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STATISTICAL RELEASE

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Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

July 2021

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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Sales at constant 2015 prices: results for July 2021

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

	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-4,3	5,0	67,4	30,9	10,9	-2,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,3	1,2	-1,6	7,0	-4,8	-3,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	1,6	2,1	1,4	2,7	2,1	1,6

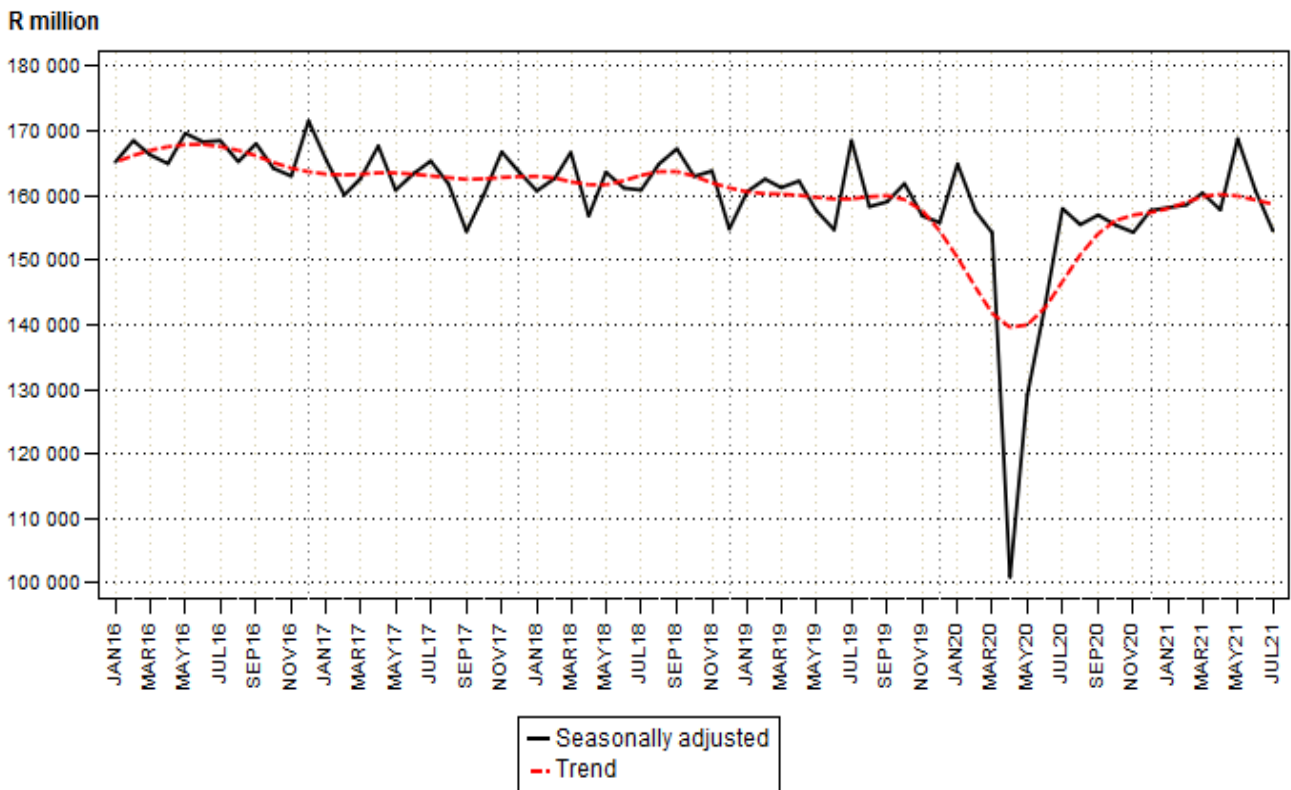
1/ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Measured in real terms (constant 2015 prices), wholesale trade sales decreased by 2,0% in July 2021 compared with July 2020.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales decreased by 3,8% in July 2021 compared with June 2021. This followed month-on-month changes of -4,8% in June 2021 and 7,0% in May 2021.

