



**Statistics  
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# Statistical release

## P6141.2

### Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

June 2010

Note that wholesale trade sales at constant prices have been revised

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**Contents**

**Summary of findings: Wholesale trade sales .....2**

Table A – Key figures for June 2010 .....2

Table B – Contribution of each type of dealer to the percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices .....3

**Article – Revision of wholesale trade deflator.....5**

**Detailed results .....6**

Table 1 – Wholesale trade sales according to the type of dealer at current prices (R million) .....6

Description of type of dealer included in a specific group type as indicated in Table 1 .....7

Table 2 – Total wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million).....8

Table 3 – Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at current prices .....8

Table 4 – Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million).....8

Table 5 – Total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million) .....9

Table 6 – Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices .....9

Table 7 – Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million).....9

Table 8.1 – Quarterly and annual cumulative estimates and percentage changes .....10

Table 8.2 – Seasonally adjusted monthly and quarterly estimates and percentage changes .....10

**Explanatory notes.....11**

**Technical note.....14**

**Glossary.....14**

**General information.....15**

**Summary of findings: Wholesale trade sales**

**Table A – Key figures for June 2010**

Actual wholesale trade sales estimates	June 2010 (R million)	% change between June 2009 and June 2010	% change between April to June 2009 and April to June 2010	% change between January to June 2009 and January to June 2010
At current prices	90 664	9,7	8,1	3,4
At constant 2000 prices	48 123	2,6	2,5	-0,5

Seasonally adjusted estimates	June 2010 (R million)	% change between May and June 2010	% change between January to March 2010 and April to June 2010
At current prices	90 284	1,3	2,5
At constant 2000 prices	48 292	0,7	2,7

**Key findings for June 2010**

**Wholesale trade sales in real terms**

*Wholesale trade sales, at constant 2000 prices, for the second quarter of 2010 increased by 2,5% compared with the second quarter of 2009, while sales for the same period in 2009 decreased by 12,4%. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales for the second quarter of 2010 increased by 2,7% compared with the first quarter of 2010.*

Wholesale trade sales, at constant 2000 prices, for June 2010 increased by 2,6% compared with June 2009.

**Wholesale trade sales in nominal terms**

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for the second quarter of 2010 increased by 8,1% compared with the second quarter of 2009. The major contributor to this increase was dealers in 'solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products' (35,3% and contributing 5,3 percentage points) – see Table B on page 3.

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for June 2010 increased by 9,7% compared with June 2009, while sales for the corresponding period in 2009 decreased by 14,9% – see Table 3 on page 8. Large year-on-year percentage increases were recorded for wholesale trade in 'precious stones, jewellery and silverware' (96,7%), 'solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products' (39,3%) and 'metals and metal ores' (17,5%) – see Table 1 on page 6.

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

Type of wholesale dealer	Sales April to June 2009 (R million)	Weight 1/	Sales April to June 2010 (R million)	Difference in sales between April to June 2009 and April to June 2010 (R million)	Percentage change between April to June 2009 and April to June 2010	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in total sales 2/
Fee or contract basis	9 970	4,1	11 056	1 086	10,9	0,4
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	10 064	4,2	9 769	-295	-2,9	-0,1
Food, beverages and tobacco	50 345	20,8	51 766	1 421	2,8	0,6
Textiles, clothing and footwear	8 303	3,4	7 862	-441	-5,3	-0,2
Other household goods except precious stones	23 848	9,8	25 997	2 149	9,0	0,9
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	3 865	1,6	4 448	583	15,1	0,2
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	36 524	15,1	49 419	12 895	35,3	5,3
Metals and metal ores	6 922	2,9	8 430	1 508	21,8	0,6
Construction and building materials	13 349	5,5	14 536	1 187	8,9	0,5
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	8 074	3,3	9 115	1 041	12,9	0,4
Machinery, equipment and supplies	46 857	19,3	46 058	-799	-1,7	-0,3
Other goods	24 241	10,0	23 448	-793	-3,3	-0,3
<b>Total 3/</b>	<b>242 362</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>261 901</b>	<b>19 539</b>	<b>8,1</b>	<b>8,1</b>

