



your leading partner in quality statistics

Statistical release

P6141.2

Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

July 2012

**Embargoed until:
20 September 2012
10:00**

Enquiries:

User Information Services
(012) 310 8600

Forthcoming issue:

August 2012

Expected release date:

18 October 2012

Contents

Results for July 2012.....2

Table A – Key figures for wholesale trade sales2

Table B – Contribution of each type of dealer to the percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices.....3

Article: Changes to the monthly current indicator survey and the impact on the statistical series5

Tables.....7

Table 1 – Wholesale trade sales according to type of dealer at current prices (R million)7

Description of type of dealer included in a specific group type as indicated in Table 17

Table 2 – Total wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million).....8

Table 3 – Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at current prices8

Table 4 – Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million).....8

Table 5 – Total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million)9

Table 6 – Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices.....9

Table 7 – Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million)9

Table 8 – Three-monthly and annual cumulative estimates and percentage changes10

Table 9 – Seasonally adjusted monthly and three-monthly estimates and percentage changes10

Explanatory notes.....11

Technical note.....14

Glossary.....14

General information.....15

Results for July 2012

Table A – Key figures for wholesale trade sales

Actual wholesale trade sales estimates	July 2012 (R million)	% change between July 2011 and July 2012	% change between May to July 2011 and May to July 2012	% change between January to July 2011 and January to July 2012
At current prices	107 211	13,1	13,1	15,6
At constant 2000 prices	51 537	8,8	8,0	9,5

Seasonally adjusted estimates	July 2012 (R million)	% change between June and July 2012	% change between February to April 2012 and May to July 2012
At current prices	106 908	0,5	-0,7
At constant 2000 prices	51 629	0,6	-0,6

Wholesale trade sales in real terms

Measured in real terms (constant 2000 prices), seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 0,6% in July 2012 compared with June 2012. This followed month-on-month changes of -4,3% in June 2012 and 1,8% in May 2012.

Wholesale trade sales in real terms increased by 8,8% year-on-year in July 2012.

Wholesale trade sales in nominal terms

Measured in nominal terms (current prices), wholesale trade sales increased by 13,1% in the three months ended July 2012 compared with the three months ended July 2011. The three major contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (20,8% and contributing 4,7 percentage points);
- machinery, equipment and supplies (15,8% and contributing 2,1 percentage points); and
- food, beverages and tobacco (10,9% and contributing 1,7 percentage points) – see Table B on page 3.

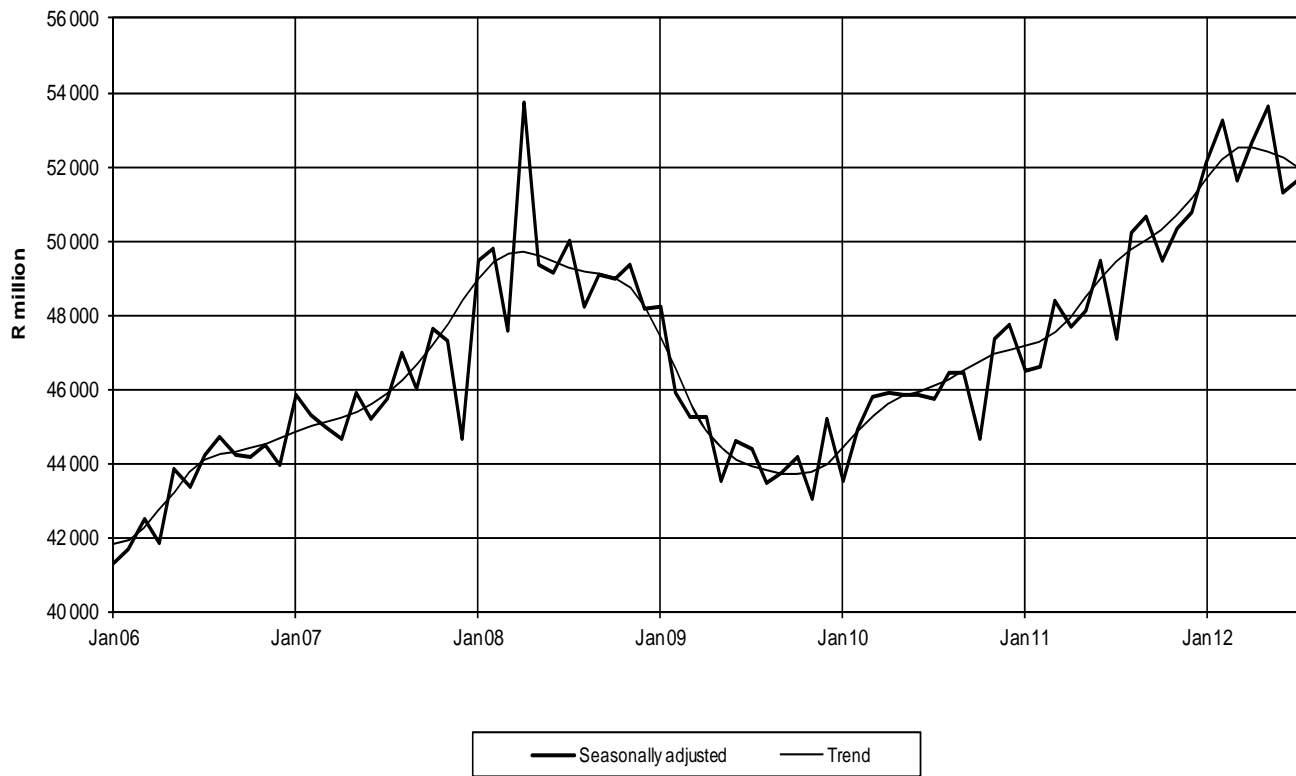
Wholesale trade sales in nominal terms increased by 13,1% year-on-year in July 2012.

