

STATISTICAL RELEASE
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Wholesale trade sales
(Preliminary)

July 2017

The results published today are based on a new sample. This is an annual procedure which typically affects the level of sales at both current and constant prices. To avoid breaks in time series and to minimise revisions to historical growth rates, historical sales levels were revised (i.e. they were linked to the estimates based on the new sample).

The results in the next publication (August 2017) will present wholesale trade sales at constant prices with 2015 as the base year.

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Contents

Sales at constant 2012 prices: results for July 2017	2
Table A – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices	2
Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices.....	2
Sales at current prices: results for July 2017.....	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
Note: Changes to the monthly current indicator survey and the impact on the statistical series.....	4
Tables	6
Table 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices (R million).....	6
Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices.....	6
Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices	6
Table 4 – Wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million)	7
Table 5 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices	7
Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices.....	7
Table 7 – Wholesale trade sales at current prices by type of dealer (R million)	8
Table 8 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices by type of dealer	8
Table 9 – Contribution of type of dealer to the year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices.....	8
Survey information.....	9
Technical notes	11
Glossary.....	13
Technical enquiries.....	13
General information	14

Sales at constant 2012 prices: results for July 2017

Table A – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices

	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-10,8	-0,1	-1,8	-3,8	-1,3	-1,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-5,0	4,0	3,2	-3,7	2,2	0,6
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	-1,8	-3,7	-2,6	0,2	2,3	1,3

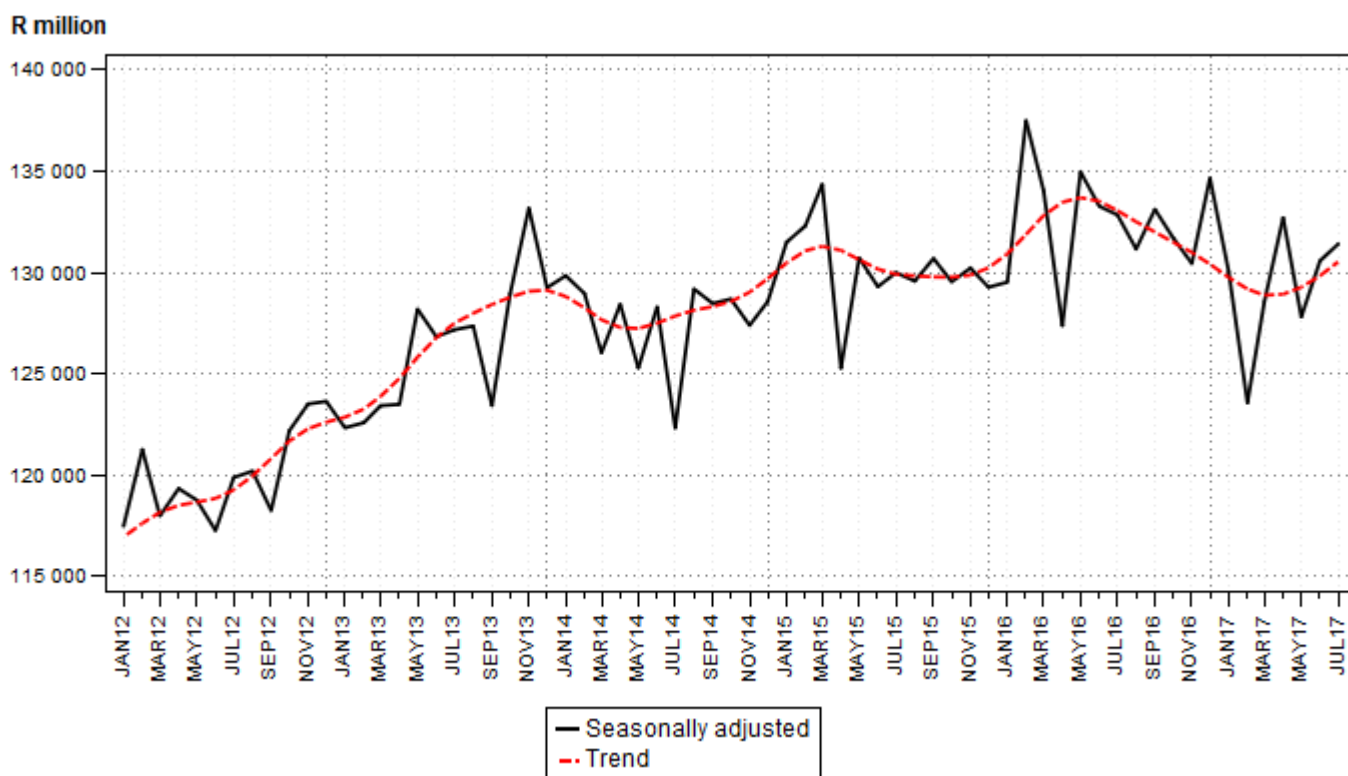
1/ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Measured in real terms (constant 2012 prices), wholesale trade sales decreased by 1,1% in July 2017 compared with July 2016.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 0,6% in July 2017 compared with June 2017. This followed month-on-month changes of 2,2% in June 2017 and -3,7% in May 2017.

