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Summary of findings: Wholesale trade sales

Table A – Key figures for October 2010

Actual wholesale trade sales estimates	October 2010 (R million)	% change between October 2009 and October 2010	% change between August to October 2009 and August to October 2010	% change between January to October 2009 and January to October 2010
At current prices	85 222	5,9	9,5	5,9
At constant 2000 prices	45 399	0,4	3,5	1,2

Seasonally adjusted estimates	October 2010 (R million)	% change between September and October 2010	% change between May to July 2010 and August to October 2010
At current prices	79 451	-3,5	0,2
At constant 2000 prices	42 361	-3,7	-0,3

Key findings for October 2010

Wholesale trade sales in real terms

Wholesale trade sales, at constant 2000 prices, for the three months ended October 2010 increased by 3,5% compared with the three months ended October 2009, while sales for the same period in 2009 decreased by 10,2%. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales for the three months ended October 2010 decreased by 0,3% compared with the three months ended July 2010.

Wholesale trade sales, at constant 2000 prices, for October 2010 increased by 0,4% compared with October 2009.

Wholesale trade sales in nominal terms

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for the three months ended October 2010 increased by 9,5% compared with the three months ended October 2009. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (19,7% and contributing 3,6 percentage points) and dealers in food, beverages and tobacco (14,2% and contributing 2,4 percentage points) – see Table B on page 3.

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for October 2010 increased by 5,9% compared with October 2009, while sales for the corresponding period in 2009 decreased by 14,3%.

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

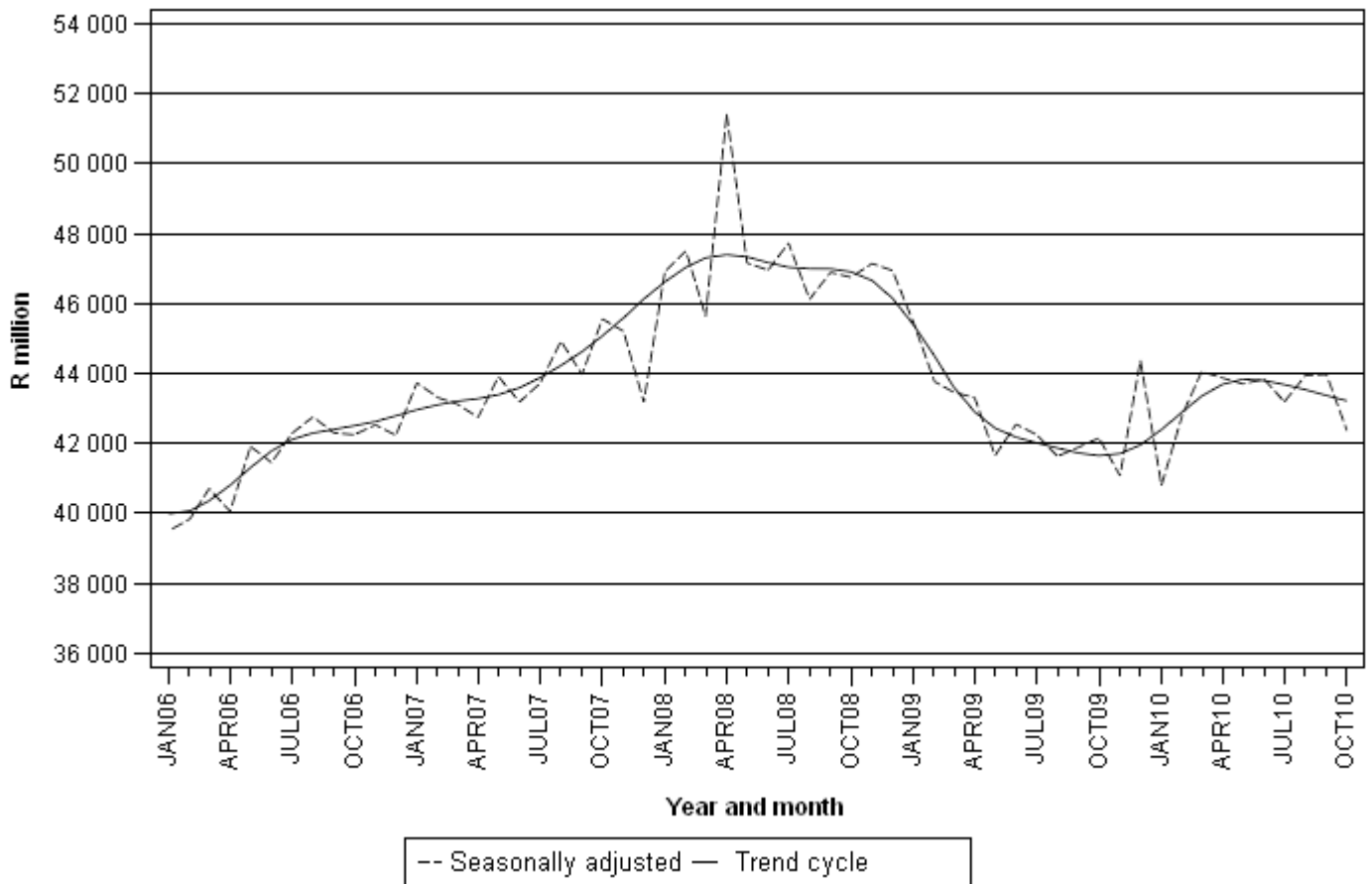
Type of wholesale dealer	Sales August to October 2009 (R million)	Weight 1/	Sales August to October 2010 (R million)	Difference in sales between August to October 2009 and August to October 2010 (R million)	% change between August to October 2009 and August to October 2010	Contribution (% points) to the % change in total sales 2/
Fee or contract basis	13 915	6,0	16 072	2 157	15,5	0,9
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	13 365	5,8	12 724	-641	-4,8	-0,3
Food, beverages and tobacco	38 369	16,6	43 812	5 443	14,2	2,4
Textiles, clothing and footwear	6 845	3,0	8 041	1 196	17,5	0,5
Other household goods except precious stones	25 685	11,1	28 441	2 756	10,7	1,2
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	1 297	0,6	1 502	205	15,8	0,1
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	42 195	18,3	50 490	8 295	19,7	3,6
Metals and metal ores	8 687	3,8	8 911	224	2,6	0,1
Construction and building materials	11 540	5,0	12 563	1 023	8,9	0,4
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	9 403	4,1	9 737	334	3,6	0,1
Machinery, equipment and supplies	37 469	16,2	39 165	1 696	4,5	0,7
Other goods	21 909	9,5	21 137	-772	-3,5	-0,3
Total 3/	230 680	100,0	252 595	21 915	9,5	9,5