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 2011 (R million)	Weight 1/	Sales May to July 2012 (R million)	Difference in sales between May to July 2011 and May to July 2012	% change between May to July 2011 and May to July 2012	Contribution (% points) to the % change in total sales 2/
Fee or contract basis	17 362	6,1	16 853	-509	-2,9	-0,2
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	16 555	5,8	19 243	2 688	16,2	0,9
Food, beverages and tobacco	43 357	15,2	48 076	4 719	10,9	1,7
Textiles, clothing and footwear	6 704	2,3	7 097	393	5,9	0,1
Other household goods except precious stones	32 333	11,3	35 676	3 343	10,3	1,2
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	4 251	1,5	3 194	-1 057	-24,9	-0,4
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	64 147	22,4	77 492	13 345	20,8	4,7
Metals and metal ores	9 921	3,5	10 981	1 060	10,7	0,4
Construction and building materials	14 364	5,0	16 441	2 077	14,5	0,7
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	10 743	3,8	12 107	1 364	12,7	0,5
Machinery, equipment and supplies	37 720	13,2	43 666	5 946	15,8	2,1
Other goods	28 572	10,0	32 607	4 035	14,1	1,4
Total 3/	286 028	100,0	323 434	37 406	13,1	13,1

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 – 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 2012 which replaces the previous sample that was drawn in April 2011. The sample was drawn from a business register of enterprises with an annual turnover of at least R1 000 000 and that 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.

