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Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

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Summary of findings: Wholesale trade sales

Table A – Key figures for July 2010

Actual wholesale trade sales estimates	July 2010 (R million)	% change between July 2009 and July 2010	% change between May to July 2009 and May to July 2010	% change between January to July 2009 and January to July 2010
At current prices	83 427	10,2	10,1	4,6
At constant 2000 prices	44 470	4,1	3,9	0,4

Seasonally adjusted estimates	July 2010 (R million)	% change between June and July 2010	% change between February to April 2010 and May to July 2010
At current prices	81 445	-0,8	0,2
At constant 2000 prices	43 892	-0,1	0,6

Key findings for July 2010

Wholesale trade sales in real terms

Wholesale trade sales, at constant 2000 prices, for the three months ended July 2010 increased by 3,9% compared with the three months ended July 2009, while sales for the same period in 2009 decreased by 11,1%. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales for the three months ended July 2010 increased by 0,6% compared with the three months ended April 2010.

Wholesale trade sales, at constant 2000 prices, for July 2010 increased by 4,1% compared with July 2009.

Wholesale trade sales in nominal terms

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for the three months ended July 2010 increased by 10,1% compared with the three months ended July 2009. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in ‘solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products’ (29,9% and contributing 5,3 percentage points) and dealers in ‘food, beverages and tobacco’ (14,4% and contributing 2,4 percentage points) – see Table B on page 3.

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for July 2010 increased by 10,2% compared with July 2009, while sales for the corresponding period in 2009 decreased by 17,2%.

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

Type of wholesale dealer	Sales May to July 2009 (R million)	Weight 1/	Sales May to July 2010 (R million)	Difference in sales between May to July 2009 and May to July 2010 (R million)	Percentage change between May to July 2009 and May to July 2010	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in total sales 2/
Fee or contract basis	13 136	5,9	15 852	2 716	20,7	1,2
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	13 471	6,0	13 199	-272	-2,0	-0,1
Food, beverages and tobacco	37 259	16,7	42 640	5 381	14,4	2,4
Textiles, clothing and footwear	6 470	2,9	6 519	49	0,8	0,0
Other household goods except precious stones	24 264	10,8	25 854	1 590	6,6	0,7
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	1 325	0,6	1 821	496	37,4	0,2
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	39 562	17,7	51 403	11 841	29,9	5,3
Metals and metal ores	8 345	3,7	9 332	987	11,8	0,4
Construction and building materials	11 529	5,2	11 980	451	3,9	0,2
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	7 942	3,6	8 414	472	5,9	0,2
Machinery, equipment and supplies	37 493	16,8	37 790	297	0,8	0,1
Other goods	22 868	10,2	21 532	-1 336	-5,8	-0,6
Total 3/	223 666	100,0	246 335	22 669	10,1	10,1

