

# Statistical release P6242.1

# Retail trade sales (Preliminary)

December 2012

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**Enquiries:** 

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### Sales at constant 2008 prices: results for December 2012

Table A – Key growth rates in retail trade sales at constant 2008 prices

	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	2,9	6,7	4,7	0,9	3,6	2,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,0	2,2	-0,5	-1,7	1,2	1,0
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	1,8	2,3	2,1	1,9	0,2	-0,2

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

Measured in real terms (constant 2008 prices), retail trade sales increased by 2,3% year-on-year in December 2012. The highest annual growth rates were recorded for:

- all 'other' retailers (5,8%);
- general dealers (2,6%); and
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (2,3%) see Table 5.

The main contributors to the 2,3% increase were general dealers (contributing 0,9 of a percentage point), retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods and all 'other' retailers (both contributing 0,6 of a percentage point) – see Table 6.

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales increased by 1,0% in December 2012 compared with November 2012. This followed month-on-month changes of 1,2% in November 2012 and -1,7% in October 2012.

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales decreased by 0,2% in the fourth quarter of 2012 compared with the previous quarter.

Table B - Retail trade sales at constant 2008 prices for the latest three months by type of retailer

Type of retailer	Oct – Dec 2011 (R million)	Weight	Oct – Dec 2012 (R million)	% change between Oct – Dec 2011 and Oct – Dec 2012	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	54 493	34,8	54 914	0,8	0,3
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	15 802	10,1	16 174	2,4	0,2
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	9 240	5,9	9 326	0,9	0,1
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	37 350	23,9	38 680	3,6	0,9
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	10 636	6,8	11 052	3,9	0,3
Hardware, paint and glass	10 540	6,7	10 570	0,3	0,0
All other retailers	18 375	11,7	19 359	5,4	0,6
Total	156 436	100,0	160 075	2,3	2,3

Retail trade sales increased by 2,3% in the fourth quarter of 2012 compared with the fourth quarter of 2011. The main contributors to this increase were:

- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (3,6% and contributing 0,9 of a percentage point);
- all 'other' retailers (5,4% and contributing 0,6 of a percentage point);
- household furniture, appliances and equipment (3,9% and contributing 0,3 of a percentage point); and
- general dealers (0,8% and contributing 0,3 of a percentage point) see Table B.

Figure 1 - Retail trade sales at constant 2008 prices

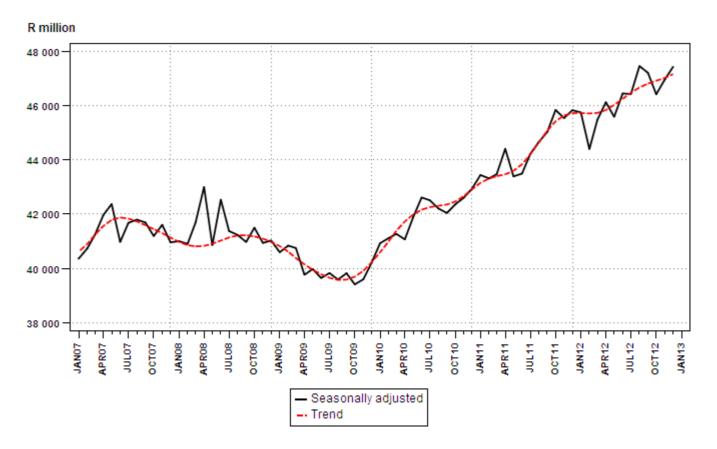
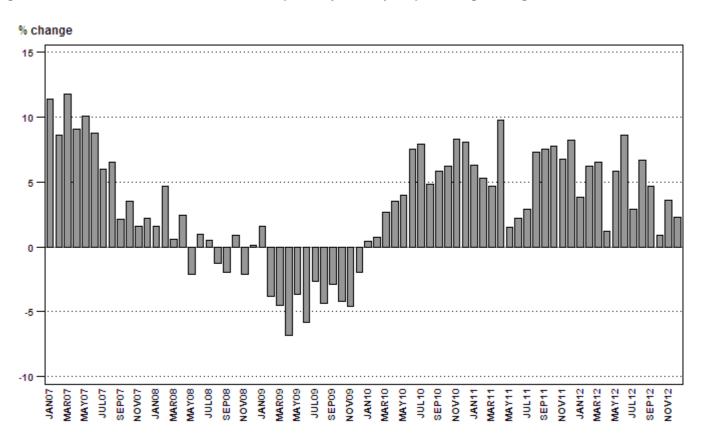