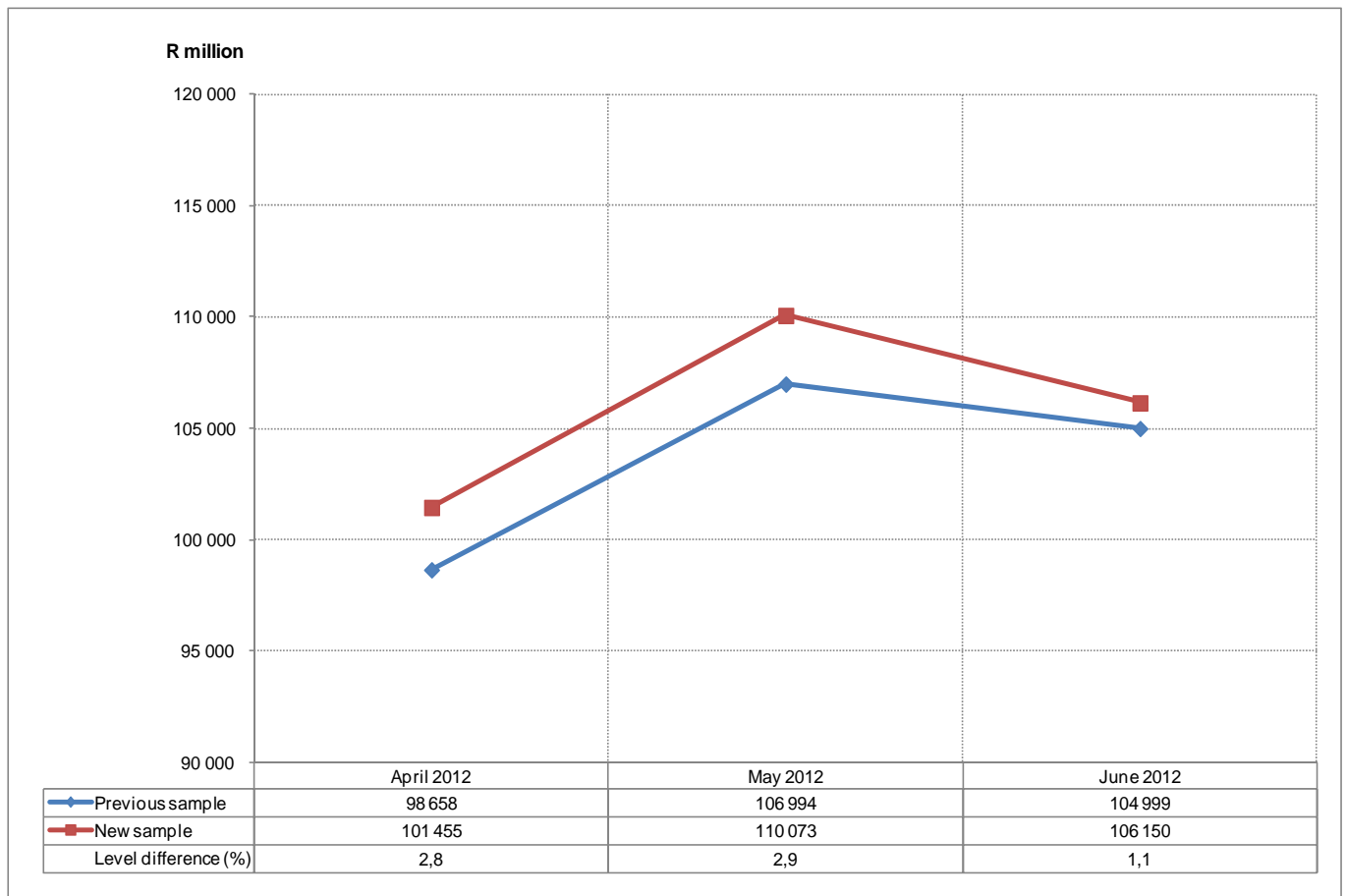
Comparison of total sales between the previous and new samples of the wholesale industry

The reported level of total sales for the monthly survey of wholesale trade sales for the months April to June 2012 based on the new sample was 2,3% 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 2011 and was operational for the last half of 2011 and the first half of 2012.

Table C – Total sales for previous and new samples for wholesale industry: April to June 2012

Wholesale trade industry	Previous sample (R million)	New sample (R million)	Difference (R million)	Difference (%)
	310 651	317 678	7 027	2,3

Figure 2 – Total wholesale trade sales: monthly levels of previous and new samples for April to June 2012



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.

Table D – Wholesale trade sales for previous and new samples by type of wholesale dealer: April to June 2012

Type of wholesale dealer	Previous sample (R million)	New sample (R million)	Difference (R million)	Difference (%) ^{1/}
Fee or contract basis	17 078	16 728	-350	-2,0
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	15 609	17 080	1 471	9,4
Food, beverages and tobacco	46 186	47 912	1 726	3,7
Textiles, clothing and footwear	8 511	7 059	-1 452	-17,1
Other household goods except precious stones	33 876	35 514	1 638	4,8
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	1 852	3 452	1 600	86,4
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	76 947	77 586	639	0,8
Metals and metal ores	10 186	10 565	379	3,7
Construction and building materials	15 576	15 709	133	0,9
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	11 883	11 747	-136	-1,1
Machinery equipment and supplies	46 611	42 702	-3 909	-8,4
Other goods	26 336	31 623	5 287	20,1
Total wholesale trade sales 2/	310 651	317 678	7 027	2,3

1/ The percentage difference is the difference between the April to June 2012 sales as recorded in the new sample and the April to June 2012 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.

