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# Statistical release

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### Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

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**Summary of findings: Wholesale trade sales**

**Table A – Key figures as at the end of December 2009**

Wholesale trade sales estimates	December 2009 (R million)	% change between December 2008 and December 2009	% change between October to December 2008 and October to December 2009	% change between January to December 2008 and January to December 2009
At current prices	88 299	-5,7	-12,0	-11,1
At constant 2000 prices	48 383	-6,3	-10,8	-10,9

Seasonally adjusted estimates	December 2009 (R million)	% change between November and December 2009	% change between July to September 2009 and October to December 2009
At current prices	89 034	9,6	3,5
At constant 2000 prices	48 036	7,9	2,0

**Key findings as at the end of December 2009**

**Wholesale trade sales in real terms**

*Wholesale trade sales, at constant 2000 prices, for the fourth quarter of 2009 decreased by 10,8% compared with the fourth quarter of 2008, an improvement on the 13,0% decrease reported for the third quarter of 2009. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales for the fourth quarter of 2009 increased by 2,0% compared with the third quarter of 2009.*

Although annual wholesale trade sales for 2009 were 10,9% lower compared with 2008, sales for December 2009 decreased by only 6,3% year-on-year.

**Wholesale trade sales in nominal terms**

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for the fourth quarter of 2009 decreased by 12,0% compared with the fourth quarter of 2008. The major contributors to this decrease were dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-23,7% and contributing -4,4 percentage points) and dealers in machinery, equipment and supplies (-21,3% and contributing -4,2 percentage points) – see Table B on page 3.

An annual decrease in wholesale trade sales of 11,1% was recorded between 2008 and 2009, while sales for December 2009 decreased by 5,7% compared with December 2008.

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

Type of wholesale dealer	Sales October to December 2008 (R million)	Weight 1/	Sales October to December 2009 (R million)	Difference in sales between October to December 2008 and October to December 2009 (R million)	Percentage change between October to December 2008 and October to December 2009	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in total sales 2/
Contract or fee basis	12 491	4,1	11 942	-549	-4,4	-0,2
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	12 765	4,2	11 155	-1 610	-12,6	-0,5
Food, beverages and tobacco	57 062	18,7	59 048	1 986	3,5	0,7
Textiles, clothing and footwear	7 386	2,4	8 095	709	9,6	0,2
Other household goods except precious stones	28 435	9,3	27 178	-1 257	-4,4	-0,4
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	4 342	1,4	3 408	-934	-21,5	-0,3
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	57 028	18,7	43 521	-13 507	-23,7	-4,4
Metals and metal ores	9 993	3,3	7 051	-2 942	-29,4	-1,0
Construction and building materials	16 037	5,3	13 427	-2 610	-16,3	-0,9
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	11 054	3,6	10 991	-63	-0,6	0,0
Machinery, equipment and supplies	59 508	19,5	46 862	-12 646	-21,3	-4,2
Other goods	28 664	9,4	25 541	-3 123	-10,9	-1,0
<b>Total 3/</b>	<b>304 766</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>268 220</b>	<b>-36 546</b>	<b>-12,0</b>	<b>-12,0</b>

