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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 May 2008

Wholesale trade sales estimates	May 2008 (R million)	% change between May 2007 and May 2008	% change between March to May 2007 and March to May 2008	% change between January to May 2007 and January to May 2008
At current prices	83 640	+23,2	+25,7	+23,9
At constant 2000 prices	45 780	+4,3	+9,2	+8,7

Seasonally adjusted estimates	May 2008 (R million)	% change between April and May 2008	% change between December 2007 to February 2008 and March to May 2008
At current prices	83 058	-7,6	+10,5
At constant 2000 prices	45 165	-11,0	+3,2

Key findings as at the end of May 2008

Wholesale trade sales increase, but at a slower pace

Wholesale trade sales in real terms weakened to a 4,3% year-on-year growth rate in May 2008, following a large increase of 19,3% year-on-year in April 2008 that was partly a result of the additional working days in April 2008 compared with April 2007.

In the first five months of 2008, wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, increased by 8,7% compared with the same period in 2007. The annual growth rate for the corresponding period in 2007 was 8,3%.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the three months ended May 2008 increased by 3,2% compared with the previous three months.

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for the three months ended May 2008 increased by 25,7% compared with the same period in 2007. The annual growth rate for the corresponding period in 2007 was 19,5%. The 25,7% year-on-year growth in 2008 was mainly as a result of increasing fuel sales following rising fuel prices.

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for May 2008 increased by 23,2% compared with May 2007.

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

Type of wholesale dealer	Sales March to May 2007 (R million)	Weight 1/	Sales March to May 2008 (R million)	Difference in sales between March to May 2007 and March to May 2008	Percentage change between March to May 2007 and March to May 2008	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in total sales 2/
Contract or fee basis	6 528	3,4	7 321	793	12,1	0,4
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	8 413	4,4	11 380	2 967	35,3	1,6
Food, beverages and tobacco	33 697	17,4	38 622	4 925	14,6	2,5
Textiles, clothing and footwear	5 099	2,6	5 646	547	10,7	0,3
Other household goods except precious stones	22 439	11,6	25 092	2 653	11,8	1,4
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	5 396	2,8	5 684	288	5,3	0,1
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	33 949	17,6	52 867	18 918	55,7	9,8
Metals and metal ores	8 572	4,4	12 253	3 681	42,9	1,9
Construction and building materials	12 146	6,3	14 111	1 965	16,2	1,0
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	8 257	4,3	10 754	2 497	30,2	1,3
Machinery, equipment and supplies	35 673	18,5	43 629	7 956	22,3	4,1
Other goods	13 065	6,8	15 626	2 561	19,6	1,3
Total 3/	193 231	100,0	242 986	49 755	25,7	25,7

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.

