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STATISTICAL RELEASE

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Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

July 2019

The results published today are based on a new sample. This is an annual procedure which typically affects the level of sales at both current and constant prices. To avoid breaks in time series and to minimise revisions to 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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The South Africa I know, the home I understand



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Sales at constant 2015 prices: results for July 2019

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

	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-0,7	-3,6	5,3	-3,2	-6,4	6,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,8	1,5	1,4	-3,0	-1,0	9,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	-6,2	-0,9	2,5	3,5	0,6	0,8

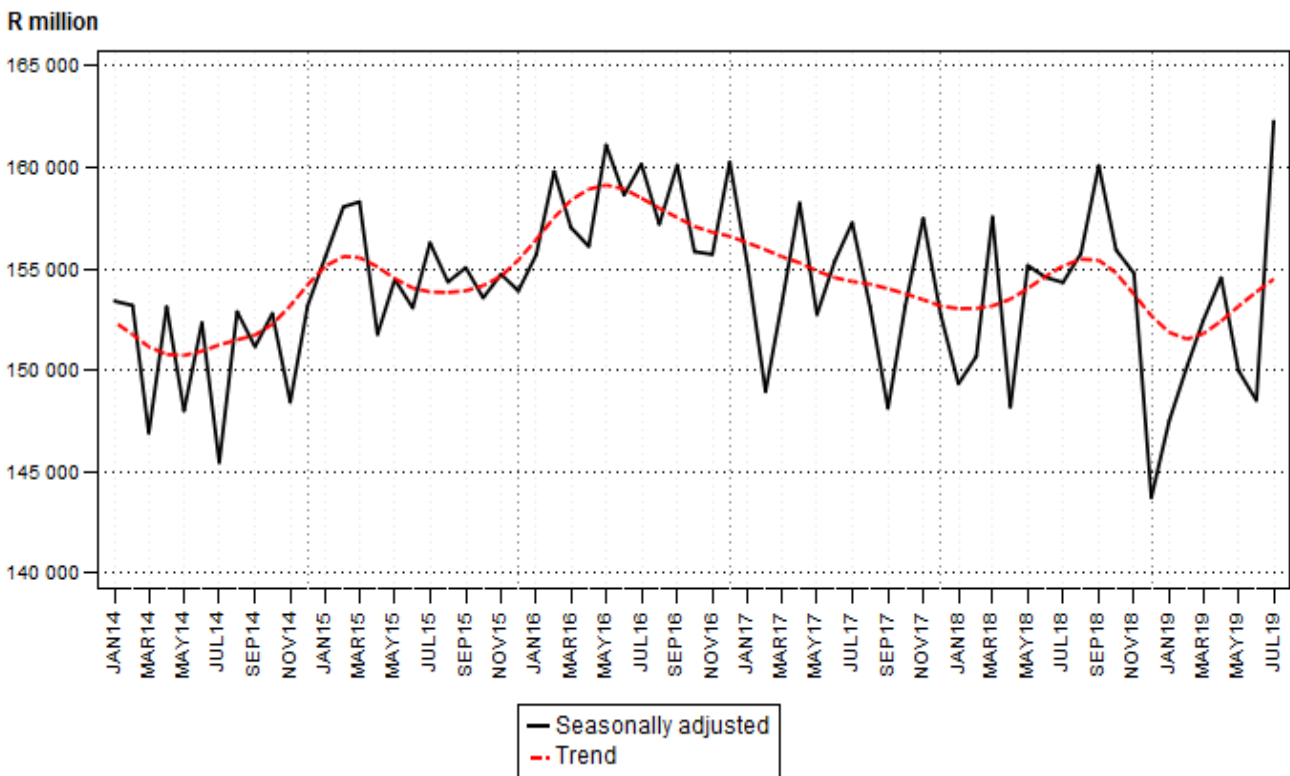
1/ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Measured in real terms (constant 2015 prices), wholesale trade sales increased by 6,7% in July 2019 compared with July 2018.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 9,3% in July 2019 compared with June 2019. This followed month-on-month changes of -1,0% in June 2019 and -3,0% in May 2019.

