



**Statistics
South Africa**

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Statistical release

P6141.2

Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

February 2010

**Embargoed until:
14 April 2010
10:00**

Enquiries:

User Information Services
(012) 310 8600 / 4892 / 839

Forthcoming issue:

March 2010

Expected release date

19 May 2010

Statistics South Africa • Mbalo-mbalo ya Afrika Tshipembe • Tinhlayo-tiko ta Afrika-Dzonga • Dipalopalo tsa Aforika Borwa • Ezezibalo zaseNingizimu Afrika
Dipalopalo tša Afrika Borwa • Dipalopalo tsa Afrika Borwa • Ubalo lwaseMzantsi Afrika • Telubalo eNingizimu Afrika • iNanimbalo leSewula Afrika • Statistiek Suid-Afrika

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Summary of findings: Wholesale trade sales

Table A – Key figures as at the end of February 2010

Wholesale trade sales estimates	February 2010 (R million)	% change between February 2009 and February 2010	% change between December 2008 to February 2009 and December 2009 to February 2010	% change between January to February 2009 and January to February 2010
At current prices	83 359	1,0	-4,5	-3,7
At constant 2000 prices	44 913	-2,4	-6,5	-6,6

Seasonally adjusted estimates	February 2010 (R million)	% change between January and February 2010	% change between September to November 2009 and December 2009 to February 2010
At current prices	88 306	4,9	6,8
At constant 2000 prices	46 533	4,2	2,7

Key findings as at the end of February 2010

Wholesale trade sales in real terms

Wholesale trade sales, at constant 2000 prices, for the three months ended February 2010 decreased by 6,5% compared with the three months ended February 2009, while sales for the same period in 2009 decreased by 1,9%. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales for the three months ended February 2010 increased by 2,7% compared with the three months ended November 2009.

Wholesale trade sales, at constant 2000 prices, for February 2010 decreased by 2,4% compared with February 2009.

Wholesale trade sales in nominal terms

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for the three months ended February 2010 decreased by 4,5% compared with the three months ended February 2009. The major contributors to this decrease were dealers in machinery, equipment and supplies (-13,8% and contributing -2,6 percentage points) and dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-8,5% and contributing -1,5 percentage points) – see Table B on page 3.

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for February 2010 increased by 1,0% compared with February 2009, while sales for the corresponding period in 2009 decreased by 2,2% – see Table 3 on page 7.

Table B – Contribution of each type of dealer to the percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices

Type of wholesale dealer	Sales December 2008 to February 2009 (R million)	Weight 1/	Sales December 2009 to February 2010 (R million)	Difference in sales between December 2008 to February 2009 and December 2009 to February 2010 (R million)	Percentage change between December 2008 to February 2009 and December 2009 to February 2010	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in total sales 2/
Fee or contract basis	11 410	4,4	12 212	802	7,0	0,3
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	11 118	4,3	9 941	-1 177	-10,6	-0,5
Food, beverages and tobacco	55 298	21,5	55 564	266	0,5	0,1
Textiles, clothing and footwear	6 481	2,5	6 885	404	6,2	0,2
Other household goods except precious stones	23 504	9,1	23 154	-350	-1,5	-0,1
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	1 812	0,7	3 158	1 346	74,3	0,5
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	46 312	18,0	42 396	-3 916	-8,5	-1,5
Metals and metal ores	7 261	2,8	6 445	-816	-11,2	-0,3
Construction and building materials	11 798	4,6	11 076	-722	-6,1	-0,3
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	8 500	3,3	9 204	704	8,3	0,3
Machinery, equipment and supplies	48 791	19,0	42 061	-6 730	-13,8	-2,6
Other goods	24 987	9,7	23 712	-1 275	-5,1	-0,5
Total 3/	257 269	100,0	245 811	-11 458	-4,5	-4,5

