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# Statistical release

## P6141.2

# Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

## January 2013

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**Sales at constant 2000 prices: results for January 2013**

**Table A – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices**

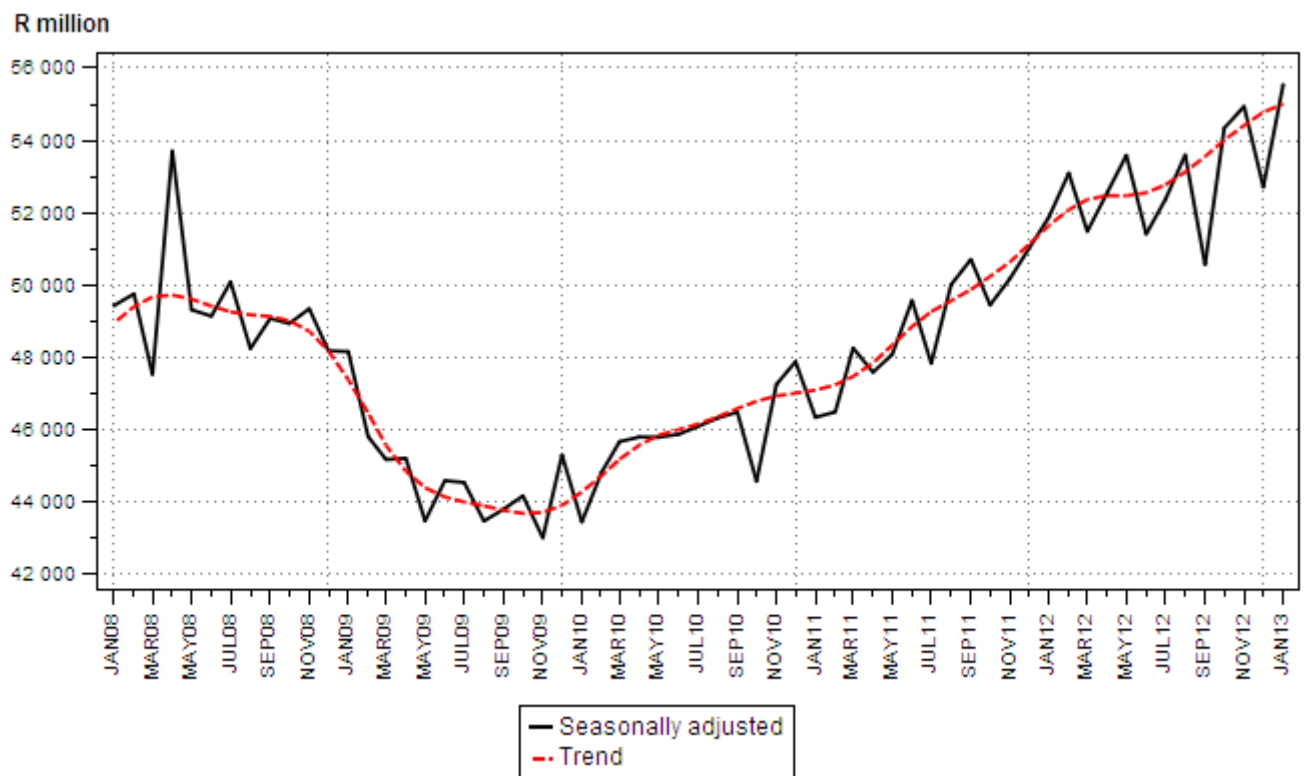
	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	7,4	-0,2	9,7	9,4	3,3	6,8
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	2,3	-5,7	7,5	1,1	-4,1	5,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	-0,2	-0,6	0,7	1,6	3,5	3,0

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 6,8% year-on-year in January 2013. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 5,4% in January 2013 compared with December 2012. This followed month-on-month changes of -4,1% in December 2012 and 1,1% in November 2012.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 3,0% in the three months ended January 2013 compared with the previous three months.

**Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices**



**Sales at current prices: results for January 2013**

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

	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	11,3	3,0	14,5	14,2	7,9	12,4
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	3,7	-4,9	8,9	1,6	-3,7	5,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	0,3	0,3	2,8	4,2	6,3	5,0

