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Statistical release

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Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

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Results for February 2011

Table A – Key figures for wholesale trade sales

Actual wholesale trade sales estimates	February 2011 (R million)	% change between February 2010 and February 2011	% change between December 2009 to February 2010 and December 2010 to February 2011	% change between January to February 2010 and January to February 2011
At current prices	82 023	9,2	11,1	10,6
At constant 2000 prices	42 123	3,4	6,0	5,4

Seasonally adjusted estimates	February 2011 (R million)	% change between January and February 2011	% change between September to November 2010 and December 2010 to February 2011
At current prices	87 011	1,3	5,8
At constant 2000 prices	44 366	0,3	2,9

Wholesale trade sales in real terms

Wholesale trade sales, at constant 2000 prices, for the three months ended February 2011 increased by 6,0% compared with the three months ended February 2010, while sales for the same period in 2010 decreased by 5,8%. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales for the three months ended February 2011 increased by 2,9% compared with the three months ended November 2010.

Wholesale trade sales, at constant 2000 prices, for February 2011 increased by 3,4% compared with February 2010.

Wholesale trade sales in nominal terms

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for the three months ended February 2011 increased by 11,1% compared with the three months ended February 2010. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (26,9% and contributing 5,1 percentage points) and dealers in food, beverages and tobacco (10,3% and contributing 1,9 percentage points) – see Table B on page 3.

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for February 2011 increased by 9,2% compared with February 2010, while sales for the corresponding period in 2010 increased by 0,3%.

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

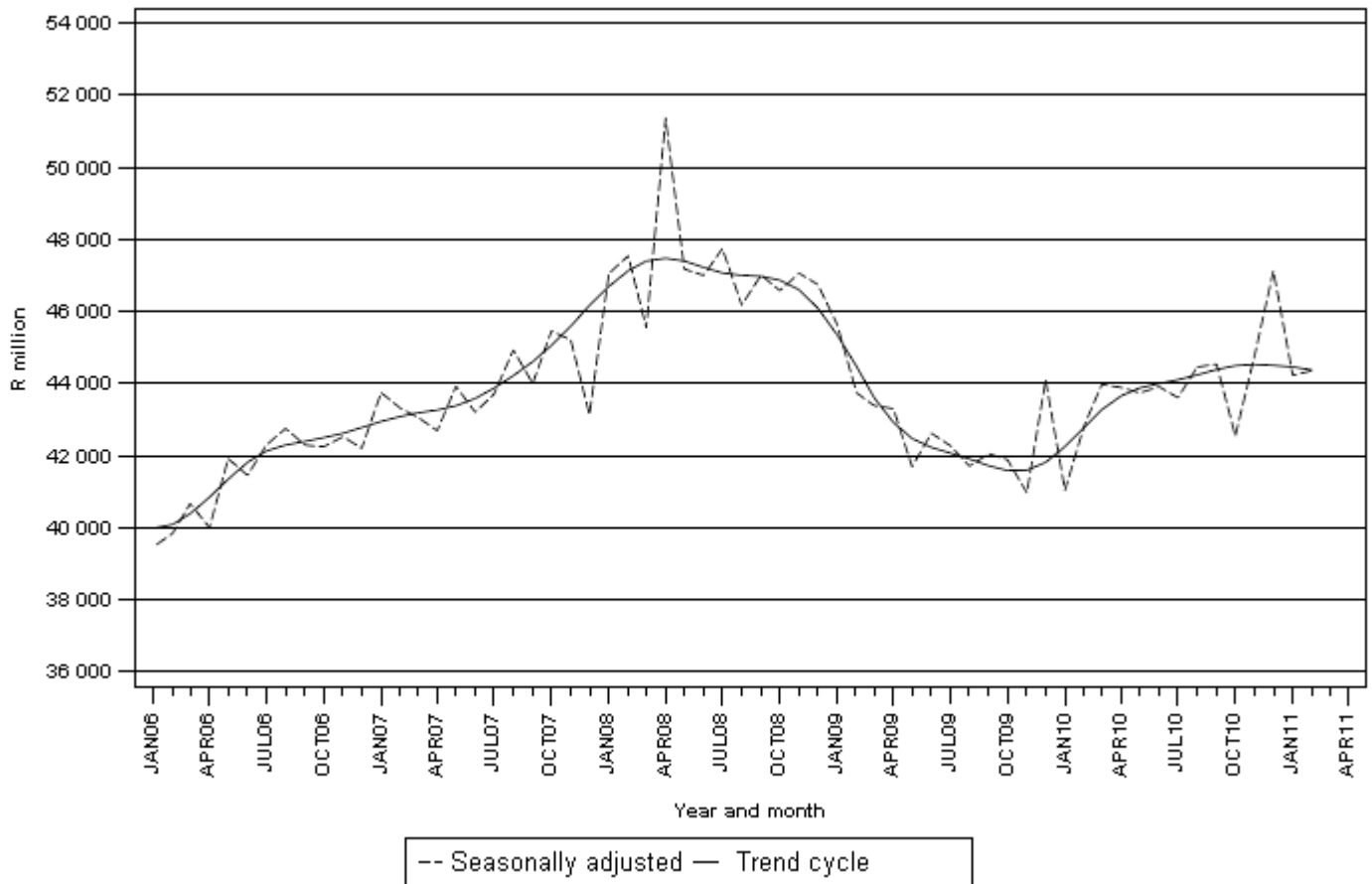
Type of wholesale dealer	Sales December 2009 to February 2010 (R million)	Weight 1/	Sales December 2010 to February 2011 (R million)	Difference in sales between December 2009 to January 2010 and December 2010 to January 2011 (R million)	% change between December 2009 to January 2010 and December 2010 to January 2011	Contribution (% points) to the % change in total sales 2/
Fee or contract basis	15 518	7,0	15 635	117	0,8	0,1
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	12 356	5,6	13 173	817	6,6	0,4
Food, beverages and tobacco	40 814	18,3	45 015	4 201	10,3	1,9
Textiles, clothing and footwear	5 590	2,5	6 148	558	10,0	0,3
Other household goods except precious stones	23 284	10,5	25 456	2 172	9,3	1,0
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	1 283	0,6	924	-359	-28,0	-0,2
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	42 514	19,1	53 930	11 416	26,9	5,1
Metals and metal ores	7 281	3,3	8 053	772	10,6	0,3
Construction and building materials	9 143	4,1	11 151	2 008	22,0	0,9
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	8 440	3,8	9 525	1 085	12,9	0,5
Machinery, equipment and supplies	34 127	15,3	35 860	1 733	5,1	0,8
Other goods	22 179	10,0	22 307	128	0,6	0,1
Total 3/	222 528	100,0	247 174	24 646	11,1	11,1

