

Wholesale trade sales

May 2005

**Embargoed until:
11 August 2005
09:30**

Table A - Key figures as at the end of May 2005

Estimates	May 2005 R million	% change between May 2004 and May 2005	% change between March to May 2004 and March to May 2005	% change between January to May 2004 and January to May 2005
Wholesale trade sales				
at current prices	42 282	+1,5	+6,9	+7,3
at constant 2000 prices	32 487	-1,3	+4,2	+4,8

Seasonally adjusted estimates	May 2005 R million	% change between April and May 2005	% change between December 2004 to February 2005 and March to May 2005
Wholesale trade sales			
at current prices	41 320	-3,9	+2,6
at constant 2000 prices	31 687	-4,7	+1,3

Key findings as at the end of May 2005

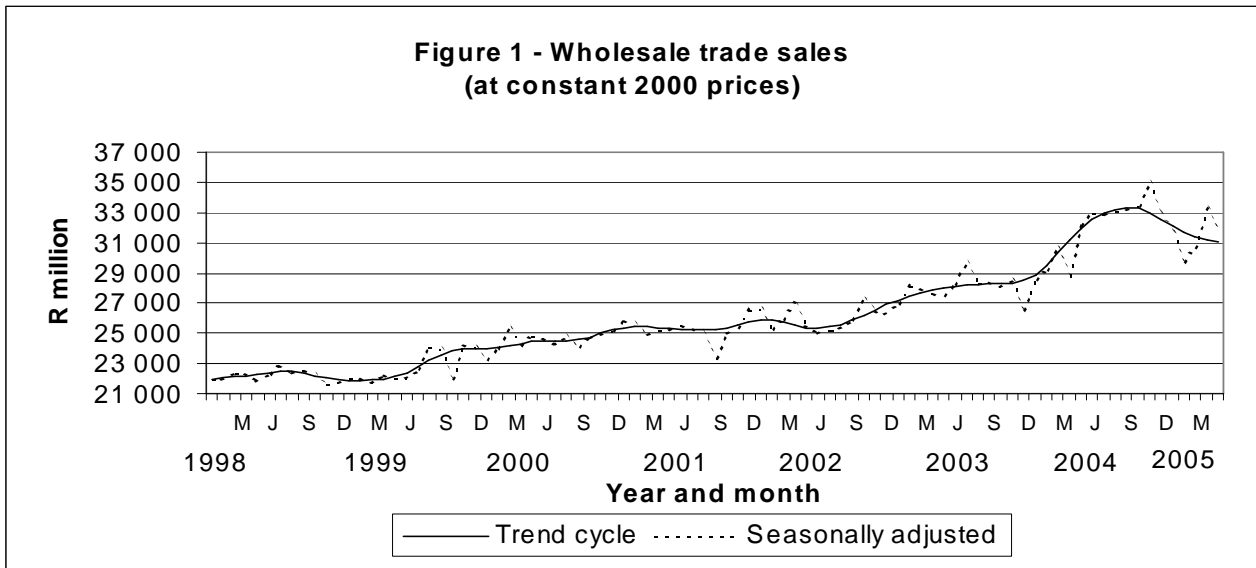
Wholesale trade sales increase

As indicated in table A, wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the three months ended May 2005 increased by 4,2% compared with the three months ended May 2004. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the three months ended May 2005 showed an increase of 1,3% compared with the previous three months.

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, increased by 1,5% for the month of May 2005 compared with May 2004. However, wholesale trade sales, at constant prices, decreased by 1,3%. This is due, partially, to reported negative price indicators in early 2004 compared with positive price indicators reported in early 2005.

Wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for January to May 2005 increased by 4,8% compared with the same period last year.

Figure 1 below shows the seasonally adjusted and trend patterns for wholesale trade sales at constant (2000) prices between January 1998 and May 2005. The trend cycle, after a brief decline towards the end of 2003, assumed an upward movement for most of 2004 and starts showing a decline from October 2004.