In the three months ended July 2021, seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 1,6% compared with the previous three months.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2015 prices



Sales at current prices: results for July 2021

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

	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-1,4	10,6	82,9	44,9	22,9	7,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,7	4,1	-0,2	6,1	-2,6	-4,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	2,2	3,4	5,0	7,1	6,3	4,0

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 7,1% in July 2021 compared with July 2020. The main contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (13,1% and contributing 2,7 percentage points);
- 'other' intermediate products, waste and scrap (35,0% and contributing 1,7 percentage points); and
- machinery, equipment and supplies (10,7% and contributing 1,6 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 2020 (R million)	Weight	May – Jul 2021 (R million)	% change between May – Jul 2020 and May – Jul 2021	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Fee or contract basis	20 471	3,8	24 700	20,7	0,8
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	44 909	8,4	56 989	26,9	2,3
Food, beverages and tobacco	87 783	16,5	92 645	5,5	0,9
Textiles, clothing and footwear	7 030	1,3	8 551	21,6	0,3
Other household goods except precious stones	71 309	13,4	81 567	14,4	1,9
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	7 334	1,4	12 218	66,6	0,9
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	96 433	18,1	144 657	50,0	9,1
Metal and metal ores	15 924	3,0	23 976	50,6	1,5
Construction and building materials	29 071	5,5	37 428	28,7	1,6
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	26 173	4,9	34 374	31,3	1,5
Machinery, equipment and supplies	82 341	15,5	90 691	10,1	1,6
Other goods	43 716	8,2	48 996	12,1	1,0
Total	532 496	100,0	656 789	23,3	23,3

Wholesale trade sales increased by 23,3% in the three months ended July 2021 compared with the three months ended July 2020. The main contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (50,0% and contributing 9,1 percentage points);
- agricultural raw materials and livestock (26,9% and contributing 2,3 percentage points); and
- 'other' household goods except precious stones (14,4% and contributing 1,9 percentage points) – see Table C.

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

Note: Changes to the 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 2021, which replaces the previous sample that was drawn in April 2019. The sample was drawn from a statistical business register of enterprises with an annual turnover of at least R2 675 608 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 2021 based on the new sample was 5,9% (R35 977 million) 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 2019 and was operational for the last half of 2019, 2020 and the first half of 2021.

Table D – Total sales for previous and new samples for the wholesale industry: April to June 2021

Wholesale trade industry	Previous sample (R million)	New sample (R million)	Difference (R million)	Difference (%)
	605 490	641 467	35 977	5,9

Figure 2 – Total wholesale trade sales: monthly levels of previous and new samples for April to June 2021

