



stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

STATISTICAL RELEASE

P6141.2

Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

April 2026

Embargoed until:
18 June 2026
13:00

ENQUIRIES:
Kurt Roach
Tel: 063 651 3540

FORTHCOMING ISSUE:
May 2026

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE:
23 July 2026



Contents

Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for April 2026	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 2026	3
Table B – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at current prices	3
Table C – Wholesale trade sales at current prices for the latest three months by type of dealer	3
Tables	4
Table 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2019 prices (R million).....	4
Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at constant 2019 prices.....	4
Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant 2019 prices	4
Table 4 – Wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million)	5
Table 5 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices	5
Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices	5
Table 7 – Wholesale trade sales at current prices by type of dealer (R million)	6
Table 8 – Year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices by type of dealer	6
Table 9 – Contribution of type of dealer to the year-on-year percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices	6
Explanatory notes	7
Technical notes	9
Glossary	11
Technical enquiries	11
General information	12

Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for April 2026

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

	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-0,7	0,7	-4,2	-1,4	8,9	3,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,9	-1,2	-1,3	0,8	6,2	-2,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	0,3	0,5	0,4	-0,5	1,1	2,8

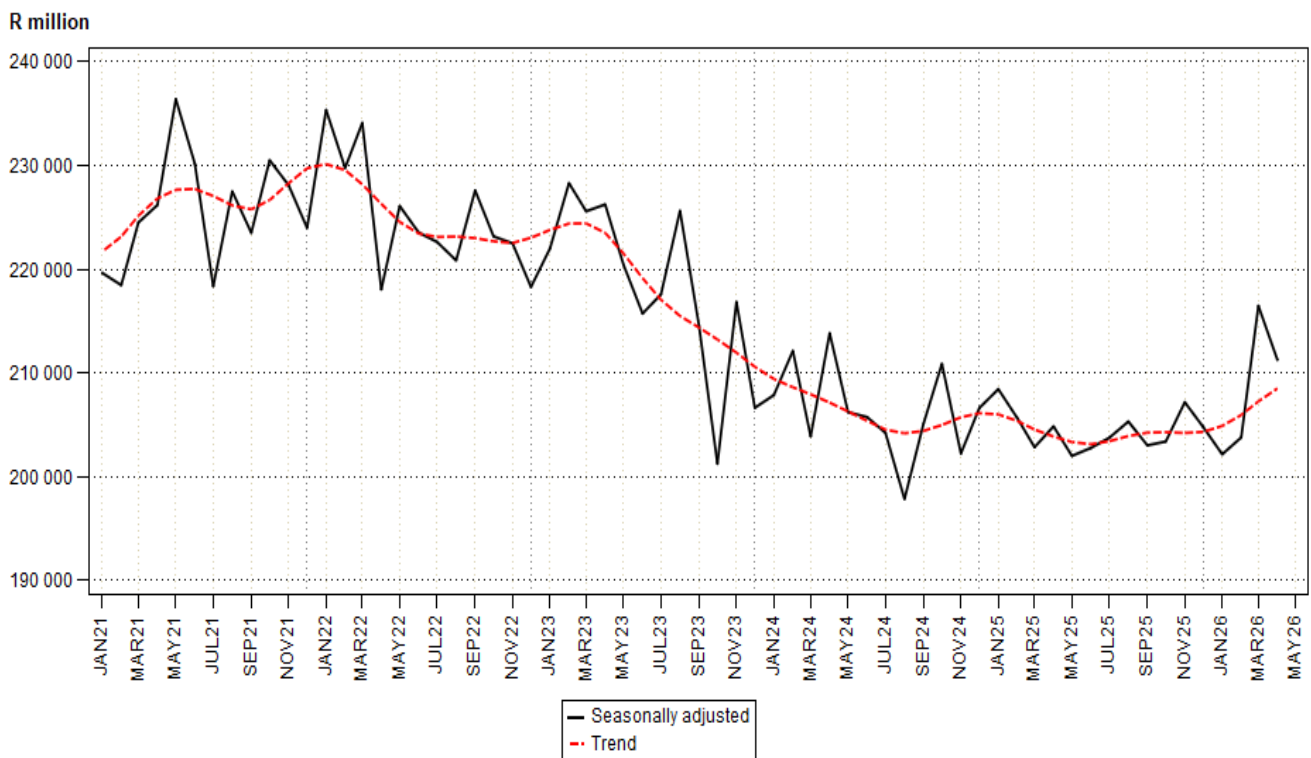
¹ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Measured in real terms (constant 2019 prices), wholesale trade sales increased by 3,3% in April 2026 compared with April 2025.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales decreased by 2,4% in April 2026 compared with March 2026. This followed month-on-month changes of 6,2% in March 2026 and 0,8% in February 2026.

