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Statistical release

P6141.2

Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

March 2010

**Embargoed until:
19 May 2010
10:00**

Enquiries:

User Information Services
(012) 310 8600 / 4892 / 8390

Forthcoming issue:

April 2010

Expected release date

17 June 2010

Statistics South Africa • Mbalo-mbalo ya Afrika Tshipembe • Tinhlayo-tiko ta Afrika-Dzonga • Dipalopalo tsa Aforika Borwa • Ezezibalo zaseNingizimu Afrika
Dipalopalo tša Afrika Borwa • Dipalopalo tsa Afrika Borwa • Ubalo lwaseMzantsi Afrika • Telubalo eNingizimu Afrika • iNanimbalo leSewula Afrika • Statistiek Suid-Afrika

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Summary of findings: Wholesale trade sales

Table A – Key figures as at the end of March 2010

Actual wholesale trade sales estimates	March 2010 (R million)	% change between March 2009 and March 2010	% change between January to March 2009 and January to March 2010
At current prices	90 940	4,0	-1,2
At constant 2000 prices	48 840	0,4	-4,4

Seasonally adjusted estimates	March 2010 (R million)	% change between February and March 2010	% change between October to December 2009 and January to March 2010
At current prices	90 336	2,4	4,2
At constant 2000 prices	47 987	2,9	0,6

Key findings as at the end of March 2010

Wholesale trade sales in real terms

Wholesale trade sales, at constant 2000 prices, for the first quarter of 2010 decreased by 4,4% compared with the first quarter of 2009, while sales for the same period in 2009 decreased by 6,1%. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales for the first quarter of 2010 increased by 0,6% compared with the fourth quarter of 2009.

Wholesale trade sales, at constant 2000 prices, for March 2010 increased by 0,4% compared with March 2009.

Wholesale trade sales in nominal terms

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for the first quarter of 2010 decreased by 1,2% compared with the first quarter of 2009. The major contributor to this decrease was dealers in machinery, equipment and supplies (-13,1% and contributing -2,6 percentage points). However, this decrease was partly counteracted by an increase in dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (10,4% and contributing 1,7 percentage points) – see Table B on page 3.

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for March 2010 increased by 4,0% compared with March 2009, while sales for the corresponding period in 2009 decreased by 0,7% – see Table 3 on page 7.

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 2009 (R million)	Weight 1/	Sales January to March 2010 (R million)	Difference in sales between January to March 2009 and January to March 2010 (R million)	Percentage change between January to March 2009 and January to March 2010	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in total sales 2/
Fee or contract basis	11 620	4,6	12 363	743	6,4	0,3
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	10 472	4,2	9 174	-1 298	-12,4	-0,5
Food, beverages and tobacco	51 843	20,7	50 140	-1 703	-3,3	-0,7
Textiles, clothing and footwear	7 506	3,0	7 401	-105	-1,4	0,0
Other household goods except precious stones	23 512	9,4	23 726	214	0,9	0,1
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	2 643	1,1	3 384	741	28,0	0,3
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	39 927	15,9	44 077	4 150	10,4	1,7
Metals and metal ores	7 575	3,0	7 311	-264	-3,5	-0,1
Construction and building materials	13 136	5,2	12 879	-257	-2,0	-0,1
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	8 679	3,5	9 433	754	8,7	0,3
Machinery, equipment and supplies	50 794	20,2	44 127	-6 667	-13,1	-2,6
Other goods	23 312	9,3	23 968	656	2,8	0,3
Total 3/	251 017	100,0	247 983	-3 034	-1,2	-1,2

