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STATISTICAL RELEASE

P6141.2

Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

February 2022

**Embargoed until:
14 April 2022
10:00**

ENQUIRIES:
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FORTHCOMING ISSUE:
March 2022

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE:
19 May 2022



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Sales at constant 2015 prices: results for February 2022

Table A – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at constant 2015 prices

	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	0,3	-0,2	6,1	0,7	6,9	4,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-1,5	1,6	-0,2	-1,3	4,8	-1,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	-2,6	-0,9	0,4	1,0	1,0	1,8

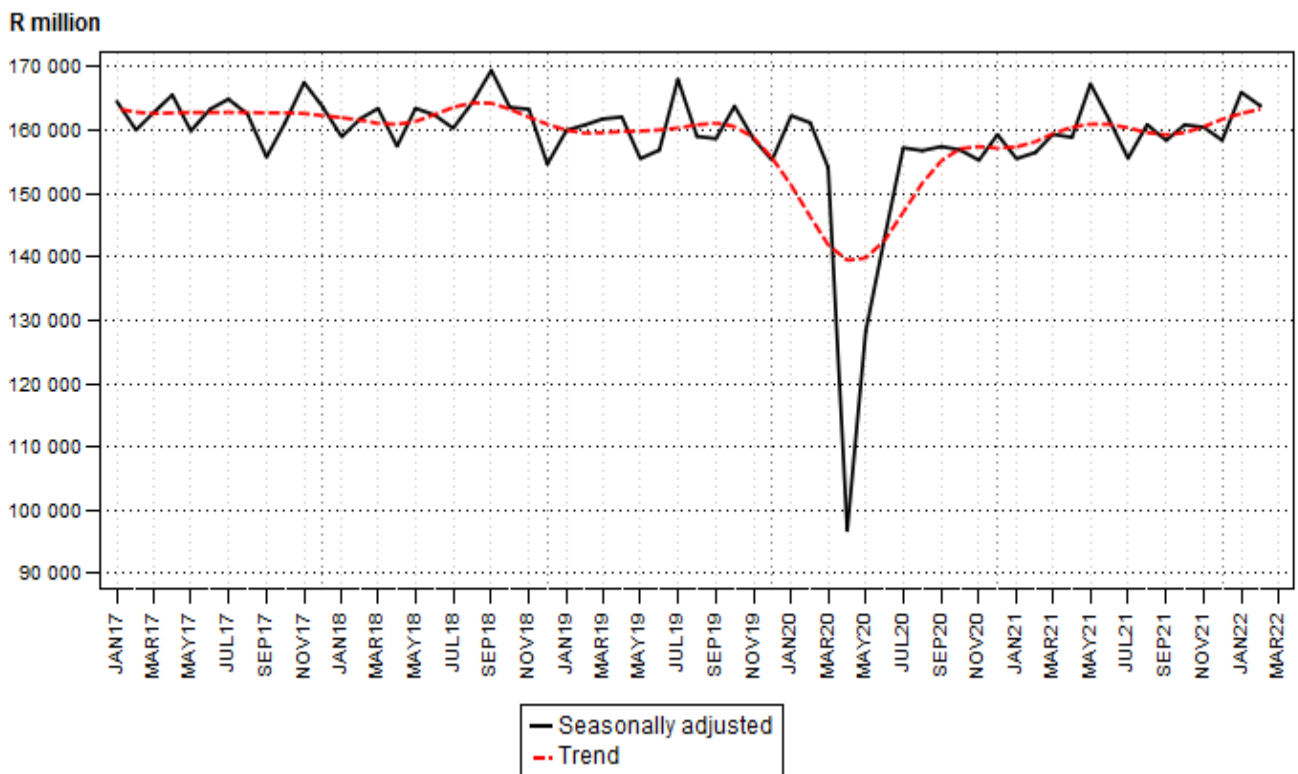
1/ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Measured in real terms (constant 2015 prices), wholesale trade sales increased by 4,3% in February 2022 compared with February 2021.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales decreased by 1,3% in February 2022 compared with January 2022. This followed month-on-month changes of 4,8% in January 2022 and -1,3% in December 2021.

