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## **STATISTICAL RELEASE**

### **P6141.2**

# **Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)**

**July 2025**

The results in this publication 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).

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

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

	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-6,5	-1,1	-5,2	-3,4	1,0	-0,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-1,8	-0,4	1,7	-1,8	0,8	0,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>	0,0	-1,1	-0,9	-1,1	-0,1	-0,1

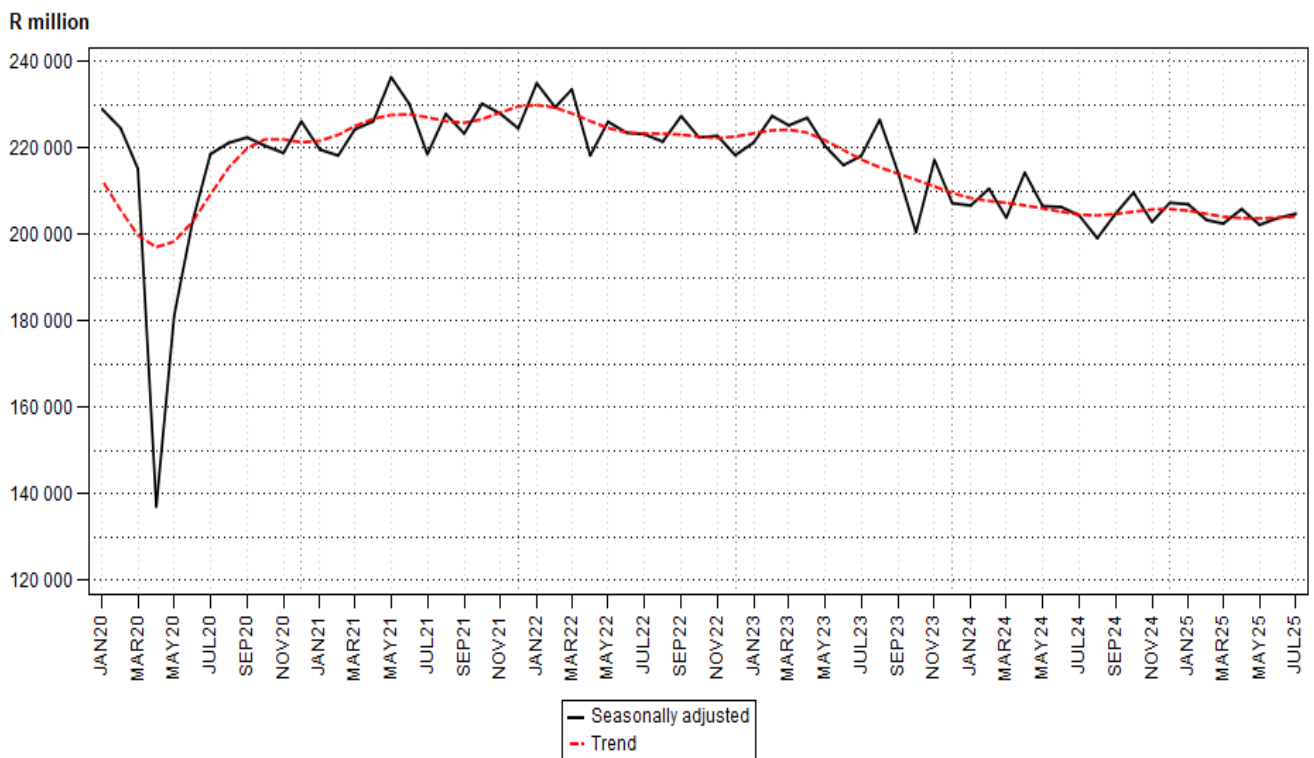
<sup>1</sup> Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Measured in real terms (constant 2019 prices), wholesale trade sales decreased by 0,3% in July 2025 compared with July 2024.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 0,5% in July 2025 compared with June 2025. This followed month-on-month changes of 0,8% in June 2025 and -1,8% in May 2025.

In the three months ended July 2025, seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales decreased by 0,1% compared with the previous three months.

**Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2019 prices**



## Sales at current prices: results for July 2025

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

	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-6,3	-1,9	-6,7	-5,6	-0,2	0,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-2,3	-3,1	3,1	-2,2	1,1	2,0
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>	1,9	0,5	-0,9	-2,5	-1,0	0,1

<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 increased by 0,3% in July 2025 compared with July 2024. The main positive contributor was dealers in food, beverages and tobacco (9,7% and contributing 1,5 percentage points).