P J Lehohla
Statistician-General

Contents

	Page
Notes	4
Detailed results	
Table 1 Total wholesale trade sales according to type of dealer at current prices (R million) for 2005	5
Table 2 Total wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million)	6
Table 3 Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at current prices	6
Table 4 Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million)	6
Table 5 Total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million)	7
Table 6 Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices	7
Table 7 Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million).....	7
Table 8 Estimates and percentage changes in total wholesale trade sales	8
Explanatory notes	9
Glossary	12
General information	13

Notes

Forthcoming issue	Issue	Expected release date
	June 2005	08 September 2005

Purpose of the survey 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.

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) for 2005

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/
January	1 409	2 320	6 859	808	3 011	1 659	4 093	1 142	2 463	1 326	5 662	4 874	35 632
February	1 650	2 260	7 089	1 116	3 099	916	4 485	1 343	2 764	1 271	6 547	4 514	37 058
March	1 756	1 863	7 329	1 220	3 592	2 017	4 904	1 292	2 831	1 404	6 523	5 041	39 778
April	1 731	1 866	7 662	1 197	3 648	1 997	5 221	1 329	3 036	1 324	6 757	4 971	40 745
May	2 227	1 835	7 935	1 131	3 826	2 039	5 256	1 390	3 148	1 408	6 992	5 090	42 281
June													
July													
August													
September													
October													
November													
December													

1/ Preliminary

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

Description of type of dealers included in indicated group types 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 3 on page 9

Outlined below in tables 2 and 3 are details of the behaviour of wholesale trade sales at current prices over the period January 1998 to May 2005. Table 4 gives details of the behaviour of the seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices over the same period.

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

Month	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	1/ 2005
January	16 924	17 862	20 225	24 376	27 785	30 199	31 612	35 632
February	18 350	19 457	22 672	26 243	29 278	34 546	35 705	37 059
March	19 172	19 834	24 675	26 283	31 140	35 537	38 653	39 779
April	18 575	19 465	22 770	25 528	31 024	32 943	34 520	40 745
May	18 858	20 171	24 466	27 098	31 603	34 821	41 667	42 282
June	19 330	20 295	24 533	27 576	31 049	35 973	42 907	
July	19 895	20 604	23 739	26 697	30 564	36 659	41 103	
August	20 162	22 620	25 108	27 205	31 501	35 186	41 924	
September	20 963	23 068	25 125	26 016	33 052	35 949	43 020	
October	21 341	22 203	27 133	29 796	37 089	37 858	46 353	
November	21 027	24 860	27 953	30 854	36 600	38 654	48 989	
December	19 622	23 144	26 310	30 003	33 219	33 038	42 116	
Total	234 219	253 583	294 709	327 675	383 904	421 363	488 569	

1/ Preliminary

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

Month	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
January	-	5,5	13,2	20,5	14,0	8,7	4,7	12,7
February	-	6,0	16,5	15,8	11,6	18,0	3,4	3,8
March	-	3,5	24,4	6,5	18,5	14,1	8,8	2,9
April	-	4,8	17,0	12,1	21,5	6,2	4,8	18,0
May	-	7,0	21,3	10,8	16,6	10,2	19,7	1,5
June	-	5,0	20,9	12,4	12,6	15,9	19,3	
July	-	3,6	15,2	12,5	14,5	19,9	12,1	
August	-	12,2	11,0	8,4	15,8	11,7	19,1	
September	-	10,0	8,9	3,5	27,0	8,8	19,7	
October	-	4,0	22,2	9,8	24,5	2,1	22,4	
November	-	18,2	12,4	10,4	18,6	5,6	26,7	
December	-	17,9	13,7	14,0	10,7	-0,5	27,5	
Total	-	8,3	16,2	11,2	17,2	9,8	15,9	