In the three months ended February 2022, seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 1,8% compared with the previous three months.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2015 prices



Sales at current prices: results for February 2022

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

	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	10,8	10,9	19,7	15,3	22,5	19,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,7	3,4	1,3	0,8	4,2	1,0
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	-0,8	2,5	4,3	6,0	5,4	6,0

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 19,2% in February 2022 compared with February 2021. The main positive contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (52,3% and contributing 10,4 percentage points);
- 'other' intermediate products, waste and scrap (27,3% and contributing 1,7 percentage points); and
- 'other' household goods except precious stones (13,9% and contributing 1,7 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 2020 – Feb 2021 (R million)	Weight	Dec 2021 – Feb 2022 (R million)	% change between Dec 2020 – Feb 2021 and Dec 2021 – Feb 2022	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Fee or contract basis	15 119	2,7	17 729	17,3	0,5
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	44 457	7,9	52 409	17,9	1,4
Food, beverages and tobacco	91 205	16,3	104 477	14,6	2,4
Textiles, clothing and footwear	6 911	1,2	8 847	28,0	0,3
Other household goods except precious stones	74 554	13,3	79 502	6,6	0,9
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	4 029	0,7	12 498	210,2	1,5
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	115 508	20,6	163 573	41,6	8,6
Metals and metal ores	15 999	2,9	18 968	18,6	0,5
Construction and building materials	32 026	5,7	30 708	-4,1	-0,2
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	33 746	6,0	46 164	36,8	2,2
Machinery, equipment and supplies	80 996	14,5	82 288	1,6	0,2
Other goods	45 094	8,1	47 892	6,2	0,5
Total	559 643	100,0	665 053	18,8	18,8

Wholesale trade sales increased by 18,8% in the three months ended February 2022 compared with the three months ended February 2021. The main positive contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (41,6% and contributing 8,6 percentage points);
- food, beverages and tobacco (14,6% and contributing 2,4 percentage points); and
- 'other' intermediate products, waste and scrap (36,8% and contributing 2,2 percentage points) – see Table C.

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

Tables

Table 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2015 prices (R million)

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 1/
Jan	144 140	145 601	142 230	140 914	144 499	133 661	142 928
Feb	170 896	151 827	153 013	151 937	154 044	147 427	153 808
Mar	169 462	168 899	168 708	162 626	157 261	165 069	
Apr	153 978	148 940	144 318	151 941	88 308	147 848	
May	167 172	161 197	164 286	159 072	127 369	166 670	
Jun	168 575	167 117	164 175	153 672	149 009	165 196	
Jul	163 760	160 207	159 494	170 080	159 734	156 845	
Aug	168 708	165 442	168 871	162 089	155 293	162 825	
Sep	177 063	161 598	169 357	163 055	163 949	164 520	
Oct	174 144	173 770	179 358	178 055	171 184	170 824	
Nov	182 411	184 111	182 825	173 430	167 668	177 904	
Dec	170 680	158 840	148 612	152 274	155 635	156 748	
Total	2 010 989	1 947 549	1 945 247	1 919 145	1 793 953	1 915 537	

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at constant 2015 prices

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2022 year-to-date
Jan	1,0	-2,3	-0,9	2,5	-7,5	6,9	6,9
Feb	-11,2	0,8	-0,7	1,4	-4,3	4,3	5,6
Mar	-0,3	-0,1	-3,6	-3,3	5,0		
Apr	-3,3	-3,1	5,3	-41,9	67,4		
May	-3,6	1,9	-3,2	-19,9	30,9		
Jun	-0,9	-1,8	-6,4	-3,0	10,9		
Jul	-2,2	-0,4	6,6	-6,1	-1,8		
Aug	-1,9	2,1	-4,0	-4,2	4,9		
Sep	-8,7	4,8	-3,7	0,5	0,3		
Oct	-0,2	3,2	-0,7	-3,9	-0,2		
Nov	0,9	-0,7	-5,1	-3,3	6,1		
Dec	-6,9	-6,4	2,5	2,2	0,7		
Total	-3,2	-0,1	-1,3	-6,5	6,8		

