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# Wholesale trade sales Preliminary: February 2006

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Table A - Key figures as at the end of February 2006

Estimates	February 2006 R million	% change between February 2005 and February 2006	% change between December 2004 to February 2005 and December 2005 to February 2006	% change between January to February 2005 and January to February 2006	
Wholesale trade sales					
at current prices	47 780	+16,3	+10,9	+13,7	
at constant 2000 prices	35 577	+10,6	+5,5	+8,0	

Seasonally adjusted estimates	February 2006 R million	% change between January and February 2006	% change between September to November 2005 and December 2005 to February 2006	
Wholesale trade sales				
at current prices	49 980	-1,5	-0,5	
at constant 2000 prices	37 086	-1,2	-1,3	

### Key findings as at the end of February 2006

### Wholesale trade sales increase in real terms

As indicated in table A, wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the three months up to February 2006 increased by 5,5% compared with the three months up to February 2005. However, seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the three months up to February 2006 decreased by 1,3% compared with the three months up to November 2005.

Wholesale trade sales at constant (2000) prices, for the month of February 2006 increased by 10,6% compared with February 2005.

Wholesale trade sales at constant (2000) prices, for the first two months of 2006 increased by 8,0% compared with the first two months of 2005.

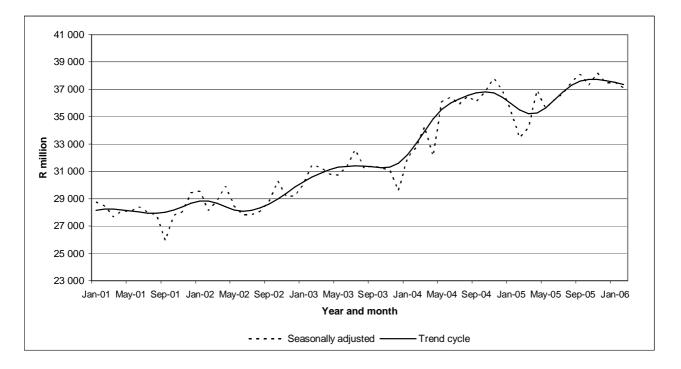
### Wholesale trade sales increase at current prices

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for the three months up to February 2006 increased by 10,9% compared with the same period in 2005.

Wholesale trade sales at current prices, for the first two months of 2006 increased by 13,7% compared with the first two months of 2005.

Figure 1 below shows the seasonally adjusted and trend patterns for wholesale trade sales at constant (2000) prices between January 2001 and February 2006. The trend cycle showed a gradual upward trend from January 2001 until the beginning of 2004. Thereafter, the trend cycle started to increase sharply until October 2004. It then showed a slight decline at the beginning of 2005, it assumed an upward trend until the end of 2005 and has started declining.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales (at constant 2000 prices)



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### Notes

Forthcoming issue	Issue	Expected release date
	March 2006	8 June 2006
Purpose of the survey	estimates of the Groused in monitoring the	monthly wholesale trade sales survey are used to compile ss Domestic Product (GDP) and its components, which are ne state of the economy and formulation of economic policy. Iso used in the analysis of comparative business and industry
Response Rate	The preliminary responsible 2006 is 91,1%.	onse rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for February

### **Detailed results**

Outlined below in table 1 are wholesale trade sales according to type of dealer.

Table 1 - Total wholesale trade sales according to type of dealer at current prices (R million)

Year	Month 1/	Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D	Type E	Type F	Type G	Type H	Type I	Type J	Type K	Type L	Total 2/
2005	January	1 005	2 510	8 087	782	3 495	1 467	6 149	1 423	2 354	1 402	6 286	4 284	39 244
	February	1 176	2 445	8 358	1 080	3 597	810	6 737	1 673	2 642	1 343	7 268	3 968	41 097
	March	1 252	2 016	8 642	1 181	4 169	1 783	7 367	1 610	2 705	1 484	7 242	4 432	43 883
	April	1 234	2 018	9 034	1 159	4 234	1 766	7 843	1 656	2 901	1 399	7 501	4 370	45 115
	May	1 618	2 000	9 350	1 068	4 380	2 040	7 952	1 809	3 044	1 492	7 704	4 489	46 946
	June	1 866	2 214	9 277	994	4 437	1 838	9 488	1 730	2 977	1 716	7 695	4 404	48 637
	July	2 042	2 034	9 834	1 094	4 581	973	9 322	1 797	3 267	1 544	7 346	4 711	48 546
	August	1 891	2 129	8 856	1 296	4 864	1 385	10 011	1 887	3 272	1 613	7 858	4 876	49 938
	September	1 690	2 107	9 382	1 418	5 118	1 987	10 066	1 900	3 308	1 786	8 399	4 723	51 883
	October	1 932	2 203	10 016	1 498	5 682	2 043	10 261	1 879	3 376	1 835	8 104	4 827	53 655
	November	2 225	2 831	10 244	1 616	6 552	2 132	9 604	2 127	3 742	1 977	8 737	5 681	57 468
	December	1 977	2 454	11 814	1 016	5 384	1 575	9 301	1 237	2 267	1 327	6 644	4 746	49 741
	Total	19 908	26 961	112 894	14 202	56 493	19 799	104 101	20 728	35 855	18 918	90 784	55 511	576 153
2006	January	1 438	2 290	9 548	808	4 622	409	8 180	1 554	2 478	1 423	7 017	3 802	43 569
	February	1 536	2 195	9 292	1 120	5 335	1 360	8 310	1 932	2 975	1 590	7 568	4 569	47 780

