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Statistical release

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Sales at constant 2012 prices: results for December 2014

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

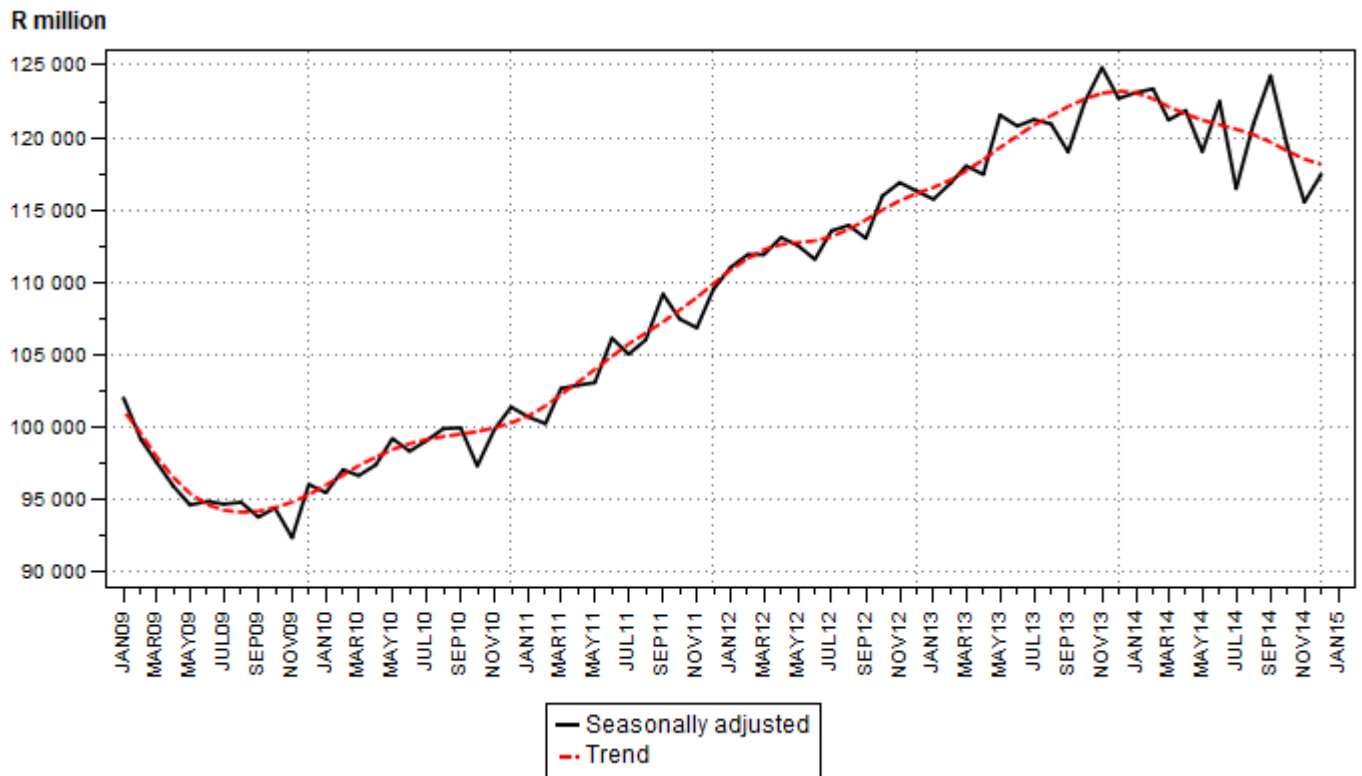
| | Jul-14 | Aug-14 | Sep-14 | Oct-14 | Nov-14 | Dec-14 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Year-on-year % change, unadjusted | -4,2 | -1,8 | 6,6 | -2,0 | -8,4 | -2,6 |
| Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted | -4,9 | 3,8 | 2,8 | -3,9 | -3,2 | 1,6 |
| 3-month % change,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

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

Measured in real terms (constant 2012 prices), wholesale trade sales decreased by 2,6% year-on-year in December 2014. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 1,6% in December 2014 compared with November 2014. This followed month-on-month changes of -3,2% in November 2014 and -3,9% in October 2014.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales decreased by 2,6% in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared with the previous quarter.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices



Sales at current prices: results for December 2014

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

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

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 2,1% in December 2014 compared with December 2013. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- food, beverages and tobacco (5,5% and contributing 1,1 percentage points); and
- 'other' household goods except precious stones (12,6% and contributing 1,1 percentage points) – see Tables 8 and 9.

