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# Statistical release

## P6141.2

# Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

## December 2012

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Please note the new layout of this statistical release – see Annexure A.

**Sales at constant 2000 prices: results for December 2012**

**Table A – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices**

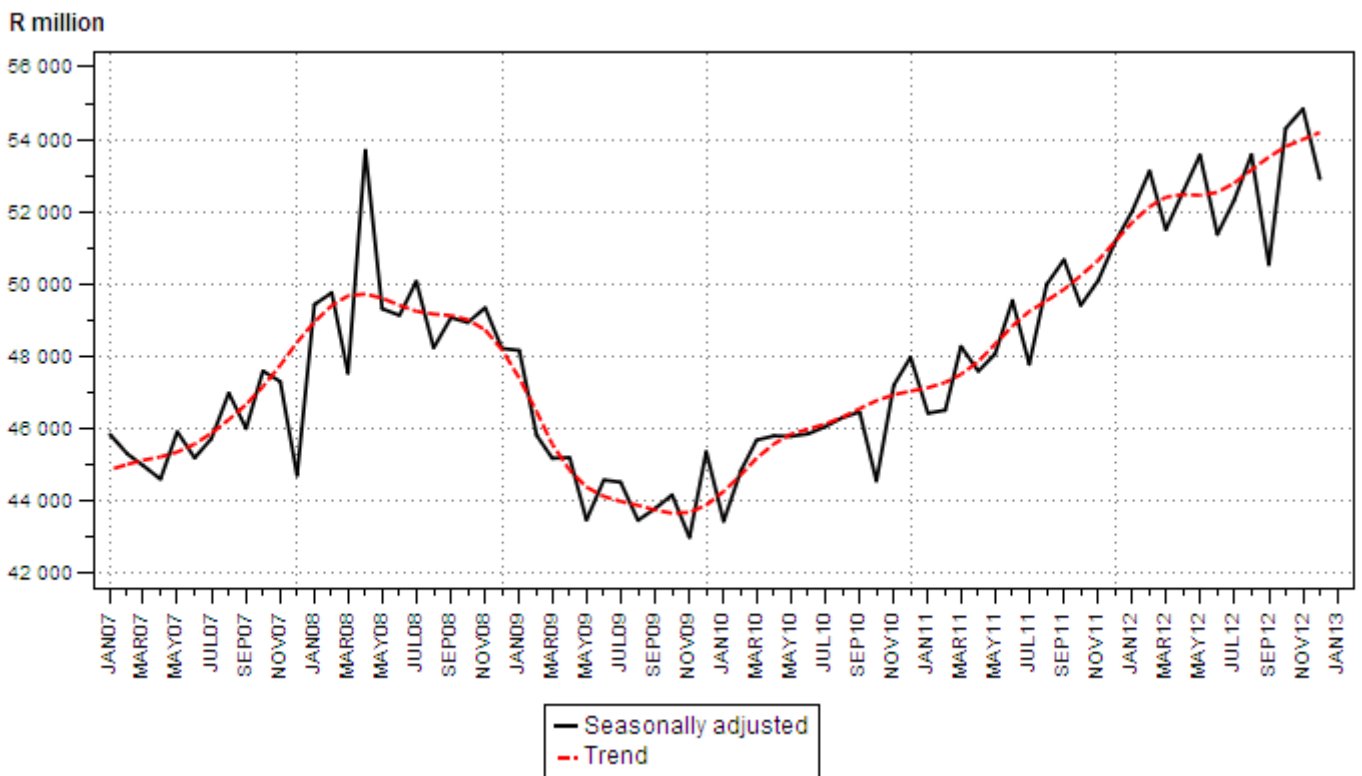
	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	9,1	7,4	-0,2	9,7	9,4	3,4
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,8	2,4	-5,7	7,5	1,0	-3,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	0,0	-0,2	-0,7	0,7	1,5	3,6

1/ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Measured in real terms (constant 2000 prices), wholesale trade sales increased by 3,4% year-on-year in December 2012. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales decreased by 3,5% in December 2012 compared with November 2012. This followed month-on-month changes of 1,0% in November 2012 and 7,5% in October 2012.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 3,6% in the fourth quarter of 2012 compared with the previous quarter.

