# Statistical release 

# Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary) 

## December 2011

## Embargoed until:

16 February 2012
10:00

| Forthcoming issue: | Expected release date: |
| :--- | :--- |
| January 2012 | 15 March 2012 |

## Contents

Results for December 2011 .....  2
Table A - Key figures for wholesale trade sales ..... 2
Table B - Contribution of each type of dealer to the percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices ..... 3
Tables ..... 5
Table 1 - Wholesale trade sales according to type of dealer at current prices ( R million) ..... 5
Description of type of dealer included in a specific group type as indicated in Table 1 .....  .5
Table 2 - Total wholesale trade sales at current prices ( R million) .....  6
Table 3 - Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at current prices .....  .6
Table 4 - Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at current prices ( R million) ..... 6
Table 5 - Total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices ( R million) .....  7
Table 6 - Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices .....  7
Table 7 - Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million) .....  .7
Table 8 - Quarterly and annual cumulative estimates and percentage changes .....  8
Table 9 - Seasonally adjusted monthly and quarterly estimates and percentage changes .....  8
Explanatory notes ..... 9
Technical note ..... 12
Glossary ..... 12
General information ..... 13

## Results for December 2011

Table A - Key figures for wholesale trade sales

| Actual wholesale trade sales estimates | December 2011 (R million) | \% change between December 2010 and December 2011 | \% change between October to <br> December 2010 and October to <br> December 2011 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| At current prices | 104319 | 15,2 | 16,6 | 13,7 |
| At constant 2000 prices | 50727 | 6,1 | 7,0 | 6,3 |


| Seasonally adjusted estimates | December 2011 (R million) | \% change between November and December 2011 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| At current prices | 101211 | 0,9 | 2,8 |
| At constant 2000 prices | 48798 | 0,4 | 0,6 |

## Wholesale trade sales in real terms

Measured in real terms (constant 2000 prices), seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by $0,4 \%$ in December 2011 compared with November 2011. This followed month-on-month changes of $1,6 \%$ in November 2011 and $-3,3 \%$ in October 2011.

In real terms, annual wholesale trade sales increased by $6,3 \%$ in 2011 compared with 2010, while sales increased by 6,1\% year-on-year in December 2011.

## Wholesale trade sales in nominal terms

Measured in nominal terms (current prices), wholesale trade sales increased by 16,6\% for the fourth quarter of 2011 compared with the fourth quarter of 2010. The major contributor to this increase was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products ( $38,5 \%$ and contributing 7,5 percentage points), followed by dealers in other household goods except precious stones (17,7\% and contributing 1,9 percentage points) and dealers in machinery, equipment and supplies (11,2\% and contributing 1,8 percentage points) - see Table B on page 3.

In nominal terms, annual wholesale trade sales increased by $13,7 \%$ in 2011 compared with 2010 , while sales increased by 15,2\% year-on-year in December 2011.

## 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 2010 (R million) | Weight 1/ | Sales October to December 2011 (R million) | Difference in sales between October to December 2010 and October to December 2011 (R million) | \% change between October to December 2010 and October to December 2011 | Contribution <br> (\% points) to the \% change in total sales 2/ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fee or contract basis | 17685 | 6,4 | 18198 | 513 | 2,9 | 0,2 |
| Agricultural raw materials and livestock | 12969 | 4,7 | 17687 | 4718 | 36,4 | 1,7 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco | 46918 | 17,1 | 49429 | 2511 | 5,4 | 0,9 |
| Textiles, clothing and footwear | 9007 | 3,3 | 9389 | 382 | 4,2 | 0,1 |
| Other household goods except precious stones | 28896 | 10,5 | 34012 | 5116 | 17,7 | 1,9 |
| Precious stones, jewellery and silverware | 2207 | 0,8 | 2169 | -38 | -1,7 | 0,0 |
| Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products | 53792 | 19,6 | 74525 | 20733 | 38,5 | 7,5 |
| Metals and metal ores | 8887 | 3,2 | 9864 | 977 | 11,0 | 0,4 |
| Construction and building materials | 13651 | 5,0 | 15881 | 2230 | 16,3 | 0,8 |
| Other intermediate products, waste and scrap | 12534 | 4,6 | 14053 | 1519 | 12,1 | 0,6 |
| Machinery, equipment and supplies | 42977 | 15,7 | 47778 | 4801 | 11,2 | 1,8 |
| Other goods | 25067 | 9,1 | 27321 | 2254 | 9,0 | 0,8 |
| Total 3/ | 274590 | 100,0 | 320306 | 45716 | 16,6 | 16,6 |