<sup>1/</sup> Preliminary

### Description of type of dealers included in indicated group types in table 1 $\ensuremath{\nu}$

Group type	Type of dealers included in group type
Type A	Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis
Туре В	Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock
Type C	Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco
Type D	Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear
Type E	Wholesale trade in other household goods except precious stones
Type F	Wholesale trade in precious stones, jewellery and silverware
Type G	Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products
Туре Н	Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores
Type I	Wholesale trade in construction and building materials
Type J	Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap
Type K	Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies
Type L	Wholesale trade in other goods

1/ See note 3 on page 9

<sup>2/</sup> The figures have been rounded off. Therefore, discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and the totals

Tables 2 and 3 show wholesale trade sales at current prices over the period January 1999 to February 2006. Table 4 shows seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices over the same period.

Table 2 - Total wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million)

Month	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 1/	2006 1/
January	19 818	22 440	27 046	30 828	33 506	35 074	39 244	43 569
February	21 588	25 155	29 117	32 484	38 329	39 615	41 097	47 780
March	22 006	27 377	29 161	34 550	39 429	42 886	43 883	
April	21 597	25 264	28 324	34 422	36 551	38 300	45 115	
May	22 380	27 145	30 066	35 064	38 634	46 230	46 946	
June	22 518	27 220	30 596	34 449	39 913	47 606	48 637	
July	22 860	26 339	29 621	33 911	40 674	45 604	48 546	
August	25 097	27 858	30 184	34 951	39 039	46 515	49 938	
September	25 594	27 877	28 865	36 672	39 886	47 056	51 883	
October	24 635	30 104	33 059	41 151	42 004	50 934	53 655	
November	27 583	31 014	34 233	40 608	42 887	54 290	57 468	
December	25 679	29 191	33 289	36 857	36 656	46 840	49 741	
Total	281 355	326 984	363 561	425 947	467 508	540 950	576 153	

1/ Preliminary

Table 3 - Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at current prices  $\ensuremath{\scriptscriptstyle{1/2}}$ 

Month	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
January	5,5	13,2	20,5	14,0	8,7	4,7	11,9	11,0
February	6,0	16,5	15,8	11,6	18,0	3,4	3,7	16,3
March	3,5	24,4	6,5	18,5	14,1	8,8	2,3	
April	4,8	17,0	12,1	21,5	6,2	4,8	17,8	
May	7,0	21,3	10,8	16,6	10,2	19,7	1,5	
June	5,0	20,9	12,4	12,6	15,9	19,3	2,2	
July	3,6	15,2	12,5	14,5	19,9	12,1	6,5	
August	12,2	11,0	8,3	15,8	11,7	19,2	7,4	
September	10,0	8,9	3,5	27,0	8,8	18,0	10,3	
October	4,0	22,2	9,8	24,5	2,1	21,3	5,3	
November	18,2	12,4	10,4	18,6	5,6	26,6	5,9	
December	18,0	13,7	14,0	10,7	-0,5	27,8	6,2	
Total	8,3	16,2	11,2	17,2	9,8	15,7	6,5	

<sup>1/</sup> The percentage change is the difference between wholesale trade sales of the relevant year and those of the previous year expressed as a percentage

Table 4 - Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million)

Month	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
January	21 934	24 789	29 978	34 397	37 811	40 074	45 367	50 720
February	22 127	25 730	29 830	33 303	39 562	41 049	42 849	49 980
March	21 884	27 202	28 921	34 349	39 279	42 945	43 937	
April	22 534	26 430	29 757	36 256	38 526	40 387	47 578	
May	22 507	27 200	29 975	34 836	38 268	45 819	46 510	
June	22 643	27 284	30 491	34 072	39 233	46 629	47 508	
July	23 326	26 934	30 325	34 625	41 333	46 105	48 944	
August	24 830	27 686	30 160	35 024	39 149	46 543	49 870	
September	25 179	27 430	28 462	36 132	39 237	46 127	50 821	
October	23 027	28 103	30 788	38 305	38 998	47 282	49 804	
November	25 503	28 599	31 390	36 947	38 654	48 590	51 246	
December	25 517	29 033	33 233	36 927	36 898	47 346	50 411	

Tables 5 and 6 show wholesale trade sales at constant prices over the period January 1999 to February 2006. Table 7 shows seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant prices over the same period.