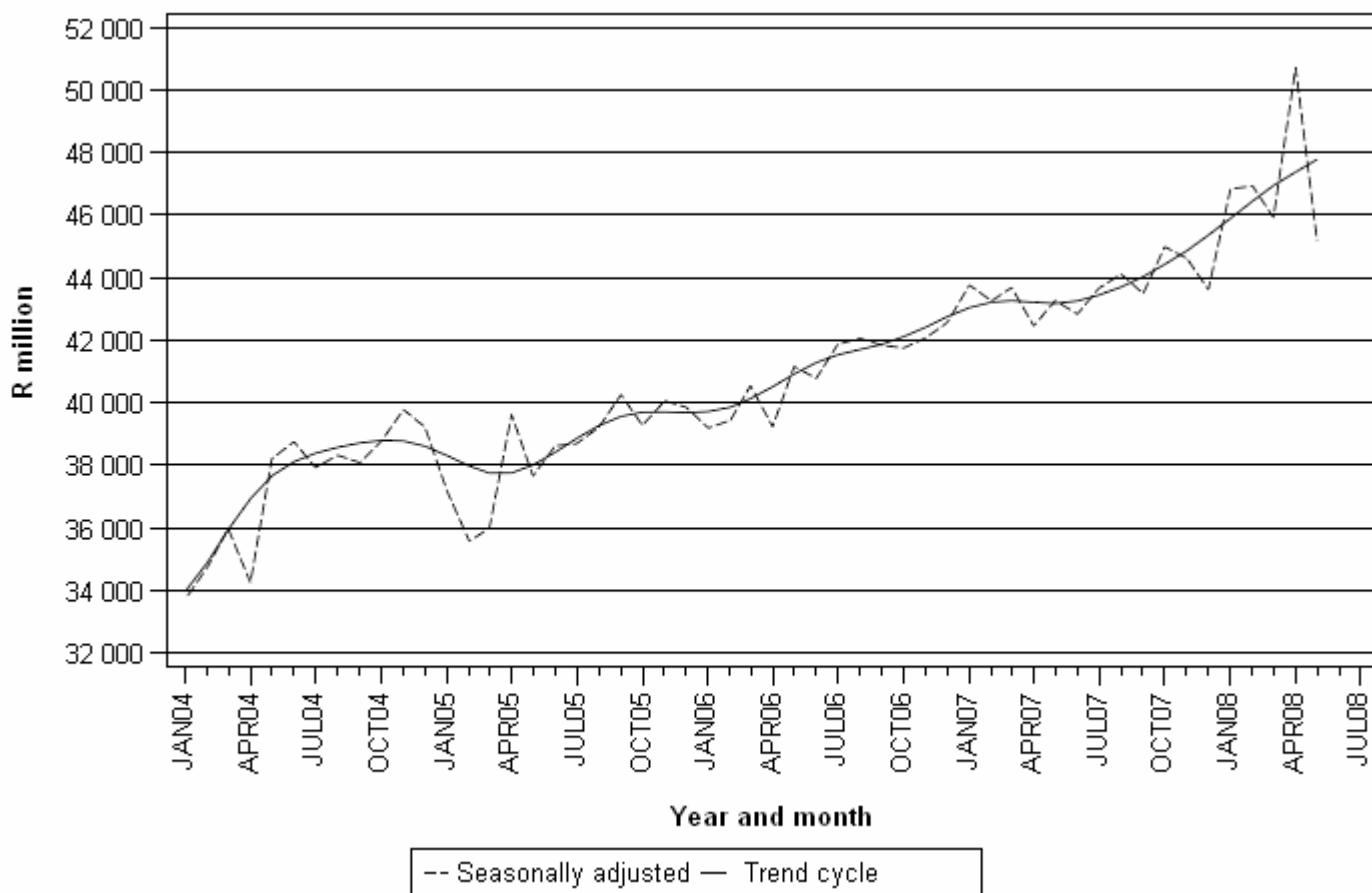
2/ The contribution to the percentage change is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of dealer with its corresponding weight.

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 25,7% increase in wholesale trade sales at current prices for the three months up to May 2008 compared with the three months up to May 2007 were dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (+9,8 percentage points), dealers in machinery, equipment and supplies (+4,1 percentage points) and dealers in food, beverages and tobacco (+2,5 percentage points).

Figure 1 below shows the seasonally adjusted and trend patterns for wholesale trade sales at constant (2000) prices between January 2004 and May 2008.

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



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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 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/	
2007	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
Total	26 464	37 516	148 031	20 548	92 889	19 323	146 028	34 215	49 016	37 304	150 944	58 934	821 214	
2008	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	2 408	3 339	13 201	1 720	7 293	1 842	16 594	3 755	4 601	3 220	15 207	4 685	77 867
	April	2 614	3 550	12 479	2 086	9 978	1 921	16 388	4 336	4 658	3 610	14 626	5 233	81 479
	May	2 299	4 491	12 942	1 840	7 821	1 921	19 885	4 162	4 852	3 924	13 796	5 708	83 640

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 ^{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 wholesale trade sales (actual values and annual percentage changes) at current prices over the period January 2001 - May 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	77 867
April	29 950	36 395	38 647	40 497	47 706	49 528	59 964	81 479
May	31 790	37 077	40 852	48 883	49 615	57 485	67 902	83 640
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	
Total	384 422	450 386	494 336	571 938	609 259	700 161	821 214	

