

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)

April 2025

Embargoed until: 19 June 2025 10:00

ENQUIRIES: JP Terblanche Tel: 066 470 2112 FORTHCOMING ISSUE: May 2025

**EXPECTED RELEASE DATE:** 

17 July 2025





#### Contents

Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for April 2025	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 April 2025	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)	2
Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at constant 2019 prices	∠
Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant 2019 prices	2
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	nt
prices	6
Explanatory notes	7
Technical notes	9
Glossary	11
Technical enquiries	11
General information	12

#### Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for April 2025

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

	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-7,0	0,2	-0,8	-7,5	-1,7	-6,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-3,3	2,2	0,1	-2,0	0,2	0,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>	-0,2	1,6	0,7	0,5	-0,9	-0,8

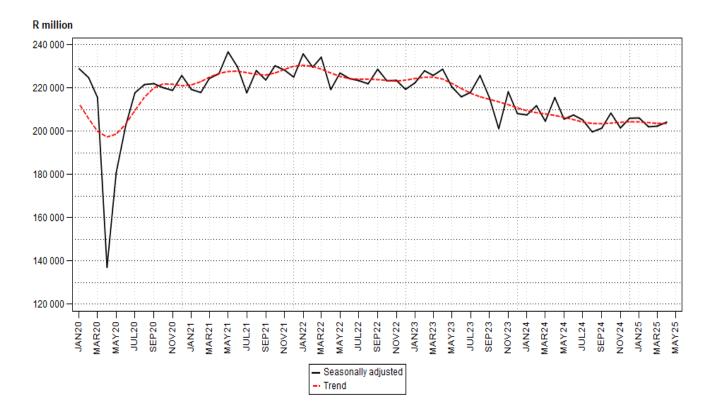
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Measured in real terms (constant 2019 prices), wholesale trade sales decreased by 6,5% in April 2025 compared with April 2024.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 0,9% in April 2025 compared with March 2025. This followed month-on-month changes of 0,2% in March 2025 and -2,0% in February 2025.

In the three months ended April 2025, seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales decreased by 0,8% compared with the previous three months.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2019 prices



#### Sales at current prices: results for April 2025

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

	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-9,4	-1,0	-0,4	-7,2	-2,3	-7,8
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-3,9	2,0	2,8	-2,3	-2,6	1,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>	-1,4	0,7	1,1	1,8	0,2	-1,1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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 decreased by 7,8% in April 2025 compared with April 2024. The main negative contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-21,1% and contributing -5,5 percentage points);
- machinery, equipment and supplies (-7,6% and contributing -1,1 percentage points); and
- agricultural raw materials and livestock (-11,1% and contributing -0,7 of a percentage point) see Table 8 and Table 9.

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

Type of dealer	Feb – Apr 2024 (R million)	Weight (%)	Feb – Apr 2025 (R million)	% change between Feb – Apr 2024 and Feb – Apr 2025	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Fee or contract basis	26 153	3,0	25 666	-1,9	-0,1
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	54 907	6,3	53 595	-2,4	-0,2
Food, beverages and tobacco	123 049	14,2	124 544	1,2	0,2
Textiles, clothing and footwear	17 956	2,1	17 101	-4,8	-0,1
Other household goods except precious stones	88 794	10,2	94 852	6,8	0,7
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	13 463	1,5	10 140	-24,7	-0,4
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	224 230	25,8	179 545	-19,9	-5,1
Metals and metal ores	25 929	3,0	25 237	-2,7	-0,1
Construction and building materials	45 040	5,2	44 253	-1,7	-0,1
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	42 330	4,9	39 988	-5,5	-0,3
Machinery, equipment and supplies	134 358	15,5	129 780	-3,4	-0,5
Other goods	73 126	8,4	74 260	1,6	0,1
Total	869 334	100,0	818 960	-5,8	-5,8

Wholesale trade sales in nominal terms (current prices) decreased by 5,8% in the three months ended April 2025 compared with the three months ended April 2024. The main negative contributor was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-19,9% and contributing -5,1 percentage points) – see Table C.

