

Wholesale trade sales

November 2004

**Embargoed until:
10 February 2005
13:00**

Table A - Key figures as at the end of November 2004

| Actual estimates | November 2004 R million | % change between October 2004 and November 2004 | % change between November 2003 and November 2004 | % change between September to November 2003 and September to November 2004 | % change between January to November 2003 and January to November 2004 |
|--|------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Wholesale trade sales at current prices | 54 352 | +4,2 | +25,8 | +23,0 | +14,0 |
| at constant (2000) prices | 42 313 | +4,1 | +21,7 | +19,5 | +12,3 |

| Seasonally adjusted estimates | November 2004 R million | % change between October 2004 and November 2004 | % change between June to August 2004 and September to November 2004 |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Wholesale trade sales at current prices | 49 790 | +2,0 | +3,1 |
| at constant (2000) prices | 38 687 | +2,0 | +3,0 |

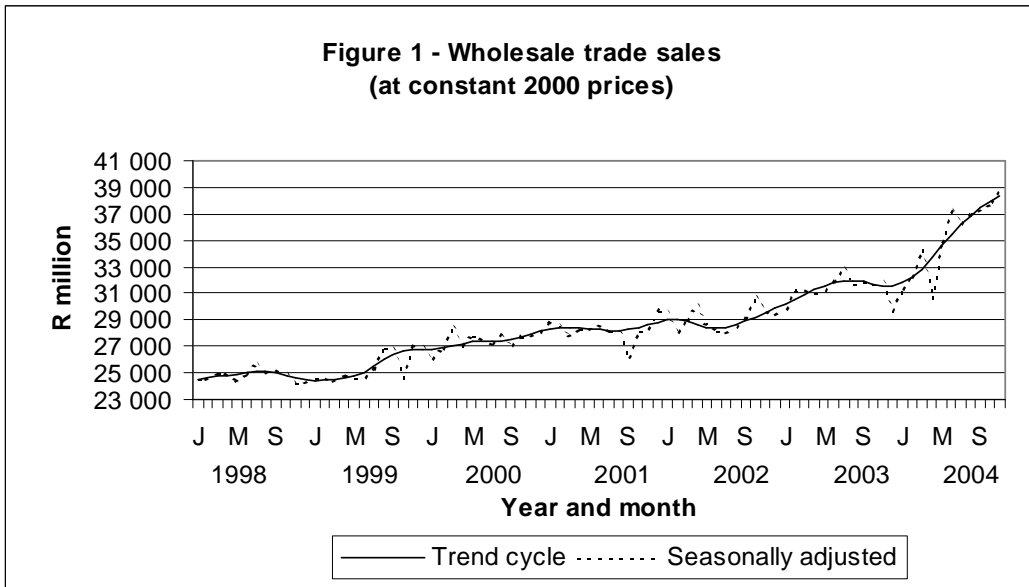
Key findings as at the end of November 2004

Wholesale trade sales increase

As indicated in table A, wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the three months up to November 2004 increased by 19,5% compared with the three months up to November 2003. Furthermore, seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the three months up to November 2004 increased by 3,0% compared with the three months up to August 2004.

Wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the first eleven months of 2004 increased by 12,3% compared with the first eleven months of 2003.

Figure 1 below shows the seasonally adjusted and trend patterns for wholesale trade sales at constant (2000) prices between January 1998 and November 2004. The trend cycle, after a brief decline towards the end of 2003, has resumed its upward movement.



P J Lehohla
Statistician-General

Contents

| | Page |
|---|-------------|
| Notes | 4 |
| Article New monthly indicator series – feasibility of seasonal adjustment | 5 |
| Detailed results | |
| Table 1 Total wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million) | 6 |
| Table 2 Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at current prices | 6 |
| Table 3 Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million) | 6 |
| Table 4 Total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million) | 7 |
| Table 5 Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices | 7 |
| Table 6 Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million)..... | 7 |
| Table 7 Estimates and percentage changes in total wholesale trade sales... .. | 8 |
| Explanatory notes | 9 |
| Glossary | 11 |
| General information | 12 |

Notes

| Forthcoming issue | Issue | Expected release date |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| | December 2004 | 2 March 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.