In the three months ended July 2019, seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 0,8% compared with the previous three months.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2015 prices



Sales at current prices: results for July 2019

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

	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	3,9	3,3	13,3	3,4	-1,0	10,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,1	1,3	4,2	-2,4	-1,1	6,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	-6,3	-1,4	3,1	5,3	3,4	2,0

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 10,9% in July 2019 compared with July 2018. The main contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- machinery, equipment and supplies (24,0% and contributing 2,9 percentage points);
- food, beverages and tobacco (11,9% and contributing 1,7 percentage points);
- 'other' goods (23,7% and contributing 1,6 percentage points); and
- fee or contract basis (38,6% and contributing 1,4 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 2018 (R million)	Weight	May – Jul 2019 (R million)	% change between May – Jul 2018 and May – Jul 2019	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Fee or contract basis	22 091	4,0	25 643	16,1	0,6
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	42 759	7,8	40 044	-6,3	-0,5
Food, beverages and tobacco	82 144	15,0	85 747	4,4	0,7
Textiles, clothing and footwear	10 404	1,9	10 921	5,0	0,1
Other household goods except precious stones	60 339	11,0	64 133	6,3	0,7
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	13 402	2,4	13 160	-1,8	0,0
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	141 378	25,8	144 326	2,1	0,5
Metal and metal ores	13 899	2,5	13 590	-2,2	-0,1
Construction and building materials	29 047	5,3	31 947	10,0	0,5
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	24 400	4,5	25 751	5,5	0,2
Machinery, equipment and supplies	66 413	12,1	72 999	9,9	1,2
Other goods	41 424	7,6	43 628	5,3	0,4
Total	547 699	100,0	571 890	4,4	4,4

Wholesale trade sales increased by 4,4% in the three months ended July 2019 compared with the three months ended July 2018. The main contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- machinery, equipment and supplies (9,9% and contributing 1,2 percentage points);
- 'other' household goods except precious stones (6,3% and contributing 0,7 of a percentage point); and
- food, beverages and tobacco (4,4% and contributing 0,7 of a percentage point) – see Table C.

Risenga Maluleke
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 2019 which replaces the previous sample that was drawn in April 2018. The sample was drawn from a statistical business register of enterprises with an annual turnover of at least R2 656 495 and that are required to register with the South African Revenue Service for value added tax.

Owing to the evolving nature of business, the statistical 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 statistical 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 (revised) 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 2019 based on the new sample was 3,1% lower than the level of total sales recorded for the previous sample (see Table D and Figure 2). The previous sample was drawn in April 2018 and was operational for the last half of 2018 and the first half of 2019.

Table D – Total sales for previous and new samples for the wholesale industry: April to June 2019

Wholesale trade industry	Previous sample (R million)	New sample (R million)	Difference (R million)	Difference (%)
	566 925	549 619	-17 306	-3,1

Figure 2 – Total wholesale trade sales: monthly levels of previous and new samples for April to June 2019

