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Statistical release

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Contents

Sales at constant 2012 prices: results for December 2013 2

Table A – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices 2

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices..... 2

Sales at current prices: results for December 2013 3

Table B – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at current prices..... 3

Table C – Wholesale trade sales at current prices for the latest three months by type of dealer 3

Tables 4

Table 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices (R million)..... 4

Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices..... 4

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices 4

Table 4 – Wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million) 5

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

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices..... 5

Table 7 – Wholesale trade sales at current prices by type of dealer (R million) 6

Table 8 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices by type of dealer 6

Table 9 – Contribution of type of dealer to the year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices 6

Survey information..... 7

Technical notes 9

Glossary 11

Technical enquiries 11

General information 12

Sales at constant 2012 prices: results for December 2013

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

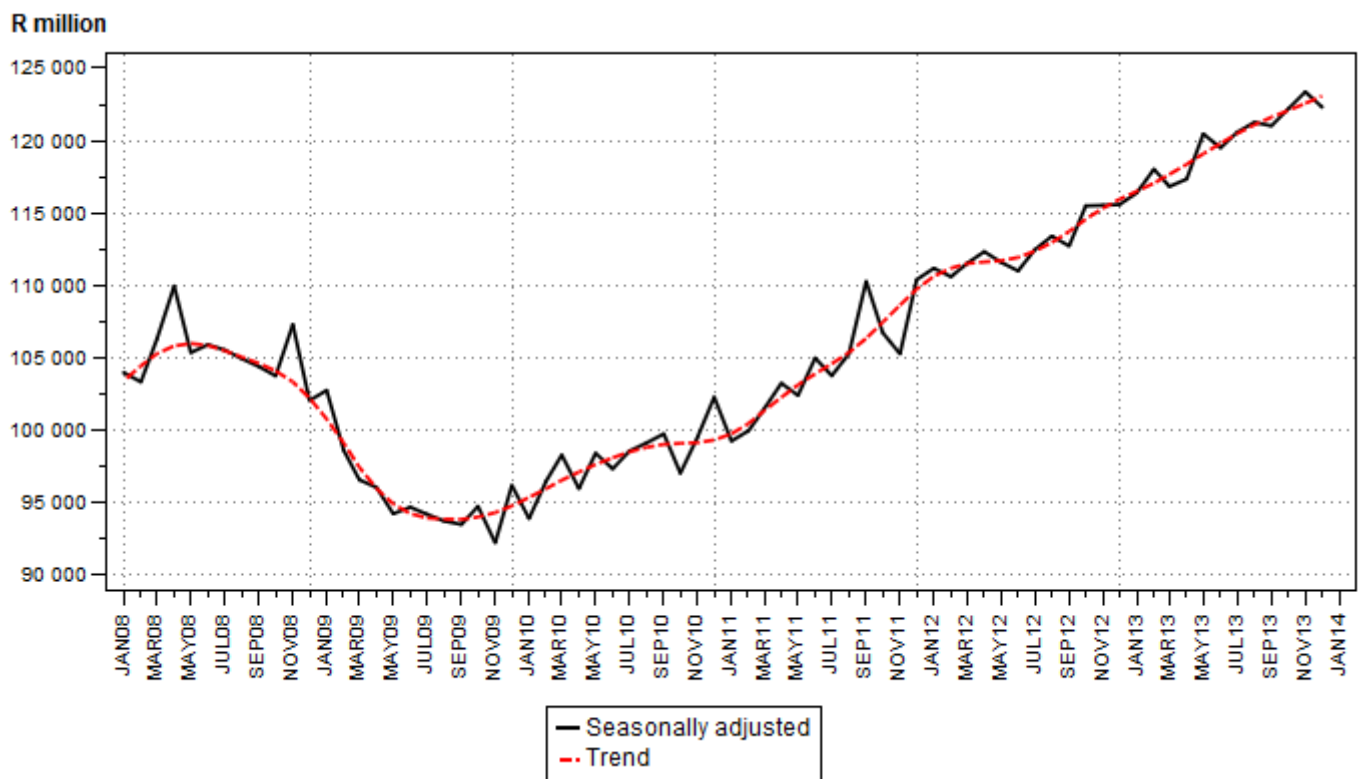
	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	9,1	5,5	8,4	5,9	5,7	6,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,9	0,6	-0,2	1,0	1,0	-0,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	2,4	1,9	1,5	1,1	1,4	1,4