Risenga Maluleke Statistician-General

#### **Tables**

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

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jan	199 296	204 279	188 921	203 348	196 580	186 119	184 677
Feb	214 596	216 993	207 448	218 504	217 676	208 917	193 242
Mar	229 671	220 773	232 455	239 796	232 176	202 032	198 678
Apr	214 086	123 642	207 355	197 411	199 833	199 730	186 714
May	224 124	178 893	235 070	230 940	227 348	211 316	
Jun	216 334	208 997	233 100	226 603	221 442	202 114	
Jul	239 451	224 623	222 873	223 125	216 475	212 047	
Aug	228 628	218 447	230 524	227 853	231 176	204 387	
Sep	229 370	230 827	232 006	240 072	221 483	205 360	
Oct	250 531	241 108	247 372	239 775	221 533	232 294	
Nov	244 130	236 364	252 907	244 884	237 794	221 114	
Dec	214 842	219 637	219 236	211 192	194 520	194 827	
Total	2 705 059	2 524 583	2 709 267	2 703 503	2 618 036	2 480 257	

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

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025 year-to-date
Jan	2,5	-7,5	7,6	-3,3	-5,3	-0,8	-0,8
Feb	1,1	-4,4	5,3	-0,4	-4,0	-7,5	-4,3
Mar	-3,9	5,3	3,2	-3,2	-13,0	-1,7	-3,4
Apr	-42,2	67,7	-4,8	1,2	-0,1	-6,5	-4,2
May	-20,2	31,4	-1,8	-1,6	-7,1		
Jun	-3,4	11,5	-2,8	-2,3	-8,7		
Jul	-6,2	-0,8	0,1	-3,0	-2,0		
Aug	-4,5	5,5	-1,2	1,5	-11,6		
Sep	0,6	0,5	3,5	-7,7	-7,3		
Oct	-3,8	2,6	-3,1	-7,6	4,9		
Nov	-3,2	7,0	-3,2	-2,9	-7,0		
Dec	2,2	-0,2	-3,7	-7,9	0,2		
Total	-6,7	7,3	-0,2	-3,2	-5,3		

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

NA 41:		R m	illion			Month-on-mo	Month-on-month % change				
Month	2022	2023	2024	2025	2022	2023	2024	2025			
Jan	235 800	222 435	207 556	206 149	4,8	1,4	-0,3	0,1			
Feb	229 622	227 979	211 832	202 050	-2,6	2,5	2,1	-2,0			
Mar	234 255	225 802	204 626	202 375	2,0	-1,0	-3,4	0,2			
Apr	219 282	228 701	215 610	204 244	-6,4	1,3	5,4	0,9			
May	226 938	220 532	205 615		3,5	-3,6	-4,6				
Jun	224 365	215 914	207 523		-1,1	-2,1	0,9				
Jul	223 440	218 008	205 252		-0,4	1,0	-1,1				
Aug	221 945	225 799	199 709		-0,7	3,6	-2,7				
Sep	228 672	215 397	201 413		3,0	-4,6	0,9				
Oct	223 365	201 148	208 428		-2,3	-6,6	3,5				
Nov	223 555	218 259	201 520		0,1	8,5	-3,3				
Dec	219 379	208 158	206 028		-1,9	-4,6	2,2				

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

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jan	192 425	207 201	194 644	239 964	266 587	260 856	259 808
Feb	207 358	220 064	217 063	261 395	295 265	294 290	273 083
Mar	225 152	222 860	246 505	297 156	315 526	287 920	281 234
Apr	214 381	122 308	222 601	250 052	272 527	287 124	264 643
May	225 955	174 097	253 105	300 386	311 052	305 434	
Jun	219 159	205 373	252 729	301 380	300 947	289 082	
Jul	241 003	225 218	244 262	303 709	296 098	301 164	
Aug	230 126	221 587	254 984	307 311	319 877	289 108	
Sep	231 271	234 101	259 859	326 261	314 373	288 645	
Oct	253 871	245 817	279 701	328 443	318 363	323 468	
Nov	246 757	240 859	291 962	335 052	341 163	309 149	
Dec	217 598	223 810	257 774	290 848	275 816	272 976	
Total	2 705 056	2 543 295	2 975 189	3 541 957	3 627 594	3 509 216	

