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Wholesale trade sales
(Preliminary)

June 2007

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Contents

Summary of findings: Wholesale trade sales

Table A – Key figures as at the end of June 2007

Wholesale trade sales estimates	June 2007 (R million)	% change between June 2006 and June 2007	% change between April to June 2006 and April to June 2007	% change between January to June 2006 and January to June 2007
At current prices	67 385	15,9	18,6	19,8
At constant 2000 prices	42 447	3,5	6,0	7,7

Seasonally adjusted estimates	June 2007 (R million)	% change between May and June 2007	% change between January to March 2007 and April to June 2007
At current prices	66 191	-1,1	+1,4
At constant 2000 prices	42 108	-2,4	-1,7

Key findings as at the end of June 2007

Wholesale trade sales increase in real terms

As indicated in table A, wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the second quarter of 2007 increased by 6,0% compared with the second quarter of 2006. However, seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for second quarter of 2007 decreased by 1,7% compared with the first quarter of 2007.

Wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for June 2007 increased by 3,5% compared with June 2006. The 3,5% is lower than the 5,3% growth in June 2006.

Wholesale trade sales increase at current prices

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for the second quarter of 2007 increased by 18,6% compared with the second quarter of 2006. The 18,6% increase is higher than the 11,0% growth for the corresponding period in 2006.

Table B – Contribution of the type of dealers to the percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices

Type of wholesale dealer	Sales April to June 2006 (R million)	Weight 1/	Sales April to June 2007 (R million)	Difference in sales between April to June 2006 and April to June 2007	Percentage change between April to June 2006 and April to June 2007	Contribution (percentage points) percentage change in total sales 2/
Contract or fee basis	7 035	4,3	8 981	1 946	27,7	1,2
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	5 828	3,5	8 190	2 362	40,5	1,4
Food, beverages and tobacco	30 668	18,6	35 195	4 527	14,8	2,8
Textiles, clothing and footwear	5 389	3,3	5 774	385	7,1	0,2
Other household goods except precious stones	18 486	11,2	22 556	4 070	22,0	2,5
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	4 448	2,7	5 115	667	15,0	0,4
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	29 200	17,7	33 122	3 922	13,4	2,4
Metals and metal ores	6 182	3,7	8 195	2 013	32,6	1,2
Construction and building materials	9 470	5,7	12 264	2 794	29,5	1,7
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	5 326	3,2	7 203	1 877	35,2	1,1
Machinery, equipment and supplies	31 686	19,2	36 916	5 230	16,5	3,2
Other goods	11 394	6,9	12 234	840	7,4	0,5
Total 3/	**165 111**	**100,0**	**195 748**	**30 637**	**18,6**	**18,6**

1/ Weight is the percentage contribution of each type of dealer to the total wholesale trade sales for the three months up to the current month of the previous year.

2/ The contribution to the percentage change is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of dealer with its corresponding weight.

3/ The figures have been rounded off. Therefore, discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and the totals.

Table B above shows that the major contributors to the 18,6% increase in wholesale trade sales at current prices for the second quarter of 2007 compared with the second quarter of 2006 were dealers in machinery, equipment and supplies contributing (+3,2 percentage points) dealers in food, beverages and tobacco (+2,8 percentage points) and dealers in other household goods except precious stones (+2,5 percentage points).

