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Wholesale trade sales
Preliminary: November 2005

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

Estimates	November 2005 R million	% change between November 2004 and November 2005	% change between September to November 2004 and September to November 2005	% change between January to November 2004 and January to November 2005
Wholesale trade sales				
at current prices	57 505	+5,9	+7,1	+6,5
at constant 2000 prices	42 882	+1,5	+2,7	+3,2

Seasonally adjusted estimates	November 2005 R million	% change between October and November 2005	% change between June to August 2005 and September to November 2005
Wholesale trade sales			
at current prices	52 012	+4,1	+4,3
at constant 2000 prices	38 611	+3,1	+3,3

Key findings as at the end of November 2005

Wholesale trade sales increase in real terms

As indicated in table A, wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the three months ended November 2005 increased by 2,7% compared with the same period in 2004. Furthermore seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the three months ended November 2005 increased by 3,3% compared with the three months ended August 2005.

Wholesale trade sales at constant (2000) prices increased by 1,5% for the month of November 2005 compared with November 2004.
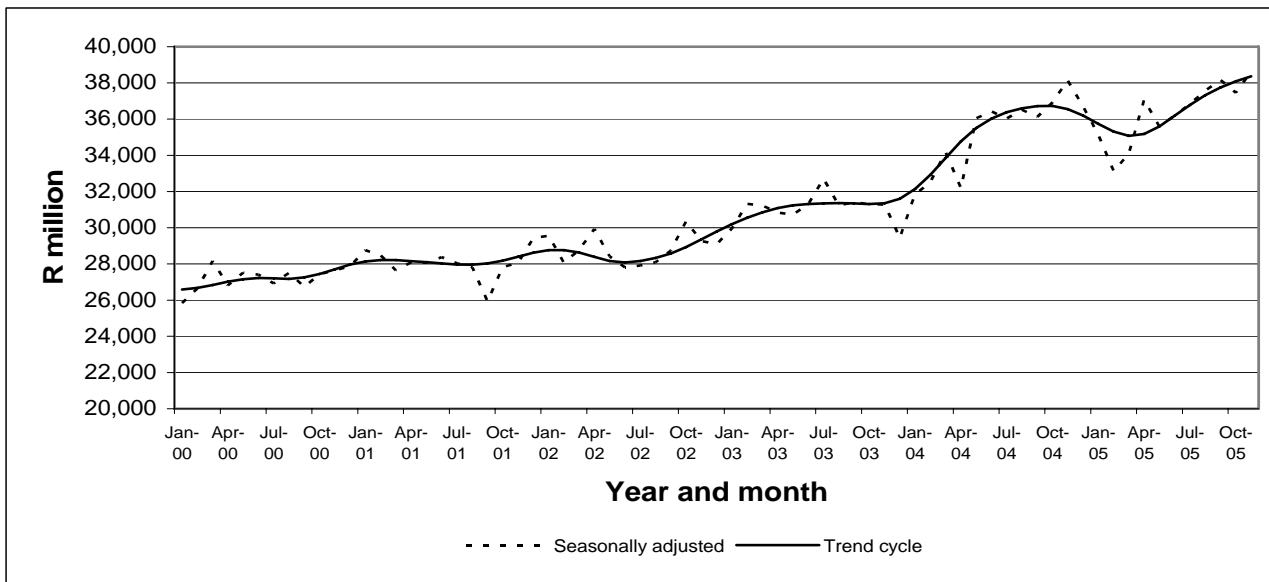
Wholesale trade sales at constant (2000) prices, for January to November 2005, increased by 3,2% compared with the same period in 2004.

Wholesale trade sales increase at current prices

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for the three months ended November 2005 increased by 7,1% compared with the same period in 2004.

Figure 1 below shows the seasonally adjusted and trend patterns for wholesale trade sales at constant (2000) prices between January 2000 and November 2005. The trend cycle showed a gradual upward trend from January 2000 until the beginning of 2004. Then it increased sharply until October 2004. It showed a slight decline at the beginning of 2005 but has assumed an upward trend since the middle of 2005.