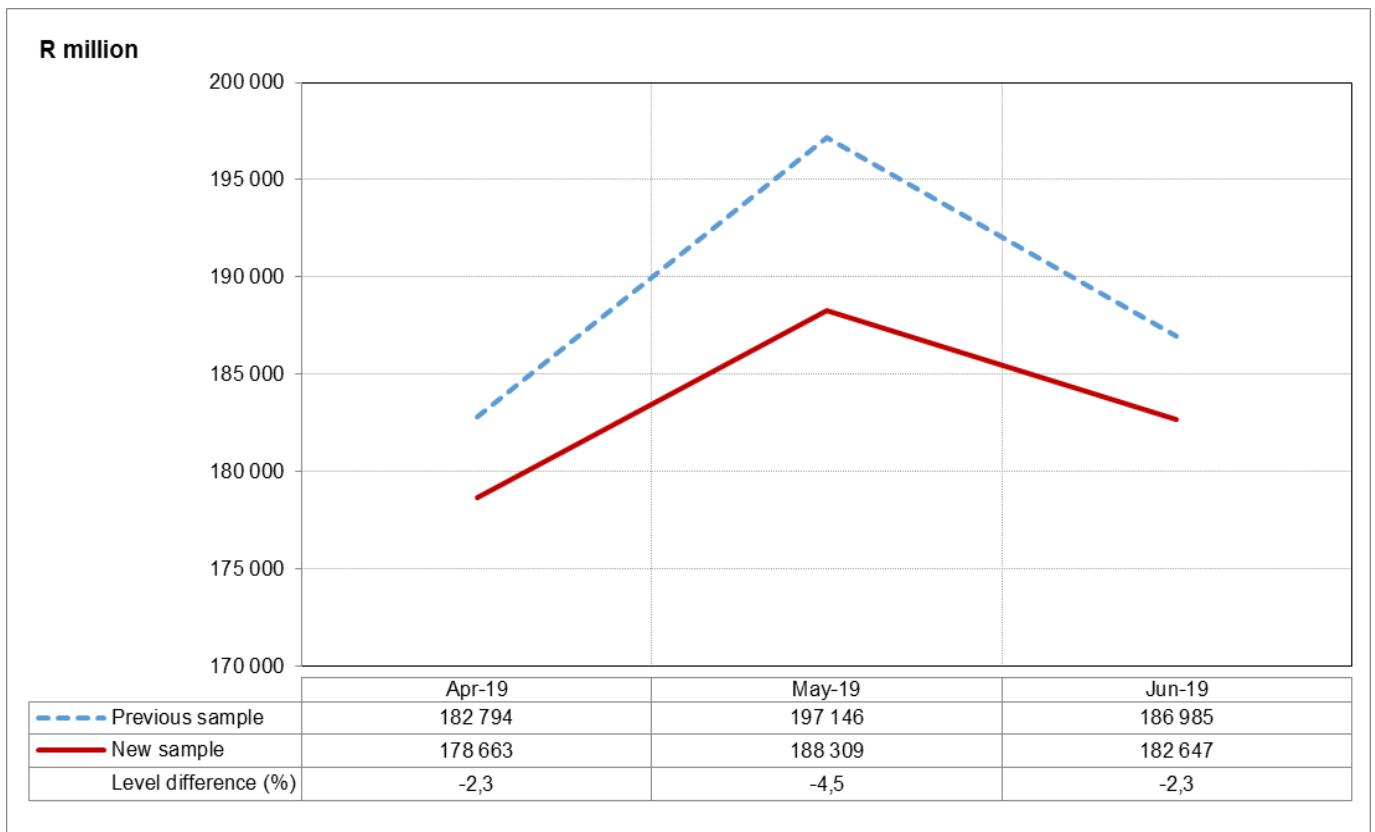


Table E – Wholesale trade sales for previous and new samples by type of dealer: April to June 2019

Type of dealer	Previous sample R million	New sample R million	Difference R million	Difference % 1/
Fee or contract basis	20 627	23 374	2 747	13,3
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	40 090	37 563	-2 527	-6,3
Food, beverages and tobacco	80 479	83 776	3 297	4,1
Textiles, clothing and footwear	14 001	11 102	-2 899	-20,7
Other household goods except precious stones	73 748	63 137	-10 611	-14,4
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	14 535	13 529	-1 006	-6,9
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	134 299	138 773	4 474	3,3
Metals and metal ores	13 513	13 200	-313	-2,3
Construction and building materials	31 633	30 198	-1 435	-4,5
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	24 549	25 232	683	2,8
Machinery, equipment and supplies	72 217	67 685	-4 532	-6,3
Other goods	47 235	42 049	-5 186	-11,0
Total	566 925	549 619	-17 306	-3,1

1/ The percentage difference is the new sample minus the previous sample, divided by the previous sample, multiplied by 100.

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

- textiles, clothing and footwear (20,7% or R2 899 million lower in the new sample);
- 'other' household goods except precious stones (14,4% or R10 611 million lower in the new sample);
- fee or contract basis (13,3% or R2 747 million higher in the new sample); and
- 'other' goods (11,0% or R5 186 million lower in the new sample).

Backcasting

To avoid breaks in the time series and to minimise revisions to historical growth rates, historical sales levels were revised (i.e. they were linked to the estimates based on the new sample).

Tables

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

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 1/
Jan	130 409	138 998	140 072	136 357	137 680	134 431	133 237
Feb	139 446	147 556	152 922	161 677	143 550	144 651	143 661
Mar	139 963	148 636	162 436	160 352	159 717	159 536	153 783
Apr	142 282	141 316	139 052	145 691	140 879	136 514	143 745
May	152 543	146 670	149 704	158 174	152 460	155 382	150 487
Jun	144 422	148 766	154 044	159 454	158 058	155 273	145 369
Jul	151 070	144 792	155 319	154 867	151 509	150 834	160 990
Aug	152 217	150 604	151 976	159 571	156 465	159 676	
Sep	149 512	158 911	161 670	167 498	152 801	160 136	
Oct	165 443	165 663	166 035	164 736	164 298	169 544	
Nov	173 559	161 774	169 476	172 520	174 022	172 804	
Dec	153 495	155 228	155 912	161 392	150 131	140 494	
Total	1 794 361	1 808 914	1 858 618	1 902 289	1 841 570	1 839 275	