Figure 2 - Retail trade sales at constant 2008 prices: year-on-year percentage change



# Sales at current prices: results for December 2012

Table C - Key growth rates in retail trade sales at current prices

	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	6,9	10,9	9,5	5,6	8,2	7,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,7	2,7	0,3	-0,8	1,2	1,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	2,4	3,3	3,0	3,3	1,7	1,6

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

Table D - Retail trade sales at current prices for the latest three months by type of retailer

Type of retailer	Oct – Dec 2011 (R million)	Weight	Oct – Dec 2012 (R million)	% change between Oct – Dec 2011 and Oct – Dec 2012	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	66 403	36,8	70 877	6,7	2,5
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	19 788	11,0	21 698	9,7	1,1
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	11 482	6,4	12 019	4,7	0,3
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	40 483	22,4	43 180	6,7	1,5
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	9 860	5,5	10 222	3,7	0,2
Hardware, paint and glass	12 845	7,1	13 690	6,6	0,5
All other retailers	19 659	10,9	21 491	9,3	1,0
Total	180 521	100,0	193 178	7,0	7,0

PJ Lehohla Statistician-General

# **Tables**

Table 1 – Retail trade sales at constant 2008 prices (R million)

Month	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012 1/
Jan	33 321	37 112	37 694	38 280	38 417	40 852	42 424
Feb	34 129	37 064	38 790	37 309	37 565	39 558	41 994
Mar	36 163	40 416	40 653	38 830	39 880	41 770	44 490
Apr	36 489	39 807	40 759	38 002	39 347	43 205	43 712
May	37 582	41 394	40 541	39 048	40 598	41 196	43 576
Jun	36 688	39 902	40 318	37 968	40 812	41 729	45 338
Jul	37 234	39 486	39 693	38 613	41 676	42 876	44 116
Aug	37 641	40 094	39 556	37 823	39 638	42 514	45 372
Sep	39 558	40 408	39 594	38 446	40 662	43 718	45 792
Oct	39 723	41 118	41 470	39 724	42 184	45 484	45 916
Nov	43 066	43 756	42 828	40 841	44 212	47 209	48 925
Dec	54 332	55 529	55 607	54 487	58 894	63 743	65 234
Total	465 926	496 086	497 503	479 371	503 885	533 854	556 889

<sup>1/</sup> Latest month is preliminary.

Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at constant 2008 prices

Month	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2012 year-to-date
Jan	11,4	1,6	1,6	0,4	6,3	3,8	3,8
Feb	8,6	4,7	-3,8	0,7	5,3	6,2	5,0
Mar	11,8	0,6	-4,5	2,7	4,7	6,5	5,5
Apr	9,1	2,4	-6,8	3,5	9,8	1,2	4,4
May	10,1	-2,1	-3,7	4,0	1,5	5,8	4,7
Jun	8,8	1,0	-5,8	7,5	2,2	8,6	5,3
Jul	6,0	0,5	-2,7	7,9	2,9	2,9	5,0
Aug	6,5	-1,3	-4,4	4,8	7,3	6,7	5,2
Sep	2,1	-2,0	-2,9	5,8	7,5	4,7	5,1
Oct	3,5	0,9	-4,2	6,2	7,8	0,9	4,7
Nov	1,6	-2,1	-4,6	8,3	6,8	3,6	4,6
Dec	2,2	0,1	-2,0	8,1	8,2	2,3	4,3
Total	6,5	0,3	-3,6	5,1	5,9	4,3	

Table 3 - Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at constant 2008 prices