Article: New monthly indicator series – feasibility of seasonal adjustment

As indicated in earlier discussions, since the beginning of 2003, Stats SA has been conducting its monthly indicator surveys (manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, motor trade and land freight) using fresh samples of businesses drawn from its new business register, in parallel with the continued conduct of the surveys based on the established sample of businesses drawn from the old business address register. The parallel operation was designed to ensure that the new samples were well established, and that estimates could be constructed for an overlap period of one year between the old and new samples, to provide users with a comparability bridge of a reasonable number of observations on both the old and new bases.

The inadequacy of the old business register to accurately capture and represent the true business population across the economy is mainly due to the fact that the register could not be updated regularly or consistently across industry sectors. This has been rectified through access to information about VAT registrations from the South African Revenue Services. This source has been used to construct Stats SA's new business register.

Manufacturing was the most frequently updated sector in the old business address register, through special efforts to build up coverage for reasonably regular censuses of the sector, which in turn provided information for updating the business population for the sector, particularly for ceased businesses and changes in activity. Accordingly the industry structure of the sector was relatively well captured by the old business register, even though it under covered the number of businesses involved, mainly smaller businesses. The movements of the new manufacturing series track that of the old series very closely for 2003, and seasonal adjustment of the new series, including its backcast component, was found to be feasible using the seasonal factors from the old manufacturing series carried over to the new one.

The **wholesale** and **motor** industries remained relatively stable in structure in the old and new registers, and activities were dominated by the large enterprises, even though the old register under covered smaller enterprises. Again, the movements of the new series tracked that of the old series very closely for 2003, and seasonal adjustment of the new series using the seasonal factors from the old series, including their backcast components, produced seasonally adjusted series which were reasonably consistent with the pattern of the seasonally adjusted series from the old surveys. The addition of wholesale on a commission or fee basis in the wholesale survey and the expansion of coverage to wholesale activities in the motor trade survey, contributed to some of the differences noted in the monthly movements.

The situation for **retail trade** was found to be more complicated. It is the sector where, on the one hand, the structure changed most frequently in terms of business starts, cessations, mergers and acquisitions, so that frequent updating of the business register to reflect these changes was the most important. On the other hand, the inadequacies of the old business register were greatest in this sector, and the sample drawn from it for the monthly retail trade survey was accordingly the most deficient for capturing both the level and movements in activity. While the movements of the new series track that of the old series reasonably well over most months of 2003, the growth shown from November to December 2003 differs quite significantly between the old and new series (the old series showed a current price growth of 40,7% whilst the new series shows a growth of 30,4%). It is the view of Stats SA that the growth from the new survey is more reliable.

Retail trade is more strongly characterised by strong seasonal fluctuations than other industry sectors. The seasonal factors from the old survey were built up over many years for that survey based on the performance of that series, which in turn was influenced by the long-standing inadequacies in the old business frame and sample. When those seasonal factors were applied to the new series, including its backcast component, it was found that the resulting seasonally adjusted series did not behave plausibly.

Stats SA has concluded that there is no option for retail trade but to stop publishing a seasonally adjusted series until enough data points are available to derive seasonal adjustment factors informed by the behaviour of the new series. At least 36 data points are needed, and currently only data points from January 2003 are available. However, Stats SA will show an estimated trend line through the original series.

Detailed results

Outlined below in tables 1 and 2 are details of the behaviour of wholesale trade sales at current prices over the period January 1998 to November 2004. Table 13 gives details of the behaviour of the seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices over the same period.

