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## **STATISTICAL RELEASE**

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# **Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)**

**November 2024**

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**ENQUIRIES:**  
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## Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for November 2024

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

	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-8,7	-2,0	-11,6	-7,3	4,9	-7,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,0	-1,1	-2,4	0,9	3,5	-3,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>	1,0	-1,6	-1,6	-3,2	-1,0	0,2

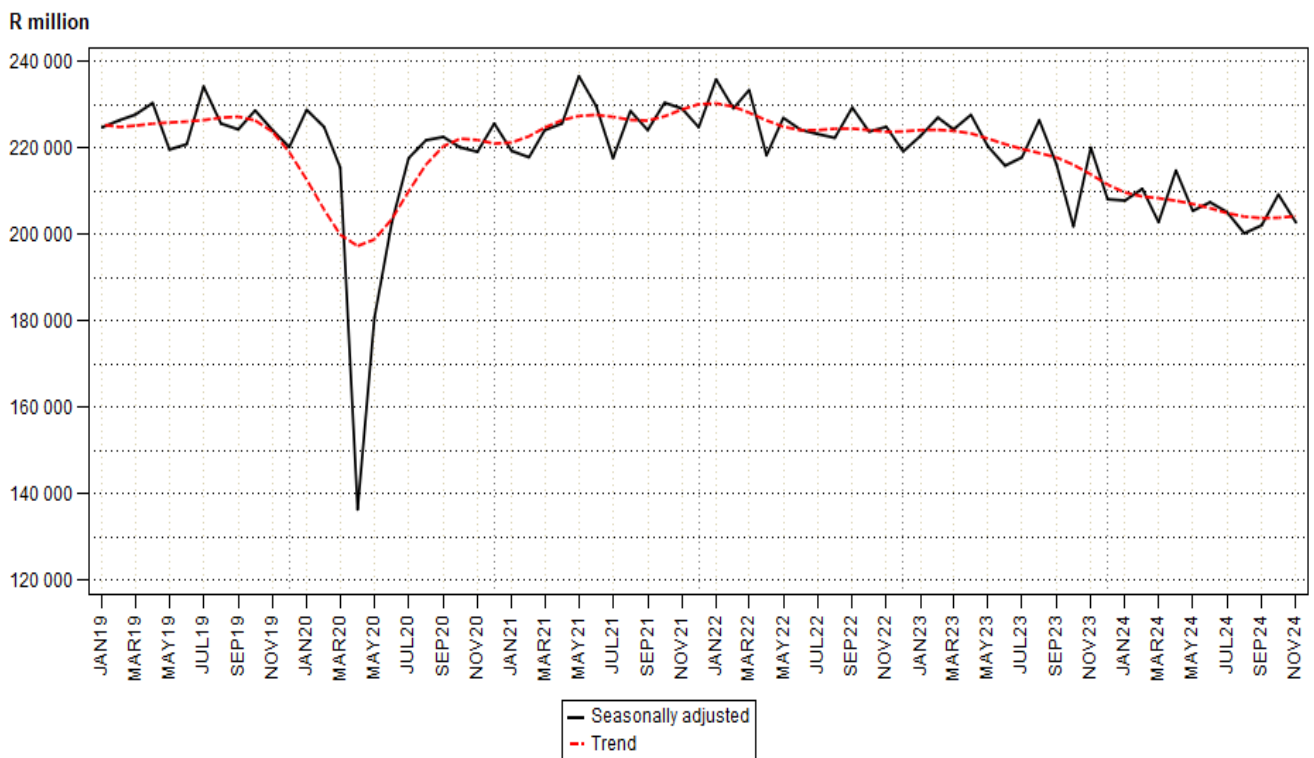
<sup>1</sup> Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Measured in real terms (constant 2019 prices), wholesale trade sales decreased by 7,3% in November 2024 compared with November 2023.

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales decreased by 3,1% in November 2024 compared with October 2024. This followed month-on-month changes of 3,5% in October 2024 and 0,9% in September 2024.

In the three months ended November 2024, seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales increased by 0,2% compared with the previous three months.

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



## Sales at current prices: results for November 2024

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

	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-3,9	1,7	-9,6	-8,2	1,6	-9,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-1,2	0,7	-4,1	-0,5	4,3	-3,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>	0,1	-1,6	-2,4	-3,8	-3,0	-1,5

<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 9,6% in November 2024 compared with November 2023. The main negative contributor was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-36,5% and contributing -10,0 percentage points).