B. 0		R mi	illion		Month-on-month % change					
Month	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012		
Jan	40 592	40 925	43 436	45 740	-1,1	1,8	1,2	-0,2		
Feb	40 836	41 111	43 309	44 391	0,6	0,5	-0,3	-2,9		
Mar	40 746	41 268	43 465	45 466	-0,2	0,4	0,4	2,4		
Apr	39 763	41 066	44 400	46 117	-2,4	-0,5	2,2	1,4		
May	39 972	41 875	43 384	45 578	0,5	2,0	-2,3	-1,2		
Jun	39 643	42 608	43 488	46 437	-0,8	1,8	0,2	1,9		
Jul	39 826	42 505	44 210	46 417	0,5	-0,2	1,7	0,0		
Aug	39 585	42 202	44 651	47 447	-0,6	-0,7	1,0	2,2		
Sep	39 820	42 037	45 021	47 197	0,6	-0,4	0,8	-0,5		
Oct	39 409	42 351	45 830	46 407	-1,0	0,7	1,8	-1,7		
Nov	39 594	42 598	45 532	46 949	0,5	0,6	-0,7	1,2		
Dec	40 203	42 929	45 822	47 413	1,5	0,8	0,6	1,0		

Table 4 – Retail trade sales at constant 2008 prices by type of retailer (R million)

Type of retailer	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12 1/
General dealers	15 579	16 080	17 322	15 631	16 227	23 056
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	4 254	4 430	4 645	4 673	4 822	6 679
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	3 245	3 017	2 920	3 083	2 958	3 285
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	9 549	9 931	9 224	10 221	11 557	16 902
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	2 753	2 941	2 797	3 051	3 511	4 490
Hardware, paint and glass	3 148	3 478	3 372	3 390	3 826	3 354
All other retailers	5 588	5 495	5 512	5 867	6 024	7 468
Total	44 116	45 372	45 792	45 916	48 925	65 234

<sup>1/</sup> Preliminary.

Table 5 - Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at constant 2008 prices by type of retailer

Type of retailer	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12
General dealers	1,9	3,6	4,8	0,1	-1,1	2,6
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	-2,1	3,4	7,8	0,8	5,9	1,0
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	7,6	6,6	1,4	3,3	0,3	-0,6
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	2,4	17,7	8,9	0,7	8,2	2,3
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	1,6	7,0	3,9	3,9	7,5	1,3
Hardware, paint and glass	-1,3	9,9	3,6	-3,0	3,5	0,2
All other retailers	11,6	-0,7	-1,4	3,5	6,7	5,8
Total	2,9	6,7	4,7	0,9	3,6	2,3

Table 6 – Contribution of each type of retailer to the year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at constant 2008 prices (percentage points)

Type of retailer	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12
General dealers	0,7	1,3	1,8	0,0	-0,4	0,9
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	-0,2	0,3	0,8	0,1	0,6	0,1
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	0,5	0,4	0,1	0,2	0,0	0,0
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	0,5	3,5	1,7	0,2	1,9	0,6
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	0,1	0,5	0,2	0,3	0,5	0,1
Hardware, paint and glass	-0,1	0,7	0,3	-0,2	0,3	0,0
All other retailers	1,4	-0,1	-0,2	0,4	0,8	0,6
Total	2,9	6,7	4,7	0,9	3,6	2,3

Table 7 – Retail trade sales at current prices (R million)

Month	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012 1/
Jan	27 890	32 362	35 955	40 403	42 360	45 626	49 540
Feb	28 566	32 320	37 069	39 690	41 361	44 329	49 232
Mar	30 377	35 364	39 190	41 949	44 385	47 376	52 675
Apr	30 687	35 070	39 608	41 232	43 619	48 788	51 693
May	31 682	36 592	39 855	42 586	45 049	46 934	51 605
Jun	31 001	35 433	39 955	41 413	45 213	47 594	53 824
Jul	31 723	35 577	39 638	42 199	46 141	48 930	52 327
Aug	32 108	36 285	40 296	41 591	43 919	48 642	53 948
Sep	33 901	36 852	40 686	42 311	45 130	50 291	55 059
Oct	34 281	37 787	42 810	43 681	46 815	52 470	55 387
Nov	37 209	40 431	44 579	44 920	49 106	54 580	59 030
Dec	46 997	51 420	57 859	59 692	65 139	73 471	78 761
Total	396 422	445 493	497 504	521 667	558 237	609 031	663 081

<sup>1/</sup> Latest month is preliminary.