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



**Sales at current prices: results for December 2012**

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

	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	13,4	11,3	3,0	14,5	14,2	8,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,5	3,7	-4,9	8,8	1,5	-3,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	-0,1	0,2	0,3	2,7	4,1	6,4

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 8,0% in December 2012 compared with December 2011. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- food, beverages and tobacco (20,5% and contributing 3,6 percentage points);
- agricultural raw materials and livestock (34,5% and contributing 2,0 percentage points); and
- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (8,3% and contributing 1,9 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	Oct – Dec 2011 (R million)	Weight	Oct – Dec 2012 (R million)	% change between Oct – Dec 2011 and Oct – Dec 2012	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Fee or contract basis	18 047	5,5	18 776	4,0	0,2
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	19 018	5,7	24 135	26,9	1,5
Food, beverages and tobacco	51 333	15,5	60 693	18,2	2,8
Textiles, clothing and footwear	8 591	2,6	9 278	8,0	0,2
Other household goods except precious stones	36 783	11,1	40 716	10,7	1,2
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	3 540	1,1	4 454	25,8	0,3
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	74 747	22,6	86 409	15,6	3,5
Metal and metal ores	10 271	3,1	10 097	-1,7	-0,1
Construction and building materials	16 085	4,9	17 200	6,9	0,3
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	14 068	4,2	14 197	0,9	0,0
Machinery, equipment and supplies	43 366	13,1	45 539	5,0	0,7
Other goods	35 213	10,6	40 330	14,5	1,5
<b>Total</b>	<b>331 063</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>371 824</b>	<b>12,3</b>	<b>12,3</b>

Wholesale trade sales increased by 12,3% in the fourth quarter of 2012 compared with the fourth quarter of 2011.

The major contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (15,6% and contributing 3,5 percentage points);
- food, beverages and tobacco (18,2% and contributing 2,8 percentage points);
- agricultural raw materials and livestock (26,9% and contributing 1,5 percentage points); and
- 'other' goods (14,5% and contributing 1,5 percentage points) – see Table C.

**PJ Lehohla**  
**Statistician-General**

**Tables**

**Table 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million)**

Month	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012 1/
Jan	36 241	40 378	43 677	42 530	38 276	40 683	45 439
Feb	39 720	43 045	47 214	43 507	42 593	44 189	50 468
Mar	42 735	45 373	48 168	46 013	46 682	49 385	52 767
Apr	38 371	40 977	49 438	41 807	42 522	44 271	48 907
May	43 940	45 787	48 814	42 894	45 079	47 379	52 877
Jun	43 828	45 413	49 183	44 479	45 716	49 282	51 082
Jul	44 564	46 134	50 451	44 648	45 905	47 382	51 684
Aug	45 270	47 500	48 710	43 836	46 752	50 574	54 329
Sep	45 036	46 840	50 055	44 760	47 693	52 143	52 044
Oct	47 493	51 136	52 505	47 263	47 590	52 670	57 786
Nov	50 167	53 276	55 299	48 128	52 806	56 096	61 375
Dec	43 727	44 846	48 783	46 194	49 074	52 344	54 146
<b>Total</b>	<b>521 092</b>	<b>550 705</b>	<b>592 297</b>	<b>536 059</b>	<b>550 688</b>	<b>586 398</b>	<b>632 904</b>

1/ Latest month is preliminary.

**Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices**

Month	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2012 year-to-date
Jan	11,4	8,2	-2,6	-10,0	6,3	11,7	11,7
Feb	8,4	9,7	-7,9	-2,1	3,7	14,2	13,0
Mar	6,2	6,2	-4,5	1,5	5,8	6,8	10,7
Apr	6,8	20,6	-15,4	1,7	4,1	10,5	10,7
May	4,2	6,6	-12,1	5,1	5,1	11,6	10,9
Jun	3,6	8,3	-9,6	2,8	7,8	3,7	9,6
Jul	3,5	9,4	-11,5	2,8	3,2	9,1	9,5
Aug	4,9	2,5	-10,0	6,7	8,2	7,4	9,2
Sep	4,0	6,9	-10,6	6,6	9,3	-0,2	8,1
Oct	7,7	2,7	-10,0	0,7	10,7	9,7	8,2
Nov	6,2	3,8	-13,0	9,7	6,2	9,4	8,4
Dec	2,6	8,8	-5,3	6,2	6,7	3,4	7,9
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,7</b>	<b>7,6</b>	<b>-9,5</b>	<b>2,7</b>	<b>6,5</b>	<b>7,9</b>	

**Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices**

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012
Jan	48 167	43 446	46 431	52 017	-0,1	-4,2	-3,2	1,7
Feb	45 821	44 849	46 516	53 124	-4,9	3,2	0,2	2,1
Mar	45 187	45 690	48 277	51 505	-1,4	1,9	3,8	-3,0
Apr	45 207	45 805	47 592	52 557	0,0	0,3	-1,4	2,0
May	43 481	45 794	48 070	53 569	-3,8	0,0	1,0	1,9
Jun	44 586	45 862	49 545	51 375	2,5	0,1	3,1	-4,1
Jul	44 526	46 055	47 788	52 317	-0,1	0,4	-3,5	1,8
Aug	43 472	46 306	49 986	53 578	-2,4	0,5	4,6	2,4
Sep	43 800	46 467	50 674	50 535	0,8	0,3	1,4	-5,7
Oct	44 173	44 559	49 413	54 302	0,9	-4,1	-2,5	7,5
Nov	42 999	47 206	50 095	54 842	-2,7	5,9	1,4	1,0
Dec	45 369	47 981	51 152	52 920	5,5	1,6	2,1	-3,5

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

Month	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012 1/
Jan	49 404	61 041	72 982	76 883	70 387	77 968	93 702
Feb	54 178	65 472	80 035	78 293	78 555	86 046	105 026
Mar	58 638	70 100	83 509	82 893	86 462	97 154	109 686
Apr	53 117	64 309	87 299	75 203	79 638	87 184	101 455
May	61 649	72 823	90 717	76 261	84 446	93 566	110 073
Jun	62 387	72 931	92 148	78 396	86 151	97 631	106 150
Jul	64 426	74 540	95 617	79 160	86 119	94 831	107 517
Aug	66 906	77 060	92 773	77 847	87 981	102 293	113 859
Sep	66 930	76 166	93 866	79 148	89 383	106 566	109 756
Oct	71 299	84 092	98 229	84 156	89 210	107 989	123 658
Nov	75 943	87 938	101 994	86 484	99 690	115 430	131 874
Dec	66 013	74 247	88 822	83 685	92 928	107 644	116 292
<b>Total</b>	<b>750 890</b>	<b>880 719</b>	<b>1 077 991</b>	<b>958 409</b>	<b>1 030 950</b>	<b>1 174 302</b>	<b>1 329 048</b>

1/ Latest month is preliminary.

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

Month	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2012 year-to-date
Jan	23,6	19,6	5,3	-8,4	10,8	20,2	20,2
Feb	20,8	22,2	-2,2	0,3	9,5	22,1	21,2
Mar	19,5	19,1	-0,7	4,3	12,4	12,9	18,1
Apr	21,1	35,7	-13,9	5,9	9,5	16,4	17,7
May	18,1	24,6	-15,9	10,7	10,8	17,6	17,7
Jun	16,9	26,3	-14,9	9,9	13,3	8,7	16,0
Jul	15,7	28,3	-17,2	8,8	10,1	13,4	15,6
Aug	15,2	20,4	-16,1	13,0	16,3	11,3	15,0
Sep	13,8	23,2	-15,7	12,9	19,2	3,0	13,5
Oct	17,9	16,8	-14,3	6,0	21,1	14,5	13,6
Nov	15,8	16,0	-15,2	15,3	15,8	14,2	13,7
Dec	12,5	19,6	-5,8	11,0	15,8	8,0	13,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,3</b>	<b>22,4</b>	<b>-11,1</b>	<b>7,6</b>	<b>13,9</b>	<b>13,2</b>	

**Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices**

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012
Jan	87 818	80 362	89 240	107 393	-0,9	-3,1	-2,5	1,4
Feb	83 300	83 378	91 218	111 219	-5,1	3,8	2,2	3,6
Mar	81 647	84 626	94 789	106 796	-2,0	1,5	3,9	-4,0
Apr	80 734	85 285	93 219	108 468	-1,1	0,8	-1,7	1,6
May	76 805	85 312	94 588	111 284	-4,9	0,0	1,5	2,6
Jun	78 275	86 221	98 022	106 689	1,9	1,1	3,6	-4,1
Jul	78 369	85 819	95 138	108 317	0,1	-0,5	-2,9	1,5
Aug	76 769	86 890	101 002	112 296	-2,0	1,2	6,2	3,7
Sep	77 548	87 254	103 777	106 770	1,0	0,4	2,7	-4,9
Oct	78 625	83 534	101 289	116 123	1,4	-4,3	-2,4	8,8
Nov	77 449	89 269	103 184	117 893	-1,5	6,9	1,9	1,5
Dec	82 945	91 567	105 870	114 268	7,1	2,6	2,6	-3,1

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

Type of dealer	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12 1/
Fee or contract basis	5 572	5 601	5 565	5 851	6 492	6 433
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	7 305	7 780	7 775	7 142	8 595	8 398
Food, beverages and tobacco	15 134	17 530	16 440	18 017	19 797	22 879
Textiles, clothing and footwear	2 464	2 763	2 865	3 394	3 583	2 301
Other household goods except precious stones	11 525	12 699	11 940	14 332	15 182	11 202
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	885	833	1 362	1 530	1 777	1 147
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	25 961	25 398	25 715	29 771	29 691	26 947
Metal and metal ores	3 608	3 584	3 594	3 970	3 970	2 157
Construction and building materials	5 478	5 786	5 400	6 189	6 881	4 130
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	3 894	4 552	4 436	5 160	5 313	3 724
Machinery, equipment and supplies	14 837	15 216	13 716	15 980	16 234	13 325
Other goods	10 855	12 116	10 948	12 322	14 359	13 649
<b>Total</b>	<b>107 517</b>	<b>113 859</b>	<b>109 756</b>	<b>123 658</b>	<b>131 874</b>	<b>116 292</b>

1/ Preliminary.