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



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Statistician-General

Detailed results

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/	
2009	January	4 382	4 363	12 695	1 461	7 313	159	14 916	2 882	2 991	2 814	12 769	6 801	73 546
	February	5 025	4 407	12 743	2 136	7 764	341	12 133	2 902	3 797	2 584	13 577	7 484	74 894
	March	5 441	4 345	12 982	2 583	8 309	576	13 095	2 796	4 015	2 606	14 898	7 648	79 294
	April	4 743	3 853	12 293	2 386	7 684	542	11 875	2 463	3 438	2 266	12 729	7 666	71 939
	May	4 023	4 390	12 801	2 400	8 051	676	12 226	2 615	3 789	2 634	11 621	7 723	72 950
	June	4 045	4 436	12 436	2 085	8 119	362	12 848	2 808	3 810	2 590	13 906	7 548	74 993
	July	5 068	4 645	12 022	1 985	8 094	287	14 488	2 922	3 930	2 718	11 966	7 597	75 723
	August	4 617	4 370	12 453	2 161	8 048	350	14 132	2 733	3 606	2 799	12 234	6 962	74 466
	September	4 744	4 416	13 060	2 374	8 468	332	13 208	2 873	3 759	3 044	12 156	7 278	75 711
	October	4 554	4 579	12 856	2 310	9 169	615	14 855	3 081	4 175	3 560	13 079	7 669	80 503
	November	5 015	4 907	14 203	2 476	9 319	346	14 547	3 003	4 215	3 644	12 863	8 191	82 729
	December	5 525	4 809	16 251	1 913	8 569	424	14 350	2 088	2 752	2 922	12 419	8 033	80 052
Total	57 182	53 520	156 795	26 270	98 907	5 010	162 673	33 166	44 277	34 181	154 217	90 600	916 800	
2010	January	4 623	3 551	12 064	1 612	6 924	194	13 945	2 500	2 897	2 543	9 980	6 497	67 331
	February	5 370	3 996	12 499	2 065	7 791	665	14 219	2 693	3 494	2 975	11 728	7 649	75 145
	March	5 801	3 954	12 642	2 386	8 688	510	15 999	3 057	4 154	3 171	13 987	8 361	82 708
	April	4 665	3 440	12 822	2 485	8 590	477	15 034	3 047	3 840	2 593	12 131	6 987	76 111
	May	5 081	3 687	13 939	2 211	8 727	588	16 518	3 156	4 050	2 737	12 398	7 238	80 331
	June	5 087	4 459	13 738	2 090	8 751	574	17 742	3 188	3 861	2 876	13 205	7 008	82 577
	July	5 711	4 970	13 816	2 230	8 615	623	17 156	2 989	4 043	2 793	12 203	6 735	81 883
	August	5 360	4 089	14 638	2 306	9 030	433	17 419	2 924	4 016	2 967	12 887	7 002	83 070
	September	5 555	4 116	14 861	2 777	9 451	418	16 269	2 951	4 275	3 232	13 333	7 064	84 303
	October	5 157	4 519	14 313	2 958	9 960	651	16 802	3 036	4 272	3 538	12 945	7 071	85 222