Table 8 - Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at current prices

Month	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2012 year-to-date
Jan	16,0	11,1	12,4	4,8	7,7	8,6	8,6
Feb	13,1	14,7	7,1	4,2	7,2	11,1	9,8
Mar	16,4	10,8	7,0	5,8	6,7	11,2	10,3
Apr	14,3	12,9	4,1	5,8	11,9	6,0	9,1
May	15,5	8,9	6,9	5,8	4,2	10,0	9,3
Jun	14,3	12,8	3,6	9,2	5,3	13,1	9,9
Jul	12,1	11,4	6,5	9,3	6,0	6,9	9,5
Aug	13,0	11,1	3,2	5,6	10,8	10,9	9,7
Sep	8,7	10,4	4,0	6,7	11,4	9,5	9,7
Oct	10,2	13,3	2,0	7,2	12,1	5,6	9,2
Nov	8,7	10,3	0,8	9,3	11,1	8,2	9,1
Dec	9,4	12,5	3,2	9,1	12,8	7,2	8,9
Total	12,4	11,7	4,9	7,0	9,1	8,9	

Table 9 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at current prices

Month		R million				Month-on-month % change					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012			
Jan	42 849	45 035	48 642	53 176	-0,2	2,2	1,6	-0,1			
Feb	43 373	45 231	48 530	52 144	1,2	0,4	-0,2	-1,9			
Mar	43 594	45 734	48 724	53 653	0,5	1,1	0,4	2,9			
Apr	42 950	45 306	50 088	54 267	-1,5	-0,9	2,8	1,1			
May	43 514	46 497	49 044	53 554	1,3	2,6	-2,1	-1,3			
Jun	43 359	47 099	49 637	55 360	-0,4	1,3	1,2	3,4			
Jul	43 838	47 438	50 669	54 979	1,1	0,7	2,1	-0,7			
Aug	43 639	46 467	51 074	56 462	-0,5	-2,0	0,8	2,7			
Sep	43 625	46 673	51 846	56 650	0,0	0,4	1,5	0,3			
Oct	43 465	47 036	53 122	56 178	-0,4	0,8	2,5	-0,8			
Nov	43 674	47 401	52 573	56 878	0,5	0,8	-1,0	1,2			
Dec	44 055	47 858	53 249	57 666	0,9	1,0	1,3	1,4			

Table 10 - Retail trade sales at current prices by type of retailer (R million)

Type of retailer	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12 1/
General dealers	19 552	20 245	22 033	20 101	20 965	29 811
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	5 496	5 737	6 108	6 234	6 481	8 983
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	4 125	3 844	3 741	3 962	3 813	4 244
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	10 475	10 944	10 220	11 386	12 898	18 896
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	2 538	2 709	2 570	2 825	3 244	4 153
Hardware, paint and glass	4 045	4 469	4 350	4 373	4 947	4 370
All other retailers	6 097	6 000	6 036	6 506	6 681	8 304
Total	52 327	53 948	55 059	55 387	59 030	78 761

<sup>1/</sup> Preliminary.

Table 11 - Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at current prices by type of retailer

, , ,	, , , , ,					
Type of retailer	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12
General dealers	7,5	9,2	10,9	6,0	4,7	8,8
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	3,8	9,7	15,7	8,2	13,6	7,9
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	10,8	10,1	5,1	6,9	3,9	3,4
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	5,0	20,7	11,9	3,7	11,4	5,4
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	-0,3	5,0	2,2	2,9	7,1	1,7
Hardware, paint and glass	5,5	16,9	10,0	2,8	9,6	7,1
All other retailers	13,6	1,4	1,0	7,5	10,2	10,0
Total	6,9	10,9	9,5	5,6	8,2	7,2

Table 12 – Contribution of each type of retailer to the year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at current prices (percentage points)

Type of retailer	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12
General dealers	2,8	3,5	4,3	2,2	1,7	3,3
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	0,4	1,0	1,6	0,9	1,4	0,9
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	0,8	0,7	0,4	0,5	0,3	0,2
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	1,0	3,9	2,2	0,8	2,4	1,3
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	0,0	0,3	0,1	0,2	0,4	0,1
Hardware, paint and glass	0,4	1,3	0,8	0,2	0,8	0,4
All other retailers	1,5	0,2	0,1	0,9	1,1	1,0
Total	6,9	10,9	9,5	5,6	8,2	7,2

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### **Survey information**

#### Introduction

- 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey of the retail trade industry, covering retail enterprises (see 4 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from Stats SA's 2012 business sampling frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value added tax (VAT).
- 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 retail trade sales estimates include value added tax (VAT).

