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# Statistical release

## P6141.2

# Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

November 2012

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**Results for November 2012**

**Table A – Key figures for wholesale trade sales**

| Actual wholesale trade sales estimates | November 2012 (R million) | % change between November 2011 and November 2012 | % change between September to November 2011 and September to November 2012 | % change between January to November 2011 and January to November 2012 |
|--|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| At current prices                      | 128 625                   | 11,4   | 9,7  | 13,4   |
| At constant 2000 prices                | 59 863                    | 6,7  | 5,5  | 8,1  |

| Seasonally adjusted estimates | November 2012 (R million) | % change between October and November 2012 | % change between June to August 2012 and September to November 2012 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| At current prices             | 116 145                   | -0,1                                       | 4,0   |
| At constant 2000 prices       | 53 947                    | -0,6                                       | 1,1   |

**Wholesale trade sales in real terms**

Measured in real terms (constant 2000 prices), seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales decreased by 0,6% in November 2012 compared with October 2012. This followed month-on-month changes of 7,3% in October 2012 and -5,6% in September 2012.

Wholesale trade sales in real terms increased by 6,7% year-on-year in November 2012.

**Wholesale trade sales in nominal terms**

Measured in nominal terms (current prices), wholesale trade sales increased by 9,7% in the three months ended November 2012 compared with the three months ended November 2011. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (16,5% and contributing 3,6 percentage points);
- food, beverages and tobacco (13,1% and contributing 1,9 percentage points); and
- agricultural raw materials and livestock (21,0% and contributing 1,2 percentage points) – see Table B on page 3.

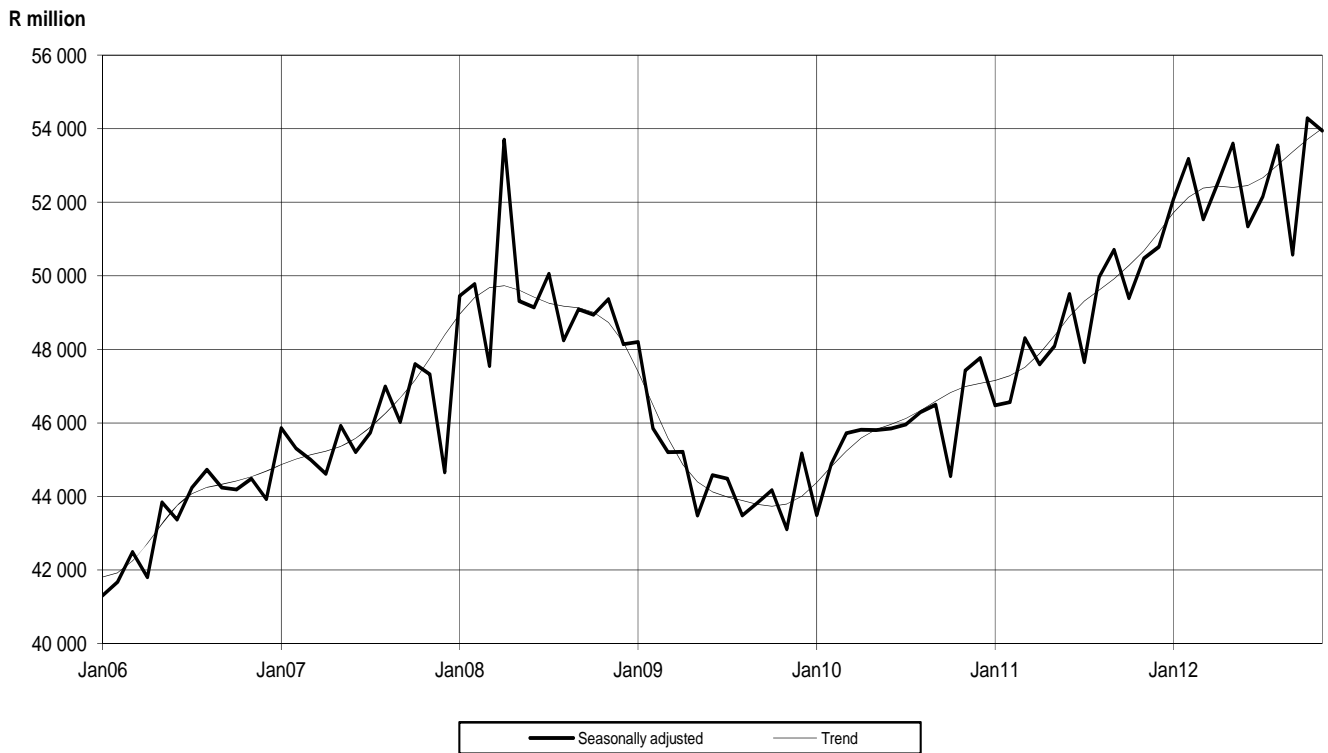
Wholesale trade sales in nominal terms increased by 11,4% year-on-year in November 2012.

