# Statistical release 

# Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary) 

## March 2007

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## Summary of findings: Wholesale trade sales

Table A - Key figures as at the end of March 2007

| Wholesale trade sales estimates | March 2007 (R million) | \% change <br> between <br> March 2006 and <br> March 2007 | \% change between January to March 2006 and January to March 2007 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| at current prices | 64042 | +17,2 | +20,3 |
| at constant 2000 prices | 42595 | +5,2 | +8,7 |


| Seasonally adjusted estimates | March 2007 (R million) | \% change between February and March 2007 | \% change between October to December 2006 and January to March 2007 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| at current prices | 65651 | +1,3 | +5,9 |
| at constant 2000 prices | 43672 | +1,0 | +4,4 |

## Key findings as at the end of March 2007

Wholesale trade sales increase in real terms
As indicated in table A, wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the first quarter of 2007 increased by 8,7\% compared with the first quarter of 2006. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the first quarter of 2007 increased by $4,4 \%$ compared with previous quarter.

Wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for March 2007 increased by 5,2\% compared with March 2006.
The 5,2\% is lower than the 12,2\% growth in March 2006.

Wholesale trade sales increase at current prices
Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for the first quarter of 2007 increased by 20,3\% compared with the same period in 2006. The 20,3\% increase is higher than the 15,2\% 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 January to March 2006 (R million) | Weight 1/ | Sales January to March 2007 (R million) | Difference in sales between <br> January to <br> March 2006 and <br> January to <br> March 2007 | \% change between January to March 2006 and January to March 2007 | Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in total sales $2 /$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Contract or fee basis | 7617 | 5,0 | 7713 | 96 | 1,3 | 0,1 |
| Agricultural raw materials and livestock | 5532 | 3,7 | 7282 | 1750 | 31,6 | 1,2 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco | 29257 | 19,4 | 34450 | 5193 | 17,7 | 3,4 |
| Textiles, clothing and footwear | 4295 | 2,8 | 5516 | 1221 | 28,4 | 0,8 |
| Other household goods except precious stones | 16754 | 11,1 | 19605 | 2851 | 17,0 | 1,9 |
| Precious stones, jewellery and silverware | 3240 | 2,1 | 3507 | 267 | 8,2 | 0,2 |
| Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products | 26202 | 17,3 | 29620 | 3418 | 13,0 | 2,2 |
| Metals and metal ores | 5585 | 3,7 | 7487 | 1902 | 34,1 | 1,3 |
| Construction and building materials | 8198 | 5,4 | 11042 | 2844 | 34,7 | 1,9 |
| Other intermediate products, waste and scrap | 5365 | 3,5 | 6572 | 1207 | 22,5 | 0,8 |
| Machinery, equipment and supplies | 28412 | 18,8 | 36828 | 8416 | 29,6 | 5,6 |
| Other goods | 10734 | 7,1 | 12330 | 1596 | 14,9 | 1,1 |
| Total 3/ | 151191 | 100,0 | 181953 | 30762 | 20,3 | 20,3 |

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 $20,3 \%$ increase in wholesale trade sales at current prices for the first quarter of 2007 compared with the first quarter of 2006 were dealers in machinery, equipment and supplies (contributing $+5,6$ percentage points), dealers in food, beverages and tobacco (contributing $+3,4$ percentage points) and dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (contributing $+2,2$ percentage points).

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

Figure 1 - Wholesale trade sales (at constant 2000 prices)