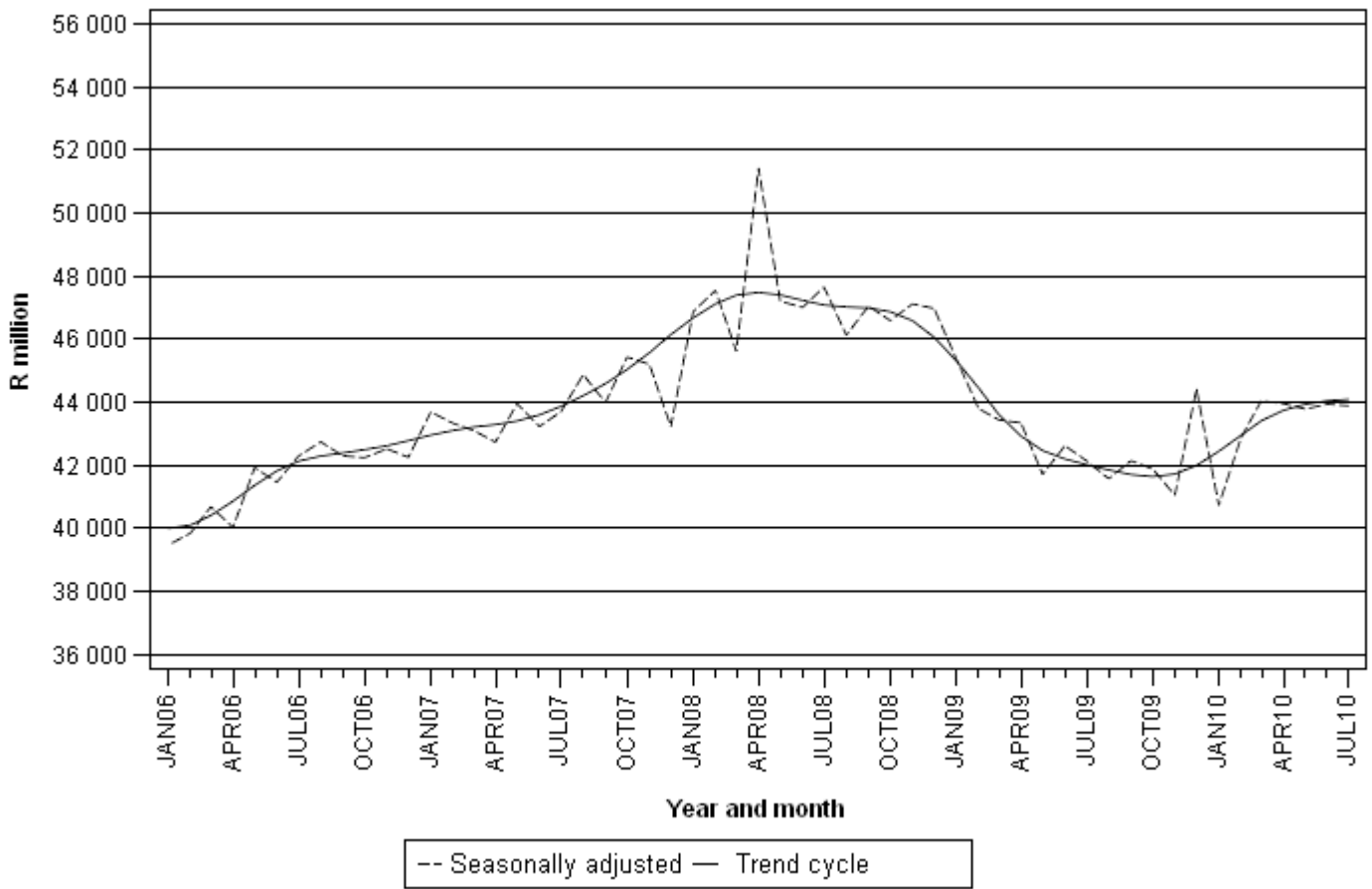
1/ Weight is the percentage contribution of each type of dealer to the total wholesale trade sales for the three months up to the current month of the previous year.

2/ The contribution to the percentage change is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of dealer with its corresponding weight, divided by 100.

3/ The figures have been rounded off. Therefore discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and the totals.

Figure 1 below shows the seasonally adjusted and trend patterns for wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices between January 2006 and July 2010.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices



PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Article: Changes to the monthly current indicator survey and the impact on the statistical series

Business Register and samples

Today Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publishes results for the monthly survey of wholesale trade sales from a new sample drawn in April 2010 which replaces the previous sample that was drawn in April 2009. The sample is drawn from a business register (BR) that primarily contains enterprises with an annual turnover of at least R1 000 000 and are required to register with the South African Revenue Service (SARS) for value added tax.

Owing to the evolving nature of business, the business register is maintained on a continuous basis. The maintenance process is aimed, amongst other things, at capturing changes related to new businesses, ceased businesses, merged businesses and classification changes. In addition, Stats SA undertakes quality improvement surveys related to the business register, the primary objective of which is to capture up-to-date information about the structures and activities of large and complex businesses. This process enables Stats SA to review classification codes for these businesses. These changes are an essential part of the statistical architecture.

