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Statistical release

P6141.2

Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

August 2014

**Embargoed until:
16 October 2014
10:00**

Enquiries:

User Information Services
(012) 310 8600

Forthcoming issue:

September 2014

Expected release date:

13 November 2014

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Sales at constant 2012 prices: results for August 2014

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

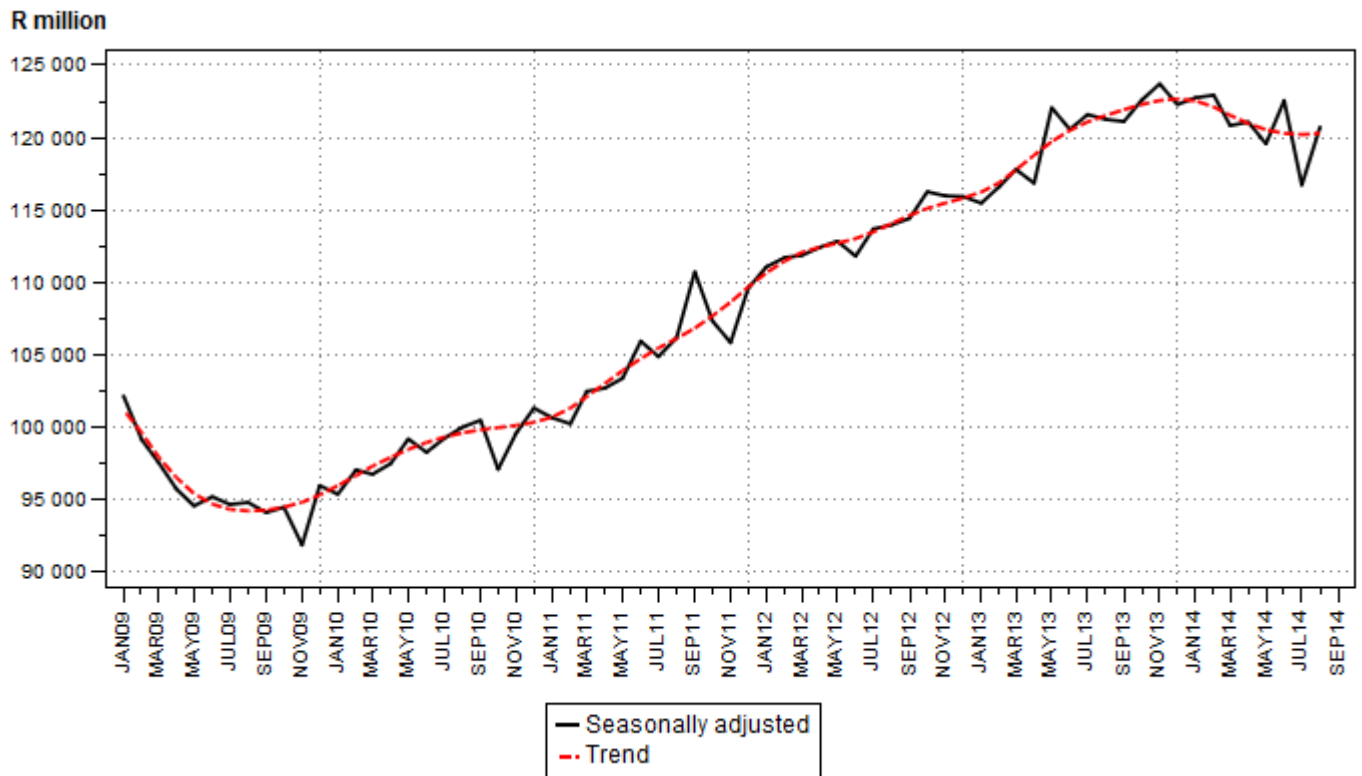
	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	5,8	0,3	-3,3	2,8	-4,2	-2,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-1,7	0,2	-1,2	2,5	-4,8	3,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	-0,6	-1,1	-1,8	-0,9	-1,6	-0,4

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 decreased by 2,2% year-on-year in August 2014. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 3,4% in August 2014 compared with July 2014. This followed month-on-month changes of -4,8% in July 2014 and 2,5% in June 2014.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales decreased by 0,4% in the three months ended August 2014 compared with the previous three months.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices



Sales at current prices: results for August 2014

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

	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	14,5	8,9	5,1	11,1	3,1	4,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-2,2	2,4	-2,0	2,0	-3,4	3,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	1,6	1,6	0,4	0,7	-1,0	0,2