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

| Type of dealer | Oct – Dec 2013 (R million) | Weight | Oct – Dec 2014 (R million) | % change between Oct – Dec 2013 and Oct – Dec 2014 | Contribution (% points) to the total % change |
|--|----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| Fee or contract basis | 17 284 | 4,0 | 16 408 | -5,1 | -0,2 |
| Agricultural raw materials and livestock | 29 860 | 7,0 | 30 113 | 0,8 | 0,1 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco | 72 427 | 17,0 | 76 429 | 5,5 | 0,9 |
| Textiles, clothing and footwear | 11 138 | 2,6 | 10 724 | -3,7 | -0,1 |
| Other household goods except precious stones | 41 628 | 9,8 | 44 190 | 6,2 | 0,6 |
| Precious stones, jewellery and silverware | 8 796 | 2,1 | 8 071 | -8,2 | -0,2 |
| Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products | 93 285 | 21,9 | 87 579 | -6,1 | -1,3 |
| Metal and metal ores | 10 859 | 2,5 | 11 073 | 2,0 | 0,1 |
| Construction and building materials | 23 355 | 5,5 | 24 889 | 6,6 | 0,4 |
| Other intermediate products, waste and scrap | 17 582 | 4,1 | 19 558 | 11,2 | 0,5 |
| Machinery, equipment and supplies | 63 822 | 15,0 | 63 444 | -0,6 | -0,1 |
| Other goods | 36 776 | 8,6 | 37 879 | 3,0 | 0,3 |
| Total | 426 812 | 100,0 | 430 356 | 0,8 | 0,8 |

Wholesale trade sales increased by 0,8% in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared with the fourth quarter of 2013. The major contributor to this increase was dealers in food, beverages and tobacco (5,5% and contributing 0,9 of a percentage point) – see Table C.

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Statistician-General

Tables

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

| Month | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 1/ |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Jan | 93 780 | 91 317 | 82 182 | 87 352 | 98 658 | 105 286 | 112 814 |
| Feb | 101 373 | 93 413 | 91 453 | 94 878 | 109 710 | 112 375 | 119 168 |
| Mar | 103 422 | 98 795 | 100 231 | 106 035 | 113 935 | 113 496 | 120 087 |
| Apr | 106 148 | 89 765 | 91 301 | 95 055 | 104 066 | 114 111 | 114 438 |
| May | 104 809 | 92 097 | 96 789 | 101 729 | 113 140 | 122 066 | 118 051 |
| Jun | 105 600 | 95 501 | 98 158 | 105 815 | 109 607 | 116 242 | 119 442 |
| Jul | 108 324 | 95 864 | 98 563 | 101 735 | 111 576 | 121 397 | 116 344 |
| Aug | 104 586 | 94 121 | 100 382 | 108 588 | 116 502 | 122 494 | 120 263 |
| Sep | 107 473 | 96 104 | 102 402 | 111 958 | 111 845 | 119 464 | 127 315 |
| Oct | 112 734 | 101 480 | 102 182 | 113 088 | 125 728 | 132 488 | 129 778 |
| Nov | 118 733 | 103 336 | 113 380 | 120 443 | 131 605 | 138 614 | 126 904 |
| Dec | 104 743 | 99 183 | 105 368 | 112 388 | 116 446 | 123 597 | 120 427 |
| Total | 1 271 725 | 1 150 976 | 1 182 391 | 1 259 064 | 1 362 818 | 1 441 630 | 1 445 031 |

1/ Latest month is preliminary.

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

| Month | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2014 year-to-date |
|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| Jan | -2,6 | -10,0 | 6,3 | 12,9 | 6,7 | 7,2 | 7,2 |
| Feb | -7,9 | -2,1 | 3,7 | 15,6 | 2,4 | 6,0 | 6,6 |
| Mar | -4,5 | 1,5 | 5,8 | 7,5 | -0,4 | 5,8 | 6,3 |
| Apr | -15,4 | 1,7 | 4,1 | 9,5 | 9,7 | 0,3 | 4,8 |
| May | -12,1 | 5,1 | 5,1 | 11,2 | 7,9 | -3,3 | 3,0 |
| Jun | -9,6 | 2,8 | 7,8 | 3,6 | 6,1 | 2,8 | 3,0 |
| Jul | -11,5 | 2,8 | 3,2 | 9,7 | 8,8 | -4,2 | 1,9 |
| Aug | -10,0 | 6,7 | 8,2 | 7,3 | 5,1 | -1,8 | 1,4 |
| Sep | -10,6 | 6,6 | 9,3 | -0,1 | 6,8 | 6,6 | 2,0 |
| Oct | -10,0 | 0,7 | 10,7 | 11,2 | 5,4 | -2,0 | 1,6 |
| Nov | -13,0 | 9,7 | 6,2 | 9,3 | 5,3 | -8,4 | 0,5 |
| Dec | -5,3 | 6,2 | 6,7 | 3,6 | 6,1 | -2,6 | 0,2 |
| Total | -9,5 | 2,7 | 6,5 | 8,2 | 5,8 | 0,2 | |