Figure 1 below shows the seasonally adjusted and trend patterns for wholesale trade sales at constant (2000) prices between January 2003 and June 2007. The trend cycle shows an upward movement throughout the entire period with the exception of two troughs during the periods September 2003 to January 2004 and December 2004 to May 2005. The trend started a downward trend again from March 2007.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales (at constant 2000 prices*)*
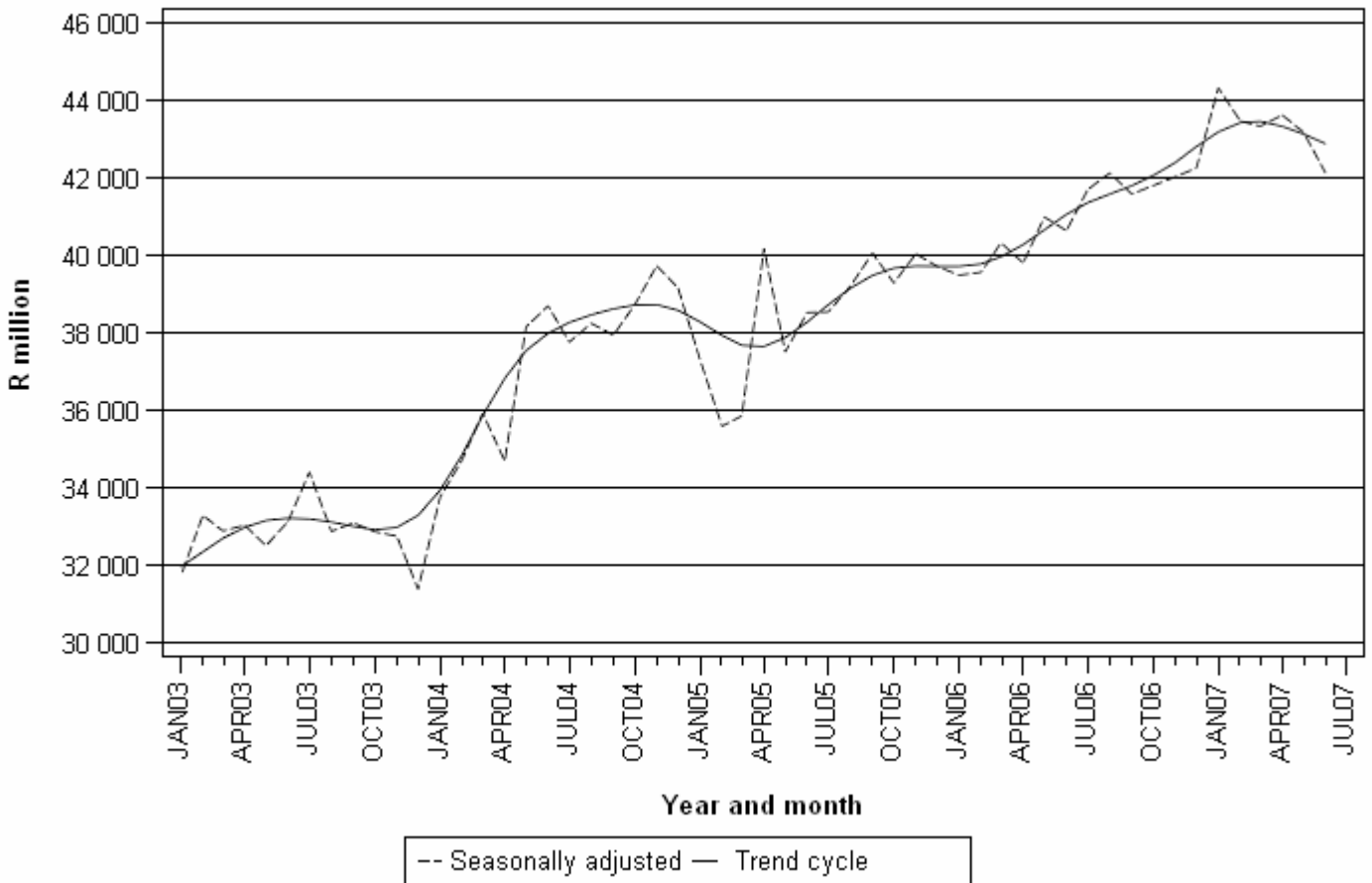
P J Lehohla
Statistician-General

Detailed results

Outlined below in table 1 are wholesale trade sales according to type of dealer.

