



**Statistics
South Africa**

Preferred supplier of quality statistics



Statistical release

P6141.2

Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

October 2009

**Embargoed until:
9 December 2009
10:00**

Enquiries:

User Information Services
(012) 310 8600 / 4892 / 8390

Forthcoming issue:

November 2009

Expected release date

21 January 2010

Statistics South Africa • Mbalo-mbalo ya Afrika Tshipembe • Tinhlayo-tiko ta Afrika-Dzonga • Dipalopalo tsa Aforika Borwa • Ezezibalo zaseNingizimu Afrika
Dipalopalo tša Afrika Borwa • Dipalopalo tsa Afrika Borwa • Ubalo lwaseMzantsi Afrika • Telubalo eNingizimu Afrika • iNanimbalo leSewula Afrika • Statistiek Suid-Afrika

Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Summary of findings: Wholesale trade sales | 2 |
| Table A – Key figures as at the end of October 2009..... | 2 |
| Table B – Contribution of each type of dealer to the percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices..... | 3 |
| Detailed results | 5 |
| Table 1 – Wholesale trade sales according to the type of dealer at current prices (R million) | 5 |
| Description of type of dealers included in indicated group types in Table 1 | 6 |
| Table 2 – Total wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million)..... | 7 |
| Table 3 – Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at current prices | 7 |
| Table 4 – Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million)..... | 7 |
| Table 5 – Total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million) | 8 |
| Table 6 – Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices..... | 8 |
| Table 7 – Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million)..... | 8 |
| Table 8 – Estimates and percentage changes in total wholesale trade sales..... | 9 |
| Explanatory notes..... | 10 |
| Technical note..... | 13 |
| Glossary..... | 13 |
| General information..... | 14 |

Summary of findings: Wholesale trade sales

Table A – Key figures as at the end of October 2009

| Wholesale trade sales estimates | October 2009 (R million) | % change between October 2008 and October 2009 | % change between August to October 2008 and August to October 2009 | % change between January to October 2008 and January to October 2009 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| At current prices | 88 615 | -14,4 | -15,4 | -11,2 |
| At constant 2000 prices | 49 313 | -11,5 | -12,2 | -11,1 |

| Seasonally adjusted estimates | October 2009 (R million) | % change between September and October 2009 | % change between May to July 2009 and August to October 2009 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| At current prices | 81 550 | -0,1 | -0,1 |
| At constant 2000 prices | 45 385 | -0,3 | -0,9 |

Key findings as at the end of October 2009

Wholesale trade sales in real terms decrease

Wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the three months ended October 2009 decreased by 12,2% compared with the three months ended October 2008, while sales for the corresponding period in 2008 increased by 2,2%. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the three months ended October 2009 decreased by 0,9% compared with the three months ended July 2009.

Wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for October 2009 decreased by 11,5% compared with October 2008.

Wholesale trade sales in nominal terms decrease

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for the three months ended October 2009 decreased by 15,4% compared with the three months ended October 2008. The major contributors to this decrease were dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-27,7% and contributing -5,3 percentage points), dealers in machinery, equipment and supplies (-21,2% and contributing -4,1 percentage points) and dealers in metals and metal ores (-39,9% and contributing -1,7 percentage points) – see Table B on page 3.

Wholesale trade sales at current prices for October 2009 decreased by 14,4% compared with October 2008, while sales for the corresponding period in 2008 increased by 16,8% – see Table 3 on page 7.