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

| Month | R million | | | | Month-on-month % change | | | |
|-------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------|------|------|------|
| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| Jan | 100 726 | 111 040 | 115 739 | 123 098 | -0,7 | 1,4 | -0,5 | 0,3 |
| Feb | 100 255 | 111 925 | 116 861 | 123 357 | -0,5 | 0,8 | 1,0 | 0,2 |
| Mar | 102 688 | 111 924 | 118 042 | 121 217 | 2,4 | 0,0 | 1,0 | -1,7 |
| Apr | 102 910 | 113 102 | 117 451 | 121 861 | 0,2 | 1,1 | -0,5 | 0,5 |
| May | 103 091 | 112 557 | 121 555 | 119 030 | 0,2 | -0,5 | 3,5 | -2,3 |
| Jun | 106 155 | 111 594 | 120 788 | 122 504 | 3,0 | -0,9 | -0,6 | 2,9 |
| Jul | 105 049 | 113 562 | 121 236 | 116 477 | -1,0 | 1,8 | 0,4 | -4,9 |
| Aug | 106 041 | 113 938 | 120 937 | 120 919 | 0,9 | 0,3 | -0,2 | 3,8 |
| Sep | 109 202 | 113 052 | 119 003 | 124 262 | 3,0 | -0,8 | -1,6 | 2,8 |
| Oct | 107 482 | 115 976 | 122 472 | 119 424 | -1,6 | 2,6 | 2,9 | -3,9 |
| Nov | 106 871 | 116 889 | 124 824 | 115 546 | -0,6 | 0,8 | 1,9 | -3,2 |
| Dec | 109 533 | 116 312 | 122 698 | 117 438 | 2,5 | -0,5 | -1,7 | 1,6 |

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

| Month | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 1/ |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Jan | 74 687 | 78 679 | 72 030 | 79 790 | 95 891 | 108 276 | 123 955 |
| Feb | 81 904 | 80 120 | 80 391 | 88 055 | 107 479 | 115 902 | 132 438 |
| Mar | 85 459 | 84 829 | 88 481 | 99 423 | 112 248 | 118 034 | 135 103 |
| Apr | 89 337 | 76 960 | 81 499 | 89 220 | 103 092 | 118 812 | 129 408 |
| May | 92 836 | 78 041 | 86 418 | 95 752 | 112 893 | 127 015 | 133 515 |
| Jun | 94 299 | 80 227 | 88 164 | 99 912 | 109 110 | 121 691 | 135 240 |
| Jul | 97 850 | 81 009 | 88 130 | 97 046 | 111 168 | 127 989 | 131 992 |
| Aug | 94 940 | 79 665 | 90 036 | 104 682 | 116 778 | 130 335 | 136 689 |
| Sep | 96 058 | 80 996 | 91 470 | 109 056 | 112 468 | 127 873 | 145 019 |
| Oct | 100 523 | 86 122 | 91 294 | 110 511 | 127 608 | 142 673 | 148 285 |
| Nov | 104 376 | 88 504 | 102 018 | 118 125 | 134 776 | 149 807 | 144 862 |
| Dec | 90 897 | 85 639 | 95 099 | 110 158 | 119 308 | 134 332 | 137 209 |
| Total | 1 103 166 | 980 791 | 1 055 030 | 1 201 730 | 1 362 819 | 1 522 739 | 1 633 715 |

1/ Latest month is preliminary.

