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**Sales at constant 2012 prices: results for December 2016**

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

	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-1,4	4,4	3,7	-0,1	2,4	3,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,6	-1,4	2,2	-0,9	-0,7	2,6
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	-0,4	-0,8	0,0	-0,4	0,6	0,5

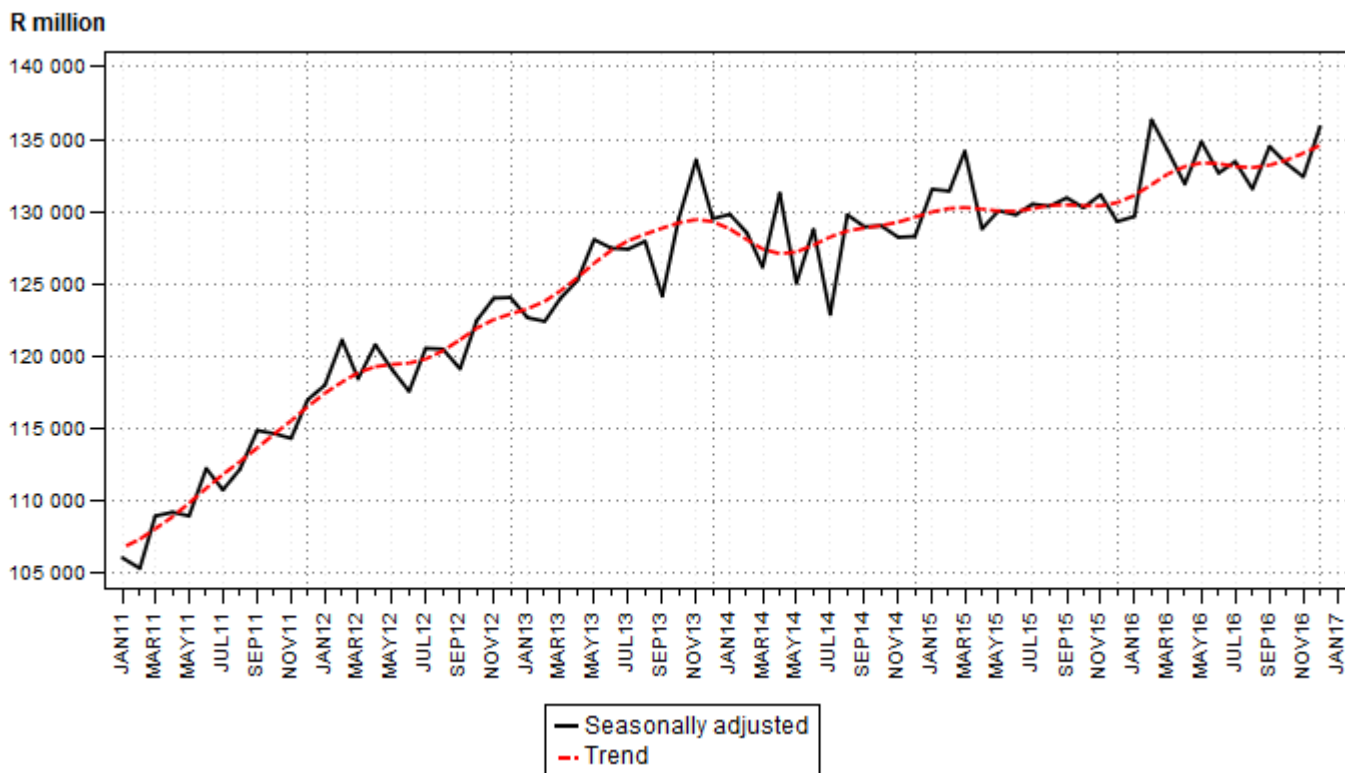
1/ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Measured in real terms (constant 2012 prices), wholesale trade sales increased by 2,0% in 2016 compared with 2015. In December 2016 wholesale trade sales increased by 3,9% year-on-year.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 2,6% in December 2016 compared with November 2016. This followed month-on-month changes of -0,7% in November 2016 and -0,9% in October 2016.

In the last quarter of 2016, seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 0,5% compared with the previous quarter.

**Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices**



## Sales at current prices: results for December 2016

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

	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	5,3	11,0	10,0	4,9	9,1	11,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,9	-2,7	2,8	-1,7	1,4	2,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	1,8	1,3	1,6	-0,4	0,8	0,9

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 11,0% in December 2016 compared with December 2015. The main contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- machinery, equipment and supplies (28,4% and contributing 3,4 percentage points);
- 'other' household goods except precious stones (17,6% and contributing 2,1 percentage points); and
- agricultural raw materials and livestock (28,3% and contributing 2,0 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 2015 (R million)	Weight	Oct – Dec 2016 (R million)	% change between Oct – Dec 2015 and Oct – Dec 2016	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Fee or contract basis	17 557	3,7	18 157	3,4	0,1
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	28 430	6,0	41 008	44,2	2,7
Food, beverages and tobacco	81 614	17,2	86 493	6,0	1,0
Textiles, clothing and footwear	12 710	2,7	10 048	-20,9	-0,6
Other household goods except precious stones	63 777	13,4	68 040	6,7	0,9
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	8 455	1,8	11 227	32,8	0,6
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	94 635	19,9	94 996	0,4	0,1
Metals and metal ores	9 775	2,1	11 055	13,1	0,3
Construction and building materials	29 407	6,2	32 111	9,2	0,6
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	21 317	4,5	25 700	20,6	0,9
Machinery, equipment and supplies	61 576	13,0	70 396	14,3	1,9
Other goods	45 155	9,5	44 465	-1,5	-0,1
<b>Total</b>	<b>474 408</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>513 694</b>	<b>8,3</b>	<b>8,3</b>

Wholesale trade sales increased by 8,3% in the last quarter of 2016 compared with the last quarter of 2015. The main contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- agricultural raw materials and livestock (44,2% and contributing 2,7 percentage points);
- machinery, equipment and supplies (14,3% and contributing 1,9 percentage points); and
- food, beverages and tobacco (6,0% and contributing 1,0 percentage point) – see Table C.

**PJ Lehohla**  
Statistician-General

## Tables

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

Month	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 1/
Jan	87 179	92 663	105 109	111 363	118 637	118 634	114 443
Feb	97 014	100 648	116 640	118 515	125 183	128 746	135 055
Mar	106 324	112 482	120 977	119 226	126 221	136 854	134 307
Apr	96 852	100 834	110 208	120 638	120 128	117 267	123 136
May	102 674	107 913	119 774	129 326	124 611	126 921	133 689
Jun	104 127	112 249	116 408	122 847	126 528	130 235	132 474
Jul	104 556	107 921	119 090	128 360	123 522	131 801	129 938
Aug	106 486	115 190	123 738	129 266	127 988	128 209	133 906
Sep	108 628	118 765	118 391	126 283	134 558	136 407	141 495
Oct	108 395	119 965	132 915	140 263	140 319	139 557	139 455
Nov	120 274	127 767	139 155	146 900	136 909	142 364	145 730
Dec	111 776	119 221	123 279	130 511	131 421	131 867	137 018
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 254 285</b>	<b>1 335 618</b>	<b>1 445 684</b>	<b>1 523 498</b>	<b>1 536 025</b>	<b>1 568 862</b>	<b>1 600 646</b>

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

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

Month	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016 year-to-date
Jan	6,3	13,4	6,0	6,5	0,0	-3,5	-3,5
Feb	3,7	15,9	1,6	5,6	2,8	4,9	0,9
Mar	5,8	7,6	-1,4	5,9	8,4	-1,9	-0,1
Apr	4,1	9,3	9,5	-0,4	-2,4	5,0	1,1
May	5,1	11,0	8,0	-3,6	1,9	5,3	1,9
Jun	7,8	3,7	5,5	3,0	2,9	1,7	1,9
Jul	3,2	10,3	7,8	-3,8	6,7	-1,4	1,4
Aug	8,2	7,4	4,5	-1,0	0,2	4,4	1,8
Sep	9,3	-0,3	6,7	6,6	1,4	3,7	2,0
Oct	10,7	10,8	5,5	0,0	-0,5	-0,1	1,8
Nov	6,2	8,9	5,6	-6,8	4,0	2,4	1,9
Dec	6,7	3,4	5,9	0,7	0,3	3,9	2,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,5</b>	<b>8,2</b>	<b>5,4</b>	<b>0,8</b>	<b>2,1</b>	<b>2,0</b>	

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

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016
Jan	122 675	129 818	131 554	129 674	-1,1	0,2	2,5	0,3
Feb	122 431	128 526	131 426	136 346	-0,2	-1,0	-0,1	5,1
Mar	124 012	126 174	134 184	134 243	1,3	-1,8	2,1	-1,5
Apr	125 263	131 281	128 819	131 913	1,0	4,0	-4,0	-1,7
May	128 072	125 060	130 069	134 829	2,2	-4,7	1,0	2,2
Jun	127 482	128 785	129 790	132 670	-0,5	3,0	-0,2	-1,6
Jul	127 413	122 911	130 526	133 461	-0,1	-4,6	0,6	0,6
Aug	127 952	129 786	130 383	131 578	0,4	5,6	-0,1	-1,4
Sep	124 170	128 961	130 963	134 508	-3,0	-0,6	0,4	2,2
Oct	129 563	129 030	130 276	133 342	4,3	0,1	-0,5	-0,9
Nov	133 580	128 234	131 178	132 419	3,1	-0,6	0,7	-0,7
Dec	129 520	128 296	129 320	135 874	-3,0	0,0	-1,4	2,6