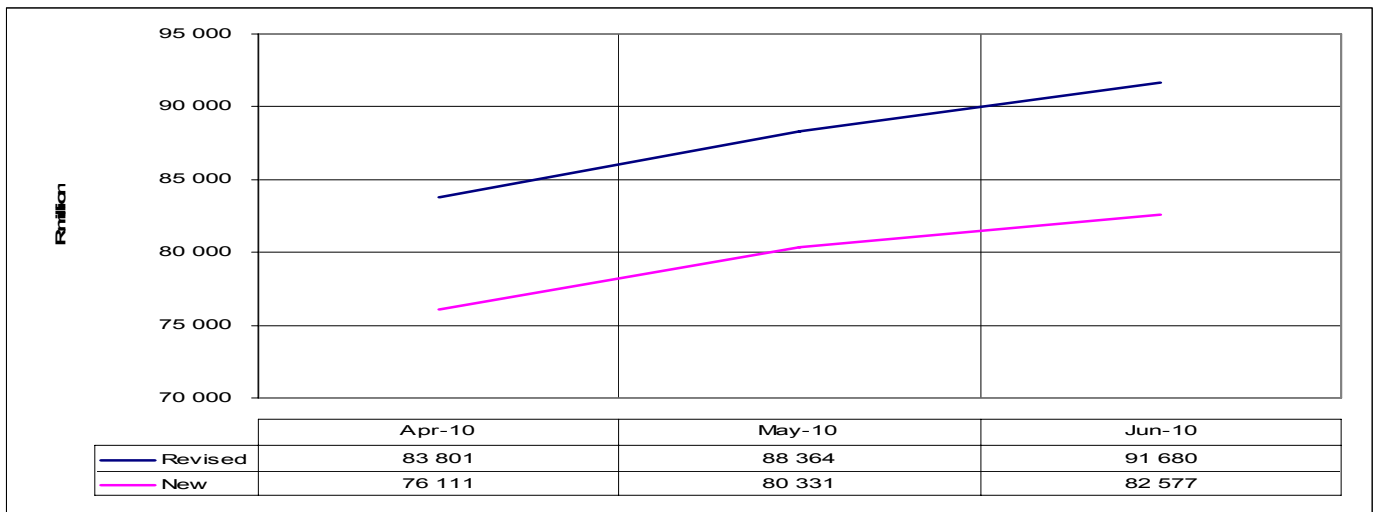
Comparison of total sales between the previous and new samples of the wholesale industry

The reported level of total sales for the monthly survey of wholesale trade sales for the months April to June 2010 based on the new sample was 9,4% lower than the level of total sales recorded for the previous sample (see Table C and Figure 2). The previous sample was drawn in April 2009 and was operational for the last half of 2009 and the first half of 2010.

Table C – Total sales for previous and new samples for wholesale industry – April to June 2010

Wholesale trade sales	Previous sample (R million)	New sample (R million)	Difference (R million)	Difference (percentage)
	263 845	239 019	-24 826	-9,4

Figure 2 – Total wholesale trade sales: monthly levels of previous and new samples for April to June 2010



Comparison of sales between the previous and new samples by type of wholesale dealer

The differences in sales between the previous and new samples by type of wholesale dealer are shown in Table D. The largest change in relative (i.e. percentage) terms took place in wholesalers of precious stones, jewellery and silverware (63,1% lower in the new sample). Various data quality improvements account for these differences, for example the reclassification of enterprises from one industry to another.

Table D – Wholesale trade sales for previous and new samples by type of wholesale dealer: April to June 2010

Type of wholesale dealer	Previous sample	New sample	Difference	Difference
	R million	R million	R million	Percentage 1/
Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis	11 631	14 833	3 202	27,5
Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock	9 804	11 586	1 782	18,2
Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco	51 795	40 499	-11 296	-21,8
Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear	8 053	6 787	-1 266	-15,7
Wholesale trade in other household goods except precious stones	26 089	26 068	-21	-0,1
Wholesale trade in precious stones, jewellery and silverware	4 438	1 639	-2 799	-63,1
Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	49 267	49 293	26	0,1
Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores	8 292	9 390	1 099	13,2
Wholesale trade in construction and building materials	14 598	11 751	-2 847	-19,5
Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap	8 944	8 205	-739	-8,3
Wholesale trade in machinery equipment and supplies	46 700	37 734	-8 966	-19,2
Wholesale trade in other goods	24 233	21 233	-3 000	-12,4
Total for wholesale trade sales	263 845	239 019	-24 826	-9,4

1/ The percentage difference is the difference between the April to June 2010 sales as recorded in the new sample and the April to June 2010 sales as recorded in the previous sample, expressed as a percentage.

Backcasting

In order to assist users of time series, the levels from the new sample for the survey have been adjusted back to the start of 1998, using the level for April 2010 as the end point for the backcast series.

Detailed results

Outlined below in Table 1 are wholesale trade sales according to type of dealer (see description of type of dealer on page 8).

