Quality table for the Whole Sale Trade Tendency Survey

CONTACT	
Country (Area)	France.
Survey	Whole sale trade.
Service investigator	National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies Economic Studies and National Accounts Directorate Short Term Economic Forecasts Department Business Tendency Surveys Division.
Reference year of data	2008.
Data of completion	March 2009.

METHODOLOGY	
Population Reference (Universe)	Legal units of the whole sale field. Around 125,000 firms.
Sampling frame	Yearly survey (exhaustive for retailers of 20 employees or more), called Enquête Annuelle d'Entreprise dans le commerce de gros (Yearly Business Survey In Whole Sale Trade), carried out by INSEE.
Size of the actual frame list	20,000 firms
Characteristics of the frame list	Identification, address, contact, NACE code, number of employees, turnover.
Frame list update	Every year
Sampling method	The sample is stratified by workforce and sector activity. The firms with more than 200 employees are automatically included into the sample (exhaustive stratum). Updating every year or every two years: - sample cleaning: clearance of ceased or out of activity field firms; little companies with erratic answers are also eliminated while new big companies are included; - Sample increase: random drawing of firms according to a stratified sampling.
Sample size	3,000 units.
Sample coverage	46% in terms of turnover.
Sectors and/or categories currently covered	Wholesalers dealing in : -Food consumer products, -Non-food consumer products, -Intermediate goods, -Capital goods. That is to say section G, division 46 of NACE rév. 2 (except 46.1)

Sample representativeness	Around 2 points of balance.
Response rate	Non-weighted response rate: 74% (annual average 2008). Weighted response rate (by turnover): 68% (annual average 2008).
Treatment of non-responses	"Constant sample" method: for qualitative questions, m-1 survey response is carried forward to m survey in case of non-response for this provisional operating. For m-1 survey definitive operating, an intermediate response between m and m-2 is attributed.
Weighting	Two-stage aggregation: - The first aggregation level leads to results at strata level. Within this first stage, individual responses to qualitative questions are weighted using the response of the surveyed to a yearly quantitative question concerning either turnover or the workforce, depending on the question; - At a second stage, strata average results are aggregated at less broken-up levels using weights computed from the Yearly Business Survey (EAE), using either turnover or the workforce, depending on the question.
Periodicity	Two-monthly.
Survey method	Postal mail or Internet data collection, since January 2004.
Fieldwork period	First 3 weeks of the current month.
Timeliness	2 working days before the end of the first month of the surveyed two-month.
Remarks	The first results relating to a survey are provisional. Revised results are released at the following survey. These definitive results take into account of late responses arrived after the first release.

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