The largest percentage differences were in the following types of wholesale dealers:

- precious stones, jewellery and silverware (86,4% or R1 600 million higher in the new sample);
- 'other' goods (20,1% or R5 287 million higher in the new sample);
- textiles, clothing and footwear (17,1% or R1 452 million lower in the new sample); and
- machinery, equipment and supplies (8,4% or R3 909 million lower in the new sample).

Various data quality improvements account for these differences, for example the reclassification of enterprises from one industry to another.

Backcasting

In order to assist users of time series, the levels of the previous sample have been adjusted from January 1998 up to March 2012, using the ratio between the new and the previous sample estimates for April to June 2012.

Tables

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/
2011	January	4 419	4 082	13 468	1 814	7 997	413	17 838	2 654	3 724	3 594	9 809	8 157	77 968
	February	4 915	4 387	14 010	2 168	9 217	695	18 556	3 174	4 532	4 069	11 590	8 734	86 046
	March	5 626	4 819	14 926	2 721	10 234	1 394	21 166	3 637	5 075	3 854	13 940	9 762	97 154
	April	5 470	4 172	13 611	2 371	9 776	866	20 339	2 881	4 258	2 903	11 447	9 090	87 184
	May	6 175	5 297	14 621	2 312	10 377	1 433	19 734	3 526	4 654	3 555	12 133	9 750	93 566
	June	5 233	5 397	14 379	2 051	11 275	1 682	21 875	3 496	4 994	3 841	14 000	9 407	97 631
	July	5 954	5 861	14 357	2 341	10 681	1 136	22 538	2 899	4 716	3 347	11 587	9 415	94 831
	August	5 914	6 057	16 382	2 534	10 979	1 222	22 361	3 812	5 192	3 928	14 035	9 878	102 293
	September	6 256	6 409	15 686	2 534	11 708	977	22 963	3 976	5 656	4 847	15 998	9 556	106 566
	October	6 012	6 136	15 543	3 109	12 584	961	23 554	3 924	5 477	5 003	14 897	10 789	107 989
	November	5 573	6 639	16 800	3 211	13 430	1 020	26 308	4 053	6 230	5 064	14 693	12 409	115 430
	December	6 462	6 243	18 990	2 271	10 769	1 559	24 885	2 294	4 378	4 001	13 776	12 015	107 644
	Total	68 009	65 499	182 773	29 437	129 027	13 358	262 117	40 326	58 886	48 006	157 905	118 962	1 174 302
2012	January	5 217	5 213	14 524	2 166	9 756	788	22 209	2 931	4 180	4 376	11 287	11 056	93 702
	February	5 270	5 510	14 746	2 363	10 952	1 134	27 215	3 788	5 036	4 488	14 467	10 057	105 026
	March	6 079	5 150	16 599	2 669	12 441	974	25 338	3 728	5 588	4 227	16 595	10 298	109 686
	April	5 619	4 865	15 029	2 462	11 132	1 148	26 096	3 173	4 730	3 535	13 738	9 928	101 455
	May	5 790	5 612	17 527	2 495	12 019	1 169	26 291	3 772	5 680	4 214	14 558	10 945	110 073
	June	5 319	6 603	15 356	2 102	12 363	1 135	25 199	3 620	5 299	3 998	14 406	10 750	106 150
	July	5 744	7 028	15 193	2 500	11 294	890	26 002	3 589	5 462	3 895	14 702	10 912	107 211

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	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	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 ^{1/}	2012 ^{1/}
January	44 506	49 404	61 041	72 982	76 883	70 387	77 968	93 702
February	46 587	54 178	65 472	80 035	78 293	78 555	86 046	105 026
March	49 750	58 638	70 100	83 509	82 893	86 462	97 154	109 686
April	51 162	53 117	64 309	87 299	75 203	79 638	87 184	101 455
May	53 211	61 649	72 823	90 717	76 261	84 446	93 566	110 073
June	55 173	62 387	72 931	92 148	78 396	86 151	97 631	106 150
July	55 018	64 426	74 540	95 617	79 160	86 119	94 831	107 211
August	56 674	66 906	77 060	92 773	77 847	87 981	102 293	
September	58 868	66 930	76 166	93 866	79 148	89 383	106 566	
October	60 842	71 299	84 092	98 229	84 156	89 210	107 989	
November	65 200	75 943	87 938	101 994	86 484	99 690	115 430	
December	56 415	66 013	74 247	88 822	83 685	92 928	107 644	
Total	653 406	750 890	880 719	1 077 991	958 409	1 030 950	1 174 302	

1/ Preliminary.