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 12,4% in January 2013 compared with January 2012. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (23,3% and contributing 5,5 percentage points);
- machinery, equipment and supplies (30,0% and contributing 3,6 percentage points); and
- 'other' household goods except precious stones (19,0% and contributing 2,0 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	Nov 2011 – Jan 2012 (R million)	Weight	Nov 2012 – Jan 2013 (R million)	% change between Nov 2011 – Jan 2012 and Nov 2012 – Jan 2013	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Fee or contract basis	17 252	5,4	17 759	2,9	0,2
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	18 095	5,7	22 925	26,7	1,5
Food, beverages and tobacco	50 314	15,9	58 103	15,5	2,5
Textiles, clothing and footwear	7 648	2,4	7 779	1,7	0,0
Other household goods except precious stones	33 955	10,7	37 982	11,9	1,3
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	3 367	1,1	3 728	10,7	0,1
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	73 402	23,2	83 904	14,3	3,3
Metals and metal ores	9 278	2,9	9 223	-0,6	0,0
Construction and building materials	14 788	4,7	15 416	4,2	0,2
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	13 441	4,2	12 859	-4,3	-0,2
Machinery, equipment and supplies	39 756	12,6	44 424	11,7	1,5
Other goods	35 480	11,2	39 234	10,6	1,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>316 776</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>353 337</b>	<b>11,5</b>	<b>11,5</b>

Wholesale trade sales increased by 11,5% in the three months ended January 2013 compared with the three months ended January 2012. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (14,3% and contributing 3,3 percentage points);
- food, beverages and tobacco (15,5% and contributing 2,5 percentage points);
- agricultural raw materials and livestock (26,7% and contributing 1,5 percentage points); and
- machinery, equipment and supplies (11,7% and contributing 1,5 percentage points) – see Table C.

**PJ Lehohla**  
**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	48 549
Feb	43 045	47 214	43 507	42 593	44 189	50 468	
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	
<b>Total</b>	<b>550 705</b>	<b>592 297</b>	<b>536 059</b>	<b>550 688</b>	<b>586 398</b>	<b>632 849</b>	

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	6,8	6,8
Feb	9,7	-7,9	-2,1	3,7	14,2		
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		
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,6</b>	<b>-9,5</b>	<b>2,7</b>	<b>6,5</b>	<b>7,9</b>		

**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	43 457	46 345	51 880	55 536	-4,1	-3,2	1,7	5,4
Feb	44 830	46 495	53 094		3,2	0,3	2,3	
Mar	45 674	48 259	51 483		1,9	3,8	-3,0	
Apr	45 802	47 591	52 554		0,3	-1,4	2,1	
May	45 796	48 082	53 586		0,0	1,0	2,0	
Jun	45 877	49 574	51 411		0,2	3,1	-4,1	
Jul	46 090	47 835	52 369		0,5	-3,5	1,9	
Aug	46 324	50 009	53 597		0,5	4,5	2,3	
Sep	46 491	50 710	50 567		0,4	1,4	-5,7	
Oct	44 579	49 450	54 338		-4,1	-2,5	7,5	
Nov	47 254	50 179	54 937		6,0	1,5	1,1	
Dec	47 886	51 017	52 709		1,3	1,7	-4,1	

**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	105 288
Feb	65 472	80 035	78 293	78 555	86 046	105 026	
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	
<b>Total</b>	<b>880 719</b>	<b>1 077 991</b>	<b>958 409</b>	<b>1 030 950</b>	<b>1 174 302</b>	<b>1 328 931</b>	

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	12,4	12,4
Feb	22,2	-2,2	0,3	9,5	22,1		
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		
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,4</b>	<b>-11,1</b>	<b>7,6</b>	<b>13,9</b>	<b>13,2</b>		

**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	80 369	89 038	107 056	120 435	-3,0	-2,6	1,4	5,9
Feb	83 365	91 219	111 219		3,7	2,4	3,9	
Mar	84 572	94 724	106 714		1,4	3,8	-4,1	
Apr	85 272	93 217	108 468		0,8	-1,6	1,6	
May	85 307	94 589	111 295		0,0	1,5	2,6	
Jun	86 251	98 082	106 771		1,1	3,7	-4,1	
Jul	85 869	95 214	108 407		-0,4	-2,9	1,5	
Aug	86 938	101 072	112 375		1,2	6,2	3,7	
Sep	87 287	103 831	106 822		0,4	2,7	-4,9	
Oct	83 611	101 431	116 296		-4,2	-2,3	8,9	
Nov	89 373	103 391	118 149		6,9	1,9	1,6	
Dec	91 373	105 535	113 740		2,2	2,1	-3,7	

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

Type of dealer	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13 1/
Fee or contract basis	5 601	5 565	5 851	6 492	6 338	4 929
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	7 780	7 775	7 142	8 595	8 005	6 325
Food, beverages and tobacco	17 530	16 440	18 017	19 797	22 812	15 494
Textiles, clothing and footwear	2 763	2 865	3 394	3 583	2 317	1 879
Other household goods except precious stones	12 699	11 940	14 332	15 182	11 193	11 607
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	833	1 362	1 530	1 777	1 147	804
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	25 398	25 715	29 771	29 691	26 838	27 375
Metals and metal ores	3 584	3 594	3 970	3 970	2 184	3 069
Construction and building materials	5 786	5 400	6 189	6 881	4 067	4 468
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	4 552	4 436	5 160	5 313	3 757	3 789
Machinery, equipment and supplies	15 216	13 716	15 980	16 234	13 518	14 672
Other goods	12 116	10 948	12 322	14 359	13 997	10 878
<b>Total</b>	<b>113 859</b>	<b>109 756</b>	<b>123 658</b>	<b>131 874</b>	<b>116 175</b>	<b>105 288</b>

1/ Preliminary.