Table 1 - Total wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million)

| Month | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| January | 18 919 | 19 967 | 22 609 | 27 249 | 31 060 | 33 758 | 35 338 |
| February | 20 513 | 21 750 | 25 344 | 29 336 | 32 728 | 38 617 | 39 913 |
| March | 21 432 | 22 171 | 27 583 | 29 380 | 34 810 | 39 725 | 43 208 |
| April | 20 764 | 21 759 | 25 453 | 28 536 | 34 680 | 36 825 | 36 700 |
| May | 21 080 | 22 548 | 27 349 | 30 292 | 35 327 | 38 925 | 44 364 |
| June | 21 608 | 22 687 | 27 424 | 30 826 | 34 708 | 40 213 | 47 964 |
| July | 22 240 | 23 032 | 26 537 | 29 843 | 34 166 | 40 979 | 45 947 |
| August | 22 538 | 25 286 | 28 067 | 30 411 | 35 214 | 39 333 | 46 865 |
| September | 23 433 | 25 787 | 28 086 | 29 082 | 36 947 | 40 186 | 48 090 |
| October | 23 856 | 24 820 | 30 331 | 33 307 | 41 460 | 42 320 | 52 184 |
| November | 23 505 | 27 790 | 31 247 | 34 490 | 40 913 | 43 210 | 1/ 54 352 |
| December | 21 934 | 25 872 | 29 411 | 33 539 | 37 134 | 36 932 | |
| Total | 261 822 | 283 469 | 329 441 | 366 291 | 429 147 | 471 023 | |

1/ Preliminary

Table 2 - Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at current prices ^{1/}

| Month | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|--------------|------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------|
| January | - | 5,5 | 13,2 | 20,5 | 14,0 | 8,7 | 4,7 |
| February | - | 6,0 | 16,5 | 15,8 | 11,6 | 18,0 | 3,4 |
| March | - | 3,4 | 24,4 | 6,5 | 18,5 | 14,1 | 8,8 |
| April | - | 4,8 | 17,0 | 12,1 | 21,5 | 6,2 | -0,3 |
| May | - | 7,0 | 21,3 | 10,8 | 16,6 | 10,2 | 14,0 |
| 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 | 23,3 |
| November | - | 18,2 | 12,4 | 10,4 | 18,6 | 5,6 | 25,8 |
| December | - | 18,0 | 13,7 | 14,0 | 10,7 | -0,5 | |
| Total | - | 8,3 | 16,2 | 11,2 | 17,2 | 9,8 | |

1/ The percentage change is the change in wholesale trade sales of therelevant year compared with wholesale trade sales of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

Table 3 - Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million)

| Month | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| January | 21 055 | 22 129 | 24 986 | 30 147 | 34 345 | 37 392 | 39 130 |
| February | 21 056 | 22 312 | 25 925 | 29 973 | 33 282 | 39 250 | 40 534 |
| March | 21 303 | 22 032 | 27 379 | 29 046 | 34 315 | 39 064 | 42 472 |
| April | 21 667 | 22 711 | 26 628 | 29 976 | 36 542 | 38 900 | 38 793 |
| May | 21 267 | 22 684 | 27 414 | 30 245 | 35 186 | 38 729 | 44 153 |
| June | 21 769 | 22 826 | 27 510 | 30 825 | 34 572 | 40 007 | 47 743 |
| July | 22 687 | 23 525 | 27 151 | 30 540 | 34 880 | 41 707 | 46 693 |
| August | 22 305 | 25 107 | 27 996 | 30 504 | 35 487 | 39 777 | 47 491 |
| September | 22 743 | 25 085 | 27 440 | 28 617 | 36 524 | 39 835 | 47 670 |
| October | 22 363 | 23 267 | 28 425 | 31 208 | 38 823 | 39 588 | 48 797 |
| November | 21 767 | 25 728 | 28 841 | 31 763 | 37 556 | 39 611 | 49 790 |
| December | 21 789 | 25 730 | 29 259 | 33 455 | 37 131 | 36 982 | |

Outlined below in tables 4 and 5 are details of the behaviour of wholesale trade sales at current prices over the period January 1998 to November 2004. Table 6 gives details of the behaviour of the seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices over the same period

