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Statistical release

P6141.2

Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

July 2014

The results published today are based on a new sample. This is an annual procedure which typically affects the level of sales in both current and constant prices. To avoid breaks in time series and to preserve historical growth rates, historical sales levels were revised (i.e. they were linked to the estimates based on the new sample).

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Sales at constant 2012 prices: results for July 2014

Table A – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices

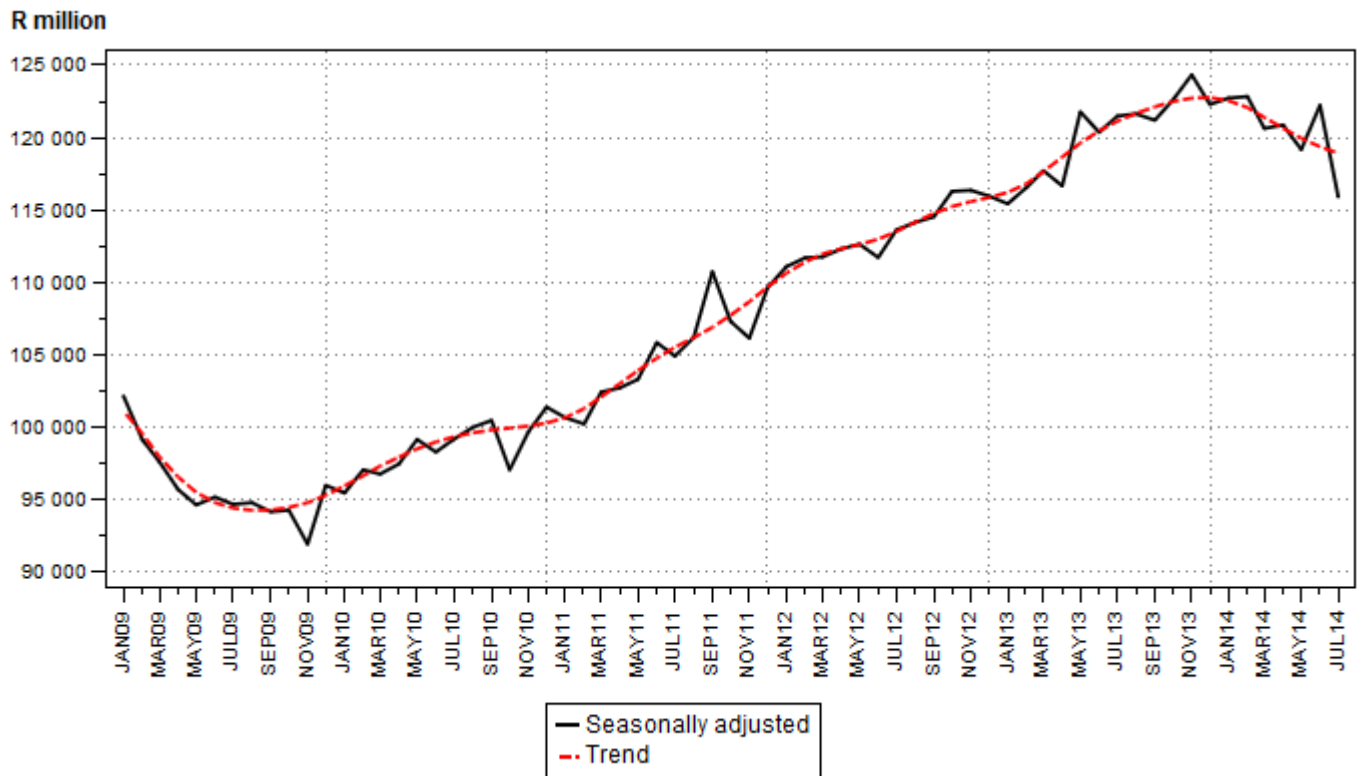
	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	6,0	5,8	0,3	-3,3	2,8	-4,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,1	-1,8	0,2	-1,4	2,6	-5,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	-0,1	-0,8	-1,4	-2,0	-1,1	-1,9