In the three months ended April 2026, seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 2,8% compared with the previous three months.

Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2019 prices



Sales at current prices: results for April 2026

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

	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	1,3	2,6	-3,5	-1,5	10,0	10,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,8	0,5	-1,2	-0,2	6,1	3,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,3	1,3	4,4

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 10,9% in April 2026 compared with April 2025. The main positive contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (33,7% and contributing 8,0 percentage points); and
- 'other' intermediate products, waste and scrap (20,7% and contributing 1,0 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 2025 (R million)	Weight (%)	Feb – Apr 2026 (R million)	% change between Feb – Apr 2025 and Feb – Apr 2026	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Fee or contract basis	23 092	2,8	23 016	-0,3	0,0
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	57 965	7,0	55 280	-4,6	-0,3
Food, beverages and tobacco	126 958	15,4	138 182	8,8	1,4
Textiles, clothing and footwear	18 609	2,3	18 740	0,7	0,0
Other household goods except precious stones	91 029	11,0	94 592	3,9	0,4
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	9 954	1,2	8 634	-13,3	-0,2
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	190 233	23,0	216 879	14,0	3,2
Metals and metal ores	24 595	3,0	26 564	8,0	0,2
Construction and building materials	40 311	4,9	44 040	9,3	0,5
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	40 247	4,9	45 525	13,1	0,6
Machinery, equipment and supplies	136 311	16,5	135 907	-0,3	0,0
Other goods	66 554	8,1	71 784	7,9	0,6
Total	825 859	100,0	879 142	6,5	6,5

Wholesale trade sales increased by 6,5% in the three months ended April 2026 compared with the three months ended April 2025. The main positive contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (14,0% and contributing 3,2 percentage points); and
- food, beverages and tobacco (8,8% and contributing 1,4 percentage points) – see Table C.


Risenga Maluleke
 Statistician-General

Tables

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

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	204 190	189 179	203 072	196 024	185 722	185 852	178 013
Feb	216 888	207 572	218 170	217 175	208 397	194 870	192 124
Mar	220 757	232 483	239 191	231 606	201 470	199 274	217 073
Apr	123 747	207 280	196 853	199 343	199 274	188 950	195 194
May	179 270	235 054	230 168	226 868	211 631	204 518	
Jun	209 346	233 127	225 623	221 078	200 571	202 587	
Jul	224 794	222 847	221 940	216 046	210 325	209 034	
Aug	218 559	230 394	226 735	230 690	202 611	205 666	
Sep	230 971	231 836	238 992	220 736	210 195	213 063	
Oct	241 382	247 185	238 798	220 615	233 236	226 150	
Nov	236 693	252 538	243 936	236 872	222 687	221 055	
Dec	219 963	218 825	210 385	193 927	196 537	197 816	
Total	2 526 560	2 708 320	2 693 863	2 610 980	2 482 656	2 448 835	

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

Month	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2026 year-to-date
Jan	-7,4	7,3	-3,5	-5,3	0,1	-4,2	-4,2
Feb	-4,3	5,1	-0,5	-4,0	-6,5	-1,4	-2,8
Mar	5,3	2,9	-3,2	-13,0	-1,1	8,9	1,2
Apr	67,5	-5,0	1,3	0,0	-5,2	3,3	1,8
May	31,1	-2,1	-1,4	-6,7	-3,4		
Jun	11,4	-3,2	-2,0	-9,3	1,0		
Jul	-0,9	-0,4	-2,7	-2,6	-0,6		
Aug	5,4	-1,6	1,7	-12,2	1,5		
Sep	0,4	3,1	-7,6	-4,8	1,4		
Oct	2,4	-3,4	-7,6	5,7	-3,0		
Nov	6,7	-3,4	-2,9	-6,0	-0,7		
Dec	-0,5	-3,9	-7,8	1,3	0,7		
Total	7,2	-0,5	-3,1	-4,9	-1,4		

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

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	221 989	207 862	208 436	202 160	1,7	0,6	0,9	-1,3
Feb	228 283	212 124	205 636	203 779	2,8	2,1	-1,3	0,8
Mar	225 574	203 891	202 841	216 464	-1,2	-3,9	-1,4	6,2
Apr	226 230	213 830	204 847	211 256	0,3	4,9	1,0	-2,4
May	220 403	206 212	202 004		-2,6	-3,6	-1,4	
Jun	215 719	205 745	202 774		-2,1	-0,2	0,4	
Jul	217 565	204 224	203 755		0,9	-0,7	0,5	
Aug	225 623	197 845	205 315		3,7	-3,1	0,8	
Sep	214 540	205 106	203 020		-4,9	3,7	-1,1	
Oct	201 254	210 874	203 390		-6,2	2,8	0,2	
Nov	216 837	202 234	207 175		7,7	-4,1	1,9	
Dec	206 639	206 617	204 787		-4,7	2,2	-1,2	

