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STATISTICAL RELEASE

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Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

July 2022

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 2019 prices: results for July 2022

Table A – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at constant 2019 prices

	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	5,8	3,7	-3,8	-1,7	-2,0	-0,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,8	1,0	-5,3	2,2	-0,8	-0,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	0,4	2,4	0,4	-0,9	-3,8	-1,7

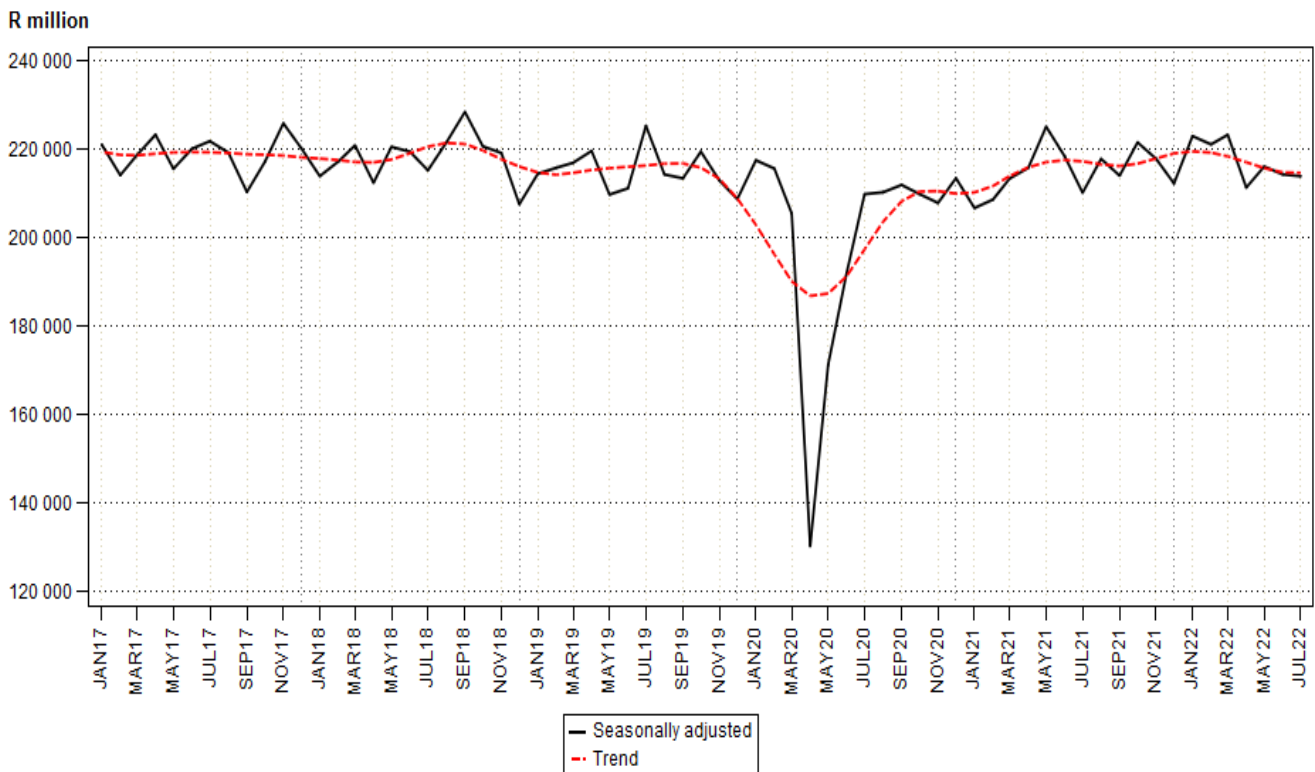
1/ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Measured in real terms (constant 2019 prices), wholesale trade sales decreased by 0,9% in July 2022 compared with July 2021.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales decreased by 0,2% in July 2022 compared with June 2022. This followed month-on-month changes of -0,8% in June 2022 and 2,2% in May 2022.

