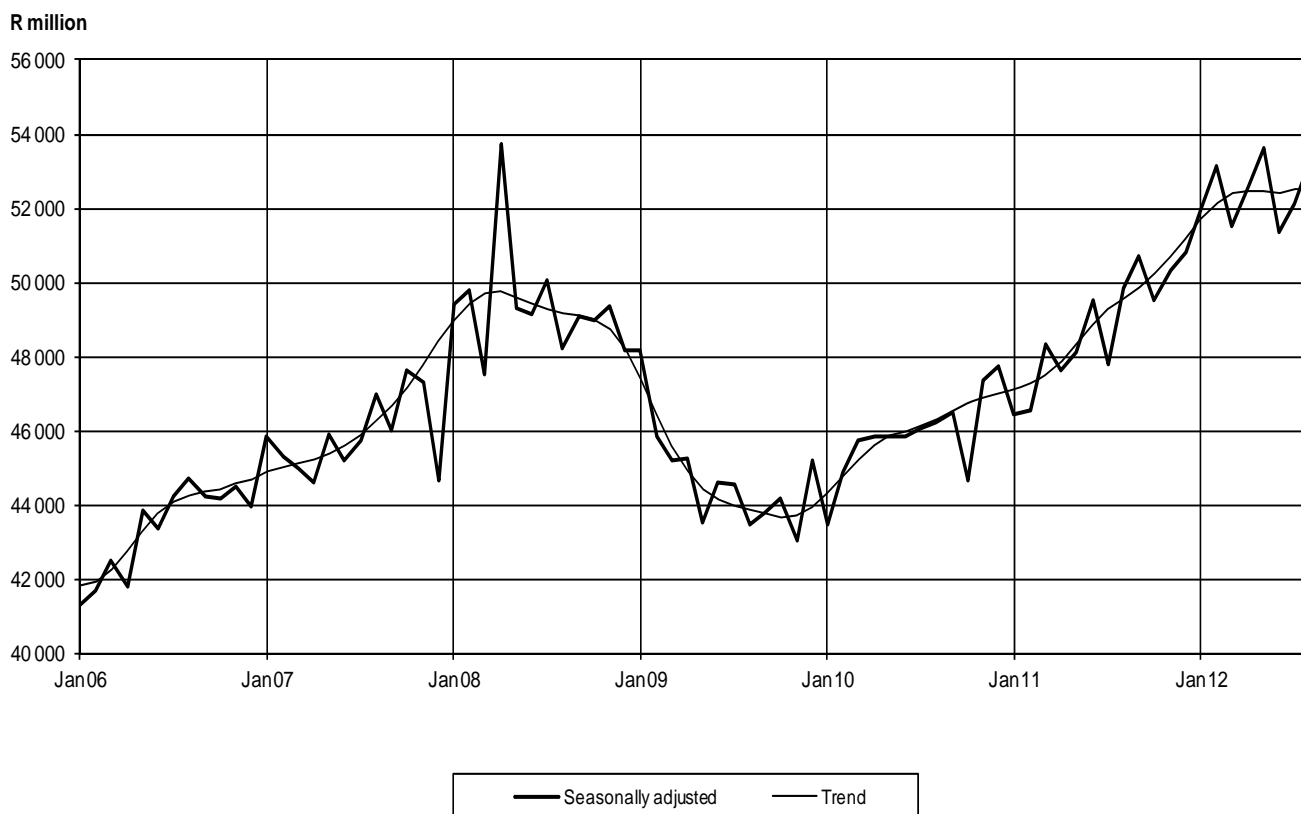
Type of wholesale dealer	Sales June to August 2011 (R million)	Weight 1/	Sales June to August 2012 (R million)	Difference in sales between June to August 2011 and June to August 2012	% change between June to August 2011 and June to August 2012	Contribution (% points) to the % change in total sales 2/
Fee or contract basis	17 101	5,8	16 737	-364	-2,1	-0,1
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	17 315	5,9	21 711	4 396	25,4	1,5
Food, beverages and tobacco	45 118	15,3	48 005	2 887	6,4	1,0
Textiles, clothing and footwear	6 926	2,3	7 354	428	6,2	0,1
Other household goods except precious stones	32 935	11,2	36 561	3 626	11,0	1,2
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	4 040	1,4	2 978	-1 062	-26,3	-0,4
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	66 774	22,7	76 440	9 666	14,5	3,3
Metals and metal ores	10 207	3,5	10 833	626	6,1	0,2
Construction and building materials	14 902	5,1	16 614	1 712	11,5	0,6
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	11 116	3,8	12 471	1 355	12,2	0,5
Machinery, equipment and supplies	39 622	13,4	44 063	4 441	11,2	1,5
Other goods	28 700	9,7	33 277	4 577	15,9	1,5
Total 3/	294 755	100,0	327 043	32 288	11,0	11,0