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

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

Month	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2019 year-to-date
Jan	6,6	0,8	-2,7	1,0	-2,4	-0,9	-0,9
Feb	5,8	3,6	5,7	-11,2	0,8	-0,7	-0,8
Mar	6,2	9,3	-1,3	-0,4	-0,1	-3,6	-1,8
Apr	-0,7	-1,6	4,8	-3,3	-3,1	5,3	-0,1
May	-3,9	2,1	5,7	-3,6	1,9	-3,2	-0,8
Jun	3,0	3,5	3,5	-0,9	-1,8	-6,4	-1,8
Jul	-4,2	7,3	-0,3	-2,2	-0,4	6,7	-0,5
Aug	-1,1	0,9	5,0	-1,9	2,1		
Sep	6,3	1,7	3,6	-8,8	4,8		
Oct	0,1	0,2	-0,8	-0,3	3,2		
Nov	-6,8	4,8	1,8	0,9	-0,7		
Dec	1,1	0,4	3,5	-7,0	-6,4		
Total	0,8	2,7	2,3	-3,2	-0,1		

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

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019
Jan	155 709	155 158	149 338	147 515	1,2	-3,2	-2,3	2,6
Feb	159 803	148 959	150 689	150 213	2,6	-4,0	0,9	1,8
Mar	157 042	153 262	157 566	152 463	-1,7	2,9	4,6	1,5
Apr	156 112	158 266	148 195	154 562	-0,6	3,3	-5,9	1,4
May	161 106	152 751	155 171	149 990	3,2	-3,5	4,7	-3,0
Jun	158 642	155 395	154 585	148 519	-1,5	1,7	-0,4	-1,0
Jul	160 171	157 278	154 335	162 269	1,0	1,2	-0,2	9,3
Aug	157 203	153 140	155 751		-1,9	-2,6	0,9	
Sep	160 125	148 134	160 088		1,9	-3,3	2,8	
Oct	155 853	153 184	155 937		-2,7	3,4	-2,6	
Nov	155 719	157 495	154 784		-0,1	2,8	-0,7	
Dec	160 268	152 776	143 728		2,9	-3,0	-7,1	

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

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 1/
Jan	121 388	138 966	132 824	140 664	149 796	155 500	160 366
Feb	129 938	148 477	145 340	167 909	157 920	166 393	172 810
Mar	132 329	151 465	159 202	166 178	175 902	181 678	187 642
Apr	133 200	144 483	138 746	153 668	155 084	157 693	178 663
May	142 398	149 741	150 562	167 088	169 166	182 054	188 309
Jun	136 428	152 156	156 371	170 734	174 665	184 468	182 647
Jul	143 487	148 916	158 135	167 361	167 530	181 177	200 934
Aug	146 119	153 967	153 293	170 398	173 748	192 524	
Sep	143 358	162 066	162 769	177 849	172 129	194 427	
Oct	159 951	168 125	169 187	176 422	186 969	210 584	
Nov	167 950	162 481	172 870	187 122	199 923	214 427	
Dec	150 600	153 497	159 318	175 335	174 465	171 892	
Total	1 707 146	1 834 340	1 858 617	2 020 728	2 057 297	2 192 817	

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

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

Month	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2019 year-to-date
Jan	14,5	-4,4	5,9	6,5	3,8	3,1	3,1
Feb	14,3	-2,1	15,5	-5,9	5,4	3,9	3,5
Mar	14,5	5,1	4,4	5,9	3,3	3,3	3,4
Apr	8,5	-4,0	10,8	0,9	1,7	13,3	5,8
May	5,2	0,5	11,0	1,2	7,6	3,4	5,3
Jun	11,5	2,8	9,2	2,3	5,6	-1,0	4,1
Jul	3,8	6,2	5,8	0,1	8,1	10,9	5,2
Aug	5,4	-0,4	11,2	2,0	10,8		
Sep	13,0	0,4	9,3	-3,2	13,0		
Oct	5,1	0,6	4,3	6,0	12,6		
Nov	-3,3	6,4	8,2	6,8	7,3		
Dec	1,9	3,8	10,1	-0,5	-1,5		
Total	7,5	1,3	8,7	1,8	6,6		