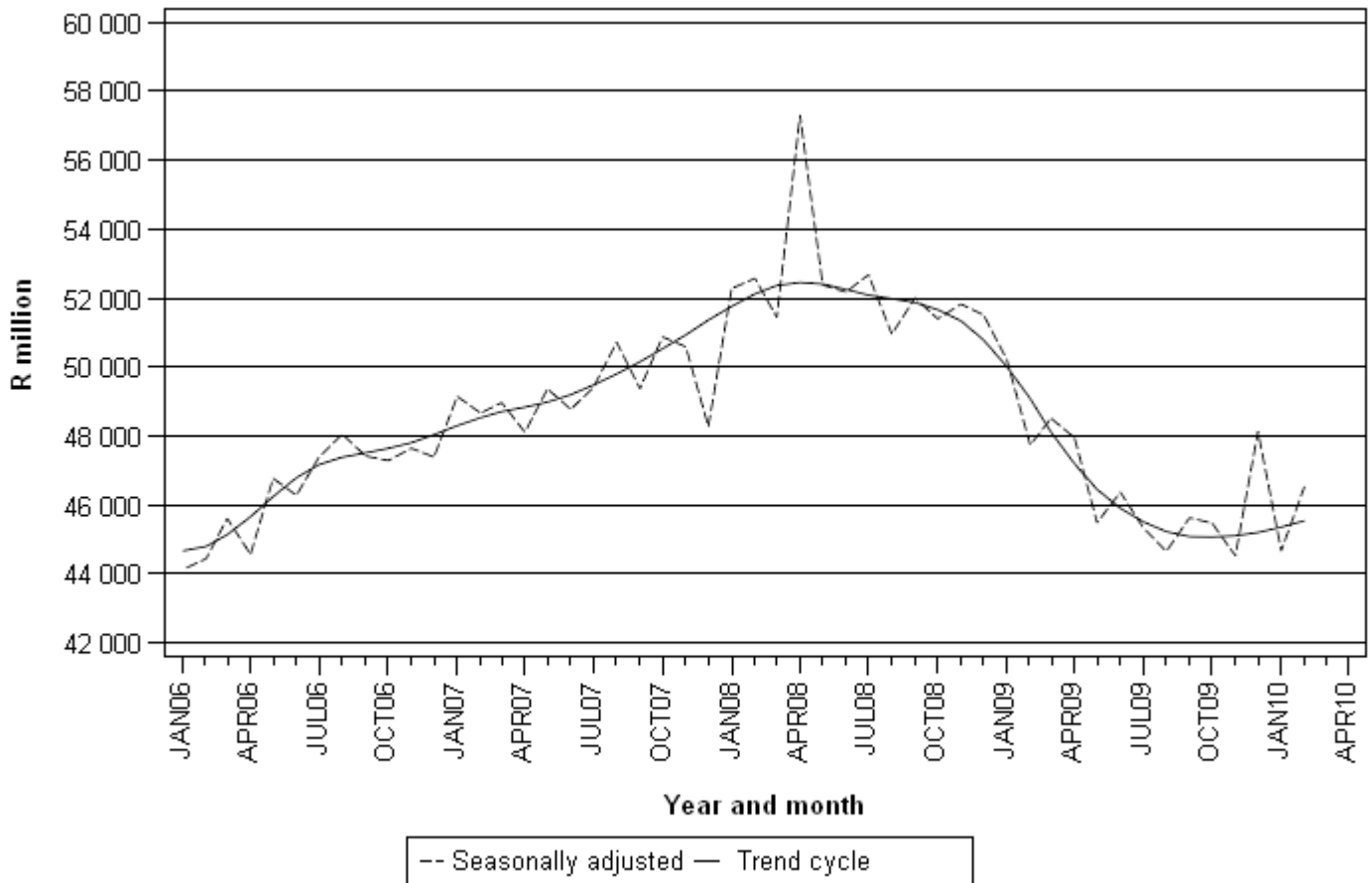
1/ Weight is the percentage contribution of each type of dealer to the total wholesale trade sales for the three months up to the current month of the previous year.

2/ The contribution to the percentage change is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of dealer with its corresponding weight, divided by 100.

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

Figure 1 below shows the seasonally adjusted and trend patterns for wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices between January 2006 and February 2010.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices



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Detailed results

Outlined below in Table 1 are wholesale trade sales according to type of dealer (see description of type of dealer on page 6).

Table 1 – Wholesale trade sales according to the type of dealer at current prices (R million)