The main positive contributor was dealers in food, beverages and tobacco (2,9% and contributing 0,4 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	Sep – Nov 2023 (R million)	Weight (%)	Sep – Nov 2024 (R million)	% change between Sep – Nov 2023 and Sep – Nov 2024	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Fee or contract basis	32 145	3,3	31 855	-0,9	0,0
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	64 954	6,7	64 790	-0,3	0,0
Food, beverages and tobacco	127 388	13,1	135 241	6,2	0,8
Textiles, clothing and footwear	20 991	2,2	22 974	9,4	0,2
Other household goods except precious stones	98 889	10,2	104 507	5,7	0,6
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	19 981	2,1	14 580	-27,0	-0,6
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	264 042	27,1	189 305	-28,3	-7,7
Metals and metal ores	28 239	2,9	30 093	6,6	0,2
Construction and building materials	49 833	5,1	50 027	0,4	0,0
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	54 457	5,6	59 220	8,7	0,5
Machinery, equipment and supplies	137 834	14,2	134 972	-2,1	-0,3
Other goods	75 147	7,7	82 922	10,3	0,8
<b>Total</b>	<b>973 899</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>920 487</b>	<b>-5,5</b>	<b>-5,5</b>

Wholesale trade sales decreased by 5,5% in the three months ended November 2024 compared with the three months ended November 2023. The main negative contributor was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-28,3% and contributing -7,7 percentage points).

The main positive contributors were dealers in:

- food, beverages and tobacco (6,2% and contributing 0,8 of a percentage point);
- 'other' goods (10,3% and contributing 0,8 of a percentage point); and
- 'other' household goods except precious stones (5,7% and contributing 0,6 of a percentage point) – see Table C.

  
Risenga Maluleke  
Statistician-General

## Tables

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

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	201 235	199 296	204 279	188 921	203 348	196 580	186 119
Feb	216 419	214 596	216 993	207 448	218 504	217 676	208 917
Mar	239 259	229 671	220 773	232 455	239 796	232 176	202 032
Apr	204 397	214 086	123 642	207 355	197 411	199 833	199 730
May	232 234	224 124	178 893	235 070	230 940	227 348	211 316
Jun	231 451	216 334	208 997	233 100	226 603	221 442	202 114
Jul	224 716	239 451	224 623	222 873	223 125	216 475	212 047
Aug	237 847	228 628	218 447	230 524	227 853	231 176	204 387
Sep	239 035	229 370	230 827	232 006	240 072	221 483	205 360
Oct	252 813	250 531	241 108	247 372	239 775	221 533	232 294
Nov	256 397	244 130	236 364	252 907	244 884	237 794	220 525
Dec	209 384	214 842	219 637	219 236	211 192	194 520	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 745 187</b>	<b>2 705 059</b>	<b>2 524 583</b>	<b>2 709 267</b>	<b>2 703 503</b>	<b>2 618 036</b>	

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

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 year-to-date
Jan	-1,0	2,5	-7,5	7,6	-3,3	-5,3	-5,3
Feb	-0,8	1,1	-4,4	5,3	-0,4	-4,0	-4,6
Mar	-4,0	-3,9	5,3	3,2	-3,2	-13,0	-7,6
Apr	4,7	-42,2	67,7	-4,8	1,2	-0,1	-5,8
May	-3,5	-20,2	31,4	-1,8	-1,6	-7,1	-6,1
Jun	-6,5	-3,4	11,5	-2,8	-2,3	-8,7	-6,6
Jul	6,6	-6,2	-0,8	0,1	-3,0	-2,0	-5,9
Aug	-3,9	-4,5	5,5	-1,2	1,5	-11,6	-6,7
Sep	-4,0	0,6	0,5	3,5	-7,7	-7,3	-6,7
Oct	-0,9	-3,8	2,6	-3,1	-7,6	4,9	-5,6
Nov	-4,8	-3,2	7,0	-3,2	-2,9	-7,3	-5,7
Dec	2,6	2,2	-0,2	-3,7	-7,9		
<b>Total</b>	<b>-1,5</b>	<b>-6,7</b>	<b>7,3</b>	<b>-0,2</b>	<b>-3,2</b>		