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

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	207 083	194 533	239 828	266 435	260 708	261 741	252 520
Feb	219 939	216 940	261 247	295 097	294 123	275 643	271 515
Mar	222 733	246 364	296 988	315 347	287 757	282 286	310 447
Apr	122 238	222 475	249 911	272 373	287 186	267 930	297 180
May	173 998	252 961	300 215	310 875	306 584	289 552	
Jun	205 257	252 585	301 209	300 775	287 369	286 788	
Jul	225 090	244 124	303 536	295 929	299 030	298 820	
Aug	221 462	254 840	307 137	319 695	286 786	294 083	
Sep	233 968	259 712	326 076	314 195	295 309	303 614	
Oct	245 678	279 541	328 256	318 181	324 867	321 989	
Nov	240 723	291 796	334 862	340 969	311 620	315 681	
Dec	223 682	257 628	290 683	275 660	275 649	282 920	
Total	2 541 851	2 973 499	3 539 948	3 625 531	3 516 988	3 481 047	

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

Month	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2026 year-to-date
Jan	-6,1	23,3	11,1	-2,1	0,4	-3,5	-3,5
Feb	-1,4	20,4	13,0	-0,3	-6,3	-1,5	-2,5
Mar	10,6	20,5	6,2	-8,7	-1,9	10,0	1,8
Apr	82,0	12,3	9,0	5,4	-6,7	10,9	4,1
May	45,4	18,7	3,6	-1,4	-5,6		
Jun	23,1	19,3	-0,1	-4,5	-0,2		
Jul	8,5	24,3	-2,5	1,0	-0,1		
Aug	15,1	20,5	4,1	-10,3	2,5		
Sep	11,0	25,6	-3,6	-6,0	2,8		
Oct	13,8	17,4	-3,1	2,1	-0,9		
Nov	21,2	14,8	1,8	-8,6	1,3		
Dec	15,2	12,8	-5,2	0,0	2,6		
Total	17,0	19,0	2,4	-3,0	-1,0		

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	304 762	296 763	299 652	291 259	0,8	1,2	3,2	-1,2
Feb	314 726	303 952	294 362	290 691	3,3	2,4	-1,8	-0,2
Mar	306 126	293 179	282 034	308 418	-2,7	-3,5	-4,2	6,1
Apr	301 291	302 036	290 074	318 363	-1,6	3,0	2,9	3,2
May	301 903	297 477	283 073		0,2	-1,5	-2,4	
Jun	295 503	290 121	285 805		-2,1	-2,5	1,0	
Jul	296 056	292 014	291 349		0,2	0,7	1,9	
Aug	310 358	279 467	291 455		4,8	-4,3	0,0	
Sep	304 040	286 046	289 662		-2,0	2,4	-0,6	
Oct	291 726	294 478	290 801		-4,1	2,9	0,4	
Nov	313 601	284 277	293 148		7,5	-3,5	0,8	
Dec	293 239	290 368	294 717		-6,5	2,1	0,5	

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

Type of dealer	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26
Fee or contract basis	11 846	10 573	8 002	7 118	7 317	8 581
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	23 512	21 395	16 747	19 335	19 660	16 285
Food, beverages and tobacco	49 466	54 362	44 372	45 253	48 408	44 521
Textiles, clothing and footwear	6 440	4 446	4 494	5 351	6 609	6 780
Other household goods except precious stones	36 397	31 185	26 812	29 487	34 498	30 607
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	4 340	2 350	1 542	2 761	2 774	3 099
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	65 161	58 202	56 344	57 682	74 190	85 007
Metals and metal ores	8 679	6 310	7 005	8 226	9 684	8 654
Construction and building materials	16 859	11 914	11 204	14 862	15 321	13 857
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	18 708	15 922	15 803	14 521	15 735	15 269
Machinery, equipment and supplies	47 584	40 006	39 078	43 689	51 988	40 230
Other goods	26 688	26 256	21 116	23 231	24 263	24 290
Total	315 681	282 920	252 520	271 515	310 447	297 180