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

| Month | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2014 year-to-date |
|--------------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|
| Jan | 5,3 | -8,5 | 10,8 | 20,2 | 12,9 | 14,5 | 14,5 |
| Feb | -2,2 | 0,3 | 9,5 | 22,1 | 7,8 | 14,3 | 14,4 |
| Mar | -0,7 | 4,3 | 12,4 | 12,9 | 5,2 | 14,5 | 14,4 |
| Apr | -13,9 | 5,9 | 9,5 | 15,5 | 15,2 | 8,9 | 13,0 |
| May | -15,9 | 10,7 | 10,8 | 17,9 | 12,5 | 5,1 | 11,3 |
| Jun | -14,9 | 9,9 | 13,3 | 9,2 | 11,5 | 11,1 | 11,3 |
| Jul | -17,2 | 8,8 | 10,1 | 14,6 | 15,1 | 3,1 | 10,0 |
| Aug | -16,1 | 13,0 | 16,3 | 11,6 | 11,6 | 4,9 | 9,3 |
| Sep | -15,7 | 12,9 | 19,2 | 3,1 | 13,7 | 13,4 | 9,8 |
| Oct | -14,3 | 6,0 | 21,0 | 15,5 | 11,8 | 3,9 | 9,1 |
| Nov | -15,2 | 15,3 | 15,8 | 14,1 | 11,2 | -3,3 | 7,8 |
| Dec | -5,8 | 11,0 | 15,8 | 8,3 | 12,6 | 2,1 | 7,3 |
| Total | -11,1 | 7,6 | 13,9 | 13,4 | 11,7 | 7,3 | |

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices

| Month | R million | | | | Month-on-month % change | | | |
|-------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------|------|------|------|
| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| Jan | 91 535 | 107 866 | 119 654 | 136 085 | -2,3 | -1,1 | 0,9 | 2,6 |
| Feb | 93 211 | 107 858 | 121 548 | 138 282 | 1,8 | 0,0 | 1,6 | 1,6 |
| Mar | 96 540 | 109 708 | 121 712 | 134 866 | 3,6 | 1,7 | 0,1 | -2,5 |
| Apr | 96 056 | 111 181 | 122 475 | 138 291 | -0,5 | 1,3 | 0,6 | 2,5 |
| May | 97 240 | 113 415 | 127 621 | 134 960 | 1,2 | 2,0 | 4,2 | -2,4 |
| Jun | 100 041 | 110 397 | 125 290 | 137 879 | 2,9 | -2,7 | -1,8 | 2,2 |
| Jul | 99 043 | 112 590 | 128 178 | 132 498 | -1,0 | 2,0 | 2,3 | -3,9 |
| Aug | 102 482 | 114 292 | 128 411 | 136 915 | 3,5 | 1,5 | 0,2 | 3,3 |
| Sep | 105 905 | 112 085 | 126 030 | 140 829 | 3,3 | -1,9 | -1,9 | 2,9 |
| Oct | 104 555 | 118 443 | 132 324 | 137 092 | -1,3 | 5,7 | 5,0 | -2,7 |
| Nov | 105 750 | 120 608 | 135 935 | 132 986 | 1,1 | 1,8 | 2,7 | -3,0 |
| Dec | 109 057 | 118 601 | 132 613 | 133 717 | 3,1 | -1,7 | -2,4 | 0,5 |

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

| Type of dealer | Jul-14 | Aug-14 | Sep-14 | Oct-14 | Nov-14 | Dec-14 1/ |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Fee or contract basis | 5 865 | 5 753 | 5 280 | 5 797 | 5 027 | 5 584 |
| Agricultural raw materials and livestock | 9 860 | 8 003 | 11 099 | 9 536 | 9 829 | 10 748 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco | 21 074 | 22 789 | 22 639 | 23 492 | 23 451 | 29 486 |
| Textiles, clothing and footwear | 3 323 | 3 372 | 4 059 | 4 055 | 4 007 | 2 662 |
| Other household goods except precious stones | 13 482 | 13 927 | 15 612 | 15 901 | 15 440 | 12 849 |
| Precious stones, jewellery and silverware | 2 692 | 2 562 | 2 724 | 3 146 | 2 558 | 2 367 |
| Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products | 31 810 | 31 446 | 30 847 | 30 501 | 29 645 | 27 433 |
| Metals and metal ores | 2 439 | 4 064 | 4 372 | 4 728 | 4 189 | 2 156 |
| Construction and building materials | 7 119 | 8 268 | 8 801 | 9 582 | 9 665 | 5 642 |
| Other intermediate products, waste and scrap | 4 781 | 5 611 | 6 477 | 6 877 | 6 685 | 5 996 |
| Machinery, equipment and supplies | 18 690 | 20 150 | 21 937 | 22 729 | 21 027 | 19 688 |
| Other goods | 10 858 | 10 745 | 11 172 | 11 941 | 13 340 | 12 598 |
| Total | 131 992 | 136 689 | 145 019 | 148 285 | 144 862 | 137 209 |

1/ Preliminary.

