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The South Africa I know, the home I understand



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Sales at constant 2015 prices: results for January 2020

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

| | Aug-19 | Sep-19 | Oct-19 | Nov-19 | Dec-19 | Jan-20 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Year-on-year % change, unadjusted | -4,0 | -3,7 | -0,7 | -5,1 | 2,5 | 1,9 |
| Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted | -7,1 | 1,5 | 0,7 | -3,0 | -0,5 | 1,1 |
| 3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/ | 0,6 | 2,5 | -0,9 | -1,2 | -2,9 | -2,0 |

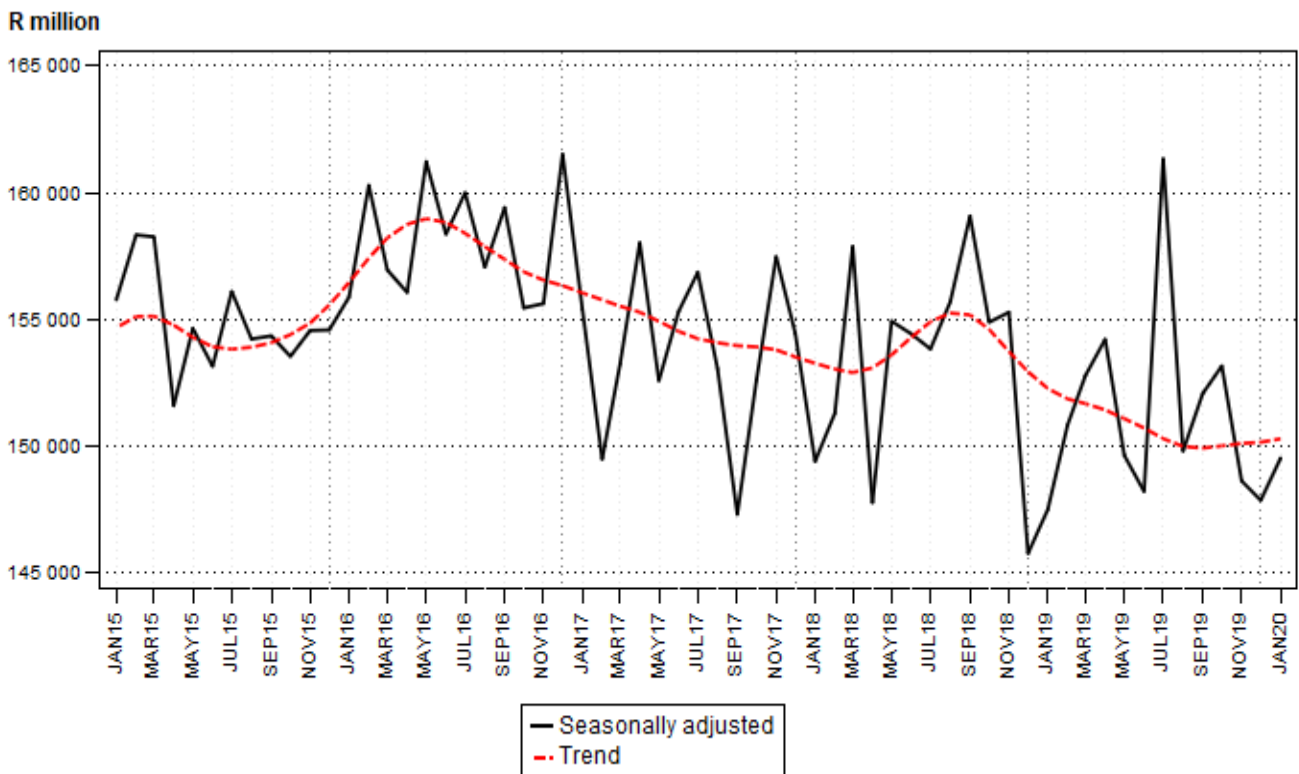
1/ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Measured in real terms (constant 2015 prices), wholesale trade sales increased by 1,9% in January 2020 compared with January 2019.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 1,1% in January 2020 compared with December 2019. This followed month-on-month changes of -0,5% in December 2019 and -3,0% in November 2019.