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 4,5% in August 2014 compared with August 2013. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (7,3% and contributing 1,6 percentage points); and
- food, beverages and tobacco (6,6% and contributing 1,1 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	Jun – Aug 2013 (R million)	Weight	Jun – Aug 2014 (R million)	% change between Jun – Aug 2013 and Jun – Aug 2014	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Fee or contract basis	14 801	3,9	17 895	20,9	0,8
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	28 018	7,4	26 157	-6,6	-0,5
Food, beverages and tobacco	60 010	15,8	65 143	8,6	1,4
Textiles, clothing and footwear	8 682	2,3	9 010	3,8	0,1
Other household goods except precious stones	38 103	10,0	42 106	10,5	1,1
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	6 451	1,7	8 158	26,5	0,5
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	85 648	22,5	94 495	10,3	2,3
Metal and metal ores	11 924	3,1	10 616	-11,0	-0,3
Construction and building materials	21 793	5,7	23 509	7,9	0,5
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	14 160	3,7	15 431	9,0	0,3
Machinery, equipment and supplies	58 294	15,3	59 340	1,8	0,3
Other goods	32 133	8,5	31 627	-1,6	-0,1
Total	380 015	100,0	403 487	6,2	6,2

Wholesale trade sales increased by 6,2% in the three months ended August 2014 compared with the three months ended August 2013. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (10,3% and contributing 2,3 percentage points);
- food, beverages and tobacco (8,6% and contributing 1,4 percentage points); and
- 'other' household goods except precious stones (10,5% and contributing 1,1 percentage points) – see Table C.

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Statistician-General

Tables

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

Month	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 1/
Jan	93 780	91 317	82 182	87 352	98 658	105 286	112 814
Feb	101 373	93 413	91 453	94 878	109 710	112 375	119 168
Mar	103 422	98 795	100 231	106 035	113 935	113 496	120 087
Apr	106 148	89 765	91 301	95 055	104 066	114 111	114 438
May	104 809	92 097	96 789	101 729	113 140	122 066	118 051
Jun	105 600	95 501	98 158	105 815	109 607	116 242	119 442
Jul	108 324	95 864	98 563	101 735	111 576	121 397	116 344
Aug	104 586	94 121	100 382	108 588	116 502	122 494	119 851
Sep	107 473	96 104	102 402	111 958	111 845	119 464	
Oct	112 734	101 480	102 182	113 088	125 728	132 488	
Nov	118 733	103 336	113 380	120 443	131 605	138 614	
Dec	104 743	99 183	105 368	112 388	116 446	123 597	
Total	1 271 725	1 150 976	1 182 391	1 259 064	1 362 818	1 441 630	

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	7,2	7,2
Feb	-7,9	-2,1	3,7	15,6	2,4	6,0	6,6
Mar	-4,5	1,5	5,8	7,5	-0,4	5,8	6,3
Apr	-15,4	1,7	4,1	9,5	9,7	0,3	4,8
May	-12,1	5,1	5,1	11,2	7,9	-3,3	3,0
Jun	-9,6	2,8	7,8	3,6	6,1	2,8	3,0
Jul	-11,5	2,8	3,2	9,7	8,8	-4,2	1,9
Aug	-10,0	6,7	8,2	7,3	5,1	-2,2	1,4
Sep	-10,6	6,6	9,3	-0,1	6,8		
Oct	-10,0	0,7	10,7	11,2	5,4		
Nov	-13,0	9,7	6,2	9,3	5,3		
Dec	-5,3	6,2	6,7	3,6	6,1		
Total	-9,5	2,7	6,5	8,2	5,8		

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	100 663	111 078	115 470	122 746	-0,7	1,3	-0,4	0,4
Feb	100 248	111 715	116 625	122 926	-0,4	0,6	1,0	0,1
Mar	102 484	111 865	117 800	120 825	2,2	0,1	1,0	-1,7
Apr	102 713	112 424	116 849	121 071	0,2	0,5	-0,8	0,2
May	103 388	112 846	122 056	119 563	0,7	0,4	4,5	-1,2
Jun	105 947	111 815	120 555	122 552	2,5	-0,9	-1,2	2,5
Jul	104 882	113 691	121 587	116 718	-1,0	1,7	0,9	-4,8
Aug	106 189	113 968	121 254	120 707	1,2	0,2	-0,3	3,4
Sep	110 731	114 425	121 105		4,3	0,4	-0,1	
Oct	107 348	116 257	122 563		-3,1	1,6	1,2	
Nov	105 852	115 971	123 708		-1,4	-0,2	0,9	
Dec	109 602	115 929	122 278		3,5	0,0	-1,2	

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

Month	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 1/
Jan	74 687	78 679	72 030	79 790	95 891	108 276	123 955
Feb	81 904	80 120	80 391	88 055	107 479	115 902	132 438
Mar	85 459	84 829	88 481	99 423	112 248	118 034	135 103
Apr	89 337	76 960	81 499	89 220	103 092	118 812	129 408
May	92 836	78 041	86 418	95 752	112 893	127 015	133 515
Jun	94 299	80 227	88 164	99 912	109 110	121 691	135 240
Jul	97 850	81 009	88 130	97 046	111 168	127 989	131 992
Aug	94 940	79 665	90 036	104 682	116 778	130 335	136 255
Sep	96 058	80 996	91 470	109 056	112 468	127 873	
Oct	100 523	86 122	91 294	110 511	127 608	142 673	
Nov	104 376	88 504	102 018	118 125	134 776	149 807	
Dec	90 897	85 639	95 099	110 158	119 308	134 332	
Total	1 103 166	980 791	1 055 030	1 201 730	1 362 819	1 522 739	