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

| Type of dealer | Jul-14 | Aug-14 | Sep-14 | Oct-14 | Nov-14 | Dec-14 |
|--|------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Fee or contract basis | 10,5 | 22,7 | 0,5 | -0,9 | -17,0 | 3,9 |
| Agricultural raw materials and livestock | 0,1 | -10,0 | 17,7 | 0,1 | -4,9 | 7,4 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco | 12,6 | 5,8 | 9,8 | 9,9 | 1,5 | 5,5 |
| Textiles, clothing and footwear | 14,9 | -0,6 | 15,0 | 7,7 | -14,1 | -1,7 |
| Other household goods except precious stones | 8,3 | 12,7 | 16,7 | 6,9 | 0,6 | 12,6 |
| Precious stones, jewellery and silverware | 20,7 | 21,1 | -5,7 | 2,1 | -31,0 | 17,8 |
| Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products | 11,2 | 7,3 | 18,1 | -1,3 | -6,0 | -11,1 |
| Metals and metal ores | -42,7 | 3,9 | 26,9 | 13,2 | -2,1 | -10,4 |
| Construction and building materials | -4,1 | 7,7 | 18,9 | 3,6 | 15,7 | -2,0 |
| Other intermediate products, waste and scrap | -0,7 | 8,6 | 20,1 | 5,2 | 4,5 | 29,0 |
| Machinery, equipment and supplies | -9,7 | 1,8 | 9,6 | 4,4 | -9,0 | 3,8 |
| Other goods | 1,1 | -6,7 | 7,5 | 3,1 | 3,2 | 2,7 |
| Total | 3,1 | 4,9 | 13,4 | 3,9 | -3,3 | 2,1 |

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

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 2014 business sampling frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered at the South African Revenue Service (SARS) for value added tax (VAT) and income tax (IT). Stats SA continuously updates its BSF, which is linked to the SARS administrative data.
 - 2 In order to improve timeliness, some information for the latest month had to be estimated due to late response. These estimates will be revised in future statistical releases as soon as information becomes available. Published wholesale trade sales estimates exclude VAT.
- Purpose of the survey**
- 3 The results of the monthly wholesale trade sales survey are used to compile estimates of the gross domestic product (GDP) and its components, which are used in monitoring the state of the economy and formulation of economic policy. These statistics are also used in the analysis of comparative business and industry performance.
- Scope of the survey**
- 4 This survey covers wholesale enterprises according to the following types of dealers:
 - Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis – sales by commission agents, commodity brokers, auctioneers and 'other' wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis;
 - Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock;
 - Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco;
 - Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear;
 - Wholesale trade in 'other' household goods except precious stones. This group includes wholesale trade in household furniture, requisites and appliances, wholesale trade in books and stationery, wholesale trade in pharmaceuticals and toiletries and wholesale trade in 'other' household goods not elsewhere classified;
 - Wholesale trade in precious stones, jewellery and silverware;
 - Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products;
 - Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores;
 - Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies;
 - Wholesale trade in 'other' intermediate products, waste and scrap;
 - Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies; and
 - Wholesale trade in 'other' goods. This group covers general wholesale trade and 'other' wholesale trade not classified elsewhere.
- Classification**
- 5 The 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities* (SIC), Fifth Edition, Report No, 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 *International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities* (ISIC) with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Each enterprise is classified to the industry which reflects its predominant activity. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC four digit level.
- Collection rate**
- 6 The preliminary collection rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for December 2014 was 88,4%. The improved collection rate for November 2014 was 89,6%.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Statistical unit | 7 | The statistical unit for which information is compiled and published is the enterprise, defined as a legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities. The statistical units are derived from and linked to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) administrative data. |
| Revised figures | 8 | Revised figures are mainly due to late submission of data to Stats SA, or respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures. Preliminary figures, as indicated in the relevant tables, are subject to change and when revised will not be indicated as such. |
| Related publications | 9 | Users may also refer to the following publications available from Stats SA: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Bulletin of Statistics</i> issued quarterly;• <i>Stats in Brief</i> issued annually; and• <i>South African Statistics</i> issued annually. |
| Rounding-off of figures | 10 | Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals. |
| Historical data | 11 | Historical wholesale trade sales data are available on the Stats SA website. To access the data electronically, use the following link: http://beta2.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=1849 |
| Past publications | 12 | Past wholesale trade sales releases are available on the Stats SA website. To access the releases electronically, use the following link: http://beta2.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=1866&PPN=P6141.2&SCH=5717 |

