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# Statistical release

## P6141.2

# Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

## July 2011

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**Results for July 2011**

**Table A – Key figures for wholesale trade sales**

Actual wholesale trade sales estimates	July 2011 (R million)	% change between July 2010 and July 2011	% change between May to July 2010 and May to July 2011	% change between January to July 2010 and January to July 2011
At current prices	92 239	9,9	11,5	10,9
At constant 2000 prices	46 087	3,0	5,4	5,1

Seasonally adjusted estimates	July 2011 (R million)	% change between June and July 2011	% change between February to April 2011 and May to July 2011
At current prices	91 313	-3,0	2,2
At constant 2000 prices	46 036	-3,6	1,6

**Wholesale trade sales in real terms**

Wholesale trade sales, at constant 2000 prices, for the three months ended July 2011 increased by 5,4% compared with the three months ended July 2010, while sales for the same period in 2010 increased by 3,5%. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales for the three months ended July 2011 increased by 1,6% compared with the three months ended April 2011.

Wholesale trade sales, at constant 2000 prices, for July 2011 increased by 3,0% compared with July 2010.

**Wholesale trade sales in nominal terms**

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for the three months ended July 2011 increased by 11,5% compared with the three months ended July 2010. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (25,6% and contributing 5,2 percentage points), dealers in agricultural raw materials and livestock (28,9% and contributing 1,4 percentage points) and dealers in other household goods except precious stones (13,6% and contributing 1,4 percentage points) – see Table B on page 3.

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for July 2011 increased by 9,9% compared with July 2010, while sales for the corresponding period in 2010 increased by 8,8%.