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

| Type of wholesale dealer                             | Sales September to November 2011 (R million) | Weight 1/    | Sales September to November 2012 (R million) | Difference in sales between September to November 2011 and September to November 2012 (R million) | % change between September to November 2011 and September to November 2012 | Contribution (% points) to the % change in total sales 2/ |
|--|--|--------------|--|---|--|---|
| Fee or contract basis                                | 17 841                                       | 5,4          | 17 968                                       | 127   | 0,7  | 0,0   |
| Agricultural raw materials and livestock             | 19 184                                       | 5,8          | 23 215                                       | 4 031   | 21,0   | 1,2   |
| Food, beverages and tobacco                          | 48 029                                       | 14,6         | 54 309                                       | 6 280   | 13,1   | 1,9   |
| Textiles, clothing and footwear                      | 8 854  | 2,7          | 9 903  | 1 049   | 11,8   | 0,3   |
| Other household goods except precious stones         | 37 722                                       | 11,4         | 41 006                                       | 3 284   | 8,7  | 1,0   |
| Precious stones, jewellery and silverware            | 2 958  | 0,9          | 4 663  | 1 705   | 57,6   | 0,5   |
| Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products | 72 825                                       | 22,1         | 84 864                                       | 12 039  | 16,5   | 3,6   |
| Metals and metal ores                                | 11 953                                       | 3,6          | 11 609                                       | -344  | -2,9   | -0,1  |
| Construction and building materials                  | 17 363                                       | 5,3          | 18 475                                       | 1 112   | 6,4  | 0,3   |
| Other intermediate products, waste and scrap         | 14 914                                       | 4,5          | 14 881                                       | -33   | -0,2   | 0,0   |
| Machinery, equipment and supplies                    | 45 588                                       | 13,8         | 45 575                                       | -13   | 0,0  | 0,0   |
| Other goods  | 32 754                                       | 9,9          | 35 571                                       | 2 817   | 8,6  | 0,9   |
| <b>Total 3/</b>                                      | <b>329 985</b>                               | <b>100,0</b> | <b>362 039</b>                               | <b>32 054</b>   | <b>9,7</b>   | <b>9,7</b>  |

1/ Weight is the percentage contribution of each type of dealer to the total wholesale trade sales for the three months up to the current month of the previous year.  
 2/ The contribution to the percentage change is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of dealer with its corresponding weight, divided by 100.  
 3/ The figures have been rounded off. Therefore discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and the totals.

**Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices**



**Please note:**

The statistical release for wholesale trade sales (P6141.2) for December 2012 will be published using a revised layout. The release will include an annexure showing the changes in layout.

In particular, note that total sales in constant prices will be provided in Tables 1 – 3 (previously Tables 5 – 7).

The release for November 2012 in the new format is available on request.

Requests and enquiries regarding the new layout:

Peter Perkins

Phone: 012 310 8389

Cell: 082 883 9532

E-mail: [peterp@statssa.gov.za](mailto:peterp@statssa.gov.za)

