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Statistical release

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Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

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Results for September 2011

Table A – Key figures for wholesale trade sales

Actual wholesale trade sales estimates	September 2011 (R million)	% change between September 2010 and September 2011	% change between July to September 2010 and July to September 2011	% change between January to September 2010 and January to September 2011
At current prices	104 025	19,4	15,3	12,6
At constant 2000 prices	50 900	9,5	7,0	6,0

Seasonally adjusted estimates	September 2011 (R million)	% change between August and September 2011	% change between April to June 2011 and July to September 2011
At current prices	101 762	2,8	4,9
At constant 2000 prices	49 536	0,9	1,9

Wholesale trade sales in real terms

Wholesale trade sales, at constant 2000 prices, for the third quarter of 2011 increased by 7,0% compared with the third quarter of 2010, while sales for the same period in 2010 increased by 5,3%. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales for the third quarter of 2011 increased by 1,9% compared with the second quarter of 2011.

Wholesale trade sales, at constant 2000 prices, for September 2011 increased by 9,5% compared with September 2010.

Wholesale trade sales in nominal terms

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for the third quarter of 2011 increased by 15,3% compared with the third quarter of 2010. The major contributor to this increase was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (33,7% and contributing 6,6 percentage points), followed by dealers in agricultural raw materials and livestock (39,8% and contributing 1,9 percentage points) and dealers in machinery, equipment and supplies (11,4% and contributing 1,8 percentage points) – see Table B on page 3.

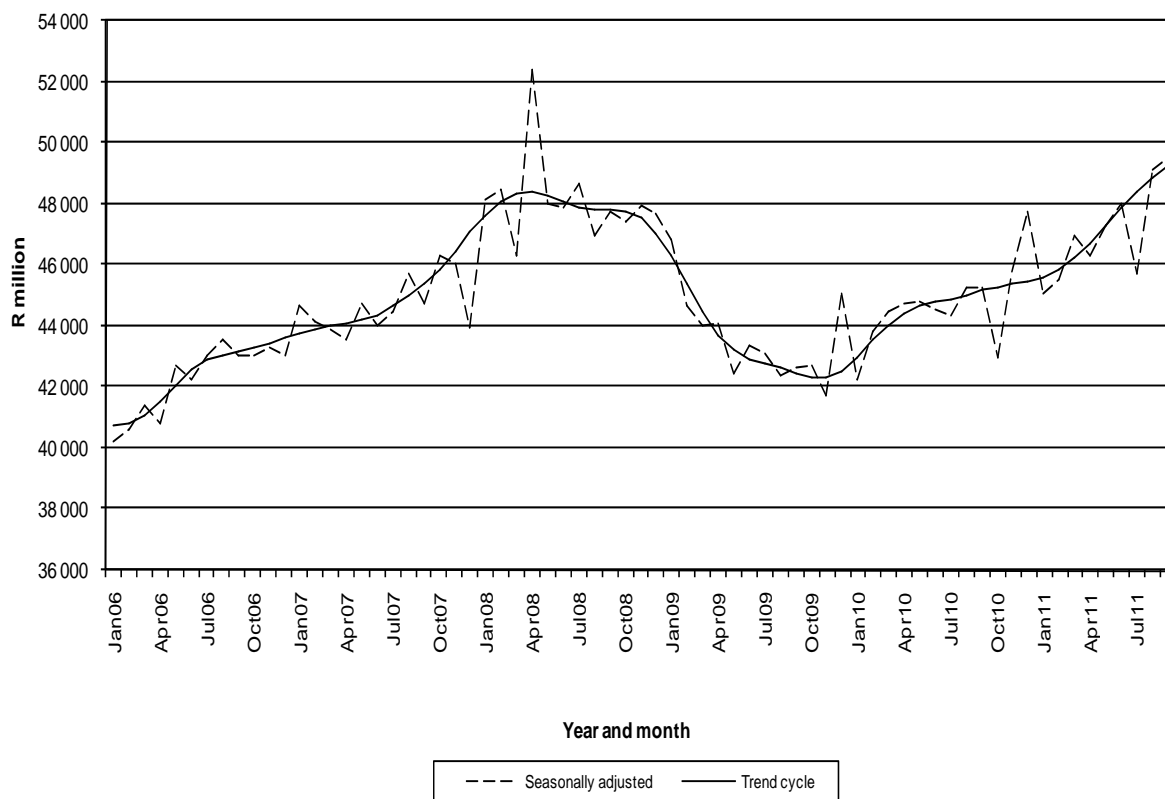
Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for September 2011 increased by 19,4% compared with September 2010, while sales for the corresponding period in 2010 increased by 12,9%.

