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Wholesale trade sales April 1997

Statistical release P6141.2

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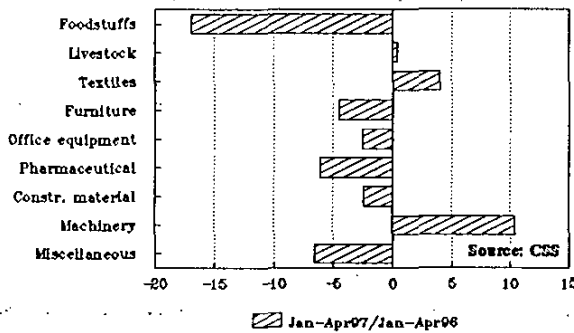
REAL WHOLESALE TRADE SALES LOWER THAN FOR 1996

The real wholesale trade sales (at constant June 1995 prices), excluding diamonds, for the four months up to April 1997 show a decrease of 4,5% compared with the corresponding period of 1996.

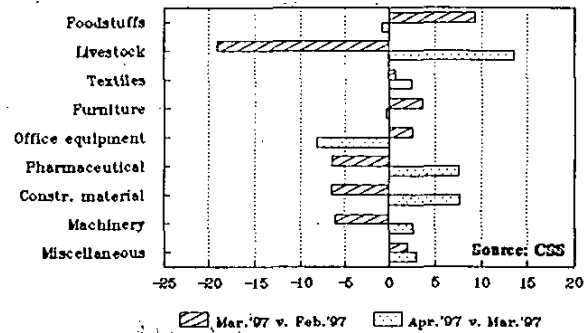
Six of the nine types of wholesalers (excluding diamonds) show decreases in their real sales for the first four months of 1997 compared with the corresponding period of 1996. Wholesalers in machinery and equipment, wholesalers in textiles, clothing and footwear and wholesalers in livestock and farm produce show increases of 10,4%, 4,0% and 0,4% respectively in their real sales over this period.

The value of wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds) for April 1997 amounted to R19 100,6 million, which shows an increase of 2,9% compared with the relatively low sales for March 1997. The earlier than usual Easter weekend of 1997 resulted in fewer than usual trading days for March and more than usual for April. The effect of this can be seen in the sales of wholesalers in construction and building materials, which show a decrease of 6,4% for March 1997 compared with February 1997 and an increase of 7,7% in April 1997 compared with March 1997. However, the sales of certain types of wholesalers were not affected by the early Easter weekend. The sales of wholesalers in foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco, for instance, show an increase of 9,3% between March 1997 and February 1997 and a decrease of 0,8% in April 1997 compared with March 1997.

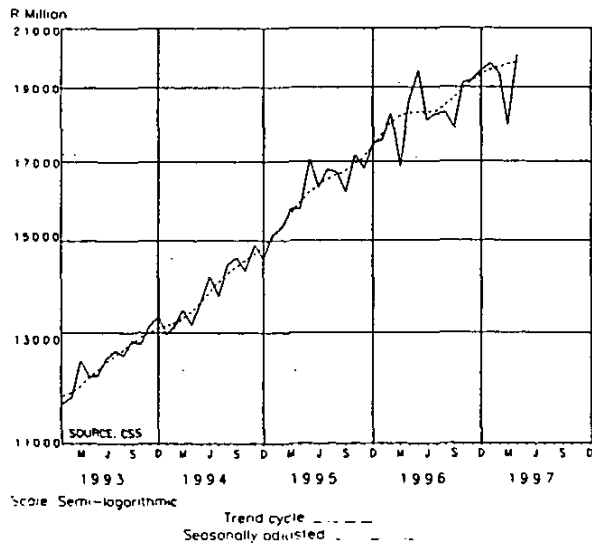
REAL WHOLESALE TRADE SALES BY TYPE OF BUSINESS
Percentage change - year on year



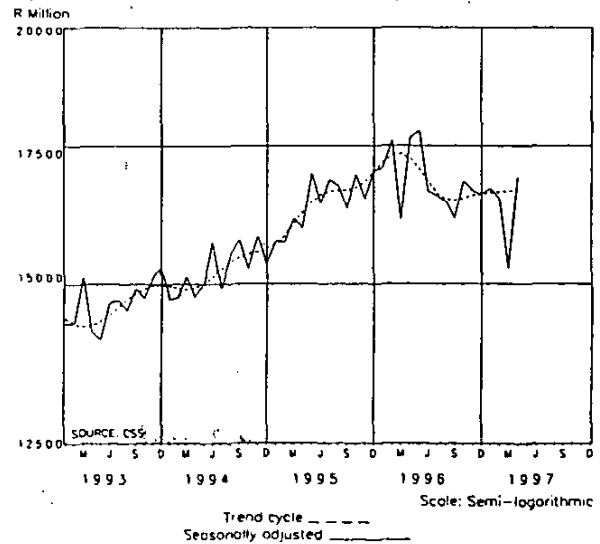
WHOLESALE TRADE SALES BY TYPE OF BUSINESS
Percentage change - month on month



WHOLESALE TRADE SALES (EXCLUDING DIAMONDS) (AT CURRENT PRICES)



WHOLESALE TRADE SALES (EXCLUDING DIAMONDS) (AT CONSTANT JUNE 1995 PRICES)