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	19,1
April	-	21,5	6,2	4,8	17,8	3,8	21,1	35,9
May	-	16,6	10,2	19,7	1,5	15,9	18,1	23,2
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	
Total	-	17,2	9,8	15,7	6,5	14,9	17,3	

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	31 685	36 337	39 898	42 210	47 605	52 962	65 325	78 019
February	31 566	35 277	41 936	43 686	45 736	53 501	64 929	79 498
March	30 633	36 323	41 506	45 317	46 592	55 240	66 338	79 137
April	31 570	38 639	41 418	43 834	52 100	54 374	66 035	89 925
May	31 712	36 883	40 549	48 556	49 248	57 039	67 346	83 058
June	32 261	36 072	41 608	49 551	50 602	57 280	67 028	
July	31 977	36 453	43 430	48 248	51 009	59 512	68 779	
August	31 905	37 015	41 219	48 706	51 830	60 762	69 721	
September	30 044	38 119	41 351	48 562	53 510	60 786	69 086	
October	32 458	40 324	41 018	49 647	52 214	61 216	72 188	
November	33 168	38 984	40 723	51 068	53 679	62 325	72 058	
December	35 154	39 033	39 035	50 143	53 479	62 686	70 599	

Tables 5 and 6 show wholesale trade sales (actual values and annual percentage changes) at constant (2000) prices over the period January 2001 - May 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	45 643
April	28 229	29 943	30 758	32 026	36 839	36 338	39 243	46 800
May	29 738	30 279	32 866	38 612	38 122	41 716	43 893	45 780
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	
Total	355 600	366 009	394 489	449 166	462 650	493 171	524 062	

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	5,0
April	-	6,1	2,7	4,1	15,0	-1,4	8,0	19,3
May	-	1,8	8,5	17,5	-1,3	9,4	5,2	4,3
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	
Total	-	2,9	7,8	13,9	3,0	6,6	6,3	

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	30 390	31 243	31 718	33 710	37 163	39 185	43 759	46 841
February	30 136	29 776	33 337	34 738	35 563	39 434	43 253	46 926
March	29 237	30 392	32 933	35 963	35 981	40 538	43 681	45 920
April	29 701	31 652	32 682	34 241	39 615	39 229	42 454	50 731
May	29 679	30 088	32 541	38 209	37 651	41 155	43 263	45 165
June	30 003	29 420	33 179	38 745	38 615	40 775	42 830	
July	29 616	29 472	34 506	37 920	38 685	41 865	43 657	
August	29 386	29 673	32 929	38 315	39 210	42 055	44 111	
September	27 413	30 341	33 150	38 079	40 251	41 832	43 494	
October	29 305	31 931	32 925	38 766	39 269	41 747	44 985	
November	29 622	30 775	32 789	39 776	40 054	42 070	44 614	
December	31 253	30 970	31 371	39 215	39 853	42 559	43 616	

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 and cumulative estimates and percentage changes

Wholesale trade sales estimates	March to May 2007 (R million)	March to May 2008 (R million)	% change between March to May 2007 and March to May 2008	January to May 2007 (R million)	January to May 2008 (R million)	% change between January to May 2007 and January to May 2008
At current prices	193 231	242 986	+25,7	311 195	385 665	+23,9
At constant 2000 prices	126 611	138 223	+9,2	206 259	224 125	+8,7

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

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales estimates	April 2008 (R million)	May 2008 (R million)	% change between April and May 2008	December 2007 to February 2008 (R million)	March to May 2008 (R million)	% change between December 2007 to February 2008 and March to May 2008
At current prices	89 925	83 058	-7,6	228 116	252 120	+10,5
At constant 2000 prices	50 731	45 165	-11,0	137 383	141 816	+3,2

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 2007 Business Sampling Frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for 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. 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; and • Wholesale trade in other goods • General wholesale trade and other wholesale trade not elsewhere classified.
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. 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 May 2008 was 86,3%.
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 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.

- 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.

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

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.

General information

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