In the three months ended January 2020, seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales decreased by 2,0% compared with the previous three months.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2015 prices



Sales at current prices: results for January 2020

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

| | Aug-19 | Sep-19 | Oct-19 | Nov-19 | Dec-19 | Jan-20 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Year-on-year % change, unadjusted | -0,4 | -0,9 | 0,5 | -4,1 | 5,5 | 6,9 |
| Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted | -4,6 | -0,3 | 2,8 | -3,4 | -1,8 | 5,2 |
| 3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/ | 0,8 | 1,0 | -0,5 | -0,8 | -1,9 | -1,2 |

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 6,9% in January 2020 compared with January 2019. The main contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (16,0% and contributing 4,2 percentage points); and
- food, beverages and tobacco (16,5% and contributing 2,5 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 2018 – Jan 2019 (R million) | Weight | Nov 2019 – Jan 2020 (R million) | % change between Nov 2018 – Jan 2019 and Nov 2019 – Jan 2020 | Contribution (% points) to the total % change |
|--|------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Fee or contract basis | 22 305 | 4,1 | 22 092 | -1,0 | 0,0 |
| Agricultural raw materials and livestock | 39 186 | 7,2 | 40 922 | 4,4 | 0,3 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco | 89 179 | 16,3 | 96 768 | 8,5 | 1,4 |
| Textiles, clothing and footwear | 10 122 | 1,9 | 8 961 | -11,5 | -0,2 |
| Other household goods except precious stones | 61 538 | 11,3 | 65 708 | 6,8 | 0,8 |
| Precious stones, jewellery and silverware | 13 395 | 2,5 | 13 399 | 0,0 | 0,0 |
| Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products | 136 979 | 25,1 | 143 789 | 5,0 | 1,3 |
| Metals and metal ores | 11 318 | 2,1 | 10 228 | -9,6 | -0,2 |
| Construction and building materials | 24 749 | 4,5 | 25 413 | 2,7 | 0,1 |
| Other intermediate products, waste and scrap | 27 447 | 5,0 | 27 270 | -0,6 | 0,0 |
| Machinery, equipment and supplies | 73 334 | 13,4 | 64 751 | -11,7 | -1,6 |
| Other goods | 37 134 | 6,8 | 39 167 | 5,5 | 0,4 |
| Total | 546 685 | 100,0 | 558 471 | 2,2 | 2,2 |

Wholesale trade sales increased by 2,2% in the three months ended January 2020 compared with the three months ended January 2019. The main positive contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- food, beverages and tobacco (8,5% and contributing 1,4 percentage points); and
- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (5,0% and contributing 1,3 percentage points) – see Table C.

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

Tables

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

| Month | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 1/ |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
| Jan | 138 998 | 140 072 | 136 357 | 137 680 | 134 431 | 133 237 | 135 730 |
| Feb | 147 556 | 152 922 | 161 677 | 143 550 | 144 651 | 143 661 | |
| Mar | 148 636 | 162 436 | 160 352 | 159 717 | 159 536 | 153 783 | |
| Apr | 141 316 | 139 052 | 145 691 | 140 879 | 136 514 | 143 745 | |
| May | 146 670 | 149 704 | 158 174 | 152 460 | 155 382 | 150 487 | |
| Jun | 148 766 | 154 044 | 159 454 | 158 058 | 155 273 | 145 369 | |
| Jul | 144 792 | 155 319 | 154 867 | 151 509 | 150 834 | 160 884 | |
| Aug | 150 604 | 151 976 | 159 571 | 156 465 | 159 676 | 153 354 | |
| Sep | 158 911 | 161 670 | 167 498 | 152 801 | 160 136 | 154 279 | |
| Oct | 165 663 | 166 035 | 164 736 | 164 298 | 169 544 | 168 419 | |
| Nov | 161 774 | 169 476 | 172 520 | 174 022 | 172 804 | 164 061 | |
| Dec | 155 228 | 155 912 | 161 392 | 150 131 | 140 494 | 144 045 | |
| Total | 1 808 914 | 1 858 618 | 1 902 289 | 1 841 570 | 1 839 275 | 1 815 324 | |

