



stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa, ISibalo House, Koch Street, Salvokop, Pretoria, 0002
www.statssa.gov.za, info@statssa.gov.za, Tel +27 12 310 8911

STATISTICAL RELEASE

P6141.2

Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

October 2022

Embargoed until:
15 December 2022
10:00

ENQUIRIES:
Keshnee Naidoo
(072) 310 3798

FORTHCOMING ISSUE:
November 2022

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE:
19 January 2023



Contents

Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for October 2022	2
Table A – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at constant 2019 prices	2
Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2019 prices.....	2
Sales at current prices: results for October 2022	3
Table B – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at current prices	3
Table C – Wholesale trade sales at current prices for the latest three months by type of dealer	3
Tables	4
Table 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2019 prices (R million).....	4
Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at constant 2019 prices.....	4
Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant 2019 prices	4
Table 4 – Wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million)	5
Table 5 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices	5
Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices	5
Table 7 – Wholesale trade sales at current prices by type of dealer (R million)	6
Table 8 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices by type of dealer	6
Table 9 – Contribution of type of dealer to the year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices	6
Survey information	7
Technical notes	9
Glossary	11
Technical enquiries	11
General information	12

Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for October 2022

Table A – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at constant 2019 prices

	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-1,7	-2,0	1,3	0,4	6,3	0,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	2,4	-0,8	1,5	-0,6	2,3	-0,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	-1,3	-4,1	-1,1	-0,3	2,1	1,5

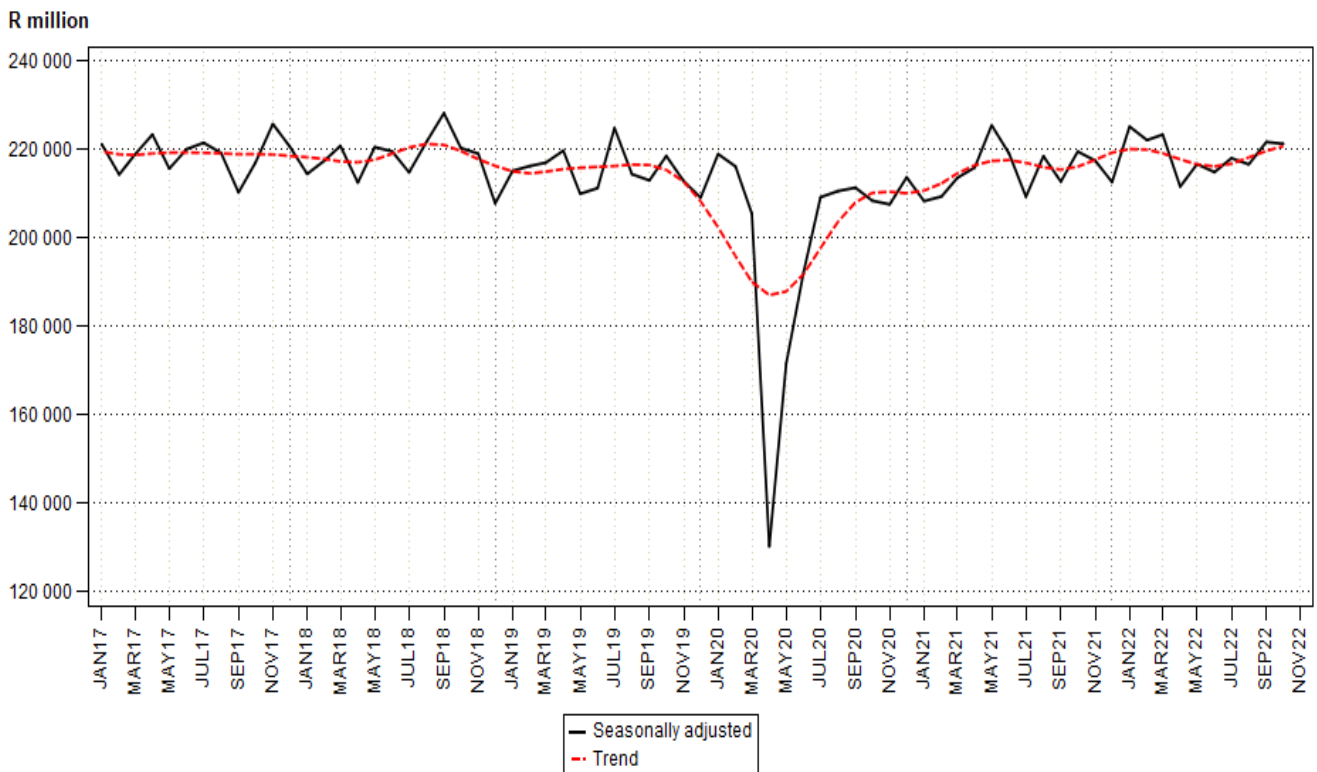
1/ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Measured in real terms (constant 2019 prices), wholesale trade sales increased by 0,6% in October 2022 compared with October 2021.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales decreased by 0,2% in October 2022 compared with September 2022. This followed month-on-month changes of 2,3% in September 2022 and -0,6% in August 2022.