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

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Statistician-General

Contents

Notes

Forthcoming issue	**Issue**	**Expected release date**
	December 2005	9 March 2006

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	Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D	Type E	Type F	Type G	Type H	Type I	Type J	Type K	Type L	2/ Total
January	1 005	2 510	8 087	782	3 495	1 467	6 149	1 423	2 354	1 402	6 286	4 284	39 244
February	1 176	2 445	8 358	1 080	3 597	810	6 737	1 673	2 642	1 343	7 268	3 968	41 097
March	1 252	2 016	8 642	1 181	4 169	1 783	7 367	1 610	2 705	1 484	7 242	4 432	43 883
April	1 234	2 018	9 034	1 159	4 234	1 766	7 843	1 656	2 901	1 399	7 501	4 370	45 115
May	1 618	2 000	9 350	1 068	4 380	2 039	7 952	1 809	3 044	1 492	7 704	4 489	46 945
June	1 852	2 213	9 277	993	4 436	1 837	9 488	1 729	2 977	1 716	7 695	4 403	48 622
July	2 026	2 034	9 833	1 093	4 581	972	9 322	1 796	3 266	1 543	7 345	4 711	48 529
August	1 875	2 129	8 856	1 295	4 863	1 384	10 011	1 886	3 271	1 613	7 858	4 876	49 923
September	1 677	2 106	9 381	1 417	5 117	1 986	10 066	1 899	3 307	1 786	8 399	4 722	51 870
October	1 924	2 202	10 016	1 497	5 681	2 042	10 260	1 879	3 375	1 835	8 103	4 828	53 649
November	2 382	2 795	9 905	1 548	6 591	2 106	9 661	2 129	3 745	2 007	8 785	5 844	57 505
December													

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]

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

Tables 2 and 3 show wholesale trade sales at current prices over the period January 1998 to November 2005.
Table 4 gives 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	18 777	19 818	22 440	27 046	30 828	33 506	35 074	39 244
February	20 360	21 588	25 155	29 117	32 484	38 329	39 615	41 097
March	21 272	22 006	27 377	29 161	34 550	39 429	42 886	43 883
April	20 609	21 597	25 264	28 324	34 422	36 551	38 300	45 115
May	20 923	22 380	27 145	30 066	35 064	38 634	46 230	46 946
June	21 447	22 518	27 220	30 596	34 449	39 913	47 606	48 623
July	22 074	22 860	26 339	29 621	33 911	40 674	45 604	48 530
August	22 370	25 097	27 858	30 184	34 951	39 039	46 515	49 923
September	23 259	25 594	27 877	28 865	36 672	39 886	47 056	51 870
October	23 678	24 635	30 104	33 059	41 151	42 004	50 934	53 649
November	23 330	27 583	31 014	34 233	40 608	42 887	54 290	57 505
December	21 771	25 679	29 191	33 289	36 857	36 656	46 840	
Total	**259 870**	**281 355**	**326 984**	**363 561**	**425 947**	**467 508**	**540 950**	

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	11,9
February	-	6,0	16,5	15,8	11,6	18,0	3,4	3,7
March	-	3,5	24,4	6,5	18,5	14,1	8,8	2,3
April	-	4,8	17,0	12,1	21,5	6,2	4,8	17,8
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	2,1
July	-	3,6	15,2	12,5	14,5	19,9	12,1	6,4
August	-	12,2	11,0	8,3	15,8	11,7	19,2	7,3
September	-	10,0	8,9	3,5	27,0	8,8	18,0	10,2
October	-	4,0	22,2	9,8	24,5	2,1	21,3	5,3
November	-	18,2	12,4	10,4	18,6	5,6	26,6	5,9
December	-	18,0	13,7	14,0	10,7	-0,5	27,8	
Total	**-**	**8,3**	**16,2**	**11,2**	**17,2**	**9,8**	**15,7**	