Table 4 - Total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million)

| Month | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------|
| January | 21 999 | 22 197 | 23 526 | 26 125 | 26 741 | 26 910 | 28 350 |
| February | 23 922 | 24 060 | 26 222 | 27 993 | 27 618 | 30 721 | 31 841 |
| March | 24 964 | 24 350 | 28 421 | 27 967 | 29 118 | 31 603 | 34 497 |
| April | 23 922 | 23 858 | 25 788 | 26 895 | 28 531 | 29 307 | 29 023 |
| May | 24 174 | 24 416 | 27 611 | 28 336 | 28 850 | 31 315 | 35 042 |
| June | 24 779 | 24 526 | 27 534 | 28 636 | 28 230 | 31 927 | 37 268 |
| July | 25 130 | 24 726 | 26 497 | 27 568 | 27 498 | 32 331 | 35 743 |
| August | 25 154 | 27 015 | 27 721 | 27 887 | 28 070 | 31 155 | 36 429 |
| September | 26 052 | 27 536 | 27 630 | 26 668 | 29 475 | 32 214 | 37 644 |
| October | 26 640 | 26 362 | 29 649 | 30 115 | 32 852 | 33 938 | 40 657 |
| November | 26 218 | 29 329 | 30 220 | 30 823 | 32 317 | 34 777 | 42 313 |
| December | 24 534 | 27 176 | 28 334 | 29 813 | 29 448 | 29 688 | |
| Total | 297 488 | 305 551 | 329 153 | 338 826 | 348 748 | 375 886 | |

1/ Preliminary

Table 5 - Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices ^{1/}

| Month | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|--------------|------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------|
| January | - | 0,9 | 6,0 | 11,0 | 2,4 | 0,6 | 5,4 |
| February | - | 0,6 | 9,0 | 6,8 | -1,3 | 11,2 | 3,6 |
| March | - | -2,5 | 16,7 | -1,6 | 4,1 | 8,5 | 9,2 |
| April | - | -0,3 | 8,1 | 4,3 | 6,1 | 2,7 | -1,0 |
| May | - | 1,0 | 13,1 | 2,6 | 1,8 | 8,5 | 11,9 |
| 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 | 19,8 |
| November | - | 11,9 | 3,0 | 2,0 | 4,8 | 7,6 | 21,7 |
| December | - | 10,8 | 4,3 | 5,2 | -1,2 | 0,8 | |
| Total | - | 2,7 | 7,7 | 2,9 | 2,9 | 7,8 | |

1/ The percentage change is the change in wholesale trade sales of the relevant year compared with wholesale trade sales of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

Table 6 - Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million)

| Month | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| January | 24 482 | 24 609 | 26 003 | 28 895 | 29 535 | 29 760 | 31 338 |
| February | 24 492 | 24 617 | 26 755 | 28 515 | 28 006 | 31 131 | 32 243 |
| March | 24 957 | 24 329 | 28 365 | 27 842 | 28 914 | 31 322 | 34 158 |
| April | 24 983 | 24 927 | 27 011 | 28 290 | 30 109 | 31 008 | 30 729 |
| May | 24 435 | 24 618 | 27 734 | 28 324 | 28 736 | 31 130 | 34 838 |
| June | 24 934 | 24 652 | 27 626 | 28 665 | 28 185 | 31 845 | 37 201 |
| July | 25 659 | 25 277 | 27 105 | 28 180 | 28 015 | 32 836 | 36 239 |
| August | 24 978 | 26 910 | 27 745 | 28 080 | 28 415 | 31 668 | 37 122 |
| September | 25 295 | 26 789 | 26 980 | 26 207 | 29 081 | 31 862 | 37 232 |
| October | 24 894 | 24 628 | 27 685 | 28 118 | 30 663 | 31 653 | 37 911 |
| November | 24 234 | 27 106 | 27 843 | 28 342 | 29 610 | 31 821 | 38 687 |
| December | 24 270 | 26 921 | 28 094 | 29 661 | 29 385 | 29 670 | |

Outlined below in tables 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 are the percentage changes in wholesale trade sales at current prices, constant prices and seasonally adjusted estimates.