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

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025 year-to-date
Jan	7,7	-6,1	23,3	11,1	-2,1	-0,4	-0,4
Feb	6,1	-1,4	20,4	13,0	-0,3	-7,2	-4,0
Mar	-1,0	10,6	20,5	6,2	-8,7	-2,3	-3,4
Apr	-42,9	82,0	12,3	9,0	5,4	-7,8	-4,5
May	-23,0	45,4	18,7	3,6	-1,8		
Jun	-6,3	23,1	19,3	-0,1	-3,9		
Jul	-6,5	8,5	24,3	-2,5	1,7		
Aug	-3,7	15,1	20,5	4,1	-9,6		
Sep	1,2	11,0	25,6	-3,6	-8,2		
Oct	-3,2	13,8	17,4	-3,1	1,6		
Nov	-2,4	21,2	14,8	1,8	-9,4		
Dec	2,9	15,2	12,8	-5,2	-1,0		
Total	-6,0	17,0	19,0	2,4	-3,3		

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices

Mande		R mi	llion		Month-on-month % change				
Month	2022	2023	2024	2025	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Jan	276 367	303 987	295 398	295 814	4,3	0,8	0,8	2,8	
Feb	278 053	313 534	302 769	288 875	0,6	3,1	2,5	-2,3	
Mar	287 634	306 247	293 828	281 355	3,4	-2,3	-3,0	-2,6	
Apr	274 152	301 851	301 931	286 274	-4,7	-1,4	2,8	1,7	
May	295 541	301 884	296 231		7,8	0,0	-1,9		
Jun	298 331	295 833	292 289		0,9	-2,0	-1,3		
Jul	304 953	296 949	294 747		2,2	0,4	0,8		
Aug	298 970	310 584	282 076		-2,0	4,6	-4,3		
Sep	311 887	304 820	280 936		4,3	-1,9	-0,4		
Oct	305 383	292 712	293 815		-2,1	-4,0	4,6		
Nov	306 724	313 668	282 365		0,4	7,2	-3,9		
Dec	301 710	293 017	287 893		-1,6	-6,6	2,0		

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

Type of dealer	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25
Fee or contract basis	9 921	9 245	9 072	7 789	8 633	9 244
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	23 718	20 187	16 453	19 724	18 899	14 972
Food, beverages and tobacco	46 684	49 967	37 594	39 470	43 295	41 779
Textiles, clothing and footwear	6 887	4 043	4 194	4 928	6 213	5 960
Other household goods except precious stones	36 071	31 366	30 714	31 521	32 801	30 530
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	5 328	4 029	2 988	3 922	2 919	3 299
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	59 630	56 946	63 593	58 679	62 204	58 662
Metals and metal ores	9 512	6 292	7 540	8 131	9 041	8 065
Construction and building materials	17 801	11 983	12 141	14 214	15 169	14 870
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	19 799	15 554	14 800	14 567	12 955	12 466
Machinery, equipment and supplies	45 745	37 129	37 356	46 382	43 934	39 464
Other goods	28 053	26 235	23 365	23 755	25 173	25 332
Total	309 149	272 976	259 808	273 083	281 234	264 643

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

Type of dealer	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25
Fee or contract basis	-11,3	18,4	53,6	5,0	1,9	-9,9
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	0,9	2,0	-1,9	-0,3	3,4	-11,1
Food, beverages and tobacco	3,6	9,5	-5,6	-7,9	4,5	7,9
Textiles, clothing and footwear	21,5	20,9	-3,2	-8,3	3,4	-9,3
Other household goods except precious stones	1,5	14,3	10,9	8,2	15,4	-2,3
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	-13,9	16,2	-4,2	-32,2	-29,8	-6,4
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	-36,2	-27,9	-11,2	-24,6	-13,7	-21,1
Metals and metal ores	-4,9	13,9	1,9	-3,5	2,2	-6,8
Construction and building materials	2,1	12,3	6,8	-8,2	8,4	-4,5
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	3,5	8,9	7,1	-5,2	-2,7	-8,7
Machinery, equipment and supplies	-2,7	4,2	0,4	8,6	-10,2	-7,6
Other goods	3,9	12,6	7,0	-1,6	5,0	1,3
Total	-9,4	-1,0	-0,4	-7,2	-2,3	-7,8

