

## Wholesale and Retail Trade Revenues increased by 3.0% in Q4/2019

The operating revenues of wholesale and retail trade activities grew by 3.0% in Q4/2019 compared to the same quarter of the previous year. This growth in revenues is mainly due to the increase in revenues in wholesale trade, which increased by 5.6%, while revenues in retail trade showed a slower growth of 1.0% compared to Q4/2018.

### Operating surplus increased by 2.9% in Q4/2019 yoy

- Compared to the same quarter of 2018, the operating surplus increased by 2.9% in the wholesale and retail trade sector in Saudi Arabia. While a significant growth of 11.7% was recorded in wholesale trade, retail trade shrunk by 4.1% in the same period.
- Average compensations of wholesale and retail trade activities increased by 2.6% compared to Q4/2018, while stronger wage growth was recorded in the retail sector (3.3%) than in wholesale trade (1.3%).

### Operating expenditures decreased by 7.1% mom

Wholesale and retail trade operating expenditures decreased by 7.1% compared to Q3/2019. Operating revenues decreased by 3.9%, while the average compensation paid to employees increased by 1.0% and operating surplus increased by 1.5% compared to Q3/2019.

## Methodology

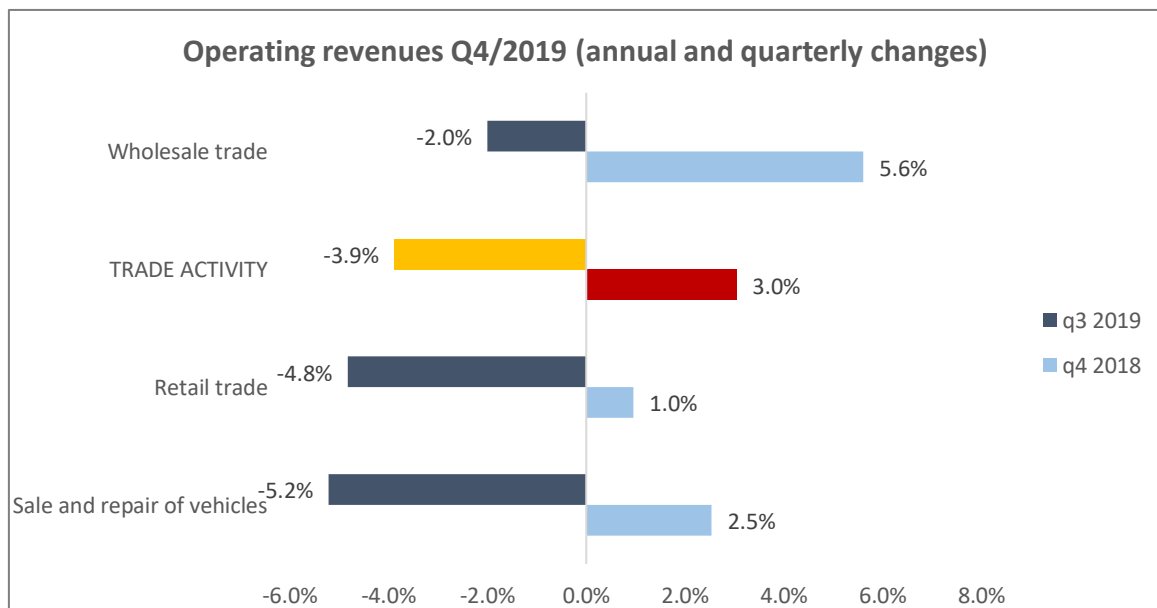
Wholesale and retail trade statistics focus on the properties and components of establishments engaged in wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles activities (according to the ISIC Rev 4 classification). It provides a set of indicators that serve measuring the short-term performance of the wholesale and retail trade sector, evaluate its growth and recognize its strength or weakness.

The wholesale and retail trade data is based on a survey conducted by the General Authority for Statistics (GaStat) on a quarterly basis, carried out for the first time in Q1/2018. Data on the number of employees, paid compensation, operating expenditures and operating revenues are collected from a representative sample of economic establishments from all administrative regions in Saudi Arabia. Greater importance is given to the cities as they include about 84% of total establishments and employ about 91% of total employees.

## Change in % Q4 2019/ Q4 2018

Wholesale and Retail Trade	Average compensation s	Expenditure s	Revenues	Operating surplus
Sale and repair of motor vehicles	1.3%	6.3%	2.5%	-1.7%
Wholesale trade	1.3%	2.3%	5.6%	11.7%
Retail trade	3.3%	3.2%	1.0%	-4.1%
Total	2.6%	3.5%	3.0%	2.9%

Change in % Q4 2019/ Q3 2019				
Wholesale and Retail Trade	Average compensation s	Expenditure s	Revenues	Operating surplus
Sale and repair of motor vehicles	0.6%	-8.6%	-5.2%	-1.1%
Wholesale trade	0.8%	-5.6%	-2.0%	4.1%
Retail trade	1.1%	-7.5%	-4.8%	0.4%
Total	1.0%	-7.1%	-3.9%	1.5%



Links: [All Tables](#), [Methodological Note](#)