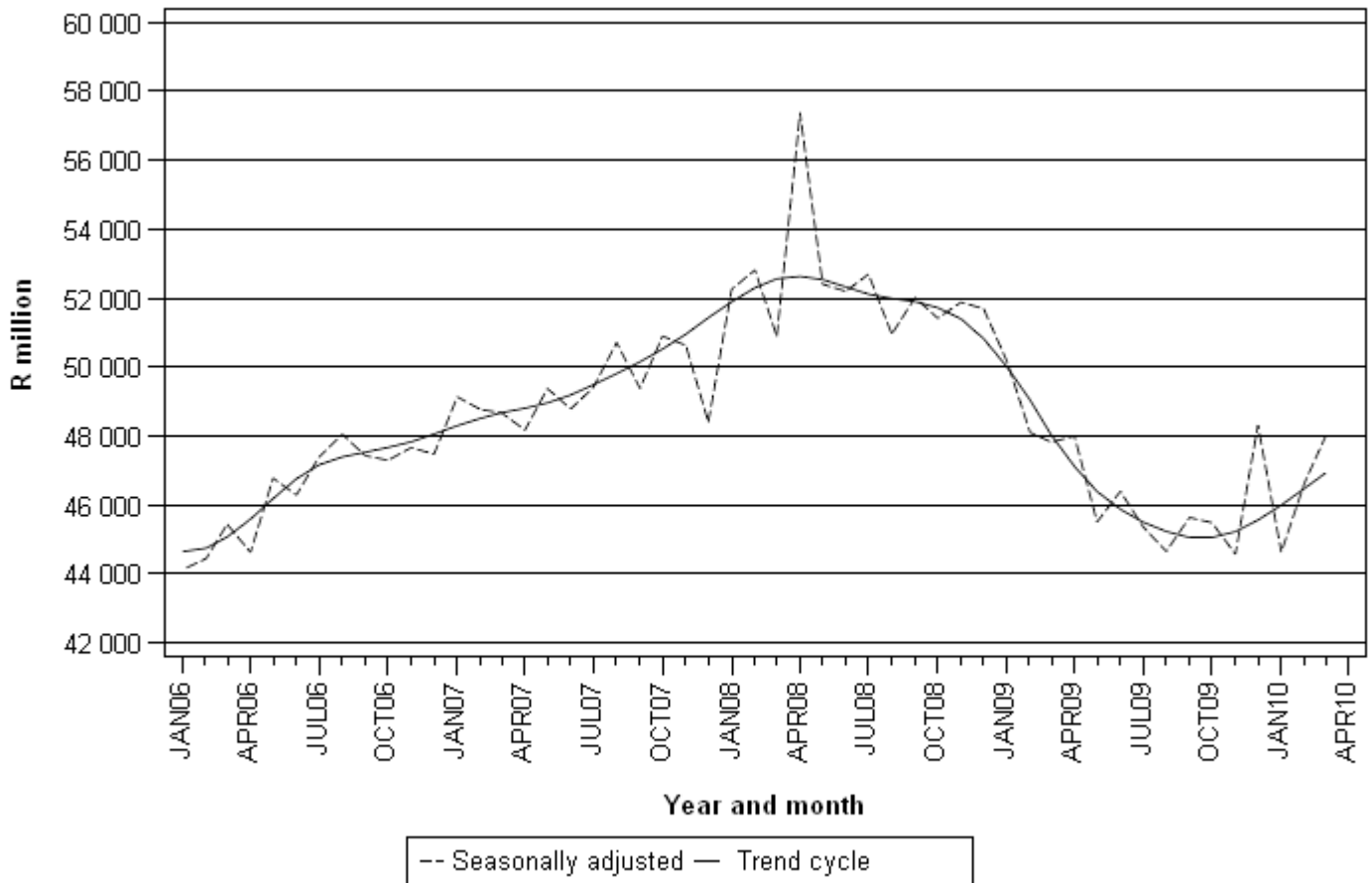
1/ Weight is the percentage contribution of each type of dealer to the total wholesale trade sales for the three months up to the current month of the previous year.

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 March 2010.

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 (see description of type of dealer on page 6).

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/	
2009	January	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
	February	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
	March	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
	April	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
	May	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
	June	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
	July	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
	August	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
	September	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
	October	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
	November	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
	December	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
	Total	44 746	42 714	211 456	31 910	99 410	12 312	161 704	29 273	53 840	37 049	189 862	96 258	1 010 534
2010	January	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
	February	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
	March	4 513	3 128	16 876	2 916	8 878	1 266	15 973	2 710	5 077	3 430	17 295	8 879	90 940

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 ^{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 total wholesale trade sales (actual values and annual percentage changes) at current prices over the period January 2003 – March 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 ^{1/}	2010 ^{1/}
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	90 940
April	43 702	45 793	53 945	56 006	67 807	92 047	79 294	
May	46 195	55 277	56 105	65 003	76 783	95 651	80 408	
June	47 725	56 921	58 174	65 780	76 898	97 161	82 660	
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	
Total	558 992	646 744	688 946	791 733	928 621	1 136 624	1 010 534	

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	4,0
April	6,2	4,8	17,8	3,8	21,1	35,7	-13,9	
May	10,2	19,7	1,5	15,9	18,1	24,6	-15,9	
June	15,9	19,3	2,2	13,1	16,9	26,4	-14,9	
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	
Total	9,8	15,7	6,5	14,9	17,3	22,4	-11,1	

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	45 081	47 697	53 811	59 831	73 760	87 768	92 235	84 351
February	47 407	49 381	51 708	60 599	73 629	90 029	87 970	88 255
March	46 919	51 197	52 482	62 020	74 063	87 868	86 888	90 336
April	46 869	49 579	58 877	61 368	74 332	100 861	86 809	
May	45 858	54 894	55 636	64 595	76 396	95 583	80 415	
June	47 031	55 999	57 250	64 865	76 133	96 622	82 344	
July	49 058	54 506	57 572	66 965	77 120	98 617	81 561	
August	46 631	55 117	58 780	69 065	79 456	95 743	80 453	
September	46 813	55 015	60 687	68 951	78 518	96 845	81 833	
October	46 380	56 184	59 186	69 457	81 905	95 586	81 819	
November	46 066	57 797	60 813	70 812	82 171	95 761	81 364	
December	44 168	56 697	60 352	70 570	79 274	94 785	89 219	