The main negative contributor was dealers in machinery, equipment and supplies (-9,7% and contributing -1,6 percentage points) – 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	May – Jul 2024 (R million)	Weight (%)	May – Jul 2025 (R million)	% change between May – Jul 2024 and May – Jul 2025	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Fee or contract basis	24 632	2,8	28 564	16,0	0,4
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	60 674	6,8	63 142	4,1	0,3
Food, beverages and tobacco	130 737	14,6	137 236	5,0	0,7
Textiles, clothing and footwear	16 356	1,8	17 168	5,0	0,1
Other household goods except precious stones	88 049	9,9	89 959	2,2	0,2
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	10 102	1,1	9 422	-6,7	-0,1
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	226 728	25,4	202 169	-10,8	-2,7
Metals and metal ores	27 455	3,1	25 652	-6,6	-0,2
Construction and building materials	42 038	4,7	41 537	-1,2	-0,1
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	44 380	5,0	44 891	1,2	0,1
Machinery, equipment and supplies	148 149	16,6	138 790	-6,3	-1,0
Other goods	73 684	8,3	77 672	5,4	0,4
<b>Total</b>	<b>892 983</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>876 203</b>	<b>-1,9</b>	<b>-1,9</b>

Wholesale trade sales decreased by 1,9% in the three months ended July 2025 compared with the three months ended July 2024. The main negative contributor was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-10,8% and contributing -2,7 percentage points).

The main positive contributor was dealers in food, beverages and tobacco (5,0% and contributing 0,7 of a percentage point) – see Table C.

  
**Risenga Maluleke**  
**Statistician-General**

## Note: Changes to the survey and the impact on the statistical series

### Statistical business register and samples

This statistical release contains results for the monthly survey of wholesale trade sales from a new sample drawn in April 2025, which replaces the previous sample that was drawn in April 2024. The sample was drawn from a statistical business register of enterprises with an annual turnover of at least R6 738 900 and that are required to register with the South African Revenue Service (SARS) for value-added tax (VAT).

Owing to the evolving nature of business, the statistical 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 statistical 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.

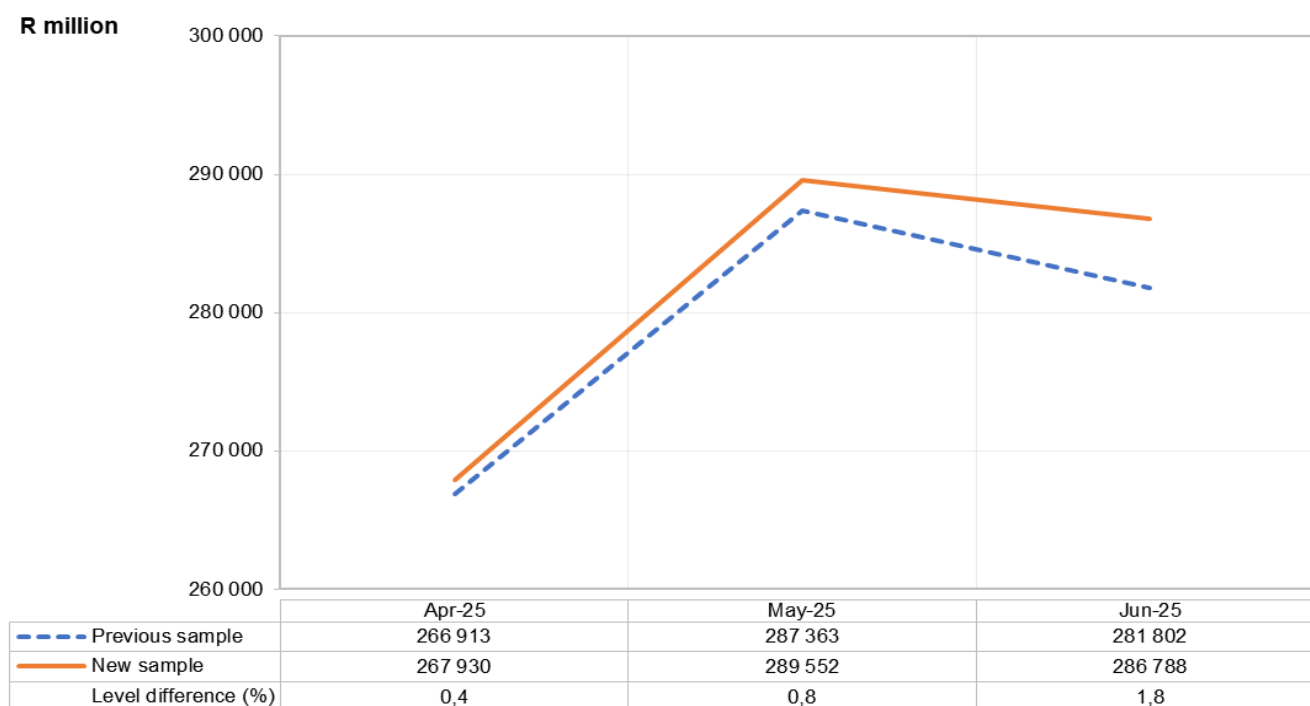
### Comparison of total sales between the previous (revised) and new samples for the wholesale trade industry