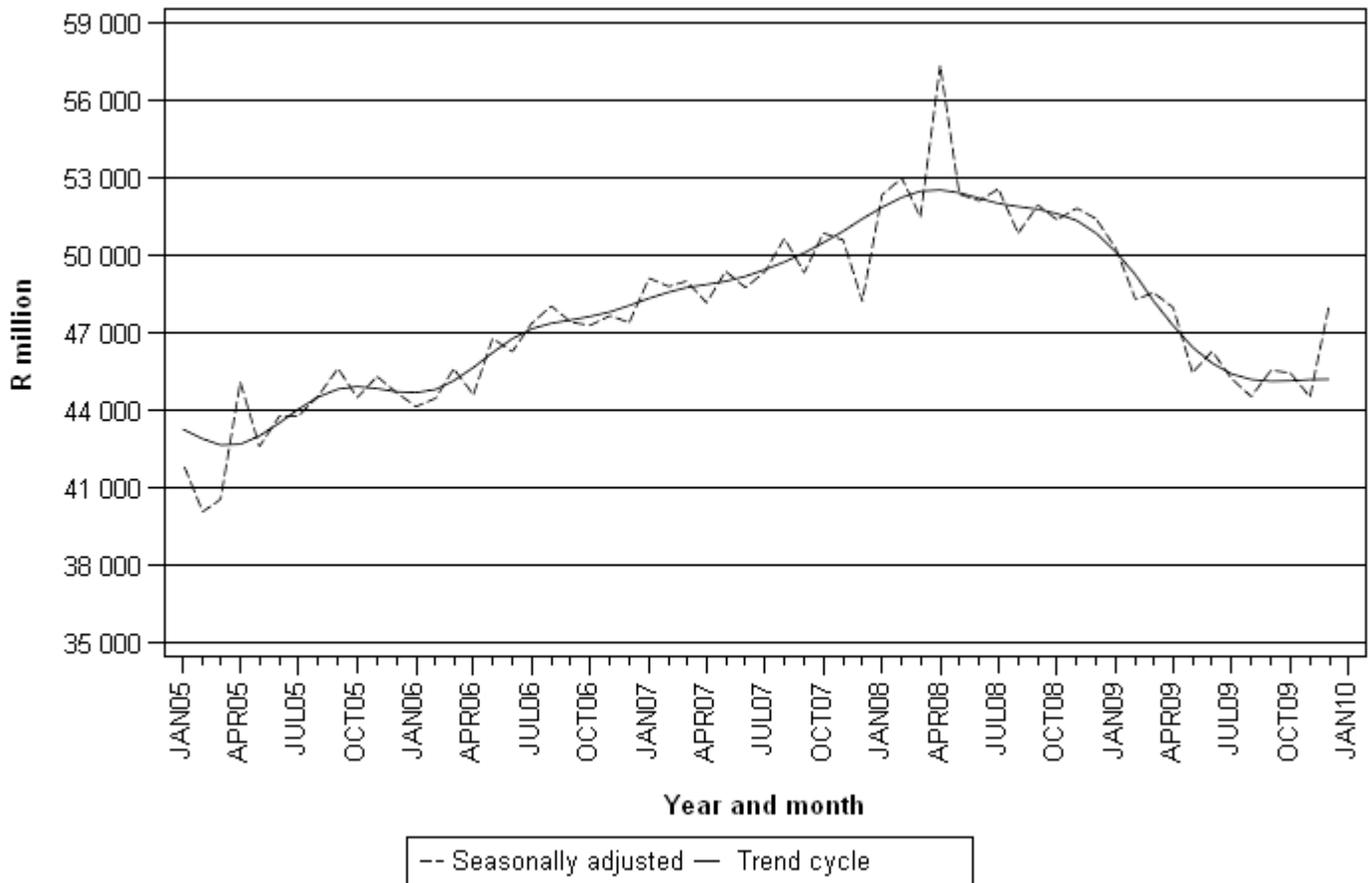
1/ Weight is the percentage contribution of each type of dealer to the total wholesale trade sales for the three months up to the current month of the previous year.

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 below shows the seasonally adjusted and trend patterns for wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices between January 2005 and December 2009.

**Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices**



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**Detailed results**

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

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

Year and month 1/	Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D	Type E	Type F	Type G	Type H	Type I	Type J	Type K	Type L	Total 2/	
<b>2008</b>	January	3 602	3 145	15 220	1 956	6 838	585	13 394	2 750	4 168	2 698	16 257	6 337	76 951
	February	4 398	3 618	14 728	2 818	7 679	1 730	14 576	3 544	5 570	3 230	16 023	6 476	84 389
	March	4 365	2 964	15 449	2 662	6 891	2 024	17 158	3 717	5 328	3 001	17 956	6 535	88 051
	April	4 663	3 427	14 786	3 364	9 587	2 231	17 111	4 212	5 379	3 329	16 213	7 745	92 047
	May	4 716	4 028	15 502	3 061	8 290	2 045	19 036	4 220	5 600	3 736	17 416	8 000	95 651
	June	4 202	4 161	16 510	2 124	8 222	2 357	19 563	4 610	5 144	3 507	18 801	7 960	97 161
	July	5 611	4 682	15 502	1 951	8 441	1 817	21 256	4 734	5 634	4 360	18 940	7 888	100 818
	August	5 662	4 335	17 577	1 973	8 413	662	20 359	4 438	5 421	4 494	17 056	7 429	97 819
	September	5 226	3 931	17 075	2 280	9 162	1 103	18 417	4 070	5 517	3 916	20 616	7 656	98 971
	October	4 375	3 917	16 662	2 572	10 384	1 964	19 303	4 317	6 547	4 195	20 750	8 584	103 572
	November	4 088	4 750	19 515	2 714	9 745	1 799	18 385	3 534	5 968	4 227	22 501	10 315	107 541
	December	4 028	4 098	20 885	2 100	8 306	579	19 340	2 142	3 522	2 632	16 257	9 765	93 653
<b>Total</b>	<b>54 936</b>	<b>47 056</b>	<b>199 411</b>	<b>29 575</b>	<b>101 958</b>	<b>18 896</b>	<b>217 898</b>	<b>46 288</b>	<b>63 798</b>	<b>43 325</b>	<b>218 786</b>	<b>94 690</b>	<b>1 136 624</b>	
<b>2009</b>	January	3 451	3 504	17 232	1 786	7 397	395	14 918	2 559	3 660	3 069	15 822	7 272	81 065
	February	3 931	3 516	17 181	2 595	7 801	838	12 054	2 560	4 616	2 799	16 712	7 950	82 551
	March	4 238	3 452	17 430	3 125	8 314	1 410	12 955	2 456	4 860	2 811	18 260	8 090	87 401
	April	3 690	3 057	16 484	2 883	7 679	1 326	11 733	2 161	4 156	2 442	15 583	8 099	79 294
	May	3 124	3 477	17 134	2 894	8 031	1 650	12 058	2 290	4 573	2 833	14 200	8 144	80 408
	June	3 156	3 530	16 727	2 526	8 138	889	12 733	2 471	4 620	2 799	17 074	7 998	82 660
	July	4 005	3 743	16 375	2 436	8 216	713	14 540	2 604	4 826	2 975	14 879	8 152	83 465
	August	3 625	3 499	16 852	2 635	8 116	865	14 091	2 420	4 399	3 043	15 113	7 422	82 080
	September	3 719	3 531	17 648	2 890	8 527	818	13 151	2 540	4 580	3 305	14 996	7 748	83 452
	October	3 562	3 653	17 333	2 806	9 212	1 514	14 758	2 718	5 075	3 857	16 098	8 146	88 734
	November	3 935	3 926	19 207	3 017	9 392	854	14 495	2 657	5 139	3 959	15 880	8 727	91 187
	December	4 445	3 576	22 508	2 272	8 574	1 040	14 268	1 676	3 213	3 175	14 884	8 668	88 299
<b>Total</b>	<b>44 881</b>	<b>42 464</b>	<b>212 111</b>	<b>31 865</b>	<b>99 397</b>	<b>12 312</b>	<b>161 754</b>	<b>29 112</b>	<b>53 717</b>	<b>37 067</b>	<b>189 501</b>	<b>96 416</b>	<b>1 010 596</b>	

1/ Preliminary.

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

**Description of type of dealer included in a specific group type as indicated in Table 1 <sup>1/</sup>**

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

1/ See note 4 on page 10.

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

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

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 <sup>1/</sup>	2009 <sup>1/</sup>
January	36 863	40 062	41 939	46 928	52 090	64 361	76 951	81 065
February	38 841	45 830	47 367	49 121	57 126	69 033	84 389	82 551
March	41 311	47 146	51 276	52 456	61 827	73 914	88 051	87 401
April	41 155	43 702	45 793	53 945	56 006	67 807	92 047	79 294
May	41 927	46 195	55 277	56 105	65 003	76 783	95 651	80 408
June	41 190	47 725	56 921	58 174	65 780	76 898	97 161	82 660
July	40 545	48 634	54 529	58 010	67 931	78 594	100 818	83 465
August	41 789	46 680	55 617	59 757	70 545	81 251	97 819	82 080
September	43 846	47 690	56 250	62 070	70 571	80 308	98 971	83 452
October	49 203	50 224	60 896	64 151	75 177	88 666	103 572	88 734
November	48 556	51 276	64 891	68 746	80 073	92 720	107 541	91 187
December	44 067	43 828	55 988	59 483	69 604	78 286	93 653	88 299
<b>Total</b>	<b>509 293</b>	<b>558 992</b>	<b>646 744</b>	<b>688 946</b>	<b>791 733</b>	<b>928 621</b>	<b>1 136 624</b>	<b>1 010 596</b>

1/ Preliminary.

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

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

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

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

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	41 102	45 163	47 812	53 956	59 998	73 843	87 916	92 260
February	39 923	47 485	49 480	51 818	60 721	73 801	90 510	88 571
March	41 062	46 924	51 219	52 568	62 177	74 410	88 629	87 927
April	43 546	46 493	49 001	58 000	60 413	73 196	99 467	85 723
May	41 706	45 868	54 933	55 708	64 710	76 578	95 758	80 538
June	40 773	47 037	56 029	57 304	64 926	76 198	96 587	82 264
July	41 220	49 126	54 598	57 657	67 036	77 146	98 542	81 443
August	41 865	46 634	55 138	58 810	69 111	79 472	95 699	80 369
September	43 122	46 793	54 994	60 671	68 952	78 497	96 818	81 810
October	45 662	46 467	56 276	59 258	69 514	81 906	95 558	81 789
November	44 124	46 117	57 880	60 905	70 886	82 129	95 605	81 215
December	44 155	44 174	56 723	60 397	70 596	79 185	94 555	89 034



Tables 5 and 6 show total wholesale trade sales (actual values and annual percentage changes) at constant 2000 prices over the period January 2002 – December 2009. Table 7 shows seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant prices over the same period.