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019
Jan	162 432	170 444	175 741	181 514	3,5	-2,2	-0,4	3,9
Feb	170 545	166 596	176 316	183 570	5,0	-2,3	0,3	1,1
Mar	165 292	169 813	181 151	185 890	-3,1	1,9	2,7	1,3
Apr	165 232	174 092	169 760	193 673	0,0	2,5	-6,3	4,2
May	168 654	169 261	182 825	189 059	2,1	-2,8	7,7	-2,4
Jun	170 248	172 473	185 235	186 939	0,9	1,9	1,3	-1,1
Jul	170 405	170 031	180 782	198 286	0,1	-1,4	-2,4	6,1
Aug	167 069	170 184	187 799		-2,0	0,1	3,9	
Sep	169 372	166 490	192 024		1,4	-2,2	2,2	
Oct	166 264	173 395	193 834		-1,8	4,1	0,9	
Nov	167 367	178 614	190 138		0,7	3,0	-1,9	
Dec	174 366	176 368	174 759		4,2	-1,3	-8,1	

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

Type of dealer	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19 1/
Fee or contract basis	6 934	6 764	7 138	8 149	8 087	9 407
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	10 979	12 926	11 832	12 558	13 173	14 313
Food, beverages and tobacco	26 577	29 331	27 741	28 371	27 664	29 712
Textiles, clothing and footwear	3 226	3 561	4 423	4 026	2 653	4 242
Other household goods except precious stones	19 978	21 788	20 816	21 064	21 257	21 812
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	3 699	4 749	5 048	4 292	4 189	4 679
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	42 089	49 409	44 127	47 251	47 395	49 680
Metals and metal ores	4 223	4 213	4 385	4 643	4 172	4 775
Construction and building materials	8 654	9 442	8 869	12 321	9 008	10 618
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	9 498	8 037	8 384	8 920	7 928	8 903
Machinery, equipment and supplies	24 437	25 140	22 045	22 521	23 119	27 359
Other goods	12 518	12 283	13 854	14 194	14 001	15 433
Total	172 810	187 642	178 663	188 309	182 647	200 934

1/ Figures are preliminary.

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

Type of dealer	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19
Fee or contract basis	-1,8	-17,8	-7,7	8,3	3,9	38,6
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	0,7	15,3	17,3	-6,9	-7,3	-4,9
Food, beverages and tobacco	5,2	-0,1	9,3	2,7	-1,1	11,9
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-3,4	-8,6	40,5	14,9	-19,2	17,2
Other household goods except precious stones	4,7	6,0	7,4	4,0	5,7	9,2
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	5,1	-7,2	47,9	8,3	-21,1	13,3
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	7,2	8,0	9,2	2,9	-0,3	3,6
Metals and metal ores	-4,4	-5,9	14,5	-5,3	-8,0	7,1
Construction and building materials	-2,1	5,5	10,5	23,8	-4,3	9,7
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	9,8	2,1	29,7	3,5	8,0	5,5
Machinery, equipment and supplies	9,7	12,4	15,2	7,4	-1,1	24,0
Other goods	-9,0	-11,8	29,6	-7,4	2,8	23,7
Total	3,9	3,3	13,3	3,4	-1,0	10,9

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

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

Survey information

- Introduction**
- 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey covering enterprises in the wholesale trade industry (see 4 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from Stats SA's 2019 business sampling frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered at the South African Revenue Service (SARS) for value added tax (VAT) and income tax (IT). Stats SA continuously updates its BSF, which is linked to the SARS administrative data.
 - 2 In order to improve timeliness, some information for the latest month had to be estimated due to late response. These estimates will be revised in future statistical releases as soon as information becomes available. Published wholesale trade sales estimates exclude VAT.
- Purpose of the survey**
- 3 The results of the monthly wholesale trade sales survey are used to compile estimates of the gross domestic product (GDP) and its components, which are used in monitoring the state of the economy and formulation of economic policy. These statistics are also used in the analysis of comparative business and industry performance.
- Scope of the survey**
- 4 This survey covers wholesale enterprises according to the following types of dealers:
 - Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis – sales by commission agents, commodity brokers, auctioneers and 'other' wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis;
 - Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock;
 - Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco;
 - Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear;
 - Wholesale trade in 'other' household goods except precious stones. This group includes wholesale trade in household furniture, requisites and appliances, wholesale trade in books and stationery, wholesale trade in pharmaceuticals and toiletries and wholesale trade in 'other' household goods not elsewhere classified;
 - Wholesale trade in precious stones, jewellery and silverware;
 - Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products;
 - Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores;
 - Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies;
 - Wholesale trade in 'other' intermediate products, waste and scrap;
 - Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies; and
 - Wholesale trade in 'other' goods. This group covers general wholesale trade and 'other' wholesale trade not classified elsewhere.
- Classification**
- 5 The 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities* (SIC), Fifth Edition, Report No, 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 *International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities* (ISIC) with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Each enterprise is classified to the industry which reflects its predominant activity. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC four digit level.
- Collection rate**
- 6 The preliminary collection rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for July 2019 was 80,4%. The collection rate for June 2019 for the new sample was 83,6%.