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

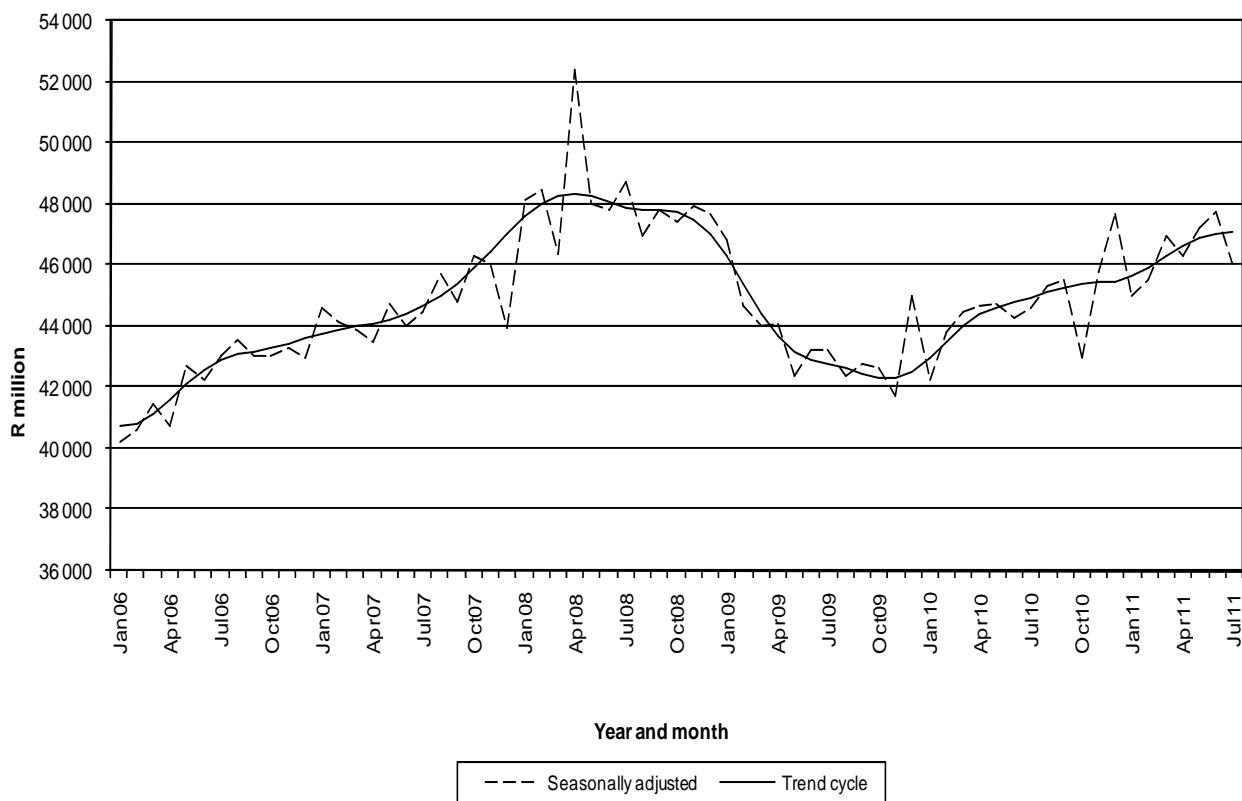
Type of wholesale dealer	Sales May to July 2010 (R million)	Weight 1/	Sales May to July 2011 (R million)	Difference in sales between May to July 2010 and May to July 2011 (R million)	% change between May to July 2010 and May to July 2011	Contribution (% points) to the % change in total sales 2/
Fee or contract basis	16 565	6,6	17 897	1 332	8,0	0,5
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	11 757	4,7	15 153	3 396	28,9	1,4
Food, beverages and tobacco	40 909	16,4	41 801	892	2,2	0,4
Textiles, clothing and footwear	6 659	2,7	7 123	464	7,0	0,2
Other household goods except precious stones	26 426	10,6	30 029	3 603	13,6	1,4
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	2 371	0,9	2 562	191	8,1	0,1
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	50 763	20,3	63 782	13 019	25,6	5,2
Metals and metal ores	9 562	3,8	10 421	859	9,0	0,3
Construction and building materials	13 369	5,3	14 294	925	6,9	0,4
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	9 942	4,0	11 001	1 059	10,7	0,4
Machinery, equipment and supplies	40 147	16,1	42 014	1 867	4,7	0,8
Other goods	21 653	8,7	22 743	1 090	5,0	0,4
<b>Total 3/</b>	<b>250 121</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>278 820</b>	<b>28 699</b>	<b>11,5</b>	<b>11,5</b>

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 – 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 2011 which replaces the previous sample that was drawn in April 2010. The sample is drawn from a business register 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.

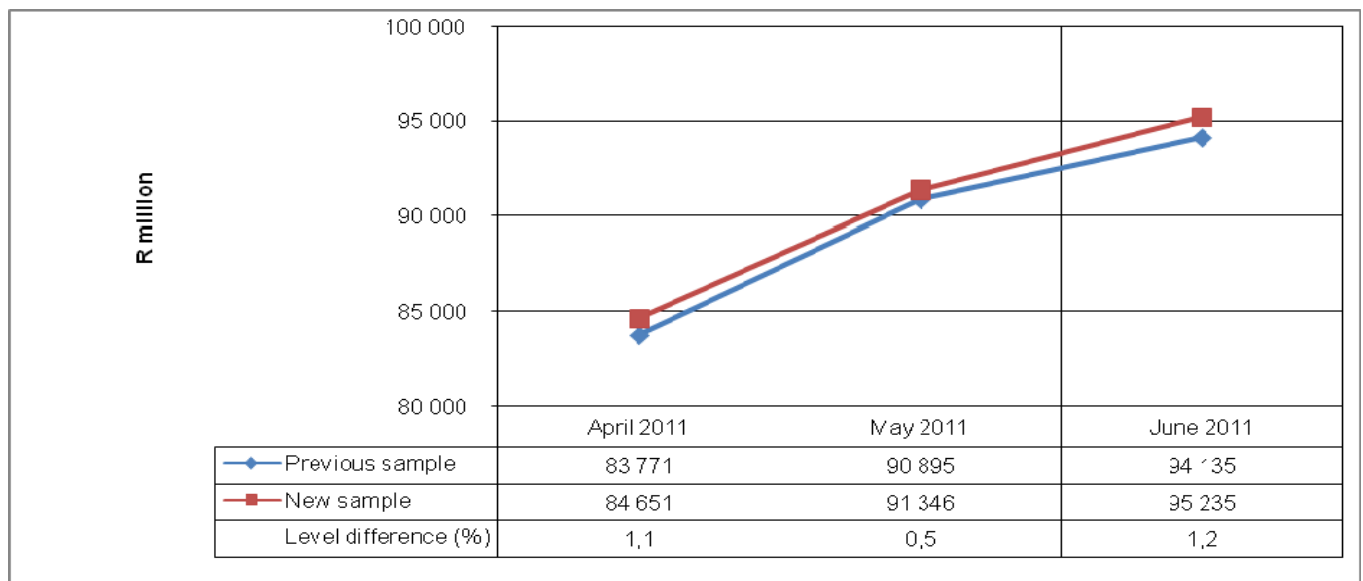
### Comparison of total sales between the previous and new samples of the wholesale industry

