Statistical release
P6141.2

Wholesale trade sales
(Preliminary)

February 2013

Embargoed until:
18 April 2013
10:00

Enquiries:	Forthcoming issue:	Expected release date
User Information Services (012) 310 8600	March 2013	16 May 2013

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	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-0,2	9,7	9,4	3,3	7,4	3,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-5,6	7,5	1,1	-2,0	3,5	-1,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	-0,8	0,7	1,6	4,3	3,8	2,9

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

Measured in real terms (constant 2000 prices), wholesale trade sales increased by 3,7% year-on-year in February 2013. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales decreased by 1,3% in February 2013 compared with January 2013. This followed month-on-month changes of 3,5% in January 2013 and -2,0% in December 2012.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 2,9% in the three months ended February 2013 compared with the previous three months.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices
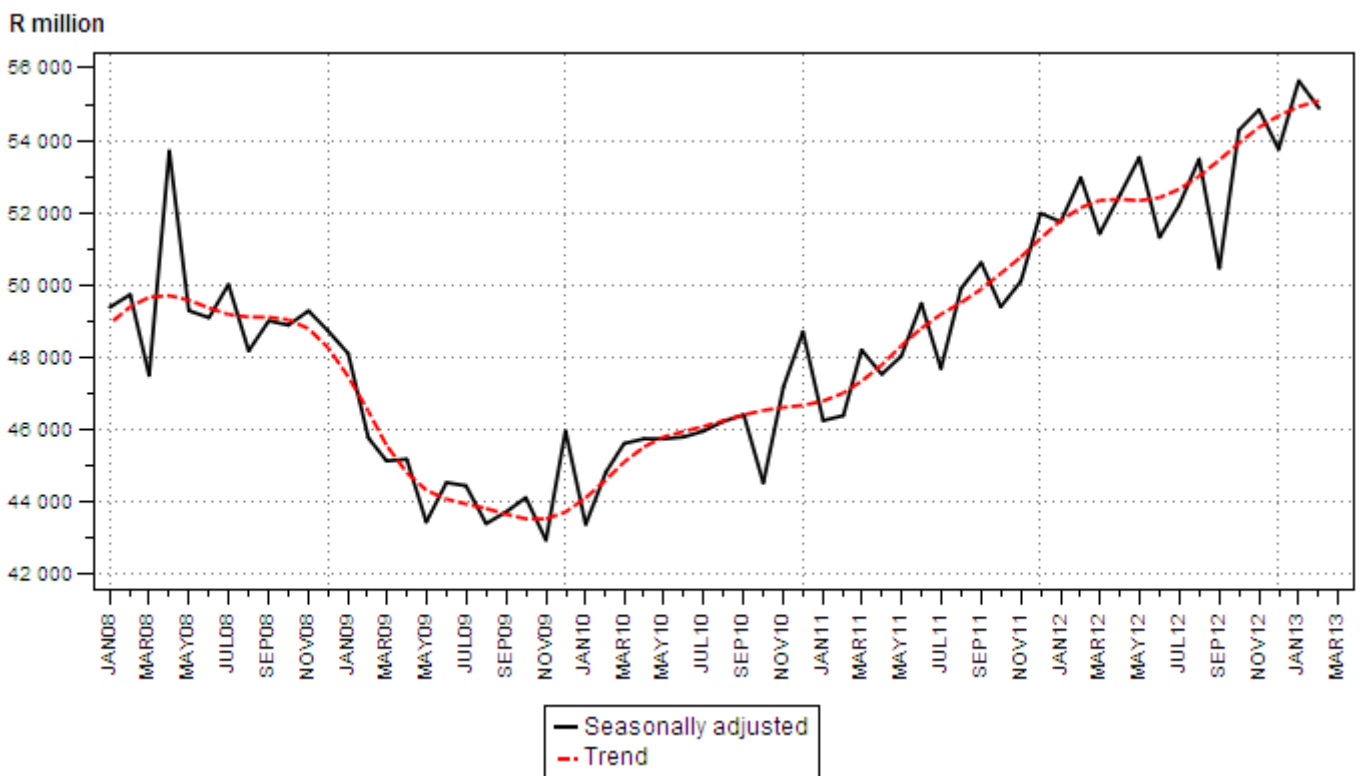
Sales at current prices: results for February 2013

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

	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-12	Feb-13
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	3,0	14,5	14,2	7,9	12,9	8,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-4,7	8,8	1,6	-3,7	6,0	-1,6
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	0,3	2,9	4,4	6,5	5,2	3,5