**PJ Lehohla  
Statistician-General**

## Tables

Table 1 – Wholesale trade sales according to 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/         |         |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|---------|
| <b>2011</b>       | January       | 4 419         | 4 082          | 13 468        | 1 814          | 7 997         | 413            | 17 838        | 2 654         | 3 724         | 3 594          | 9 809          | 8 157            | 77 968  |
|                   | February      | 4 915         | 4 387          | 14 010        | 2 168          | 9 217         | 695            | 18 556        | 3 174         | 4 532         | 4 069          | 11 590         | 8 734            | 86 046  |
|                   | March         | 5 626         | 4 819          | 14 926        | 2 721          | 10 234        | 1 394          | 21 166        | 3 637         | 5 075         | 3 854          | 13 940         | 9 762            | 97 154  |
|                   | April         | 5 470         | 4 172          | 13 611        | 2 371          | 9 776         | 866            | 20 339        | 2 881         | 4 258         | 2 903          | 11 447         | 9 090            | 87 184  |
|                   | May           | 6 175         | 5 297          | 14 621        | 2 312          | 10 377        | 1 433          | 19 734        | 3 526         | 4 654         | 3 555          | 12 133         | 9 750            | 93 566  |
|                   | June          | 5 233         | 5 397          | 14 379        | 2 051          | 11 275        | 1 682          | 21 875        | 3 496         | 4 994         | 3 841          | 14 000         | 9 407            | 97 631  |
|                   | July          | 5 954         | 5 861          | 14 357        | 2 341          | 10 681        | 1 136          | 22 538        | 2 899         | 4 716         | 3 347          | 11 587         | 9 415            | 94 831  |
|                   | August        | 5 914         | 6 057          | 16 382        | 2 534          | 10 979        | 1 222          | 22 361        | 3 812         | 5 192         | 3 928          | 14 035         | 9 878            | 102 293 |
|                   | September     | 6 256         | 6 409          | 15 686        | 2 534          | 11 708        | 977            | 22 963        | 3 976         | 5 656         | 4 847          | 15 998         | 9 556            | 106 566 |
|                   | October       | 6 012         | 6 136          | 15 543        | 3 109          | 12 584        | 961            | 23 554        | 3 924         | 5 477         | 5 003          | 14 897         | 10 789           | 107 989 |
|                   | November      | 5 573         | 6 639          | 16 800        | 3 211          | 13 430        | 1 020          | 26 308        | 4 053         | 6 230         | 5 064          | 14 693         | 12 409           | 115 430 |
|                   | December      | 6 462         | 6 243          | 18 990        | 2 271          | 10 769        | 1 559          | 24 885        | 2 294         | 4 378         | 4 001          | 13 776         | 12 015           | 107 644 |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>68 009</b> | <b>65 499</b> | <b>182 773</b> | <b>29 437</b> | <b>129 027</b> | <b>13 358</b> | <b>262 117</b> | <b>40 326</b> | <b>58 886</b> | <b>48 006</b> | <b>157 905</b> | <b>118 962</b> | <b>1 174 302</b> |         |
| <b>2012</b>       | January       | 5 217         | 5 213          | 14 524        | 2 166          | 9 756         | 788            | 22 209        | 2 931         | 4 180         | 4 376          | 11 287         | 11 056           | 93 702  |
|                   | February      | 5 270         | 5 510          | 14 746        | 2 363          | 10 952        | 1 134          | 27 215        | 3 788         | 5 036         | 4 488          | 14 467         | 10 057           | 105 026 |
|                   | March         | 6 079         | 5 150          | 16 599        | 2 669          | 12 441        | 974            | 25 338        | 3 728         | 5 588         | 4 227          | 16 595         | 10 298           | 109 686 |
|                   | April         | 5 619         | 4 865          | 15 029        | 2 462          | 11 132        | 1 148          | 26 096        | 3 173         | 4 730         | 3 535          | 13 738         | 9 928            | 101 455 |
|                   | May           | 5 790         | 5 612          | 17 527        | 2 495          | 12 019        | 1 169          | 26 291        | 3 772         | 5 680         | 4 214          | 14 558         | 10 945           | 110 073 |
|                   | June          | 5 319         | 6 603          | 15 356        | 2 102          | 12 363        | 1 135          | 25 199        | 3 620         | 5 299         | 3 998          | 14 406         | 10 750           | 106 150 |
|                   | July          | 5 572         | 7 305          | 15 134        | 2 464          | 11 525        | 885            | 25 961        | 3 608         | 5 478         | 3 894          | 14 837         | 10 855           | 107 517 |
|                   | August        | 5 601         | 7 780          | 17 530        | 2 763          | 12 699        | 833            | 25 398        | 3 584         | 5 786         | 4 552          | 15 216         | 12 116           | 113 859 |
|                   | September     | 5 565         | 7 775          | 16 440        | 2 865          | 11 940        | 1 362          | 25 715        | 3 594         | 5 400         | 4 436          | 13 716         | 10 948           | 109 756 |
|                   | October       | 5 851         | 7 142          | 18 017        | 3 394          | 14 332        | 1 530          | 29 771        | 3 970         | 6 189         | 5 160          | 15 980         | 12 322           | 123 658 |
|                   | November      | 6 552         | 8 298          | 19 852        | 3 644          | 14 734        | 1 771          | 29 378        | 4 045         | 6 886         | 5 285          | 15 879         | 12 301           | 128 625 |

