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# Statistical release

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# Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

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**Summary of findings: Wholesale trade sales**

**Table A – Key figures as at the end of March 2008**

Wholesale trade sales estimates	March 2008 (R million)	% change between March 2007 and March 2008	% change between January to March 2007 and January to March 2008
At current prices	77 968	+19,3	+20,4
At constant 2000 prices	45 729	+5,2	+6,9

Seasonally adjusted estimates	March 2008 (R million)	% change between February and March 2008	% change between October to December 2007 and January to March 2008
At current prices	78 945	-0,5	+10,0
At constant 2000 prices	45 817	-2,2	+4,9

**Key findings as at the end of March 2008**

**Wholesale trade sales in real terms increase**

*Wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the first quarter of 2008 increased by 6,9% compared with the first quarter of 2007. The corresponding growth in 2007 was 9,5%. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the first quarter of 2008 increased by 4,9% compared with the previous quarter.*

Wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for March 2008 increased by 5,2% compared with March 2007. The 5,2% increase is lower than the 7,3% growth for March 2007 compared with March 2006.

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for the first quarter of 2008 increased by 20,4% compared with the first quarter of 2007. The 20,4% increase is also lower than the 21,2% growth for the corresponding period in 2007.

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for March 2008 increased by 19,3% compared with March 2007 amid rising agricultural and petroleum commodity prices.

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

Type of wholesale dealer	Sales January to March 2007 (R million)	Weight 1/	Sales January to March 2008 (R million)	Difference in sales between January to March 2007 and January to March 2008	Percentage change between January to March 2007 and January to March 2008	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in total sales 2/
Contract or fee basis	5 959	3,3	6 775	816	13,7	0,5
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	8 174	4,5	10 965	2 791	34,1	1,5
Food, beverages and tobacco	33 911	18,5	38 762	4 851	14,3	2,6
Textiles, clothing and footwear	4 434	2,4	4 799	365	8,2	0,2
Other household goods except precious stones	20 023	10,9	22 726	2 703	13,5	1,5
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	3 721	2,0	3 946	225	6,0	0,1
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	31 458	17,2	43 677	12 219	38,8	6,7
Metals and metal ores	7 950	4,3	10 087	2 137	26,9	1,2
Construction and building materials	11 100	6,1	12 988	1 888	17,0	1,0
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	7 993	4,4	9 579	1 586	19,8	0,9
Machinery, equipment and supplies	35 424	19,3	42 610	7 186	20,3	3,9
Other goods	13 181	7,2	13 730	549	4,2	0,3
<b>Total 3/</b>	<b>183 329</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>220 647</b>	<b>37 318</b>	<b>20,4</b>	<b>20,4</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.