Table 1 – Wholesale trade sales according to the type of dealer at current prices (R million)

Year and month 1/	Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D	Type E	Type F	Type G	Type H	Type I	Type J	Type K	Type L	Total 2/	
2009	January	4 382	4 363	12 695	1 461	7 313	159	14 916	2 882	2 991	2 814	12 769	6 801	73 546
	February	5 025	4 407	12 743	2 136	7 764	341	12 133	2 902	3 797	2 584	13 577	7 484	74 894
	March	5 441	4 345	12 982	2 583	8 309	576	13 095	2 796	4 015	2 606	14 898	7 648	79 294
	April	4 743	3 853	12 293	2 386	7 684	542	11 875	2 463	3 438	2 266	12 729	7 666	71 939
	May	4 023	4 390	12 801	2 400	8 051	676	12 226	2 615	3 789	2 634	11 621	7 723	72 950
	June	4 045	4 436	12 436	2 085	8 119	362	12 848	2 808	3 810	2 590	13 906	7 548	74 993
	July	5 068	4 645	12 022	1 985	8 094	287	14 488	2 922	3 930	2 718	11 966	7 597	75 723
	August	4 617	4 370	12 453	2 161	8 048	350	14 132	2 733	3 606	2 799	12 234	6 962	74 466
	September	4 744	4 416	13 060	2 374	8 468	332	13 208	2 873	3 759	3 044	12 156	7 278	75 711
	October	4 554	4 579	12 856	2 310	9 169	615	14 855	3 081	4 175	3 560	13 079	7 669	80 503
	November	5 015	4 907	14 203	2 476	9 319	346	14 547	3 003	4 215	3 644	12 863	8 191	82 729
	December	5 525	4 809	16 251	1 913	8 569	424	14 350	2 088	2 752	2 922	12 419	8 033	80 052
Total	57 182	53 520	156 795	26 270	98 907	5 010	162 673	33 166	44 277	34 181	154 217	90 600	916 800	
2010	January	4 623	3 551	12 064	1 612	6 924	194	13 945	2 500	2 897	2 543	9 980	6 497	67 331
	February	5 370	3 996	12 499	2 065	7 791	665	14 219	2 693	3 494	2 975	11 728	7 649	75 145
	March	5 801	3 954	12 642	2 386	8 688	510	15 999	3 057	4 154	3 171	13 987	8 361	82 708
	April	4 665	3 440	12 822	2 485	8 590	477	15 034	3 047	3 840	2 593	12 131	6 987	76 111
	May	5 081	3 687	13 939	2 211	8 727	588	16 518	3 156	4 050	2 737	12 398	7 238	80 331
	June	5 087	4 459	13 738	2 090	8 751	574	17 742	3 188	3 861	2 876	13 205	7 008	82 577
	July	5 684	5 053	14 963	2 218	8 376	659	17 143	2 988	4 069	2 801	12 187	7 286	83 427

1/ Figures are preliminary

2/ The figures have been rounded off. Therefore discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and the totals.

Description of type of dealer included in a specific group type as indicated in Table 1 ^{1/}

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

1/ See note 4 on page 12 for more detailed specifications.

Tables 2 and 3 show total wholesale trade sales (actual values and annual percentage changes) at current prices over the period January 2003 – July 2010. Table 4 shows seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices over the same period.

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

Month	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 ^{1/}	2010 ^{1/}
January	36 346	38 049	42 575	47 258	58 391	69 813	73 546	67 331
February	41 579	42 973	44 565	51 827	62 630	76 561	74 894	75 145
March	42 773	46 520	47 590	56 092	67 058	79 884	79 294	82 708
April	39 648	41 545	48 941	50 811	61 517	83 509	71 939	76 111
May	41 910	50 150	50 901	58 973	69 661	86 779	72 950	80 331
June	43 298	51 641	52 778	59 678	69 765	88 149	74 993	82 577
July	44 123	49 471	52 629	61 630	71 304	91 466	75 723	83 427
August	42 350	50 458	54 214	64 001	73 714	88 746	74 466	
September	43 266	51 032	56 313	64 025	72 859	89 791	75 711	
October	45 565	55 247	58 201	68 204	80 442	93 965	80 503	
November	46 520	58 872	62 369	72 646	84 120	97 566	82 729	
December	39 763	50 795	53 966	63 148	71 024	84 966	80 052	
Total	507 141	586 753	625 042	718 293	842 485	1 031 195	916 800	