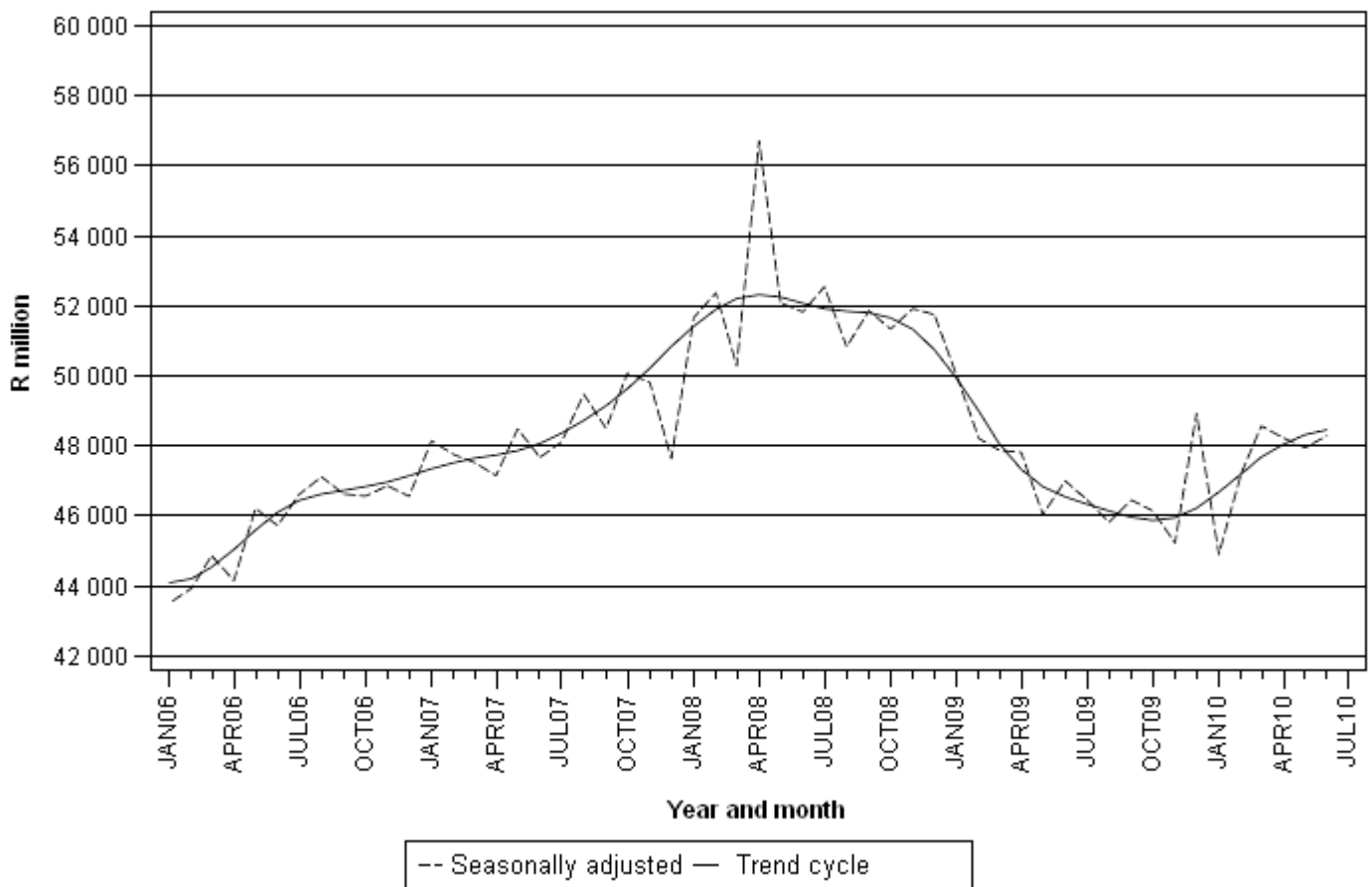
1/ Weight is the percentage contribution of each type of dealer to the total wholesale trade sales for the three months up to the current month of the previous year.