In the three months ended October 2022, seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 1,5% compared with the previous three months.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2019 prices



Sales at current prices: results for October 2022

Table B – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at current prices

	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	18,1	19,3	25,0	21,6	28,2	21,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	6,4	0,3	4,3	-0,4	4,2	0,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	4,5	2,8	6,3	6,1	7,8	5,5

1/ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Measured in nominal terms (current prices), wholesale trade sales increased by 21,3% in October 2022 compared with October 2021. The main positive contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (44,6% and contributing 10,7 percentage points);
- 'other' goods (27,2% and contributing 2,1 percentage points);
- agricultural raw materials and livestock (31,3% and contributing 1,9 percentage points); and
- 'other' intermediate products, waste and scrap (23,4% and contributing 1,8 percentage points) – see Tables 8 and 9.

Table C – Wholesale trade sales at current prices for the latest three months by type of dealer

Type of dealer	Aug – Oct 2021 (R million)	Weight	Aug – Oct 2022 (R million)	% change between Aug – Oct 2021 and Aug – Oct 2022	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Fee or contract basis	28 798	3,8	30 748	6,8	0,3
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	44 115	5,8	64 760	46,8	2,7
Food, beverages and tobacco	117 218	15,5	131 502	12,2	1,9
Textiles, clothing and footwear	17 914	2,4	23 585	31,7	0,8
Other household goods except precious stones	84 406	11,1	88 795	5,2	0,6
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	26 247	3,5	16 441	-37,4	-1,3
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	167 739	22,1	260 029	55,0	12,2
Metals and metal ores	22 011	2,9	29 837	35,6	1,0
Construction and building materials	36 030	4,8	43 825	21,6	1,0
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	51 305	6,8	66 278	29,2	2,0
Machinery, equipment and supplies	105 265	13,9	109 581	4,1	0,6
Other goods	57 184	7,5	72 274	26,4	2,0
Total	758 232	100,0	937 655	23,7	23,7

Wholesale trade sales increased by 23,7% in the three months ended October 2022 compared with the three months ended October 2021. The main positive contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (55,0% and contributing 12,2 percentage points);
- agricultural raw materials and livestock (46,8% and contributing 2,7 percentage points);
- 'other' intermediate products, waste and scrap (29,2% and contributing 2,0 percentage points); and
- 'other' goods (26,4% and contributing 2,0 percentage points) – see Table C.