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

| Type of wholesale dealer | Sales August to October 2008 (R million) | Weight 1/ | Sales August to October 2009 (R million) | Difference in sales between August to October 2008 and August to October 2009 (R million) | Percentage change between August to October 2008 and August to October 2009 | Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in total sales 2/ |
|---|--|--------------|--|---|---|---|
| Contract or fee basis | 15 263 | 5,1 | 11 121 | -4 142 | -27,1 | -1,4 |
| Agricultural raw materials and livestock | 12 183 | 4,1 | 10 610 | -1 573 | -12,9 | -0,5 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco | 51 314 | 17,1 | 51 920 | 606 | 1,2 | 0,2 |
| Textiles, clothing and footwear | 6 825 | 2,3 | 8 392 | 1 567 | 23,0 | 0,5 |
| Other household goods except precious stones | 27 959 | 9,3 | 25 949 | -2 010 | -7,2 | -0,7 |
| Precious stones, jewellery and silverware | 3 729 | 1,2 | 3 114 | -615 | -16,5 | -0,2 |
| Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products | 58 079 | 19,3 | 42 012 | -16 067 | -27,7 | -5,3 |
| Metals and metal ores | 12 825 | 4,3 | 7 702 | -5 123 | -39,9 | -1,7 |
| Construction and building materials | 17 485 | 5,8 | 13 979 | -3 506 | -20,1 | -1,2 |
| Other intermediate products, waste and scrap | 12 605 | 4,2 | 10 028 | -2 577 | -20,4 | -0,9 |
| Machinery, equipment and supplies | 58 422 | 19,5 | 46 034 | -12 388 | -21,2 | -4,1 |
| Other goods | 23 669 | 7,9 | 23 287 | -382 | -1,6 | -0,1 |
| Total 3/ | 300 362 | 100,0 | 254 147 | -46 215 | -15,4 | -15,4 |

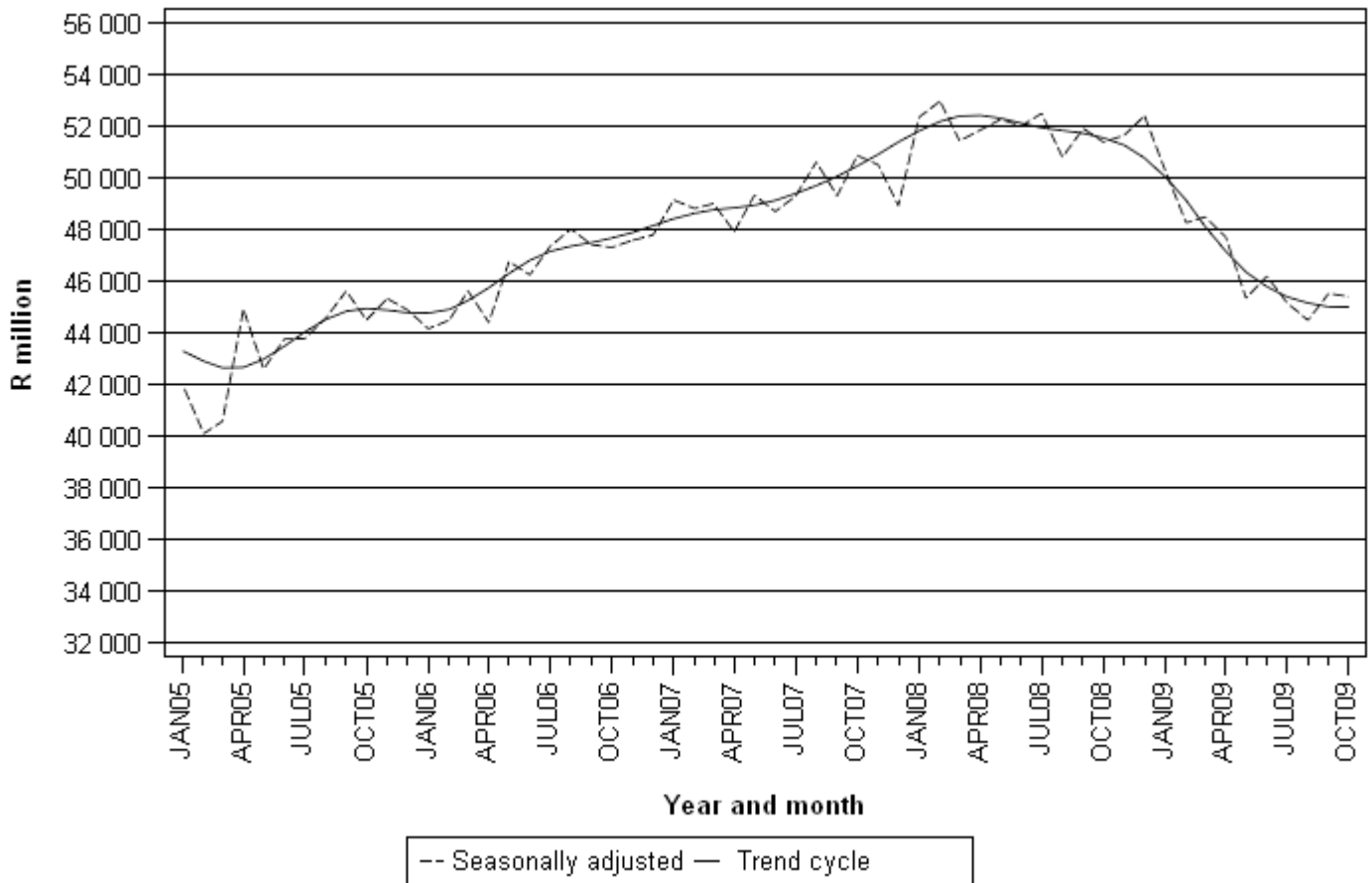
1/ Weight is the percentage contribution of each type of dealer to the total wholesale trade sales for the three months up to the current month of the previous year.