1/ Preliminary

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

Month	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	8,7	4,7	11,9	11,0	23,6	19,6	5,3	-8,5
February	18,0	3,4	3,7	16,3	20,8	22,2	-2,2	0,3
March	14,1	8,8	2,3	17,9	19,6	19,1	-0,7	4,3
April	6,2	4,8	17,8	3,8	21,1	35,7	-13,9	5,8
May	10,2	19,7	1,5	15,9	18,1	24,6	-15,9	10,1
June	15,9	19,3	2,2	13,1	16,9	26,4	-14,9	10,1
July	20,0	12,1	6,4	17,1	15,7	28,3	-17,2	10,2
August	11,7	19,1	7,4	18,1	15,2	20,4	-16,1	
September	8,8	17,9	10,3	13,7	13,8	23,2	-15,7	
October	2,1	21,2	5,3	17,2	17,9	16,8	-14,3	
November	5,6	26,6	5,9	16,5	15,8	16,0	-15,2	
December	-0,5	27,7	6,2	17,0	12,5	19,6	-5,8	
Total	9,8	15,7	6,5	14,9	17,3	22,4	-11,1	

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

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

Month	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	40 910	43 288	48 843	54 315	66 958	79 729	83 818	76 649
February	43 005	44 794	46 912	54 980	66 799	81 746	79 911	80 163
March	42 560	46 436	47 590	56 215	67 079	79 606	78 705	81 993
April	42 542	45 003	53 422	55 632	67 255	90 858	77 881	82 162
May	41 604	49 800	50 471	58 638	69 539	87 125	73 558	81 288
June	42 668	50 802	51 933	58 817	69 043	87 454	74 506	82 094
July	44 506	49 446	52 223	60 725	69 992	89 394	73 926	81 445
August	42 307	50 006	53 327	62 649	72 035	86 839	72 963	
September	42 474	49 918	55 068	62 572	71 233	87 919	74 293	
October	42 085	50 986	53 720	63 055	74 355	86 841	74 338	
November	41 805	52 459	55 210	64 301	74 632	87 028	73 947	
December	40 032	51 389	54 726	64 012	71 962	86 078	81 016	

Tables 5 and 6 show total wholesale trade sales (actual values and annual percentage changes) at constant 2000 prices over the period January 2003 – July 2010. Table 7 shows seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant prices over the same period.

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

Month	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 ^{1/}	2010 ^{1/}
January	28 836	30 164	32 846	34 667	38 625	41 780	40 684	36 614
February	32 888	33 837	34 255	37 996	41 177	45 165	41 618	40 744
March	33 809	36 636	36 381	40 879	43 404	46 077	44 015	44 655
April	31 383	32 430	37 128	36 705	39 198	47 292	39 992	40 639
May	33 440	39 038	38 433	42 032	43 799	46 695	41 032	42 882
June	34 621	40 111	39 795	41 925	43 442	47 049	42 549	43 820
July	35 072	38 529	39 302	42 630	44 131	48 261	42 710	44 470
August	33 762	39 146	40 357	43 304	45 438	46 596	41 933	
September	34 460	39 277	41 622	43 082	44 806	47 882	42 816	
October	36 213	42 227	42 915	45 431	48 917	50 226	45 211	
November	37 126	45 010	45 752	47 989	50 963	52 898	46 039	
December	31 641	38 998	39 560	41 829	42 899	46 665	44 188	
Total	403 251	455 403	468 346	498 469	526 799	566 586	512 787	

1/ Preliminary

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

Month	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	-0,2	4,6	8,9	5,5	11,4	8,2	-2,6	-10,0
February	10,3	2,9	1,2	10,9	8,4	9,7	-7,9	-2,1
March	7,5	8,4	-0,7	12,4	6,2	6,2	-4,5	1,5
April	1,9	3,3	14,5	-1,1	6,8	20,6	-15,4	1,6
May	7,4	16,7	-1,5	9,4	4,2	6,6	-12,1	4,5
June	13,2	15,9	-0,8	5,4	3,6	8,3	-9,6	3,0
July	17,6	9,9	2,0	8,5	3,5	9,4	-11,5	4,1
August	11,2	15,9	3,1	7,3	4,9	2,5	-10,0	
September	9,1	14,0	6,0	3,5	4,0	6,9	-10,6	
October	3,0	16,6	1,6	5,9	7,7	2,7	-10,0	
November	7,3	21,2	1,6	4,9	6,2	3,8	-13,0	
December	0,6	23,3	1,4	5,7	2,6	8,8	-5,3	
Total	7,3	12,9	2,8	6,4	5,7	7,6	-9,5	