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

Tables

Table 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2019 prices (R million)

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 1/
Jan	193 958	196 359	191 784	190 022	194 937	179 861	194 441
Feb	229 670	204 200	206 190	204 536	207 027	197 647	209 024
Mar	227 923	226 932	227 707	219 017	210 519	221 554	229 679
Apr	207 206	200 998	194 667	204 372	117 669	197 773	190 186
May	224 952	216 833	221 461	214 021	169 936	224 174	220 463
Jun	226 573	224 709	220 959	206 634	198 698	222 296	217 774
Jul	219 930	215 725	214 670	228 532	213 876	212 647	215 395
Aug	226 844	222 964	227 202	218 154	208 070	220 053	220 999
Sep	237 998	217 809	228 338	218 892	219 828	221 524	235 525
Oct	234 491	234 477	241 801	239 168	229 512	236 243	237 628
Nov	245 083	248 065	245 274	233 031	224 952	241 799	
Dec	229 667	214 175	199 957	205 051	208 940	209 793	
Total	2 704 295	2 623 246	2 620 010	2 581 430	2 403 964	2 585 364	

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at constant 2019 prices

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2022 year-to-date
Jan	1,2	-2,3	-0,9	2,6	-7,7	8,1	8,1
Feb	-11,1	1,0	-0,8	1,2	-4,5	5,8	6,9
Mar	-0,4	0,3	-3,8	-3,9	5,2	3,7	5,7
Apr	-3,0	-3,1	5,0	-42,4	68,1	-3,8	3,3
May	-3,6	2,1	-3,4	-20,6	31,9	-1,7	2,2
Jun	-0,8	-1,7	-6,5	-3,8	11,9	-2,0	1,5
Jul	-1,9	-0,5	6,5	-6,4	-0,6	1,3	1,4
Aug	-1,7	1,9	-4,0	-4,6	5,8	0,4	1,3
Sep	-8,5	4,8	-4,1	0,4	0,8	6,3	1,9
Oct	0,0	3,1	-1,1	-4,0	2,9	0,6	1,8
Nov	1,2	-1,1	-5,0	-3,5	7,5		
Dec	-6,7	-6,6	2,5	1,9	0,4		
Total	-3,0	-0,1	-1,5	-6,9	7,5		

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant 2019 prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
Jan	215 202	218 989	208 348	225 205	3,6	4,7	-2,5	5,9
Feb	216 286	216 182	209 387	222 132	0,5	-1,3	0,5	-1,4
Mar	217 039	205 510	213 586	223 374	0,3	-4,9	2,0	0,6
Apr	219 748	130 286	215 949	211 613	1,2	-36,6	1,1	-5,3
May	209 993	171 567	225 497	216 708	-4,4	31,7	4,4	2,4
Jun	211 287	192 319	219 109	214 889	0,6	12,1	-2,8	-0,8
Jul	224 869	209 225	209 331	218 046	6,4	8,8	-4,5	1,5
Aug	214 432	210 612	218 506	216 658	-4,6	0,7	4,4	-0,6
Sep	213 028	211 384	212 752	221 707	-0,7	0,4	-2,6	2,3
Oct	218 553	208 440	219 553	221 301	2,6	-1,4	3,2	-0,2
Nov	212 848	207 607	217 499		-2,6	-0,4	-0,9	
Dec	209 120	213 732	212 642		-1,8	3,0	-2,2	

Table 4 – Wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million)

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 1/
Jan	161 071	171 527	178 058	183 631	197 732	185 748	228 997
Feb	192 269	180 829	190 533	197 880	210 007	207 142	249 449
Mar	190 285	201 421	208 035	214 863	212 675	235 239	283 576
Apr	175 961	177 582	180 571	204 583	116 718	212 428	239 766
May	191 328	193 708	208 465	215 628	166 140	241 537	285 346
Jun	195 504	200 003	211 230	209 144	195 987	241 178	287 778
Jul	191 640	191 834	207 460	229 989	214 925	233 100	291 330
Aug	195 117	198 955	220 454	219 608	211 461	243 331	295 960
Sep	203 650	197 100	222 633	220 702	223 402	247 984	317 870
Oct	202 016	214 093	241 135	242 269	234 583	266 917	323 825
Nov	214 268	228 926	245 534	235 480	229 852	278 620	
Dec	200 770	199 775	196 828	207 653	213 581	245 993	
Total	2 313 879	2 355 753	2 510 936	2 581 430	2 427 063	2 839 217	