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

Type of wholesale dealer	Sales July to September 2010 (R million)	Weight 1/	Sales July to September 2011 (R million)	Difference in sales between July to September 2010 and July to September 2011 (R million)	% change between July to September 2010 and July to September 2011	Contribution (% points) to the % change in total sales 2/
Fee or contract basis	17 571	6,8	18 451	880	5,0	0,3
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	12 057	4,7	16 856	4 799	39,8	1,9
Food, beverages and tobacco	42 809	16,7	44 858	2 049	4,8	0,8
Textiles, clothing and footwear	7 931	3,1	8 457	526	6,6	0,2
Other household goods except precious stones	26 769	10,4	31 204	4 435	16,6	1,7
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	2 032	0,8	1 991	-41	-2,0	0,0
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	50 199	19,6	67 104	16 905	33,7	6,6
Metals and metal ores	9 083	3,5	10 709	1 626	17,9	0,6
Construction and building materials	13 773	5,4	15 370	1 597	11,6	0,6
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	10 670	4,2	12 287	1 617	15,2	0,6
Machinery, equipment and supplies	41 203	16,1	45 888	4 685	11,4	1,8
Other goods	22 620	8,8	22 758	138	0,6	0,1
Total 3/	256 716	100,0	295 936	39 220	15,3	15,3

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



PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Detailed results

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/	
2010	January	4 816	2 963	12 591	1 683	7 247	230	13 738	2 571	3 167	3 002	10 593	5 978	68 579
	February	5 585	3 329	13 023	2 152	8 141	786	13 984	2 765	3 813	3 506	12 428	7 026	76 538
	March	6 028	3 291	13 162	2 484	9 071	603	15 723	3 136	4 528	3 733	14 808	7 674	84 241
	April	4 847	2 988	12 584	2 521	9 037	614	14 837	3 124	4 240	3 068	12 874	6 857	77 592
	May	5 280	3 378	13 758	2 255	9 220	769	16 305	3 235	4 510	3 237	13 223	7 107	82 276
	June	5 304	3 852	13 602	2 118	8 817	746	17 531	3 268	4 324	3 405	14 022	6 950	83 938
	July	5 981	4 527	13 549	2 286	8 389	856	16 927	3 059	4 535	3 300	12 902	7 596	83 907
	August	5 601	3 774	14 388	2 583	9 227	603	17 208	2 999	4 524	3 557	13 811	7 447	85 721
	September	5 989	3 756	14 872	3 062	9 153	573	16 064	3 025	4 714	3 813	14 490	7 577	87 088
	October	5 247	4 029	13 309	3 143	9 550	891	17 461	3 234	4 697	4 099	13 720	7 539	86 919
	November	5 719	4 626	16 036	3 452	10 494	713	17 833	3 330	5 297	4 903	15 407	9 319	97 130
	December	6 719	4 314	17 573	2 412	8 852	603	18 498	2 323	3 657	3 532	13 850	8 209	90 541
Total	67 116	44 827	168 447	30 151	107 198	7 987	196 109	36 069	52 006	43 155	162 128	89 279	1 004 470	
2011	January	4 529	3 711	12 954	1 941	7 381	250	17 695	2 799	3 694	3 613	10 883	6 518	75 966
	February	5 032	3 984	13 461	2 316	8 498	420	18 388	3 344	4 491	4 086	12 846	6 971	83 836
	March	5 762	4 379	14 347	2 909	9 441	844	20 985	3 834	5 031	3 870	15 459	7 796	94 658
	April	5 615	3 763	13 084	2 578	8 884	526	20 145	3 051	4 217	2 878	12 670	7 239	84 651
	May	6 368	4 860	14 141	2 474	9 723	866	19 599	3 712	4 637	3 622	13 567	7 777	91 346
	June	5 344	4 919	13 833	2 164	10 456	1 025	21 819	3 703	4 968	3 873	15 536	7 596	95 235
	July	6 088	5 378	13 859	2 481	9 804	665	22 387	3 083	4 689	3 437	12 853	7 408	92 133
	August	5 999	5 561	15 835	2 899	10 304	729	22 117	3 814	5 108	3 959	15 589	7 864	99 778
	September	6 364	5 917	15 164	3 077	11 096	597	22 600	3 812	5 573	4 891	17 446	7 486	104 025