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

Type of dealer	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12
Fee or contract basis	-6,4	-5,3	-11,0	-2,7	16,5	-0,4
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	24,6	28,4	21,3	16,4	29,5	34,5
Food, beverages and tobacco	5,4	7,0	4,8	15,9	17,8	20,5
Textiles, clothing and footwear	5,3	9,0	13,1	9,2	11,6	1,3
Other household goods except precious stones	7,9	15,7	2,0	13,9	13,0	4,0
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	-22,1	-31,8	39,4	59,2	74,2	-26,4
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	15,2	13,6	12,0	26,4	12,9	8,3
Metal and metal ores	24,5	-6,0	-9,6	1,2	-2,0	-6,0
Construction and building materials	16,2	11,4	-4,5	13,0	10,4	-5,7
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	16,3	15,9	-8,5	3,1	4,9	-6,9
Machinery, equipment and supplies	28,0	8,4	-14,3	7,3	10,5	-3,3
Other goods	15,3	22,7	14,6	14,2	15,7	13,6
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,4</b>	<b>11,3</b>	<b>3,0</b>	<b>14,5</b>	<b>14,2</b>	<b>8,0</b>

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

Type of dealer	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12
Fee or contract basis	-0,4	-0,3	-0,6	-0,2	0,8	0,0
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	1,5	1,7	1,3	0,9	1,7	2,0
Food, beverages and tobacco	0,8	1,1	0,7	2,3	2,6	3,6
Textiles, clothing and footwear	0,1	0,2	0,3	0,3	0,3	0,0
Other household goods except precious stones	0,9	1,7	0,2	1,6	1,5	0,4
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	-0,3	-0,4	0,4	0,5	0,7	-0,4
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	3,6	3,0	2,6	5,8	2,9	1,9
Metal and metal ores	0,8	-0,2	-0,4	0,0	-0,1	-0,1
Construction and building materials	0,8	0,6	-0,2	0,7	0,6	-0,2
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	0,6	0,6	-0,4	0,1	0,2	-0,3
Machinery, equipment and supplies	3,4	1,2	-2,1	1,0	1,3	-0,4
Other goods	1,5	2,2	1,3	1,4	1,7	1,5
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,4</b>	<b>11,3</b>	<b>3,0</b>	<b>14,5</b>	<b>14,2</b>	<b>8,0</b>

**Annexure A – Comparison between the old and new layouts**

Old layout	New layout
<b>Summary tables, graphs and text:</b>	
<p><b>Table A</b> (sales at current and constant prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Latest sales values</li> <li>• Variety of growth rates (only the latest shown)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: For sales at constant prices see new Table A, and for sales at current prices see new Table B.</i></p>	<p><b>Table A</b> (sales at constant prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• y/y % change</li> <li>• m/m % change (seasonally adjusted)</li> <li>• 3m/3m % change (seasonally adjusted)</li> <li>• Latest 6 months</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: For sales values at constant prices, see new Table 1 (actual) and new Table 3 (seasonally adjusted).</i></p>
	<p><b>Figure 1</b> (sales at constant prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seasonally adjusted sales, and the trend</li> </ul>
<p><b>Table B</b> (sales at current prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakdown (by type of wholesaler)</li> <li>• 3-month totals (Rm)</li> <li>• 3m y/y% change and %-point contribution</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: See new Table C.</i></p>	<p><b>Table B</b> (sales at current prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• y/y % change</li> <li>• m/m % change (seasonally adjusted)</li> <li>• 3m/3m % change (seasonally adjusted)</li> <li>• Latest 6 months</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: For sales values at current prices, see new Table 4 (actual) and new Table 6 (seasonally adjusted).</i></p>
	<p><b>Table C</b> (sales at current prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakdown (by type of wholesaler)</li> <li>• 3-month totals (Rm)</li> <li>• 3m y/y% change and %-point contribution</li> </ul>
<p><b>Figure 1</b> (sales at constant prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seasonally adjusted sales, and the trend</li> </ul>	
<b>Detailed tables:</b>	
<p><b>Table 1</b> (sales at current prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakdown (by type of wholesaler)</li> <li>• Latest 23 months (Rm)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: See new Table 7.</i></p>	<p><b>Table 1</b> (sales at constant prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wholesale trade sales</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: See old Table 5.</i></p>
<p><b>Table 2</b> (sales at current prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wholesale trade sales</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: See new Table 4.</i></p>	<p><b>Table 2</b> (sales at constant prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• y/y % change</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: See old Table 6.</i></p>