2/ The contribution to the percentage change is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of dealer with its corresponding weight, divided by 100.

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

Figure 1 below shows the seasonally adjusted and trend patterns for wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices between January 2006 and June 2010.

**Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices**



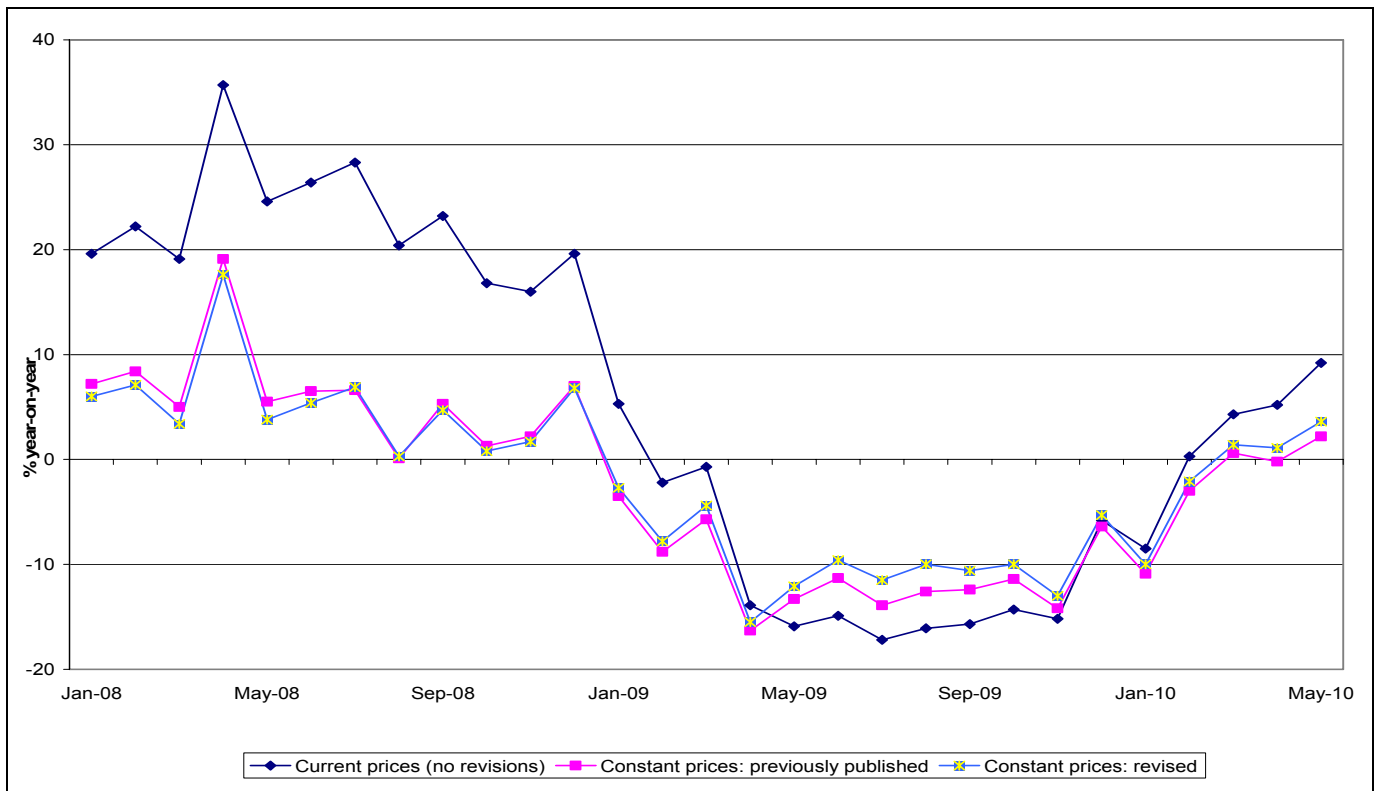
**PJ Lehohla**  
**Statistician-General**

## Article – Revision of wholesale trade deflator

### Overview

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) has undertaken a review of its wholesale trade deflator, which has had a direct impact on the annual growth rates of wholesale trade sales at constant prices. Revised annual growth rates are illustrated in Figure A. Note that changes in wholesale trade sales at constant prices reflect volume changes, whereas changes in wholesale trade sales at current prices reflect both volume changes and price changes.