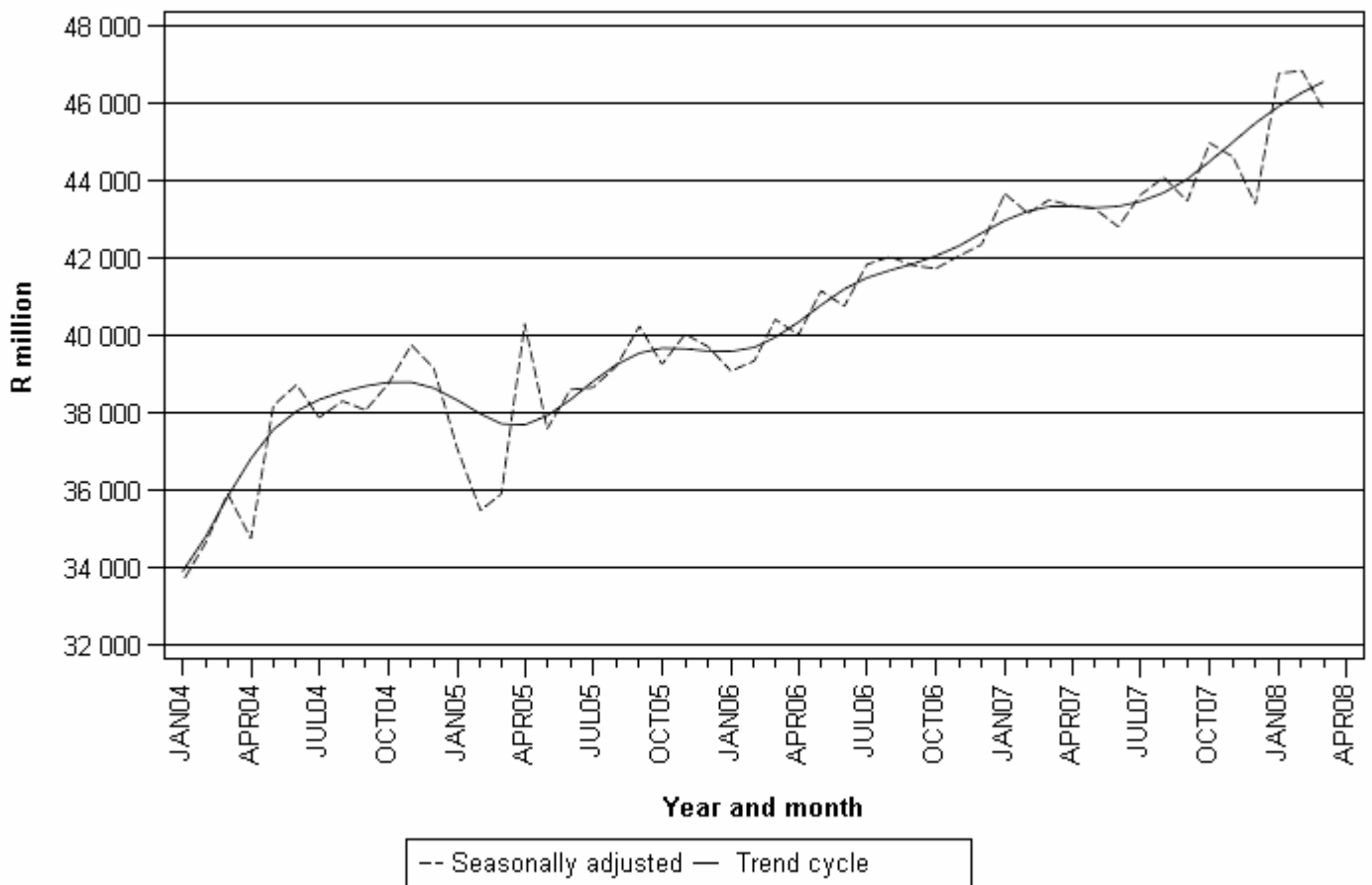
2/ The contribution to the percentage change is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of dealer with its corresponding weight.

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 20,4% increase in wholesale trade sales at current prices for the first quarter of 2008 compared with the first quarter of 2007 were dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (+6,7 percentage points), dealers in machinery, equipment and supplies (+3,9 percentage points) and dealers in food, beverages and tobacco (+2,6 percentage points).

Figure 1 below shows the seasonally adjusted and trend patterns for wholesale trade sales at constant (2000) prices between January 2004 and March 2008. The trend cycle shows a generally upward movement.