In the three months ended July 2017, seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 1,3% compared with the previous three months.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices



Sales at current prices: results for July 2017

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

	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-5,9	5,9	1,8	1,1	1,7	1,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-2,6	2,3	3,2	-3,6	1,2	1,0
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	1,0	-0,9	-0,6	0,6	1,8	0,3

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 1,2% in July 2017 compared with July 2016. The main positive contributor to this increase was dealers in food, beverages and tobacco (6,8% and contributing 1,0 percentage point) – 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	May – Jul 2016 (R million)	Weight	May – Jul 2017 (R million)	% change between May – Jul 2016 and May – Jul 2017	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Fee or contract basis	20 910	4,4	21 739	4,0	0,2
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	46 913	9,9	42 517	-9,4	-0,9
Food, beverages and tobacco	74 267	15,6	80 133	7,9	1,2
Textiles, clothing and footwear	12 150	2,6	11 040	-9,1	-0,2
Other household goods except precious stones	61 390	12,9	61 961	0,9	0,1
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	8 355	1,8	10 357	24,0	0,4
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	90 015	18,9	92 164	2,4	0,5
Metal and metal ores	12 208	2,6	12 565	2,9	0,1
Construction and building materials	25 981	5,5	27 137	4,4	0,2
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	21 440	4,5	22 385	4,4	0,2
Machinery, equipment and supplies	64 841	13,6	61 874	-4,6	-0,6
Other goods	37 574	7,9	38 431	2,3	0,2
Total	476 041	100,0	482 301	1,3	1,3

Wholesale trade sales increased by 1,3% in the three months ended July 2017 compared with the three months ended July 2016. The main contributor to this increase was dealers in food, beverages and tobacco (7,9% and contributing 1,2 percentage points) – see Table C.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Note: Changes to the monthly current indicator survey and the impact on the statistical series

Business register and samples

Today Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publishes results for the monthly survey of wholesale trade sales from a new sample drawn in April 2017 which replaces the previous sample that was drawn in April 2016. The sample was drawn from a business register of enterprises with an annual turnover of at least R2 314 764 and that are required to register with the South African Revenue Service for value added tax.

Owing to the evolving nature of business, the business register is maintained on a continuous basis. The maintenance process is aimed, amongst other things, at capturing changes related to new businesses, ceased businesses, merged businesses and classification changes. In addition, Stats SA undertakes quality improvement surveys related to the business register, the primary objective of which is to capture up-to-date information about the structures and activities of large and complex businesses. This process enables Stats SA to review classification codes for these businesses. These changes are an essential part of the statistical architecture.