1/ Figures are preliminary.

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

Description of type of dealer included in a specific group type as indicated in Table 1<sup>1/</sup>

|                   |  |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| <b>Group type</b> | <b>Type of dealers included in group type</b>                          | <b>Group type</b> | <b>Type of dealers included in group type</b>                                  |
| <b>Type A</b>     | <b>Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis</b>                      | <b>Type G</b>     | <b>Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products</b> |
| <b>Type B</b>     | <b>Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock</b>     | <b>Type H</b>     | <b>Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores</b>                                |
| <b>Type C</b>     | <b>Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco</b>                  | <b>Type I</b>     | <b>Wholesale trade in construction and building materials</b>                  |
| <b>Type D</b>     | <b>Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear</b>              | <b>Type J</b>     | <b>Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap</b>         |
| <b>Type E</b>     | <b>Wholesale trade in other household goods except precious stones</b> | <b>Type K</b>     | <b>Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies</b>                    |
| <b>Type F</b>     | <b>Wholesale trade in precious stones, jewellery and silverware</b>    | <b>Type L</b>     | <b>Wholesale trade in other goods</b>  |

1/ See note 4 on page 9 for more detailed specifications.

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

| Month        | 2005           | 2006           | 2007           | 2008             | 2009           | 2010             | 2011 <sup>1/</sup> | 2012 <sup>1/</sup> |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| January      | 44 506         | 49 404         | 61 041         | 72 982           | 76 883         | 70 387           | 77 968             | 93 702             |
| February     | 46 587         | 54 178         | 65 472         | 80 035           | 78 293         | 78 555           | 86 046             | 105 026            |
| March        | 49 750         | 58 638         | 70 100         | 83 509           | 82 893         | 86 462           | 97 154             | 109 686            |
| April        | 51 162         | 53 117         | 64 309         | 87 299           | 75 203         | 79 638           | 87 184             | 101 455            |
| May          | 53 211         | 61 649         | 72 823         | 90 717           | 76 261         | 84 446           | 93 566             | 110 073            |
| June         | 55 173         | 62 387         | 72 931         | 92 148           | 78 396         | 86 151           | 97 631             | 106 150            |
| July         | 55 018         | 64 426         | 74 540         | 95 617           | 79 160         | 86 119           | 94 831             | 107 517            |
| August       | 56 674         | 66 906         | 77 060         | 92 773           | 77 847         | 87 981           | 102 293            | 113 859            |
| September    | 58 868         | 66 930         | 76 166         | 93 866           | 79 148         | 89 383           | 106 566            | 109 756            |
| October      | 60 842         | 71 299         | 84 092         | 98 229           | 84 156         | 89 210           | 107 989            | 123 658            |
| November     | 65 200         | 75 943         | 87 938         | 101 994          | 86 484         | 99 690           | 115 430            | 128 625            |
| December     | 56 415         | 66 013         | 74 247         | 88 822           | 83 685         | 92 928           | 107 644            |                    |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>653 406</b> | <b>750 890</b> | <b>880 719</b> | <b>1 077 991</b> | <b>958 409</b> | <b>1 030 950</b> | <b>1 174 302</b>   |                    |

1/ Preliminary.