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant 2015 prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
Jan	159 986	162 316	155 519	165 992	3,4	4,5	-2,4	4,8
Feb	160 879	161 187	156 517	163 850	0,6	-0,7	0,6	-1,3
Mar	161 793	154 113	159 371		0,6	-4,4	1,8	
Apr	162 104	96 822	158 882		0,2	-37,2	-0,3	
May	155 528	128 261	167 323		-4,1	32,5	5,3	
Jun	156 880	143 180	161 564		0,9	11,6	-3,4	
Jul	168 070	157 233	155 570		7,1	9,8	-3,7	
Aug	159 035	156 791	160 895		-5,4	-0,3	3,4	
Sep	158 680	157 432	158 408		-0,2	0,4	-1,5	
Oct	163 808	156 913	160 870		3,2	-0,3	1,6	
Nov	158 600	155 276	160 475		-3,2	-1,0	-0,2	
Dec	155 302	159 321	158 429		-2,1	2,6	-1,3	

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

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 1/
Jan	148 633	158 283	164 310	169 452	182 464	171 406	209 904
Feb	177 422	166 867	175 820	182 601	193 791	191 148	227 876
Mar	175 593	185 868	191 971	198 273	196 253	217 075	
Apr	162 374	163 870	166 628	188 786	107 706	196 999	
May	176 555	178 751	192 368	198 978	153 312	222 201	
Jun	180 408	184 561	194 920	192 995	180 854	222 267	
Jul	176 843	177 022	191 441	212 230	198 330	212 763	
Aug	180 052	183 592	203 432	202 651	195 134	223 115	
Sep	187 925	181 881	205 443	203 660	206 153	228 477	
Oct	186 418	197 562	222 515	223 563	216 469	240 167	
Nov	197 724	211 249	226 575	217 297	212 103	253 881	
Dec	185 268	184 350	181 630	191 619	197 089	227 273	
Total	2 135 215	2 173 856	2 317 053	2 382 105	2 239 658	2 606 772	

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

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

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2022 year-to-date
Jan	6,5	3,8	3,1	7,7	-6,1	22,5	22,5
Feb	-5,9	5,4	3,9	6,1	-1,4	19,2	20,7
Mar	5,9	3,3	3,3	-1,0	10,6		
Apr	0,9	1,7	13,3	-42,9	82,9		
May	1,2	7,6	3,4	-23,0	44,9		
Jun	2,3	5,6	-1,0	-6,3	22,9		
Jul	0,1	8,1	10,9	-6,5	7,3		
Aug	2,0	10,8	-0,4	-3,7	14,3		
Sep	-3,2	13,0	-0,9	1,2	10,8		
Oct	6,0	12,6	0,5	-3,2	10,9		
Nov	6,8	7,3	-4,1	-2,4	19,7		
Dec	-0,5	-1,5	5,5	2,9	15,3		
Total	1,8	6,6	2,8	-6,0	16,4		

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
Jan	192 312	206 510	198 684	240 828	2,6	5,6	-1,4	4,2
Feb	194 165	204 882	203 368	243 194	1,0	-0,8	2,4	1,0
Mar	195 713	191 365	211 445		0,8	-6,6	4,0	
Apr	205 060	118 239	211 790		4,8	-38,2	0,2	
May	196 483	155 826	222 606		-4,2	31,8	5,1	
Jun	193 947	175 926	218 166		-1,3	12,9	-2,0	
Jul	208 090	193 841	208 332		7,3	10,2	-4,5	
Aug	198 610	194 992	220 311		-4,6	0,6	5,7	
Sep	197 337	197 650	218 789		-0,6	1,4	-0,7	
Oct	205 397	199 665	226 246		4,1	1,0	3,4	
Nov	198 813	194 454	229 266		-3,2	-2,6	1,3	
Dec	195 484	201 551	231 066		-1,7	3,6	0,8	