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

Measured in real terms (constant 2012 prices), wholesale trade sales decreased by 4,6% year-on-year in July 2014. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales decreased by 5,2% in July 2014 compared with June 2014. This followed month-on-month changes of 2,6% in June 2014 and -1,4% in May 2014.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales decreased by 1,9% in the three months ended July 2014 compared with the previous three months.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices



Sales at current prices: results for July 2014

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

	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	14,3	14,5	8,9	5,1	11,1	2,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,6	-2,2	2,5	-2,2	2,2	-3,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	2,5	1,6	1,6	0,4	0,7	-1,2

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

Measured in nominal terms (current prices), wholesale trade sales increased by 2,6% in July 2014 compared with July 2013. The major contributor to this increase was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (11,0% and contributing 2,5 percentage points) – see Tables 8 and 9.

Table C – Wholesale trade sales at current prices for the latest three months by type of dealer

Type of dealer	May – Jul 2013 (R million)	Weight	May – Jul 2014 (R million)	% change between May – Jul 2013 and May – Jul 2014	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Fee or contract basis	15 709	4,2	17 013	8,3	0,3
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	28 601	7,6	26 488	-7,4	-0,6
Food, beverages and tobacco	59 183	15,7	63 913	8,0	1,3
Textiles, clothing and footwear	7 965	2,1	8 358	4,9	0,1
Other household goods except precious stones	39 550	10,5	42 238	6,8	0,7
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	6 638	1,8	8 238	24,1	0,4
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	83 762	22,2	93 424	11,5	2,6
Metal and metal ores	12 081	3,2	9 902	-18,0	-0,6
Construction and building materials	21 166	5,6	23 173	9,5	0,5
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	13 745	3,6	15 110	9,9	0,4
Machinery, equipment and supplies	57 132	15,2	60 076	5,2	0,8
Other goods	31 162	8,3	32 145	3,2	0,3
Total	376 695	100,0	400 079	6,2	6,2

Wholesale trade sales increased by 6,2% in the three months ended July 2014 compared with the three months ended July 2013. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (11,5% and contributing 2,6 percentage points); and
- food, beverages and tobacco (8,0% and contributing 1,3 percentage points) – see Table C.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Note: 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 2014 which replaces the previous sample that was drawn in April 2013. The sample was drawn from a business register of enterprises with an annual turnover of at least R1 913 788 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 sales between the previous and new samples for the wholesale industry

The reported level of total sales for the monthly survey of the wholesale trade industry for the months April to June 2014 based on the new sample was 1,7% higher than the level of total sales recorded for the previous sample (see Table D and Figure 2). The previous sample was drawn in April 2013 and was operational for the last half of 2013 and the first half of 2014.

Table D – Total sales for previous and new samples for the wholesale industry: April to June 2014

Wholesale trade industry	Previous sample (R million)	New sample (R million)	Difference (R million)	Difference (%)
	391 676	398 163	6 487	1,7

Figure 2 – Total wholesale trade sales: monthly levels of previous and new samples for April to June 2014