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

Month	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 1/
Jan	76 410	84 641	101 722	114 859	131 492	125 680	133 098
Feb	85 279	93 410	114 014	122 949	140 490	137 524	158 879
Mar	93 860	105 468	119 073	125 211	143 318	150 639	157 241
Apr	86 454	94 645	109 361	126 036	136 712	131 284	146 476
May	91 672	101 573	119 758	134 739	141 686	142 464	158 850
Jun	93 525	105 987	115 745	129 090	143 972	147 961	159 729
Jul	93 489	102 947	117 927	135 770	140 908	149 629	157 523
Aug	95 511	111 047	123 879	138 260	145 685	145 049	161 022
Sep	97 032	115 687	119 307	135 648	153 350	154 014	169 430
Oct	96 845	117 231	135 367	151 348	159 082	160 088	167 975
Nov	108 221	125 308	142 970	158 916	153 742	163 571	178 458
Dec	100 882	116 855	126 561	142 500	145 241	150 749	167 261
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 119 180</b>	<b>1 274 799</b>	<b>1 445 684</b>	<b>1 615 326</b>	<b>1 735 678</b>	<b>1 758 652</b>	<b>1 915 942</b>

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

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

Month	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016 year-to-date
Jan	10,8	20,2	12,9	14,5	-4,4	5,9	5,9
Feb	9,5	22,1	7,8	14,3	-2,1	15,5	10,9
Mar	12,4	12,9	5,2	14,5	5,1	4,4	8,5
Apr	9,5	15,5	15,2	8,5	-4,0	11,6	9,3
May	10,8	17,9	12,5	5,2	0,5	11,5	9,7
Jun	13,3	9,2	11,5	11,5	2,8	8,0	9,4
Jul	10,1	14,6	15,1	3,8	6,2	5,3	8,8
Aug	16,3	11,6	11,6	5,4	-0,4	11,0	9,1
Sep	19,2	3,1	13,7	13,0	0,4	10,0	9,2
Oct	21,1	15,5	11,8	5,1	0,6	4,9	8,7
Nov	15,8	14,1	11,2	-3,3	6,4	9,1	8,8
Dec	15,8	8,3	12,6	1,9	3,8	11,0	8,9
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,9</b>	<b>13,4</b>	<b>11,7</b>	<b>7,5</b>	<b>1,3</b>	<b>8,9</b>	

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

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016
Jan	128 102	146 535	141 921	153 834	1,0	3,8	-0,1	4,1
Feb	128 682	146 414	142 660	159 215	0,5	-0,1	0,5	3,5
Mar	128 446	141 880	147 977	157 649	-0,2	-3,1	3,7	-1,0
Apr	130 319	147 885	141 708	155 452	1,5	4,2	-4,2	-1,4
May	134 036	142 237	145 239	159 766	2,9	-3,8	2,5	2,8
Jun	132 941	145 562	147 231	159 124	-0,8	2,3	1,4	-0,4
Jul	136 405	141 746	149 733	162 131	2,6	-2,6	1,7	1,9
Aug	136 299	146 065	145 482	157 733	-0,1	3,0	-2,8	-2,7
Sep	133 367	148 052	149 143	162 131	-2,2	1,4	2,5	2,8
Oct	139 862	146 490	148 972	159 351	4,9	-1,1	-0,1	-1,7
Nov	143 952	141 738	148 622	161 556	2,9	-3,2	-0,2	1,4
Dec	141 209	142 098	147 762	165 350	-1,9	0,3	-0,6	2,3

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

Type of dealer	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16 1/
Fee or contract basis	6 408	5 202	7 100	5 856	6 229	6 072
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	14 260	13 455	14 066	12 487	15 082	13 439
Food, beverages and tobacco	23 178	26 662	27 423	25 558	27 175	33 760
Textiles, clothing and footwear	3 083	3 801	4 392	3 607	4 056	2 385
Other household goods except precious stones	18 736	19 888	22 283	22 363	24 384	21 293
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	2 402	3 440	4 543	3 889	4 593	2 745
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	31 064	29 254	29 758	31 776	30 761	32 459
Metals and metal ores	3 704	3 859	3 938	3 810	4 613	2 632
Construction and building materials	10 604	10 894	12 258	12 095	12 868	7 148
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	6 114	7 349	7 908	8 795	9 588	7 317
Machinery, equipment and supplies	24 722	21 855	22 331	23 729	23 771	22 896
Other goods	13 247	15 362	13 430	14 011	15 339	15 115
<b>Total</b>	<b>157 523</b>	<b>161 022</b>	<b>169 430</b>	<b>167 975</b>	<b>178 458</b>	<b>167 261</b>

1/ Figures are preliminary.