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

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

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

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 ^{1/}	2011 ^{1/}
January	38 754	43 364	48 134	59 473	71 107	74 908	68 579	75 966
February	43 769	45 391	52 787	63 791	77 980	76 282	76 538	83 836
March	47 382	48 472	57 132	68 300	81 364	80 764	84 241	94 658
April	42 315	49 848	51 753	62 658	85 056	73 272	77 592	84 651
May	51 079	51 844	60 066	70 952	88 387	74 302	82 276	91 346
June	52 598	53 756	60 785	71 058	89 782	76 383	83 938	95 235
July	50 388	53 604	62 772	72 625	93 161	77 126	83 907	92 133
August	51 394	55 219	65 187	75 081	90 390	75 847	85 721	99 778
September	51 978	57 356	65 211	74 209	91 455	77 114	87 088	104 025
October	56 271	59 279	69 468	81 932	95 706	81 995	86 919	
November	59 962	63 525	73 992	85 679	99 374	84 262	97 130	
December	51 736	54 966	64 317	72 340	86 541	81 536	90 541	
Total	597 626	636 624	731 604	858 098	1 050 303	933 791	1 004 470	

1/ Preliminary.

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

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
January	4,7	11,9	11,0	23,6	19,6	5,3	-8,4	10,8
February	3,4	3,7	16,3	20,8	22,2	-2,2	0,3	9,5
March	8,8	2,3	17,9	19,5	19,1	-0,7	4,3	12,4
April	4,8	17,8	3,8	21,1	35,7	-13,9	5,9	9,1
May	19,7	1,5	15,9	18,1	24,6	-15,9	10,7	11,0
June	19,3	2,2	13,1	16,9	26,4	-14,9	9,9	13,5
July	12,1	6,4	17,1	15,7	28,3	-17,2	8,8	9,8
August	19,1	7,4	18,1	15,2	20,4	-16,1	13,0	16,4
September	17,9	10,3	13,7	13,8	23,2	-15,7	12,9	19,4
October	21,2	5,3	17,2	17,9	16,8	-14,3	6,0	
November	26,6	5,9	16,5	15,8	16,0	-15,2	15,3	
December	27,7	6,2	17,0	12,5	19,6	-5,8	11,0	
Total	15,7	6,5	14,9	17,3	22,4	-11,1	7,6	

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	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
January	44 173	49 820	55 404	68 277	81 355	85 554	78 397	86 927
February	45 664	47 809	55 996	67 990	83 133	81 164	81 330	89 044
March	47 288	48 468	57 191	68 174	80 667	79 466	82 384	92 303
April	45 296	53 635	55 811	67 507	91 496	78 619	83 078	90 461
May	50 787	51 510	59 835	70 888	88 779	74 926	83 334	92 798
June	51 808	52 992	60 032	70 431	89 233	75 959	83 433	94 659
July	50 458	53 295	62 002	71 478	91 567	75 807	82 597	90 817
August	50 970	54 371	63 930	73 597	88 850	74 805	84 852	98 972
September	50 847	56 111	63 792	72 688	89 697	75 590	85 251	101 762
October	52 049	54 832	64 340	75 956	88 687	76 091	80 698	
November	53 498	56 334	65 621	76 166	88 723	75 454	87 064	
December	52 370	55 803	65 265	73 319	87 497	82 270	91 162	