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	20 855	21 932	24 789	29 979	34 380	37 689	39 872	44 950
February	20 878	22 124	25 721	29 810	33 240	39 345	40 752	42 340
March	21 153	21 876	27 192	28 903	34 311	39 231	42 868	43 873
April	21 492	22 532	26 426	29 763	36 291	38 622	40 518	47 781
May	21 097	22 504	27 194	29 961	34 807	38 244	45 780	46 497
June	21 591	22 641	27 278	30 482	34 064	39 248	46 654	47 556
July	22 492	23 325	26 943	30 346	34 675	41 412	46 223	49 109
August	22 052	24 829	27 684	30 153	35 032	39 163	46 590	49 954
September	22 882	25 195	27 442	28 462	36 147	39 248	46 181	50 907
October	22 154	23 041	28 138	30 833	38 388	39 087	47 432	49 984
November	21 571	25 500	28 598	31 457	37 154	39 006	49 176	52 012
December	21 599	25 514	29 018	33 184	36 769	36 703	47 034	

Tables 5 and 6 show wholesale trade sales at constant prices over the period January 1998 to November 2005. Table 7 gives 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	21 834	22 032	23 351	25 930	26 541	26 709	28 138	30 828
February	23 743	23 880	26 027	27 783	27 413	30 493	31 604	32 170
March	24 778	24 169	28 209	27 759	28 900	31 367	34 240	34 164
April	23 743	23 681	25 596	26 695	28 319	29 089	30 289	34 838
May	23 995	24 234	27 406	28 125	28 635	31 082	36 517	36 071
June	24 595	24 343	27 329	28 422	28 019	31 689	36 990	36 808
July	24 942	24 542	26 299	27 363	27 293	32 090	35 476	36 338
August	24 967	26 813	27 514	27 679	27 860	30 922	36 156	37 214
September	25 857	27 330	27 424	26 470	29 255	31 973	36 835	38 898
October	26 441	26 165	29 428	29 891	32 608	33 684	39 683	40 217
November	26 023	29 111	29 994	30 592	32 076	34 517	42 266	42 882
December	24 352	26 973	28 123	29 590	29 228	29 466	36 637	
Total	**295 270**	**303 273**	**326 700**	**336 299**	**346 147**	**373 081**	**424 831**	

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

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

Month	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
January	24 309	24 438	25 833	28 755	29 558	29 955	31 835	35 109
February	24 317	24 462	26 621	28 463	28 067	31 317	32 511	33 122
March	24 790	24 159	28 164	27 642	28 775	31 221	34 168	34 087
April	24 803	24 748	26 815	28 092	29 926	30 840	32 189	37 079
May	24 259	24 435	27 517	28 060	28 414	30 711	36 045	35 580
June	24 752	24 469	27 405	28 367	27 799	31 289	36 426	36 193
July	25 468	25 089	26 924	28 032	27 908	32 707	36 026	36 845
August	24 772	26 688	27 497	27 800	28 090	31 232	36 511	37 568
September	25 087	26 562	26 727	25 933	28 738	31 411	36 118	38 159
October	24 699	24 426	27 437	27 811	30 354	31 302	36 918	37 443
November	24 051	26 902	27 633	28 064	29 264	31 283	38 130	38 611
December	24 082	26 714	27 871	29 421	29 085	29 431	36 692	

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 – Estimates and percentage changes in total wholesale trade sales

Table 8.1 - Quarterly and cumulative estimates and percentage changes

Estimates	September to November 2004 R million	September to November 2005 R million	% change between September to November 2004 and September to November 2005	January to November 2004 R million	January to November 2005 R million	% change between January to November 2004 and January to November 2005
Wholesale trade sales						
at current prices	152 280	163 024	+7,1	494 110	526 385	+6,5
at constant 2000 prices	118 784	121 997	+2,7	388 194	400 428	+3,2

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

Seasonally adjusted estimates	October 2005 R million	November 2005 R million	% change between October and November 2005	June to August 2005 R million	September to November 2005 R million	% change between June to August 2005 and September to November 2005
Wholesale trade sales						
at current prices	49 984	52 012	+4,1	146 619	152 903	+4,3
at constant 2000 prices	37 443	38 611	+3,1	110 606	114 213	+3,3

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 2005 Business Sampling Frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value-added tax (VAT) and income tax.

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.

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
  - 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 (four 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 August 2005 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 2005 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 - • *Bulletin of Statistics* issued quarterly. • *SA Statistics* 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	**18**	BSF	Business sampling frame
abbreviations		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	**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 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.

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