Table 1- Total wholesale trade sales according to type of dealer at current prices (R million)

Year and month 1/		Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D	Type E	Type F	Type G	Type H	Type I	Type J	Type K	Type L	Total 2/
2006	January	2 368	1 936	9 671	1 104	5 090	374	8 257	1 611	2 370	1 662	8 457	3 144	46 044
	February	2 518	1 806	9 428	1 528	5 902	1 242	8 389	2 005	2 850	1 854	9 134	3 840	50 496
	March	2 731	1 790	10 158	1 663	5 762	1 624	9 556	1 969	2 978	1 849	10 821	3 750	54 651
	April	1 827	1 576	10 162	1 725	5 786	1 270	9 211	1 678	2 839	1 470	8 556	3 405	49 506
	May	3 057	2 062	10 004	1 906	6 419	1 411	10 207	2 220	3 286	1 991	11 065	3 833	57 459
	June	2 151	2 190	10 502	1 758	6 281	1 767	9 782	2 284	3 345	1 865	12 065	4 156	58 146
	July	2 856	2 439	9 984	1 800	6 310	1 660	11 370	2 331	3 614	1 889	11 460	4 335	60 047
	August	2 914	2 536	10 650	2 251	6 805	1 919	10 582	2 481	3 673	2 428	12 370	3 747	62 358
	September	2 548	2 706	11 883	2 257	6 414	1 770	11 293	2 400	3 679	2 251	11 458	3 721	62 380
	October	2 871	2 600	11 688	2 690	7 484	2 064	10 672	2 775	4 222	2 683	12 522	4 182	66 452
	November	3 387	3 325	12 286	2 633	8 543	2 124	10 782	2 721	4 374	2 786	12 822	4 998	70 780
	December	2 968	2 896	13 445	1 761	6 787	1 879	10 058	1 644	2 738	1 899	11 002	4 447	61 526
	Total	**32 196**	**27 862**	**129 861**	**23 076**	**77 583**	**19 104**	**120 159**	**26 119**	**39 968**	**24 627**	**131 732**	**47 558**	**699 845**
2007	January	2 336	2 255	11 643	1 435	5 874	662	9 572	2 203	3 062	2 233	11 674	3 940	56 890
	February	2 719	2 677	11 479	1 894	6 934	1 111	9 528	2 620	3 832	2 133	12 028	4 065	61 021
	March	2 725	2 349	11 381	2 211	6 887	1 801	10 541	2 658	4 166	2 150	13 890	4 576	65 336
	April	2 900	2 325	11 123	1 914	7 459	1 681	9 994	2 528	3 726	2 127	11 382	3 507	60 667
	May	3 172	2 886	11 689	2 092	8 034	1 702	11 431	2 899	4 195	2 492	12 766	4 337	67 696
	June	2 909	2 979	12 383	1 768	7 063	1 732	11 697	2 768	4 343	2 584	12 768	4 390	67 385

1/ Preliminary.

2/ The figures have been rounded off. Therefore, discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and the totals.

Description of type of dealers included in indicated group types in table [1]

Group type	Type of dealers included in group type
Type A	Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis
Type B	Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock
Type C	Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco
Type D	Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear
Type E	Wholesale trade in other household goods except precious stones
Type F	Wholesale trade in precious stones, jewellery and silverware
Type G	Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products
Type H	Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores
Type I	Wholesale trade in construction and building materials
Type J	Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap
Type K	Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies
Type L	Wholesale trade in other goods

1/ See note 4 on page 10.

Tables 2 and 3 show wholesale trade sales (actual values and annual percentage changes) at current prices over the period January 2000 to June 2007. Table 4 shows seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices over the same period.

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

Month	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 1/	2007 1/
January	23 717	28 584	32 584	35 412	37 071	41 481	46 044	56 890
February	26 586	30 772	34 334	40 511	41 869	43 419	50 496	61 021
March	28 933	30 819	36 516	41 674	45 325	46 368	54 651	65 336
April	26 703	29 937	36 379	38 630	40 479	47 685	49 506	60 667
May	28 690	31 776	37 060	40 834	48 861	49 593	57 459	67 696
June	28 769	32 336	36 410	42 186	50 314	51 422	58 146	67 385
July	27 839	31 306	35 840	42 990	48 200	51 277	60 047	
August	29 445	31 903	36 939	41 262	49 162	52 822	62 358	
September	29 461	30 508	38 757	42 155	49 722	54 866	62 380	
October	31 818	34 941	43 492	44 395	53 829	56 705	66 452	
November	32 780	36 183	42 921	45 325	57 359	60 767	70 780	
December	30 851	35 184	38 952	38 741	49 490	52 579	61 526	
Total	**345 592**	**384 249**	**450 184**	**494 115**	**571 681**	**608 984**	**699 845**	

1/ Preliminary.