Tables 5 and 6 show total wholesale trade sales (actual values and annual percentage changes) at constant 2000 prices over the period January 2003 – March 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 ^{1/}	2010 ^{1/}
January	31 935	33 645	36 864	38 844	43 517	46 665	45 036	40 138
February	36 460	37 788	38 451	42 536	46 550	50 472	46 015	44 627
March	37 507	40 939	40 838	45 815	49 161	51 613	48 664	48 840
April	34 781	36 214	41 656	41 090	44 376	52 870	44 249	
May	37 164	43 663	43 108	47 172	49 633	52 354	45 377	
June	37 892	44 228	44 038	46 389	48 654	51 819	45 948	
July	38 370	42 419	43 437	47 093	49 121	52 373	45 067	
August	36 974	43 231	44 545	48 022	50 514	50 552	44 177	
September	38 228	44 031	46 547	48 386	50 350	53 011	46 414	
October	40 276	47 445	48 089	51 089	55 055	55 744	49 379	
November	41 268	50 518	51 265	54 049	57 394	58 637	50 324	
December	35 232	43 792	44 324	47 189	48 280	51 656	48 349	
Total	446 087	507 913	523 162	557 674	592 605	627 766	558 999	

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	0,6	5,4	9,6	5,4	12,0	7,2	-3,5	-10,9
February	11,2	3,6	1,8	10,6	9,4	8,4	-8,8	-3,0
March	8,5	9,2	-0,2	12,2	7,3	5,0	-5,7	0,4
April	2,7	4,1	15,0	-1,4	8,0	19,1	-16,3	
May	8,5	17,5	-1,3	9,4	5,2	5,5	-13,3	
June	13,1	16,7	-0,4	5,3	4,9	6,5	-11,3	
July	17,6	10,6	2,4	8,4	4,3	6,6	-13,9	
August	11,0	16,9	3,0	7,8	5,2	0,1	-12,6	
September	9,3	15,2	5,7	4,0	4,1	5,3	-12,4	
October	3,3	17,8	1,4	6,2	7,8	1,3	-11,4	
November	7,6	22,4	1,5	5,4	6,2	2,2	-14,2	
December	0,8	24,3	1,2	6,5	2,3	7,0	-6,4	
Total	7,8	13,9	3,0	6,6	6,3	5,9	-11,0	

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	35 859	38 082	41 943	44 120	49 130	52 251	50 168	44 619
February	37 618	39 161	40 049	44 435	48 761	52 814	48 095	46 636
March	37 187	40 576	40 463	45 435	48 668	50 884	47 818	47 987
April	37 150	38 977	45 107	44 617	48 165	57 373	47 990	
May	36 789	43 193	42 585	46 771	49 373	52 399	45 499	
June	37 518	43 823	43 764	46 279	48 779	52 196	46 387	
July	38 992	42 879	43 779	47 381	49 406	52 691	45 367	
August	37 250	43 378	44 563	48 046	50 707	50 951	44 645	
September	37 500	43 112	45 625	47 417	49 376	52 014	45 629	
October	37 243	43 878	44 495	47 291	50 892	51 411	45 476	
November	37 070	44 984	45 305	47 660	50 627	51 877	44 564	
December	35 449	44 199	44 706	47 463	48 394	51 691	48 308	

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 estimates and percentage changes

Actual wholesale trade sales estimates	January to March 2009 (R million)	January to March 2010 (R million)	% change between January to March 2009 and January to March 2010
At current prices	251 017	247 983	-1,2
At constant 2000 prices	139 715	133 605	-4,4

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

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales estimates	February 2010 (R million)	March 2010 (R million)	% change between February and March 2010	October to December 2009 (R million)	January to March 2010 (R million)	% change between October to December 2009 and January to March 2010
At current prices	88 255	90 336	2,4	252 402	262 942	4,2
At constant 2000 prices	46 636	47 987	2,9	138 348	139 242	0,6

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 2009 Business Sampling Frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value added tax (VAT).
	2	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.
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; • Wholesale trade in other goods; and • General wholesale trade and other wholesale trade not classified elsewhere.
Classification	5	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.
Response rate	6	The preliminary response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for March 2010 was 90,2%. The improved response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for February 2010 was 95,1%.
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 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.

- 9 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.
- 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 group 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 (PPI) for consumption in South Africa and for total output of South African industry groups to deflate the sales at current prices. However, with the discontinuation of the PPI for consumption in South Africa in January 2008, total sales at constant prices are calculated using the total output of South African industry groups from the PPI to deflate the sales at current prices.
- 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.
- 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-off 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**

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

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.

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

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 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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Produced by Stats SA