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

Month	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 1/	2006 1/
January	22 032	23 351	25 930	26 541	26 709	28 138	30 828	32 490
February	23 880	26 027	27 783	27 413	30 493	31 604	32 170	35 577
March	24 169	28 209	27 759	28 900	31 367	34 240	34 164	
April	23 681	25 596	26 695	28 319	29 089	30 289	34 838	
May	24 234	27 406	28 125	28 635	31 082	36 517	36 071	
June	24 343	27 329	28 422	28 019	31 689	36 990	36 818	
July	24 542	26 299	27 363	27 293	32 090	35 476	36 350	
August	26 813	27 514	27 679	27 860	30 922	36 156	37 225	
September	27 330	27 424	26 470	29 255	31 973	36 835	38 907	
October	26 165	29 428	29 891	32 608	33 684	39 683	40 221	
November	29 111	29 994	30 592	32 076	34 517	42 266	42 855	
December	26 973	28 123	29 590	29 228	29 466	36 637	37 065	
Total	303 273	326 700	336 299	346 147	373 081	424 831	437 512	

<sup>1/</sup> Preliminary

Table 6 - Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices  $\nu$ 

Month	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
January	0,9	6,0	11,0	2,4	0,6	5,4	9,6	5,4
February	0,6	9,0	6,7	-1,3	11,2	3,6	1,8	10,6
March	-2,5	16,7	-1,6	4,1	8,5	9,2	-0,2	
April	-0,3	8,1	4,3	6,1	2,7	4,1	15,0	
May	1,0	13,1	2,6	1,8	8,5	17,5	-1,2	
June	-1,0	12,3	4,0	-1,4	13,1	16,7	-0,5	
July	-1,6	7,2	4,0	-0,3	17,6	10,6	2,5	
August	7,4	2,6	0,6	0,7	11,0	16,9	3,0	
September	5,7	0,3	-3,5	10,5	9,3	15,2	5,6	
October	-1,0	12,5	1,6	9,1	3,3	17,8	1,4	
November	11,9	3,0	2,0	4,9	7,6	22,4	1,4	
December	10,8	4,3	5,2	-1,2	0,8	24,3	1,2	
Total	2,7	7,7	2,9	2,9	7,8	13,9	3,0	

<sup>1/</sup> The percentage change is the difference between wholesale trade sales of the relevant year and those of the previous year expressed as a percentage

Table 7 - Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million)

Month	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
January	24 435	25 827	28 747	29 561	30 034	31 968	35 394	37 535
February	24 465	26 634	28 491	28 130	31 484	32 719	33 461	37 086
March	24 164	28 173	27 656	28 809	31 267	34 249	34 161	
April	24 751	26 822	28 098	29 910	30 779	32 094	36 934	
May	24 438	27 524	28 073	28 435	30 724	36 069	35 586	
June	24 471	27 412	28 379	27 812	31 290	36 427	36 182	
July	25 090	26 905	27 991	27 835	32 602	35 885	36 668	
August	26 684	27 498	27 804	28 082	31 219	36 474	37 508	
September	26 562	26 728	25 937	28 725	31 396	36 071	38 092	
October	24 410	27 404	27 768	30 284	31 219	36 789	37 295	
November	26 904	27 635	28 030	29 152	31 086	37 797	38 182	
December	26 710	27 877	29 448	29 189	29 564	36 907	37 437	

Outlined below in tables 8.1 and 8.2 are the percentage changes in wholesale trade sales at current prices, constant (2000) prices and seasonally adjusted estimates.

### Table 8 – Estimates and percentage changes in total wholesale trade sales

Table 8.1 - Quarterly and cumulative estimates and percentage changes

Estimates	December 2004 to February 2005 R million	December 2005 to February 2006 R million	% change between December 2004 to February 2005 and December 2005 to February 2006	January to February 2005 R million	January to February 2006 R million	% change between January to February 2005 and January to February 2006
Wholesale trade sales						
at current prices	127 181	141 090	+10,9	80 341	91 349	+13,7
at constant 2000 prices	99 635	105 132	+5,5	62 998	68 067	+8,0

Table 8.2 - Seasonally adjusted estimates with monthly and quarterly percentage changes.