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, divided by 100.

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

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices



PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Tables

Table 1 – Wholesale trade sales according to 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/	
2011	January	4 419	4 082	13 468	1 814	7 997	413	17 838	2 654	3 724	3 594	9 809	8 157	77 968
	February	4 915	4 387	14 010	2 168	9 217	695	18 556	3 174	4 532	4 069	11 590	8 734	86 046
	March	5 626	4 819	14 926	2 721	10 234	1 394	21 166	3 637	5 075	3 854	13 940	9 762	97 154
	April	5 470	4 172	13 611	2 371	9 776	866	20 339	2 881	4 258	2 903	11 447	9 090	87 184
	May	6 175	5 297	14 621	2 312	10 377	1 433	19 734	3 526	4 654	3 555	12 133	9 750	93 566
	June	5 233	5 397	14 379	2 051	11 275	1 682	21 875	3 496	4 994	3 841	14 000	9 407	97 631
	July	5 954	5 861	14 357	2 341	10 681	1 136	22 538	2 899	4 716	3 347	11 587	9 415	94 831
	August	5 914	6 057	16 382	2 534	10 979	1 222	22 361	3 812	5 192	3 928	14 035	9 878	102 293
	September	6 256	6 409	15 686	2 534	11 708	977	22 963	3 976	5 656	4 847	15 998	9 556	106 566
	October	6 012	6 136	15 543	3 109	12 584	961	23 554	3 924	5 477	5 003	14 897	10 789	107 989
	November	5 573	6 639	16 800	3 211	13 430	1 020	26 308	4 053	6 230	5 064	14 693	12 409	115 430
	December	6 462	6 243	18 990	2 271	10 769	1 559	24 885	2 294	4 378	4 001	13 776	12 015	107 644
Total	68 009	65 499	182 773	29 437	129 027	13 358	262 117	40 326	58 886	48 006	157 905	118 962	1 174 302	
2012	January	5 217	5 213	14 524	2 166	9 756	788	22 209	2 931	4 180	4 376	11 287	11 056	93 702
	February	5 270	5 510	14 746	2 363	10 952	1 134	27 215	3 788	5 036	4 488	14 467	10 057	105 026
	March	6 079	5 150	16 599	2 669	12 441	974	25 338	3 728	5 588	4 227	16 595	10 298	109 686
	April	5 619	4 865	15 029	2 462	11 132	1 148	26 096	3 173	4 730	3 535	13 738	9 928	101 455
	May	5 790	5 612	17 527	2 495	12 019	1 169	26 291	3 772	5 680	4 214	14 558	10 945	110 073
	June	5 319	6 603	15 356	2 102	12 363	1 135	25 199	3 620	5 299	3 998	14 406	10 750	106 150
	July	5 572	7 305	15 134	2 464	11 525	885	25 961	3 608	5 478	3 894	14 837	10 855	107 517
	August	5 846	7 803	17 515	2 788	12 673	958	25 280	3 605	5 837	4 579	14 820	11 672	113 376

1/ Figures are 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 dealer included in a specific group type as indicated in Table 1 ^{1/}

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

1/ See note 4 on page 9 for more detailed specifications.