The reported level of total sales for the monthly survey of the wholesale trade industry for the months April to June 2025 based on the new sample was 1,0% (R8 192 million) higher than the level of total sales recorded for the previous sample (see Table D and Figure 2). The previous sample was drawn in April 2024 and was operational for the last half of 2024 and the first half of 2025.

**Table D – Total wholesale trade sales at current prices for previous and new samples: April to June 2025**

Wholesale trade industry	Previous sample (R million)	New sample (R million)	Difference (R million)	Difference (%)
	836 078	844 270	8 192	1,0

**Figure 2 – Total wholesale trade sales at current prices: monthly levels of previous and new samples for April to June 2025**



**Table E – Wholesale trade sales at current prices for previous and new samples by type of dealer: April to June 2025**

Type of dealer	Previous sample (R million)	New sample (R million)	Difference (R million)	Difference (%) <sup>1</sup>
Fee or contract basis	30 343	27 794	-2 549	-8,4
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	53 406	57 130	3 724	7,0
Food, beverages and tobacco	129 334	132 441	3 107	2,4
Textiles, clothing and footwear	15 998	17 104	1 106	6,9
Other household goods except precious stones	93 919	89 189	-4 730	-5,0
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	10 473	9 830	-643	-6,1
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	184 683	196 177	11 494	6,2
Metals and metal ores	28 648	25 329	-3 319	-11,6
Construction and building materials	40 511	39 800	-711	-1,8
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	41 541	41 477	-64	-0,2
Machinery, equipment and supplies	128 184	134 782	6 598	5,1
Other goods	79 039	73 216	-5 823	-7,4
<b>Total</b>	<b>836 078</b>	<b>844 270</b>	<b>8 192</b>	<b>1,0</b>

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

The largest differences were recorded for dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (R11 494 million or 6,2% higher in the new sample);
- machinery, equipment and supplies (R6 598 million or 5,1% higher in the new sample);
- 'other' goods (R5 823 million or 7,4% lower in the new sample);
- 'other' household goods except precious stones (R4 730 million or 5,0% lower in the new sample);
- agricultural raw materials and livestock (R3 724 million or 7,0% higher in the new sample); and
- metals and metal ores (R3 319 million or 11,6% lower in the new sample) – see Table E.

### 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 2019 prices (R million)**

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jan	199 338	204 190	189 179	203 072	196 024	185 722	185 852
Feb	214 679	216 888	207 572	218 170	217 175	208 397	194 870
Mar	229 660	220 757	232 483	239 191	231 606	201 470	199 274
Apr	213 896	123 747	207 280	196 853	199 343	199 274	188 950
May	223 880	179 270	235 054	230 168	226 868	211 631	204 518
Jun	216 041	209 346	233 127	225 623	221 078	200 571	202 587
Jul	239 288	224 794	222 847	221 940	216 046	210 325	209 744
Aug	228 504	218 559	230 394	226 735	230 690	202 611	
Sep	229 225	230 971	231 836	238 992	220 736	210 195	
Oct	250 329	241 382	247 185	238 798	220 615	233 236	
Nov	243 970	236 693	252 538	243 936	236 872	222 687	
Dec	214 707	219 963	218 825	210 385	193 927	196 537	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 703 517</b>	<b>2 526 560</b>	<b>2 708 320</b>	<b>2 693 863</b>	<b>2 610 980</b>	<b>2 482 656</b>	