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 increased by 6,6% year-on-year in December 2013. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales decreased by 0,8% in December 2013 compared with November 2013. This followed month-on-month changes of 1,0% in November 2013 and 1,0% in October 2013.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 1,4% in the fourth quarter of 2013 compared with the previous quarter.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices



Sales at current prices: results for December 2013

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

	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	15,4	12,0	15,4	12,4	11,6	13,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	2,5	0,0	1,0	3,3	1,4	-2,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	3,9	3,3	3,5	3,2	4,5	4,0

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 13,1% in December 2013 compared with December 2012. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (20,8% and contributing 4,6 percentage points);
- food, beverages and tobacco (13,7% and contributing 2,7 percentage points); and
- machinery, equipment and supplies (19,9% and contributing 2,4 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 2012 (R million)	Weight	Oct – Dec 2013 (R million)	% change between Oct – Dec 2012 and Oct – Dec 2013	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Fee or contract basis	19 234	5,1	22 719	18,1	0,9
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	27 749	7,3	31 217	12,5	0,9
Food, beverages and tobacco	62 711	16,5	68 343	9,0	1,5
Textiles, clothing and footwear	9 111	2,4	10 165	11,6	0,3
Other household goods except precious stones	35 975	9,5	38 875	8,1	0,8
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	4 930	1,3	7 581	53,8	0,7
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	84 843	22,3	96 341	13,6	3,0
Metal and metal ores	9 138	2,4	9 867	8,0	0,2
Construction and building materials	17 851	4,7	19 438	8,9	0,4
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	14 587	3,8	17 176	17,7	0,7
Machinery, equipment and supplies	49 066	12,9	57 783	17,8	2,3
Other goods	44 791	11,8	47 344	5,7	0,7
Total	379 984	100,0	426 851	12,3	12,3

Wholesale trade sales increased by 12,3% in the fourth quarter of 2013 compared with the fourth quarter of 2012. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (13,6% and contributing 3,0 percentage points);
- machinery, equipment and supplies (17,8% and contributing 2,3 percentage points); and
- food, beverages and tobacco (9,0% and contributing 1,5 percentage points) – see Table C.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Tables

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

Month	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 1/
Jan	86 308	93 359	90 909	81 816	86 961	98 214	104 817
Feb	92 010	100 920	92 995	91 044	94 455	109 215	111 873
Mar	96 986	102 959	98 354	99 784	105 560	113 422	112 988
Apr	87 589	105 674	89 364	90 892	94 631	103 597	113 537
May	97 869	104 341	91 685	96 356	101 274	112 627	121 187
Jun	97 071	105 129	95 074	97 720	105 340	109 114	116 134
Jul	98 612	107 840	95 435	98 122	101 280	111 076	121 167
Aug	101 532	104 118	93 699	99 933	108 103	115 977	122 392
Sep	100 121	106 993	95 675	101 944	111 456	111 345	120 673
Oct	109 303	112 229	101 026	101 725	112 583	125 173	132 550
Nov	113 877	118 203	102 874	112 873	119 905	131 023	138 532
Dec	95 860	104 274	98 741	104 897	111 885	115 939	123 632
Total	1 177 138	1 266 039	1 145 831	1 177 106	1 253 433	1 356 722	1 439 482

1/ Latest month is preliminary.

Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices

Month	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013 year-to-date
Jan	8,2	-2,6	-10,0	6,3	12,9	6,7	6,7
Feb	9,7	-7,9	-2,1	3,7	15,6	2,4	4,5
Mar	6,2	-4,5	1,5	5,8	7,4	-0,4	2,8
Apr	20,6	-15,4	1,7	4,1	9,5	9,6	4,4
May	6,6	-12,1	5,1	5,1	11,2	7,6	5,1
Jun	8,3	-9,6	2,8	7,8	3,6	6,4	5,3
Jul	9,4	-11,5	2,8	3,2	9,7	9,1	5,9
Aug	2,5	-10,0	6,7	8,2	7,3	5,5	5,8
Sep	6,9	-10,6	6,6	9,3	-0,1	8,4	6,1
Oct	2,7	-10,0	0,7	10,7	11,2	5,9	6,1
Nov	3,8	-13,0	9,7	6,2	9,3	5,7	6,0
Dec	8,8	-5,3	6,2	6,7	3,6	6,6	6,1
Total	7,6	-9,5	2,7	6,5	8,2	6,1	