Year and 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/	
2008	January	3 602	3 145	15 220	1 956	6 838	585	13 394	2 750	4 168	2 698	16 257	6 337	76 951
	February	4 398	3 618	14 728	2 818	7 679	1 730	14 576	3 544	5 570	3 230	16 023	6 476	84 389
	March	4 365	2 964	15 449	2 662	6 891	2 024	17 158	3 717	5 328	3 001	17 956	6 535	88 051
	April	4 663	3 427	14 786	3 364	9 587	2 231	17 111	4 212	5 379	3 329	16 213	7 745	92 047
	May	4 716	4 028	15 502	3 061	8 290	2 045	19 036	4 220	5 600	3 736	17 416	8 000	95 651
	June	4 202	4 161	16 510	2 124	8 222	2 357	19 563	4 610	5 144	3 507	18 801	7 960	97 161
	July	5 611	4 682	15 502	1 951	8 441	1 817	21 256	4 734	5 634	4 360	18 940	7 888	100 818
	August	5 662	4 335	17 577	1 973	8 413	662	20 359	4 438	5 421	4 494	17 056	7 429	97 819
	September	5 226	3 931	17 075	2 280	9 162	1 103	18 417	4 070	5 517	3 916	20 616	7 656	98 971
	October	4 375	3 917	16 662	2 572	10 384	1 964	19 303	4 317	6 547	4 195	20 750	8 584	103 572
	November	4 088	4 750	19 515	2 714	9 745	1 799	18 385	3 534	5 968	4 227	22 501	10 315	107 541
	December	4 028	4 098	20 885	2 100	8 306	579	19 340	2 142	3 522	2 632	16 257	9 765	93 653
Total	54 936	47 056	199 411	29 575	101 958	18 896	217 898	46 288	63 798	43 325	218 786	94 690	1 136 624	
2009	January	3 451	3 504	17 232	1 786	7 397	395	14 918	2 559	3 660	3 069	15 822	7 272	81 065
	February	3 931	3 516	17 181	2 595	7 801	838	12 054	2 560	4 616	2 799	16 712	7 950	82 551
	March	4 238	3 452	17 430	3 125	8 314	1 410	12 955	2 456	4 860	2 811	18 260	8 090	87 401
	April	3 690	3 057	16 484	2 883	7 679	1 326	11 733	2 161	4 156	2 442	15 583	8 099	79 294
	May	3 124	3 477	17 134	2 894	8 031	1 650	12 058	2 290	4 573	2 833	14 200	8 144	80 408
	June	3 156	3 530	16 727	2 526	8 138	889	12 733	2 471	4 620	2 799	17 074	7 998	82 660
	July	4 005	3 743	16 375	2 436	8 216	713	14 540	2 604	4 826	2 975	14 879	8 152	83 465
	August	3 625	3 499	16 852	2 635	8 116	865	14 091	2 420	4 399	3 043	15 113	7 422	82 080
	September	3 719	3 531	17 648	2 890	8 527	818	13 151	2 540	4 580	3 305	14 996	7 748	83 452
	October	3 562	3 653	17 333	2 806	9 212	1 514	14 758	2 718	5 075	3 857	16 098	8 146	88 734
	November	3 935	3 926	19 207	3 017	9 392	854	14 495	2 657	5 139	3 959	15 880	8 727	91 187
	December	4 310	3 826	21 853	2 317	8 587	1 040	14 218	1 837	3 336	3 157	15 245	8 510	88 237
Total	44 746	42 714	211 456	31 910	99 410	12 312	161 704	29 273	53 840	37 049	189 862	96 258	1 010 534	
2010	January	3 645	2 855	16 395	1 974	7 012	481	13 964	2 223	3 550	2 777	12 382	6 956	74 215
	February	4 257	3 260	17 316	2 594	7 555	1 637	14 214	2 385	4 190	3 270	14 434	8 246	83 359

1/ 2009 and 2010 figures are preliminary.

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

Description of type of dealer included in a specific group type as indicated in Table 1 ^{1/}

Group type	Type of dealers included in group type
Type A	Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis
Type B	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
Type H	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 4 on page 10.

Tables 2 and 3 show total wholesale trade sales (actual values and annual percentage changes) at current prices over the period January 2003 – February 2010. 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	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 ^{1/}	2010 ^{1/}
January	40 062	41 939	46 928	52 090	64 361	76 951	81 065	74 215
February	45 830	47 367	49 121	57 126	69 033	84 389	82 551	83 359
March	47 146	51 276	52 456	61 827	73 914	88 051	87 401	
April	43 702	45 793	53 945	56 006	67 807	92 047	79 294	
May	46 195	55 277	56 105	65 003	76 783	95 651	80 408	
June	47 725	56 921	58 174	65 780	76 898	97 161	82 660	
July	48 634	54 529	58 010	67 931	78 594	100 818	83 465	
August	46 680	55 617	59 757	70 545	81 251	97 819	82 080	
September	47 690	56 250	62 070	70 571	80 308	98 971	83 452	
October	50 224	60 896	64 151	75 177	88 666	103 572	88 734	
November	51 276	64 891	68 746	80 073	92 720	107 541	91 187	
December	43 828	55 988	59 483	69 604	78 286	93 653	88 237	
Total	558 992	646 744	688 946	791 733	928 621	1 136 624	1 010 534	

1/ Preliminary.