In the three months ended July 2022, seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales decreased by 1,7% compared with the previous three months.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2019 prices



Sales at current prices: results for July 2022

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

	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	20,4	20,5	12,9	18,1	19,3	22,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	2,1	1,7	-3,3	6,3	0,2	1,6
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	4,5	5,7	4,5	4,3	2,6	5,2

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 22,2% in July 2022 compared with July 2021. The main positive contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (59,4% and contributing 12,6 percentage points);
- food, beverages and tobacco (24,0% and contributing 3,4 percentage points);
- 'other' goods (33,5% and contributing 2,5 percentage points); and
- agricultural raw materials and livestock (27,8% and contributing 2,1 percentage points) – see Tables 8 and 9.

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

Type of dealer	May – Jul 2021 (R million)	Weight	May – Jul 2022 (R million)	% change between May – Jul 2021 and May – Jul 2022	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Fee or contract basis	26 072	3,6	29 099	11,6	0,4
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	53 985	7,5	65 191	20,8	1,6
Food, beverages and tobacco	107 030	15,0	125 336	17,1	2,6
Textiles, clothing and footwear	12 026	1,7	13 178	9,6	0,2
Other household goods except precious stones	80 669	11,3	80 017	-0,8	-0,1
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	18 312	2,6	12 948	-29,3	-0,8
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	154 708	21,6	240 584	55,5	12,0
Metal and metal ores	23 146	3,2	25 755	11,3	0,4
Construction and building materials	35 070	4,9	38 527	9,9	0,5
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	37 184	5,2	44 806	20,5	1,1
Machinery, equipment and supplies	108 002	15,1	106 797	-1,1	-0,2
Other goods	59 614	8,3	75 835	27,2	2,3
Total	715 815	100,0	858 071	19,9	19,9

Wholesale trade sales increased by 19,9% in the three months ended July 2022 compared with the three months ended July 2021. The main positive contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (55,5% and contributing 12,0 percentage points);
- food, beverages and tobacco (17,1% and contributing 2,6 percentage points); and
- 'other' goods (27,2% and contributing 2,3 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 2022, which replaces the previous sample that was drawn in April 2021. The sample was drawn from a statistical business register of enterprises with an annual turnover of at least R3 266 056 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 2022 based on the new sample was 9,1% (R67 872 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 2021 and was operational for the last half of 2021 and the first half of 2022.

Table D – Total sales for previous and new samples for the wholesale industry: April to June 2022

Wholesale trade industry	Previous sample (R million)	New sample (R million)	Difference (R million)	Difference (%)
	745 018	812 890	67 872	9,1

Figure 2 – Total wholesale trade sales: monthly levels of previous and new samples for April to June 2022