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013
Jan	93 919	99 262	111 186	116 388	-2,4	-3,0	0,7	0,7
Feb	96 513	99 979	110 605	118 021	2,8	0,7	-0,5	1,4
Mar	98 301	101 485	111 519	116 830	1,9	1,5	0,8	-1,0
Apr	95 986	103 252	112 336	117 341	-2,4	1,7	0,7	0,4
May	98 423	102 413	111 601	120 458	2,5	-0,8	-0,7	2,7
Jun	97 349	104 991	111 004	119 498	-1,1	2,5	-0,5	-0,8
Jul	98 572	103 776	112 464	120 565	1,3	-1,2	1,3	0,9
Aug	99 136	105 294	113 403	121 254	0,6	1,5	0,8	0,6
Sep	99 762	110 287	112 725	121 016	0,6	4,7	-0,6	-0,2
Oct	97 045	106 731	115 494	122 177	-2,7	-3,2	2,5	1,0
Nov	99 548	105 282	115 526	123 357	2,6	-1,4	0,0	1,0
Dec	102 296	110 395	115 585	122 315	2,8	4,9	0,1	-0,8

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

Month	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 1/
Jan	62 187	74 352	78 327	71 709	79 433	95 462	107 792
Feb	66 702	81 538	79 762	80 031	87 662	106 998	115 383
Mar	71 417	85 077	84 450	88 086	98 978	111 745	117 506
Apr	65 517	88 938	76 616	81 134	88 822	102 631	118 201
May	74 190	92 421	77 692	86 031	95 324	112 388	126 102
Jun	74 301	93 878	79 868	87 770	99 464	108 622	121 571
Jul	75 940	97 413	80 646	87 736	96 612	110 671	127 734
Aug	78 507	94 515	79 308	89 633	104 215	116 256	130 209
Sep	77 596	95 629	80 634	91 061	108 567	111 965	129 164
Oct	85 671	100 073	85 737	90 886	110 017	127 037	142 736
Nov	89 589	103 910	88 108	101 562	117 597	134 173	149 725
Dec	75 642	90 490	85 257	94 674	109 665	118 774	134 390
Total	897 259	1 098 234	976 405	1 050 313	1 196 356	1 356 722	1 520 513

1/ Latest month is preliminary.

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

Month	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013 year-to-date
Jan	19,6	5,3	-8,4	10,8	20,2	12,9	12,9
Feb	22,2	-2,2	0,3	9,5	22,1	7,8	10,2
Mar	19,1	-0,7	4,3	12,4	12,9	5,2	8,4
Apr	35,7	-13,9	5,9	9,5	15,5	15,2	10,1
May	24,6	-15,9	10,7	10,8	17,9	12,2	10,5
Jun	26,3	-14,9	9,9	13,3	9,2	11,9	10,8
Jul	28,3	-17,2	8,8	10,1	14,6	15,4	11,5
Aug	20,4	-16,1	13,0	16,3	11,6	12,0	11,5
Sep	23,2	-15,7	12,9	19,2	3,1	15,4	12,0
Oct	16,8	-14,3	6,0	21,0	15,5	12,4	12,0
Nov	16,0	-15,2	15,3	15,8	14,1	11,6	12,0
Dec	19,6	-5,8	11,0	15,8	8,3	13,1	12,1
Total	22,4	-11,1	7,6	13,9	13,4	12,1	

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013
Jan	81 769	90 370	107 156	119 432	-2,9	-3,2	-0,8	1,8
Feb	84 370	92 395	111 348	121 263	3,2	2,2	3,9	1,5
Mar	86 654	95 732	108 780	121 165	2,7	3,6	-2,3	-0,1
Apr	85 655	96 004	110 649	121 406	-1,2	0,3	1,7	0,2
May	87 377	95 832	111 849	125 641	2,0	-0,2	1,1	3,5
Jun	88 124	99 538	110 033	124 681	0,9	3,9	-1,6	-0,8
Jul	87 248	98 034	111 279	127 768	-1,0	-1,5	1,1	2,5
Aug	88 449	102 161	113 689	127 767	1,4	4,2	2,2	0,0
Sep	89 209	106 205	112 666	129 029	0,9	4,0	-0,9	1,0
Oct	86 710	104 764	119 152	133 249	-2,8	-1,4	5,8	3,3
Nov	90 279	105 542	119 238	135 094	4,1	0,7	0,1	1,4
Dec	93 317	108 019	117 305	131 695	3,4	2,3	-1,6	-2,5