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

Type of dealer	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25
Fee or contract basis	-0,4	0,5	1,2	0,1	0,1	-0,4
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	0,1	0,1	-0,1	0,0	0,2	-0,7
Food, beverages and tobacco	0,5	1,6	-0,9	-1,2	0,6	1,1
Textiles, clothing and footwear	0,4	0,3	-0,1	-0,1	0,1	-0,2
Other household goods except precious stones	0,2	1,4	1,2	0,8	1,5	-0,3
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	-0,3	0,2	-0,1	-0,6	-0,4	-0,1
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	-9,9	-8,0	-3,1	-6,5	-3,4	-5,5
Metals and metal ores	-0,1	0,3	0,1	-0,1	0,1	-0,2
Construction and building materials	0,1	0,5	0,3	-0,4	0,4	-0,2
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	0,2	0,5	0,4	-0,3	-0,1	-0,4
Machinery, equipment and supplies	-0,4	0,5	0,1	1,2	-1,7	-1,1
Other goods	0,3	1,1	0,6	-0,1	0,4	0,1
Total	-9,4	-1,0	-0,4	-7,2	-2,3	-7,8

#### **Explanatory notes**

#### Introduction

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey covering enterprises in the wholesale trade industry (see point 3 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from Stats SA's 2024 statistical business register (SBR) 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 SBR, which is linked to the SARS administrative data. Published wholesale trade sales estimates exclude VAT.

#### Purpose of the survey

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

- 3 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

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 wholesale trade sales for April 2025 was 76,8%. The revised collection rate for March 2025 was 80,5%.

STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA 8 P6141.2

#### Statistical unit

6

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. The reasons for routine revisions are outlined in the following schedule. Any unscheduled revisions will be promptly indicated in relevant tables to maintain transparency and accuracy. It is important to note that seasonally adjusted figures are revised monthly.

Statistical release	Reason for revision	Period subject to revision		
Apr-25	Additional information from respondents	Mar-25		
May-25	Additional information from respondents	Apr-25		
Jun-25	Additional information from respondents	May-25		
Jul-25	Additional information from respondents New sample	Jan-98-Jun-25		
Aug-25	Additional information from respondents	Jul-25		
Sep-25	Additional information from respondents	Aug-25		
Oct-25	Additional information from respondents	Sep-25		
Nov-25	Additional information from respondents	Oct-25		
Dec-25	Additional information from respondents	Nov-25		
Jan-26	Additional information from respondents	Dec-25		
Feb-26	Additional information from respondents	Jan-26		
Mar-26	Additional information from respondents	Feb-26		
New base year in 2027/28 - periodic, approximately four- to five-year intervals				

#### **Related publications**

8 Users may also refer to the Stats in Brief publication available from Stats SA.

#### Rounding-off of figures

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

#### Historical data

Historical wholesale trade sales data are available on the Stats SA website. To access the data electronically, use the following link:
<u>Click to download historical data.</u>

#### Past publications

11 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 1 673 enterprises from a population of 17 102 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within 10 days after the end of the reference month. Email 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 2024 from Stats SA's statistical business register (SBR). 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:

$$nh = n * (Nh * Sh) / [\Sigma (Ni * Si)].$$

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 5,25%.

**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 groups two, three and four to reflect the total value of sales.

#### Measure of size classes (Rand)

Enterprise size	Size group	Lower limit	Upper limit	
Very small	4	7 097 892	36 000 000	
Small	3	36 000 001	192 000 000	
Medium	2	192 000 001	384 000 000	
Large	1	384 000 001		

#### 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

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 that 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. From 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:

- 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 are 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.

#### Relative standard error

10

One measure is the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of enterprises was used. The relative standard error (RSE) provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and thus avoids the need to refer to the size of the estimate.

### Estimates of total wholesale trade sales within 95% confidence limits – April 2025

	Lower limit (R million)	Sales (R million)	Upper limit (R million)	Relative standard error (RSE) %
Wholesale trade sales	255 079	264 643	274 207	1,8

## 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 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

GDP Gross domestic product
ISIC International Standard Industrial Classification
CARC South African Revenue Coming

SARS South African Revenue Service SBR Statistical Business Register

SIC Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities

Stats SA Statistics South Africa
VAT Value-added tax
\* Revised figures

#### 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 / 066 477 2326

Email: nthabisengs@statssa.gov.za

**JP Terblanche** Telephone number: (012) 310 2965 / 066 470 2112

Email: juan-pierret@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 12 official languages. Since the releases are used extensively locally and 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