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

| Month        | 2005       | 2006        | 2007        | 2008        | 2009         | 2010       | 2011        | 2012 |
|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|------|
| January      | 11,9       | 11,0        | 23,6        | 19,6        | 5,3          | -8,4       | 10,8        | 20,2 |
| February     | 3,7        | 16,3        | 20,8        | 22,2        | -2,2         | 0,3        | 9,5         | 22,1 |
| March        | 2,3        | 17,9        | 19,5        | 19,1        | -0,7         | 4,3        | 12,4        | 12,9 |
| April        | 17,8       | 3,8         | 21,1        | 35,7        | -13,9        | 5,9        | 9,5         | 16,4 |
| May          | 1,5        | 15,9        | 18,1        | 24,6        | -15,9        | 10,7       | 10,8        | 17,6 |
| June         | 2,2        | 13,1        | 16,9        | 26,3        | -14,9        | 9,9        | 13,3        | 8,7  |
| July         | 6,4        | 17,1        | 15,7        | 28,3        | -17,2        | 8,8        | 10,1        | 13,4 |
| August       | 7,4        | 18,1        | 15,2        | 20,4        | -16,1        | 13,0       | 16,3        | 11,3 |
| September    | 10,3       | 13,7        | 13,8        | 23,2        | -15,7        | 12,9       | 19,2        | 3,0  |
| October      | 5,3        | 17,2        | 17,9        | 16,8        | -14,3        | 6,0        | 21,1        | 14,5 |
| November     | 5,9        | 16,5        | 15,8        | 16,0        | -15,2        | 15,3       | 15,8        | 11,4 |
| December     | 6,2        | 17,0        | 12,5        | 19,6        | -5,8         | 11,0       | 15,8        |      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>6,5</b> | <b>14,9</b> | <b>17,3</b> | <b>22,4</b> | <b>-11,1</b> | <b>7,6</b> | <b>13,9</b> |      |

1/ The percentage change is the difference between wholesale trade of the relevant month of the current year and the corresponding month of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

**Table 4 – Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million)**

| Month     | 2005   | 2006   | 2007   | 2008   | 2009   | 2010   | 2011    | 2012    |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| January   | 51 145 | 56 873 | 70 086 | 83 519 | 87 830 | 80 380 | 89 221  | 107 350 |
| February  | 49 086 | 57 486 | 69 800 | 85 361 | 83 343 | 83 437 | 91 291  | 111 306 |
| March     | 49 755 | 58 726 | 70 025 | 82 923 | 81 765 | 84 795 | 95 001  | 107 060 |
| April     | 55 040 | 57 266 | 69 287 | 93 928 | 80 712 | 85 260 | 93 183  | 108 419 |
| May       | 52 864 | 61 387 | 72 715 | 91 068 | 76 828 | 85 373 | 94 695  | 111 422 |
| June      | 54 390 | 61 635 | 72 349 | 91 695 | 78 231 | 86 087 | 97 756  | 106 357 |
| July      | 54 718 | 63 677 | 73 443 | 94 178 | 78 256 | 85 559 | 94 702  | 107 754 |
| August    | 55 818 | 65 656 | 75 612 | 91 224 | 76 740 | 86 794 | 100 805 | 112 053 |
| September | 57 603 | 65 513 | 74 677 | 92 028 | 77 565 | 87 291 | 103 857 | 106 876 |
| October   | 56 279 | 66 063 | 78 062 | 91 453 | 78 649 | 83 581 | 101 388 | 116 264 |
| November  | 57 823 | 67 362 | 78 213 | 91 236 | 77 698 | 89 796 | 104 121 | 116 145 |
| December  | 57 179 | 66 717 | 74 606 | 88 493 | 82 614 | 91 200 | 105 272 |         |