Table 3 – Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at current prices 1/

Month	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	8,7	4,7	11,9	11,0	23,6	19,6	5,3	-8,5
February	18,0	3,4	3,7	16,3	20,8	22,2	-2,2	1,0
March	14,1	8,8	2,3	17,9	19,5	19,1	-0,7	
April	6,2	4,8	17,8	3,8	21,1	35,7	-13,9	
May	10,2	19,7	1,5	15,9	18,1	24,6	-15,9	
June	15,9	19,3	2,2	13,1	16,9	26,4	-14,9	
July	20,0	12,1	6,4	17,1	15,7	28,3	-17,2	
August	11,7	19,1	7,4	18,1	15,2	20,4	-16,1	
September	8,8	17,9	10,3	13,7	13,8	23,2	-15,7	
October	2,1	21,2	5,3	17,2	17,9	16,8	-14,3	
November	5,6	26,6	5,9	16,5	15,8	16,0	-15,2	
December	-0,5	27,7	6,2	17,0	12,5	19,6	-5,8	
Total	9,8	15,7	6,5	14,9	17,3	22,4	-11,1	

1/ 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	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	45 161	47 808	53 938	59 958	73 839	87 722	92 046	84 145
February	47 478	49 471	51 796	60 673	73 589	89 789	87 536	88 306
March	46 925	51 221	52 594	62 231	74 505	88 788	88 109	
April	46 483	48 989	57 984	60 393	73 162	99 465	85 735	
May	45 871	54 940	55 709	64 711	76 574	95 807	80 589	
June	47 040	56 036	57 313	64 940	76 216	96 664	82 351	
July	49 128	54 604	57 672	67 059	77 192	98 652	81 566	
August	46 636	55 144	58 826	69 128	79 522	95 777	80 454	
September	46 795	54 997	60 680	68 959	78 539	96 874	81 862	
October	46 474	56 279	59 257	69 512	81 952	95 637	81 865	
November	46 113	57 867	60 883	70 883	82 210	95 782	81 383	
December	44 177	56 730	60 403	70 647	79 339	94 851	89 285	

Tables 5 and 6 show total wholesale trade sales (actual values and annual percentage changes) at constant 2000 prices over the period January 2003 – February 2010. 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	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 ^{1/}	2010 ^{1/}
January	31 935	33 645	36 864	38 844	43 517	46 665	45 036	40 138
February	36 460	37 788	38 451	42 536	46 550	50 472	46 015	44 913
March	37 507	40 939	40 838	45 815	49 161	51 613	48 664	
April	34 781	36 214	41 656	41 090	44 376	52 870	44 249	
May	37 164	43 663	43 108	47 172	49 633	52 354	45 377	
June	37 892	44 228	44 038	46 389	48 654	51 819	45 948	
July	38 370	42 419	43 437	47 093	49 121	52 373	45 067	
August	36 974	43 231	44 545	48 022	50 514	50 552	44 177	
September	38 228	44 031	46 547	48 386	50 350	53 011	46 414	
October	40 276	47 445	48 089	51 089	55 055	55 744	49 379	
November	41 268	50 518	51 265	54 049	57 394	58 637	50 324	
December	35 232	43 792	44 324	47 189	48 280	51 656	48 349	
Total	446 087	507 913	523 162	557 674	592 605	627 766	558 999	

1/ Preliminary.

Table 6 – Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices 1/

Month	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	0,6	5,4	9,6	5,4	12,0	7,2	-3,5	-10,9
February	11,2	3,6	1,8	10,6	9,4	8,4	-8,8	-2,4
March	8,5	9,2	-0,2	12,2	7,3	5,0	-5,7	
April	2,7	4,1	15,0	-1,4	8,0	19,1	-16,3	
May	8,5	17,5	-1,3	9,4	5,2	5,5	-13,3	
June	13,1	16,7	-0,4	5,3	4,9	6,5	-11,3	
July	17,6	10,6	2,4	8,4	4,3	6,6	-13,9	
August	11,0	16,9	3,0	7,8	5,2	0,1	-12,6	
September	9,3	15,2	5,7	4,0	4,1	5,3	-12,4	
October	3,3	17,8	1,4	6,2	7,8	1,3	-11,4	
November	7,6	22,4	1,5	5,4	6,2	2,2	-14,2	
December	0,8	24,3	1,2	6,5	2,3	7,0	-6,4	
Total	7,8	13,9	3,0	6,6	6,3	5,9	-11,0	