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

Month	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	-	20,5	14,0	8,7	4,7	11,9	11,0	23,6
February	-	15,7	11,6	18,0	3,4	3,7	16,3	20,8
March	-	6,5	18,5	14,1	8,8	2,3	17,9	19,6
April	-	12,1	21,5	6,2	4,8	17,8	3,8	22,5
May	-	10,8	16,6	10,2	19,7	1,5	15,9	17,8
June	-	12,4	12,6	15,9	19,3	2,2	13,1	15,9
July	-	12,5	14,5	19,9	12,1	6,4	17,1	
August	-	8,3	15,8	11,7	19,1	7,4	18,1	
September	-	3,6	27,0	8,8	18,0	10,3	13,7	
October	-	9,8	24,5	2,1	21,3	5,3	17,2	
November	-	10,4	18,6	5,6	26,6	5,9	16,5	
December	-	14,0	10,7	-0,5	27,7	6,2	17,0	
Total	**-**	**11,2**	**17,2**	**9,8**	**15,7**	**6,5**	**14,9**	

1/ The percentage change is the difference between wholesale trade sales of the relevant year and those of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

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

Month	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	26 130	31 604	36 285	39 892	42 292	47 828	53 395	66 111
February	27 182	31 518	35 219	41 885	43 674	45 781	53 644	65 148
March	28 795	30 617	36 331	41 549	45 426	46 625	55 213	66 177
April	27 984	31 606	38 739	41 611	44 063	52 363	54 641	67 162
May	28 753	31 698	36 867	40 527	48 536	49 124	56 869	66 925
June	28 840	32 241	36 042	41 554	49 486	50 480	57 068	66 191
July	28 420	31 956	36 428	43 379	48 151	50 954	59 469	
August	29 331	31 920	37 007	41 161	48 638	51 870	60 958	
September	29 043	30 100	38 124	41 293	48 377	53 236	60 406	
October	29 632	32 427	40 279	40 949	49 574	52 204	61 234	
November	30 195	33 127	38 927	40 646	50 917	53 505	62 022	
December	30 658	35 086	38 944	38 959	50 014	53 326	62 382	

Tables 5 and 6 show wholesale trade sales (actual values and annual percentage changes) at constant (2000) prices over the period January 2000 to June 2007. Table 7 shows seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant prices over the same period.

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

Month	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 1/	2007 1/
January	24 680	27 406	28 053	28 228	29 740	32 586	34 336	38 465
February	27 508	29 363	28 974	32 228	33 402	33 987	37 600	41 147
March	29 812	29 337	30 545	33 154	36 188	36 098	40 497	43 456
April	27 055	28 216	29 929	30 744	32 012	36 822	36 321	39 704
May	28 965	29 725	30 265	32 851	38 595	38 104	41 697	43 958
June	28 885	30 038	29 614	33 494	39 094	38 926	41 006	42 447
July	27 797	28 920	28 845	33 917	37 495	38 396	41 627	
August	29 081	29 255	29 445	32 683	38 214	39 375	42 449	
September	28 983	27 976	30 919	33 792	38 921	41 144	42 770	
October	31 103	31 592	34 463	35 601	41 939	42 508	45 159	
November	31 702	32 335	33 903	36 479	44 655	45 315	47 776	
December	29 722	31 275	30 890	31 142	38 710	39 180	41 713	
Total	**345 293**	**355 438**	**365 845**	**394 313**	**448 965**	**462 441**	**492 951**	

1/ Preliminary.