**Table 5 – Total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million)**

| Month        | 2005           | 2006           | 2007           | 2008           | 2009           | 2010           | 2011 <sup>1/</sup> | 2012 <sup>1/</sup> |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| January      | 34 335         | 36 241         | 40 378         | 43 677         | 42 530         | 38 276         | 40 683             | 45 439             |
| February     | 35 809         | 39 720         | 43 045         | 47 214         | 43 507         | 42 593         | 44 189             | 50 468             |
| March        | 38 033         | 42 735         | 45 373         | 48 168         | 46 013         | 46 682         | 49 385             | 52 767             |
| April        | 38 813         | 38 371         | 40 977         | 49 438         | 41 807         | 42 522         | 44 271             | 48 907             |
| May          | 40 177         | 43 940         | 45 787         | 48 814         | 42 894         | 45 079         | 47 379             | 52 877             |
| June         | 41 601         | 43 828         | 45 413         | 49 183         | 44 479         | 45 716         | 49 282             | 51 082             |
| July         | 41 086         | 44 564         | 46 134         | 50 451         | 44 648         | 45 905         | 47 382             | 51 684             |
| August       | 42 188         | 45 270         | 47 500         | 48 710         | 43 836         | 46 752         | 50 574             | 54 329             |
| September    | 43 510         | 45 036         | 46 840         | 50 055         | 44 760         | 47 693         | 52 143             | 52 044             |
| October      | 44 862         | 47 493         | 51 136         | 52 505         | 47 263         | 47 590         | 52 670             | 57 786             |
| November     | 47 829         | 50 167         | 53 276         | 55 299         | 48 128         | 52 806         | 56 096             | 59 863             |
| December     | 41 355         | 43 727         | 44 846         | 48 783         | 46 194         | 49 074         | 52 344             |                    |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>489 598</b> | <b>521 092</b> | <b>550 705</b> | <b>592 297</b> | <b>536 059</b> | <b>550 688</b> | <b>586 398</b>     |                    |

1/ Preliminary.

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

| Month        | 2005       | 2006       | 2007       | 2008       | 2009        | 2010       | 2011       | 2012 |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------|
| January      | 8,9        | 5,6        | 11,4       | 8,2        | -2,6        | -10,0      | 6,3        | 11,7 |
| February     | 1,2        | 10,9       | 8,4        | 9,7        | -7,9        | -2,1       | 3,7        | 14,2 |
| March        | -0,7       | 12,4       | 6,2        | 6,2        | -4,5        | 1,5        | 5,8        | 6,8  |
| April        | 14,5       | -1,1       | 6,8        | 20,6       | -15,4       | 1,7        | 4,1        | 10,5 |
| May          | -1,5       | 9,4        | 4,2        | 6,6        | -12,1       | 5,1        | 5,1        | 11,6 |
| June         | -0,8       | 5,4        | 3,6        | 8,3        | -9,6        | 2,8        | 7,8        | 3,7  |
| July         | 2,0        | 8,5        | 3,5        | 9,4        | -11,5       | 2,8        | 3,2        | 9,1  |
| August       | 3,1        | 7,3        | 4,9        | 2,5        | -10,0       | 6,7        | 8,2        | 7,4  |
| September    | 6,0        | 3,5        | 4,0        | 6,9        | -10,6       | 6,6        | 9,3        | -0,2 |
| October      | 1,6        | 5,9        | 7,7        | 2,7        | -10,0       | 0,7        | 10,7       | 9,7  |
| November     | 1,7        | 4,9        | 6,2        | 3,8        | -13,0       | 9,7        | 6,2        | 6,7  |
| December     | 1,4        | 5,7        | 2,6        | 8,8        | -5,3        | 6,2        | 6,7        |      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>2,8</b> | <b>6,4</b> | <b>5,7</b> | <b>7,6</b> | <b>-9,5</b> | <b>2,7</b> | <b>6,5</b> |      |

1/ The percentage change is the difference between wholesale trade of the relevant month of the current year and the corresponding month of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