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SUMMARY - WHOLESALE TRADE

P6141.2

Period	Sales (Excluding diamonds) R million		Percentage change of sales	
	At current prices	At constant June 1995 prices	At current prices	At constant June 1995 prices
Actual values				
Feb. 1997 - Apr. 1997	56 433,3	47 815,7	+7,0	-5,2
Feb. 1996 - Apr. 1996	52 753,3	50 445,2		
Seasonally adjusted values				
Feb. 1997 - Apr. 1997	57 484,1	48 622,6	-1,9	-2,6
Nov. 1996 - Jan. 1997	58 608,3	49 895,5		

pp 
Dr F M Orkin
Head: Central Statistical Service

NOTES

This statistical release shows final estimates of the wholesale trade sales in the Republic of South Africa (the former TBVC states are included). The survey is conducted on a firm basis. The results of the sample survey are raised to represent the total wholesale trade sales. Both actual and seasonally adjusted values of wholesale trade sales according to type of business at current as well as at constant June 1995 prices are shown. The value of sales at constant June 1995 prices in respect of each type of business is obtained by deflating the sales value at current prices by means of sub-indices of the production price index on base June 1995=100.

Wholesale trade sales at current prices include VAT.

Symbols used

* = revised
- = not applicable

1. WHOLESAL TRADE SALES BY TYPE OF BUSINESS
1.1 AT CURRENT PRICES

R Million

Type of business	Actual values				Seasonally adjusted values					
	Apr. 1997	Mar. 1997	Apr. 1996	Jan. - Apr. 1996	Apr. 1997	Mar. 1997	Feb. 1997	Jan. 1997	Apr. 1996	
Total	19 929,2	19 114,4	18 353,5	76 839,1	70 488,5	20 066,8	17 960,0	19 457,4	19 782,1	18 649,5
Including diamonds	19 100,6	18 568,4	17 705,5	74 028,7	68 371,4	3 434,5	3 399,1	3 399,4	3 555,4	3 678,9
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	3 415,6	3 442,3	3 647,7	13 275,1	14 147,0	1 194,3	963,9	1 089,3	1 087,0	1 003,1
Livestock and farm produce	1 002,8	882,4	843,0	4 037,3	3 635,5	479,8	415,7	474,8	458,6	402,5
Textiles, clothing and footwear	447,7	437,0	377,0	1 611,2	1 440,2	437,8	425,0	443,7	473,8	454,0
Furniture and household requisites	393,0	394,0	407,4	1 485,2	1 450,9	1 054,0	920,7	1 028,9	1 024,0	1 099,5
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	983,9	1 071,6	1 022,7	3 988,8	3 774,2	-	-	-	-	-
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	828,6	545,9	648,0	2 810,4	2 117,1	1 701,9	1 542,4	1 681,3	1 754,7	1 690,2
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 677,5	1 559,4	1 659,9	6 486,9	6 361,2	2 034,1	1 636,7	1 930,9	1 980,1	1 856,4
Construction and building materials	1 871,5	1 736,9	1 705,4	7 094,6	6 660,7	3 750,1	3 103,4	3 403,5	3 215,5	2 982,6
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	3 405,1	3 315,3	2 706,5	13 137,5	11 001,3	6 010,5	5 900,3	5 874,3	6 045,0	5 443,9
Miscellaneous	5 903,5	5 729,4	5 336,0	22 912,3	19 900,4					

The former TBVC states are included.

1. WHOLESALE TRADE SALES BY TYPE OF BUSINESS
1.2 AT CONSTANT JUNE 1995 PRICES

R Million

Type of business	Actual values				Seasonally adjusted values					
	1997		1996		1997		1996			
	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	Jan. - Apr.	Apr.	Mar.	Feb.	Jan.		
Total	16 780,7	16 315,3	17 355,7	65 067,6	67 690,8	16 898,8	15 248,9	16 474,8	16 673,8	17 641,4
Including diamonds	16 067,4	15 840,2	16 723,7	62 646,9	65 629,8					
Excluding diamonds	2 740,6	2 909,8	3 391,0	11 026,1	13 260,8	2 778,4	2 863,0	2 879,8	3 000,1	3 443,3
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	887,1	784,8	832,0	3 574,7	3 560,5	1 034,8	837,2	966,2	950,6	969,9
Livestock and farm produce	398,7	389,5	361,5	1 446,0	1 390,3	427,9	373,5	425,5	411,9	386,7
Textiles, clothing and footwear	355,4	356,4	394,6	1 346,5	1 410,1	394,4	383,5	402,1	429,1	438,8
Furniture and household requisites	860,1	939,3	971,1	3 489,6	3 579,8	933,5	803,3	901,7	900,7	1 057,6
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	713,3	475,0	632,0	2 420,7	2 060,9	-	-	-	-	-
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	1 463,0	1 392,2	1 583,6	5 758,3	6 132,2	1 484,8	1 366,4	1 499,4	1 574,3	1 615,2
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 630,5	1 521,8	1 622,2	6 240,9	6 394,1	1 775,6	1 439,3	1 699,4	1 763,0	1 770,1
Construction and building materials	3 068,5	2 991,6	2 625,6	11 863,4	10 742,1	3 353,9	2 861,2	3 061,5	2 899,9	2 874,7
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	4 663,5	4 554,7	4 942,1	17 901,3	19 159,9	4 728,7	4 632,1	4 517,3	4 626,5	5 029,0
Miscellaneous										

The former TBVC states are included.