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 8,1% in February 2013 compared with February 2012. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- food, beverages and tobacco (14,9% and contributing 2,1 percentage points);
- 'other' goods (20,2% and contributing 1,9 percentage points);
- 'other' household goods except precious stones (13,6% and contributing 1,4 percentage points); and
- machinery, equipment and supplies (10,4% and contributing 1,4 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	Dec 2011 – Feb 2012 (R million)	Weight	Dec 2012 – Feb 2013 (R million)	% change between Dec 2011 – Feb 2012 and Dec 2012 – Feb 2013	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Fee or contract basis	16 949	5,5	16 287	-3,9	-0,2
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	16 966	5,5	20 777	22,5	1,2
Food, beverages and tobacco	48 260	15,8	55 210	14,4	2,3
Textiles, clothing and footwear	6 800	2,2	6 600	-2,9	-0,1
Other household goods except precious stones	31 477	10,3	35 194	11,8	1,2
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	3 481	1,1	3 307	-5,0	-0,1
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	74 309	24,3	81 995	10,3	2,5
Metals and metal ores	9 013	2,9	8 940	-0,8	0,0
Construction and building materials	13 594	4,4	13 886	2,1	0,1
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	12 865	4,2	11 815	-8,2	-0,3
Machinery, equipment and supplies	39 530	12,9	44 161	11,7	1,5
Other goods	33 128	10,8	37 296	12,6	1,4
Total	**306 372**	**100,0**	**335 471**	**9,5**	**9,5**

Wholesale trade sales increased by 9,5% in the three months ended February 2013 compared with the three months ended February 2012. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (10,3% and contributing 2,5 percentage points);
- food, beverages and tobacco (14,4% and contributing 2,3 percentage points); and
- machinery, equipment and supplies (11,7% and contributing 1,5 percentage points) – see Table C.

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Statistician-General

Tables

Table 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million)

Month	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 1/
Jan	40 378	43 677	42 530	38 276	40 683	45 439	48 787
Feb	43 045	47 214	43 507	42 593	44 189	50 468	52 332
Mar	45 373	48 168	46 013	46 682	49 385	52 767	
Apr	40 977	49 438	41 807	42 522	44 271	48 907	
May	45 787	48 814	42 894	45 079	47 379	52 877	
Jun	45 413	49 183	44 479	45 716	49 282	51 082	
Jul	46 134	50 451	44 648	45 905	47 382	51 684	
Aug	47 500	48 710	43 836	46 752	50 574	54 329	
Sep	46 840	50 055	44 760	47 693	52 143	52 044	
Oct	51 136	52 505	47 263	47 590	52 670	57 786	
Nov	53 276	55 299	48 128	52 806	56 096	61 375	
Dec	44 846	48 783	46 194	49 074	52 344	54 091	
Total	**550 705**	**592 297**	**536 059**	**550 688**	**586 398**	**632 849**	

1/ Latest month is preliminary.

Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices

Month	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	*2013 year-to-date*
Jan	8,2	-2,6	-10,0	6,3	11,7	7,4	*7,4*
Feb	9,7	-7,9	-2,1	3,7	14,2	3,7	*5,4*
Mar	6,2	-4,5	1,5	5,8	6,8		
Apr	20,6	-15,4	1,7	4,1	10,5		
May	6,6	-12,1	5,1	5,1	11,6		
Jun	8,3	-9,6	2,8	7,8	3,7		
Jul	9,4	-11,5	2,8	3,2	9,1		
Aug	2,5	-10,0	6,7	8,2	7,4		
Sep	6,9	-10,6	6,6	9,3	-0,2		
Oct	2,7	-10,0	0,7	10,7	9,7		
Nov	3,8	-13,0	9,7	6,2	9,4		
Dec	8,8	-5,3	6,2	6,7	3,3		
Total	**7,6**	**-9,5**	**2,7**	**6,5**	**7,9**		

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013
Jan	43 384	46 256	51 748	55 643	-5,6	-5,0	-0,5	3,5
Feb	44 828	46 394	52 968	54 892	3,3	0,3	2,4	-1,3
Mar	45 622	48 206	51 422		1,8	3,9	-2,9	
Apr	45 752	47 536	52 488		0,3	-1,4	2,1	
May	45 750	48 034	53 529		0,0	1,0	2,0	
Jun	45 804	49 490	51 322		0,1	3,0	-4,1	
Jul	45 965	47 695	52 207		0,4	-3,6	1,7	
Aug	46 236	49 908	53 480		0,6	4,6	2,4	
Sep	46 413	50 621	50 469		0,4	1,4	-5,6	
Oct	44 534	49 399	54 277		-4,0	-2,4	7,5	
Nov	47 190	50 108	54 847		6,0	1,4	1,1	
Dec	48 708	51 985	53 754		3,2	3,7	-2,0	