**Table 7 – Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million)**

| Month     | 2005   | 2006   | 2007   | 2008   | 2009   | 2010   | 2011   | 2012   |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| January   | 39 176 | 41 306 | 45 853 | 49 455 | 48 198 | 43 487 | 46 477 | 52 080 |
| February  | 37 427 | 41 666 | 45 309 | 49 775 | 45 846 | 44 887 | 46 558 | 53 179 |
| March     | 37 791 | 42 485 | 44 991 | 47 545 | 45 206 | 45 718 | 48 301 | 51 533 |
| April     | 42 137 | 41 800 | 44 610 | 53 701 | 45 213 | 45 816 | 47 591 | 52 554 |
| May       | 39 890 | 43 836 | 45 918 | 49 317 | 43 483 | 45 807 | 48 085 | 53 593 |
| June      | 40 991 | 43 363 | 45 201 | 49 140 | 44 580 | 45 846 | 49 509 | 51 342 |
| July      | 40 943 | 44 236 | 45 734 | 50 054 | 44 478 | 45 954 | 47 654 | 52 154 |
| August    | 41 756 | 44 721 | 46 993 | 48 246 | 43 477 | 46 294 | 49 957 | 53 547 |
| September | 42 750 | 44 238 | 46 019 | 49 085 | 43 822 | 46 489 | 50 704 | 50 572 |
| October   | 41 686 | 44 189 | 47 594 | 48 938 | 44 169 | 44 548 | 49 394 | 54 281 |
| November  | 42 448 | 44 485 | 47 316 | 49 367 | 43 105 | 47 428 | 50 470 | 53 947 |
| December  | 41 804 | 43 925 | 44 657 | 48 138 | 45 171 | 47 761 | 50 788 |        |



**Table 8 – Three-monthly and annual cumulative estimates and percentage changes**

| Actual wholesale trade sales estimates | September to November 2011 (R million) | September to November 2012 (R million) | % change between September to November 2011 and September to November 2012 | January to November 2011 (R million) | January to November 2012 (R million) | % change between January to November 2011 and January to November 2012 |
|--|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>At current prices</b>               | 329 985                                | 362 039                                | 9,7  | 1 066 658                            | 1 209 507                            | 13,4   |
| <b>At constant 2000 prices</b>         | 160 909                                | 169 693                                | 5,5  | 534 054                              | 577 246                              | 8,1  |

**Table 9 – Seasonally adjusted monthly and three-monthly estimates and percentage changes**

| Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales estimates | October 2012 (R million) | November 2012 (R million) | % change between October and November 2012 | June to August 2012 (R million) | September to November 2012 (R million) | % change between June to August 2012 and September to November 2012 |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>At current prices</b>                            | 116 264                  | 116 145                   | -0,1                                       | 326 164                         | 339 285                                | 4,0   |
| <b>At constant 2000 prices</b>                      | 54 281                   | 53 947                    | -0,6                                       | 157 043                         | 158 800                                | 1,1   |

**Explanatory notes**

|                                      |          |   |
|--------------------------------------|----------|---|
| <b>Introduction</b>                  | <b>1</b> | <p>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 2012 business sampling frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value added tax (VAT).</p> <p>As is usual, information for the latest month had to be estimated for respondents who have not reported by the cut-off date for production of results. These estimates will be revised in future statistical releases when their reported information becomes available. Published wholesale trade sales estimates exclude VAT.</p>   |
| <b>Purpose of the survey</b>         | <b>3</b> | <p>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.</p>   |
| <b>Scope of the survey</b>           | <b>4</b> | <p>This survey covers wholesale enterprises according to the following types of dealer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in other household goods except precious stones. This group includes 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;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in precious stones, jewellery and silverware;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies; and</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in other goods. This group covers general wholesale trade and other wholesale trade not classified elsewhere.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Classification</b>                | <b>5</b> | <p>The 1993 edition of the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)</i>, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC)</i> with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Each enterprise is classified to the industry which reflects its predominant activity. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC group (four digit) level.</p>  |
| <b>Collection rate</b>               | <b>6</b> | <p>The preliminary collection rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for November 2012 was 67,2%, accounting for 69,6% of the total estimate. The improved collection rate for October 2012 was 82,1%.</p>  |
| <b>Statistical unit</b>              | <b>7</b> | <p>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.</p>   |
| <b>Survey methodology and design</b> | <b>8</b> | <p>The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of about 1 000 enterprises from a population of about 19 600 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.</p>  |