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 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices



PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Detailed results

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/	
2010	January	4 623	3 551	12 064	1 612	6 924	194	13 945	2 500	2 897	2 543	9 980	6 497	67 331
	February	5 370	3 996	12 499	2 065	7 791	665	14 219	2 693	3 494	2 975	11 728	7 649	75 145
	March	5 801	3 954	12 642	2 386	8 688	510	15 999	3 057	4 154	3 171	13 987	8 361	82 708
	April	4 665	3 440	12 822	2 485	8 590	477	15 034	3 047	3 840	2 593	12 131	6 987	76 111
	May	5 081	3 687	13 939	2 211	8 727	588	16 518	3 156	4 050	2 737	12 398	7 238	80 331
	June	5 087	4 459	13 738	2 090	8 751	574	17 742	3 188	3 861	2 876	13 205	7 008	82 577
	July	5 711	4 970	13 816	2 230	8 615	623	17 156	2 989	4 043	2 793	12 203	7 500	82 648
	August	5 360	4 089	14 638	2 306	9 030	433	17 419	2 924	4 016	2 967	12 887	7 816	83 885
	September	5 555	4 116	14 861	2 777	9 451	418	16 269	2 951	4 275	3 232	13 333	7 809	85 047
	October	5 174	4 475	13 812	2 922	9 873	651	17 716	3 040	4 257	3 499	12 846	7 850	86 115
	November	5 560	5 140	16 424	3 319	11 012	522	17 993	3 120	4 853	4 187	14 158	8 708	94 996
December	6 455	4 688	18 153	2 165	9 296	434	18 630	2 129	3 481	3 023	12 751	8 428	89 632	
Total	64 442	50 565	169 408	28 568	106 748	6 089	198 640	34 794	47 221	36 596	151 607	91 851	986 526	
2011	January	4 423	4 071	13 176	1 780	7 562	186	17 787	2 701	3 545	3 040	10 607	6 642	75 519
	February	4 757	4 414	13 686	2 203	8 598	304	17 513	3 223	4 125	3 462	12 502	7 237	82 023

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

1/ See note 4 on page 9 for more detailed specifications.