Comparison of sales between the previous (revised) and new samples for the wholesale industry

The reported level of total sales for the monthly survey of the wholesale trade industry for the months April to June 2017 based on the new sample was 0,7% lower than the level of total sales recorded for the previous sample (see Table D and Figure 2). The previous sample was drawn in April 2016 and was operational for the last half of 2016 and the first half of 2017.

Table D – Total sales for previous and new samples for the wholesale industry: April to June 2017

Wholesale trade industry	Previous sample (R million)	New sample (R million)	Difference (R million)	Difference (%)
	473 653	470 136	-3 517	-0,7

Figure 2 – Total wholesale trade sales: monthly levels of previous and new samples for April to June 2017

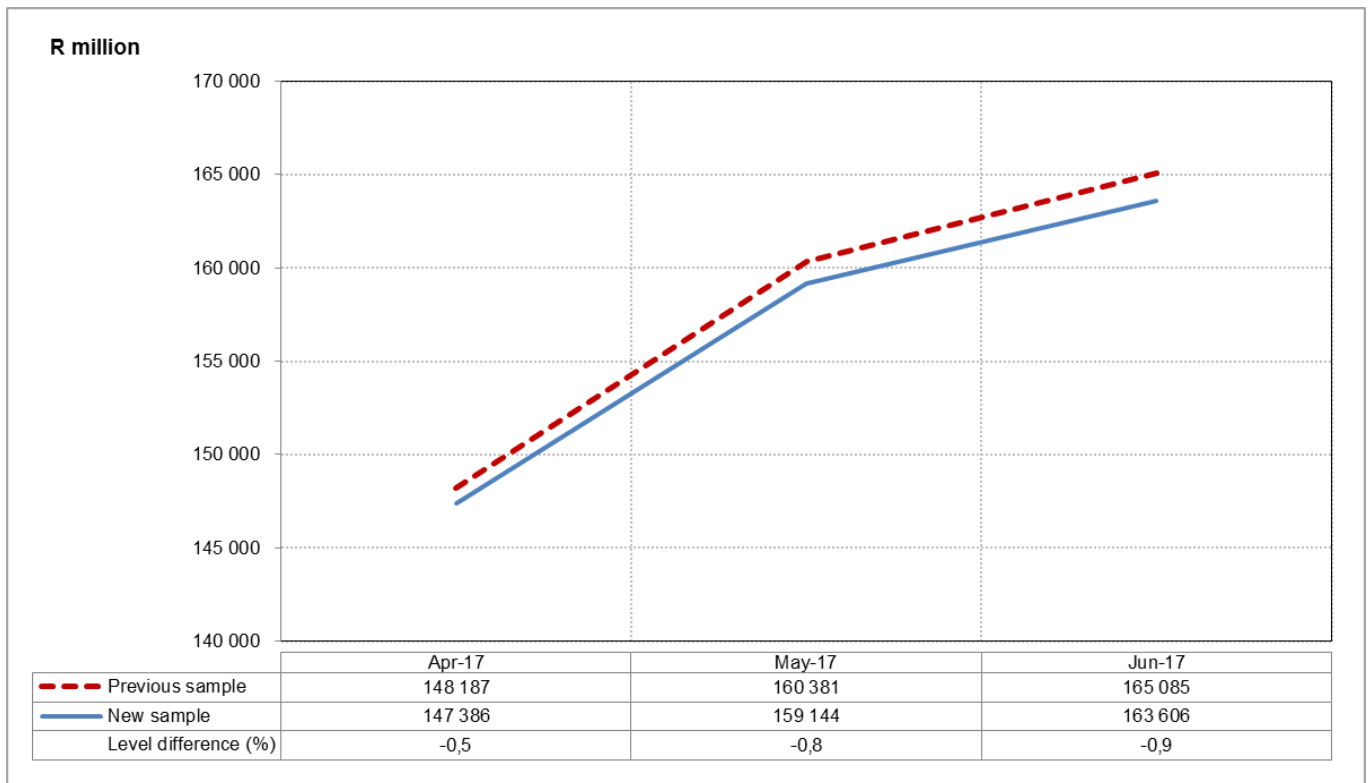


Table E – Wholesale trade sales for previous and new samples by type of dealer: April to June 2017