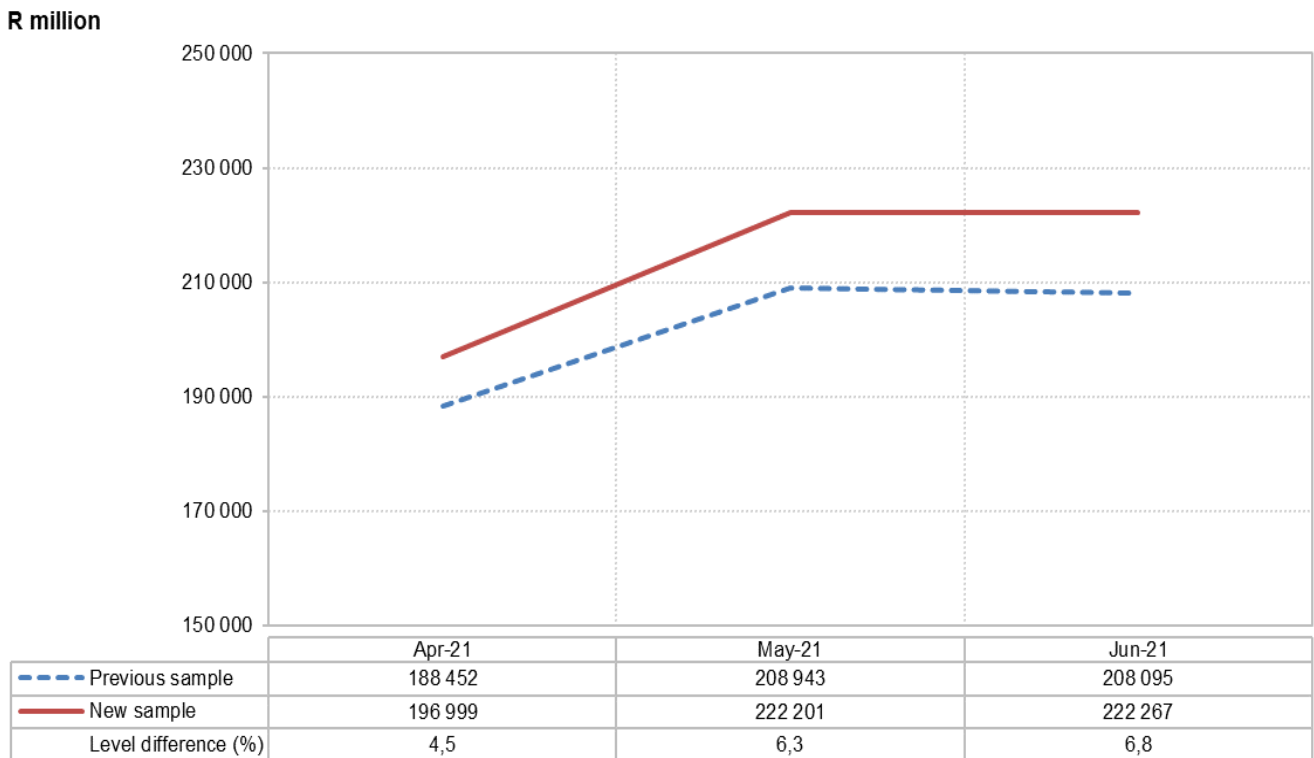


Table E – Wholesale trade sales for previous and new samples by type of dealer: April to June 2021

Type of dealer	Previous sample R million	New sample R million	Difference R million	Difference % 1/
Fee or contract basis	29 438	22 818	-6 620	-22,5
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	55 083	53 981	-1 102	-2,0
Food, beverages and tobacco	91 496	95 566	4 070	4,4
Textiles, clothing and footwear	8 717	9 211	494	5,7
Other household goods except precious stones	85 801	82 093	-3 708	-4,3
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	12 578	12 015	-563	-4,5
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	133 259	142 974	9 715	7,3
Metals and metal ores	15 895	23 986	8 091	50,9
Construction and building materials	35 358	37 017	1 659	4,7
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	27 687	30 595	2 908	10,5
Machinery, equipment and supplies	68 983	81 768	12 785	18,5
Other goods	41 193	49 446	8 253	20,0
Total	605 490	641 467	35 977	5,9

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:

- metals and metal ores (50,9% or R8 091 million higher in the new sample);
- fee or contract basis (22,5% or R6 620 million lower in the new sample);
- 'other' goods (20,0% or R8 253 million higher in the new sample); and
- machinery, equipment and supplies (18,5% or R12 785 million higher 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	2015 *	2016 *	2017 *	2018 *	2019 *	2020 *	2021 1/ *
Jan	147 927	144 140	145 601	142 230	140 914	144 499	133 661
Feb	161 507	170 896	151 827	153 013	151 937	154 044	147 427
Mar	171 632	169 462	168 899	168 708	162 626	157 261	165 069
Apr	146 945	153 978	148 940	144 318	151 941	88 308	147 848
May	158 188	167 172	161 197	164 286	159 072	127 369	166 670
Jun	162 776	168 575	167 117	164 175	153 672	149 009	165 196
Jul	164 135	163 760	160 207	159 494	170 080	159 734	156 565
Aug	160 603	168 708	165 442	168 871	162 089	155 293	
Sep	170 819	177 063	161 598	169 357	163 055	163 949	
Oct	175 438	174 144	173 770	179 358	178 055	171 184	
Nov	179 126	182 411	184 111	182 825	173 430	167 668	
Dec	164 824	170 680	158 840	148 612	152 274	155 635	
Total	1 963 920	2 010 989	1 947 549	1 945 247	1 919 145	1 793 953	

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

* Revised, see note on page 4.