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 21 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2010 | January | 4816 | 2963 | 12591 | 1683 | 7247 | 230 | 13738 | 2571 | 3167 | 3002 | 10593 | 5978 | 68579 |
|  | February | 5585 | 3329 | 13023 | 2152 | 8141 | 786 | 13984 | 2765 | 3813 | 3506 | 12428 | 7026 | 76538 |
|  | March | 6028 | 3291 | 13162 | 2484 | 9071 | 603 | 15723 | 3136 | 4528 | 3733 | 14808 | 7674 | 84241 |
|  | April | 4847 | 2988 | 12584 | 2521 | 9037 | 614 | 14837 | 3124 | 4240 | 3068 | 12874 | 6857 | 77592 |
|  | May | 5280 | 3378 | 13758 | 2255 | 9220 | 769 | 16305 | 3235 | 4510 | 3237 | 13223 | 7107 | 82276 |
|  | June | 5304 | 3852 | 13602 | 2118 | 8817 | 746 | 17531 | 3268 | 4324 | 3405 | 14022 | 6950 | 83938 |
|  | July | 5981 | 4527 | 13549 | 2286 | 8389 | 856 | 16927 | 3059 | 4535 | 3300 | 12902 | 7596 | 83907 |
|  | August | 5601 | 3774 | 14388 | 2583 | 9227 | 603 | 17208 | 2999 | 4524 | 3557 | 13811 | 7447 | 85721 |
|  | September | 5989 | 3756 | 14872 | 3062 | 9153 | 573 | 16064 | 3025 | 4714 | 3813 | 14490 | 7577 | 87088 |
|  | October | 5247 | 4029 | 13309 | 3143 | 9550 | 891 | 17461 | 3234 | 4697 | 4099 | 13720 | 7539 | 86919 |
|  | November | 5719 | 4626 | 16036 | 3452 | 10494 | 713 | 17833 | 3330 | 5297 | 4903 | 15407 | 9319 | 97130 |
|  | December | 6719 | 4314 | 17573 | 2412 | 8852 | 603 | 18498 | 2323 | 3657 | 3532 | 13850 | 8209 | 90541 |
|  | Total | 67116 | 44827 | 168447 | 30151 | 107198 | 7987 | 196109 | 36069 | 52006 | 43155 | 162128 | 89279 | 1004470 |
| 2011 | January | 4529 | 3711 | 12954 | 1941 | 7381 | 250 | 17695 | 2799 | 3694 | 3613 | 10883 | 6518 | 75966 |
|  | February | 5032 | 3984 | 13461 | 2316 | 8498 | 420 | 18388 | 3344 | 4491 | 4086 | 12846 | 6971 | 83836 |
|  | March | 5762 | 4379 | 14347 | 2909 | 9441 | 844 | 20985 | 3834 | 5031 | 3870 | 15459 | 7796 | 94658 |
|  | April | 5615 | 3763 | 13084 | 2578 | 8884 | 526 | 20145 | 3051 | 4217 | 2878 | 12670 | 7239 | 84651 |
|  | May | 6368 | 4860 | 14141 | 2474 | 9723 | 866 | 19599 | 3712 | 4637 | 3622 | 13567 | 7777 | 91346 |
|  | June | 5344 | 4919 | 13833 | 2164 | 10456 | 1025 | 21819 | 3703 | 4968 | 3873 | 15536 | 7596 | 95235 |
|  | July | 6088 | 5378 | 13859 | 2481 | 9804 | 665 | 22387 | 3083 | 4689 | 3437 | 12853 | 7408 | 92133 |
|  | August | 5999 | 5561 | 15835 | 2899 | 10304 | 729 | 22117 | 3814 | 5108 | 3959 | 15589 | 7864 | 99778 |
|  | September | 6333 | 5877 | 15061 | 3101 | 10956 | 597 | 22586 | 3766 | 5600 | 4886 | 17644 | 7480 | 103886 |
|  | October | 5992 | 5686 | 14889 | 3397 | 11486 | 600 | 23177 | 3854 | 5413 | 5004 | 16166 | 8324 | 103988 |
|  | November | 5499 | 6198 | 16257 | 3577 | 12615 | 612 | 26135 | 3854 | 6162 | 5084 | 16083 | 9923 | 111999 |
|  | December | 6707 | 5803 | 18283 | 2415 | 9911 | 957 | 25213 | 2156 | 4306 | 3965 | 15529 | 9074 | 104319 |
|  | Total | 69268 | 60119 | 176004 | 32252 | 119459 | 8091 | 260246 | 40970 | 58316 | 48277 | 174825 | 93970 | 1141795 |