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

Month	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 1/
Jan	61 041	72 982	76 883	70 387	77 968	93 702	105 804
Feb	65 472	80 035	78 293	78 555	86 046	105 026	113 492
Mar	70 100	83 509	82 893	86 462	97 154	109 686	
Apr	64 309	87 299	75 203	79 638	87 184	101 455	
May	72 823	90 717	76 261	84 446	93 566	110 073	
Jun	72 931	92 148	78 396	86 151	97 631	106 150	
Jul	74 540	95 617	79 160	86 119	94 831	107 517	
Aug	77 060	92 773	77 847	87 981	102 293	113 859	
Sep	76 166	93 866	79 148	89 383	106 566	109 756	
Oct	84 092	98 229	84 156	89 210	107 989	123 658	
Nov	87 938	101 994	86 484	99 690	115 430	131 874	
Dec	74 247	88 822	83 685	92 928	107 644	116 175	
Total	**880 719**	**1 077 991**	**958 409**	**1 030 950**	**1 174 302**	**1 328 931**	

1/ Latest month is preliminary.

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

Month	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	*2013 year-to-date*
Jan	19,6	5,3	-8,4	10,8	20,2	12,9	*12,9*
Feb	22,2	-2,2	0,3	9,5	22,1	8,1	*10,3*
Mar	19,1	-0,7	4,3	12,4	12,9		
Apr	35,7	-13,9	5,9	9,5	16,4		
May	24,6	-15,9	10,7	10,8	17,6		
Jun	26,3	-14,9	9,9	13,3	8,7		
Jul	28,3	-17,2	8,8	10,1	13,4		
Aug	20,4	-16,1	13,0	16,3	11,3		
Sep	23,2	-15,7	12,9	19,2	3,0		
Oct	16,8	-14,3	6,0	21,1	14,5		
Nov	16,0	-15,2	15,3	15,8	14,2		
Dec	19,6	-5,8	11,0	15,8	7,9		
Total	**22,4**	**-11,1**	**7,6**	**13,9**	**13,2**		

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013
Jan	80 346	88 990	106 924	120 851	-3,1	-2,8	1,1	6,0
Feb	83 079	90 488	110 166	118 897	3,4	1,7	3,0	-1,6
Mar	84 711	94 995	107 078		2,0	5,0	-2,8	
Apr	85 264	93 287	108 580		0,7	-1,8	1,4	
May	85 326	94 649	111 372		0,1	1,5	2,6	
Jun	86 223	98 041	106 717		1,1	3,6	-4,2	
Jul	85 808	95 113	108 281		-0,5	-3,0	1,5	
Aug	86 907	101 013	112 297		1,3	6,2	3,7	
Sep	87 403	104 024	107 043		0,6	3,0	-4,7	
Oct	83 657	101 537	116 428		-4,3	-2,4	8,8	
Nov	89 490	103 561	118 339		7,0	2,0	1,6	
Dec	91 526	105 755	113 988		2,3	2,1	-3,7	

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

Type of dealer	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-12	Feb-13 1/
Fee or contract basis	5 565	5 851	6 492	6 338	5 051	4 898
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	7 775	7 142	8 595	8 005	6 387	6 385
Food, beverages and tobacco	16 440	18 017	19 797	22 812	15 461	16 937
Textiles, clothing and footwear	2 865	3 394	3 583	2 317	1 901	2 382
Other household goods except precious stones	11 940	14 332	15 182	11 193	11 556	12 445
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	1 362	1 530	1 777	1 147	780	1 380
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	25 715	29 771	29 691	26 838	27 452	27 705
Metals and metal ores	3 594	3 970	3 970	2 184	3 065	3 691
Construction and building materials	5 400	6 189	6 881	4 067	4 485	5 334
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	4 436	5 160	5 313	3 757	3 787	4 271
Machinery, equipment and supplies	13 716	15 980	16 234	13 518	14 668	15 975
Other goods	10 948	12 322	14 359	13 997	11 210	12 089
Total	**109 756**	**123 658**	**131 874**	**116 175**	**105 804**	**113 492**

1/ Preliminary.