Technical notes

Survey methodology and design

- 1 The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of 1 090 enterprises from a population of 18 776 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within 10 days after the end of the reference month. Email, fax and telephone reminders are used to follow up on non-respondents.
- 2 A stratified random sample was drawn at the SIC four-digit level in April 2014 from Stats SA's business sampling frame (BSF). Strata were formed using a combination of Standard Industrial Classification and the measure of size classes for enterprises (see point 3 below).

The Neyman optimal allocation formula given below was used to allocate samples to each stratum:

$$n_h = n * (N_h * S_h) / [\sum (N_i * S_i)] .$$

Neyman allocation formula not only allocates sample sizes to each stratum but also calculates the relative precision for each stratum as well as the relative precision for all strata. The relative precision for these strata was 6,0%.

Class limits

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

Measure of size classes (Rand)

| Enterprise size | Size group | Lower limits | Upper limits |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Very small | 4 | 1 913 788 | 27 000 000 |
| Small | 3 | 27 000 001 | 128 000 000 |
| Medium | 2 | 144 000 001 | 288 000 000 |
| Large | 1 | 288 000 001 | |

Sample weighting

- 4 For those strata not completely enumerated, the weights to produce estimates are the inverse ratio of the sampling fraction, modified to take account of non-response in the survey. Stratum estimates are calculated and then aggregated with the completely enumerated stratum to form group estimates. These procedures are consistent with international best practice.

Seasonal adjustment

- 5 Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month using the X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the US Bureau of the Census, 1968. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month. Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variations. Therefore, the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour. The X-12-ARIMA procedure for wholesale trade sales is described in more detail on the Stats SA website:

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

- Trend cycle** 6 The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimates of the underlying trend cycle.
- Constant prices** 7 Stats SA compiles its monthly estimates of wholesale trade sales at current prices from a survey of wholesalers in the formal sector. For January 1998 to December 2011, wholesale trade sales at constant prices were calculated using the 'all groups' PPI for domestic output, but excluding electricity and other utilities.
- From January 2012, wholesale trade sales at constant prices are compiled in three stages:
- (1) Deflate sales of dealers in agricultural raw materials and livestock using the PPI for agriculture.
 - (2) Deflate sales of dealers in food, beverages and tobacco using the PPI for food products, beverages and tobacco.
 - (3) Deflate the remaining wholesale trade sales with the headline PPI (final manufacturing) excluding the PPIs for food products, beverages and tobacco; and transport equipment.
- Total wholesale trade sales at constant prices is obtained by aggregating (1), (2) and (3).
- Reliability of estimates** 8 Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all enterprises in the wholesale industry in South Africa. Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.
- 9 Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in the collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by careful design of questionnaires, testing them in pilot studies, editing reported data and implementing efficient operating procedures. Fluctuations may occur in consecutive months as a result of seasonal and economic factors.
- Month-on-month percentage change** 10 The month-on-month percentage change in a variable for any given month is the change between that month and the previous month, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
- Year-on-year percentage change** 11 The year-on-year percentage change in a variable for any given period is the change between that period and the corresponding period of the previous year, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
- Contribution (percentage points)** 12 The contribution (percentage points) to the year-on-year percentage change is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of wholesaler by its corresponding weight, divided by 100. The weight is the percentage contribution of each type of wholesaler to total wholesale trade sales in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Glossary

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

Industry An industry is made up of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the *System of National Accounts (SNA)* in the same way as in the *Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities*, Fifth Edition, Report No, 09-90-02 of January 1993 (SIC).

Symbols and abbreviations

| | |
|----------|---|
| BSF | Business sampling frame |
| GDP | Gross domestic product |
| ISIC | International Standard Industrial Classification |
| SIC | Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities |
| SARS | South African Revenue Service |
| Stats SA | Statistics South Africa |
| VAT | Value added tax |

Wholesale trade Wholesale trade includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to other wholesalers, retailers, agricultural, industrial, commercial, institutional and professional users either directly or through agents on a fee or contract basis.

Wholesaler A wholesaler is an enterprise deriving 50% or more of its turnover from sales of goods to other businesses and institutions.

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