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

Technical notes

Survey methodology and design

- 1 The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of 1 423 enterprises from a population of 19 570 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within 10 days after the end of the reference month. Email, fax and telephone reminders are used to follow up on non-respondents.
- 2 A stratified random sample was drawn at the SIC four-digit level in April 2019 from Stats SA's business sampling frame (BSF). Strata were formed using a combination of Standard Industrial Classification and the measure of size classes for enterprises (see point 3 below).

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

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

Neyman allocation formula not only allocates sample sizes to each stratum but also calculates the relative precision for each stratum as well as the relative precision for all strata. The relative precision for these strata was 5,8%.

Class limits

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

Measure of size classes (Rand)

Enterprise size	Size group	Lower limits	Upper limits
Very small	4	2 656 495	27 000 000
Small	3	27 000 001	144 000 000
Medium	2	144 000 001	288 000 000
Large	1	288 000 001	

Sample weighting

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

Seasonal adjustment

- 5 Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month using the X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the US Bureau of the Census. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month. Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variations. Therefore, the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour. The X-12-ARIMA procedure for wholesale trade sales is described in more detail on the Stats SA website: [Click to download seasonal adjustment wholesale trade sales August 2017](#)

Trend cycle

- 6 The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimates of the underlying trend cycle.

- Constant prices**
- 7** Stats SA compiles its monthly estimates of wholesale trade sales at current prices from a survey of wholesalers in the formal sector. For January 1998 to December 2011, wholesale trade sales at constant prices were calculated using the 'all groups' PPI for domestic output, but excluding electricity and other utilities.
- From January 2012, wholesale trade sales at constant prices are compiled as follows:
- (1) Deflate sales of dealers in agricultural raw materials and livestock using the PPI for agriculture.
 - (2) Deflate sales of dealers in food, beverages and tobacco using the final manufacturing PPI for food products, beverages and tobacco.
 - (3) Deflate sales of dealers in textiles, clothing and footwear using the final manufacturing PPI for textiles, clothing and footwear.
 - (4) Deflate sales of dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products using the final manufacturing PPI for coal and petroleum products.
 - (5) Deflate sales of dealers in machinery, equipment and supplies using the final manufacturing PPIs for general and special purpose machinery; household appliances and office machinery; and electrical machinery and communication and metering equipment.
 - (6) Deflate the remaining wholesale trade sales using the headline PPI (final manufacturing) excluding the PPIs for food products, beverages and tobacco; textiles, clothing and footwear; coal and petroleum products; general and special purpose machinery; household appliances and office machinery; electrical machinery and communication and metering equipment; and transport equipment. The PPI for transport equipment is excluded because it measures producer prices of motor vehicles, which are not included in wholesale trade.
- Total wholesale trade sales at constant prices is obtained by aggregating (1) to (6).
- Reliability of estimates**
- 8** Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all enterprises in the wholesale industry in South Africa. Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.
- 9** Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in the collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by careful design of questionnaires, testing them in pilot studies, editing reported data and implementing efficient operating procedures. Fluctuations may occur in consecutive months as a result of seasonal and economic factors.
- Month-on-month percentage change**
- 10** The month-on-month percentage change in a variable for any given month is the change between that month and the previous month, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
- Year-on-year percentage change**
- 11** The year-on-year percentage change in a variable for any given period is the change between that period and the corresponding period of the previous year, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
- Contribution (percentage points)**
- 12** The contribution (percentage points) to the year-on-year percentage change is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of wholesaler by its corresponding weight, divided by 100. The weight is the percentage contribution of each type of wholesaler to total wholesale trade sales in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Glossary

Enterprise	An enterprise is a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.	
Industry	An industry is made up of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the <i>System of National Accounts</i> (SNA) in the same way as in the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities</i> (SIC), Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993.	
Symbols and abbreviations	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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