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

Type of dealer	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-12	Feb-13
Fee or contract basis	-11,0	-2,7	16,5	-1,9	-3,2	-7,1
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	21,3	16,4	29,5	28,2	22,5	15,9
Food, beverages and tobacco	4,8	15,9	17,8	20,1	6,5	14,9
Textiles, clothing and footwear	13,1	9,2	11,6	2,0	-12,2	0,8
Other household goods except precious stones	2,0	13,9	13,0	3,9	18,5	13,6
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	39,4	59,2	74,2	-26,4	-1,0	21,7
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	12,0	26,4	12,9	7,8	23,6	1,8
Metals and metal ores	-9,6	1,2	-2,0	-4,8	4,6	-2,6
Construction and building materials	-4,5	13,0	10,4	-7,1	7,3	5,9
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	-8,5	3,1	4,9	-6,1	-13,5	-4,8
Machinery, equipment and supplies	-14,3	7,3	10,5	-1,9	30,0	10,4
Other goods	14,6	14,2	15,7	16,5	1,4	20,2
Total	**3,0**	**14,5**	**14,2**	**7,9**	**12,9**	**8,1**

Table 9 – Contribution of type of dealer to the year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices

Type of dealer	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-12	Feb-13
Fee or contract basis	-0,6	-0,2	0,8	-0,1	-0,2	-0,4
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	1,3	0,9	1,7	1,6	1,3	0,8
Food, beverages and tobacco	0,7	2,3	2,6	3,5	1,0	2,1
Textiles, clothing and footwear	0,3	0,3	0,3	0,0	-0,3	0,0
Other household goods except precious stones	0,2	1,6	1,5	0,4	1,9	1,4
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	0,4	0,5	0,7	-0,4	0,0	0,2
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	2,6	5,8	2,9	1,8	5,6	0,5
Metals and metal ores	-0,4	0,0	-0,1	-0,1	0,1	-0,1
Construction and building materials	-0,2	0,7	0,6	-0,3	0,3	0,3
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	-0,4	0,1	0,2	-0,2	-0,6	-0,2
Machinery, equipment and supplies	-2,1	1,0	1,3	-0,2	3,6	1,4
Other goods	1,3	1,4	1,7	1,8	0,2	1,9
Total	**3,0**	**14,5**	**14,2**	**7,9**	**12,9**	**8,1**

Survey information

Introduction	1	Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey covering enterprises in the wholesale trade industry (see 4 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from Stats SA's 2012 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 February 2013 was 81,7%. The improved collection rate for January 2013 was 89,6%.

Statistical unit	**7**	The statistical unit for which information is compiled and published is the enterprise, defined as a legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities. The statistical units are derived from and linked to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) administrative data.
Revised figures	**8**	Revised figures are mainly due to late submission of data to Stats SA, or respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures. Preliminary figures, as indicated in the relevant tables, are subject to change and when revised will not be indicated as such.
Related publications	**9**	Users may also refer to the following publications available from Stats SA:

- *Bulletin of Statistics* issued quarterly; and
- *SA Statistics* issued annually.

Rounding-off of figures	**10**	Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.
Historical data	**11**	Historical wholesale trade sales data are available on the Stats SA webpage. To access the data electronically, use the following link: http://www.statssa.gov.za/timeseriesdata/timeseriesdata.asp
Past publications	**12**	Past wholesale trade sales releases are available on the Stats SA webpage. To access the releases electronically, use the following link: http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/statspastfuture.asp?PPN=P6141.2&SCH=

Technical notes

Survey methodology and design

1 The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of about 1 000 enterprises from a population of about 19 600 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 2012 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.

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

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

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	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	

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-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	**6**	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.
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. 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'.
Reliability of estimates	**8**	Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all enterprises in the wholesale industry in South Africa. Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.
	9	Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in the collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by careful design of questionnaires, testing them in pilot studies, editing reported data and implementing efficient operating procedures. Fluctuations may occur in consecutive months as a result of seasonal and economic factors.
Month-on-month percentage change	**10**	The month-on-month percentage change in a variable for any given month is the change between that month and the previous month, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
Year-on-year percentage change	**11**	The year-on-year percentage change in a variable for any given period is the change between that period and the corresponding period of the previous year, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
Contribution (percentage points)	**12**	The contribution (percentage points) to the year-on-year percentage change is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of wholesaler by its corresponding weight, divided by 100. The weight is the percentage contribution of each type of wholesaler to total wholesale trade sales in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Glossary

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

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

Symbols and abbreviations

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

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

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

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