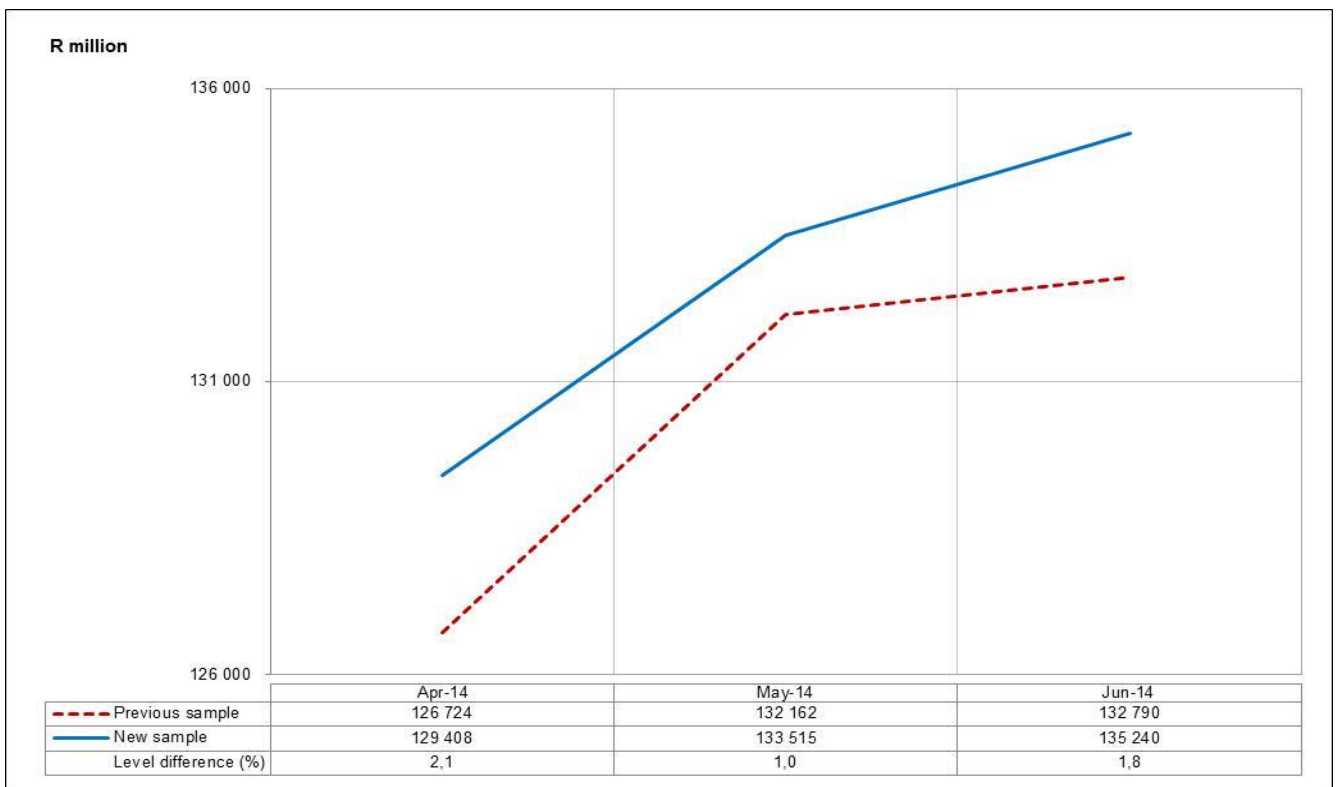


Table E – Wholesale trade sales for previous and new samples by type of dealer: April to June 2014

Type of dealer	Previous sample (R million)	New sample (R million)	Difference (R million)	Difference % 1/
Fee or contract basis	22 708	17 770	-4 938	-21,7
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	24 480	24 036	-444	-1,8
Food, beverages and tobacco	59 857	62 818	2 961	4,9
Textiles, clothing and footwear	8 254	8 576	322	3,9
Other household goods except precious stones	39 790	42 152	2 362	5,9
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	6 191	8 070	1 879	30,4
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	88 568	91 356	2 788	3,1
Metals and metal ores	10 474	11 339	865	8,3
Construction and building materials	19 537	23 008	3 471	17,8
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	15 135	15 471	336	2,2
Machinery, equipment and supplies	55 119	61 430	6 311	11,4
Other goods	41 563	32 135	-9 428	-22,7
Total	391 676	398 163	6 487	1,7

1/ The percentage difference is the difference between the April to June 2014 sales as recorded in the new sample divided by the April to June 2014 sales as recorded in the previous sample, expressed as a percentage.

The largest percentage differences between the previous and new samples were in the following types of dealers:

- precious stones, jewellery and silverware (30,4% or R1 879 million);
- construction and building materials (17,8% or R3 471 million);
- machinery, equipment and supplies (11,4% or R6 311 million);
- fee or contract basis (-21,7% or -R4 938 million); and
- 'other' goods (-22,7% or -R9 428 million).

Backcasting

In order to assist users of time series, the levels of the previous sample have been adjusted from January 1998 up to March 2014, using the ratio between the new and the previous sample estimates for April to June 2014.