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

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

| Month | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2020 year-to-date |
|--------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------|-------------------|
| Jan | 0,8 | -2,7 | 1,0 | -2,4 | -0,9 | 1,9 | 1,9 |
| Feb | 3,6 | 5,7 | -11,2 | 0,8 | -0,7 | | |
| Mar | 9,3 | -1,3 | -0,4 | -0,1 | -3,6 | | |
| Apr | -1,6 | 4,8 | -3,3 | -3,1 | 5,3 | | |
| May | 2,1 | 5,7 | -3,6 | 1,9 | -3,2 | | |
| Jun | 3,5 | 3,5 | -0,9 | -1,8 | -6,4 | | |
| Jul | 7,3 | -0,3 | -2,2 | -0,4 | 6,7 | | |
| Aug | 0,9 | 5,0 | -1,9 | 2,1 | -4,0 | | |
| Sep | 1,7 | 3,6 | -8,8 | 4,8 | -3,7 | | |
| Oct | 0,2 | -0,8 | -0,3 | 3,2 | -0,7 | | |
| Nov | 4,8 | 1,8 | 0,9 | -0,7 | -5,1 | | |
| Dec | 0,4 | 3,5 | -7,0 | -6,4 | 2,5 | | |
| Total | 2,7 | 2,3 | -3,2 | -0,1 | -1,3 | | |

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

| Month | R million | | | | Month-on-month % change | | | |
|-------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------|------|------|------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Jan | 155 411 | 149 413 | 147 519 | 149 536 | -3,8 | -3,3 | 1,2 | 1,1 |
| Feb | 149 500 | 151 313 | 150 847 | | -3,8 | 1,3 | 2,3 | |
| Mar | 153 243 | 157 890 | 152 797 | | 2,5 | 4,3 | 1,3 | |
| Apr | 158 036 | 147 782 | 154 227 | | 3,1 | -6,4 | 0,9 | |
| May | 152 594 | 154 938 | 149 649 | | -3,4 | 4,8 | -3,0 | |
| Jun | 155 327 | 154 437 | 148 228 | | 1,8 | -0,3 | -0,9 | |
| Jul | 156 867 | 153 847 | 161 350 | | 1,0 | -0,4 | 8,9 | |
| Aug | 153 060 | 155 706 | 149 817 | | -2,4 | 1,2 | -7,1 | |
| Sep | 147 324 | 159 085 | 152 089 | | -3,7 | 2,2 | 1,5 | |
| Oct | 152 615 | 154 902 | 153 175 | | 3,6 | -2,6 | 0,7 | |
| Nov | 157 486 | 155 290 | 148 645 | | 3,2 | 0,3 | -3,0 | |
| Dec | 154 452 | 145 785 | 147 877 | | -1,9 | -6,1 | -0,5 | |

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

| Month | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 1/ |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
| Jan | 138 966 | 132 824 | 140 664 | 149 796 | 155 500 | 160 366 | 171 480 |
| Feb | 148 477 | 145 340 | 167 909 | 157 920 | 166 393 | 172 810 | |
| Mar | 151 465 | 159 202 | 166 178 | 175 902 | 181 678 | 187 642 | |
| Apr | 144 483 | 138 746 | 153 668 | 155 084 | 157 693 | 178 663 | |
| May | 149 741 | 150 562 | 167 088 | 169 166 | 182 054 | 188 309 | |
| Jun | 152 156 | 156 371 | 170 734 | 174 665 | 184 468 | 182 647 | |
| Jul | 148 916 | 158 135 | 167 361 | 167 530 | 181 177 | 200 851 | |
| Aug | 153 967 | 153 293 | 170 398 | 173 748 | 192 524 | 191 785 | |
| Sep | 162 066 | 162 769 | 177 849 | 172 129 | 194 427 | 192 740 | |
| Oct | 168 125 | 169 187 | 176 422 | 186 969 | 210 584 | 211 576 | |
| Nov | 162 481 | 172 870 | 187 122 | 199 923 | 214 427 | 205 646 | |
| Dec | 153 497 | 159 318 | 175 335 | 174 465 | 171 892 | 181 345 | |
| Total | 1 834 340 | 1 858 617 | 2 020 728 | 2 057 297 | 2 192 817 | 2 254 380 | |