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

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 ^{1/}	2011 ^{1/}
January	38 049	42 575	47 258	58 391	69 813	73 546	67 331	75 519
February	42 973	44 565	51 827	62 630	76 561	74 894	75 145	82 023
March	46 520	47 590	56 092	67 058	79 884	79 294	82 708	
April	41 545	48 941	50 811	61 517	83 509	71 939	76 111	
May	50 150	50 901	58 973	69 661	86 779	72 950	80 331	
June	51 641	52 778	59 678	69 765	88 149	74 993	82 577	
July	49 471	52 629	61 630	71 304	91 466	75 723	82 648	
August	50 458	54 214	64 001	73 714	88 746	74 466	83 885	
September	51 032	56 313	64 025	72 859	89 791	75 711	85 047	
October	55 247	58 201	68 204	80 442	93 965	80 503	86 115	
November	58 872	62 369	72 646	84 120	97 566	82 729	94 996	
December	50 795	53 966	63 148	71 024	84 966	80 052	89 632	
Total	586 753	625 042	718 293	842 485	1 031 195	916 800	986 526	

1/ Preliminary

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

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
January	4,7	11,9	11,0	23,6	19,6	5,3	-8,5	12,2
February	3,4	3,7	16,3	20,8	22,2	-2,2	0,3	9,2
March	8,8	2,3	17,9	19,6	19,1	-0,7	4,3	
April	4,8	17,8	3,8	21,1	35,7	-13,9	5,8	
May	19,7	1,5	15,9	18,1	24,6	-15,9	10,1	
June	19,3	2,2	13,1	16,9	26,4	-14,9	10,1	
July	12,1	6,4	17,1	15,7	28,3	-17,2	9,1	
August	19,1	7,4	18,1	15,2	20,4	-16,1	12,6	
September	17,9	10,3	13,7	13,8	23,2	-15,7	12,3	
October	21,2	5,3	17,2	17,9	16,8	-14,3	7,0	
November	26,6	5,9	16,5	15,8	16,0	-15,2	14,8	
December	27,7	6,2	17,0	12,5	19,6	-5,8	12,0	
Total	15,7	6,5	14,9	17,3	22,4	-11,1	7,6	

1/ The percentage change is the difference between wholesale trade sales of the relevant month of the current year and the corresponding month of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

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

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
January	43 376	48 922	54 400	67 019	79 776	83 720	76 557	85 927
February	44 849	46 952	54 983	66 743	81 624	79 605	79 727	87 011
March	46 432	47 603	56 184	66 992	79 410	78 539	81 747	
April	44 454	52 622	54 743	66 225	89 734	77 212	81 567	
May	49 863	50 573	58 750	69 636	87 185	73 615	81 299	
June	50 864	52 028	58 945	69 160	87 597	74 630	82 174	
July	49 550	52 334	60 888	70 188	89 823	74 367	81 143	
August	50 040	53 382	62 777	72 299	87 231	73 450	82 980	
September	49 919	55 091	62 641	71 402	88 145	74 442	83 609	
October	51 095	53 832	63 170	74 549	87 014	74 535	79 759	
November	52 539	55 321	64 423	74 774	87 082	74 003	85 070	
December	51 397	54 764	64 033	71 913	85 730	80 510	89 953	

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

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 ^{1/}	2011 ^{1/}
January	30 164	32 846	34 667	38 625	41 780	40 684	36 614	39 405
February	33 837	34 255	37 996	41 177	45 165	41 618	40 744	42 123
March	36 636	36 381	40 879	43 404	46 077	44 015	44 655	
April	32 430	37 128	36 705	39 198	47 292	39 992	40 639	
May	39 038	38 433	42 032	43 799	46 695	41 032	42 882	
June	40 111	39 795	41 925	43 442	47 049	42 549	43 820	
July	38 529	39 302	42 630	44 131	48 261	42 710	44 055	
August	39 146	40 357	43 304	45 438	46 596	41 933	44 575	
September	39 277	41 622	43 082	44 806	47 882	42 816	45 380	
October	42 227	42 915	45 431	48 917	50 226	45 211	45 939	
November	45 010	45 752	47 989	50 963	52 898	46 039	50 319	
December	38 998	39 560	41 829	42 899	46 665	44 188	47 334	
Total	455 403	468 346	498 469	526 799	566 586	512 787	526 956	