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

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

Month	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	32 425	34 196	37 449	39 470	43 693	46 872	45 381	40 733
February	34 003	35 161	35 801	39 851	43 333	47 546	43 799	42 871
March	33 633	36 445	36 180	40 686	43 108	45 619	43 441	44 043
April	33 610	35 019	40 353	40 028	42 735	51 425	43 345	43 956
May	33 210	38 771	38 152	41 926	43 956	47 206	41 711	43 786
June	34 029	39 408	39 198	41 461	43 231	47 006	42 621	43 936
July	35 342	38 561	39 148	42 290	43 698	47 652	42 144	43 892
August	33 741	38 905	39 924	42 743	44 875	46 128	41 574	
September	33 883	38 545	40 883	42 295	43 991	47 051	42 145	
October	33 592	39 192	39 864	42 243	45 432	46 590	41 885	
November	33 445	40 217	40 594	42 522	45 206	47 116	41 053	
December	31 912	39 479	40 056	42 253	43 230	46 977	44 417	

Estimates and percentage changes in total wholesale trade sales

Outlined below in Tables 8.1 and 8.2 are the percentage changes in the actual and seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices and at constant 2000 prices.

Table 8.1 – Three-monthly and annual cumulative estimates and percentage changes

Actual wholesale trade sales estimates	May to July 2009 (R million)	May to July 2010 (R million)	% change between May to July 2009 and May to July 2010	January to July 2009 (R million)	January to July 2010 (R million)	% change between January to July 2009 and January to July 2010
At current prices	223 666	246 335	10,1	523 339	547 630	4,6
At constant 2000 prices	126 291	131 172	3,9	292 600	293 824	0,4

Table 8.2 – Seasonally adjusted monthly and three-monthly estimates and percentage changes

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales estimates	June 2010 (R million)	July 2010 (R million)	% change between June and July 2010	February to April 2010 (R million)	May to July 2010 (R million)	% change between February to April 2010 and May to July 2010
At current prices	82 094	81 445	-0,8	244 318	244 827	0,2
At constant 2000 prices	43 936	43 892	-0,1	130 870	131 614	0,6

Explanatory notes

Introduction	1	<p>Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey of the wholesale trade industry, covering wholesale enterprises (see 4 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from the 2010 Business Sampling Frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value added tax (VAT).</p> <p>As is usual, information for the latest month had to be estimated for respondents who have not reported by the cut-off date for production of results. These estimates will be revised in future statistical releases when their reported information becomes available. Published wholesale trade sales estimates exclude VAT.</p>
Purpose of the survey	3	<p>The results of the monthly wholesale trade sales survey are used to compile estimates of the gross domestic product (GDP) and its components, which are used in monitoring the state of the economy and formulation of economic policy. These statistics are also used in the analysis of comparative business and industry performance.</p>
Scope of the survey	4	<p>This survey covers wholesale enterprises according to the following types of dealer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis • Sales by commission agents, commodity brokers, auctioneers and other wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis; • Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock; • Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco; • Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear; • Wholesale trade in other household goods except precious stones • Wholesale trade in household furniture, requisites and appliances, wholesale trade in books and stationery, wholesale trade in pharmaceuticals and toiletries and wholesale trade in other household goods not elsewhere classified; • Wholesale trade in precious stones, jewellery and silverware; • Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products; • Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores; • Wholesale trade in construction and building materials • Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies; • Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies; • Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap; • Wholesale trade in other goods; and • General wholesale trade and other wholesale trade not classified elsewhere.
Classification	5	<p>The 1993 edition of the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)</i>, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC)</i> with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Each enterprise is classified to the industry which reflects its predominant activity. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC group (four digit) level.</p>
Response rate	6	<p>The preliminary response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for July 2010 was 90,0%.</p>
Statistical unit	7	<p>The statistical unit for which information is compiled and published is the enterprise, defined as a legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.</p>
Survey methodology and design	8	<p>The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of about 1 000 enterprises from a population of about 20 000 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within 10 days after the end of the reference month. Fax and telephone reminders are used to follow up non-respondents.</p>