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 ^{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 for more detailed specifications.

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

Month	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 ^{1/}	2010 ^{1/}
January	36 346	38 049	42 575	47 258	58 391	69 813	73 546	67 331
February	41 579	42 973	44 565	51 827	62 630	76 561	74 894	75 145
March	42 773	46 520	47 590	56 092	67 058	79 884	79 294	82 708
April	39 648	41 545	48 941	50 811	61 517	83 509	71 939	76 111
May	41 910	50 150	50 901	58 973	69 661	86 779	72 950	80 331
June	43 298	51 641	52 778	59 678	69 765	88 149	74 993	82 577
July	44 123	49 471	52 629	61 630	71 304	91 466	75 723	81 883
August	42 350	50 458	54 214	64 001	73 714	88 746	74 466	83 070
September	43 266	51 032	56 313	64 025	72 859	89 791	75 711	84 303
October	45 565	55 247	58 201	68 204	80 442	93 965	80 503	85 222
November	46 520	58 872	62 369	72 646	84 120	97 566	82 729	
December	39 763	50 795	53 966	63 148	71 024	84 966	80 052	
Total	507 141	586 753	625 042	718 293	842 485	1 031 195	916 800	

1/ Preliminary

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

Month	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	8,7	4,7	11,9	11,0	23,6	19,6	5,3	-8,5
February	18,0	3,4	3,7	16,3	20,8	22,2	-2,2	0,3
March	14,1	8,8	2,3	17,9	19,6	19,1	-0,7	4,3
April	6,2	4,8	17,8	3,8	21,1	35,7	-13,9	5,8
May	10,2	19,7	1,5	15,9	18,1	24,6	-15,9	10,1
June	15,9	19,3	2,2	13,1	16,9	26,4	-14,9	10,1
July	20,0	12,1	6,4	17,1	15,7	28,3	-17,2	8,1
August	11,7	19,1	7,4	18,1	15,2	20,4	-16,1	11,6
September	8,8	17,9	10,3	13,7	13,8	23,2	-15,7	11,3
October	2,1	21,2	5,3	17,2	17,9	16,8	-14,3	5,9
November	5,6	26,6	5,9	16,5	15,8	16,0	-15,2	
December	-0,5	27,7	6,2	17,0	12,5	19,6	-5,8	
Total	9,8	15,7	6,5	14,9	17,3	22,4	-11,1	

1/ The percentage change is the difference between wholesale trade sales 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	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	40 913	43 293	48 846	54 313	66 940	79 661	83 760	76 567
February	43 008	44 797	46 910	54 963	66 740	81 613	79 762	79 967
March	42 563	46 439	47 593	56 205	67 028	79 500	78 566	81 785
April	42 519	44 969	53 369	55 564	67 127	90 677	77 690	81 899
May	41 606	49 804	50 471	58 623	69 463	87 013	73 408	81 067
June	42 671	50 805	51 935	58 815	68 990	87 378	74 381	81 906
July	44 508	49 448	52 228	60 738	70 048	89 598	74 170	80 205
August	42 309	50 010	53 336	62 676	72 148	86 908	73 142	81 853
September	42 475	49 922	55 081	62 610	71 268	87 739	73 966	82 340
October	42 084	50 989	53 735	63 102	74 632	87 259	74 939	79 451
November	41 807	52 465	55 225	64 341	74 681	87 152	74 048	
December	40 036	51 394	54 733	64 019	71 944	86 084	80 998	