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

Type of dealer	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13 1/
Fee or contract basis	6 726	5 940	6 817	7 795	7 908	7 016
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	9 962	9 135	9 665	9 729	10 815	10 673
Food, beverages and tobacco	17 852	20 483	19 434	20 203	21 633	26 507
Textiles, clothing and footwear	2 598	3 048	3 207	3 718	4 268	2 179
Other household goods except precious stones	11 743	11 639	12 451	14 086	14 296	10 493
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	1 710	1 577	2 328	2 778	3 262	1 541
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	29 608	30 448	29 322	32 061	32 637	31 643
Metals and metal ores	3 885	3 525	3 123	3 810	3 918	2 139
Construction and building materials	6 281	6 403	6 070	7 466	7 093	4 879
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	4 741	5 178	5 313	6 543	6 216	4 417
Machinery, equipment and supplies	18 750	17 985	17 995	19 455	20 881	17 447
Other goods	13 877	14 847	13 438	15 091	16 798	15 455
Total	127 734	130 209	129 164	142 736	149 725	134 390

1/ Preliminary.

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

Type of dealer	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13
Fee or contract basis	14,0	0,5	16,4	31,7	16,3	7,7
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	16,7	-0,1	6,0	15,6	10,4	11,9
Food, beverages and tobacco	13,7	11,5	14,3	6,3	6,1	13,7
Textiles, clothing and footwear	8,7	12,8	16,1	9,3	22,2	-1,8
Other household goods except precious stones	16,1	4,6	18,8	9,3	7,4	7,3
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	74,7	68,3	51,1	54,2	73,1	23,9
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	15,8	21,7	15,6	8,5	12,1	20,8
Metals and metal ores	19,0	8,4	-3,6	8,0	7,4	9,1
Construction and building materials	9,6	5,7	8,0	13,8	0,2	15,8
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	21,4	14,0	16,8	24,5	15,0	12,4
Machinery, equipment and supplies	12,7	13,4	24,0	10,6	23,3	19,9
Other goods	16,2	11,2	12,8	14,9	2,9	0,8
Total	15,4	12,0	15,4	12,4	11,6	13,1

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-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13
Fee or contract basis	0,7	0,0	0,9	1,5	0,8	0,4
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	1,3	0,0	0,5	1,0	0,8	1,0
Food, beverages and tobacco	1,9	1,8	2,2	0,9	0,9	2,7
Textiles, clothing and footwear	0,2	0,3	0,4	0,3	0,6	0,0
Other household goods except precious stones	1,5	0,4	1,8	0,9	0,7	0,6
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	0,7	0,5	0,7	0,8	1,0	0,2
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	3,6	4,7	3,5	2,0	2,6	4,6
Metals and metal ores	0,6	0,2	-0,1	0,2	0,2	0,2
Construction and building materials	0,5	0,3	0,4	0,7	0,0	0,6
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	0,7	0,5	0,7	1,0	0,6	0,4
Machinery, equipment and supplies	1,9	1,8	3,1	1,5	2,9	2,4
Other goods	1,7	1,3	1,4	1,5	0,4	0,1
Total	15,4	12,0	15,4	12,4	11,6	13,1

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 2013 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 2013 was 82,3%. The improved collection rate for November 2013 was 85,4%.

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; and• <i>SA 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 webpage. 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 webpage. 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 about 1 050 enterprises from a population of about 19 300 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 2013 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 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	0	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	<p>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:</p> <p>http://www.statssa.gov.za/Publications/P61412/Seasonal_adjustment_wholesale_Jun13.pdf</p>
Trend cycle	6	<p>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.</p>
Constant prices	7	<p>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.</p> <p>From January 2012, wholesale trade sales at constant prices are compiled in three stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (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. <p>Total wholesale trade sales at constant prices is obtained by aggregating (1), (2) and (3).</p>
Reliability of estimates	8	<p>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.</p>
	9	<p>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.</p>
Month-on-month percentage change	10	<p>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.</p>
Year-on-year percentage change	11	<p>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.</p>

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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