The reported level of total sales for the monthly survey of wholesale trade sales for the months April to June 2011 based on the new sample was 0,9% higher than the level of total sales recorded for the previous sample (see Table C and Figure 2). The previous sample was drawn in April 2010 and was operational for the last half of 2010 and the first half of 2011.

**Table C – Total sales for previous and new samples for wholesale industry – April to June 2011**

Wholesale trade industry	Previous sample (R million)	New sample (R million)	Difference (R million)	Difference (percentage)
	268 801	271 233	2 432	0,9

**Figure 2 – Total wholesale trade sales: monthly levels of previous and new samples for April to June 2011**



**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 changes in relative (i.e. percentage) terms took place in wholesalers of precious stones, jewellery and silverware (47,1% higher in the new sample) and in wholesalers of other intermediate products, waste and scrap (18,4% higher in the new sample). The largest changes in absolute (i.e. rand) terms took place in wholesalers of other household goods except precious stones (R2 580 million lower in the new sample) and wholesalers of machinery equipment and supplies (R2 431 million higher 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 2011**

Type of wholesaler	Previous sample	New sample	Difference	Difference
	R million	R million	R million	Percentage 1/
Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis	16 664	17 328	664	4,0
Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock	14 307	13 542	-765	-5,3
Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco	43 355	41 058	-2 297	-5,3
Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear	7 361	7 216	-145	-2,0
Wholesale trade in other household goods except precious stones	31 643	29 063	-2 580	-8,2
Wholesale trade in precious stones, jewellery and silverware	1 643	2 417	774	47,1
Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	62 137	61 563	-575	-0,9
Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores	10 202	10 466	264	2,6
Wholesale trade in construction and building materials	12 485	13 822	1 337	10,7
Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap	8 760	10 372	1 612	18,4
Wholesale trade in machinery equipment and supplies	39 343	41 773	2 431	6,2
Wholesale trade in other goods	20 901	22 612	1 711	8,2
<b>Total for wholesale trade sales 2/</b>	<b>268 801</b>	<b>271 233</b>	<b>2 432</b>	<b>0,9</b>

1/ The percentage difference is the difference between the April to June 2011 sales as recorded in the new sample and the April to June 2011 sales as recorded in the previous sample, expressed as a percentage.

