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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Wholesale trade sales April 1998

Statistical release P6141.2

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Published by the
Central Statistical Service
Private Bag X44
PRETORIA
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Tel. (012) 310-8911

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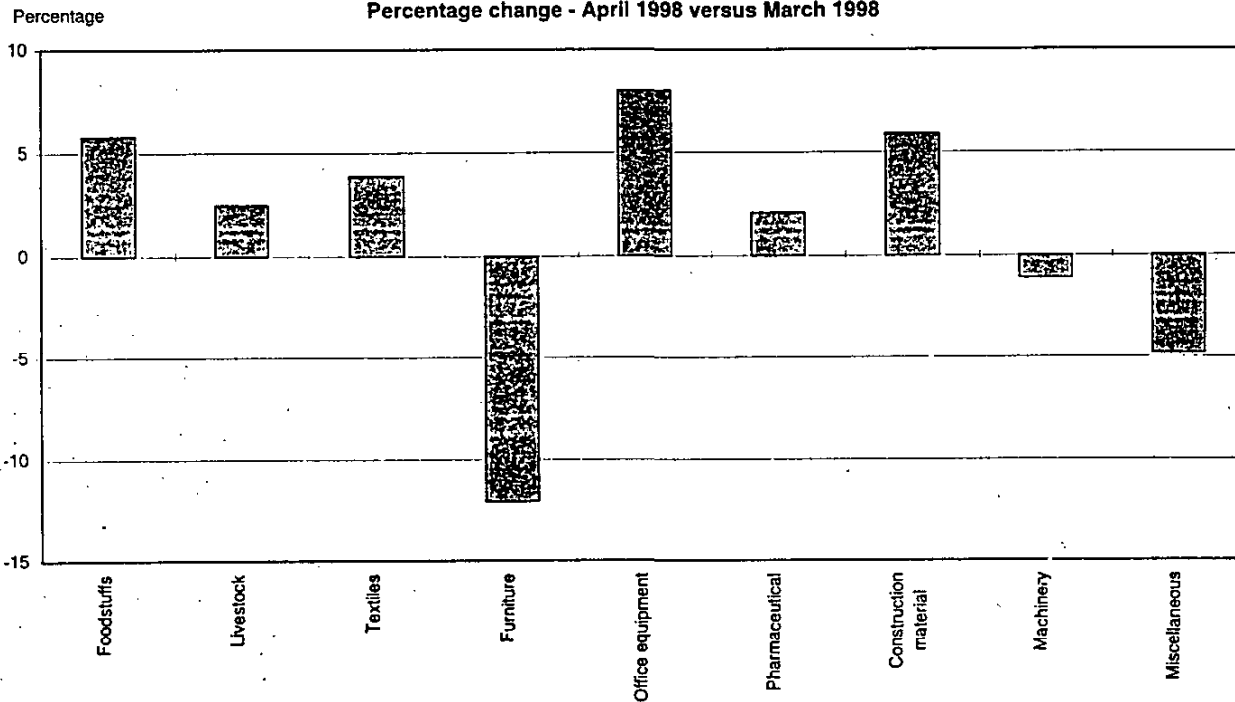
REAL WHOLESALE TRADE SALES INCREASE DURING APRIL 1998

The seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales (at constant June 1995 prices), excluding diamonds, for April 1998 reflect an increase of 2,3% compared with March 1998, with six of the nine wholesaler categories recording increases in their real sales over this period.

Furthermore, the total real wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds) for the three months up to April 1998 is 3.1% higher than for the corresponding period of 1997. The seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds) for the three months up to April 1998 reflect a marginal increase of 0,2% compared with the previous three months.

The real wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds) for April 1998 amounted to R16 237,8 million, which after seasonal adjustment are 2,3% higher than for March 1998. Wholesalers in office and shop equipment, books and stationery reflected the largest increase (+8,0%) in their seasonally adjusted real sales during this period, followed by wholesalers in construction and building materials with an increase of 5,9% and wholesalers in foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco with an increase of 5,8%.

Figure 1 - SEASONALLY ADJUSTED REAL WHOLESALE TRADE SALES
Percentage change - April 1998 versus March 1998



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SUMMARY - WHOLESALE TRADE

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 Apr. 1998				
Feb. 1998 - Apr. 1998	58 906.1	49 298.8	+4.4	+3.1
Feb. 1997 - Apr. 1997	56 433.3	47 815.7		
Seasonally adjusted values				
Feb. 1998 - Apr. 1998	59 821.2	49 906.0	-0.5	+0.2
Nov. 1997 - Jan. 1998	60 102.7	49 791.8		

PP *amylburgh*
Dr F M Orkin
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EXPLANATORY 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 reported on in this publication. 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.