Type of dealer	Previous sample R million	New sample R million	Difference R million	Difference % 1/
Fee or contract basis	21 207	20 135	-1 072	-5,1
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	32 239	37 399	5 160	16,0
Food, beverages and tobacco	78 617	78 451	-166	-0,2
Textiles, clothing and footwear	8 080	10 721	2 641	32,7
Other household goods except precious stones	61 304	61 434	130	0,2
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	14 585	13 618	-967	-6,6
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	91 548	91 525	-23	0,0
Metals and metal ores	11 181	12 152	971	8,7
Construction and building materials	29 731	25 864	-3 867	-13,0
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	19 093	20 880	1 787	9,4
Machinery, equipment and supplies	63 702	59 610	-4 092	-6,4
Other goods	42 364	38 348	-4 016	-9,5
Total	473 653	470 136	-3 517	-0,7

1/ The percentage difference is the new sample minus the previous sample, divided by the previous sample, multiplied by 100.

The largest percentage differences were in the following types of dealers:

- construction and building materials (13,0% or R3 867 million lower in the new sample);
- textiles, clothing and footwear (32,7% or R2 641 million higher in the new sample); and
- agricultural raw materials and livestock (16,0% or R5 160 million higher in the new sample).

Backcasting

To avoid breaks in the time series and to minimise revisions to historical growth rates, historical sales levels were revised (i.e. they were linked to the estimates based on the new sample).

Tables

Table 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices (R million)

Month	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 1/
Jan	92 282	104 626	110 872	118 170	118 285	113 928	116 099
Feb	100 232	116 145	118 044	124 727	128 356	134 466	119 983
Mar	112 018	120 466	118 796	125 735	136 429	133 721	133 573
Apr	100 419	109 760	120 201	119 711	116 884	121 724	119 494
May	107 468	119 317	128 869	124 204	126 535	132 580	127 557
Jun	111 786	115 985	122 436	126 154	129 856	133 354	131 616
Jul	107 475	118 639	127 942	123 185	131 397	129 892	128 499
Aug	114 715	123 285	128 835	127 582	127 758	133 490	
Sep	118 276	117 941	125 826	134 131	135 934	139 892	
Oct	119 471	132 325	139 717	139 850	139 064	138 143	
Nov	127 241	138 529	146 298	136 429	141 782	143 931	
Dec	118 730	122 706	129 961	130 935	131 280	135 288	
Total	1 330 113	1 439 724	1 517 797	1 530 813	1 563 560	1 590 409	

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices

Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2017 year-to-date
Jan	13,4	6,0	6,6	0,1	-3,7	1,9	1,9
Feb	15,9	1,6	5,7	2,9	4,8	-10,8	-5,0
Mar	7,5	-1,4	5,8	8,5	-2,0	-0,1	-3,3
Apr	9,3	9,5	-0,4	-2,4	4,1	-1,8	-2,9
May	11,0	8,0	-3,6	1,9	4,8	-3,8	-3,1
Jun	3,8	5,6	3,0	2,9	2,7	-1,3	-2,8
Jul	10,4	7,8	-3,7	6,7	-1,1	-1,1	-2,5
Aug	7,5	4,5	-1,0	0,1	4,5		
Sep	-0,3	6,7	6,6	1,3	2,9		
Oct	10,8	5,6	0,1	-0,6	-0,7		
Nov	8,9	5,6	-6,7	3,9	1,5		
Dec	3,3	5,9	0,7	0,3	3,1		
Total	8,2	5,4	0,9	2,1	1,7		