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 below shows the seasonally adjusted and trend patterns for wholesale trade sales at constant (2000) prices between January 2005 and October 2009.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices



P J Lehohla
Statistician-General

Detailed results

Outlined below in Table 1 are wholesale trade sales according to type of dealer (see description of type of dealer on page 6).

Table 1 – Wholesale trade sales according to the type of dealer at current prices (R million)

| Year and month 1/ | Type A | Type B | Type C | Type D | Type E | Type F | Type G | Type H | Type I | Type J | Type K | Type L | Total 2/ | |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------|
| 2008 | January | 3 602 | 3 145 | 15 220 | 1 956 | 6 838 | 585 | 13 394 | 2 750 | 4 168 | 2 698 | 16 257 | 6 337 | 76 951 |
| | February | 4 398 | 3 618 | 14 728 | 2 818 | 7 679 | 1 730 | 14 576 | 3 544 | 5 570 | 3 230 | 16 023 | 6 476 | 84 389 |
| | March | 4 365 | 2 964 | 15 449 | 2 662 | 6 891 | 2 024 | 17 158 | 3 717 | 5 328 | 3 001 | 17 956 | 6 535 | 88 051 |
| | April | 4 663 | 3 427 | 14 786 | 3 364 | 9 587 | 2 231 | 17 111 | 4 212 | 5 379 | 3 329 | 16 213 | 7 745 | 92 047 |
| | May | 4 716 | 4 028 | 15 502 | 3 061 | 8 290 | 2 045 | 19 036 | 4 220 | 5 600 | 3 736 | 17 416 | 8 000 | 95 651 |
| | June | 4 202 | 4 161 | 16 510 | 2 124 | 8 222 | 2 357 | 19 563 | 4 610 | 5 144 | 3 507 | 18 801 | 7 960 | 97 161 |
| | July | 5 611 | 4 682 | 15 502 | 1 951 | 8 441 | 1 817 | 21 256 | 4 734 | 5 634 | 4 360 | 18 940 | 7 888 | 100 818 |
| | August | 5 662 | 4 335 | 17 577 | 1 973 | 8 413 | 662 | 20 359 | 4 438 | 5 421 | 4 494 | 17 056 | 7 429 | 97 819 |
| | September | 5 226 | 3 931 | 17 075 | 2 280 | 9 162 | 1 103 | 18 417 | 4 070 | 5 517 | 3 916 | 20 616 | 7 656 | 98 971 |
| | October | 4 375 | 3 917 | 16 662 | 2 572 | 10 384 | 1 964 | 19 303 | 4 317 | 6 547 | 4 195 | 20 750 | 8 584 | 103 572 |
| | November | 4 088 | 4 750 | 19 515 | 2 714 | 9 745 | 1 799 | 18 385 | 3 534 | 5 968 | 4 227 | 22 501 | 10 315 | 107 541 |
| | December | 4 028 | 4 098 | 20 885 | 2 100 | 8 306 | 579 | 19 340 | 2 142 | 3 522 | 2 632 | 16 257 | 9 765 | 93 653 |
| Total | 54 936 | 47 056 | 199 411 | 29 575 | 101 958 | 18 896 | 217 898 | 46 288 | 63 798 | 43 325 | 218 786 | 94 690 | 1 136 624 | |
| 2009 | January | 3 451 | 3 504 | 17 232 | 1 786 | 7 397 | 395 | 14 918 | 2 559 | 3 660 | 3 069 | 15 822 | 7 272 | 81 065 |
| | February | 3 931 | 3 516 | 17 181 | 2 595 | 7 801 | 838 | 12 054 | 2 560 | 4 616 | 2 799 | 16 712 | 7 950 | 82 551 |
| | March | 4 238 | 3 452 | 17 430 | 3 125 | 8 314 | 1 410 | 12 955 | 2 456 | 4 860 | 2 811 | 18 260 | 8 090 | 87 401 |
| | April | 3 690 | 3 057 | 16 484 | 2 883 | 7 679 | 1 326 | 11 733 | 2 161 | 4 156 | 2 442 | 15 583 | 8 099 | 79 294 |
| | May | 3 124 | 3 477 | 17 134 | 2 894 | 8 031 | 1 650 | 12 058 | 2 290 | 4 573 | 2 833 | 14 200 | 8 144 | 80 408 |
| | June | 3 156 | 3 530 | 16 727 | 2 526 | 8 138 | 889 | 12 733 | 2 471 | 4 620 | 2 799 | 17 074 | 7 998 | 82 660 |
| | July | 4 005 | 3 743 | 16 375 | 2 436 | 8 216 | 713 | 14 540 | 2 604 | 4 826 | 2 975 | 14 879 | 8 152 | 83 465 |
| | August | 3 625 | 3 499 | 16 852 | 2 635 | 8 116 | 865 | 14 091 | 2 420 | 4 399 | 3 043 | 15 113 | 7 422 | 82 080 |
| | September | 3 719 | 3 531 | 17 648 | 2 890 | 8 527 | 818 | 13 151 | 2 540 | 4 580 | 3 305 | 14 996 | 7 748 | 83 452 |
| | October | 3 777 | 3 580 | 17 420 | 2 867 | 9 306 | 1 431 | 14 770 | 2 742 | 5 000 | 3 680 | 15 925 | 8 117 | 88 615 |