**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/	
<b>2006</b>	January	1 813	2 172	9 499	883	5 171	389	8 757	1 711	2 377	2 038	7 964	3 292	46 065
	February	1 928	2 027	9 263	1 222	5 998	1 292	8 900	2 130	2 859	2 274	8 604	4 022	50 519
	March	2 096	2 013	10 002	1 333	5 868	1 693	10 159	2 096	2 994	2 272	10 214	3 936	54 676
	April	1 398	1 767	9 977	1 379	5 876	1 320	9 765	1 781	2 846	1 801	8 053	3 564	49 528
	May	2 346	2 319	9 850	1 528	6 537	1 471	10 852	2 363	3 303	2 447	10 445	4 023	57 485
	June	1 646	2 456	10 311	1 405	6 378	1 837	10 370	2 424	3 353	2 285	11 356	4 349	58 172
	July	2 185	2 735	9 801	1 439	6 407	1 726	12 051	2 474	3 622	2 314	10 785	4 536	60 074
	August	2 232	2 848	10 469	1 802	6 919	1 998	11 232	2 637	3 686	2 979	11 658	3 926	62 386
	September	1 948	3 033	11 658	1 803	6 509	1 839	11 963	2 546	3 685	2 756	10 777	3 891	62 408
	October	2 199	2 918	11 485	2 152	7 606	2 148	11 323	2 948	4 236	3 291	11 796	4 380	66 482
	November	2 593	3 730	12 067	2 105	8 678	2 209	11 434	2 889	4 386	3 415	12 073	5 232	70 812
	December	2 274	3 253	13 220	1 410	6 903	1 957	10 679	1 748	2 749	2 331	10 371	4 661	61 554
<b>Total</b>	<b>24 658</b>	<b>31 271</b>	<b>127 602</b>	<b>18 461</b>	<b>78 850</b>	<b>19 879</b>	<b>127 485</b>	<b>27 747</b>	<b>40 096</b>	<b>30 203</b>	<b>124 096</b>	<b>49 812</b>	<b>700 161</b>	
<b>2007</b>	January	1 786	2 527	11 424	1 146	5 961	688	10 141	2 337	3 067	2 735	10 981	4 121	56 916
	February	2 083	3 006	11 284	1 516	7 050	1 156	10 113	2 784	3 846	2 617	11 335	4 259	61 048
	March	2 090	2 641	11 203	1 772	7 012	1 877	11 204	2 829	4 187	2 641	13 108	4 801	65 365
	April	2 259	2 485	10 837	1 625	7 307	1 754	10 572	2 673	3 628	2 659	10 511	3 655	59 964
	May	2 179	3 287	11 657	1 702	8 120	1 765	12 173	3 070	4 331	2 957	12 054	4 609	67 902
	June	2 220	3 400	12 077	1 239	7 474	1 796	12 350	2 948	4 373	3 107	12 447	4 573	68 004
	July	2 231	3 252	12 013	1 464	7 605	1 156	12 960	2 907	4 299	3 258	13 421	4 935	69 503
	August	2 437	3 154	12 071	1 997	8 126	1 102	13 091	3 278	4 326	3 543	13 806	4 923	71 854
	September	2 181	3 114	13 132	2 129	7 907	1 957	12 273	2 856	4 306	3 108	13 082	4 975	71 020
	October	2 296	3 230	13 371	2 392	8 986	2 117	13 464	3 476	4 838	3 845	14 907	5 489	78 411
	November	2 524	3 817	13 836	2 163	9 623	2 260	14 142	3 288	5 166	3 974	14 304	6 897	81 996
	December	2 178	3 603	15 126	1 403	7 718	1 695	13 545	1 769	2 649	2 860	10 988	5 697	69 231
<b>Total</b>	<b>26 464</b>	<b>37 516</b>	<b>148 031</b>	<b>20 548</b>	<b>92 889</b>	<b>19 323</b>	<b>146 028</b>	<b>34 215</b>	<b>49 016</b>	<b>37 304</b>	<b>150 944</b>	<b>58 934</b>	<b>821 214</b>	
<b>2008</b>	January	1 985	3 539	12 994	1 263	7 231	532	12 943	2 776	3 597	2 892	13 757	4 540	68 051
	February	2 421	4 067	12 560	1 817	8 110	1 572	14 069	3 574	4 801	3 458	13 544	4 634	74 628
	March	2 369	3 359	13 208	1 719	7 385	1 842	16 665	3 737	4 590	3 229	15 309	4 556	77 968

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 <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 10.