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## 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 21 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2006 | January | 2368 | 1936 | 9671 | 1104 | 5090 | 374 | 8257 | 1611 | 2370 | 1662 | 8457 | 3144 | 46044 |
|  | February | 2518 | 1806 | 9428 | 1528 | 5902 | 1242 | 8389 | 2005 | 2850 | 1854 | 9134 | 3840 | 50496 |
|  | March | 2731 | 1790 | 10158 | 1663 | 5762 | 1624 | 9556 | 1969 | 2978 | 1849 | 10821 | 3750 | 54651 |
|  | April | 1827 | 1576 | 10162 | 1725 | 5786 | 1270 | 9211 | 1678 | 2839 | 1470 | 8556 | 3405 | 49506 |
|  | May | 3057 | 2062 | 10004 | 1906 | 6419 | 1411 | 10207 | 2220 | 3286 | 1991 | 11065 | 3833 | 57459 |
|  | June | 2151 | 2190 | 10502 | 1758 | 6281 | 1767 | 9782 | 2284 | 3345 | 1865 | 12065 | 4156 | 58146 |
|  | July | 2856 | 2439 | 9984 | 1800 | 6310 | 1660 | 11370 | 2331 | 3614 | 1889 | 11460 | 4335 | 60047 |
|  | August | 2914 | 2536 | 10650 | 2251 | 6805 | 1919 | 10582 | 2481 | 3673 | 2428 | 12370 | 3747 | 62358 |
|  | September | 2548 | 2706 | 11883 | 2257 | 6414 | 1770 | 11293 | 2400 | 3679 | 2251 | 11458 | 3721 | 62380 |
|  | October | 2871 | 2600 | 11688 | 2690 | 7484 | 2064 | 10672 | 2775 | 4222 | 2683 | 12522 | 4182 | 66452 |
|  | November | 3387 | 3325 | 12286 | 2633 | 8543 | 2124 | 10782 | 2721 | 4374 | 2786 | 12822 | 4998 | 70780 |
|  | December | 2968 | 2896 | 13445 | 1761 | 6787 | 1879 | 10058 | 1644 | 2738 | 1899 | 11002 | 4447 | 61526 |
|  | Total | 32196 | 27862 | 129861 | 23076 | 77583 | 19104 | 120159 | 26119 | 39968 | 24627 | 131732 | 47558 | 699845 |
| 2007 | January | 2336 | 2255 | 11643 | 1435 | 5874 | 662 | 9572 | 2203 | 3062 | 2233 | 11674 | 3940 | 56890 |
|  | February | 2719 | 2677 | 11479 | 1894 | 6934 | 1111 | 9528 | 2620 | 3832 | 2133 | 12028 | 4065 | 61021 |
|  | March | 2658 | 2350 | 11328 | 2187 | 6797 | 1734 | 10520 | 2664 | 4148 | 2206 | 13126 | 4325 | 64042 |

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 |

Tables 2 and 3 show wholesale trade sales values and percentage changes at current prices over the period January 2000 to March 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 | 23717 | 28584 | 32584 | 35412 | 37071 | 41481 | 46044 | 56890 |
| February | 26586 | 30772 | 34334 | 40511 | 41869 | 43419 | 50496 | 61021 |
| March | 28933 | 30819 | 36516 | 41674 | 45325 | 46368 | 54651 | 64042 |
| April | 26703 | 29937 | 36379 | 38630 | 40479 | 47685 | 49506 |  |
| May | 28690 | 31776 | 37060 | 40834 | 48861 | 49593 | 57459 |  |
| June | 28769 | 32336 | 36410 | 42186 | 50314 | 51422 | 58146 |  |
| July | 27839 | 31306 | 35840 | 42990 | 48200 | 51277 | 60047 |  |
| August | 29445 | 31903 | 36939 | 41262 | 49162 | 52822 | 62358 |  |
| September | 29461 | 30508 | 38757 | 42155 | 49722 | 54866 | 62380 |  |
| October | 31818 | 34941 | 43492 | 44395 | 53829 | 56705 | 66452 |  |
| November | 32780 | 36183 | 42921 | 45325 | 57359 | 60767 | 70780 |  |
| December | 30851 | 35184 | 38952 | 38741 | 49490 | 52579 | 61526 |  |
| Total | 345592 | 384249 | 450184 | 494115 | 571681 | 608984 | 699845 |  |

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 | 17,2 |
| April | - | 12,1 | 21,5 | 6,2 | 4,8 | 17,8 | 3,8 |  |
| May | - | 10,8 | 16,6 | 10,2 | 19,7 | 1,5 | 15,9 |  |
| June | - | 12,4 | 12,6 | 15,9 | 19,3 | 2,2 | 13,1 |  |
| 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 | 26146 | 31613 | 36273 | 39850 | 42228 | 47699 | 53235 | 65940 |
| February | 27187 | 31503 | 35155 | 41756 | 43501 | 45546 | 53347 | 64806 |
| March | 28820 | 30630 | 36392 | 41666 | 45694 | 46952 | 55762 | 65651 |
| April | 28020 | 31752 | 39052 | 42130 | 44674 | 53276 | 54481 |  |
| May | 28763 | 31699 | 36852 | 40482 | 48444 | 49113 | 56819 |  |
| June | 28847 | 32240 | 36030 | 41514 | 49330 | 50305 | 56691 |  |
| July | 28397 | 31891 | 36311 | 43219 | 47972 | 50755 | 59270 |  |
| August | 29311 | 31901 | 36984 | 41127 | 48604 | 51802 | 60888 |  |
| September | 28997 | 30063 | 38085 | 41246 | 48330 | 53156 | 60332 |  |
| October | 29625 | 32410 | 40242 | 40898 | 49512 | 52115 | 61170 |  |
| November | 30183 | 33099 | 38872 | 40579 | 50821 | 53395 | 61944 |  |
| December | 30664 | 35096 | 38956 | 38961 | 49990 | 53282 | 62353 |  |