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

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 <sup>1/</sup>	2009 <sup>1/</sup>
January	31 737	31 935	33 645	36 864	38 844	43 517	46 665	45 036
February	32 777	36 460	37 788	38 451	42 536	46 550	50 472	46 015
March	34 555	37 507	40 939	40 838	45 815	49 161	51 613	48 664
April	33 858	34 781	36 214	41 656	41 090	44 376	52 870	44 249
May	34 240	37 164	43 663	43 108	47 172	49 633	52 354	45 377
June	33 501	37 892	44 228	44 038	46 389	48 654	51 819	45 948
July	32 632	38 370	42 419	43 437	47 093	49 121	52 373	45 067
August	33 311	36 974	43 231	44 545	48 022	50 514	50 552	44 177
September	34 979	38 228	44 031	46 547	48 386	50 350	53 011	46 414
October	38 988	40 276	47 445	48 089	51 089	55 055	55 744	49 379
November	38 354	41 268	50 518	51 265	54 049	57 394	58 637	50 324
December	34 946	35 232	43 792	44 324	47 189	48 280	51 656	48 383
<b>Total</b>	<b>413 878</b>	<b>446 087</b>	<b>507 913</b>	<b>523 162</b>	<b>557 674</b>	<b>592 605</b>	<b>627 766</b>	<b>559 033</b>

1/ Preliminary.

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

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	-	0,6	5,4	9,6	5,4	12,0	7,2	-3,5
February	-	11,2	3,6	1,8	10,6	9,4	8,4	-8,8
March	-	8,5	9,2	-0,2	12,2	7,3	5,0	-5,7
April	-	2,7	4,1	15,0	-1,4	8,0	19,1	-16,3
May	-	8,5	17,5	-1,3	9,4	5,2	5,5	-13,3
June	-	13,1	16,7	-0,4	5,3	4,9	6,5	-11,3
July	-	17,6	10,6	2,4	8,4	4,3	6,6	-13,9
August	-	11,0	16,9	3,0	7,8	5,2	0,1	-12,6
September	-	9,3	15,2	5,7	4,0	4,1	5,3	-12,4
October	-	3,3	17,8	1,4	6,2	7,8	1,3	-11,4
November	-	7,6	22,4	1,5	5,4	6,2	2,2	-14,2
December	-	0,8	24,3	1,2	6,5	2,3	7,0	-6,3
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>7,8</b>	<b>13,9</b>	<b>3,0</b>	<b>6,6</b>	<b>6,3</b>	<b>5,9</b>	<b>-10,9</b>

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

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

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	35 336	35 861	38 087	41 946	44 130	49 101	52 327	50 254
February	33 623	37 624	39 172	40 059	44 453	48 777	52 969	48 271
March	34 341	37 197	40 594	40 538	45 592	48 987	51 465	48 540
April	35 897	37 139	38 960	45 078	44 593	48 149	57 335	47 956
May	34 027	36 790	43 197	42 586	46 767	49 366	52 351	45 443
June	33 272	37 518	43 824	43 757	46 256	48 738	52 094	46 273
July	33 304	38 996	42 880	43 767	47 346	49 336	52 553	45 215
August	33 554	37 249	43 373	44 549	48 018	50 640	50 839	44 519
September	34 316	37 498	43 104	45 605	47 392	49 311	51 926	45 537
October	36 111	37 238	43 867	44 476	47 277	50 846	51 363	45 435
November	34 796	37 068	44 977	45 293	47 647	50 574	51 809	44 503
December	34 998	35 443	44 185	44 684	47 384	48 213	51 398	48 036

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

Outlined below in Tables 8.1 and 8.2 are the percentage changes in the actual and seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices and at constant 2000 prices.