**Figure A – Annual growth rate of wholesale trade sales, January 2008 – May 2010**



Stats SA compiles its monthly estimates of wholesale trade sales at current prices from a survey of wholesalers in the formal sector. To arrive at estimates of wholesale trade sales at constant prices, sales at current prices were previously deflated using the producer price index (PPI) for all groups. The revised method which is introduced in this release excludes 'Electricity, gas, steam and water' from the deflator. During 2009 and 2010 to date the revised annual growth rates at constant prices are higher than previously published, reflecting the fact that electricity inflation, which is no longer included in the deflator, was relatively high during this period.

**Detailed results**

Outlined below in Table 1 are wholesale trade sales according to type of dealer (see description of type of dealer on page 7).

**Table 1 – Wholesale trade sales according to the 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/	
<b>2009</b>	<b>January</b>	3 451	3 504	17 232	1 786	7 397	395	14 918	2 559	3 660	3 069	15 822	7 272	81 065
	<b>February</b>	3 931	3 516	17 181	2 595	7 801	838	12 054	2 560	4 616	2 799	16 712	7 950	82 551
	<b>March</b>	4 238	3 452	17 430	3 125	8 314	1 410	12 955	2 456	4 860	2 811	18 260	8 090	87 401
	<b>April</b>	3 690	3 057	16 484	2 883	7 679	1 326	11 733	2 161	4 156	2 442	15 583	8 099	79 294
	<b>May</b>	3 124	3 477	17 134	2 894	8 031	1 650	12 058	2 290	4 573	2 833	14 200	8 144	80 408
	<b>June</b>	3 156	3 530	16 727	2 526	8 138	889	12 733	2 471	4 620	2 799	17 074	7 998	82 660
	<b>July</b>	4 005	3 743	16 375	2 436	8 216	713	14 540	2 604	4 826	2 975	14 879	8 152	83 465
	<b>August</b>	3 625	3 499	16 852	2 635	8 116	865	14 091	2 420	4 399	3 043	15 113	7 422	82 080
	<b>September</b>	3 719	3 531	17 648	2 890	8 527	818	13 151	2 540	4 580	3 305	14 996	7 748	83 452
	<b>October</b>	3 562	3 653	17 333	2 806	9 212	1 514	14 758	2 718	5 075	3 857	16 098	8 146	88 734
	<b>November</b>	3 935	3 926	19 207	3 017	9 392	854	14 495	2 657	5 139	3 959	15 880	8 727	91 187
	<b>December</b>	4 310	3 826	21 853	2 317	8 587	1 040	14 218	1 837	3 336	3 157	15 245	8 510	88 237
<b>Total</b>	<b>44 746</b>	<b>42 714</b>	<b>211 456</b>	<b>31 910</b>	<b>99 410</b>	<b>12 312</b>	<b>161 704</b>	<b>29 273</b>	<b>53 840</b>	<b>37 049</b>	<b>189 862</b>	<b>96 258</b>	<b>1 010 534</b>	
<b>2010</b>	<b>January</b>	3 645	2 855	16 395	1 974	7 012	481	13 964	2 223	3 550	2 777	12 382	6 956	74 215
	<b>February</b>	4 205	3 191	16 869	2 511	7 836	1 637	14 140	2 378	4 252	3 226	14 450	8 133	82 828
	<b>March</b>	4 556	3 167	17 116	2 910	8 765	1 259	15 960	2 708	5 070	3 449	17 287	8 918	91 164
	<b>April</b>	3 586	2 983	16 344	2 714	8 767	922	15 117	2 719	4 635	3 047	15 103	7 502	83 439
	<b>May</b>	3 888	3 071	17 602	2 546	8 600	1 777	16 566	2 808	5 055	3 035	14 832	8 020	87 798
	<b>June</b>	3 582	3 715	17 820	2 602	8 630	1 749	17 736	2 903	4 846	3 033	16 123	7 926	90 664

1/ Figures are 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 dealer included in a specific group type as indicated in Table 1 <sup>1/</sup>**

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

1/ See note 4 on page 11 for more detailed specifications.