- 9 The value of sales is obtained monthly from the sample of about 1 000 enterprises (which was drawn in April 2012 at the SIC four-digit level) from a population of about 19 600 wholesale enterprises. The wholesale industry is divided into four size groups. All large enterprises (size group one) are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to the remaining size groups (medium, small and very small size enterprises). The total value of sales of the large enterprises (size group one) is added to the weighted totals of size groups two, three and four to reflect the total value of sales.
- Weighting methodology** 10 For those strata not completely enumerated, the weights to produce estimates are the inverse ratio of the sampling fraction, modified to take account of non-response in the survey. Stratum estimates are calculated and then aggregated with the completely enumerated stratum to form group estimates. These procedures, which are in line with international best practice, are described in more detail on the Stats SA website at <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/publicationsearch.asp>.
- Constant prices** 11 Stats SA compiles its monthly estimates of wholesale trade sales at current prices from a survey of wholesalers in the formal sector. To arrive at estimates of wholesale trade sales at constant prices, sales at current prices are deflated using the “all groups” producer price index (PPI) excluding ‘Electricity, gas, steam and water’.
- Seasonal adjustment** 12 Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month, using the X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the US Bureau of the Census, 1968. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences, which may be present in any particular month. Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variations. Therefore the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour.
- Trend cycle** 13 The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimates of the underlying trend cycle.
- Reliability of estimates** 14 Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all enterprises in the wholesale industry in South Africa. Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.
- 15 Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in the collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by careful design of questionnaires, testing them in pilot studies, editing reported data and implementing efficient operating procedures. Fluctuations may occur in consecutive months as a result of seasonal and economic factors.
- Revised figures** 16 Revised figures are due to respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures and late submission of their data to Stats SA. Preliminary figures are indicated in the relevant tables. Data are edited at the enterprise level.
- Related publications** 17 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications available from Stats SA:
- *Bulletin of Statistics* issued quarterly; and
  - *SA Statistics* issued annually.
- Rounding-off of figures** 18 Where figures have been rounded off discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.

**Symbols and abbreviations**

|           |          |   |
|-----------|----------|---|
| <b>19</b> | BSF      | Business sampling frame                                       |
|           | GDP      | Gross domestic product  |
|           | ISIC     | International Standard Industrial Classification              |
|           | SIC      | Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities |
|           | SARS     | South African Revenue Service                                 |
|           | Stats SA | Statistics South Africa                                       |
|           | VAT      | Value added tax   |
|           | *        | Revised   |
|           | -        | Figures not available   |

**Technical note**

**Neyman optimal allocation**

A stratified random sample was drawn from the population of enterprises on Stats SA’s business sampling frame (BSF). Strata were formed using a combination of Standard Industrial Classification and the measure of size classes for enterprises. The Neyman optimal allocation formula given below was used to allocate samples to each stratum.

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

$N_h$  and  $S_h$  are the stratum population size and the stratum variance respectively.

Neyman allocation formula not only allocates sample sizes to each stratum but also calculates the relative precision for each stratum as well as the relative precision for all strata. The relative precision for these strata did not exceed 5,6%.

**Class limits (Rand)**

| Enterprise size | Size group | Lower limits | Upper limits |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Very small      | 4          | 0            | 24 000 000   |
| Small           | 3          | 24 000 001   | 128 000 000  |
| Medium          | 2          | 128 000 001  | 256 000 000  |
| Large           | 1          | 256 000 001  |              |

**Glossary**

- Enterprise**            The enterprise is a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.
  
- Industry**             An industry is made up of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the *System of National Accounts (SNA)* in the same way as in the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993 (SIC)*.
  
- Statistical unit**     A statistical unit is a unit about which statistics are tabulated, compiled or published. The statistical units are derived from and linked to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) administrative data.
  
- Wholesale trade**    Wholesale trade includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to other wholesalers, retailers, agricultural, industrial, commercial, institutional and professional users either directly or through agents on a fee or contract basis.
  
- Wholesaler**         A wholesaler is an enterprise deriving 50% or more of its turnover from sales of goods to other businesses and institutions.

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Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

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### Enquiries

Telephone number: (012) 310 8930/8423 (technical enquiries)  
(012) 310 8600 (user information services)  
(012) 310 8358 (orders/subscription services)

Fax number: (012) 310 2119 (technical enquiries)

Email address: [Nthabisengs@statssa.gov.za](mailto:Nthabisengs@statssa.gov.za) (technical enquiries)  
[Keshneeg@statssa.gov.za](mailto:Keshneeg@statssa.gov.za) (technical enquiries)  
[Info@statssa.gov.za](mailto:Info@statssa.gov.za) (user information services)  
[magdaj@statssa.gov.za](mailto:magdaj@statssa.gov.za) (orders/subscription services)

Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

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