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

**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 2011 as the end point for the backcast series.

**Detailed results**

**Table 1 – Wholesale trade sales according to 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/	
<b>2010</b>	January	4 816	2 963	12 591	1 683	7 247	230	13 738	2 571	3 167	3 002	10 593	5 978	68 579
	February	5 585	3 329	13 023	2 152	8 141	786	13 984	2 765	3 813	3 506	12 428	7 026	76 538
	March	6 028	3 291	13 162	2 484	9 071	603	15 723	3 136	4 528	3 733	14 808	7 674	84 241
	April	4 847	2 988	12 584	2 521	9 037	614	14 837	3 124	4 240	3 068	12 874	6 857	77 592
	May	5 280	3 378	13 758	2 255	9 220	769	16 305	3 235	4 510	3 237	13 223	7 107	82 276
	June	5 304	3 852	13 602	2 118	8 817	746	17 531	3 268	4 324	3 405	14 022	6 950	83 938
	July	5 981	4 527	13 549	2 286	8 389	856	16 927	3 059	4 535	3 300	12 902	7 596	83 907
	August	5 601	3 774	14 388	2 583	9 227	603	17 208	2 999	4 524	3 557	13 811	7 447	85 721
	September	5 989	3 756	14 872	3 062	9 153	573	16 064	3 025	4 714	3 813	14 490	7 577	87 088
	October	5 247	4 029	13 309	3 143	9 550	891	17 461	3 234	4 697	4 099	13 720	7 539	86 919
	November	5 719	4 626	16 036	3 452	10 494	713	17 833	3 330	5 297	4 903	15 407	9 319	97 130
	December	6 719	4 314	17 573	2 412	8 852	603	18 498	2 323	3 657	3 532	13 850	8 209	90 541
<b>Total</b>	<b>67 116</b>	<b>44 827</b>	<b>168 447</b>	<b>30 151</b>	<b>107 198</b>	<b>7 987</b>	<b>196 109</b>	<b>36 069</b>	<b>52 006</b>	<b>43 155</b>	<b>162 128</b>	<b>89 279</b>	<b>1 004 470</b>	
<b>2011</b>	January	4 529	3 711	12 954	1 941	7 381	250	17 695	2 799	3 694	3 613	10 883	6 518	75 966
	February	5 032	3 984	13 461	2 316	8 498	420	18 388	3 344	4 491	4 086	12 846	6 971	83 836
	March	5 762	4 379	14 347	2 909	9 441	844	20 985	3 834	5 031	3 870	15 459	7 796	94 658
	April	5 615	3 763	13 084	2 578	8 884	526	20 145	3 051	4 217	2 878	12 670	7 239	84 651
	May	6 368	4 860	14 141	2 474	9 723	866	19 599	3 712	4 637	3 622	13 567	7 777	91 346
	June	5 344	4 919	13 833	2 164	10 456	1 025	21 819	3 703	4 968	3 873	15 536	7 596	95 235
	July	6 185	5 374	13 827	2 485	9 850	671	22 364	3 006	4 689	3 506	12 911	7 370	92 239

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 <sup>1/</sup>**

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

1/ See note 4 on page 11 for more detailed specifications.



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

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 <sup>1/</sup>	2011 <sup>1/</sup>
January	38 754	43 364	48 134	59 473	71 107	74 908	68 579	75 966
February	43 769	45 391	52 787	63 791	77 980	76 282	76 538	83 836
March	47 382	48 472	57 132	68 300	81 364	80 764	84 241	94 658
April	42 315	49 848	51 753	62 658	85 056	73 272	77 592	84 651
May	51 079	51 844	60 066	70 952	88 387	74 302	82 276	91 346
June	52 598	53 756	60 785	71 058	89 782	76 383	83 938	95 235
July	50 388	53 604	62 772	72 625	93 161	77 126	83 907	92 239
August	51 394	55 219	65 187	75 081	90 390	75 847	85 721	
September	51 978	57 356	65 211	74 209	91 455	77 114	87 088	
October	56 271	59 279	69 468	81 932	95 706	81 995	86 919	
November	59 962	63 525	73 992	85 679	99 374	84 262	97 130	
December	51 736	54 966	64 317	72 340	86 541	81 536	90 541	
<b>Total</b>	<b>597 626</b>	<b>636 624</b>	<b>731 604</b>	<b>858 098</b>	<b>1 050 303</b>	<b>933 791</b>	<b>1 004 470</b>	

1/ Preliminary.