	9	The value of sales is obtained monthly from the sample of about 1 000 enterprises (which was drawn in April 2010 at the SIC four-digit level) from a population of about 20 000 wholesale enterprises. The wholesale industry is divided into four size groups. All large enterprises (size group one) are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to the remaining size groups (medium, small and very small size enterprises). The total value of sales of the large enterprises (size group one) is added to the weighted totals of size groups two, three and four to reflect the total value of sales.
Weighting methodology	10	For those strata not completely enumerated, the weights to produce estimates are the inverse ratio of the sampling fraction, modified to take account of non-response in the survey. Stratum estimates are calculated and then aggregated with the completely enumerated stratum to form group estimates. These procedures, which are in line with international best practice, are described in more detail on the Stats SA website at http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/publicationsearch.asp .
Constant prices	11	Stats SA compiles its monthly estimates of wholesale trade sales at current prices from a survey of wholesalers in the formal sector. To arrive at estimates of wholesale trade sales at constant prices, sales at current prices are deflated using the all groups producer price index (PPI) excluding 'Electricity, gas, steam and water'.
Seasonal adjustment	12	Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month, using the X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the US Bureau of the Census, 1968. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences, which may be present in any particular month. Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variations. Therefore the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour.
Trend cycle	13	The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimates of the underlying trend cycle.
Reliability of estimates	14	Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all enterprises in the wholesale industry in South Africa. Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.
	15	Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in the collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by careful design of questionnaires, testing them in pilot studies, editing reported data and implementing efficient operating procedures. Fluctuations may occur in consecutive months as a result of seasonal and economic factors.
Revised figures	16	Revised figures are due to respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures and late submission of their data to Stats SA. Preliminary figures are indicated in the relevant tables. Data are edited at the enterprise level.
Related publications	17	Users may also wish to refer to the following publications available from Stats SA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bulletin of Statistics</i> issued quarterly • <i>SA Statistics</i> issued annually
Rounding-off of figures	18	Where figures have been rounded off discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.
Pre-release policy	19	Stats SA's pre-release policy may be inspected at its website, www.statssa.gov.za .

Symbols and abbreviations

20	BR	Business Register
	BSF	Business Sampling Frame
	GDP	Gross domestic product
	ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
	SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities
	SARS	South African Revenue Service
	Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
	VAT	Value added tax
	*	Revised
	-	Figures not available

Changes in the publication

21 The results published today are based on a new sample drawn in April 2010. The periodic introduction of a new sample is part of Stats SA's strategic approach in improving the basis from which surveys are conducted.

The new sample was conducted in parallel with the previous sample for April to June 2010. Comparison of estimates from the new and previous samples reflects a level decrease of 9,4%.

Technical note

Neyman optimal allocation

A stratified random sample was drawn from the population of enterprises on Stats SA’s Business Sampling Frame (BSF). Strata were formed using a combination of Standard Industrial Classification and the measure of size classes for enterprises. The Neyman optimal allocation formula given below was used to allocate samples to each stratum.

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

N_h and S_h are the stratum population size and the stratum variance respectively.

Neyman allocation formula not only allocates sample sizes to each stratum but also calculates the relative precision for each stratum as well as the relative precision for all strata. The relative precision for these strata did not exceed 5,6%.

Class limits

Enterprise size	Size group	Lower limits	Upper limits
Very small	4	0	24 000 000
Small	3	24 000 001	128 000 000
Medium	2	128 000 001	256 000 000
Large	1	256 000 001	

Glossary

- Enterprise** The enterprise is a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.
- Industry** An industry is made up of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the *System of National Accounts (SNA)* in the same way as in the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993 (SIC)*.
- Statistical unit** A statistical unit is a unit about which statistics are tabulated, compiled or published. The statistical units are derived from and linked to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) administrative data.
- Wholesale trade** Wholesale trade includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to other wholesalers, retailers, agricultural, industrial, commercial, institutional and professional users either directly or through agents on a fee or contract basis.
- Wholesaler** A wholesaler is an enterprise deriving 50% or more of its turnover from sales of goods to other businesses and institutions.

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Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

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Enquiries

Telephone number: (012) 310 8600/8390/8351/4892/8496/8095 (user information services)
(012) 310 8930 (technical enquiries)
(012) 310 8358 (orders)
(012) 310 4883/8018/4885 (library)

Fax number: (012) 310 8332 (technical enquiries)

Email address: Nthabisengs@statssa.gov.za (technical enquiries)
Info@statssa.gov.za (user information services)
magdaj@statssa.gov.za (orders)

Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

Produced by Stats SA