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

Month	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 ^{1/}	2012 ^{1/}
January	44 506	49 404	61 041	72 982	76 883	70 387	77 968	93 702
February	46 587	54 178	65 472	80 035	78 293	78 555	86 046	105 026
March	49 750	58 638	70 100	83 509	82 893	86 462	97 154	109 686
April	51 162	53 117	64 309	87 299	75 203	79 638	87 184	101 455
May	53 211	61 649	72 823	90 717	76 261	84 446	93 566	110 073
June	55 173	62 387	72 931	92 148	78 396	86 151	97 631	106 150
July	55 018	64 426	74 540	95 617	79 160	86 119	94 831	107 517
August	56 674	66 906	77 060	92 773	77 847	87 981	102 293	113 376
September	58 868	66 930	76 166	93 866	79 148	89 383	106 566	
October	60 842	71 299	84 092	98 229	84 156	89 210	107 989	
November	65 200	75 943	87 938	101 994	86 484	99 690	115 430	
December	56 415	66 013	74 247	88 822	83 685	92 928	107 644	
Total	653 406	750 890	880 719	1 077 991	958 409	1 030 950	1 174 302	

1/ Preliminary.

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

Month	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	11,9	11,0	23,6	19,6	5,3	-8,4	10,8	20,2
February	3,7	16,3	20,8	22,2	-2,2	0,3	9,5	22,1
March	2,3	17,9	19,5	19,1	-0,7	4,3	12,4	12,9
April	17,8	3,8	21,1	35,7	-13,9	5,9	9,5	16,4
May	1,5	15,9	18,1	24,6	-15,9	10,7	10,8	17,6
June	2,2	13,1	16,9	26,3	-14,9	9,9	13,3	8,7
July	6,4	17,1	15,7	28,3	-17,2	8,8	10,1	13,4
August	7,4	18,1	15,2	20,4	-16,1	13,0	16,3	10,8
September	10,3	13,7	13,8	23,2	-15,7	12,9	19,2	
October	5,3	17,2	17,9	16,8	-14,3	6,0	21,1	
November	5,9	16,5	15,8	16,0	-15,2	15,3	15,8	
December	6,2	17,0	12,5	19,6	-5,8	11,0	15,8	
Total	6,5	14,9	17,3	22,4	-11,1	7,6	13,9	

1/ The percentage change is the difference between wholesale trade of the relevant month of the current year and the corresponding month of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

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

Month	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	51 143	56 867	70 077	83 510	87 812	80 382	89 174	107 305
February	49 083	57 481	69 793	85 356	83 343	83 470	91 292	111 327
March	49 755	58 724	70 023	82 909	81 766	84 818	95 015	107 089
April	55 056	57 282	69 304	93 954	80 794	85 402	93 401	108 730
May	52 864	61 407	72 765	91 173	76 922	85 431	94 706	111 440
June	54 390	61 631	72 341	91 685	78 248	86 061	97 731	106 360
July	54 716	63 670	73 429	94 151	78 278	85 573	94 770	107 877
August	55 817	65 655	75 604	91 205	76 709	86 671	100 604	111 355
September	57 602	65 513	74 671	92 009	77 462	87 284	103 877	
October	56 278	66 063	78 080	91 491	78 684	83 791	101 626	
November	57 820	67 360	78 209	91 225	77 565	89 670	103 897	
December	57 177	66 699	74 566	88 420	82 560	91 085	105 136	

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

Month	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 ^{1/}	2012 ^{1/}
January	34 335	36 241	40 378	43 677	42 530	38 276	40 683	45 439
February	35 809	39 720	43 045	47 214	43 507	42 593	44 189	50 468
March	38 033	42 735	45 373	48 168	46 013	46 682	49 385	52 767
April	38 813	38 371	40 977	49 438	41 807	42 522	44 271	48 907
May	40 177	43 940	45 787	48 814	42 894	45 079	47 379	52 877
June	41 601	43 828	45 413	49 183	44 479	45 716	49 282	51 082
July	41 086	44 564	46 134	50 451	44 648	45 905	47 382	51 684
August	42 188	45 270	47 500	48 710	43 836	46 752	50 574	54 098
September	43 510	45 036	46 840	50 055	44 760	47 693	52 143	
October	44 862	47 493	51 136	52 505	47 263	47 590	52 670	
November	47 829	50 167	53 276	55 299	48 128	52 806	56 096	
December	41 355	43 727	44 846	48 783	46 194	49 074	52 344	
Total	489 598	521 092	550 705	592 297	536 059	550 688	586 398	

1/ Preliminary.