Seasonally adjusted estimates	January 2006 R million	February 2006 R million	% change between January and February 2006	September to November 2005 R million	December 2005 to February 2006 R million	% change between September to November 2005 and December 2005 to February 2006
Wholesale trade sales						
at current prices	50 720	49 980	-1,5	151 871	151 111	-0,5
at constant 2000 prices	37 535	37 086	-1,2	113 569	112 058	-1,3

### **Explanatory notes**

1

#### Introduction

- Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey of the wholesale trade industry, covering wholesale enterprises (see 4 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from the 2005 Business Sampling Frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value-added tax (VAT) and income tax.
- As is usual, information for the latest month has had to be estimated for respondents who have not reported by the cut-off date for production of results. These estimates will be revised in future statistical releases when their reported information becomes available. Published wholesale trade sales estimates exclude VAT.

# Scope of the survey

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

- Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis
  - Sales by commission agents, commodity brokers, auctioneers and other wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis;
- Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock;
- Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco;
- Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear;
- Wholesale trade in other household goods except precious stones
  - Wholesale trade in household furniture, requisites and appliances, wholesale trade in books and stationery, wholesale trade in pharmaceuticals and toiletries and wholesale trade in other household goods not elsewhere classified;
- Wholesale trade in precious stones, jewellery and silverware;
- Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products;
- Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores:
- Wholesale trade in construction and building materials
  - Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies;
- Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies;
- Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap; and
- Wholesale trade in other goods
  - General wholesale trade and other wholesale trade not elsewhere classified.

#### Classification

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. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC division (four digit) level. Each enterprise is classified to the industry, which reflects its predominant activity.

#### Statistical unit

5 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.

### Survey methodology and design

- 6 The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of about 800 enterprises from a population of about 19 000 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within 10 days after the end of the reference month. Fax and telephone reminders are used to follow up non-respondents.
- The value of sales is obtained monthly from the sample of 800 enterprises (which was drawn in August 2005 at the SIC four-digit level) from a population then of about 19 000 wholesale enterprises. The wholesale industry is divided into four size groups. All large enterprises (size group one) are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to size groups two (medium sized), three and four (small) enterprises. The total value of sales of the large enterprises (size group one) is added to the weighted totals of size groups two, three and four to reflect the total value of sales.

# Weighting methodology

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 division estimates. These procedures, which are in line with international best practice, are described in more detail on the Stats SA website at <a href="http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/publicationsearch.asp.">http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/publicationsearch.asp.</a>

### **Constant prices**

The total sales at constant prices are calculated using a combination of the production price indices for consumption in South Africa and total output of South African industry groups from the Production Price Index (PPI) to deflate the sales at current prices. Sales by type of dealer will not be deflated until suitable deflators are found.

## Seasonal adjustment

10

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

11 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.

### Reliability of estimates

- 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. Preliminary figures are indicated in the tables.
- 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.

#### **Revised figures**

Revised figures are due to respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures and late submission of their data to Stats SA. Preliminary figures are indicated in the relevant tables. Data are edited at the enterprise level.

# Related publications

- 15 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications available from Stats SA -
  - Bulletin of Statistics issued quarterly.
  - SA Statistics issued annually.

## Rounding of figures

Where figures have been rounded-off discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.

**Pre-release policy** 17 Stats SA's pre-release policy may be inspected at its Website, www.statssa.gov.za.

# 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

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- \* Revised
- Figures not available

### **Technical note**

# Neyman optimal allocation

Before drawing in each of the surveys the population of enterprises on the Business Sampling Frame (BSF) was stratified. Strata were formed using a combination of Standard Industrial Classification and the measure of size classes for enterprises. The Neyman optimal allocation formula given below was used to allocate samples to each stratum.

$$n_{h} = \frac{N_{h}S_{h}}{\sum N_{h}S_{h}}$$

where  $N_{\text{h}}$  and  $S_{\text{h}}$  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 surveys did not exceed 6.4%.

### **Class limits**

Enterprise size	Size Group	Lower limits	Upper limits
Very small	4	0	6 000 000
Small	3	6 000 001	32 000 000
Medium	2	32 000 001	64 000 000
Large	1	64 000 001	

Glossary

Enterprise The enterprise is a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly

controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.

**Industry** An industry is made up of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic

activity. Industries are defined in the System of National Accounts (SNA) in the same way as in the Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, Fifth Edition, Report

No. 09-90-02 of January 1993 (SIC).

Statistical unit A statistical unit is a unit about which statistics are tabulated, compiled or published. The

statistical units are derived from and linked to the South African Revenue Service (SARS)

administrative data.

Wholesale trade Wholesale trade includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and

products to other wholesalers, retailers, agricultural, industrial, commercial, institutional and

professional users either directly or through agents on a fee or contract basis.

Wholesaler A wholesaler is an enterprise deriving 50% or more of its turnover from sales of goods to

other businesses and institutions.

### **General information**

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

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Stats SA also provides a subscription service.

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