# Purpose of the survey

3 The results of the monthly retail 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

- This survey covers retail enterprises according to the following types of retailers:
  - General dealers:
    - Retail trade in non-specialised stores with food, beverages and tobacco predominating; and
    - > Other retail trade in non-specialised stores.
  - Retailers in food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores:
    - > Retailers in fresh fruit and vegetables;
    - > Retailers in meat and meat products;
    - > Retailers in bakery products;
    - Retailers in beverages;
    - Retailers in tobacco; and
    - Retailers in other food in specialised stores.
  - Retailers in pharmaceutical and medical goods, cosmetic and toiletries;
  - Retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods:
    - Retailers in men's and boys' clothing;
    - Retailers in ladies', girls' and infants' clothing;
    - General outfitters; and
    - Retailers in footwear.
  - Retailers in household furniture, appliances and equipment;
  - Retailers in hardware, paint and glass; and
  - All other retailers:
    - Retailers in reading matter and stationery;
    - Retailers in jewellery, watches and clocks;
    - Retailers in sport goods and entertainment requisites;
    - Retailers in other specialised stores;
    - Repair of personal and household goods;
    - > Retail trade in second-hand goods in stores; and
    - Retail trade not in stores.

### Classification

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 group (four digit) level.

#### **Collection rate**

The preliminary collection rate for the survey on retail trade sales for December 2012 was 79,4%. The improved collection rate for the survey on retail trade sales for November 2012 was 81,7%.

### 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**

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**

8

- **9** Users may also refer to the following publications available from Stats SA:
  - Bulletin of Statistics, issued quarterly; and
  - SA Statistics, issued annually.

# Rounding-off of figures

Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.

### Historical data

Historical retail trade sales data are available on the Stats SA webpage. To access the data electronically, use the following link: http://www.statssa.gov.za/timeseriesdata/timeseriesdata.asp

### Past publications

Past retail trade sales releases are available on the Stats SA webpage. To access the releases electronically, use the following link:

<a href="http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/statspastfuture.asp?PPN=P6242.1&SCH=5">http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/statspastfuture.asp?PPN=P6242.1&SCH=5</a>
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### **Technical notes**

# Survey methodology and design

The survey is conducted on a monthly basis. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of about 2 500 enterprises from a population of about 28 000 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within 10 days after the end of the reference month. Fax, email and telephone reminders are used to follow up on non-respondents.

A stratified random sample was drawn at the SIC four-digit level in April 2012 from Stats SA's business sampling frame (BSF). Strata were formed using a combination of the 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:

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

 $N_h$  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 3,8%.

#### **Class limits**

3

The retail sampling frame is divided into four size groups. All large and medium enterprises (size group one and two) are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to size group three and four (small and very small) enterprises. The total value of sales of the large and medium enterprises (size group one and two) is added to the weighted totals of size group 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	0	8 000 000	
Small	3	8 000 001	38 000 000	
Medium	2	38 000 001	78 000 000	
Large	1	78 000 001		

### Sample weighting

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

Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month using the X-12 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 recognised more clearly. 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**

The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-12 Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimate the underlying trend cycle.

### **Constant prices**

- For January 2002 to December 2007 retail trade sales at constant prices were calculated using the consumer price index (CPI) for goods, excluding petrol and purchases of vehicles, for all urban areas to deflate total sales at current prices. From January 2008 onwards total retail trade sales at constant prices are obtained by adding up the deflated sales by type of retailer.
- Retail trade sales at constant prices by type of retailer are obtained by deflating estimated sales at current prices by the relevant weighted price index. To obtain total retail trade sales at constant prices, estimates of the deflated sales for each type of retailer are aggregated.

# Reliability of estimates

- 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 retail industry in South Africa. Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.
- 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

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

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)

The contribution (percentage points) to the year-on-year percentage change for any given period is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of retailer by its corresponding weight, divided by 100. The weight is the percentage contribution of each type of retailer to total retail 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, Fifth Edition,

Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993 (SIC).

Retail trade Retail trade includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and

products to the general public for household use.

**Retailer** A retailer is an enterprise deriving more than 50% of its turnover from sales of goods to

the general public for household use.

Symbols and<br/>abbreviationsBSF<br/>CPIBusiness sampling frame<br/>Consumer price index

GDP Gross domestic product

ISIC International Standard Industrial Classification

SARS South African Revenue Service

SIC Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities

SNA System of National Accounts

Stats SA Statistics South Africa VAT Value added tax

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