1/ Preliminary.

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

Description of type of dealers included in indicated group types in Table 1 ^{1/}

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

1/ See note 4 on page 10.

Tables 2 and 3 show total wholesale trade sales (actual values and annual percentage changes) at current prices over the period January 2002 – October 2009. Table 4 shows seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices over the same period.

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

| Month | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 ^{1/} | 2009 ^{1/} |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| January | 36 863 | 40 062 | 41 939 | 46 928 | 52 090 | 64 361 | 76 951 | 81 065 |
| February | 38 841 | 45 830 | 47 367 | 49 121 | 57 126 | 69 033 | 84 389 | 82 551 |
| March | 41 311 | 47 146 | 51 276 | 52 456 | 61 827 | 73 914 | 88 051 | 87 401 |
| April | 41 155 | 43 702 | 45 793 | 53 945 | 56 006 | 67 807 | 92 047 | 79 294 |
| May | 41 927 | 46 195 | 55 277 | 56 105 | 65 003 | 76 783 | 95 651 | 80 408 |
| June | 41 190 | 47 725 | 56 921 | 58 174 | 65 780 | 76 898 | 97 161 | 82 660 |
| July | 40 545 | 48 634 | 54 529 | 58 010 | 67 931 | 78 594 | 100 818 | 83 465 |
| August | 41 789 | 46 680 | 55 617 | 59 757 | 70 545 | 81 251 | 97 819 | 82 080 |
| September | 43 846 | 47 690 | 56 250 | 62 070 | 70 571 | 80 308 | 98 971 | 83 452 |
| October | 49 203 | 50 224 | 60 896 | 64 151 | 75 177 | 88 666 | 103 572 | 88 615 |
| November | 48 556 | 51 276 | 64 891 | 68 746 | 80 073 | 92 720 | 107 541 | |
| December | 44 067 | 43 828 | 55 988 | 59 483 | 69 604 | 78 286 | 93 653 | |
| Total | 509 293 | 558 992 | 646 744 | 688 946 | 791 733 | 928 621 | 1 136 624 | |

1/ Preliminary.