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

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 ^{1/}	2011 ^{1/}
January	30 723	33 454	35 309	39 340	42 555	41 438	37 293	39 639
February	34 464	34 890	38 700	41 940	46 002	42 389	41 499	43 054
March	37 314	37 056	41 637	44 208	46 930	44 831	45 483	48 117
April	33 032	37 816	37 386	39 925	48 168	40 733	41 430	42 984
May	39 761	39 145	42 811	44 610	47 560	41 792	43 920	46 255
June	40 855	40 532	42 703	44 247	47 921	43 337	44 542	48 073
July	39 243	40 030	43 420	44 949	49 155	43 501	44 726	46 034
August	39 872	41 105	44 107	46 280	47 459	42 710	45 551	49 331
September	40 005	42 393	43 880	45 636	48 769	43 610	46 469	50 900
October	43 009	43 710	46 273	49 823	51 156	46 049	46 368	
November	45 843	46 600	48 878	51 907	53 878	46 892	51 450	
December	39 721	40 293	42 604	43 694	47 530	45 008	47 814	
Total	463 842	477 024	507 708	536 559	577 083	522 290	536 545	

1/ Preliminary.

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

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
January	4,6	8,9	5,5	11,4	8,2	-2,6	-10,0	6,3
February	2,9	1,2	10,9	8,4	9,7	-7,9	-2,1	3,7
March	8,4	-0,7	12,4	6,2	6,2	-4,5	1,5	5,8
April	3,3	14,5	-1,1	6,8	20,6	-15,4	1,7	3,8
May	16,7	-1,5	9,4	4,2	6,6	-12,1	5,1	5,3
June	15,9	-0,8	5,4	3,6	8,3	-9,6	2,8	7,9
July	9,9	2,0	8,5	3,5	9,4	-11,5	2,8	2,9
August	15,9	3,1	7,3	4,9	2,5	-10,0	6,7	8,3
September	14,0	6,0	3,5	4,0	6,9	-10,6	6,6	9,5
October	16,6	1,6	5,9	7,7	2,7	-10,0	0,7	
November	21,2	1,7	4,9	6,2	3,8	-13,0	9,7	
December	23,3	1,4	5,7	2,6	8,8	-5,3	6,2	
Total	12,9	2,8	6,4	5,7	7,6	-9,5	2,7	

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	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
January	34 856	38 171	40 242	44 652	48 128	46 850	42 269	45 041
February	35 806	36 456	40 587	44 127	48 461	44 681	43 837	45 555
March	37 105	36 829	41 412	43 855	46 330	43 996	44 454	46 934
April	35 683	41 134	40 807	43 545	52 396	44 116	44 727	46 322
May	39 486	38 852	42 692	44 713	48 037	42 431	44 817	47 321
June	40 138	39 920	42 220	43 996	47 854	43 335	44 510	48 011
July	39 275	39 868	43 060	44 499	48 654	43 077	44 363	45 703
August	39 624	40 663	43 531	45 716	46 969	42 374	45 284	49 105
September	39 257	41 634	43 063	44 763	47 775	42 618	45 285	49 536
October	39 916	40 601	43 020	46 291	47 430	42 708	42 996	
November	40 959	41 349	43 316	46 038	47 918	41 751	45 812	
December	40 209	40 791	43 009	43 968	47 699	45 050	47 758	

Table 8 – Quarterly and annual cumulative estimates and percentage changes

Actual wholesale trade sales estimates	July to September 2010 (R million)	July to September 2011 (R million)	% change between July to September 2010 and July to September 2011	January to September 2010 (R million)	January to September 2011 (R million)	% change between January to September 2010 and January to September 2011
At current prices	256 716	295 936	15,3	729 880	821 628	12,6
At constant 2000 prices	136 746	146 265	7,0	390 913	414 387	6,0

Table 9 – Seasonally adjusted monthly and quarterly estimates and percentage changes

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales estimates	August 2011 (R million)	September 2011 (R million)	% change between August and September 2011	April to June 2011 (R million)	July to September 2011 (R million)	% change between April to June 2011 and July to September 2011
At current prices	98 972	101 762	2,8	277 918	291 551	4,9
At constant 2000 prices	49 105	49 536	0,9	141 654	144 344	1,9

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 2011 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 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 September 2011 was 87,8%. The improved response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for August 2011 was 93,2%.</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 2011 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:
- *Bulletin of Statistics* issued quarterly
 - *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

19	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.

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.

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