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

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	219 343	235 878	222 813	207 861	-2,8	4,9	1,6	-0,1
Feb	217 860	229 173	227 042	210 576	-0,7	-2,8	1,9	1,3
Mar	224 125	233 419	224 313	202 861	2,9	1,9	-1,2	-3,7
Apr	225 679	218 311	227 678	214 834	0,7	-6,5	1,5	5,9
May	236 621	226 973	220 441	205 473	4,8	4,0	-3,2	-4,4
Jun	229 673	224 216	215 920	207 458	-2,9	-1,2	-2,1	1,0
Jul	217 634	223 250	217 841	205 201	-5,2	-0,4	0,9	-1,1
Aug	228 568	222 358	226 450	200 280	5,0	-0,4	4,0	-2,4
Sep	224 146	229 357	216 131	202 120	-1,9	3,1	-4,6	0,9
Oct	230 467	223 795	201 893	209 243	2,8	-2,4	-6,6	3,5
Nov	229 141	224 895	220 090	202 825	-0,6	0,5	9,0	-3,1
Dec	224 800	219 212	208 162		-1,9	-2,5	-5,4	

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

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	186 586	192 425	207 201	194 644	239 964	266 587	260 856
Feb	199 657	207 358	220 064	217 063	261 395	295 265	294 290
Mar	217 997	225 152	222 860	246 505	297 156	315 526	287 920
Apr	189 218	214 381	122 308	222 601	250 052	272 527	287 124
May	218 449	225 955	174 097	253 105	300 386	311 052	305 434
Jun	221 346	219 159	205 373	252 729	301 380	300 947	289 082
Jul	217 396	241 003	225 218	244 262	303 709	296 098	301 164
Aug	231 011	230 126	221 587	254 984	307 311	319 877	289 108
Sep	233 295	231 271	234 101	259 859	326 261	314 373	288 645
Oct	252 683	253 871	245 817	279 701	328 443	318 363	323 468
Nov	257 293	246 757	240 859	291 962	335 052	341 163	308 374
Dec	206 255	217 598	223 810	257 774	290 848	275 816	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 631 186</b>	<b>2 705 056</b>	<b>2 543 295</b>	<b>2 975 189</b>	<b>3 541 957</b>	<b>3 627 594</b>	

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

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 year-to-date
Jan	3,1	7,7	-6,1	23,3	11,1	-2,1	-2,1
Feb	3,9	6,1	-1,4	20,4	13,0	-0,3	-1,2
Mar	3,3	-1,0	10,6	20,5	6,2	-8,7	-3,9
Apr	13,3	-42,9	82,0	12,3	9,0	5,4	-1,7
May	3,4	-23,0	45,4	18,7	3,6	-1,8	-1,7
Jun	-1,0	-6,3	23,1	19,3	-0,1	-3,9	-2,1
Jul	10,9	-6,5	8,5	24,3	-2,5	1,7	-1,6
Aug	-0,4	-3,7	15,1	20,5	4,1	-9,6	-2,6
Sep	-0,9	1,2	11,0	25,6	-3,6	-8,2	-3,3
Oct	0,5	-3,2	13,8	17,4	-3,1	1,6	-2,8
Nov	-4,1	-2,4	21,2	14,8	1,8	-9,6	-3,5
Dec	5,5	2,9	15,2	12,8	-5,2		
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,8</b>	<b>-6,0</b>	<b>17,0</b>	<b>19,0</b>	<b>2,4</b>		

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

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	227 311	276 929	305 143	296 703	-1,2	4,4	1,0	1,0
Feb	230 963	277 906	313 284	302 243	1,6	0,4	2,7	1,9
Mar	237 746	287 039	304 771	291 792	2,9	3,3	-2,7	-3,5
Apr	240 684	274 614	302 616	303 124	1,2	-4,3	-0,7	3,9
May	253 254	295 538	301 758	296 099	5,2	7,6	-0,3	-2,3
Jun	250 108	298 470	296 083	292 465	-1,2	1,0	-1,9	-1,2
Jul	241 144	304 867	296 695	294 521	-3,6	2,1	0,2	0,7
Aug	250 685	299 254	310 988	282 393	4,0	-1,8	4,8	-4,1
Sep	248 298	312 091	305 007	281 018	-1,0	4,3	-1,9	-0,5
Oct	260 126	303 834	291 730	293 094	4,8	-2,6	-4,4	4,3
Nov	264 924	307 198	313 908	282 057	1,8	1,1	7,6	-3,8
Dec	265 222	302 076	293 624		0,1	-1,7	-6,5	