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

Type of dealer	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22 1/
Fee or contract basis	9 657	7 615	9 562	8 344	4 056	5 329
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	16 200	15 489	19 472	22 106	13 446	16 857
Food, beverages and tobacco	34 949	36 206	37 806	41 234	30 760	32 483
Textiles, clothing and footwear	4 255	4 744	3 964	2 266	2 818	3 763
Other household goods except precious stones	29 222	27 966	30 950	27 223	26 464	25 815
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	5 386	5 594	4 340	4 794	4 269	3 435
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	49 295	59 469	52 796	48 534	57 062	57 977
Metals and metal ores	7 189	7 263	9 038	5 310	6 326	7 332
Construction and building materials	13 592	12 165	14 129	8 599	9 808	12 301
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	14 738	18 331	20 684	15 138	15 390	15 636
Machinery, equipment and supplies	27 917	28 964	32 469	27 130	25 030	30 128
Other goods	16 076	16 361	18 672	16 596	14 475	16 821
Total	228 477	240 167	253 881	227 273	209 904	227 876

1/ Figures are preliminary.

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

Type of dealer	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22
Fee or contract basis	2,1	-33,9	13,5	37,8	17,7	-5,1
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	2,6	6,8	22,1	31,7	1,0	17,4
Food, beverages and tobacco	2,8	6,5	11,6	14,4	27,5	4,7
Textiles, clothing and footwear	20,9	8,0	-6,9	-9,1	55,6	44,3
Other household goods except precious stones	18,3	2,7	7,1	0,4	6,9	13,9
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	25,0	23,3	19,2	623,1	166,5	94,7
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	24,7	55,5	38,3	22,1	51,3	52,3
Metals and metal ores	5,7	1,3	24,2	14,8	20,7	19,6
Construction and building materials	-3,2	-3,0	12,6	-9,8	-14,0	11,0
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	14,9	23,9	55,2	31,0	55,3	27,3
Machinery, equipment and supplies	8,4	-7,5	11,7	2,0	-0,1	2,6
Other goods	4,3	0,9	12,0	4,4	11,2	3,9
Total	10,8	10,9	19,7	15,3	22,5	19,2

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-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22
Fee or contract basis	0,1	-1,8	0,5	1,2	0,4	-0,1
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	0,2	0,5	1,7	2,7	0,1	1,3
Food, beverages and tobacco	0,5	1,0	1,9	2,6	3,9	0,8
Textiles, clothing and footwear	0,4	0,2	-0,1	-0,1	0,6	0,6
Other household goods except precious stones	2,2	0,3	1,0	0,1	1,0	1,7
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	0,5	0,5	0,3	1,9	1,5	0,9
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	4,7	9,8	6,9	4,5	11,3	10,4
Metals and metal ores	0,2	0,0	0,8	0,3	0,6	0,6
Construction and building materials	-0,2	-0,2	0,7	-0,5	-0,9	0,6
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	0,9	1,6	3,5	1,8	3,2	1,7
Machinery, equipment and supplies	1,1	-1,1	1,6	0,3	0,0	0,4
Other goods	0,3	0,1	0,9	0,4	0,9	0,3
Total	10,8	10,9	19,7	15,3	22,5	19,2

Survey information

- Introduction**
- 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey covering enterprises in the wholesale trade industry (see point 4 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from Stats SA's 2021 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 2022 was 72,4%. The improved collection rate for January 2022 was 76,1%.