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

Table 5 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2022 year-to-date
Jan	6,5	3,8	3,1	7,7	-6,1	23,3	23,3
Feb	-5,9	5,4	3,9	6,1	-1,4	20,4	21,8
Mar	5,9	3,3	3,3	-1,0	10,6	20,5	21,3
Apr	0,9	1,7	13,3	-42,9	82,0	12,9	19,2
May	1,2	7,6	3,4	-23,0	45,4	18,1	18,9
Jun	2,3	5,6	-1,0	-6,3	23,1	19,3	19,0
Jul	0,1	8,1	10,9	-6,5	8,5	25,0	19,9
Aug	2,0	10,8	-0,4	-3,7	15,1	21,6	20,1
Sep	-3,2	13,0	-0,9	1,2	11,0	28,2	21,1
Oct	6,0	12,6	0,5	-3,2	13,8	21,3	21,1
Nov	6,8	7,3	-4,1	-2,4	21,2		
Dec	-0,5	-1,5	5,5	2,9	15,2		
Total	1,8	6,6	2,8	-6,0	17,0		

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
Jan	207 578	222 678	214 874	261 221	1,9	4,8	-1,8	4,1
Feb	210 818	222 949	221 449	267 072	1,6	0,1	3,1	2,2
Mar	211 321	206 088	226 892	272 028	0,2	-7,6	2,5	1,9
Apr	222 281	128 475	228 934	262 847	5,2	-37,7	0,9	-3,4
May	212 580	168 082	240 448	279 626	-4,4	30,8	5,0	6,4
Jun	209 829	190 340	236 198	280 565	-1,3	13,2	-1,8	0,3
Jul	226 344	210 899	229 796	292 587	7,9	10,8	-2,7	4,3
Aug	215 268	211 616	241 287	291 409	-4,9	0,3	5,0	-0,4
Sep	214 046	214 311	237 526	303 588	-0,6	1,3	-1,6	4,2
Oct	222 226	215 396	250 807	304 297	3,8	0,5	5,6	0,2
Nov	216 148	211 728	253 465		-2,7	-1,7	1,1	
Dec	212 491	218 796	250 929		-1,7	3,3	-1,0	

Table 7 – Wholesale trade sales at current prices by type of dealer (R million)

Type of dealer	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22 1/
Fee or contract basis	9 312	9 703	9 641	9 146	10 416	11 186
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	22 584	20 708	22 382	21 164	22 644	20 952
Food, beverages and tobacco	40 758	43 244	41 872	42 030	46 666	42 806
Textiles, clothing and footwear	4 851	4 004	4 319	7 392	8 422	7 771
Other household goods except precious stones	27 303	26 348	26 408	29 824	28 857	30 114
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	4 553	3 433	6 755	4 664	6 011	5 766
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	81 446	80 378	80 851	80 576	86 848	92 605
Metals and metal ores	9 114	7 646	8 967	10 546	9 464	9 827
Construction and building materials	12 857	12 843	13 007	14 348	15 028	14 449
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	14 805	15 436	14 347	18 743	22 916	24 619
Machinery, equipment and supplies	32 516	37 157	37 032	35 468	36 190	37 923
Other goods	25 247	26 879	25 749	22 059	24 408	25 807
Total	285 346	287 778	291 330	295 960	317 870	323 825

1/ Figures are preliminary.