Tables 5 and 6 show wholesale trade sales values and percentage changes at constant (2000) prices over the period January 2000 to March 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 | 24680 | 27406 | 28053 | 28228 | 29740 | 32586 | 34336 | 38465 |
| February | 27508 | 29363 | 28974 | 32228 | 33402 | 33987 | 37600 | 41147 |
| March | 29812 | 29337 | 30545 | 33154 | 36188 | 36098 | 40497 | 42595 |
| April | 27055 | 28216 | 29929 | 30744 | 32012 | 36822 | 36321 |  |
| May | 28965 | 29725 | 30265 | 32851 | 38595 | 38104 | 41697 |  |
| June | 28885 | 30038 | 29614 | 33494 | 39094 | 38926 | 41006 |  |
| July | 27797 | 28920 | 28845 | 33917 | 37495 | 38396 | 41627 |  |
| August | 29081 | 29255 | 29445 | 32683 | 38214 | 39375 | 42449 |  |
| September | 28983 | 27976 | 30919 | 33792 | 38921 | 41144 | 42770 |  |
| October | 31103 | 31592 | 34463 | 35601 | 41939 | 42508 | 45159 |  |
| November | 31702 | 32335 | 33903 | 36479 | 44655 | 45315 | 47776 |  |
| December | 29722 | 31275 | 30890 | 31142 | 38710 | 39180 | 41713 |  |
| Total | 345293 | 355438 | 365845 | 394313 | 448965 | 462441 | 492951 |  |

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 | 5,2 |
| April | - | 4,3 | 6,1 | 2,7 | 4,1 | 15,0 | -1,4 |  |
| May | - | 2,6 | 1,8 | 8,5 | 17,5 | -1,3 | 9,4 |  |
| June | - | 4,0 | -1,4 | 13,1 | 16,7 | -0,4 | 5,3 |  |
| 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 | 27269 | 30341 | 31189 | 31647 | 33650 | 37145 | 39295 | 44104 |
| February | 28132 | 30066 | 29661 | 33159 | 34555 | 35390 | 39345 | 43242 |
| March | 29798 | 29236 | 30458 | 33123 | 36427 | 36529 | 41306 | 43672 |
| April | 28430 | 29961 | 32154 | 33531 | 35297 | 41062 | 39751 |  |
| May | 29096 | 29669 | 30063 | 32485 | 38116 | 37555 | 41025 |  |
| June | 28974 | 29990 | 29395 | 33094 | 38523 | 38293 | 40230 |  |
| July | 28409 | 29527 | 29333 | 34288 | 37608 | 38350 | 41494 |  |
| August | 29099 | 29393 | 29644 | 32823 | 38167 | 39083 | 41982 |  |
| September | 28225 | 27375 | 30272 | 33018 | 37829 | 39896 | 41416 |  |
| October | 28922 | 29276 | 31865 | 32805 | 38604 | 39111 | 41614 |  |
| November | 29164 | 29551 | 30667 | 32638 | 39548 | 39822 | 41820 |  |
| December | 29482 | 31134 | 30818 | 31213 | 38922 | 39483 | 42021 |  |

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 changes

| Wholesale trade sales estimates | January to March 2006 (R million) | January to March 2007 (R million) | \% change between January to March 2006 and January to March 2007 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| at current prices | 151191 | 181953 | +20,3 |
| at constant 2000 prices | 112433 | 122207 | +8,7 |

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

| Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales estimates | February 2007 ( R million) | $\begin{gathered} \text { March } 2007 \\ \text { (R million) } \end{gathered}$ | \% change between February and March 2007 | October to December 2006 $(R$ million $)$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { January } \\ \text { to } \\ \text { March } \\ 2007 \\ \text { (R million) } \end{gathered}$ | \% change between October to December 2006 and January to March 2007 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| at current prices | 64806 | 65651 | +1,3 | 185467 | 196397 | +5,9 |
| at constant 2000 prices | 43242 | 43672 | +1,0 | 125455 | 131018 | +4,4 |

## 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 3 The results of the monthly wholesale trade sales survey are used to compile survey

## 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 March 2007 was 88,2\%.

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
Weighting

methodology $\quad$| 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

Seasonal adjustment

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 14 Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a estimates

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.

12 Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month, using the $\mathrm{X}-11$ 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.
sample and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ

8 The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of about 1000 enterprises from a population of about 19000 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 nonrespondents.

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 19000 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. 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 nonsampling 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 - <br> - Bulletin of Statistics issued quarterly. <br> - 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

## 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

Wholesale trade

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.

Stats SA has copyright on this publication. Users may apply the information as they wish, provided that they acknowledge Stats SA as the source of the basic data wherever they process, apply, utilise, publish or distribute the data; and also that they specify that the relevant application and analysis (where applicable) result from their own processing of the data.

## Advance release calendar

An advance release calendar is disseminated on www.statssa.gov.za

## Stats SA products

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