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	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
January	18 776	19 744	22 316	26 983	30 919	33 843	35 703	40 497
February	18 809	19 932	23 173	26 847	29 909	35 344	36 518	37 919
March	19 065	19 717	24 506	26 035	30 875	35 233	38 407	39 497
April	19 367	20 303	23 806	26 796	32 674	34 734	36 417	43 016
May	19 013	20 283	24 508	27 001	31 291	34 228	40 781	41 320
June	19 458	20 406	24 585	27 476	30 699	35 420	42 180	
July	20 268	21 020	24 297	27 397	31 374	37 609	42 117	
August	19 890	22 397	24 977	27 226	31 679	35 534	42 387	
September	20 684	22 776	24 803	25 711	32 655	35 528	42 467	
October	19 955	20 736	25 306	27 710	34 434	35 029	42 795	
November	19 432	22 979	25 784	28 423	33 675	35 549	45 015	
December	19 458	22 991	26 158	29 928	33 173	33 072	42 249	

Outlined below in tables 5 and 6 are details of the behaviour of wholesale trade sales at constant prices over the period January 1998 to May 2005. Table 7 gives details of the behaviour of the 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	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	1/ 2005
January	19 680	19 858	21 046	23 371	23 922	24 073	25 361	27 991
February	21 400	21 523	23 458	25 041	24 707	27 483	28 484	29 009
March	22 333	21 783	25 425	25 019	26 048	28 271	30 860	30 968
April	21 400	21 343	23 069	24 060	25 523	26 218	27 299	31 464
May	21 626	21 842	24 700	25 349	25 809	28 014	32 912	32 487
June	22 167	21 941	24 631	25 616	25 253	28 562	33 339	
July	22 481	22 119	23 704	24 662	24 599	28 922	31 974	
August	22 502	24 167	24 798	24 947	25 111	27 870	32 588	
September	23 305	24 633	24 717	23 857	26 368	28 817	33 675	
October	23 831	23 583	26 523	26 940	29 389	30 360	36 114	
November	23 454	26 238	27 034	27 573	28 910	31 110	38 139	
December	21 948	24 311	25 347	26 669	26 343	26 558	32 942	
Total	266 127	273 341	294 452	303 104	311 982	336 258	383 687	

1/ Preliminary

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

Month	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
January	-	0,9	6,0	11,0	2,4	0,6	5,4	10,4
February	-	0,6	9,0	6,7	-1,3	11,2	3,6	1,8
March	-	-2,5	16,7	-1,6	4,1	8,5	9,2	0,3
April	-	-0,3	8,1	4,3	6,1	2,7	4,1	15,3
May	-	1,0	13,1	2,6	1,8	8,5	17,5	-1,3
June	-	-1,0	12,3	4,0	-1,4	13,1	16,7	
July	-	-1,6	7,2	4,0	-0,3	17,6	10,6	
August	-	7,4	2,6	0,6	0,7	11,0	16,9	
September	-	5,7	0,3	-3,5	10,5	9,3	16,9	
October	-	-1,0	12,5	1,6	9,1	3,3	19,0	
November	-	11,9	3,0	2,0	4,8	7,6	22,6	
December	-	10,8	4,3	5,2	-1,2	0,8	24,0	
Total	-	2,7	7,7	2,9	2,9	7,8	14,1	

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

Month	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
January	21 903	22 018	23 274	25 902	26 604	26 924	28 541	31 674
February	21 915	22 044	23 985	25 632	25 256	28 141	29 158	29 697
March	22 355	21 783	25 386	24 897	25 886	28 026	30 599	30 677
April	22 353	22 302	24 158	25 290	26 915	27 680	28 838	33 262
May	21 863	22 022	24 793	25 273	25 541	27 503	32 164	31 687
June	22 307	22 054	24 693	25 556	25 040	28 233	32 924	
July	22 952	22 612	24 296	25 337	25 283	29 727	32 841	
August	22 337	24 066	24 794	25 077	25 363	28 281	33 128	
September	22 609	23 943	24 097	23 377	25 914	28 378	33 135	
October	22 254	22 001	24 709	25 036	27 274	28 106	33 381	
November	21 671	24 244	24 913	25 364	26 538	28 536	34 950	
December	21 716	24 098	25 151	26 558	26 267	26 543	32 988	