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant 2012 prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017
Jan	129 849	131 500	129 530	130 047	0,5	2,3	0,2	-3,4
Feb	128 967	132 304	137 504	123 575	-0,7	0,6	6,2	-5,0
Mar	126 044	134 359	134 042	128 571	-2,3	1,6	-2,5	4,0
Apr	128 436	125 284	127 385	132 706	1,9	-6,8	-5,0	3,2
May	125 293	130 722	134 972	127 816	-2,4	4,3	6,0	-3,7
Jun	128 309	129 307	133 278	130 586	2,4	-1,1	-1,3	2,2
Jul	122 329	129 999	132 850	131 410	-4,7	0,5	-0,3	0,6
Aug	129 194	129 582	131 164		5,6	-0,3	-1,3	
Sep	128 477	130 699	133 122		-0,6	0,9	1,5	
Oct	128 698	129 547	131 723		0,2	-0,9	-1,1	
Nov	127 398	130 221	130 453		-1,0	0,5	-1,0	
Dec	128 579	129 279	134 664		0,9	-0,7	3,2	

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

Month	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 1/
Jan	84 293	101 303	114 385	130 950	125 162	132 550	141 155
Feb	93 024	113 544	122 442	139 912	136 957	158 224	148 811
Mar	105 033	118 582	124 695	142 727	150 019	156 593	165 755
Apr	94 255	108 910	125 516	136 149	130 743	144 804	147 386
May	101 154	119 264	134 183	141 103	141 877	157 449	159 144
Jun	105 550	115 268	128 558	143 379	147 351	160 885	163 606
Jul	102 522	117 442	135 211	140 326	149 012	157 707	159 551
Aug	110 589	123 368	137 690	145 085	144 451	160 568	
Sep	115 210	118 815	135 089	152 718	153 380	167 590	
Oct	116 748	134 809	150 724	158 427	159 428	166 246	
Nov	124 792	142 381	158 261	153 108	162 898	176 328	
Dec	116 374	126 039	141 913	144 642	150 128	165 221	
Total	1 269 544	1 439 725	1 608 667	1 728 526	1 751 406	1 904 165	

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

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

Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2017 year-to-date
Jan	20,2	12,9	14,5	-4,4	5,9	6,5	6,5
Feb	22,1	7,8	14,3	-2,1	15,5	-5,9	-0,3
Mar	12,9	5,2	14,5	5,1	4,4	5,9	1,9
Apr	15,5	15,2	8,5	-4,0	10,8	1,8	1,8
May	17,9	12,5	5,2	0,5	11,0	1,1	1,7
Jun	9,2	11,5	11,5	2,8	9,2	1,7	1,7
Jul	14,6	15,1	3,8	6,2	5,8	1,2	1,6
Aug	11,6	11,6	5,4	-0,4	11,2		
Sep	3,1	13,7	13,0	0,4	9,3		
Oct	15,5	11,8	5,1	0,6	4,3		
Nov	14,1	11,2	-3,3	6,4	8,2		
Dec	8,3	12,6	1,9	3,8	10,1		
Total	13,4	11,7	7,5	1,3	8,7		

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017
Jan	145 842	140 917	152 831	160 239	3,5	-0,9	3,4	-2,5
Feb	146 666	143 564	160 363	156 117	0,6	1,9	4,9	-2,6
Mar	141 472	147 516	156 692	159 696	-3,5	2,8	-2,3	2,3
Apr	147 322	140 907	154 214	164 803	4,1	-4,5	-1,6	3,2
May	141 895	145 075	158 876	158 892	-3,7	3,0	3,0	-3,6
Jun	144 709	146 303	159 724	160 744	2,0	0,8	0,5	1,2
Jul	140 783	148 792	161 308	162 338	-2,7	1,7	1,0	1,0
Aug	145 610	144 823	157 515		3,4	-2,7	-2,4	
Sep	147 214	148 317	160 095		1,1	2,4	1,6	
Oct	145 752	147 928	157 130		-1,0	-0,3	-1,9	
Nov	140 350	147 105	158 791		-3,7	-0,6	1,1	
Dec	142 216	147 798	164 344		1,3	0,5	3,5	