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

Month	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	-	11,0	2,4	0,6	5,4	9,6	5,4	12,0
February	-	6,7	-1,3	11,2	3,6	1,8	10,6	9,4
March	-	-1,6	4,1	8,5	9,2	-0,2	12,2	7,3
April	-	4,3	6,1	2,7	4,1	15,0	-1,4	9,3
May	-	2,6	1,8	8,5	17,5	-1,3	9,4	5,4
June	-	4,0	-1,4	13,1	16,7	-0,4	5,3	3,5
July	-	4,0	-0,3	17,6	10,5	2,4	8,4	
August	-	0,6	0,6	11,0	16,9	3,0	7,8	
September	-	-3,5	10,5	9,3	15,2	5,7	4,0	
October	-	1,6	9,1	3,3	17,8	1,4	6,2	
November	-	2,0	4,8	7,6	22,4	1,5	5,4	
December	-	5,2	-1,2	0,8	24,3	1,2	6,5	
Total	**-**	**2,9**	**2,9**	**7,8**	**13,9**	**3,0**	**6,6**	

1/ The percentage change is the difference between wholesale trade of the relevant year and those of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

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

Month	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	27 276	30 359	31 226	31 717	33 747	37 303	39 480	44 306
February	28 145	30 097	29 729	33 281	34 710	35 582	39 554	43 451
March	29 771	29 212	30 358	32 879	35 916	35 847	40 316	43 321
April	28 391	29 799	31 843	33 024	34 683	40 169	39 789	43 609
May	29 087	29 662	30 065	32 496	38 142	37 497	40 978	43 162
June	28 967	29 985	29 397	33 128	38 687	38 515	40 625	42 108
July	28 429	29 569	29 401	34 396	37 749	38 530	41 685	
August	29 062	29 375	29 646	32 866	38 236	39 201	42 116	
September	28 231	27 391	30 305	33 087	37 928	40 046	41 572	
October	28 902	29 265	31 880	32 859	38 710	39 276	41 787	
November	29 178	29 588	30 733	32 744	39 717	40 028	42 014	
December	29 588	31 263	30 978	31 379	39 149	39 705	42 241	

Table 8 – Estimates and percentage changes in total wholesale trade sales

Outlined below in tables 8.1 and 8.2 are the percentage changes in wholesale trade sales at current prices, constant (2000) prices and seasonally adjusted estimates.

Table 8.1 – Quarterly estimates and percentage change*s*

Wholesale trade sales estimates	April to June 2006 (R million)	April to June 2007 (R million)	% change between April to June 2006 and April to June 2007	January to June 2006 (R million)	January to June 2007 (R million)	% change between January to June 2006 and January to June 2007
At current prices	165 111	195 748	+18,6	316 302	378 995	+19,8
At constant 2000 prices	119 024	126 109	+6,0	231 457	249 177	+7,7

Table 8.2 – Seasonally adjusted estimates with monthly and quarterly percentage changes.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales estimates	May 2007 (R million)	June 2007 (R million)	% change between May and June 2007	January to March 2007 (R million)	April to June 2007 (R million)	% change between January to March 2007 and April to June 2007
At current prices	66 925	66 191	-1,1	197 436	200 278	+1,4
At constant 2000 prices	43 162	42 108	-2,4	131 078	128 879	-1,7

Explanatory notes

Introduction	1	Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey of the wholesale trade industry, covering wholesale enterprises (see 4 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from the 2006 Business Sampling Frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value-added tax (VAT) and income tax.
	2	As is usual, information for the latest month has had to be estimated for respondents who have not reported by the cut-off date for production of results. These estimates will be revised in future statistical releases when their reported information becomes available. Published wholesale trade sales estimates exclude VAT.
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 dealer:

- 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
- 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 and building materials
- Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies;
- Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies;
- Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap; and
- Wholesale trade in other goods
- General wholesale trade and other wholesale trade not elsewhere classified.

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. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC division (four digit) level. Each enterprise is classified to the industry, which reflects its predominant activity.
Response rate	6	The preliminary response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for June 2007 was 86,1%.
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.