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

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021 year-to-date
Jan	-2,6	1,0	-2,3	-0,9	2,5	-7,5	-7,5
Feb	5,8	-11,2	0,8	-0,7	1,4	-4,3	-5,8
Mar	-1,3	-0,3	-0,1	-3,6	-3,3	5,0	-2,1
Apr	4,8	-3,3	-3,1	5,3	-41,9	67,4	9,2
May	5,7	-3,6	1,9	-3,2	-19,9	30,9	13,3
Jun	3,6	-0,9	-1,8	-6,4	-3,0	10,9	12,8
Jul	-0,2	-2,2	-0,4	6,6	-6,1	-2,0	10,4
Aug	5,0	-1,9	2,1	-4,0	-4,2		
Sep	3,7	-8,7	4,8	-3,7	0,5		
Oct	-0,7	-0,2	3,2	-0,7	-3,9		
Nov	1,8	0,9	-0,7	-5,1	-3,3		
Dec	3,6	-6,9	-6,4	2,5	2,2		
Total	2,4	-3,2	-0,1	-1,3	-6,5		

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

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021
Jan	160 735	160 610	164 906	158 139	-1,8	3,7	5,8	0,3
Feb	162 649	162 544	157 609	158 565	1,2	1,2	-4,4	0,3
Mar	166 694	161 237	154 251	160 390	2,5	-0,8	-2,1	1,2
Apr	156 853	162 256	100 923	157 797	-5,9	0,6	-34,6	-1,6
May	163 623	157 683	129 131	168 798	4,3	-2,8	28,0	7,0
Jun	161 163	154 702	143 024	160 752	-1,5	-1,9	10,8	-4,8
Jul	160 863	168 538	157 991	154 600	-0,2	8,9	10,5	-3,8
Aug	164 898	158 289	155 505		2,5	-6,1	-1,6	
Sep	167 237	159 045	156 986		1,4	0,5	1,0	
Oct	162 976	161 850	155 440		-2,5	1,8	-1,0	
Nov	163 803	156 845	154 309		0,5	-3,1	-0,7	
Dec	154 828	155 820	157 690		-5,5	-0,7	2,2	

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

Month	2015 *	2016 *	2017 *	2018 *	2019 *	2020 *	2021 1/ *
Jan	140 349	148 633	158 283	164 310	169 452	182 464	171 406
Feb	153 575	177 422	166 867	175 820	182 601	193 791	191 148
Mar	168 222	175 593	185 868	191 971	198 273	196 253	217 075
Apr	146 607	162 374	163 870	166 628	188 786	107 706	196 999
May	159 092	176 555	178 751	192 368	198 978	153 312	222 201
Jun	165 230	180 408	184 561	194 920	192 995	180 854	222 267
Jul	167 094	176 843	177 022	191 441	212 230	198 330	212 321
Aug	161 978	180 052	183 592	203 432	202 651	195 134	
Sep	171 991	187 925	181 881	205 443	203 660	206 153	
Oct	178 773	186 418	197 562	222 515	223 563	216 469	
Nov	182 664	197 724	211 249	226 575	217 297	212 103	
Dec	168 344	185 268	184 350	181 630	191 619	197 089	
Total	1 963 919	2 135 215	2 173 856	2 317 053	2 382 105	2 239 658	

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

* Revised, see note on page 4.

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

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021 year-to-date
Jan	5,9	6,5	3,8	3,1	7,7	-6,1	-6,1
Feb	15,5	-5,9	5,4	3,9	6,1	-1,4	-3,6
Mar	4,4	5,9	3,3	3,3	-1,0	10,6	1,2
Apr	10,8	0,9	1,7	13,3	-42,9	82,9	14,2
May	11,0	1,2	7,6	3,4	-23,0	44,9	19,8
Jun	9,2	2,3	5,6	-1,0	-6,3	22,9	20,4
Jul	5,8	0,1	8,1	10,9	-6,5	7,1	18,2
Aug	11,2	2,0	10,8	-0,4	-3,7		
Sep	9,3	-3,2	13,0	-0,9	1,2		
Oct	4,3	6,0	12,6	0,5	-3,2		
Nov	8,2	6,8	7,3	-4,1	-2,4		
Dec	10,1	-0,5	-1,5	5,5	2,9		
Total	8,7	1,8	6,6	2,8	-6,0		