Tables

Table 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices (R million)

Month	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 1/
Jan	93 780	91 317	82 182	87 352	98 658	105 286	112 814
Feb	101 373	93 413	91 453	94 878	109 710	112 375	119 168
Mar	103 422	98 795	100 231	106 035	113 935	113 496	120 087
Apr	106 148	89 765	91 301	95 055	104 066	114 111	114 438
May	104 809	92 097	96 789	101 729	113 140	122 066	118 051
Jun	105 600	95 501	98 158	105 815	109 607	116 242	119 442
Jul	108 324	95 864	98 563	101 735	111 576	121 397	115 755
Aug	104 586	94 121	100 382	108 588	116 502	122 494	
Sep	107 473	96 104	102 402	111 958	111 845	119 464	
Oct	112 734	101 480	102 182	113 088	125 728	132 488	
Nov	118 733	103 336	113 380	120 443	131 605	138 614	
Dec	104 743	99 183	105 368	112 388	116 446	123 597	
Total	1 271 725	1 150 976	1 182 391	1 259 064	1 362 818	1 441 630	

1/ Latest month is preliminary.

Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices

Month	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014 year-to-date
Jan	-2,6	-10,0	6,3	12,9	6,7	7,2	7,2
Feb	-7,9	-2,1	3,7	15,6	2,4	6,0	6,6
Mar	-4,5	1,5	5,8	7,5	-0,4	5,8	6,3
Apr	-15,4	1,7	4,1	9,5	9,7	0,3	4,8
May	-12,1	5,1	5,1	11,2	7,9	-3,3	3,0
Jun	-9,6	2,8	7,8	3,6	6,1	2,8	3,0
Jul	-11,5	2,8	3,2	9,7	8,8	-4,6	1,8
Aug	-10,0	6,7	8,2	7,3	5,1		
Sep	-10,6	6,6	9,3	-0,1	6,8		
Oct	-10,0	0,7	10,7	11,2	5,4		
Nov	-13,0	9,7	6,2	9,3	5,3		
Dec	-5,3	6,2	6,7	3,6	6,1		
Total	-9,5	2,7	6,5	8,2	5,8		

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014
Jan	100 665	111 085	115 431	122 721	-0,7	1,3	-0,5	0,4
Feb	100 240	111 700	116 553	122 831	-0,4	0,6	1,0	0,1
Mar	102 434	111 769	117 715	120 629	2,2	0,1	1,0	-1,8
Apr	102 725	112 314	116 663	120 861	0,3	0,5	-0,9	0,2
May	103 317	112 640	121 773	119 172	0,6	0,3	4,4	-1,4
Jun	105 848	111 723	120 359	122 231	2,4	-0,8	-1,2	2,6
Jul	104 923	113 626	121 479	115 925	-0,9	1,7	0,9	-5,2
Aug	106 195	114 143	121 634		1,2	0,5	0,1	
Sep	110 745	114 533	121 192		4,3	0,3	-0,4	
Oct	107 314	116 289	122 596		-3,1	1,5	1,2	
Nov	106 158	116 358	124 331		-1,1	0,1	1,4	
Dec	109 621	115 960	122 285		3,3	-0,3	-1,6	

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

Month	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 1/
Jan	74 687	78 679	72 030	79 790	95 891	108 276	123 955
Feb	81 904	80 120	80 391	88 055	107 479	115 902	132 438
Mar	85 459	84 829	88 481	99 423	112 248	118 034	135 103
Apr	89 337	76 960	81 499	89 220	103 092	118 812	129 408
May	92 836	78 041	86 418	95 752	112 893	127 015	133 515
Jun	94 299	80 227	88 164	99 912	109 110	121 691	135 240
Jul	97 850	81 009	88 130	97 046	111 168	127 989	131 324
Aug	94 940	79 665	90 036	104 682	116 778	130 335	
Sep	96 058	80 996	91 470	109 056	112 468	127 873	
Oct	100 523	86 122	91 294	110 511	127 608	142 673	
Nov	104 376	88 504	102 018	118 125	134 776	149 807	
Dec	90 897	85 639	95 099	110 158	119 308	134 332	
Total	1 103 166	980 791	1 055 030	1 201 730	1 362 819	1 522 739	

1/ Latest month is preliminary.