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 |

[^0]Table 2 - Total wholesale trade sales at current prices ( R million)

| Month | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | $2010{ }^{1 /}$ | $2011{ }^{1 /}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| January | 38754 | 43364 | 48134 | 59473 | 71107 | 74908 | 68579 | 75966 |
| February | 43769 | 45391 | 52787 | 63791 | 77980 | 76282 | 76538 | 83836 |
| March | 47382 | 48472 | 57132 | 68300 | 81364 | 80764 | 84241 | 94658 |
| April | 42315 | 49848 | 51753 | 62658 | 85056 | 73272 | 77592 | 84651 |
| May | 51079 | 51844 | 60066 | 70952 | 88387 | 74302 | 82276 | 91346 |
| June | 52598 | 53756 | 60785 | 71058 | 89782 | 76383 | 83938 | 95235 |
| July | 50388 | 53604 | 62772 | 72625 | 93161 | 77126 | 83907 | 92133 |
| August | 51394 | 55219 | 65187 | 75081 | 90390 | 75847 | 85721 | 99778 |
| September | 51978 | 57356 | 65211 | 74209 | 91455 | 77114 | 87088 | 103886 |
| October | 56271 | 59279 | 69468 | 81932 | 95706 | 81995 | 86919 | 103988 |
| November | 59962 | 63525 | 73992 | 85679 | 99374 | 84262 | 97130 | 111999 |
| December | 51736 | 54966 | 64317 | 72340 | 86541 | 81536 | 90541 | 104319 |
| Total | 597626 | 636624 | 731604 | 858098 | 1050303 | 933791 | 1004470 | 1141795 |

1/ Preliminary.

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

| Month | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| January | 4,7 | 11,9 | 11,0 | 23,6 | 19,6 | 5,3 | -8,4 | 10,8 |
| February | 3,4 | 3,7 | 16,3 | 20,8 | 22,2 | -2,2 | 0,3 | 9,5 |
| March | 8,8 | 2,3 | 17,9 | 19,5 | 19,1 | -0,7 | 4,3 | 12,4 |
| April | 4,8 | 17,8 | 3,8 | 21,1 | 35,7 | -13,9 | 5,9 | 9,1 |
| May | 19,7 | 1,5 | 15,9 | 18,1 | 24,6 | -15,9 | 10,7 | 11,0 |
| June | 19,3 | 2,2 | 13,1 | 16,9 | 26,4 | -14,9 | 9,9 | 13,5 |
| July | 12,1 | 6,4 | 17,1 | 15,7 | 28,3 | -17,2 | 8,8 | 9,8 |
| August | 19,1 | 7,4 | 18,1 | 15,2 | 20,4 | -16,1 | 13,0 | 16,4 |
| September | 17,9 | 10,3 | 13,7 | 13,8 | 23,2 | -15,7 | 12,9 | 19,3 |
| October | 21,2 | 5,3 | 17,2 | 17,9 | 16,8 | -14,3 | 6,0 | 19,6 |
| November | 26,6 | 5,9 | 16,5 | 15,8 | 16,0 | -15,2 | 15,3 | 15,3 |
| December | 27,7 | 6,2 | 17,0 | 12,5 | 19,6 | -5,8 | 11,0 | 15,2 |
| Total | 15,7 | 6,5 | 14,9 | 17,3 | 22,4 | -11,1 | 7,6 | 13,7 |

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 | $\mathbf{2 0 0 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 6}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 7}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 8}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| January | 44180 | 49831 | 55404 | 68291 | 81391 | 85630 | 78535 | 87106 |
| February | 45683 | 47826 | 56010 | 68021 | 83197 | 81244 | 81472 | 89225 |
| March | 47290 | 48480 | 57229 | 68260 | 80914 | 79842 | 82986 | 93047 |
| April | 45260 | 53573 | 55743 | 67468 | 91494 | 78676 | 83230 | 90683 |
| May | 50789 | 51514 | 59832 | 70878 | 88754 | 74929 | 83373 | 92844 |
| June | 51811 | 53002 | 60063 | 70494 | 89344 | 76122 | 83663 | 94928 |
| July | 50476 | 53322 | 62056 | 71570 | 91720 | 76016 | 82865 | 91092 |
| August | 50977 | 54396 | 63989 | 73703 | 88962 | 74933 | 84971 | 99060 |
| September | 50852 | 56131 | 63848 | 72784 | 89723 | 75559 | 85085 | 101341 |
| October | 52047 | 54834 | 64377 | 76093 | 89245 | 76788 | 81787 | 98091 |
| November | 53512 | 56336 | 65600 | 76120 | 88726 | 75342 | 86975 | 100348 |
| December | 52319 | 55702 | 64938 | 72547 | 85927 | 80070 | 88168 | 101211 |