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

Technical notes

Survey methodology and design

- 1 The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of 1 469 enterprises from a population of 19 883 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 2021 from Stats SA’s business sampling frame (BSF). Strata were formed using a combination of Standard Industrial Classification and the measure of size classes for enterprises (see point 3 below). The Neyman optimal allocation formula given below was used to allocate samples to each stratum:

$$n_h = n * (N_h * S_h) / [\sum (N_i * S_i)].$$

Neyman allocation formula not only allocates sample sizes to each stratum but also calculates the relative precision for each stratum as well as the relative precision for all strata. The relative precision for these strata was 5,8%.

Class limits

- 3 The wholesale sampling frame is divided into four size groups. All large enterprises (size group one) are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to the remaining size groups (medium, small and very small). The total value of sales of the large enterprises (size group one) is added to the weighted totals of size group two, three and four to reflect the total value of sales.

Measure of size classes (Rand)

Enterprise size	Size group	Lower limits	Upper limits
Very small	4	2 675 608	27 000 000
Small	3	27 000 001	144 000 000
Medium	2	144 000 001	288 000 000
Large	1	288 000 001	

Sample weighting

- 4 For those strata not completely enumerated, the weights to produce estimates are the inverse ratio of the sampling fraction, modified to take account of non-response in the survey. Stratum estimates are calculated and then aggregated with the completely enumerated stratum to form group estimates. These procedures are consistent with international best practice.

Seasonal adjustment

- 5 Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month using the X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the United States Census Bureau. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month. Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variations. Therefore, the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour. The X-12-ARIMA procedure for wholesale trade sales is described in more detail on the Stats SA website:
[Click to download seasonal adjustment wholesale trade sales February 2022](#)

- Trend cycle** 6 The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimates of the underlying trend cycle.
- Constant prices** 7 Stats SA compiles its monthly estimates of wholesale trade sales at current prices from a survey of wholesalers in the formal sector. For January 1998 to December 2011, wholesale trade sales at constant prices were calculated using the 'all groups' PPI for domestic output, but excluding electricity and other utilities.
- From January 2012, wholesale trade sales at constant prices are compiled as follows:
- (1) Deflate sales of dealers in agricultural raw materials and livestock using the PPI for agriculture.
 - (2) Deflate sales of dealers in food, beverages and tobacco using the final manufacturing PPI for food products, beverages and tobacco.
 - (3) Deflate sales of dealers in textiles, clothing and footwear using the final manufacturing PPI for textiles, clothing and footwear.
 - (4) Deflate sales of dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products using the final manufacturing PPI for coal and petroleum products.
 - (5) Deflate sales of dealers in machinery, equipment and supplies using the final manufacturing PPIs for general and special purpose machinery; household appliances and office machinery; and electrical machinery and communication and metering equipment.
 - (6) Deflate the remaining wholesale trade sales using the headline PPI (final manufacturing) excluding the PPIs for food products, beverages and tobacco; textiles, clothing and footwear; coal and petroleum products; general and special purpose machinery; household appliances and office machinery; electrical machinery and communication and metering equipment; and transport equipment. The PPI for transport equipment is excluded because it measures producer prices of motor vehicles, which are not included in wholesale trade.
- Total wholesale trade sales at constant prices is obtained by aggregating (1) to (6).
- Reliability of estimates** 8 Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all enterprises in the wholesale industry in South Africa. Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.
- 9 Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in the collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by careful design of questionnaires, testing them in pilot studies, editing reported data and implementing efficient operating procedures. Fluctuations may occur in consecutive months as a result of seasonal and economic factors.
- Month-on-month percentage change** 10 The month-on-month percentage change in a variable for any given month is the change between that month and the previous month, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
- Year-on-year percentage change** 11 The year-on-year percentage change in a variable for any given period is the change between that period and the corresponding period of the previous year, expressed as a percentage of the latter.

Contribution (percentage points) **12** The contribution (percentage points) to the year-on-year percentage change is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of wholesaler by its corresponding weight, divided by 100. The weight is the percentage contribution of each type of wholesaler to total wholesale trade sales in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Glossary

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

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

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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