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

Type of dealer	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26
Fee or contract basis	2,6	9,6	2,1	1,8	-5,0	2,2
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	-7,2	-1,7	-5,7	-8,8	-4,0	0,0
Food, beverages and tobacco	4,7	7,5	16,0	14,7	14,0	-1,2
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-11,9	5,9	-3,8	-4,2	-0,4	6,1
Other household goods except precious stones	7,0	5,8	-8,4	-1,1	6,3	6,4
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	-16,5	-38,2	-42,1	-38,2	15,4	0,5
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	4,7	-2,6	-16,6	-6,5	14,3	33,7
Metals and metal ores	-2,9	6,9	-5,7	4,2	10,4	9,1
Construction and building materials	1,2	7,4	-2,0	11,0	8,8	7,9
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	-5,5	2,8	7,4	-0,9	21,6	20,7
Machinery, equipment and supplies	-0,1	1,1	1,2	-10,9	12,1	-1,7
Other goods	3,8	7,8	-1,6	8,2	5,1	10,4
Total	1,3	2,6	-3,5	-1,5	10,0	10,9

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-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26
Fee or contract basis	0,1	0,3	0,1	0,0	-0,1	0,1
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	-0,6	-0,1	-0,4	-0,7	-0,3	0,0
Food, beverages and tobacco	0,7	1,4	2,3	2,1	2,1	-0,2
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-0,3	0,1	-0,1	-0,1	0,0	0,1
Other household goods except precious stones	0,8	0,6	-0,9	-0,1	0,7	0,7
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	-0,3	-0,5	-0,4	-0,6	0,1	0,0
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	0,9	-0,6	-4,3	-1,5	3,3	8,0
Metals and metal ores	-0,1	0,1	-0,2	0,1	0,3	0,3
Construction and building materials	0,1	0,3	-0,1	0,5	0,4	0,4
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	-0,4	0,2	0,4	0,0	1,0	1,0
Machinery, equipment and supplies	0,0	0,2	0,2	-1,9	2,0	-0,3
Other goods	0,3	0,7	-0,1	0,6	0,4	0,9
Total	1,3	2,6	-3,5	-1,5	10,0	10,9

Explanatory notes

- Introduction** 1 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 2025 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** 2 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** 4 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** 5 The preliminary collection rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for April 2026 was 75,3%. The revised collection rate for March 2026 was 77,9%.

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 7 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-26	Additional information from respondents	Mar-26
May-26	Additional information from respondents	Apr-26
Jun-26	Additional information from respondents	May-26
Jul-26	Additional information from respondents	Jun-26
Aug-26	Additional information from respondents	Jul-26
Sep-26	Additional information from respondents	Aug-26
Oct-26	Additional information from respondents	Sep-26
Nov-26	Additional information from respondents	Oct-26
Dec-26	Additional information from respondents	Nov-26
Jan-27	Additional information from respondents New base year for constant prices	Jan-98 - Dec-26
Feb-27	Additional information from respondents	Jan-27
Mar-27	Additional information from respondents	Feb-27
New base year in 2026/27 - 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 10 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 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 1 730 enterprises from a population of 18 170 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 2025 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:

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

Neyman allocation formula not only allocates sample sizes to each stratum but also calculates the relative precision for each stratum as well as the relative precision for all strata. The relative precision for these strata was 5,25%.

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	6 738 900	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

- 5 Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month using the X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the United States Census Bureau. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences 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:

- (1) Deflate sales of dealers in agricultural raw materials and livestock using the PPI for agriculture.
- (2) Deflate sales of dealers in food, beverages and tobacco using the final manufacturing PPI for food products, beverages and tobacco.
- (3) Deflate sales of dealers in textiles, clothing and footwear using the final manufacturing PPI for textiles, clothing and footwear.
- (4) Deflate sales of dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products using the final manufacturing PPI for coal and petroleum products.
- (5) Deflate sales of dealers in machinery, equipment and supplies using the final manufacturing PPIs for general and special purpose machinery; household appliances and office machinery; and electrical machinery and communication and metering equipment.
- (6) Deflate the remaining wholesale trade sales using the headline PPI (final manufacturing) excluding the PPIs for food products, beverages and tobacco; textiles, clothing and footwear; coal and petroleum products; general and special purpose machinery; household appliances and office machinery; electrical machinery and communication and metering equipment; and transport equipment. The PPI for transport equipment is excluded because it measures producer prices of motor vehicles, which are not included in wholesale trade.

Total wholesale trade sales at constant prices 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 2026

	Lower limit (R million)	Sales (R million)	Upper limit (R million)	Relative standard error (RSE) %
Wholesale trade sales	286 507	297 180	307 853	1,8

- Month-on-month percentage change** 11 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** 12 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)** 13 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 of All Economic Activities
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

Kurt Roach Telephone number: (012) 310 8211 / 063 651 3540
Email: kurtr@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