Table 7 – Estimates and percentage changes in total wholesale trade sales

Table 7.1 – Monthly estimates and percentage changes

| Estimates | October 2004 (R million) | November 2004 (R million) | % change between October 2004 and November 2004 | November 2003 (R million) | November 2004 (R million) | % change between November 2003 and November 2004 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Wholesale trade sales | | | | | | |
| at current prices | 52 184 | 54 352 | 4,2 | 43 210 | 54 352 | 25,8 |
| at constant (2000) prices | 40 657 | 42 313 | 4,1 | 34 777 | 42 313 | 21,7 |

Table 7.2 - Quarterly and cumulative estimates and percentage changes

| Quarterly and cumulative estimates | September to November 2003 (R million) | September to November 2004 (R million) | % change between September to November 2003 and September to November 2004 | January to November 2003 (R million) | January to November 2004 (R million) | % change between January to November 2003 and January to November 2004 |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| Wholesale trade sales | | | | | | |
| at current prices | 125 716 | 154 626 | 23,0 | 434 091 | 494 925 | 14,0 |
| at constant (2000) prices | 100 929 | 120 614 | 19,5 | 346 198 | 388 807 | 12,3 |

Table 7.3 - Seasonally adjusted estimates and monthly and quarterly percentage changes.

| Seasonally adjusted estimates | October 2004 (R million) | November 2004 (R million) | % change between October 2004 and November 2004 | June to August 2004 (R million) | September to November 2004 (R million) | % change between June to August 2004 and September to November 2004 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Wholesale trade sales | | | | | | |
| at current prices | 48 797 | 49 790 | 2,0 | 141 927 | 146 257 | 3,1 |
| at constant (2000) prices | 37 911 | 38 687 | 2,0 | 110 562 | 113 830 | 3,0 |

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 statistical release contains the results of a sample drawn from the new business register, with a significantly enhanced coverage of South African businesses. The release shows the monthly value of wholesale trade sales. 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.
 - 3 As indicated earlier, Stats SA developed a new business register, based on the VAT database obtained from the South African Revenue Service (SARS), which replaced the previous business register. All enterprises are legally bound to register for VAT when their turnover for a period of twelve months equals or exceeds R300 000. Enterprises that conform to these criteria are included on the new business register, and hence were given a chance of selection in the new sample for the survey.
- Scope of the survey**
- 4 This survey covers wholesale enterprises, i.e.
 - wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis;
 - foodstuff, beverages and tobacco;
 - livestock and farm produce;
 - textiles, clothing and footwear;
 - furniture and household requisites;
 - office and shop equipment, books and stationery;
 - diamonds, jewellery and silverware;
 - pharmaceutical and chemical products;
 - construction and building materials;
 - machinery and equipment; and
 - miscellaneous.
- Classification**
- 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**
- 6 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**
- 7 The survey is conducted by mail on a monthly basis. 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.
 - 8 The value of sales is obtained monthly from the sample of 800 enterprises (which was drawn in January 2003 at the SIC three-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), which comprise about 60 percent of the enterprises in the current sample, 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 | 9 | 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 | 10 | The constant prices for the new 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. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Seasonal adjustment | 11 | 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 | 12 | 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 | 13 | 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. Figures for the latest month are preliminary. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 14 | 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 | 15 | Revised figures are due to respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures and late submission of their data to Stats SA. Figures for the latest month are preliminary. Data are edited at the enterprise level. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Related publications | 16 | 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. These will, in due course, be revised on the basis of the backcast series. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rounding of figures | 17 | The figures in the tables have, where necessary, been rounded to the nearest digit shown. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Symbols and abbreviations | 18 | <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">GDP</td> <td>Gross Domestic Product</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ISIC</td> <td>International Standard Industrial Classification</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SIC</td> <td>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SARS</td> <td>South African Revenue Service</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stats SA</td> <td>Statistics South Africa</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VAT</td> <td>Value-added tax</td> </tr> <tr> <td>-</td> <td>Figures not available</td> </tr> </table> | 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 | - | Figures not available |
| 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| - | Figures not available | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Comparability with previously published information

- 19** The levels of wholesale trade sales based on the new sample are about 17% higher than the levels based on the old sample. The first results of the new sample were published on 2 June 2004.
- 20** The higher values of sales from the new sample can mainly be attributed to the following:
- The greater currency of the frame now being used compared to the frame drawn from the previous business register;
 - The improved coverage particularly for smaller enterprises as a result of access to VAT registrations to update the new business register; and
 - The additional scope of the new series, which also includes wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis (SIC 611).

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.

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