Tables 2 and 3 show wholesale trade sales (actual values and annual percentage changes) at current prices over the period January 2001 - March 2008. 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	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 /1	2008 /1
January	28 597	32 599	35 428	37 088	41 500	46 065	56 916	68 051
February	30 786	34 349	40 529	41 888	43 439	50 519	61 048	74 628
March	30 833	36 532	41 693	45 345	46 389	54 676	65 365	77 968
April	29 950	36 395	38 647	40 497	47 706	49 528	59 964	
May	31 790	37 077	40 852	48 883	49 615	57 485	67 902	
June	32 351	36 426	42 205	50 337	51 445	58 172	68 004	
July	31 320	35 856	43 009	48 222	51 300	60 074	69 503	
August	31 917	36 956	41 281	49 184	52 846	62 386	71 854	
September	30 522	38 774	42 174	49 744	54 891	62 408	71 020	
October	34 957	43 512	44 415	53 853	56 731	66 482	78 411	
November	36 199	42 940	45 345	57 385	60 794	70 812	81 996	
December	35 200	38 970	38 758	49 512	52 603	61 554	69 231	
<b>Total</b>	<b>384 422</b>	<b>450 386</b>	<b>494 336</b>	<b>571 938</b>	<b>609 259</b>	<b>700 161</b>	<b>821 214</b>	

1/ Preliminary.

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

Month	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
January	-	14,0	8,7	4,7	11,9	11,0	23,6	19,6
February	-	11,6	18,0	3,4	3,7	16,3	20,8	22,2
March	-	18,5	14,1	8,8	2,3	17,9	19,5	19,3
April	-	21,5	6,2	4,8	17,8	3,8	21,1	
May	-	16,6	10,2	19,7	1,5	15,9	18,1	
June	-	12,6	15,9	19,3	2,2	13,1	16,9	
July	-	14,5	19,9	12,1	6,4	17,1	15,7	
August	-	15,8	11,7	19,1	7,4	18,1	15,2	
September	-	27,0	8,8	17,9	10,3	13,7	13,8	
October	-	24,5	2,1	21,2	5,3	17,2	17,9	
November	-	18,6	5,6	26,6	5,9	16,5	15,8	
December	-	10,7	-0,5	27,7	6,2	17,0	12,5	
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>17,2</b>	<b>9,8</b>	<b>15,7</b>	<b>6,5</b>	<b>14,9</b>	<b>17,3</b>	

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	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
January	31 616	36 268	39 827	42 152	47 551	52 894	65 232	77 936
February	31 523	35 214	41 855	43 600	45 650	53 382	64 779	79 340
March	30 633	36 309	41 467	45 260	46 503	55 069	66 071	78 945
April	31 615	38 756	41 631	44 113	52 487	54 925	66 744	
May	31 706	36 878	40 544	48 561	49 195	57 044	67 334	
June	32 257	36 070	41 609	49 559	50 635	57 324	67 101	
July	32 004	36 507	43 499	48 325	51 085	59 573	68 836	
August	31 936	37 033	41 219	48 700	51 835	60 761	69 734	
September	30 099	38 145	41 351	48 547	53 493	60 747	69 045	
October	32 444	40 307	40 993	49 612	52 177	61 162	72 136	
November	33 152	38 963	40 689	51 020	53 611	62 246	71 995	
December	35 125	38 995	38 995	50 087	53 406	62 607	70 547	



Tables 5 and 6 show wholesale trade sales (actual values and annual percentage changes) at constant (2000) prices over the period January 2001 - March 2008. 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	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 /1	2008 /1
January	27 418	28 066	28 241	29 753	32 600	34 351	38 482	41 268
February	29 376	28 987	32 243	33 417	34 003	37 616	41 166	44 634
March	29 351	30 558	33 168	36 204	36 114	40 515	43 475	45 729
April	28 229	29 943	30 758	32 026	36 839	36 338	39 243	
May	29 738	30 279	32 866	38 612	38 122	41 716	43 893	
June	30 052	29 627	33 509	39 112	38 944	41 024	43 027	
July	28 933	28 858	33 932	37 512	38 413	41 646	43 439	
August	29 269	29 458	32 697	38 231	39 393	42 468	44 671	
September	27 989	30 933	33 807	38 939	41 163	42 789	44 527	
October	31 606	34 478	35 617	41 958	42 527	45 180	48 687	
November	32 350	33 918	36 495	44 675	45 335	47 797	50 756	
December	31 289	30 904	31 156	38 727	39 197	41 731	42 696	
<b>Total</b>	<b>355 600</b>	<b>366 009</b>	<b>394 489</b>	<b>449 166</b>	<b>462 650</b>	<b>493 171</b>	<b>524 062</b>	

1/ Preliminary.