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

| Month | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|--------------|------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| January | - | 8,7 | 4,7 | 11,9 | 11,0 | 23,6 | 19,6 | 5,3 |
| February | - | 18,0 | 3,4 | 3,7 | 16,3 | 20,8 | 22,2 | -2,2 |
| March | - | 14,1 | 8,8 | 2,3 | 17,9 | 19,5 | 19,1 | -0,7 |
| April | - | 6,2 | 4,8 | 17,8 | 3,8 | 21,1 | 35,7 | -13,9 |
| May | - | 10,2 | 19,7 | 1,5 | 15,9 | 18,1 | 24,6 | -15,9 |
| June | - | 15,9 | 19,3 | 2,2 | 13,1 | 16,9 | 26,4 | -14,9 |
| July | - | 20,0 | 12,1 | 6,4 | 17,1 | 15,7 | 28,3 | -17,2 |
| August | - | 11,7 | 19,1 | 7,4 | 18,1 | 15,2 | 20,4 | -16,1 |
| September | - | 8,8 | 17,9 | 10,3 | 13,7 | 13,8 | 23,2 | -15,7 |
| October | - | 2,1 | 21,2 | 5,3 | 17,2 | 17,9 | 16,8 | -14,4 |
| November | - | 5,6 | 26,6 | 5,9 | 16,5 | 15,8 | 16,0 | |
| December | - | -0,5 | 27,7 | 6,2 | 17,0 | 12,5 | 19,6 | |
| Total | - | 9,8 | 15,7 | 6,5 | 14,9 | 17,3 | 22,4 | |

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 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| January | 41 069 | 45 107 | 47 751 | 53 873 | 59 922 | 73 775 | 87 865 | 92 235 |
| February | 39 858 | 47 388 | 49 367 | 51 698 | 60 606 | 73 704 | 90 403 | 88 484 |
| March | 41 070 | 46 920 | 51 209 | 52 581 | 62 245 | 74 573 | 88 859 | 88 208 |
| April | 43 714 | 46 865 | 49 587 | 58 893 | 61 369 | 74 333 | 100 729 | 86 662 |
| May | 41 715 | 45 854 | 54 886 | 55 605 | 64 565 | 76 375 | 95 507 | 80 334 |
| June | 40 780 | 47 025 | 55 982 | 57 204 | 64 776 | 75 955 | 96 252 | 81 984 |
| July | 41 259 | 49 154 | 54 597 | 57 597 | 66 918 | 76 927 | 98 244 | 81 213 |
| August | 41 866 | 46 621 | 55 092 | 58 728 | 68 993 | 79 287 | 95 458 | 80 186 |
| September | 43 118 | 46 775 | 54 945 | 60 593 | 68 844 | 78 327 | 96 579 | 81 630 |
| October | 45 559 | 46 351 | 56 144 | 59 145 | 69 421 | 81 768 | 95 379 | 81 550 |
| November | 44 082 | 46 052 | 57 774 | 60 795 | 70 654 | 81 936 | 95 229 | |
| December | 44 150 | 44 159 | 56 717 | 60 424 | 70 714 | 79 629 | 95 396 | |

Tables 5 and 6 show total wholesale trade sales (actual values and annual percentage changes) at constant (2000) prices over the period January 2002 – October 2009. Table 7 shows seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant prices over the same period.