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021
Jan	186 794	193 349	207 962	199 688	-0,5	3,3	6,9	-0,5
Feb	186 565	194 317	202 964	203 163	-0,1	0,5	-2,4	1,7
Mar	192 018	195 827	192 078	211 543	2,9	0,8	-5,4	4,1
Apr	178 604	204 425	118 541	211 091	-7,0	4,4	-38,3	-0,2
May	191 129	196 862	155 919	223 891	7,0	-3,7	31,5	6,1
Jun	192 920	194 198	176 029	218 014	0,9	-1,4	12,9	-2,6
Jul	190 531	208 813	194 665	209 105	-1,2	7,5	10,6	-4,1
Aug	198 852	198 577	194 804		4,4	-4,9	0,1	
Sep	202 231	197 061	197 203		1,7	-0,8	1,2	
Oct	203 905	204 736	198 209		0,8	3,9	0,5	
Nov	204 277	199 251	195 305		0,2	-2,7	-1,5	
Dec	187 194	194 607	200 775		-8,4	-2,3	2,8	

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

Type of dealer	Feb-21 *	Mar-21 *	Apr-21 *	May-21 *	Jun-21 *	Jul-21 1/ *
Fee or contract basis	5 618	6 229	6 664	7 703	8 451	8 546
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	14 353	15 356	14 654	21 862	17 465	17 662
Food, beverages and tobacco	31 038	35 379	30 808	31 566	33 192	27 887
Textiles, clothing and footwear	2 607	4 391	3 231	3 252	2 728	2 571
Other household goods except precious stones	22 667	25 299	26 803	26 664	28 626	26 277
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	1 764	3 818	4 088	3 675	4 252	4 291
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	38 062	47 496	44 387	49 269	49 318	46 070
Metals and metal ores	6 130	7 785	7 462	7 853	8 671	7 452
Construction and building materials	11 082	12 603	11 323	14 077	11 617	11 734
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	12 279	11 338	9 090	9 703	11 802	12 869
Machinery, equipment and supplies	29 357	31 504	23 752	28 536	29 480	32 675
Other goods	16 190	15 879	14 738	18 041	16 667	14 288
Total	191 148	217 075	196 999	222 201	222 267	212 321

1/ Figures are preliminary.

* Revised, see note on page 4.

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

Type of dealer	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21
Fee or contract basis	0,8	2,0	11,9	23,9	24,1	14,9
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	10,8	22,9	23,4	64,7	13,6	8,6
Food, beverages and tobacco	5,9	9,1	39,8	13,8	10,1	-6,7
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-31,0	20,8	457,1	73,5	-0,5	6,5
Other household goods except precious stones	14,6	3,8	78,7	24,8	18,7	1,7
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	-64,4	11,7	539,7	139,4	33,2	64,5
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	-21,5	16,8	141,3	94,8	62,2	13,1
Metals and metal ores	-0,6	24,4	365,8	85,1	67,4	14,6
Construction and building materials	15,6	34,5	726,5	120,8	22,6	-11,3
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	22,5	13,5	53,2	18,5	39,6	35,0
Machinery, equipment and supplies	0,5	-4,6	66,8	19,7	1,7	10,7
Other goods	16,0	9,7	46,0	34,9	4,3	-0,5
Total	-1,4	10,6	82,9	44,9	22,9	7,1

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-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21
Fee or contract basis	0,0	0,1	0,7	1,0	0,9	0,6
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	0,7	1,5	2,6	5,6	1,2	0,7
Food, beverages and tobacco	0,9	1,5	8,1	2,5	1,7	-1,0
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-0,6	0,4	2,5	0,9	0,0	0,1
Other household goods except precious stones	1,5	0,5	11,0	3,4	2,5	0,2
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	-1,7	0,2	3,2	1,4	0,6	0,8
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	-5,4	3,5	24,1	15,6	10,4	2,7
Metals and metal ores	0,0	0,8	5,4	2,4	2,0	0,5
Construction and building materials	0,8	1,7	9,2	5,1	1,2	-0,8
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	1,2	0,7	2,9	1,0	1,9	1,7
Machinery, equipment and supplies	0,1	-0,8	8,8	3,1	0,3	1,6
Other goods	1,2	0,7	4,3	3,0	0,4	0,0
Total	-1,4	10,6	82,9	44,9	22,9	7,1

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 2021 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 2021 was 63,3%. The collection rate for June 2021 for the new sample was 66,6%.

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 1 469 enterprises from a population of 19 883 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 2021 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	2 675 608	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](#)

Note: Owing to the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown, a transitory change adjustment was applied to April 2020. Transitory (temporary) change describes a temporary effect on the level of a series after a certain point in time.

- 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 *System of National Accounts (SNA)* in the same way as in the *Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (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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