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

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
January	4,7	11,9	11,0	23,6	19,6	5,3	-8,4	10,8
February	3,4	3,7	16,3	20,8	22,2	-2,2	0,3	9,5
March	8,8	2,3	17,9	19,5	19,1	-0,7	4,3	12,4
April	4,8	17,8	3,8	21,1	35,7	-13,9	5,9	9,1
May	19,7	1,5	15,9	18,1	24,6	-15,9	10,7	11,0
June	19,3	2,2	13,1	16,9	26,4	-14,9	9,9	13,5
July	12,1	6,4	17,1	15,7	28,3	-17,2	8,8	9,9
August	19,1	7,4	18,1	15,2	20,4	-16,1	13,0	
September	17,9	10,3	13,7	13,8	23,2	-15,7	12,9	
October	21,2	5,3	17,2	17,9	16,8	-14,3	6,0	
November	26,6	5,9	16,5	15,8	16,0	-15,2	15,3	
December	27,7	6,2	17,0	12,5	19,6	-5,8	11,0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,7</b>	<b>6,5</b>	<b>14,9</b>	<b>17,3</b>	<b>22,4</b>	<b>-11,1</b>	<b>7,6</b>	

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	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
January	44 165	49 807	55 387	68 256	81 350	85 586	78 423	86 958
February	45 653	47 795	55 978	67 972	83 152	81 233	81 425	89 182
March	47 282	48 459	57 179	68 167	80 667	79 450	82 345	92 282
April	45 377	53 768	55 970	67 695	91 766	78 818	83 296	90 719
May	50 780	51 497	59 817	70 869	88 769	74 892	83 289	92 779
June	51 802	52 982	60 018	70 415	89 116	75 719	83 014	94 157
July	50 451	53 286	61 991	71 464	91 659	75 955	82 884	91 313
August	50 966	54 364	63 921	73 585	88 711	74 734	84 701	
September	50 841	56 103	63 782	72 676	89 665	75 762	85 536	
October	52 040	54 822	64 329	75 943	88 690	76 070	80 678	
November	53 485	56 320	65 604	76 146	88 714	75 421	87 025	
December	52 358	55 786	65 235	73 260	87 401	82 119	90 974	

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

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 <sup>1/</sup>	2011 <sup>1/</sup>
January	30 723	33 454	35 309	39 340	42 555	41 438	37 293	39 639
February	34 464	34 890	38 700	41 940	46 002	42 389	41 499	43 054
March	37 314	37 056	41 637	44 208	46 930	44 831	45 483	48 117
April	33 032	37 816	37 386	39 925	48 168	40 733	41 430	42 984
May	39 761	39 145	42 811	44 610	47 560	41 792	43 920	46 255
June	40 855	40 532	42 703	44 247	47 921	43 337	44 542	48 073
July	39 243	40 030	43 420	44 949	49 155	43 501	44 726	46 087
August	39 872	41 105	44 107	46 280	47 459	42 710	45 551	
September	40 005	42 393	43 880	45 636	48 769	43 610	46 469	
October	43 009	43 710	46 273	49 823	51 156	46 049	46 368	
November	45 843	46 600	48 878	51 907	53 878	46 892	51 450	
December	39 721	40 293	42 604	43 694	47 530	45 008	47 814	
<b>Total</b>	<b>463 842</b>	<b>477 024</b>	<b>507 708</b>	<b>536 559</b>	<b>577 083</b>	<b>522 290</b>	<b>536 545</b>	

1/ Preliminary.