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	-8,5	10,8	20,2	12,9	14,5	14,5
Feb	-2,2	0,3	9,5	22,1	7,8	14,3	14,4
Mar	-0,7	4,3	12,4	12,9	5,2	14,5	14,4
Apr	-13,9	5,9	9,5	15,5	15,2	8,9	13,0
May	-15,9	10,7	10,8	17,9	12,5	5,1	11,3
Jun	-14,9	9,9	13,3	9,2	11,5	11,1	11,3
Jul	-17,2	8,8	10,1	14,6	15,1	3,1	10,0
Aug	-16,1	13,0	16,3	11,6	11,6	4,5	9,3
Sep	-15,7	12,9	19,2	3,1	13,7		
Oct	-14,3	6,0	21,0	15,5	11,8		
Nov	-15,2	15,3	15,8	14,1	11,2		
Dec	-5,8	11,0	15,8	8,3	12,6		
Total	-11,1	7,6	13,9	13,4	11,7		

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	91 248	107 460	119 172	135 398	-2,6	-1,7	0,5	2,2
Feb	92 663	109 744	120 864	137 483	1,6	2,1	1,4	1,5
Mar	96 225	109 620	121 335	134 406	3,8	-0,1	0,4	-2,2
Apr	95 703	110 648	122 084	137 688	-0,5	0,9	0,6	2,4
May	96 932	113 158	127 182	134 893	1,3	2,3	4,2	-2,0
Jun	99 961	110 399	125 214	137 633	3,1	-2,4	-1,5	2,0
Jul	99 110	112 762	128 215	132 959	-0,9	2,1	2,4	-3,4
Aug	102 815	114 890	129 380	137 173	3,7	1,9	0,9	3,2
Sep	106 425	112 723	126 800		3,5	-1,9	-2,0	
Oct	104 988	118 816	133 146		-1,4	5,4	5,0	
Nov	105 346	120 228	135 186		0,3	1,2	1,5	
Dec	109 335	118 542	132 481		3,8	-1,4	-2,0	

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

Type of dealer	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14 1/
Fee or contract basis	4 824	6 305	5 246	6 219	5 865	5 811
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	8 091	7 356	8 053	8 627	9 860	7 670
Food, beverages and tobacco	21 208	19 895	21 804	21 119	21 074	22 950
Textiles, clothing and footwear	3 597	3 335	2 785	2 456	3 323	3 231
Other household goods except precious stones	13 688	13 547	13 920	14 685	13 482	13 939
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	3 203	2 492	2 709	2 869	2 692	2 597
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	30 566	29 697	30 394	31 265	31 810	31 420
Metals and metal ores	3 418	3 883	3 369	4 087	2 439	4 090
Construction and building materials	7 431	7 270	7 548	8 190	7 119	8 200
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	5 048	5 205	5 229	5 037	4 781	5 613
Machinery, equipment and supplies	23 756	19 749	21 403	20 278	18 690	20 372
Other goods	10 273	10 672	11 055	10 408	10 858	10 361
Total	135 103	129 408	133 515	135 240	131 992	136 255

1/ Preliminary.

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

Type of dealer	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14
Fee or contract basis	17,9	24,3	-6,3	29,5	10,5	23,9
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	13,1	-9,7	-15,0	-7,0	0,1	-13,7
Food, beverages and tobacco	2,4	5,2	5,3	6,9	12,6	6,6
Textiles, clothing and footwear	27,5	6,6	4,1	2,4	14,9	-4,8
Other household goods except precious stones	13,3	9,5	0,8	10,5	8,3	12,8
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	6,6	10,1	17,6	36,4	20,7	22,7
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	9,4	14,9	10,9	12,7	11,2	7,3
Metals and metal ores	-3,2	1,1	-17,2	8,8	-42,7	4,6
Construction and building materials	11,0	4,7	7,1	22,3	-4,1	6,8
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	31,5	17,5	10,1	20,4	-0,7	8,7
Machinery, equipment and supplies	41,5	10,8	14,9	13,8	-9,7	3,0
Other goods	9,6	6,3	4,8	5,4	1,1	-10,0
Total	14,5	8,9	5,1	11,1	3,1	4,5

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

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

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 2014 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 August 2014 was 87,6%. The improved collection rate for July 2014 was 91,8%.

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 1 090 enterprises from a population of 18 776 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 2014 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 was 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	1 913 788	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:

[Click to Download Seasonal adjustment Wholesale Trade Sales June 2014](#)

- 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 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.
- From January 2012, wholesale trade sales at constant prices are compiled in three stages:
- (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.
- Total wholesale trade sales at constant prices is obtained by aggregating (1), (2) and (3).
- 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

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