Tables 2 and 3 show total wholesale trade sales (actual values and annual percentage changes) at current prices over the period January 2003 – June 2010. 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	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 <sup>1/</sup>	2010 <sup>1/</sup>
January	40 062	41 939	46 928	52 090	64 361	76 951	81 065	74 215
February	45 830	47 367	49 121	57 126	69 033	84 389	82 551	82 828
March	47 146	51 276	52 456	61 827	73 914	88 051	87 401	91 164
April	43 702	45 793	53 945	56 006	67 807	92 047	79 294	83 439
May	46 195	55 277	56 105	65 003	76 783	95 651	80 408	87 798
June	47 725	56 921	58 174	65 780	76 898	97 161	82 660	90 664
July	48 634	54 529	58 010	67 931	78 594	100 818	83 465	
August	46 680	55 617	59 757	70 545	81 251	97 819	82 080	
September	47 690	56 250	62 070	70 571	80 308	98 971	83 452	
October	50 224	60 896	64 151	75 177	88 666	103 572	88 734	
November	51 276	64 891	68 746	80 073	92 720	107 541	91 187	
December	43 828	55 988	59 483	69 604	78 286	93 653	88 237	
<b>Total</b>	<b>558 992</b>	<b>646 744</b>	<b>688 946</b>	<b>791 733</b>	<b>928 621</b>	<b>1 136 624</b>	<b>1 010 534</b>	

1/ Preliminary

**Table 3 – Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at current prices 1/**

Month	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	8,7	4,7	11,9	11,0	23,6	19,6	5,3	-8,5
February	18,0	3,4	3,7	16,3	20,8	22,2	-2,2	0,3
March	14,1	8,8	2,3	17,9	19,5	19,1	-0,7	4,3
April	6,2	4,8	17,8	3,8	21,1	35,7	-13,9	5,2
May	10,2	19,7	1,5	15,9	18,1	24,6	-15,9	9,2
June	15,9	19,3	2,2	13,1	16,9	26,4	-14,9	9,7
July	20,0	12,1	6,4	17,1	15,7	28,3	-17,2	
August	11,7	19,1	7,4	18,1	15,2	20,4	-16,1	
September	8,8	17,9	10,3	13,7	13,8	23,2	-15,7	
October	2,1	21,2	5,3	17,2	17,9	16,8	-14,3	
November	5,6	26,6	5,9	16,5	15,8	16,0	-15,2	
December	-0,5	27,7	6,2	17,0	12,5	19,6	-5,8	
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,8</b>	<b>15,7</b>	<b>6,5</b>	<b>14,9</b>	<b>17,3</b>	<b>22,4</b>	<b>-11,1</b>	

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

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

Month	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	45 092	47 712	53 831	59 854	73 765	87 804	92 267	84 366
February	47 401	49 373	51 704	60 590	73 593	90 010	87 943	88 206
March	46 914	51 189	52 468	61 981	73 967	87 759	86 756	90 384
April	46 891	49 602	58 882	61 322	74 157	100 190	85 902	90 150
May	45 858	54 892	55 633	64 645	76 721	96 190	81 278	89 097
June	47 031	55 997	57 244	64 835	76 147	96 484	82 241	90 284
July	49 057	54 502	57 566	66 942	77 047	98 529	81 467	
August	46 632	55 119	58 783	69 064	79 423	95 733	80 432	
September	46 817	55 023	60 700	68 977	78 534	96 915	81 888	
October	46 388	56 198	59 209	69 499	81 958	95 701	81 914	
November	46 077	57 818	60 846	70 856	82 239	95 873	81 452	
December	44 124	56 642	60 316	70 538	79 294	94 816	89 232	