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

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

Table 8.1 - Quarterly and cumulative estimates and percentage changes

Estimates	March to May 2004 R million	March to May 2005 R million	% change between March to May 2004 and March to May 2005	January to May 2004 R million	January to May 2005 R million	% change between January to May 2004 and January to May 2005
Wholesale trade sales at current prices	114 840	122 806	+6,9	182 157	195 497	+7,3
at constant 2000 prices	91 071	94 919	+4,2	144 916	151 919	+4,8

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

Seasonally adjusted estimates	April 2005 R million	May 2005 R million	% change between April and May 2005	December 2004 to February 2005 R million	March to May 2005 R million	% change between December 2004 to February 2005 and March to May 2005
Wholesale trade sales at current prices	43 016	41 320	-3,9	120 665	123 833	+2,6
at constant 2000 prices	33 262	31 687	-4,7	94 359	95 626	+1,3

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 2004 Business Sampling Frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value-added tax (VAT) and income tax. Wholesale trade sales exclude value-added tax (VAT).
- 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.
- Scope of the survey** 3 This survey covers wholesale enterprises according to the following types of dealer:
- Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis (not covered in previous survey)
 - 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** 4 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 (two digit) level. Each enterprise is classified to the industry, which reflects its predominant activity.
- Statistical unit** 5 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** 6 The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of about 800 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.
- 7 The value of sales is obtained monthly from the sample of 800 enterprises (which was drawn in September 2004 at the SIC four-digit level) from a population then of about 19 000 wholesale enterprises. The wholesale industry is divided into four size groups. All large enterprises (size group one) are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to size groups two (medium sized), three and four (small) enterprises. The total value of sales of the large enterprises (size group one) is added to the weighted totals of size groups two, three and four to reflect the total value of sales.

Weighting methodology	8	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	9	The constant prices for the 2004 series 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 current prices. From January 2005 onwards, only the total sales will be deflated and not the type of dealer.
Seasonal adjustment	10	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	11	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	12	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.
	13	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	14	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	15	Users may also wish to refer to the following publications available from Stats SA - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bulletin of Statistics</i> issued quarterly. • <i>SA Statistics</i> issued annually.
Rounding of figures	16	Where figures have been rounded-off discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.
Pre-release policy	17	Stats SA's pre-release policy may be inspected at its Website, www.statssa.gov.za .

Symbols and abbreviations	18	BSF	Business sampling frame
		GDP	Gross Domestic Product
		ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
		SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities
		SARS	South African Revenue Service
		Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
		VAT	Value-added tax
		*	Revised
-	Figures not available		

Technical note

Neyman optimal allocation

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

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

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

Neyman allocation formula not only allocates sample sizes to each stratum but also calculates the relative precision for each stratum as well as the relative precision for all strata. The relative precision for these surveys did not exceed 6.4%.

Class limits

Enterprise size	Lower limits	Upper limits
Very small	0	6 000 000
Small	6 000 001	32 000 000
Medium	32 000 001	64 000 000
Large	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 <i>System of National Accounts (SNA)</i> in the same way as in the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993 (SIC)</i> .
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.

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

A complete set of Stats SA publications is available at the Stats SA Library and the following libraries:

National Library of South Africa, Pretoria Division
National Library of South Africa, Cape Town Division
Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg
Library of Parliament, Cape Town
Bloemfontein Public Library
Johannesburg Public Library
Eastern Cape Library Services, King William's Town
Central Regional Library, Polokwane
Central Reference Library, Nelspruit
Central Reference Collection, Kimberley
Central Reference Library, Mmabatho

Stats SA also provides a subscription service.

Electronic services

A large range of data are available via on-line services, diskette and computer printouts. For more details about our electronic data services, contact (012) 310 8600/8390/8351/4892/8496/8095.

You can visit us on the internet at: www.statssa.gov.za

Enquiries

Telephone number: (012) 310 8600/8390/8351/4892/8496/8095 (user information services)
(012) 310 8930 (technical enquiries)
(012) 310 8161 (orders)
(012) 310 8490 (library)

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

Email address: Thabomak@statssa.gov.za (technical enquiries)
Info@statssa.gov.za (user information services)
distribution@statssa.gov.za (orders)

Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

Produced by Stats SA