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

Month	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	11,9	11,0	23,6	19,6	5,3	-8,4	10,8	20,2
February	3,7	16,3	20,8	22,2	-2,2	0,3	9,5	22,1
March	2,3	17,9	19,5	19,1	-0,7	4,3	12,4	12,9
April	17,8	3,8	21,1	35,7	-13,9	5,9	9,5	16,4
May	1,5	15,9	18,1	24,6	-15,9	10,7	10,8	17,6
June	2,2	13,1	16,9	26,3	-14,9	9,9	13,3	8,7
July	6,4	17,1	15,7	28,3	-17,2	8,8	10,1	13,1
August	7,4	18,1	15,2	20,4	-16,1	13,0	16,3	
September	10,3	13,7	13,8	23,2	-15,7	12,9	19,2	
October	5,3	17,2	17,9	16,8	-14,3	6,0	21,1	
November	5,9	16,5	15,8	16,0	-15,2	15,3	15,8	
December	6,2	17,0	12,5	19,6	-5,8	11,0	15,8	
Total	6,5	14,9	17,3	22,4	-11,1	7,6	13,9	

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

Month	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	51 141	56 865	70 077	83 519	87 870	80 487	89 330	107 503
February	49 082	57 479	69 792	85 368	83 302	83 348	91 038	110 985
March	49 754	58 722	70 023	82 895	81 770	84 819	95 047	107 155
April	55 069	57 297	69 319	93 974	80 819	85 415	93 412	108 767
May	52 863	61 408	72 769	91 186	76 935	85 425	94 679	111 426
June	54 389	61 629	72 336	91 679	78 256	86 068	97 745	106 404
July	54 715	63 668	73 423	94 107	78 134	85 248	94 235	106 908
August	55 817	65 653	75 600	91 204	76 762	87 072	101 353	
September	57 602	65 512	74 670	92 014	77 474	87 281	103 859	
October	56 277	66 062	78 079	91 485	78 674	83 752	101 561	
November	57 819	67 366	78 225	91 253	77 592	89 682	103 902	
December	57 174	66 688	74 546	88 406	82 569	91 095	105 140	

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

Month	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 ^{1/}	2012 ^{1/}
January	34 335	36 241	40 378	43 677	42 530	38 276	40 683	45 439
February	35 809	39 720	43 045	47 214	43 507	42 593	44 189	50 468
March	38 033	42 735	45 373	48 168	46 013	46 682	49 385	52 767
April	38 813	38 371	40 977	49 438	41 807	42 522	44 271	48 907
May	40 177	43 940	45 787	48 814	42 894	45 079	47 379	52 877
June	41 601	43 828	45 413	49 183	44 479	45 716	49 282	51 082
July	41 086	44 564	46 134	50 451	44 648	45 905	47 382	51 537
August	42 188	45 270	47 500	48 710	43 836	46 752	50 574	
September	43 510	45 036	46 840	50 055	44 760	47 693	52 143	
October	44 862	47 493	51 136	52 505	47 263	47 590	52 670	
November	47 829	50 167	53 276	55 299	48 128	52 806	56 096	
December	41 355	43 727	44 846	48 783	46 194	49 074	52 344	
Total	489 598	521 092	550 705	592 297	536 059	550 688	586 398	

1/ Preliminary.