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

Type of dealer	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16
Fee or contract basis	3,5	-11,0	11,4	-11,9	19,0	7,0
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	80,6	78,9	69,1	67,7	43,5	28,3
Food, beverages and tobacco	7,7	18,1	17,5	-0,4	11,8	6,6
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-18,0	-11,7	-5,5	-29,1	-20,9	-4,4
Other household goods except precious stones	-6,3	1,8	3,8	2,5	2,2	17,6
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	-30,2	72,3	85,6	33,6	35,1	28,0
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	-9,9	-3,9	-7,6	0,9	-0,2	0,5
Metals and metal ores	-15,6	-11,1	4,7	-2,2	25,2	20,0
Construction and building materials	2,9	16,2	22,5	12,5	10,2	2,3
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	-3,3	22,8	12,1	14,1	25,3	22,8
Machinery, equipment and supplies	33,4	7,1	2,6	7,1	10,1	28,4
Other goods	3,5	20,7	6,3	-3,5	-2,4	1,3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,3</b>	<b>11,0</b>	<b>10,0</b>	<b>4,9</b>	<b>9,1</b>	<b>11,0</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-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16
Fee or contract basis	0,1	-0,4	0,5	-0,5	0,6	0,3
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	4,3	4,1	3,7	3,2	2,8	2,0
Food, beverages and tobacco	1,1	2,8	2,7	-0,1	1,8	1,4
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-0,5	-0,4	-0,2	-0,9	-0,6	-0,1
Other household goods except precious stones	-0,8	0,2	0,5	0,3	0,3	2,1
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	-0,7	1,0	1,4	0,6	0,7	0,4
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	-2,3	-0,8	-1,6	0,2	0,0	0,1
Metals and metal ores	-0,5	-0,3	0,1	-0,1	0,6	0,3
Construction and building materials	0,2	1,1	1,5	0,8	0,7	0,1
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	-0,1	0,9	0,6	0,7	1,2	0,9
Machinery, equipment and supplies	4,1	1,0	0,4	1,0	1,3	3,4
Other goods	0,3	1,8	0,5	-0,3	-0,2	0,1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,3</b>	<b>11,0</b>	<b>10,0</b>	<b>4,9</b>	<b>9,1</b>	<b>11,0</b>

## 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 2016 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 2016 was 86,9%. The improved collection rate for November 2016 was 90,0%.



<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 publication available from Stats SA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Stats in Brief</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 website. To access the data electronically, use the following link: <a href="#">Click to download historical data</a>
<b>Past publications</b>	<b>12</b>	Past wholesale trade sales releases are available on the Stats SA website. To access the releases electronically, use the following link: <a href="#">Click to download past releases</a>

## Technical notes

### Survey methodology and design

- 1 The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of 1 257 enterprises from a population of 19 401 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 2016 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 7,0%.

### 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	2 201 028	27 000 000
Small	3	27 000 001	144 000 000
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. 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 July 2016](#)

### 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 as follows:
- (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 final manufacturing PPI for food products, beverages and tobacco.
  - (3) Deflate sales of dealers in textiles, clothing and footwear using the final manufacturing PPI for textiles, clothing and footwear.
  - (4) Deflate sales of dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products using the final manufacturing PPI for coal and petroleum products.
  - (5) Deflate sales of dealers in machinery, equipment and supplies using the final manufacturing PPIs for general and special purpose machinery; household appliances and office machinery; and electrical machinery and apparatus and subcomponents.
  - (6) Deflate the remaining wholesale trade sales using the headline PPI (final manufacturing) excluding the PPIs for food products, beverages and tobacco; textiles, clothing and footwear; coal and petroleum products; general and special purpose machinery; household appliances and office machinery; electrical machinery and apparatus and subcomponents; and transport equipment. The PPI for transport equipment is excluded because it measures producer prices of motor vehicles, which are not included in wholesale trade.
- Total wholesale trade sales at constant prices is obtained by aggregating (1) to (6).
- 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 (SIC)*, Fifth Edition, Report No, 09-90-02 of January 1993.

<b>Symbols and abbreviations</b>	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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