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

Type of dealer	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
Fee or contract basis	8 199	9 147	9 115	11 012	10 921	9 922
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	17 922	20 340	18 603	19 533	21 346	23 911
Food, beverages and tobacco	43 039	43 914	43 588	41 244	47 622	46 375
Textiles, clothing and footwear	4 143	5 912	7 559	7 591	8 976	6 407
Other household goods except precious stones	30 645	30 973	30 790	32 625	35 705	36 177
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	3 106	3 958	4 261	3 506	5 778	5 296
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	68 058	66 448	65 385	60 027	70 001	59 277
Metals and metal ores	9 861	9 827	9 141	9 533	10 677	9 883
Construction and building materials	14 215	15 872	14 889	14 479	17 844	17 704
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	14 248	17 462	16 081	18 213	21 126	19 881
Machinery, equipment and supplies	50 037	48 661	46 762	44 151	44 649	46 172
Other goods	25 609	28 649	22 933	26 731	28 823	27 368
<b>Total</b>	<b>289 082</b>	<b>301 164</b>	<b>289 108</b>	<b>288 645</b>	<b>323 468</b>	<b>308 374</b>

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

Type of dealer	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
Fee or contract basis	-15,1	3,7	-13,7	0,9	8,7	-11,3
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	-12,7	1,7	-2,4	-12,8	12,0	1,7
Food, beverages and tobacco	-3,3	12,2	4,1	0,0	16,0	2,9
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-30,2	0,3	12,5	5,5	10,4	13,1
Other household goods except precious stones	7,5	15,5	-3,7	10,6	5,5	1,8
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	-4,3	-36,1	-34,6	-47,0	-19,5	-14,4
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	-12,2	-20,4	-26,7	-31,3	-15,9	-36,5
Metals and metal ores	11,8	8,2	-7,8	13,2	8,8	-1,2
Construction and building materials	-16,2	-2,7	-10,8	-6,2	5,2	1,5
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	4,5	19,6	2,8	11,2	11,5	3,9
Machinery, equipment and supplies	4,7	16,2	3,4	-5,6	1,3	-1,8
Other goods	7,2	20,3	-13,4	20,9	10,7	1,4
<b>Total</b>	<b>-3,9</b>	<b>1,7</b>	<b>-9,6</b>	<b>-8,2</b>	<b>1,6</b>	<b>-9,6</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	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
Fee or contract basis	-0,5	0,1	-0,5	0,0	0,3	-0,4
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	-0,9	0,1	-0,1	-0,9	0,7	0,1
Food, beverages and tobacco	-0,5	1,6	0,5	0,0	2,1	0,4
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-0,6	0,0	0,3	0,1	0,3	0,2
Other household goods except precious stones	0,7	1,4	-0,4	1,0	0,6	0,2
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	0,0	-0,8	-0,7	-1,0	-0,4	-0,3
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	-3,1	-5,8	-7,4	-8,7	-4,1	-10,0
Metals and metal ores	0,3	0,3	-0,2	0,4	0,3	0,0
Construction and building materials	-0,9	-0,1	-0,6	-0,3	0,3	0,1
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	0,2	1,0	0,1	0,6	0,7	0,2
Machinery, equipment and supplies	0,7	2,3	0,5	-0,8	0,2	-0,2
Other goods	0,6	1,6	-1,1	1,5	0,9	0,1
<b>Total</b>	<b>-3,9</b>	<b>1,7</b>	<b>-9,6</b>	<b>-8,2</b>	<b>1,6</b>	<b>-9,6</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 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.
<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 November 2024 was 70,3%. The revised collection rate for October 2024 was 77,2%.



**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** 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
Nov-24	Additional information from respondents	Oct-24
Dec-24	Additional information from respondents	Nov-24
Jan-25	Additional information from respondents	Dec-24
Feb-25	Additional information from respondents	Jan-25
Mar-25	Additional information from respondents	Feb-25
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
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 1 673 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, 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 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:

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

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	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

- 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 – November 2024**

	Lower limit (R million)	Sales (R million)	Upper limit (R million)	Relative standard error (RSE) %
Wholesale trade sales	296 595	308 374	320 152	1,9

- 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
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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