Survey methodology and design	**8**	The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of about 1000 enterprises from a population of about 19 000 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within 10 days after the end of the reference month. Fax and telephone reminders are used to follow up non-respondents.
	9	The value of sales is obtained monthly from the sample of about 1000 enterprises (which was drawn in April 2006 at the SIC four-digit level) from a population then of about 19 000 wholesale enterprises. The wholesale industry is divided into four size groups. All large enterprises (size group one) are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to size groups two (medium sized), three and four (small) enterprises. The total value of sales of the large enterprises (size group one) is added to the weighted totals of size groups two, three and four to reflect the total value of sales.
Weighting methodology	**10**	For those strata not completely enumerated, the weights to produce estimates are the inverse ratio of the sampling fraction, modified to take account of non-response in the survey. Stratum estimates are calculated and then aggregated with the completely enumerated stratum to form division estimates. These procedures, which are in line with international best practice, are described in more detail on the Stats SA website at http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/publicationsearch.asp.
Constant prices	**11**	The total sales at constant prices are calculated using a combination of the production price indices for consumption in South Africa and total output of South African industry groups from the Production Price Index (PPI) to deflate the sales at current prices. Sales by type of dealer will not be deflated until suitable deflators are found.
Seasonal adjustment	**12**	Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month, using the X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the US Bureau of the Census, 1968. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences, which may be present in any particular month. Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variations. Therefore the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour.
Trend cycle	**13**	The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimates of the underlying trend cycle.
Reliability of estimates	**14**	Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all enterprises in the wholesale industry in South Africa. Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Preliminary figures are indicated in the tables.
	15	Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in the collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by careful design of questionnaires, testing them in pilot studies, editing reported data and implementing efficient operating procedures. Fluctuations may occur in consecutive months as a result of seasonal and economic factors.

Revised figures	**16**	Revised figures are due to respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures and late submission of their data to Stats SA. Preliminary figures are indicated in the relevant tables. Data are edited at the enterprise level.
Related publications	**17**	Users may also wish to refer to the following publications available from Stats SA -

- *Bulletin of Statistics* issued quarterly*.*
- *SA Statistics* issued annually*.*

Rounding of figures	**18**	Where figures have been rounded-off discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.
Pre-release policy	**19**	Stats SA's pre-release policy may be inspected at its Website, www.statssa.gov.za.
Symbols and abbreviations	**20**	BSF Business sampling frame GDP Gross Domestic Product ISIC International Standard Industrial Classification SIC Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities SARS South African Revenue Service Stats SA Statistics South Africa VAT Value-added tax * Revised - Figures not available

Technical note

Neyman optimal allocation	Before drawing in each of the surveys the population of enterprises on the Business Sampling Frame (BSF) was stratified. Strata were formed using a combination of Standard Industrial Classification and the measure of size classes for enterprises. The Neyman optimal allocation formula given below was used to allocate samples to each stratum.

$$n_h \; = \; \frac{N_h S_h}{\sum N_h S_h}$$

where N_h and S_h are the stratum population size and the stratum variance, respectively.

Neyman allocation formula not only allocates sample sizes to each stratum but also calculates the relative precision for each stratum as well as the relative precision for all strata. The relative precision for these surveys did not exceed 6,4%.

Class limits

Enterprise size	Size Group	Lower limits	Upper limits
Very small	4	0	6 000 000
Small	3	6 000 001	32 000 000
Medium	2	32 000 001	64 000 000
Large	1	64 000 001	

Glossary

Enterprise	The enterprise is a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.
Industry	An industry is made up of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the *System of National Accounts (SNA)* in the same way as in the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993 (SIC).*
Statistical unit	A statistical unit is a unit about which statistics are tabulated, compiled or published. The statistical units are derived from and linked to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) administrative data.
Wholesale trade	Wholesale trade includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to other wholesalers, retailers, agricultural, industrial, commercial, institutional and professional users either directly or through agents on a fee or contract basis.
Wholesaler	A wholesaler is an enterprise deriving 50% or more of its turnover from sales of goods to other businesses and institutions.

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	(012) 310 4883/8018/4885 (library)
Fax number:	(012) 310 8332 (technical enquiries)
Email address:	Thabomak@statssa.gov.za (technical enquiries)
	Info@statssa.gov.za (user information services)
	distribution@statssa.gov.za (orders)
Postal address:	Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

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