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

| Month | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 ^{1/} | 2009 ^{1/} |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| January | 31 737 | 31 935 | 33 645 | 36 864 | 38 844 | 43 517 | 46 665 | 45 036 |
| February | 32 777 | 36 460 | 37 788 | 38 451 | 42 536 | 46 550 | 50 472 | 46 015 |
| March | 34 555 | 37 507 | 40 939 | 40 838 | 45 815 | 49 161 | 51 613 | 48 664 |
| April | 33 858 | 34 781 | 36 214 | 41 656 | 41 090 | 44 376 | 52 870 | 44 249 |
| May | 34 240 | 37 164 | 43 663 | 43 108 | 47 172 | 49 633 | 52 354 | 45 377 |
| June | 33 501 | 37 892 | 44 228 | 44 038 | 46 389 | 48 654 | 51 819 | 45 948 |
| July | 32 632 | 38 370 | 42 419 | 43 437 | 47 093 | 49 121 | 52 373 | 45 067 |
| August | 33 311 | 36 974 | 43 231 | 44 545 | 48 022 | 50 514 | 50 552 | 44 177 |
| September | 34 979 | 38 228 | 44 031 | 46 547 | 48 386 | 50 350 | 53 011 | 46 414 |
| October | 38 988 | 40 276 | 47 445 | 48 089 | 51 089 | 55 055 | 55 744 | 49 313 |
| November | 38 354 | 41 268 | 50 518 | 51 265 | 54 049 | 57 394 | 58 637 | |
| December | 34 946 | 35 232 | 43 792 | 44 324 | 47 189 | 48 280 | 51 656 | |
| Total | 413 878 | 446 087 | 507 913 | 523 162 | 557 674 | 592 605 | 627 766 | |

1/ Preliminary.

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

| Month | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|--------------|------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------|
| January | - | 0,6 | 5,4 | 9,6 | 5,4 | 12,0 | 7,2 | -3,5 |
| February | - | 11,2 | 3,6 | 1,8 | 10,6 | 9,4 | 8,4 | -8,8 |
| March | - | 8,5 | 9,2 | -0,2 | 12,2 | 7,3 | 5,0 | -5,7 |
| April | - | 2,7 | 4,1 | 15,0 | -1,4 | 8,0 | 19,1 | -16,3 |
| May | - | 8,5 | 17,5 | -1,3 | 9,4 | 5,2 | 5,5 | -13,3 |
| June | - | 13,1 | 16,7 | -0,4 | 5,3 | 4,9 | 6,5 | -11,3 |
| July | - | 17,6 | 10,6 | 2,4 | 8,4 | 4,3 | 6,6 | -13,9 |
| August | - | 11,0 | 16,9 | 3,0 | 7,8 | 5,2 | 0,1 | -12,6 |
| September | - | 9,3 | 15,2 | 5,7 | 4,0 | 4,1 | 5,3 | -12,4 |
| October | - | 3,3 | 17,8 | 1,4 | 6,2 | 7,8 | 1,3 | -11,5 |
| November | - | 7,6 | 22,4 | 1,5 | 5,4 | 6,2 | 2,2 | |
| December | - | 0,8 | 24,3 | 1,2 | 6,5 | 2,3 | 7,0 | |
| Total | - | 7,8 | 13,9 | 3,0 | 6,6 | 6,3 | 5,9 | |

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

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

| Month | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| January | 35 334 | 35 860 | 38 092 | 41 959 | 44 144 | 49 124 | 52 331 | 50 253 |
| February | 33 628 | 37 635 | 39 192 | 40 083 | 44 473 | 48 794 | 52 952 | 48 243 |
| March | 34 345 | 37 209 | 40 617 | 40 563 | 45 605 | 48 985 | 51 415 | 48 470 |
| April | 35 878 | 37 082 | 38 854 | 44 899 | 44 385 | 47 901 | 57 014 | 47 687 |
| May | 34 025 | 36 792 | 43 200 | 42 583 | 46 742 | 49 312 | 52 244 | 45 329 |
| June | 33 270 | 37 518 | 43 822 | 43 746 | 46 230 | 48 677 | 51 997 | 46 175 |
| July | 33 308 | 39 000 | 42 881 | 43 756 | 47 324 | 49 278 | 52 474 | 45 150 |
| August | 33 554 | 37 248 | 43 369 | 44 536 | 48 001 | 50 594 | 50 783 | 44 474 |
| September | 34 316 | 37 499 | 43 104 | 45 602 | 47 391 | 49 287 | 51 892 | 45 512 |
| October | 36 115 | 37 244 | 43 875 | 44 482 | 47 292 | 50 848 | 51 367 | 45 385 |
| November | 34 801 | 37 078 | 44 994 | 45 311 | 47 567 | 50 489 | 51 631 | |
| December | 35 006 | 35 458 | 44 255 | 44 871 | 47 764 | 48 911 | 52 383 | |

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

Outlined below in Tables 8.1 and 8.2 are the percentage changes in the actual and seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices and at constant (2000) prices.