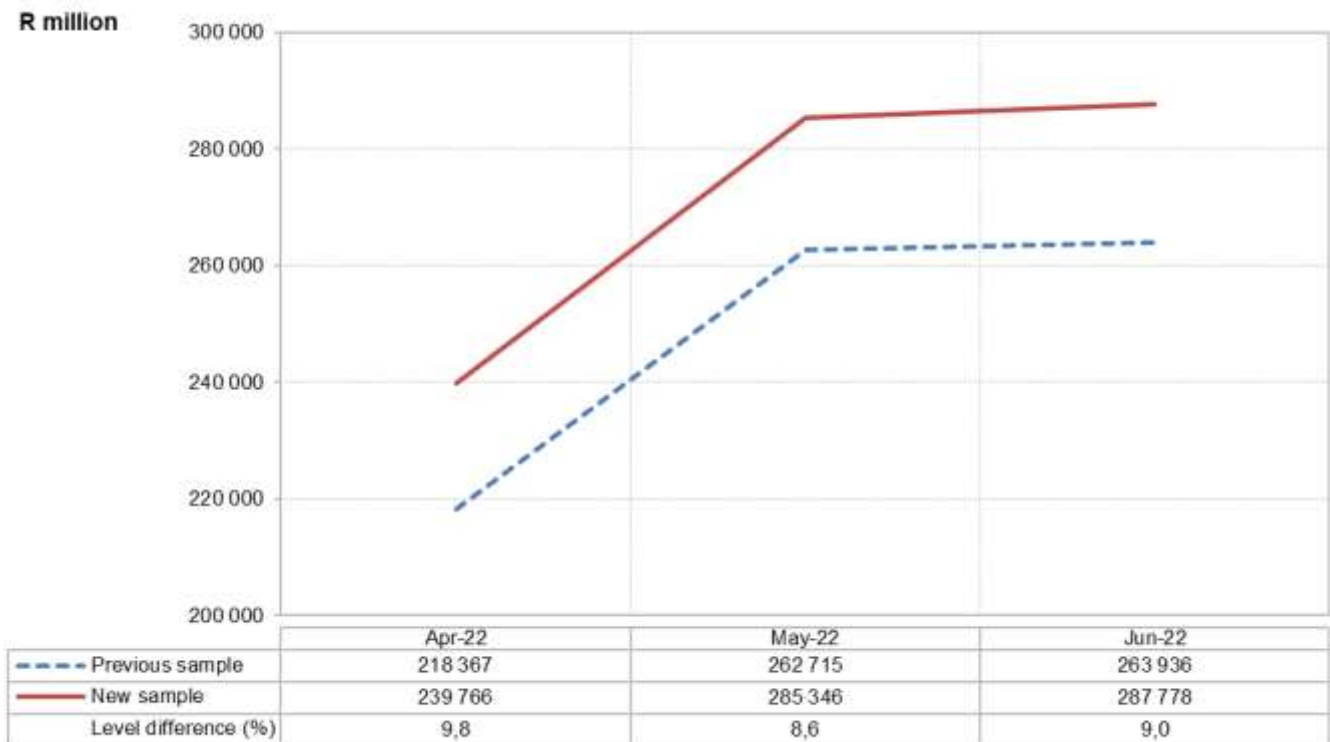


Table E – Wholesale trade sales for previous and new samples by type of dealer: April to June 2022

Type of dealer	Previous sample R million	New sample R million	Difference R million	Difference % 1/
Fee or contract basis	24 647	26 639	1 992	8,1
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	58 832	57 670	-1 162	-2,0
Food, beverages and tobacco	106 002	122 899	16 897	15,9
Textiles, clothing and footwear	11 800	14 588	2 788	23,6
Other household goods except precious stones	79 666	80 518	852	1,1
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	7 633	11 600	3 967	52,0
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	208 355	224 244	15 889	7,6
Metals and metal ores	23 760	24 638	878	3,7
Construction and building materials	35 474	36 772	1 298	3,7
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	41 665	43 953	2 288	5,5
Machinery, equipment and supplies	86 192	98 041	11 849	13,7
Other goods	60 991	71 331	10 340	17,0
Total	745 018	812 890	67 872	9,1

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:

- precious stones, jewellery and silverware (52,0% or R3 967 million higher in the new sample);
- textiles, clothing and footwear (23,6% or R2 788 million higher in the new sample);
- 'other' goods (17,0% or R10 340 million higher in the new sample);
- food, beverages and tobacco (15,9% or R16 897 million higher in the new sample); and
- machinery, equipment and supplies (13,7% or R11 849 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 2019 prices (R million)

Month	2016 *	2017 *	2018 *	2019 *	2020 *	2021 *	2022 1/ *
Jan	193 958	196 359	191 784	190 022	194 937	179 861	194 441
Feb	229 670	204 200	206 190	204 536	207 027	197 647	209 024
Mar	227 923	226 932	227 707	219 017	210 519	221 554	229 679
Apr	207 206	200 998	194 667	204 372	117 669	197 773	190 186
May	224 952	216 833	221 461	214 021	169 936	224 174	220 463
Jun	226 573	224 709	220 959	206 634	198 698	222 296	217 774
Jul	219 930	215 725	214 670	228 532	213 876	212 647	210 794
Aug	226 844	222 964	227 202	218 154	208 070	220 053	
Sep	237 998	217 809	228 338	218 892	219 828	221 524	
Oct	234 491	234 477	241 801	239 168	229 512	236 243	
Nov	245 083	248 065	245 274	233 031	224 952	241 799	
Dec	229 667	214 175	199 957	205 051	208 940	209 793	
Total	2 704 295	2 623 246	2 620 010	2 581 430	2 403 964	2 585 364	