Table 8 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices by type of dealer

Type of dealer	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22
Fee or contract basis	12,1	12,9	5,1	-1,1	3,8	17,5
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	9,7	27,4	30,6	58,1	53,3	31,3
Food, beverages and tobacco	13,0	14,9	25,7	14,2	16,2	6,3
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-1,5	10,7	23,9	45,1	39,1	14,9
Other household goods except precious stones	4,2	-6,1	0,0	4,4	3,6	7,6
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	-17,7	-46,4	6,0	-49,7	-25,1	-35,6
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	54,7	52,7	63,6	57,4	65,4	44,6
Metals and metal ores	16,8	-5,3	23,3	31,7	28,9	47,5
Construction and building materials	1,4	13,9	17,1	26,6	18,2	20,6
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	42,8	19,8	3,0	26,1	39,0	23,4
Machinery, equipment and supplies	-5,2	3,3	-1,8	-6,0	9,7	9,8
Other goods	14,1	36,2	45,0	23,7	28,1	27,2
Total	18,1	19,3	25,0	21,6	28,2	21,3

Table 9 – Contribution of type of dealer to the year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices

Type of dealer	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22
Fee or contract basis	0,4	0,5	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,6
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	0,8	1,8	2,3	3,2	3,2	1,9
Food, beverages and tobacco	1,9	2,3	3,7	2,1	2,6	1,0
Textiles, clothing and footwear	0,0	0,2	0,4	0,9	0,9	0,4
Other household goods except precious stones	0,5	-0,7	0,0	0,5	0,4	0,8
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	-0,4	-1,3	0,2	-1,9	-0,8	-1,2
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	11,9	11,5	13,5	12,1	13,9	10,7
Metals and metal ores	0,5	-0,2	0,7	1,0	0,9	1,2
Construction and building materials	0,1	0,7	0,8	1,3	0,9	0,9
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	1,8	1,0	0,2	1,6	2,6	1,8
Machinery, equipment and supplies	-0,7	0,5	-0,3	-0,9	1,3	1,3
Other goods	1,3	3,0	3,4	1,7	2,2	2,1
Total	18,1	19,3	25,0	21,6	28,2	21,3

Survey information

- Introduction**
- 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey covering enterprises in the wholesale trade industry (see point 4 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from Stats SA's 2022 business sampling frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered at the South African Revenue Service (SARS) for value-added tax (VAT) and income tax (IT). Stats SA continuously updates its BSF, which is linked to the SARS administrative data.
 - 2 In order to improve timeliness, some information for the latest month had to be estimated due to late response. These estimates will be revised in future statistical releases as soon as 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 dealers:
 - 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. 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;
 - 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 materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies;
 - wholesale trade in 'other' intermediate products, waste and scrap;
 - wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies; and
 - wholesale trade in 'other' goods. This group covers general wholesale trade and 'other' wholesale trade not classified elsewhere.
- Classification**
- 5 The 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities* (SIC), Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 *International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities* (ISIC) with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Each enterprise is classified to the industry which reflects its predominant activity. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC four digit level.
- Collection rate**
- 6 The preliminary collection rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for October 2022 was 67,6%. The improved collection rate for September 2022 was 73,7%.

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. The statistical units are derived from and linked to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) administrative data.
Revised figures	8	Revised figures are mainly due to late submission of data to Stats SA, or respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures. Preliminary figures, as indicated in the relevant tables, are subject to change and when revised will not be indicated as such.
Related publications	9	Users may also refer to the following publication available from Stats SA: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Stats in Brief</i> issued annually.
Rounding-off of figures	10	Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.
Historical data	11	Historical wholesale trade sales data are available on the Stats SA website. To access the data electronically, use the following link: Click to download historical data
Past publications	12	Past wholesale trade sales releases are available on the Stats SA website. To access the releases electronically, use the following link: Click to download past releases

Technical notes

Survey methodology and design

- 1 The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of 1 645 enterprises from a population of 19 390 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within 10 days after the end of the reference month. Email, fax and telephone reminders are used to follow up on non-respondents.
- 2 A stratified random sample was drawn at the SIC four-digit level in April 2022 from 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 (see point 3 below). The Neyman optimal allocation formula given below was used to allocate samples to each stratum:

$$n_h = n * (N_h * S_h) / [\sum (N_i * S_i)].$$

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 was 5,8%.