The CSS will be redesigning this survey, including the questionnaire. Any inputs regarding the new questionnaire will be greatly appreciated.

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Symbols used

- * = revised
- = not applicable

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					
	Apr. 1998	Mar. 1998	Apr. 1997	Jan. 1998	Apr. 1997	Apr. 1998	Mar. 1998	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1998	Apr. 1997
Total	16 664,5	17 327,3	16 780,7	65 474,5	65 067,6	16 792,2	16 415,8	16 698,1	16 385,1	16 689,3
Including diamonds	16 237,8	16 828,0	16 067,4	63 799,4	62 646,9					
Excluding diamonds										
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	2 999,5	2 897,9	2 740,6	11 437,8	11 026,1	3 042,9	2 875,5	3 089,5	2 918,3	2 781,4
Livestock and farm produce	930,9	984,1	887,1	3 944,4	3 574,7	1 077,9	1 051,7	1 019,4	989,2	1 032,1
Textiles, clothing and footwear	427,2	416,3	398,7	1 529,2	1 446,0	443,4	426,7	417,3	427,9	415,8
Furniture and household requisites	302,3	354,3	355,4	1 156,0	1 346,5	336,9	383,3	328,3	336,9	397,4
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	1 255,5	1 332,4	860,1	4 607,8	3 489,6	1 257,5	1 163,9	1 104,6	1 057,1	868,7
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	426,7	499,4	713,3	1 675,1	2 420,7					
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 443,9	1 425,6	1 463,0	5 547,1	5 758,3	1 445,6	1 415,2	1 405,8	1 416,0	1 467,9
Construction and building materials	1 623,8	1 618,5	1 630,5	6 217,0	6 240,9	1 687,7	1 594,3	1 666,8	1 650,0	1 705,5
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	2 848,8	3 117,6	3 068,5	11 756,3	11 863,4	3 065,8	3 098,9	3 032,3	3 037,1	3 317,9
Miscellaneous	4 405,8	4 661,3	4 663,5	17 603,8	17 901,3	4 465,0	4 692,2	4 549,6	4 496,4	4 742,6

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

R Million

Type of business	Actual values					Seasonally adjusted values									
	1998		1997		Jan. 1998	1998		1997		Apr. 1998	1998		Apr. 1997		
	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	Mar.	1998	Apr.	Mar.	Feb.	Jan.	Apr.	Mar.	Feb.	Jan.		
Total	19 951,4	20 588,8	19 929,2	78 376,8	76 839,1	20 139,3	19 660,3	20 021,5	19 721,7	19 863,8	3 877,8	3 663,9	3 909,1	3 675,6	3 424,4
Including diamonds	19 445,3	20 011,8	19 100,6	76 421,2	74 028,7										
Excluding diamonds	3 875,0	3 681,7	3 415,6	14 611,0	13 275,1	1 276,8	1 243,3	1 192,3	1 150,0	1 187,8	523,4	499,9	488,1	496,5	465,6
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	1 082,6	1 136,1	1 002,8	4 585,1	4 037,3										
Livestock and farm produce	505,5	513,9	447,7	1 790,3	1 611,2	395,1	450,9	381,6	390,6	441,5					
Furniture and household requisites	352,8	413,2	393,0	1 344,0	1 485,2	1 467,9	1 366,3	1 300,9	1 237,5	977,1					
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	1 491,3	1 577,5	983,9	5 455,4	3 988,8										
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	506,1	577,0	828,6	1 955,6	2 810,4										
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 703,7	1 661,4	1 677,5	6 480,6	6 486,9	1 697,3	1 654,7	1 639,6	1 647,3	1 675,1					
Construction and building materials	1 938,3	1 927,5	1 871,5	7 402,4	7 094,6	2 011,9	1 887,5	1 976,2	1 967,3	1 954,2					
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	3 258,5	3 560,6	3 405,1	13 431,9	13 137,5	3 518,6	3 541,1	3 460,9	3 470,2	3 694,2					
Miscellaneous	5 237,7	5 539,9	5 903,5	21 320,6	22 912,3	5 320,7	5 627,1	5 566,7	5 607,7	6 013,5					