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

Month	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014 year-to-date
Jan	5,3	-8,5	10,8	20,2	12,9	14,5	14,5
Feb	-2,2	0,3	9,5	22,1	7,8	14,3	14,4
Mar	-0,7	4,3	12,4	12,9	5,2	14,5	14,4
Apr	-13,9	5,9	9,5	15,5	15,2	8,9	13,0
May	-15,9	10,7	10,8	17,9	12,5	5,1	11,3
Jun	-14,9	9,9	13,3	9,2	11,5	11,1	11,3
Jul	-17,2	8,8	10,1	14,6	15,1	2,6	9,9
Aug	-16,1	13,0	16,3	11,6	11,6		
Sep	-15,7	12,9	19,2	3,1	13,7		
Oct	-14,3	6,0	21,0	15,5	11,8		
Nov	-15,2	15,3	15,8	14,1	11,2		
Dec	-5,8	11,0	15,8	8,3	12,6		
Total	-11,1	7,6	13,9	13,4	11,7		

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014
Jan	91 173	107 389	119 097	135 370	-2,8	-1,8	0,4	2,2
Feb	92 664	109 773	120 872	137 489	1,6	2,2	1,5	1,6
Mar	96 247	109 646	121 454	134 462	3,9	-0,1	0,5	-2,2
Apr	95 778	110 698	122 133	137 761	-0,5	1,0	0,6	2,5
May	96 874	113 041	127 067	134 733	1,1	2,1	4,0	-2,2
Jun	99 951	110 474	125 319	137 659	3,2	-2,3	-1,4	2,2
Jul	99 194	112 831	128 331	132 433	-0,8	2,1	2,4	-3,8
Aug	102 552	114 536	128 986		3,4	1,5	0,5	
Sep	106 444	112 796	126 841		3,8	-1,5	-1,7	
Oct	105 057	118 886	133 194		-1,3	5,4	5,0	
Nov	105 427	120 273	135 312		0,4	1,2	1,6	
Dec	109 392	118 598	132 519		3,8	-1,4	-2,1	

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

Type of dealer	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14 1/
Fee or contract basis	4 611	4 824	6 305	5 246	6 219	5 548
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	8 627	8 091	7 356	8 053	8 627	9 808
Food, beverages and tobacco	20 124	21 208	19 895	21 804	21 119	20 990
Textiles, clothing and footwear	2 808	3 597	3 335	2 785	2 456	3 117
Other household goods except precious stones	12 445	13 688	13 547	13 920	14 685	13 633
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	3 514	3 203	2 492	2 709	2 869	2 660
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	29 412	30 566	29 697	30 394	31 265	31 765
Metals and metal ores	3 974	3 418	3 883	3 369	4 087	2 446
Construction and building materials	7 219	7 431	7 270	7 548	8 190	7 435
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	6 250	5 048	5 205	5 229	5 037	4 844
Machinery, equipment and supplies	22 403	23 756	19 749	21 403	20 278	18 395
Other goods	11 051	10 273	10 672	11 055	10 408	10 682
Total	132 438	135 103	129 408	133 515	135 240	131 324

1/ Preliminary.

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

Type of dealer	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14
Fee or contract basis	17,9	17,9	24,3	-6,3	29,5	4,5
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	13,4	13,1	-9,7	-15,0	-7,0	-0,4
Food, beverages and tobacco	8,3	2,4	5,2	5,3	6,9	12,1
Textiles, clothing and footwear	12,4	27,5	6,6	4,1	2,4	7,8
Other household goods except precious stones	9,8	13,3	9,5	0,8	10,5	9,5
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	62,4	6,6	10,1	17,6	36,4	19,2
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	12,0	9,4	14,9	10,9	12,7	11,0
Metals and metal ores	5,8	-3,2	1,1	-17,2	8,8	-42,5
Construction and building materials	10,1	11,0	4,7	7,1	22,3	0,2
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	45,1	31,5	17,5	10,1	20,4	0,6
Machinery, equipment and supplies	19,3	41,5	10,8	14,9	13,8	-11,1
Other goods	9,0	9,6	6,3	4,8	5,4	-0,5
Total	14,3	14,5	8,9	5,1	11,1	2,6