1/ Preliminary

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

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
January	4,6	8,9	5,5	11,4	8,2	-2,6	-10,0	7,6
February	2,9	1,2	10,9	8,4	9,7	-7,9	-2,1	3,4
March	8,4	-0,7	12,4	6,2	6,2	-4,5	1,5	
April	3,3	14,5	-1,1	6,8	20,6	-15,4	1,6	
May	16,7	-1,5	9,4	4,2	6,6	-12,1	4,5	
June	15,9	-0,8	5,4	3,6	8,3	-9,6	3,0	
July	9,9	2,0	8,5	3,5	9,4	-11,5	3,1	
August	15,9	3,1	7,3	4,9	2,5	-10,0	6,3	
September	14,0	6,0	3,5	4,0	6,9	-10,6	6,0	
October	16,6	1,6	5,9	7,7	2,7	-10,0	1,6	
November	21,2	1,6	4,9	6,2	3,8	-13,0	9,3	
December	23,3	1,4	5,7	2,6	8,8	-5,3	7,1	
Total	12,9	2,8	6,4	5,7	7,6	-9,5	2,8	

1/ The percentage change is the difference between wholesale trade of the relevant month of the current year and the corresponding month of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

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

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
January	34 196	37 448	39 474	43 755	47 060	45 645	41 044	44 233
February	35 161	35 800	39 851	43 318	47 545	43 748	42 848	44 366
March	36 441	36 173	40 674	43 072	45 554	43 397	43 979	
April	35 009	40 339	40 012	42 696	51 366	43 310	43 897	
May	38 772	38 151	41 922	43 929	47 181	41 699	43 749	
June	39 410	39 199	41 462	43 211	47 007	42 629	43 916	
July	38 564	39 151	42 294	43 713	47 752	42 285	43 614	
August	38 907	39 933	42 760	44 937	46 184	41 716	44 466	
September	38 547	40 886	42 300	44 004	47 014	42 060	44 545	
October	39 195	39 870	42 252	45 465	46 584	41 891	42 552	
November	40 220	40 602	42 533	45 217	47 065	40 977	44 790	
December	39 480	40 047	42 210	43 138	46 751	44 099	47 134	

Table 8 – Three-monthly and annual cumulative estimates and percentage changes

Actual wholesale trade sales estimates	December 2009 to February 2010 (R million)	December 2010 to February 2011 (R million)	% change between December 2009 to February 2010 and December 2010 to February 2011	January to February 2010 (R million)	January to February 2011 (R million)	% change between January to February 2010 and January to February 2011
At current prices	222 528	247 174	11,1	142 476	157 542	10,6
At constant 2000 prices	121 546	128 862	6,0	77 358	81 528	5,4

Table 9 – Seasonally adjusted monthly and three-monthly estimates and percentage changes

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales estimates	January 2011 (R million)	February 2011 (R million)	% change between January and February 2011	September to November 2010 (R million)	December 2010 to February 2011 (R million)	% change between September to November 2010 and December 2010 to February 2011
At current prices	85 927	87 011	1,3	248 438	262 891	5,8
At constant 2000 prices	44 233	44 366	0,3	131 887	135 733	2,9

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 2010 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; • Wholesale trade in other goods; and • General wholesale trade and other wholesale trade not classified elsewhere.
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 2011 was 86,7%. The improved response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for January 2011 was 94,3%.</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 2010 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** Stats SA compiles its monthly estimates of wholesale trade sales at current prices from a survey of wholesalers in the formal sector. To arrive at estimates of wholesale trade sales at constant prices, sales at current prices are deflated using the all groups producer price index (PPI) excluding 'Electricity, gas, steam and water'.
- 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.

$$n_h = \frac{N_h S_h}{\sum N_h S_h}$$

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.

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