**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	2,4	-7,4	7,3	-3,5	-5,3	0,1	0,1
Feb	1,0	-4,3	5,1	-0,5	-4,0	-6,5	-3,4
Mar	-3,9	5,3	2,9	-3,2	-13,0	-1,1	-2,6
Apr	-42,1	67,5	-5,0	1,3	0,0	-5,2	-3,3
May	-19,9	31,1	-2,1	-1,4	-6,7	-3,4	-3,3
Jun	-3,1	11,4	-3,2	-2,0	-9,3	1,0	-2,6
Jul	-6,1	-0,9	-0,4	-2,7	-2,6	-0,3	-2,2
Aug	-4,4	5,4	-1,6	1,7	-12,2		
Sep	0,8	0,4	3,1	-7,6	-4,8		
Oct	-3,6	2,4	-3,4	-7,6	5,7		
Nov	-3,0	6,7	-3,4	-2,9	-6,0		
Dec	2,4	-0,5	-3,9	-7,8	1,3		
<b>Total</b>	<b>-6,5</b>	<b>7,2</b>	<b>-0,5</b>	<b>-3,1</b>	<b>-4,9</b>		

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

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jan	234 984	221 275	206 700	206 993	4,7	1,3	-0,3	-0,2
Feb	229 410	227 409	210 600	203 345	-2,4	2,8	1,9	-1,8
Mar	233 574	225 243	203 870	202 531	1,8	-1,0	-3,2	-0,4
Apr	218 277	226 987	214 310	205 887	-6,5	0,8	5,1	1,7
May	226 089	220 474	206 570	202 233	3,6	-2,9	-3,6	-1,8
Jun	223 535	216 041	206 365	203 832	-1,1	-2,0	-0,1	0,8
Jul	223 189	218 205	204 498	204 794	-0,2	1,0	-0,9	0,5
Aug	221 486	226 538	199 150		-0,8	3,8	-2,6	
Sep	227 369	214 312	204 855		2,7	-5,4	2,9	
Oct	222 447	200 511	209 691		-2,2	-6,4	2,4	
Nov	222 819	217 273	202 896		0,2	8,4	-3,2	
Dec	218 348	207 248	207 345		-2,0	-4,6	2,2	

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

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jan	192 315	207 083	194 533	239 828	266 435	260 708	261 741
Feb	207 240	219 939	216 940	261 247	295 097	294 123	275 643
Mar	225 024	222 733	246 364	296 988	315 347	287 757	282 286
Apr	214 259	122 238	222 475	249 911	272 373	287 186	267 930
May	225 826	173 998	252 961	300 215	310 875	306 584	289 552
Jun	219 034	205 257	252 585	301 209	300 775	287 369	286 788
Jul	240 866	225 090	244 124	303 536	295 929	299 030	299 863
Aug	229 996	221 462	254 840	307 137	319 695	286 786	
Sep	231 140	233 968	259 712	326 076	314 195	295 309	
Oct	253 727	245 678	279 541	328 256	318 181	324 867	
Nov	246 617	240 723	291 796	334 862	340 969	311 620	
Dec	217 474	223 682	257 628	290 683	275 660	275 649	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 703 518</b>	<b>2 541 851</b>	<b>2 973 499</b>	<b>3 539 948</b>	<b>3 625 531</b>	<b>3 516 988</b>	

**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	-6,3	-3,1
Mar	-1,0	10,6	20,5	6,2	-8,7	-1,9	-2,7
Apr	-42,9	82,0	12,3	9,0	5,4	-6,7	-3,7
May	-23,0	45,4	18,7	3,6	-1,4	-5,6	-4,1
Jun	-6,3	23,1	19,3	-0,1	-4,5	-0,2	-3,5
Jul	-6,5	8,5	24,3	-2,5	1,0	0,3	-2,9
Aug	-3,7	15,1	20,5	4,1	-10,3		
Sep	1,2	11,0	25,6	-3,6	-6,0		
Oct	-3,2	13,8	17,4	-3,1	2,1		
Nov	-2,4	21,2	14,8	1,8	-8,6		
Dec	2,9	15,2	12,8	-5,2	0,0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>-6,0</b>	<b>17,0</b>	<b>19,0</b>	<b>2,4</b>	<b>-3,0</b>		

**Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices**

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jan	276 054	303 610	295 186	297 928	4,3	0,8	1,0	2,7
Feb	277 809	313 194	302 012	291 202	0,6	3,2	2,3	-2,3
Mar	287 770	306 298	293 783	282 249	3,6	-2,2	-2,7	-3,1
Apr	274 201	301 711	302 399	290 870	-4,7	-1,5	2,9	3,1
May	296 018	303 020	299 002	284 509	8,0	0,4	-1,1	-2,2
Jun	298 920	296 605	291 488	287 620	1,0	-2,1	-2,5	1,1
Jul	305 029	296 640	292 790	293 232	2,0	0,0	0,4	2,0
Aug	299 965	312 304	281 503		-1,7	5,3	-3,9	
Sep	311 124	303 675	285 411		3,7	-2,8	1,4	
Oct	303 106	290 553	293 363		-2,6	-4,3	2,8	
Nov	306 572	313 114	283 764		1,1	7,8	-3,3	
Dec	301 274	292 290	290 187		-1,7	-6,7	2,3	



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

Type of dealer	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25
Fee or contract basis	6 994	7 702	8 396	10 598	8 800	9 166
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	21 202	20 470	16 293	20 637	20 200	22 305
Food, beverages and tobacco	39 443	42 462	45 053	45 363	42 025	49 848
Textiles, clothing and footwear	5 583	6 634	6 392	5 253	5 459	6 456
Other household goods except precious stones	29 808	32 457	28 764	30 939	29 486	29 534
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	4 467	2 403	3 084	3 901	2 845	2 676
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	61 718	64 922	63 593	66 992	65 592	69 585
Metals and metal ores	7 894	8 772	7 929	8 955	8 445	8 252
Construction and building materials	13 384	14 081	12 846	13 489	13 465	14 583
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	14 657	12 944	12 646	13 855	14 976	16 060
Machinery, equipment and supplies	49 032	46 356	40 923	43 575	50 284	44 931
Other goods	21 461	23 082	22 011	25 995	25 210	26 467
<b>Total</b>	<b>275 643</b>	<b>282 286</b>	<b>267 930</b>	<b>289 552</b>	<b>286 788</b>	<b>299 863</b>

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

Type of dealer	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25
Fee or contract basis	5,5	1,8	-9,0	7,1	23,4	20,5
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	5,3	9,9	-5,6	-4,2	10,6	6,8
Food, beverages and tobacco	-8,7	1,7	15,2	7,4	-2,5	9,7
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-1,3	4,9	-7,9	-2,9	20,4	0,7
Other household goods except precious stones	7,8	20,3	-3,1	4,9	1,3	0,3
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	-14,8	-36,2	0,6	-13,4	9,3	-10,6
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	-24,9	-14,7	-19,5	-20,9	-8,5	-1,1
Metals and metal ores	2,3	8,2	-1,6	-5,7	-5,6	-8,4
Construction and building materials	-6,0	9,4	-9,3	-4,9	2,7	-1,0
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	-4,7	-2,8	-5,8	1,3	5,6	-2,8
Machinery, equipment and supplies	11,6	-7,9	-7,6	-7,6	-1,9	-9,7
Other goods	-3,3	4,8	-4,1	7,1	7,5	2,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>-6,3</b>	<b>-1,9</b>	<b>-6,7</b>	<b>-5,6</b>	<b>-0,2</b>	<b>0,3</b>

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

## Explanatory notes

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>	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.
<b>Purpose of the survey</b>	<b>2</b>	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.
<b>Scope of the survey</b>	<b>3</b>	<p>This survey covers wholesale enterprises according to the following types of dealers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock;</li> <li>• wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco;</li> <li>• wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• wholesale trade in precious stones, jewellery and silverware;</li> <li>• wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products;</li> <li>• wholesale trade in metals and metal ores;</li> <li>• wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies;</li> <li>• wholesale trade in 'other' intermediate products, waste and scrap;</li> <li>• wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies; and</li> <li>• wholesale trade in 'other' goods. This group covers general wholesale trade and 'other' wholesale trade not classified elsewhere.</li> </ul>
<b>Classification</b>	<b>4</b>	The 1993 edition of the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities</i> (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 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities</i> (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.
<b>Collection rate</b>	<b>5</b>	The preliminary collection rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for July 2025 was 72,4%. The collection rate for June 2025 for the new sample was 74,5%.

**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
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
Apr-26	Additional information from respondents	Mar-26
May-26	Additional information from respondents	Apr-26
Jun-26	Additional information from respondents	May-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** 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 – July 2025**

	Lower limit (R million)	Sales (R million)	Upper limit (R million)	Relative standard error (RSE) %
Wholesale trade sales	291 457	299 863	308 269	1,4

- 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.

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## 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.

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A release calendar is disseminated on [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za).

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You can visit us on the internet at: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za).

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