Tables 5 and 6 show total wholesale trade sales (actual values and annual percentage changes) at constant 2000 prices over the period January 2003 – June 2010. 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	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 <sup>1/</sup>	2010 <sup>1/</sup>
January	31 795	33 259	36 210	38 217	42 567	46 051	44 837	40 356
February	36 258	37 297	37 756	41 881	45 387	49 787	45 862	44 918
March	37 270	40 375	40 104	45 063	47 841	50 779	48 502	49 225
April	34 602	35 748	40 929	40 467	43 217	52 122	44 077	44 548
May	36 868	43 017	42 375	46 331	48 291	51 481	45 224	46 876
June	38 149	44 228	43 872	46 226	47 882	51 847	46 886	48 123
July	38 660	42 468	43 323	46 979	48 635	53 202	47 076	
August	37 225	43 147	44 495	47 730	50 093	51 349	46 216	
September	37 970	43 303	45 876	47 491	49 390	52 785	47 201	
October	39 924	46 557	47 309	50 085	53 933	55 356	49 823	
November	40 923	49 611	50 437	52 888	56 160	58 319	50 744	
December	34 867	43 002	43 609	46 095	47 274	51 429	48 696	
<b>Total</b>	<b>444 511</b>	<b>502 012</b>	<b>516 295</b>	<b>549 453</b>	<b>580 670</b>	<b>624 507</b>	<b>565 144</b>	

1/ Preliminary

**Table 6 – Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices 1/**

Month	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	-0,3	5,5	9,6	5,3	11,8	6,0	-2,7	-10,0
February	10,2	3,7	1,9	10,6	9,3	7,1	-7,8	-2,1
March	7,6	9,3	-0,1	12,0	7,2	3,4	-4,4	1,4
April	1,9	4,2	15,2	-1,5	7,8	17,6	-15,5	1,1
May	7,7	17,5	-1,1	9,4	5,1	3,8	-12,1	3,6
June	13,4	16,9	-0,4	5,2	4,7	5,4	-9,6	2,6
July	18,1	10,7	2,3	8,3	4,2	6,9	-11,5	
August	11,6	16,9	3,2	7,6	5,0	0,3	-10,0	
September	9,7	15,2	5,8	3,9	4,0	4,7	-10,6	
October	3,7	17,8	1,4	6,1	7,7	0,8	-10,0	
November	8,0	22,3	1,6	5,3	6,1	1,7	-13,0	
December	1,1	24,3	1,3	6,3	2,1	6,8	-5,3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,7</b>	<b>13,9</b>	<b>3,1</b>	<b>6,5</b>	<b>6,1</b>	<b>5,1</b>	<b>-9,5</b>	

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

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

Month	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	35 742	37 695	41 274	43 501	48 145	51 658	50 007	44 893
February	37 496	38 764	39 462	43 924	47 749	52 370	48 207	47 201
March	37 073	40 164	39 887	44 860	47 531	50 284	47 876	48 563
April	37 053	38 601	44 492	44 145	47 148	56 713	47 808	48 224
May	36 612	42 720	42 062	46 211	48 484	52 085	46 034	47 943
June	37 501	43 457	43 217	45 719	47 667	51 823	46 996	48 292
July	38 965	42 511	43 161	46 613	48 105	52 547	46 466	
August	37 200	42 878	44 014	47 109	49 475	50 829	45 814	
September	37 338	42 499	45 062	46 623	48 494	51 863	46 452	
October	37 028	43 202	43 937	46 561	50 085	51 334	46 141	
November	36 864	44 327	44 749	46 856	49 807	51 919	45 222	
December	35 171	43 535	44 154	46 554	47 629	51 751	48 923	

**Estimates and percentage changes in total wholesale trade sales**

Outlined below in Tables 8.1 and 8.2 are the percentage changes in the actual and seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices and at constant 2000 prices.