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

Type of dealer	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14
Fee or contract basis	0,6	0,6	1,0	-0,3	1,2	0,2
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	0,9	0,8	-0,7	-1,1	-0,5	0,0
Food, beverages and tobacco	1,3	0,4	0,8	0,9	1,1	1,8
Textiles, clothing and footwear	0,3	0,7	0,2	0,1	0,0	0,2
Other household goods except precious stones	1,0	1,4	1,0	0,1	1,1	0,9
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	1,2	0,2	0,2	0,3	0,6	0,3
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	2,7	2,2	3,2	2,4	2,9	2,5
Metals and metal ores	0,2	-0,1	0,0	-0,6	0,3	-1,4
Construction and building materials	0,6	0,6	0,3	0,4	1,2	0,0
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	1,7	1,0	0,6	0,4	0,7	0,0
Machinery, equipment and supplies	3,1	5,9	1,6	2,2	2,0	-1,8
Other goods	0,8	0,8	0,5	0,4	0,4	0,0
Total	14,3	14,5	8,9	5,1	11,1	2,6

Survey information

- Introduction**
- 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey covering enterprises in the wholesale trade industry (see 4 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from Stats SA's 2014 business sampling frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered at the South African Revenue Service (SARS) for value added tax (VAT) and income tax (IT). Stats SA continuously updates its BSF, which is linked to the SARS administrative data.
 - 2 In order to improve timeliness, some information for the latest month had to be estimated due to late response. These estimates will be revised in future statistical releases as soon as information becomes available. Published wholesale trade sales estimates exclude VAT.
- Purpose of the survey**
- 3 The results of the monthly wholesale trade sales survey are used to compile estimates of the gross domestic product (GDP) and its components, which are used in monitoring the state of the economy and formulation of economic policy. These statistics are also used in the analysis of comparative business and industry performance.
- Scope of the survey**
- 4 This survey covers wholesale enterprises according to the following types of dealers:
 - Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis – sales by commission agents, commodity brokers, auctioneers and 'other' wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis;
 - Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock;
 - Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco;
 - Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear;
 - Wholesale trade in 'other' household goods except precious stones. This group includes wholesale trade in household furniture, requisites and appliances, wholesale trade in books and stationery, wholesale trade in pharmaceuticals and toiletries and wholesale trade in 'other' household goods not elsewhere classified;
 - Wholesale trade in precious stones, jewellery and silverware;
 - Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products;
 - Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores;
 - Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies;
 - Wholesale trade in 'other' intermediate products, waste and scrap;
 - Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies; and
 - Wholesale trade in 'other' goods. This group covers general wholesale trade and 'other' wholesale trade not classified elsewhere.
- Classification**
- 5 The 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities* (SIC), Fifth Edition, Report No, 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 *International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities* (ISIC) with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Each enterprise is classified to the industry which reflects its predominant activity. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC four digit level.
- Collection rate**
- 6 The preliminary collection rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for July 2014 was 85,4%. The collection rate for June 2014 for the new sample was 91,2%.

Statistical unit	7	The statistical unit for which information is compiled and published is the enterprise, defined as a legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities. The statistical units are derived from and linked to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) administrative data.
Revised figures	8	Revised figures are mainly due to late submission of data to Stats SA, or respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures. Preliminary figures, as indicated in the relevant tables, are subject to change and when revised will not be indicated as such.
Related publications	9	Users may also refer to the following publications available from Stats SA: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Bulletin of Statistics</i> issued quarterly;• <i>Stats in Brief</i> issued annually; and• <i>South African Statistics</i> issued annually.
Rounding-off of figures	10	Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.
Historical data	11	Historical wholesale trade sales data are available on the Stats SA website. To access the data electronically, use the following link: http://beta2.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=1849
Past publications	12	Past wholesale trade sales releases are available on the Stats SA website. To access the releases electronically, use the following link: http://beta2.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=1866&PPN=P6141.2&SCH=5717

Technical notes

Survey methodology and design

- 1 The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of 1 090 enterprises from a population of 18 776 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within 10 days after the end of the reference month. Email, fax and telephone reminders are used to follow up on non-respondents.
- 2 A stratified random sample was drawn at the SIC four-digit level in April 2014 from Stats SA's business sampling frame (BSF). Strata were formed using a combination of Standard Industrial Classification and the measure of size classes for enterprises (see point 3 below).