1/ The percentage change is the difference between wholesale trade 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	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	35 864	38 090	41 948	44 120	49 142	52 274	50 211	44 665
February	37 624	39 170	40 052	44 432	48 660	52 570	47 731	46 533
March	37 212	40 619	40 557	45 598	48 963	51 438	48 506	
April	37 128	38 942	45 050	44 559	48 105	57 309	47 946	
May	36 789	43 194	42 583	46 764	49 363	52 377	45 477	
June	37 517	43 823	43 762	46 272	48 771	52 174	46 363	
July	38 998	42 885	43 781	47 378	49 400	52 672	45 346	
August	37 248	43 375	44 562	48 049	50 716	50 951	44 641	
September	37 496	43 105	45 615	47 413	49 369	52 006	45 620	
October	37 237	43 868	44 482	47 279	50 871	51 392	45 465	
November	37 065	44 974	45 290	47 638	50 584	51 822	44 518	
December	35 441	44 178	44 666	47 384	48 268	51 510	48 123	

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

Outlined below in Tables 8.1 and 8.2 are the percentage changes in the actual and seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices and at constant 2000 prices.

Table 8.1 – Three-monthly and annual cumulative estimates and percentage changes

Actual wholesale trade sales estimates	December 2008 to February 2009 (R million)	December 2009 to February 2010 (R million)	% change between December 2008 to February 2009 and December 2009 to February 2010	January to February 2009 (R million)	January to February 2010 (R million)	% change between January to February 2009 and January to February 2010
At current prices	257 269	245 811	-4,5	163 616	157 574	-3,7
At constant 2000 prices	142 707	133 400	-6,5	91 051	85 051	-6,6

Table 8.2 – Seasonally adjusted monthly and three-monthly estimates and percentage changes

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales estimates	January 2010 (R million)	February 2010 (R million)	% change between January and February 2010	September to November 2009 (R million)	December 2009 to February 2010 (R million)	% change between September to November 2009 and December 2009 to February 2010
At current prices	84 145	88 306	4,9	245 110	261 736	6,8
At constant 2000 prices	44 665	46 533	4,2	135 603	139 321	2,7

Explanatory notes

Introduction	1	<p>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 2009 Business Sampling Frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value added tax (VAT).</p> <p>As is usual, information for the latest month 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.</p>
Purpose of the survey	3	<p>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.</p>
Scope of the survey	4	<p>This survey covers wholesale enterprises according to the following types of dealer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	5	<p>The 1993 edition of the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)</i>, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC)</i> 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 group (four digit) level.</p>
Response rate	6	<p>The preliminary response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for February 2010 was 86,5%. The improved response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for January 2010 was 95,8%.</p>
Statistical unit	7	<p>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.</p>
Survey methodology and design	8	<p>The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of about 1 000 enterprises from a population of about 20 000 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.</p>

- 9 The value of sales is obtained monthly from the sample of about 1 000 enterprises (which was drawn in April 2009 at the SIC four-digit level) from a population of about 20 000 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 the remaining size groups (medium, small and very small size 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** 10 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, which are in line with international best practice, are described in more detail on the Stats SA website at <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/publicationsearch.asp>.
- Constant prices** 11 The total sales at constant prices are calculated using a combination of the Production Price Indices (PPI) for consumption in South Africa and for total output of South African industry groups to deflate the sales at current prices. However, with the discontinuation of the PPI for consumption in South Africa in January 2008, total sales at constant prices are calculated using the total output of South African industry groups from the PPI to deflate the sales at current prices.
- Seasonal adjustment** 12 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** 13 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** 14 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.
- 15 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** 16 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** 17 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications available from Stats SA -
- *Bulletin of Statistics* issued quarterly.
 - *SA Statistics* issued annually.
- Rounding-off of figures** 18 Where figures have been rounded off discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.

Pre-release policy **19** Stats SA's pre-release policy may be inspected at its Website, www.statssa.gov.za.

Symbols and abbreviations **20**

BR	Business Register
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
*	Revised
-	Figures not available

Technical note

Neyman optimal allocation

A stratified random sample was drawn from the population of enterprises on 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. 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_h and S_h are the stratum population size and the stratum variance, respectively.

Neyman allocation formula not only allocates sample sizes to each stratum but also calculates the relative precision for each stratum as well as the relative precision for all strata. The relative precision for these strata did not exceed 5,6%.

Class limits

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

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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