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

Type of dealer	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17 1/
Fee or contract basis	5 420	6 115	5 553	7 114	7 468	7 157
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	12 799	13 018	10 242	12 912	14 245	15 360
Food, beverages and tobacco	23 665	28 660	24 295	26 331	27 825	25 977
Textiles, clothing and footwear	3 732	4 294	3 826	3 696	3 199	4 145
Other household goods except precious stones	19 991	21 143	19 256	21 172	21 006	19 783
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	4 887	3 379	6 749	2 749	4 120	3 488
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	26 981	30 945	30 108	30 526	30 891	30 747
Metals and metal ores	4 502	4 872	3 578	4 146	4 428	3 991
Construction and building materials	8 138	9 091	7 868	8 850	9 146	9 141
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	8 050	7 880	6 431	7 481	6 968	7 936
Machinery, equipment and supplies	18 917	23 401	17 254	20 525	21 831	19 518
Other goods	11 729	12 958	12 226	13 643	12 479	12 309
Total	148 811	165 755	147 386	159 144	163 606	159 551

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	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17
Fee or contract basis	-20,3	16,2	-7,5	-0,1	-1,2	14,8
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	8,9	5,7	-16,7	-9,8	-11,7	-6,7
Food, beverages and tobacco	-3,2	5,7	9,0	6,0	10,8	6,8
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-17,7	-19,0	-17,3	-1,0	-21,0	-5,0
Other household goods except precious stones	-7,1	-0,5	-3,2	-0,3	-0,9	4,3
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	39,4	-4,9	62,8	-0,8	30,3	44,0
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	1,2	12,5	15,8	1,4	5,4	0,4
Metals and metal ores	16,3	26,9	-8,3	-0,9	10,9	-1,0
Construction and building materials	-3,1	11,1	-8,7	1,6	6,8	5,1
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	0,1	9,3	-5,3	4,1	-8,5	19,5
Machinery, equipment and supplies	-24,0	3,4	-7,9	-3,9	5,1	-14,1
Other goods	-14,7	4,3	6,4	14,5	-7,1	0,7
Total	-5,9	5,9	1,8	1,1	1,7	1,2

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

Type of dealer	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17
Fee or contract basis	-0,9	0,6	-0,3	0,0	-0,1	0,6
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	0,7	0,5	-1,4	-0,9	-1,2	-0,7
Food, beverages and tobacco	-0,5	1,0	1,4	0,9	1,7	1,0
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-0,5	-0,6	-0,6	0,0	-0,5	-0,1
Other household goods except precious stones	-1,0	-0,1	-0,4	0,0	-0,1	0,5
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	0,9	-0,1	1,8	0,0	0,6	0,7
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	0,2	2,2	2,8	0,3	1,0	0,1
Metals and metal ores	0,4	0,7	-0,2	0,0	0,3	0,0
Construction and building materials	-0,2	0,6	-0,5	0,1	0,4	0,3
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	0,0	0,4	-0,2	0,2	-0,4	0,8
Machinery, equipment and supplies	-3,8	0,5	-1,0	-0,5	0,7	-2,0
Other goods	-1,3	0,3	0,5	1,1	-0,6	0,1
Total	-5,9	5,9	1,8	1,1	1,7	1,2

Survey information

- Introduction**
- 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey covering enterprises in the wholesale trade industry (see 4 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from Stats SA's 2017 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 July 2017 was 76,7%. The collection rate for June 2017 for the new sample was 83,1%.

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 1 275 enterprises from a population of 19 534 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 2017 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 6,4%.

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	2 314 764	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 US Bureau of the Census. 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 July 2016](#)

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 apparatus and subcomponents.
 - (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 apparatus and subcomponents; 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.

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