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

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

| Month | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2020 year-to-date |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------|-------------------|
| Jan | -4,4 | 5,9 | 6,5 | 3,8 | 3,1 | 6,9 | 6,9 |
| Feb | -2,1 | 15,5 | -5,9 | 5,4 | 3,9 | | |
| Mar | 5,1 | 4,4 | 5,9 | 3,3 | 3,3 | | |
| Apr | -4,0 | 10,8 | 0,9 | 1,7 | 13,3 | | |
| May | 0,5 | 11,0 | 1,2 | 7,6 | 3,4 | | |
| Jun | 2,8 | 9,2 | 2,3 | 5,6 | -1,0 | | |
| Jul | 6,2 | 5,8 | 0,1 | 8,1 | 10,9 | | |
| Aug | -0,4 | 11,2 | 2,0 | 10,8 | -0,4 | | |
| Sep | 0,4 | 9,3 | -3,2 | 13,0 | -0,9 | | |
| Oct | 0,6 | 4,3 | 6,0 | 12,6 | 0,5 | | |
| Nov | 6,4 | 8,2 | 6,8 | 7,3 | -4,1 | | |
| Dec | 3,8 | 10,1 | -0,5 | -1,5 | 5,5 | | |
| Total | 1,3 | 8,7 | 1,8 | 6,6 | 2,8 | | |

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices

| Month | R million | | | | Month-on-month % change | | | |
|-------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------|------|------|------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Jan | 170 723 | 175 649 | 181 105 | 192 696 | -2,3 | -0,9 | 2,8 | 5,2 |
| Feb | 166 603 | 176 322 | 183 548 | | -2,4 | 0,4 | 1,3 | |
| Mar | 169 636 | 180 784 | 185 576 | | 1,8 | 2,5 | 1,1 | |
| Apr | 173 877 | 169 701 | 193 548 | | 2,5 | -6,1 | 4,3 | |
| May | 169 004 | 182 324 | 188 498 | | -2,8 | 7,4 | -2,6 | |
| Jun | 172 049 | 184 478 | 186 116 | | 1,8 | 1,2 | -1,3 | |
| Jul | 169 703 | 180 382 | 197 494 | | -1,4 | -2,2 | 6,1 | |
| Aug | 170 548 | 188 386 | 188 496 | | 0,5 | 4,4 | -4,6 | |
| Sep | 166 671 | 192 452 | 187 848 | | -2,3 | 2,2 | -0,3 | |
| Oct | 172 814 | 192 672 | 193 130 | | 3,7 | 0,1 | 2,8 | |
| Nov | 179 378 | 191 548 | 186 560 | | 3,8 | -0,6 | -3,4 | |
| Dec | 177 277 | 176 161 | 183 148 | | -1,2 | -8,0 | -1,8 | |

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

| Type of dealer | Aug-19 | Sep-19 | Oct-19 | Nov-19 | Dec-19 | Jan-20 1/ |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Fee or contract basis | 8 024 | 8 675 | 9 580 | 8 966 | 6 918 | 6 208 |
| Agricultural raw materials and livestock | 12 094 | 13 042 | 13 299 | 14 826 | 14 303 | 11 793 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco | 28 977 | 30 197 | 33 040 | 32 713 | 35 888 | 28 167 |
| Textiles, clothing and footwear | 3 966 | 4 172 | 4 933 | 4 055 | 2 436 | 2 470 |
| Other household goods except precious stones | 22 291 | 23 544 | 23 482 | 25 172 | 21 600 | 18 936 |
| Precious stones, jewellery and silverware | 4 661 | 4 919 | 6 561 | 5 062 | 3 743 | 4 594 |
| Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products | 48 720 | 45 249 | 48 663 | 47 897 | 47 451 | 48 441 |
| Metals and metal ores | 4 327 | 4 361 | 4 613 | 4 351 | 2 366 | 3 511 |
| Construction and building materials | 11 150 | 9 199 | 11 176 | 10 996 | 7 181 | 7 236 |
| Other intermediate products, waste and scrap | 9 398 | 10 534 | 12 592 | 11 213 | 7 592 | 8 465 |
| Machinery, equipment and supplies | 24 154 | 25 019 | 27 605 | 24 904 | 19 129 | 20 718 |
| Other goods | 14 022 | 13 830 | 16 032 | 15 489 | 12 738 | 10 940 |
| Total | 191 785 | 192 740 | 211 576 | 205 646 | 181 345 | 171 480 |