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 2019 prices

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2022 year-to-date
Jan	1,2	-2,3	-0,9	2,6	-7,7	8,1	8,1
Feb	-11,1	1,0	-0,8	1,2	-4,5	5,8	6,9
Mar	-0,4	0,3	-3,8	-3,9	5,2	3,7	5,7
Apr	-3,0	-3,1	5,0	-42,4	68,1	-3,8	3,3
May	-3,6	2,1	-3,4	-20,6	31,9	-1,7	2,2
Jun	-0,8	-1,7	-6,5	-3,8	11,9	-2,0	1,5
Jul	-1,9	-0,5	6,5	-6,4	-0,6	-0,9	1,1
Aug	-1,7	1,9	-4,0	-4,6	5,8		
Sep	-8,5	4,8	-4,1	0,4	0,8		
Oct	0,0	3,1	-1,1	-4,0	2,9		
Nov	1,2	-1,1	-5,0	-3,5	7,5		
Dec	-6,7	-6,6	2,5	1,9	0,4		
Total	-3,0	-0,1	-1,5	-6,9	7,5		

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant 2019 prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
Jan	214 527	217 589	206 780	223 041	3,3	4,2	-3,2	5,0
Feb	215 887	215 702	208 707	221 169	0,6	-0,9	0,9	-0,8
Mar	217 008	205 590	213 465	223 331	0,5	-4,7	2,3	1,0
Apr	219 689	130 356	215 857	211 410	1,2	-36,6	1,1	-5,3
May	209 824	171 346	225 169	216 157	-4,5	31,4	4,3	2,2
Jun	211 246	192 102	218 474	214 391	0,7	12,1	-3,0	-0,8
Jul	225 368	209 925	210 245	213 982	6,7	9,3	-3,8	-0,2
Aug	214 371	210 343	217 891		-4,9	0,2	3,6	
Sep	213 500	212 002	214 102		-0,4	0,8	-1,7	
Oct	219 543	209 937	221 620		2,8	-1,0	3,5	
Nov	213 004	207 933	217 917		-3,0	-1,0	-1,7	
Dec	208 792	213 530	212 343		-2,0	2,7	-2,6	

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

Month	2016 *	2017 *	2018 *	2019 *	2020 *	2021 *	2022 1/ *
Jan	161 071	171 527	178 058	183 631	197 732	185 748	228 997
Feb	192 269	180 829	190 533	197 880	210 007	207 142	249 449
Mar	190 285	201 421	208 035	214 863	212 675	235 239	283 576
Apr	175 961	177 582	180 571	204 583	116 718	212 428	239 766
May	191 328	193 708	208 465	215 628	166 140	241 537	285 346
Jun	195 504	200 003	211 230	209 144	195 987	241 178	287 778
Jul	191 640	191 834	207 460	229 989	214 925	233 100	284 947
Aug	195 117	198 955	220 454	219 608	211 461	243 331	
Sep	203 650	197 100	222 633	220 702	223 402	247 984	
Oct	202 016	214 093	241 135	242 269	234 583	266 917	
Nov	214 268	228 926	245 534	235 480	229 852	278 620	
Dec	200 770	199 775	196 828	207 653	213 581	245 993	
Total	2 313 879	2 355 753	2 510 936	2 581 430	2 427 063	2 839 217	

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	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2022 year-to-date
Jan	6,5	3,8	3,1	7,7	-6,1	23,3	23,3
Feb	-5,9	5,4	3,9	6,1	-1,4	20,4	21,8
Mar	5,9	3,3	3,3	-1,0	10,6	20,5	21,3
Apr	0,9	1,7	13,3	-42,9	82,0	12,9	19,2
May	1,2	7,6	3,4	-23,0	45,4	18,1	18,9
Jun	2,3	5,6	-1,0	-6,3	23,1	19,3	19,0
Jul	0,1	8,1	10,9	-6,5	8,5	22,2	19,5
Aug	2,0	10,8	-0,4	-3,7	15,1		
Sep	-3,2	13,0	-0,9	1,2	11,0		
Oct	6,0	12,6	0,5	-3,2	13,8		
Nov	6,8	7,3	-4,1	-2,4	21,2		
Dec	-0,5	-1,5	5,5	2,9	15,2		
Total	1,8	6,6	2,8	-6,0	17,0		