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

Month	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	8,9	5,6	11,4	8,2	-2,6	-10,0	6,3	11,7
February	1,2	10,9	8,4	9,7	-7,9	-2,1	3,7	14,2
March	-0,7	12,4	6,2	6,2	-4,5	1,5	5,8	6,8
April	14,5	-1,1	6,8	20,6	-15,4	1,7	4,1	10,5
May	-1,5	9,4	4,2	6,6	-12,1	5,1	5,1	11,6
June	-0,8	5,4	3,6	8,3	-9,6	2,8	7,8	3,7
July	2,0	8,5	3,5	9,4	-11,5	2,8	3,2	9,1
August	3,1	7,3	4,9	2,5	-10,0	6,7	8,2	7,0
September	6,0	3,5	4,0	6,9	-10,6	6,6	9,3	
October	1,6	5,9	7,7	2,7	-10,0	0,7	10,7	
November	1,7	4,9	6,2	3,8	-13,0	9,7	6,2	
December	1,4	5,7	2,6	8,8	-5,3	6,2	6,7	
Total	2,8	6,4	5,7	7,6	-9,5	2,7	6,5	

1/ The percentage change is the difference between wholesale trade of the relevant month of the current year and the corresponding month of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

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

Month	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	39 164	41 290	45 835	49 432	48 173	43 473	46 437	52 033
February	37 428	41 669	45 311	49 774	45 844	44 898	46 547	53 169
March	37 792	42 485	44 991	47 545	45 216	45 746	48 322	51 561
April	42 140	41 802	44 613	53 709	45 239	45 855	47 640	52 622
May	39 890	43 837	45 921	49 327	43 510	45 831	48 118	53 649
June	40 991	43 363	45 200	49 144	44 609	45 868	49 549	51 402
July	40 943	44 236	45 732	50 043	44 468	45 907	47 594	52 091
August	41 756	44 719	46 985	48 236	43 466	46 244	49 884	53 244
September	42 752	44 239	46 015	49 075	43 769	46 499	50 732	
October	41 688	44 191	47 610	48 964	44 199	44 672	49 522	
November	42 451	44 487	47 310	49 347	43 018	47 340	50 343	
December	41 804	43 933	44 670	48 151	45 189	47 753	50 785	

Table 8 – Three-monthly and annual cumulative estimates and percentage changes

Actual wholesale trade sales estimates	June to August 2011 (R million)	June to August 2012 (R million)	% change between June to August 2011 and June to August 2012	January to August 2011 (R million)	January to August 2012 (R million)	% change between January to August 2011 and January to August 2012
At current prices	294 755	327 043	11,0	736 673	846 985	15,0
At constant 2000 prices	147 238	156 864	6,5	373 145	407 322	9,2

Table 9 – Seasonally adjusted monthly and three-monthly estimates and percentage changes

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales estimates	July 2012 (R million)	August 2012 (R million)	% change between July and August 2012	March to May 2012 (R million)	June to August 2012 (R million)	% change between March to May 2012 and June to August 2012
At current prices	107 877	111 355	3,2	327 259	325 592	-0,5
At constant 2000 prices	52 091	53 244	2,2	157 832	156 737	-0,7

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 2012 business sampling frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value added tax (VAT).
	2	As is usual, information for the latest month 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.
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	<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. 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 <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. Each enterprise is classified to the industry which reflects its predominant activity. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC group (four digit) level.
Collection rate	6	The preliminary collection rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for August 2012 was 78,1%. The improved collection rate for July 2012 was 87,6%.
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.
Survey methodology and design	8	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. Fax and telephone reminders are used to follow up non-respondents.

	9	The value of sales is obtained monthly from the sample of about 1 000 enterprises (which was drawn in April 2012 at the SIC four-digit level) from a population of about 19 600 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 group 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	Stats SA compiles its monthly estimates of wholesale trade sales at current prices from a survey of wholesalers in the formal sector. To arrive at estimates of wholesale trade sales at constant prices, sales at current prices are deflated using the “all groups” producer price index (PPI) excluding ‘Electricity, gas, steam and water’.
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.
	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bulletin of Statistics</i> issued quarterly; and • <i>SA Statistics</i> issued annually.
Rounding-off of figures	18	Where figures have been rounded off discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.

Symbols and abbreviations

19	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 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. 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 (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	

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.

General information

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