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

| Month | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | $2010{ }^{1 /}$ | $2011{ }^{1 /}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| January | 30723 | 33454 | 35309 | 39340 | 42555 | 41438 | 37293 | 39639 |
| February | 34464 | 34890 | 38700 | 41940 | 46002 | 42389 | 41499 | 43054 |
| March | 37314 | 37056 | 41637 | 44208 | 46930 | 44831 | 45483 | 48117 |
| April | 33032 | 37816 | 37386 | 39925 | 48168 | 40733 | 41430 | 42984 |
| May | 39761 | 39145 | 42811 | 44610 | 47560 | 41792 | 43920 | 46255 |
| June | 40855 | 40532 | 42703 | 44247 | 47921 | 43337 | 44542 | 48073 |
| July | 39243 | 40030 | 43420 | 44949 | 49155 | 43501 | 44726 | 46034 |
| August | 39872 | 41105 | 44107 | 46280 | 47459 | 42710 | 45551 | 49331 |
| September | 40005 | 42393 | 43880 | 45636 | 48769 | 43610 | 46469 | 50832 |
| October | 43009 | 43710 | 46273 | 49823 | 51156 | 46049 | 46368 | 50719 |
| November | 45843 | 46600 | 48878 | 51907 | 53878 | 46892 | 51450 | 54428 |
| December | 39721 | 40293 | 42604 | 43694 | 47530 | 45008 | 47814 | 50727 |
| Total | 463842 | 477024 | 507708 | 536559 | 577083 | 522290 | 536545 | 570193 |

1/ Preliminary.

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

| Month | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| January | 4,6 | 8,9 | 5,5 | 11,4 | 8,2 | -2,6 | -10,0 | 6,3 |
| February | 2,9 | 1,2 | 10,9 | 8,4 | 9,7 | -7,9 | -2,1 | 3,7 |
| March | 8,4 | -0,7 | 12,4 | 6,2 | 6,2 | -4,5 | 1,5 | 5,8 |
| April | 3,3 | 14,5 | -1,1 | 6,8 | 20,6 | -15,4 | 1,7 | 3,8 |
| May | 16,7 | -1,5 | 9,4 | 4,2 | 6,6 | -12,1 | 5,1 | 5,3 |
| June | 15,9 | -0,8 | 5,4 | 3,6 | 8,3 | -9,6 | 2,8 | 7,9 |
| July | 9,9 | 2,0 | 8,5 | 3,5 | 9,4 | -11,5 | 2,8 | 2,9 |
| August | 15,9 | 3,1 | 7,3 | 4,9 | 2,5 | -10,0 | 6,7 | 8,3 |
| September | 14,0 | 6,0 | 3,5 | 4,0 | 6,9 | -10,6 | 6,6 | 9,4 |
| October | 16,6 | 1,6 | 5,9 | 7,7 | 2,7 | -10,0 | 0,7 | 9,4 |
| November | 21,2 | 1,7 | 4,9 | 6,2 | 3,8 | -13,0 | 9,7 | 5,8 |
| December | 23,3 | 1,4 | 5,7 | 2,6 | 8,8 | -5,3 | 6,2 | 6,1 |
| Total | 12,9 | 2,8 | 6,4 | 5,7 | 7,6 | -9,5 | 2,7 | 6,3 |

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 | $\mathbf{2 0 0 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 6}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 7}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 8}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| January | 34844 | 38167 | 40246 | 44686 | 48203 | 46955 | $\mathbf{4 2 4 0 8}$ | $\mathbf{4 5 1 9 8}$ |
| February | 35810 | 36464 | 40593 | 44151 | 48515 | 44761 | 43966 | 45704 |
| March | 37102 | 36823 | 41396 | 43849 | 46350 | 44035 | 44544 | 47044 |
| April | 35654 | 41080 | 40753 | 43497 | 52383 | 44143 | 44819 | 46429 |
| May | 39492 | 38865 | 42710 | 44742 | 48071 | 42483 | 44899 | 47418 |
| June | 40146 | 39938 | 42253 | 44046 | 47910 | 43415 | 44602 | 48111 |
| July | 39285 | 39890 | 43105 | 44567 | 48726 | 43167 | 44448 | 45775 |
| August | 39633 | 40677 | 43562 | 45764 | 47003 | 42410 | 45298 | 49102 |
| September | 39265 | 41652 | 43107 | 44836 | 47830 | 42660 | 45287 | 49447 |
| October | 39924 | 40612 | 43058 | 46406 | 47779 | 43158 | 43627 | 47830 |
| November | 40967 | 41354 | 43321 | 46046 | 47992 | 41776 | 45897 | 48601 |
| December | 40180 | 40720 | 42762 | 43444 | 46757 | 43775 | 46146 | 48798 |