Table 8.1 – Quarterly and cumulative estimates and percentage changes

| Actual wholesale trade sales estimates | August to October 2008 (R million) | August to October 2009 (R million) | % change between August to October 2008 and August to October 2009 | January to October 2008 (R million) | January to October 2009 (R million) | % change between January to October 2008 and January to October 2009 |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| At current prices | 300 362 | 254 147 | -15,4 | 935 430 | 830 991 | -11,2 |
| At constant 2000 prices | 159 307 | 139 904 | -12,2 | 517 473 | 460 260 | -11,1 |

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

| Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales estimates | September 2009 (R million) | October 2009 (R million) | % change between September and October 2009 | May to July 2009 (R million) | August to October 2009 (R million) | % change between May to July 2009 and August to October 2009 |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| At current prices | 81 630 | 81 550 | -0,1 | 243 531 | 243 366 | -0,1 |
| At constant 2000 prices | 45 512 | 45 385 | -0,3 | 136 654 | 135 371 | -0,9 |

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 2009 Business Sampling Frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value added tax (VAT). |
| | 2 | 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. |
| Purpose of the survey | 3 | The results of the monthly wholesale trade sales survey are used to compile estimates of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and its components, which are used in monitoring the state of the economy and formulation of economic policy. These statistics are also used in the analysis of comparative business and industry performance. |
| Scope of the survey | 4 | This survey covers wholesale enterprises according to the following types of dealer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis • Sales by commission agents, commodity brokers, auctioneers and other wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis; • Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock; • Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco; • Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear; • Wholesale trade in other household goods except precious stones • Wholesale trade in household furniture, requisites and appliances, wholesale trade in books and stationery, wholesale trade in pharmaceuticals and toiletries and wholesale trade in other household goods not elsewhere classified; • Wholesale trade in precious stones, jewellery and silverware; • Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products; • Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores; • Wholesale trade in construction and building materials • Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies; • Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies; • Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap; and • Wholesale trade in other goods • General wholesale trade and other wholesale trade not elsewhere classified. |
| Classification | 5 | The 1993 edition of the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)</i> , Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC)</i> with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC group (four digit) level. Each enterprise is classified to the industry which reflects its predominant activity. |
| Response rate | 6 | The preliminary response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for October 2009 was 88,5%. The improved response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for September 2009 was 95,2%. |
| Statistical unit | 7 | The statistical unit for which information is compiled and published is the enterprise, defined as a legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities. |
| Survey methodology and design | 8 | The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of about 1 000 enterprises from a population of about 20 000 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within 10 days after the end of the reference month. Fax and telephone reminders are used to follow up non-respondents. |

- 9 The value of sales is obtained monthly from the sample of about 1 000 enterprises (which was drawn in April 2009 at the SIC four-digit level) from a population of about 20 000 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 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 The total sales at constant prices are calculated using a combination of the Production Price Indices (PPI) for consumption in South Africa and for total output of South African industry groups to deflate the sales at current prices. However, with the discontinuation of the PPI for consumption in South Africa in January 2008, total sales at constant prices are calculated using the total output of South African industry groups from the PPI to deflate the sales at current prices.
- 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.
 - *SA Statistics* issued annually.
- Rounding of figures** 18 Where figures have been rounded-off discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.

Pre-release policy **19** Stats SA's pre-release policy may be inspected at its Website, www.statssa.gov.za.

Symbols and abbreviations **20**

| | |
|----------|---|
| BR | Business Register |
| 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.

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

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 strata did not exceed 5,6%.

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.

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 8619 (orders)
(012) 310 4883/8018/4885 (library)

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

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

Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

Produced by Stats SA