Old layout	New layout
<p><b>Table 3</b> (sales at current prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>y/y % change</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: See new Table 5.</i></p>	<p><b>Table 3</b> (sales at constant prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seasonally adjusted sales</li> <li>m/m % change</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: See old Table 7.</i></p>
<p><b>Table 4</b> (sales at current prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seasonally adjusted sales</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: See new Table 6.</i></p>	<p><b>Table 4</b> (sales at current prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wholesale trade sales</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: See old Table 2.</i></p>
<p><b>Table 5</b> (sales at constant prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wholesale trade sales</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: See new Table 1.</i></p>	<p><b>Table 5</b> (sales at current prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>y/y % change</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: See old Table 3.</i></p>
<p><b>Table 6</b> (sales at constant prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>y/y % change</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: See new Table 2.</i></p>	<p><b>Table 6</b> (sales at current prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seasonally adjusted sales</li> <li>m/m % change</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: See old Table 4.</i></p>
<p><b>Table 7</b> (sales at constant prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seasonally adjusted sales</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: See new Table 3.</i></p>	<p><b>Table 7</b> (sales at current prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breakdown (by type of wholesaler)</li> <li>Latest 6 months (Rm)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: See old Table 1.</i></p>
<p><b>Table 8</b> (sales at current and constant prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sales values for latest 3 months and cumulative (year-to-date), and corresponding sales values a year ago</li> <li>y/y % change</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: For annual % changes, see new Tables 2 (constant prices), and C and 5 (current prices).</i></p> <p><i>Annual % change for 3-month sales at constant prices discontinued.</i></p>	<p><b>Table 8</b> (sales at current prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breakdown</li> <li>y/y % change for individual months</li> <li>Latest 6 months</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: New table.</i></p>
<p><b>Table 9</b> (seasonally adjusted sales at current and constant prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Latest 2 months – totals (Rm)</li> <li>m/m % change</li> <li>3-month totals (Rm)</li> <li>3m/3m % change</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: For % changes, see new Tables A (constant prices) and B (current prices).</i></p>	<p><b>Table 9</b> (sales at current prices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breakdown</li> <li>%-point contribution to y/y % change</li> <li>Latest 6 months</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: New table.</i></p>

## 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 2012 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 December 2012 was 83,6%. The improved collection rate for November 2012 was 86,3%.

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<b>Statistical unit</b>	<b>7</b>	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.
<b>Revised figures</b>	<b>8</b>	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.
<b>Related publications</b>	<b>9</b>	Users may also refer to the following publications available from Stats SA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Bulletin of Statistics</i> issued quarterly; and</li><li>• <i>SA Statistics</i> issued annually.</li></ul>
<b>Rounding-off of figures</b>	<b>10</b>	Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.
<b>Historical data</b>	<b>11</b>	Historical wholesale trade sales data are available on the Stats SA webpage. To access the data electronically, use the following link: <a href="http://www.statssa.gov.za/timeseriesdata/timeseriesdata.asp">http://www.statssa.gov.za/timeseriesdata/timeseriesdata.asp</a>
<b>Past publications</b>	<b>12</b>	Past wholesale trade sales releases are available on the Stats SA webpage. To access the releases electronically, use the following link: <a href="http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/statspastfuture.asp?PPN=P6141.2&amp;SCH=">http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/statspastfuture.asp?PPN=P6141.2&amp;SCH=</a>

**Technical notes**

**Survey methodology and design**

- 1 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. 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 2012 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.

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

$N_h$  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**

- 3 The wholesale sampling frame is divided into four size groups. All large enterprises (size group one) are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to the remaining size groups (medium, small and very small). The total value of sales of the large enterprises (size group one) is added to the weighted totals of size group two, three and four to reflect the total value of sales.

**Measure of size classes (Rand)**

Enterprise size	Size group	Lower limits	Upper limits
Very small	4	0	24 000 000
Small	3	24 000 001	128 000 000
Medium	2	128 000 001	256 000 000
Large	1	256 000 001	

**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-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** 6 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.
- 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. 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'.
- 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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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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