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

Month	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	8,9	5,6	11,4	8,2	-2,6	-10,0	6,3	11,7
February	1,2	10,9	8,4	9,7	-7,9	-2,1	3,7	14,2
March	-0,7	12,4	6,2	6,2	-4,5	1,5	5,8	6,8
April	14,5	-1,1	6,8	20,6	-15,4	1,7	4,1	10,5
May	-1,5	9,4	4,2	6,6	-12,1	5,1	5,1	11,6
June	-0,8	5,4	3,6	8,3	-9,6	2,8	7,8	3,7
July	2,0	8,5	3,5	9,4	-11,5	2,8	3,2	8,8
August	3,1	7,3	4,9	2,5	-10,0	6,7	8,2	
September	6,0	3,5	4,0	6,9	-10,6	6,6	9,3	
October	1,6	5,9	7,7	2,7	-10,0	0,7	10,7	
November	1,7	4,9	6,2	3,8	-13,0	9,7	6,2	
December	1,4	5,7	2,6	8,8	-5,3	6,2	6,7	
Total	2,8	6,4	5,7	7,6	-9,5	2,7	6,5	

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	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	39 178	41 312	45 863	49 472	48 222	43 529	46 493	52 093
February	37 425	41 664	45 310	49 786	45 877	44 946	46 607	53 248
March	37 792	42 488	45 001	47 567	45 256	45 789	48 374	51 629
April	42 163	41 826	44 640	53 742	45 272	45 879	47 663	52 656
May	39 887	43 835	45 919	49 331	43 512	45 817	48 086	53 616
June	40 989	43 360	45 195	49 140	44 591	45 819	49 461	51 306
July	40 939	44 232	45 725	50 001	44 373	45 723	47 333	51 629
August	41 746	44 701	46 955	48 201	43 460	46 428	50 245	
September	42 748	44 234	46 006	49 058	43 748	46 459	50 676	
October	41 682	44 185	47 602	48 952	44 184	44 640	49 476	
November	42 446	44 482	47 306	49 345	43 017	47 328	50 323	
December	41 804	43 930	44 663	48 145	45 187	47 740	50 759	

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

Actual wholesale trade sales estimates	May to July 2011 (R million)	May to July 2012 (R million)	% change between May to July 2011 and May to July 2012	January to July 2011 (R million)	January to July 2012 (R million)	% change between January to July 2011 and January to July 2012
At current prices	286 028	323 434	13,1	634 380	733 303	15,6
At constant 2000 prices	144 043	155 496	8,0	322 571	353 077	9,5

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

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales estimates	June 2012 (R million)	July 2012 (R million)	% change between June and July 2012	February to April 2012 (R million)	May to July 2012 (R million)	% change between February to April 2012 and May to July 2012
At current prices	106 404	106 908	0,5	326 907	324 738	-0,7
At constant 2000 prices	51 306	51 629	0,6	157 533	156 551	-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 2012 business sampling frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value added tax (VAT).</p> <p>2 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. 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	<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>
Collection rate	6	<p>The preliminary collection rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for July 2012 was 80,8%.</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 19 600 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 2012 at the SIC four-digit level) from a population of about 19 600 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; and • <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.

Symbols and abbreviations

19	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 2012. The periodic introduction of a new sample is part of Stats SA's strategic approach in improving the basis on which surveys are conducted.

The new sample was conducted in parallel with the previous sample for April to June 2012. A comparison of total sales estimates between the new and previous samples shows a 2,3% higher level of sales for the new sample.

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 (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	

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.

General information

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.

Stats SA has copyright on this publication. Users may apply the information as they wish, provided that they acknowledge Stats SA as the source of the basic data wherever they process, apply, utilise, publish or distribute the data; and also that they specify that the relevant application and analysis (where applicable) result from their own processing of the data.

Advance release calendar

An advance release calendar is disseminated on www.statssa.gov.za

Stats SA products

A complete set of Stats SA publications is available at the Stats SA Library and the following libraries:

National Library of South Africa, Pretoria Division
National Library of South Africa, Cape Town Division
Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg
Library of Parliament, Cape Town
Bloemfontein Public Library
Johannesburg Public Library
Eastern Cape Library Services, King William's Town
Central Regional Library, Polokwane
Central Reference Library, Nelspruit
Central Reference Collection, Kimberley
Central Reference Library, Mmabatho

Stats SA also provides a subscription service.

Electronic services

A large range of data is available via online services. For more details about our electronic services, contact Stats SA's user information service at (012) 310 8600.

You can visit us on the Internet at: www.statssa.gov.za

Enquiries

Telephone number: (012) 310 8930/8423 (technical enquiries)
(012) 310 8600 (user information services)
(012) 310 8358 (orders/subscription services)

Fax number: (012) 310 2119 (technical enquiries)

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

Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

Produced by Stats SA