**Table 8.1 – Quarterly and annual cumulative estimates and percentage changes**

Actual wholesale trade sales estimates	April to June 2009 (R million)	April to June 2010 (R million)	% change between April to June 2009 and April to June 2010	January to June 2009 (R million)	January to June 2010 (R million)	% change between January to June 2009 and January to June 2010
<b>At current prices</b>	242 362	261 901	8,1	493 379	510 108	3,4
<b>At constant 2000 prices</b>	136 187	139 547	2,5	275 388	274 046	-0,5

**Table 8.2 – Seasonally adjusted monthly and quarterly estimates and percentage changes**

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales estimates	May 2010 (R million)	June 2010 (R million)	% change between May and June 2010	January to March 2010 (R million)	April to June 2010 (R million)	% change between January to March 2010 and April to June 2010
<b>At current prices</b>	89 097	90 284	1,3	262 956	269 531	2,5
<b>At constant 2000 prices</b>	47 943	48 292	0,7	140 657	144 459	2,7

**Explanatory notes**

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>	<p>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 2009 Business Sampling Frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value added tax (VAT).</p>
	<b>2</b>	<p>As is usual, information for the latest month 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.</p>
<b>Purpose of the survey</b>	<b>3</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Scope of the survey</b>	<b>4</b>	<p>This survey covers wholesale enterprises according to the following types of dealer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis</li> <li>• Sales by commission agents, commodity brokers, auctioneers and other wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in other household goods except precious stones</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in precious stones, jewellery and silverware;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in construction and building materials</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in other goods; and</li> <li>• General wholesale trade and other wholesale trade not classified elsewhere.</li> </ul>
<b>Classification</b>	<b>5</b>	<p>The 1993 edition of the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)</i>, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC)</i> 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 group (four digit) level.</p>
<b>Response rate</b>	<b>6</b>	<p>The preliminary response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for June 2010 was 85,9%. The improved response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for May 2010 was 92,8%.</p>
<b>Statistical unit</b>	<b>7</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Survey methodology and design</b>	<b>8</b>	<p>The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of about 1 000 enterprises from a population of about 20 000 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.</p>

	<b>9</b>	The value of sales is obtained monthly from the sample of about 1 000 enterprises (which was drawn in April 2009 at the SIC four-digit level) from a population of about 20 000 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 the remaining size groups (medium, small and very small size 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.
<b>Weighting methodology</b>	<b>10</b>	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, which are in line with international best practice, are described in more detail on the Stats SA website at <a href="http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/publicationsearch.asp">http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/publicationsearch.asp</a> .
<b>Constant prices</b>	<b>11</b>	Stats SA compiles its monthly estimates of wholesale trade sales at current prices from a survey of wholesalers in the formal sector. To arrive at estimates of wholesale trade sales at constant prices, sales at current prices are deflated using the producer price index (PPI) for all groups excluding 'Electricity, gas, steam and water'.
<b>Seasonal adjustment</b>	<b>12</b>	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.
<b>Trend cycle</b>	<b>13</b>	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.
<b>Reliability of estimates</b>	<b>14</b>	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.
	<b>15</b>	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.
<b>Revised figures</b>	<b>16</b>	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.
<b>Related publications</b>	<b>17</b>	Users may also wish to refer to the following publications available from Stats SA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Bulletin of Statistics</i> issued quarterly</li> <li>• <i>SA Statistics</i> issued annually</li> </ul>
<b>Rounding-off of figures</b>	<b>18</b>	Where figures have been rounded off discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.
<b>Pre-release policy</b>	<b>19</b>	Stats SA's pre-release policy may be inspected at its website, <a href="http://www.statssa.gov.za">www.statssa.gov.za</a> .

<b>Symbols and abbreviations</b>	<b>20</b>	BR	Business Register
		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
<b>Changes in the next publication</b>	<b>21</b>	The results published in the next publication (July 2010) will be based on a new sample drawn in April 2010. The periodic introduction of a new sample is part of Stats SA's strategic approach in improving the basis from which surveys are conducted.	

**Technical note**

**Neyman optimal allocation**

A stratified random sample was drawn from the population of enterprises on 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. The Neyman optimal allocation formula given below was used to allocate samples to each stratum.

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

$N_h$  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 strata did not exceed 5,6%.

**Class limits**

Enterprise size	Size group	Lower limits	Upper limits
Very small	4	0	24 000 000
Small	3	24 000 001	128 000 000
Medium	2	128 000 001	256 000 000
Large	1	256 000 001	

**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.

## General information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

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