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

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
January	4,6	8,9	5,5	11,4	8,2	-2,6	-10,0	6,3
February	2,9	1,2	10,9	8,4	9,7	-7,9	-2,1	3,7
March	8,4	-0,7	12,4	6,2	6,2	-4,5	1,5	5,8
April	3,3	14,5	-1,1	6,8	20,6	-15,4	1,7	3,8
May	16,7	-1,5	9,4	4,2	6,6	-12,1	5,1	5,3
June	15,9	-0,8	5,4	3,6	8,3	-9,6	2,8	7,9
July	9,9	2,0	8,5	3,5	9,4	-11,5	2,8	3,0
August	15,9	3,1	7,3	4,9	2,5	-10,0	6,7	
September	14,0	6,0	3,5	4,0	6,9	-10,6	6,6	
October	16,6	1,6	5,9	7,7	2,7	-10,0	0,7	
November	21,2	1,7	4,9	6,2	3,8	-13,0	9,7	
December	23,3	1,4	5,7	2,6	8,8	-5,3	6,2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,9</b>	<b>2,8</b>	<b>6,4</b>	<b>5,7</b>	<b>7,6</b>	<b>-9,5</b>	<b>2,7</b>	

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	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
January	34 828	38 140	40 207	44 622	48 111	46 851	42 254	45 013
February	35 811	36 461	40 591	44 126	48 465	44 686	43 833	45 554
March	37 112	36 843	41 434	43 884	46 368	44 026	44 477	46 965
April	35 668	41 105	40 778	43 513	52 373	44 087	44 699	46 303
May	39 491	38 858	42 697	44 720	48 024	42 374	44 712	47 211
June	40 142	39 925	42 226	44 004	47 813	43 215	44 300	47 769
July	39 278	39 872	43 066	44 507	48 740	43 214	44 591	46 036
August	39 627	40 668	43 537	45 725	46 945	42 414	45 351	
September	39 261	41 639	43 068	44 771	47 784	42 751	45 504	
October	39 919	40 605	43 023	46 286	47 420	42 671	42 946	
November	40 963	41 353	43 317	46 036	47 918	41 733	45 782	
December	40 212	40 792	43 002	43 952	47 670	44 994	47 680	

**Table 8 – Three-monthly and annual cumulative estimates and percentage changes**

Actual wholesale trade sales estimates	May to July 2010 (R million)	May to July 2011 (R million)	% change between May to July 2010 and May to July 2011	January to July 2010 (R million)	January to July 2011 (R million)	% change between January to July 2010 and January to July 2011
<b>At current prices</b>	250 121	278 820	11,5	557 071	617 931	10,9
<b>At constant 2000 prices</b>	133 188	140 415	5,4	298 893	314 209	5,1

**Table 9 – Seasonally adjusted monthly and three-monthly estimates and percentage changes**

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales estimates	June 2011 (R million)	July 2011 (R million)	% change between June and July 2011	February to April 2011 (R million)	May to July 2011 (R million)	% change between February to April 2011 and May to July 2011
<b>At current prices</b>	94 157	91 313	-3,0	272 183	278 249	2,2
<b>At constant 2000 prices</b>	47 769	46 036	-3,6	138 822	141 016	1,6

**Explanatory notes**

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>	<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 2011 business sampling frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value added tax (VAT).</p>
	<b>2</b>	<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>
<b>Purpose of the survey</b>	<b>3</b>	<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>
<b>Scope of the survey</b>	<b>4</b>	<p>This survey covers wholesale enterprises according to the following types of dealer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in other household goods except precious stones;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in precious stones, jewellery and silverware;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in other goods; and</li> <li>• General wholesale trade and other wholesale trade not classified elsewhere.</li> </ul>
<b>Classification</b>	<b>5</b>	<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>
<b>Response rate</b>	<b>6</b>	<p>The preliminary response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for July 2011 was 87,8%.</p>
<b>Statistical unit</b>	<b>7</b>	<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>
<b>Survey methodology and design</b>	<b>8</b>	<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 2011 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:
- *Bulletin of Statistics* issued quarterly
  - *SA Statistics* 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.

**Symbols and abbreviations**

<b>19</b>	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**

**20** The results published today are based on a new sample drawn in April 2011. 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 2011. Comparison of estimates from the new and previous samples reflects a level increase of 0,9%.

**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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