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 | Aug-19 | Sep-19 | Oct-19 | Nov-19 | Dec-19 | Jan-20 |
|--|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| Fee or contract basis | 2,1 | 15,0 | 23,0 | 4,9 | -5,3 | -3,7 |
| Agricultural raw materials and livestock | -7,4 | 15,6 | 4,0 | -5,3 | 16,2 | 5,1 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco | 2,5 | 2,1 | 10,1 | 3,5 | 7,5 | 16,5 |
| Textiles, clothing and footwear | 11,7 | 2,8 | 11,3 | -7,1 | -14,3 | -15,1 |
| Other household goods except precious stones | 1,3 | -3,7 | 0,3 | 3,8 | 14,3 | 3,0 |
| Precious stones, jewellery and silverware | -12,1 | -15,1 | 15,9 | -1,4 | -3,0 | 4,3 |
| Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products | 1,3 | -10,2 | -14,9 | -6,3 | 7,6 | 16,0 |
| Metals and metal ores | -7,1 | -7,6 | -9,4 | -13,8 | -12,3 | -1,8 |
| Construction and building materials | 14,2 | -0,1 | 0,4 | -0,6 | 10,5 | 0,6 |
| Other intermediate products, waste and scrap | -6,1 | 2,8 | 13,4 | -4,5 | 7,2 | -1,8 |
| Machinery, equipment and supplies | -4,2 | 4,4 | 2,5 | -18,9 | -11,9 | -1,0 |
| Other goods | -5,0 | 4,8 | 6,7 | 1,8 | 13,7 | 2,1 |
| Total | -0,4 | -0,9 | 0,5 | -4,1 | 5,5 | 6,9 |

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-19 | Sep-19 | Oct-19 | Nov-19 | Dec-19 | Jan-20 |
|--|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| Fee or contract basis | 0,1 | 0,6 | 0,9 | 0,2 | -0,2 | -0,1 |
| Agricultural raw materials and livestock | -0,5 | 0,9 | 0,2 | -0,4 | 1,2 | 0,4 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco | 0,4 | 0,3 | 1,4 | 0,5 | 1,5 | 2,5 |
| Textiles, clothing and footwear | 0,2 | 0,1 | 0,2 | -0,1 | -0,2 | -0,3 |
| Other household goods except precious stones | 0,1 | -0,5 | 0,0 | 0,4 | 1,6 | 0,3 |
| Precious stones, jewellery and silverware | -0,3 | -0,5 | 0,4 | 0,0 | -0,1 | 0,1 |
| Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products | 0,3 | -2,6 | -4,1 | -1,5 | 2,0 | 4,2 |
| Metals and metal ores | -0,2 | -0,2 | -0,2 | -0,3 | -0,2 | 0,0 |
| Construction and building materials | 0,7 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,4 | 0,0 |
| Other intermediate products, waste and scrap | -0,3 | 0,1 | 0,7 | -0,2 | 0,3 | -0,1 |
| Machinery, equipment and supplies | -0,6 | 0,5 | 0,3 | -2,7 | -1,5 | -0,1 |
| Other goods | -0,4 | 0,3 | 0,5 | 0,1 | 0,9 | 0,1 |
| Total | -0,4 | -0,9 | 0,5 | -4,1 | 5,5 | 6,9 |

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 2019 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 2020 was 89,0%. The improved collection rate for December 2019 was 92,1%.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---|
| 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 1 423 enterprises from a population of 19 570 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 2019 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 | 2 656 495 | 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 US Bureau of the Census. 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 August 2017](#)

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 <i>System of National Accounts</i> (SNA) in the same way as in the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities</i> (SIC), Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Symbols and abbreviations | <table><tr><td>BSF</td><td>Business sampling frame</td></tr><tr><td>GDP</td><td>Gross domestic product</td></tr><tr><td>ISIC</td><td>International Standard Industrial Classification</td></tr><tr><td>SIC</td><td>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</td></tr><tr><td>SARS</td><td>South African Revenue Service</td></tr><tr><td>Stats SA</td><td>Statistics South Africa</td></tr><tr><td>VAT</td><td>Value added tax</td></tr></table> | 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 |
| 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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