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
Jan	207 628	222 853	214 968	261 450	1,9	4,9	-1,7	4,2
Feb	210 734	222 833	221 272	266 878	1,5	0,0	2,9	2,1
Mar	211 047	205 736	226 450	271 498	0,1	-7,7	2,3	1,7
Apr	221 951	128 297	228 549	262 410	5,2	-37,6	0,9	-3,3
May	212 495	168 078	240 082	278 937	-4,3	31,0	5,0	6,3
Jun	209 756	190 256	235 772	279 555	-1,3	13,2	-1,8	0,2
Jul	225 637	210 028	228 371	284 073	7,6	10,4	-3,1	1,6
Aug	215 227	211 400	240 811		-4,6	0,7	5,4	
Sep	214 835	215 578	239 515		-0,2	2,0	-0,5	
Oct	222 705	216 196	252 079		3,7	0,3	5,2	
Nov	216 362	211 942	253 857		-2,8	-2,0	0,7	
Dec	212 532	218 744	250 936		-1,8	3,2	-1,2	

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

Type of dealer	Feb-22 *	Mar-22 *	Apr-22 *	May-22 *	Jun-22	Jul-22 1/
Fee or contract basis	6 623	6 463	7 624	9 312	9 703	10 084
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	15 785	17 337	14 378	22 584	20 708	21 899
Food, beverages and tobacco	37 178	45 105	38 897	40 758	43 244	41 334
Textiles, clothing and footwear	5 120	5 649	5 733	4 851	4 004	4 323
Other household goods except precious stones	24 562	29 697	26 867	27 303	26 348	26 366
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	5 160	8 726	3 614	4 553	3 433	4 962
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	63 876	75 627	62 420	81 446	80 378	78 760
Metals and metal ores	7 375	9 501	7 878	9 114	7 646	8 995
Construction and building materials	13 307	13 201	11 072	12 857	12 843	12 827
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	16 466	16 292	13 712	14 805	15 436	14 565
Machinery, equipment and supplies	35 336	34 421	28 368	32 516	37 157	37 124
Other goods	18 662	21 557	19 205	25 247	26 879	23 709
Total	249 449	283 576	239 766	285 346	287 778	284 947

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-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22
Fee or contract basis	13,3	0,1	10,2	12,1	12,9	10,0
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	18,0	21,5	5,2	9,7	27,4	27,8
Food, beverages and tobacco	5,5	12,6	10,5	13,0	14,9	24,0
Textiles, clothing and footwear	40,7	-7,6	31,2	-1,5	10,7	24,0
Other household goods except precious stones	10,6	20,2	1,6	4,2	-6,1	-0,2
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	95,2	53,0	-41,1	-17,7	-46,4	-22,2
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	58,5	50,8	33,7	54,7	52,7	59,4
Metals and metal ores	25,9	28,1	10,4	16,8	-5,3	23,7
Construction and building materials	29,0	12,9	4,1	1,4	13,9	15,4
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	25,7	35,1	44,2	42,8	19,8	4,5
Machinery, equipment and supplies	0,0	-8,9	-0,3	-5,2	3,3	-1,5
Other goods	-3,2	14,4	11,3	14,1	36,2	33,5
Total	20,4	20,5	12,9	18,1	19,3	22,2

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-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22
Fee or contract basis	0,4	0,0	0,3	0,4	0,5	0,4
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	1,2	1,3	0,3	0,8	1,8	2,1
Food, beverages and tobacco	0,9	2,1	1,7	1,9	2,3	3,4
Textiles, clothing and footwear	0,7	-0,2	0,7	0,0	0,2	0,4
Other household goods except precious stones	1,1	2,1	0,2	0,5	-0,7	0,0
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	1,2	1,3	-1,2	-0,4	-1,3	-0,6
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	11,4	10,8	7,4	11,9	11,5	12,6
Metals and metal ores	0,7	0,9	0,4	0,5	-0,2	0,7
Construction and building materials	1,5	0,6	0,2	0,1	0,7	0,7
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	1,6	1,8	2,0	1,8	1,0	0,3
Machinery, equipment and supplies	0,0	-1,4	0,0	-0,7	0,5	-0,2
Other goods	-0,3	1,2	0,9	1,3	3,0	2,5
Total	20,4	20,5	12,9	18,1	19,3	22,2

Survey information

- Introduction**
- 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey covering enterprises in the wholesale trade industry (see point 4 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from Stats SA's 2022 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 2022 was 67,6%. The collection rate for June 2022 for the new sample was 70,4%.

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 1 645 enterprises from a population of 19 390 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 2022 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	3 266 056	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 United States Census Bureau. 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 February 2022](#)

- 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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