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

Month	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
January	-	2,4	0,6	5,4	9,6	5,4	12,0	7,2
February	-	-1,3	11,2	3,6	1,8	10,6	9,4	8,4
March	-	4,1	8,5	9,2	-0,2	12,2	7,3	5,2
April	-	6,1	2,7	4,1	15,0	-1,4	8,0	
May	-	1,8	8,5	17,5	-1,3	9,4	5,2	
June	-	-1,4	13,1	16,7	-0,4	5,3	4,9	
July	-	-0,3	17,6	10,6	2,4	8,4	4,3	
August	-	0,6	11,0	16,9	3,0	7,8	5,2	
September	-	10,5	9,3	15,2	5,7	4,0	4,1	
October	-	9,1	3,3	17,8	1,4	6,2	7,8	
November	-	4,8	7,6	22,4	1,5	5,4	6,2	
December	-	-1,2	0,8	24,3	1,2	6,5	2,3	
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>2,9</b>	<b>7,8</b>	<b>13,9</b>	<b>3,0</b>	<b>6,6</b>	<b>6,3</b>	

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	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
January	30 370	31 212	31 666	33 631	37 071	39 072	43 651	46 758
February	30 097	29 719	33 254	34 643	35 470	39 332	43 145	46 825
March	29 226	30 372	32 888	35 904	35 896	40 403	43 491	45 817
April	29 821	31 875	33 065	34 746	40 290	40 009	43 338	
May	29 676	30 081	32 517	38 177	37 580	41 144	43 264	
June	30 001	29 415	33 160	38 719	38 591	40 743	42 796	
July	29 597	29 440	34 460	37 866	38 643	41 822	43 623	
August	29 394	29 673	32 916	38 295	39 191	42 021	44 075	
September	27 409	30 333	33 136	38 058	40 231	41 798	43 456	
October	29 289	31 911	32 900	38 738	39 246	41 718	44 961	
November	29 605	30 750	32 758	39 745	40 025	42 046	44 604	
December	31 251	30 957	31 345	39 132	39 703	42 338	43 386	

**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 2007 (R million)	January to March 2008 (R million)	% change between January to March 2007 and January to March 2008
At current prices	183 329	220 647	+20,4
At constant 2000 prices	123 123	131 631	+6,9

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

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales estimates	February 2008 (R million)	March 2008 (R million)	% change between February and March 2008	October to December 2007 (R million)	January to March 2008 (R million)	% change between October to December 2007 and January to March 2008
At current prices	79 340	78 945	-0,5	214 678	236 221	+10,0
At constant 2000 prices	46 825	45 817	-2,2	132 951	139 400	+4,9

**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 2007 Business Sampling Frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value-added tax (VAT).</p> <p>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.</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; and</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in other goods</li> <li>• General wholesale trade and other wholesale trade not elsewhere classified.</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. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC division (four digit) level. Each enterprise is classified to the industry, which reflects its predominant activity.</p>
<b>Response rate</b>	<b>6</b>	<p>The preliminary response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for March 2008 was 86,4%.</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 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.</p>

- 9 The value of sales is obtained monthly from the sample of about 1000 enterprises (which was drawn in April 2007 at the SIC four-digit level) from a population 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.

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<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>	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 5,2%.

**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 March 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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### Enquiries

Telephone number: (012) 310 8600/8390/8351/4892/8496/8095 (user information services)  
(012) 310 8155 (technical enquiries)  
(012) 310 8161 (orders)  
(012) 310 4883/8018/4885 (library)

Fax number: (012) 310 8332 (technical enquiries)

Email address: [Joycee@statssa.gov.za](mailto:Joycee@statssa.gov.za) (technical enquiries)  
[Info@statssa.gov.za](mailto:Info@statssa.gov.za) (user information services)  
[distribution@statssa.gov.za](mailto:distribution@statssa.gov.za) (orders)

Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

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