The Neyman optimal allocation formula given below was used to allocate samples to each stratum:

$$n_h = n * (N_h * S_h) / [\sum (N_i * S_i)] .$$

Neyman allocation formula not only allocates sample sizes to each stratum but also calculates the relative precision for each stratum as well as the relative precision for all strata. The relative precision for these strata was 6,0%.

Class limits

- 3 The wholesale sampling frame is divided into four size groups. All large enterprises (size group one) are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to the remaining size groups (medium, small and very small). The total value of sales of the large enterprises (size group one) is added to the weighted totals of size group two, three and four to reflect the total value of sales.

Measure of size classes (Rand)

Enterprise size	Size group	Lower limits	Upper limits
Very small	4	1 913 788	27 000 000
Small	3	27 000 001	128 000 000
Medium	2	144 000 001	288 000 000
Large	1	288 000 001	

Sample weighting

- 4 For those strata not completely enumerated, the weights to produce estimates are the inverse ratio of the sampling fraction, modified to take account of non-response in the survey. Stratum estimates are calculated and then aggregated with the completely enumerated stratum to form group estimates. These procedures are consistent with international best practice.

Seasonal adjustment

- 5 Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month using the X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the US Bureau of the Census, 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. The X-12-ARIMA procedure for wholesale trade sales is described in more detail on the Stats SA website:

[Click to Download Seasonal adjustment Wholesale Trade Sales June 2014](#)

Trend cycle	6	The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimates of the underlying trend cycle.
Constant prices	7	<p>Stats SA compiles its monthly estimates of wholesale trade sales at current prices from a survey of wholesalers in the formal sector. For January 1998 to December 2011 wholesale trade sales at constant prices were calculated using the “all groups” PPI for domestic output, but excluding electricity and other utilities.</p> <p>From January 2012, wholesale trade sales at constant prices are compiled in three stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Deflate sales of dealers in agricultural raw materials and livestock using the PPI for agriculture. (2) Deflate sales of dealers in food, beverages and tobacco using the PPI for food products, beverages and tobacco. (3) Deflate the remaining wholesale trade sales with the headline PPI (final manufacturing) excluding the PPIs for food products, beverages and tobacco; and transport equipment. <p>Total wholesale trade sales at constant prices is obtained by aggregating (1), (2) and (3).</p>
Reliability of estimates	8	Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all enterprises in the wholesale industry in South Africa. Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.
	9	Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in the collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by careful design of questionnaires, testing them in pilot studies, editing reported data and implementing efficient operating procedures. Fluctuations may occur in consecutive months as a result of seasonal and economic factors.
Month-on-month percentage change	10	The month-on-month percentage change in a variable for any given month is the change between that month and the previous month, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
Year-on-year percentage change	11	The year-on-year percentage change in a variable for any given period is the change between that period and the corresponding period of the previous year, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
Contribution (percentage points)	12	The contribution (percentage points) to the year-on-year percentage change is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of wholesaler by its corresponding weight, divided by 100. The weight is the percentage contribution of each type of wholesaler to total wholesale trade sales in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Glossary

Enterprise An enterprise is a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.

Industry An industry is made up of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the *System of National Accounts (SNA)* in the same way as in the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities*, Fifth Edition, Report No, 09-90-02 of January 1993 (SIC).

Symbols and abbreviations	BSF	Business sampling frame
	GDP	Gross domestic product
	ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
	SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities
	SARS	South African Revenue Service
	Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
	VAT	Value added tax

Wholesale trade Wholesale trade includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to other wholesalers, retailers, agricultural, industrial, commercial, institutional and professional users either directly or through agents on a fee or contract basis.

Wholesaler A wholesaler is an enterprise deriving 50% or more of its turnover from sales of goods to other businesses and institutions.

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