Table 8 - Quarterly and annual cumulative estimates and percentage changes

| Actual wholesale trade sales estimates | $\begin{gathered} \text { October } \\ \text { to } \\ \text { December } \\ 2010 \\ \text { (R million) } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { October } \\ \text { to } \\ \text { December } \\ 2011 \\ \text { (R million) } \end{gathered}$ | \% change between October to December 2010 and October to December 2011 | $\begin{gathered} \text { January } \\ \text { to } \\ \text { December } \\ 2010 \\ \text { (R million) } \end{gathered}$ | ```January to December 2011 ( R million)``` | \% change between January to December 2010 and January to December 2011 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| At current prices | 274590 | 320306 | 16,6 | 1004470 | 1141795 | 13,7 |
| At constant 2000 prices | 145632 | 155874 | 7,0 | 536545 | 570193 | 6,3 |

Table 9 - Seasonally adjusted monthly and quarterly estimates and percentage changes

| Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales estimates | $\begin{aligned} & \text { November } \\ & 2011 \\ & \text { (R million) } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { December } \\ & 2011 \\ & \text { (R million) } \end{aligned}$ | \% change between November and December 2011 | July to September 2011 (R million) | $\begin{gathered} \text { October } \\ \text { to } \\ \text { December } \\ 2011 \\ \text { (R million) } \end{gathered}$ | \% change between July to September 2011 and October to December 2011 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| At current prices | 100348 | 101211 | 0,9 | 291493 | 299650 | 2,8 |
| At constant 2000 prices | 48601 | 48798 | 0,4 | 144324 | 145229 | 0,6 |

## 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 2011 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

## Scope of the

 surveyThis survey covers wholesale enterprises according to the following types of dealer:

- 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;
- 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 machinery, equipment and supplies;
- Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap;
- Wholesale trade in other goods; and
- 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 group (four digit) level.

Collection rate 6 The preliminary collection rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for December 2011 was $87,5 \%$. The improved collection rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for November 2011 was $92,1 \%$.

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. methodology and design

Survey 8 The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of about 1000 enterprises from a population of about 20000 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.
Weighting
methodology

## Constant prices

Seasonal
adjustment

## Trend cycle

## Reliability of

 estimates9 The value of sales is obtained monthly from the sample of about 1000 enterprises (which was drawn in April 2011 at the SIC four-digit level) from a population of about 20000 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.

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.

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'.

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-tomonth movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour.

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.

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 nonsampling 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

Related
publications

## 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 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

## 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.

Stats SA has copyright on this publication. Users may apply the information as they wish, provided that they acknowledge Stats SA as the source of the basic data wherever they process, apply, utilise, publish or distribute the data; and also that they specify that the relevant application and analysis (where applicable) result from their own processing of the data.

## Advance release calendar

An advance release calendar is disseminated on www.statssa.gov.za

## Stats SA products

A complete set of Stats SA publications is available at the Stats SA Library and the following libraries:
National Library of South Africa, Pretoria Division
National Library of South Africa, Cape Town Division
Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg
Library of Parliament, Cape Town
Bloemfontein Public Library
Johannesburg Public Library
Eastern Cape Library Services, King William's Town
Central Regional Library, Polokwane
Central Reference Library, Nelspruit
Central Reference Collection, Kimberley
Central Reference Library, Mmabatho
Stats SA also provides a subscription service.

## Electronic services

A large range of data is available via online services. For more details about our electronic services, contact Stats SA's user information service at (012) 3108600.

You can visit us on the Internet at: www.statssa.gov.za

## Enquiries

Telephone number:
(012) 310 8930/8423 (technical enquiries)
(012) 3108600 (user information services)
(012) 3108358 (orders/subscription services)

| Fax number: | $(012) 3102119$ (technical enquiries) |
| :--- | :--- |
| Email address: | Nthabisengs@statssa.gov.za (technical enquiries) <br> Keshneeg@statssa.gov.za (technical enquiries) <br> Info@statssa.gov.za (user information services) <br> magdaj@statssa.gov.za (orders/subscription services) |
| Postal address: | Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001 |


[^0]:    1/ See note 4 on page 9 for more detailed specifications.