**Table 8.1 – Quarterly and cumulative estimates and percentage changes**

Actual Wholesale trade sales estimates	October to December 2008 (R million)	October to December 2009 (R million)	% change between October to December 2008 and October to December 2009	January to December 2008 (R million)	January to December 2009 (R million)	% change between January to December 2008 and January to December 2009
<b>At current prices</b>	304 766	268 220	-12,0	1 136 624	1 010 596	-11,1
<b>At constant 2000 prices</b>	166 037	148 086	-10,8	627 766	559 033	-10,9

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

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales estimates	November 2009 (R million)	December 2009 (R million)	% change between November and December 2009	July to September 2009 (R million)	October to December 2009 (R million)	% change between July to September 2009 and October to December 2009
<b>At current prices</b>	81 215	89 034	9,6	243 622	252 038	3,5
<b>At constant 2000 prices</b>	44 503	48 036	7,9	135 271	137 974	2,0

**Explanatory notes**

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>	<p>Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey of the wholesale trade industry, covering wholesale enterprises (see 4 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from the 2009 Business Sampling Frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value added tax (VAT).</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>Purpose of the survey</b>	<b>3</b>	<p>The results of the monthly wholesale trade sales survey are used to compile estimates of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and its components, which are used in monitoring the state of the economy and formulation of economic policy. These statistics are also used in the analysis of comparative business and industry performance.</p>
<b>Scope of the survey</b>	<b>4</b>	<p>This survey covers wholesale enterprises according to the following types of dealer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis</li> <li>• Sales by commission agents, commodity brokers, auctioneers and other wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in other household goods except precious stones</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in precious stones, jewellery and silverware;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in construction and building materials</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap; and</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in other goods</li> <li>• General wholesale trade and other wholesale trade not elsewhere classified.</li> </ul>
<b>Classification</b>	<b>5</b>	<p>The 1993 edition of the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)</i>, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC)</i> with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Each enterprise is classified to the industry which reflects its predominant activity. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC group (four digit) level.</p>
<b>Response rate</b>	<b>6</b>	<p>The preliminary response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for December 2009 was 91,3%. The improved response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for November 2009 was 94,2%.</p>
<b>Statistical unit</b>	<b>7</b>	<p>The statistical unit for which information is compiled and published is the enterprise, defined as a legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.</p>
<b>Survey methodology and design</b>	<b>8</b>	<p>The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of about 1 000 enterprises from a population of about 20 000 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within 10 days after the end of the reference month. Fax and telephone reminders are used to follow up non-respondents.</p>

- 9 The value of sales is obtained monthly from the sample of about 1 000 enterprises (which was drawn in April 2009 at the SIC four-digit level) from a population of about 20 000 wholesale enterprises. The wholesale industry is divided into four size groups. All large enterprises (size group one) are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to the remaining size groups (medium, small and very small size enterprises). The total value of sales of the large enterprises (size group one) is added to the weighted totals of size groups two, three and four to reflect the total value of sales.
- Weighting methodology** 10 For those strata not completely enumerated, the weights to produce estimates are the inverse ratio of the sampling fraction, modified to take account of non-response in the survey. Stratum estimates are calculated and then aggregated with the completely enumerated stratum to form 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 The total sales at constant prices are calculated using a combination of the Production Price Indices (PPI) for consumption in South Africa and for total output of South African industry groups to deflate the sales at current prices. However, with the discontinuation of the PPI for consumption in South Africa in January 2008, total sales at constant prices are calculated using the total output of South African industry groups from the PPI to deflate the sales at current prices.
- Seasonal adjustment** 12 Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month, using the X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the US Bureau of the Census, 1968. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences, which may be present in any particular month. Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variations. Therefore the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour.
- Trend cycle** 13 The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimates of the underlying trend cycle.
- Reliability of estimates** 14 Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all enterprises in the wholesale industry in South Africa. Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.
- 15 Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in the collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by careful design of questionnaires, testing them in pilot studies, editing reported data and implementing efficient operating procedures. Fluctuations may occur in consecutive months as a result of seasonal and economic factors.
- Revised figures** 16 Revised figures are due to respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures and late submission of their data to Stats SA. Preliminary figures are indicated in the relevant tables. Data are edited at the enterprise level.
- Related publications** 17 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications available from Stats SA -
- *Bulletin of Statistics* issued quarterly.
  - *SA Statistics* issued annually.
- Rounding of figures** 18 Where figures have been rounded-off discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.

**Pre-release policy**      **19**      Stats SA's pre-release policy may be inspected at its Website, [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za).

**Symbols and abbreviations**      **20**

BR	Business Register
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.

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

where  $N_h$  and  $S_h$  are the stratum population size and the stratum variance, respectively.

Neyman allocation formula not only allocates sample sizes to each stratum but also calculates the relative precision for each stratum as well as the relative precision for all strata. The relative precision for these strata did not exceed 5,6%.

**Class limits**

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

**Glossary**

**Enterprise**

The enterprise is a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.

**Industry**

An industry is made up of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the *System of National Accounts (SNA)* in the same way as in the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of 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

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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