Class limits

- 3 The wholesale sampling frame 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). The total value of sales of the large enterprises (size group one) is added to the weighted totals of size group two, three and four to reflect the total value of sales.

Measure of size classes (Rand)

Enterprise size	Size group	Lower limits	Upper limits
Very small	4	3 266 056	27 000 000
Small	3	27 000 001	144 000 000
Medium	2	144 000 001	288 000 000
Large	1	288 000 001	

Sample weighting

- 4 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 are consistent with international best practice.

Seasonal adjustment

- 5 Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month using the X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the United States Census Bureau. 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. The X-12-ARIMA procedure for wholesale trade sales is described in more detail on the Stats SA website:

[Click to download seasonal adjustment wholesale trade sales February 2022](#)

- Trend cycle** 6 The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimates of the underlying trend cycle.
- Constant prices** 7 Stats SA compiles its monthly estimates of wholesale trade sales at current prices from a survey of wholesalers in the formal sector. For January 1998 to December 2011, wholesale trade sales at constant prices were calculated using the 'all groups' PPI for domestic output, but excluding electricity and other utilities.
- From January 2012, wholesale trade sales at constant prices are compiled as follows:
- (1) Deflate sales of dealers in agricultural raw materials and livestock using the PPI for agriculture.
 - (2) Deflate sales of dealers in food, beverages and tobacco using the final manufacturing PPI for food products, beverages and tobacco.
 - (3) Deflate sales of dealers in textiles, clothing and footwear using the final manufacturing PPI for textiles, clothing and footwear.
 - (4) Deflate sales of dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products using the final manufacturing PPI for coal and petroleum products.
 - (5) Deflate sales of dealers in machinery, equipment and supplies using the final manufacturing PPIs for general and special purpose machinery; household appliances and office machinery; and electrical machinery and communication and metering equipment.
 - (6) Deflate the remaining wholesale trade sales using the headline PPI (final manufacturing) excluding the PPIs for food products, beverages and tobacco; textiles, clothing and footwear; coal and petroleum products; general and special purpose machinery; household appliances and office machinery; electrical machinery and communication and metering equipment; and transport equipment. The PPI for transport equipment is excluded because it measures producer prices of motor vehicles, which are not included in wholesale trade.
- Total wholesale trade sales at constant prices is obtained by aggregating (1) to (6).
- Reliability of estimates** 8 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.
- 9 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.
- Month-on-month percentage change** 10 The month-on-month percentage change in a variable for any given month is the change between that month and the previous month, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
- Year-on-year percentage change** 11 The year-on-year percentage change in a variable for any given period is the change between that period and the corresponding period of the previous year, expressed as a percentage of the latter.

Contribution (percentage points) **12** The contribution (percentage points) to the year-on-year percentage change is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of wholesaler by its corresponding weight, divided by 100. The weight is the percentage contribution of each type of wholesaler to total wholesale trade sales in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Glossary

Enterprise An 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 (SIC)*, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993.

Symbols and abbreviations

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

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.

Technical enquiries

Nthabiseng Sebeyi Telephone number: (012) 310 8930
Email: nthabisengs@statssa.gov.za

Keshnee Naidoo Telephone number: (072) 310 3798
Email: keshneen@statssa.gov.za

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

A 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, Qonce
Central Regional Library, Polokwane
Central Reference Library, Mbombela
Central Reference Collection, Kimberley
Central Reference Library, Mmabatho

Stats SA also provides a subscription service.

Electronic services

A large range of data is available via online services. For more details about our electronic data services, contact Stats SA's user information service at (012) 310 8600.

You can visit us on the internet at: www.statssa.gov.za

General enquiries

User information services	Telephone number: (012) 310 8600 Email: info@statssa.gov.za
Orders/subscription services	Telephone number: (012) 310 8619 Email: millies@statssa.gov.za
Postal address	Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

Produced by Stats SA