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

Month	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 ^{1/}	2010 ^{1/}
January	28 836	30 164	32 846	34 667	38 625	41 780	40 684	36 614
February	32 888	33 837	34 255	37 996	41 177	45 165	41 618	40 744
March	33 809	36 636	36 381	40 879	43 404	46 077	44 015	44 655
April	31 383	32 430	37 128	36 705	39 198	47 292	39 992	40 639
May	33 440	39 038	38 433	42 032	43 799	46 695	41 032	42 882
June	34 621	40 111	39 795	41 925	43 442	47 049	42 549	43 820
July	35 072	38 529	39 302	42 630	44 131	48 261	42 710	43 647
August	33 762	39 146	40 357	43 304	45 438	46 596	41 933	44 142
September	34 460	39 277	41 622	43 082	44 806	47 882	42 816	44 983
October	36 213	42 227	42 915	45 431	48 917	50 226	45 211	45 399
November	37 126	45 010	45 752	47 989	50 963	52 898	46 039	
December	31 641	38 998	39 560	41 829	42 899	46 665	44 188	
Total	403 251	455 403	468 346	498 469	526 799	566 586	512 787	

1/ Preliminary

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

Month	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	-0,2	4,6	8,9	5,5	11,4	8,2	-2,6	-10,0
February	10,3	2,9	1,2	10,9	8,4	9,7	-7,9	-2,1
March	7,5	8,4	-0,7	12,4	6,2	6,2	-4,5	1,5
April	1,9	3,3	14,5	-1,1	6,8	20,6	-15,4	1,6
May	7,4	16,7	-1,5	9,4	4,2	6,6	-12,1	4,5
June	13,2	15,9	-0,8	5,4	3,6	8,3	-9,6	3,0
July	17,6	9,9	2,0	8,5	3,5	9,4	-11,5	2,2
August	11,2	15,9	3,1	7,3	4,9	2,5	-10,0	5,3
September	9,1	14,0	6,0	3,5	4,0	6,9	-10,6	5,1
October	3,0	16,6	1,6	5,9	7,7	2,7	-10,0	0,4
November	7,3	21,2	1,6	4,9	6,2	3,8	-13,0	
December	0,6	23,3	1,4	5,7	2,6	8,8	-5,3	
Total	7,3	12,9	2,8	6,4	5,7	7,6	-9,5	

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	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	32 443	34 223	37 475	39 498	43 729	46 909	45 449	40 794
February	34 002	35 158	35 792	39 836	43 306	47 502	43 764	42 821
March	33 629	36 437	36 183	40 701	43 126	45 637	43 461	44 048
April	33 613	35 035	40 383	40 054	42 741	51 416	43 306	43 869
May	33 210	38 768	38 142	41 908	43 906	47 159	41 649	43 699
June	34 028	39 406	39 191	41 448	43 184	46 954	42 543	43 832
July	35 342	38 560	39 143	42 284	43 707	47 726	42 247	43 185
August	33 739	38 902	39 927	42 754	44 924	46 120	41 627	43 946
September	33 880	38 541	40 879	42 294	43 970	46 890	41 887	43 967
October	33 588	39 187	39 861	42 246	45 556	46 749	42 148	42 361
November	33 440	40 210	40 591	42 527	45 206	47 143	41 072	
December	31 908	39 473	40 039	42 229	43 181	46 943	44 370	

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

Actual wholesale trade sales estimates	August to October 2009 (R million)	August to October 2010 (R million)	% change between August to October 2009 and August to October 2010	January to October 2009 (R million)	January to October 2010 (R million)	% change between January to October 2009 and January to October 2010
At current prices	230 680	252 595	9,5	754 019	798 681	5,9
At constant 2000 prices	129 960	134 524	3,5	422 560	427 525	1,2

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

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales estimates	September 2010 (R million)	October 2010 (R million)	% change between September and October 2010	May to July 2010 (R million)	August to October 2010 (R million)	% change between May to July 2010 and August to October 2010
At current prices	82 340	79 451	-3,5	243 178	243 644	0,2
At constant 2000 prices	43 967	42 361	-3,7	130 716	130 274	-0,3

Explanatory notes

Introduction	1	<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 2010 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>
Purpose of the survey	3	<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>
Scope of the survey	4	<p>This survey covers wholesale enterprises according to the following types of dealer:</p> <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; • Wholesale trade in other goods; and • General wholesale trade and other wholesale trade not classified elsewhere.
Classification	5	<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>
Response rate	6	<p>The preliminary response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for October 2010 was 83,0%. The improved response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for September 2010 was 95,8%.</p>
Statistical unit	7	<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>
Survey methodology and design	8	<p>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.</p>

	9	The value of sales is obtained monthly from the sample of about 1 000 enterprises (which was drawn in April 2010 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	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bulletin of Statistics</i> issued quarterly • <i>SA Statistics</i> 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.

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.

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

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	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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