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

Type of dealer	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13
Fee or contract basis	-5,3	-11,0	-2,7	16,5	-1,9	-5,5
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	28,4	21,3	16,4	29,5	28,2	21,3
Food, beverages and tobacco	7,0	4,8	15,9	17,8	20,1	6,7
Textiles, clothing and footwear	9,0	13,1	9,2	11,6	2,0	-13,3
Other household goods except precious stones	15,7	2,0	13,9	13,0	3,9	19,0
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	-31,8	39,4	59,2	74,2	-26,4	2,0
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	13,6	12,0	26,4	12,9	7,8	23,3
Metals and metal ores	-6,0	-9,6	1,2	-2,0	-4,8	4,7
Construction and building materials	11,4	-4,5	13,0	10,4	-7,1	6,9
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	15,9	-8,5	3,1	4,9	-6,1	-13,4
Machinery, equipment and supplies	8,4	-14,3	7,3	10,5	-1,9	30,0
Other goods	22,7	14,6	14,2	15,7	16,5	-1,6
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,3</b>	<b>3,0</b>	<b>14,5</b>	<b>14,2</b>	<b>7,9</b>	<b>12,4</b>

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

Type of dealer	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13
Fee or contract basis	-0,3	-0,6	-0,2	0,8	-0,1	-0,3
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	1,7	1,3	0,9	1,7	1,6	1,2
Food, beverages and tobacco	1,1	0,7	2,3	2,6	3,5	1,0
Textiles, clothing and footwear	0,2	0,3	0,3	0,3	0,0	-0,3
Other household goods except precious stones	1,7	0,2	1,6	1,5	0,4	2,0
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	-0,4	0,4	0,5	0,7	-0,4	0,0
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	3,0	2,6	5,8	2,9	1,8	5,5
Metals and metal ores	-0,2	-0,4	0,0	-0,1	-0,1	0,1
Construction and building materials	0,6	-0,2	0,7	0,6	-0,3	0,3
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	0,6	-0,4	0,1	0,2	-0,2	-0,6
Machinery, equipment and supplies	1,2	-2,1	1,0	1,3	-0,2	3,6
Other goods	2,2	1,3	1,4	1,7	1,8	-0,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,3</b>	<b>3,0</b>	<b>14,5</b>	<b>14,2</b>	<b>7,9</b>	<b>12,4</b>

## 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 January 2013 was 86,4%. The improved collection rate for December 2012 was 89,8%.



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<b>Statistical unit</b>	<b>7</b>	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.
<b>Revised figures</b>	<b>8</b>	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.
<b>Related publications</b>	<b>9</b>	Users may also refer to the following publications available from Stats SA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Bulletin of Statistics</i> issued quarterly; and</li><li>• <i>SA Statistics</i> issued annually.</li></ul>
<b>Rounding-off of figures</b>	<b>10</b>	Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.
<b>Historical data</b>	<b>11</b>	Historical wholesale trade sales data are available on the Stats SA webpage. To access the data electronically, use the following link: <a href="http://www.statssa.gov.za/timeseriesdata/timeseriesdata.asp">http://www.statssa.gov.za/timeseriesdata/timeseriesdata.asp</a>
<b>Past publications</b>	<b>12</b>	Past wholesale trade sales releases are available on the Stats SA webpage. To access the releases electronically, use the following link: <a href="http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/statspastfuture.asp?PPN=P6141.2&amp;SCH=">http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/statspastfuture.asp?PPN=P6141.2&amp;SCH=</a>

**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.

<b>Seasonal adjustment</b>	<b>5</b>	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.
<b>Trend cycle</b>	<b>6</b>	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.
<b>Constant prices</b>	<b>7</b>	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'.
<b>Reliability of estimates</b>	<b>8</b>	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.
	<b>9</b>	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.
<b>Month-on-month percentage change</b>	<b>10</b>	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.
<b>Year-on-year percentage change</b>	<b>11</b>	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.
<b>Contribution (percentage points)</b>	<b>12</b>	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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