



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Wholesale trade sales August 1997

Statistical release P6141.2

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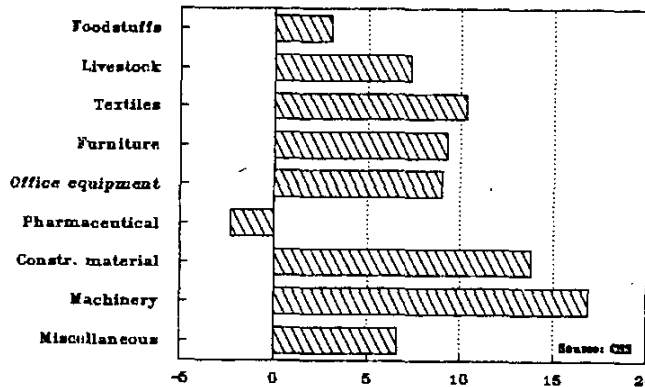
WHOLESALE TRADE SALES PERFORMS BETTER THAN A YEAR AGO

The wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds) for August 1997 increased by 7,8% compared with the corresponding period of 1996. However, the seasonal adjusted sales for August 1997 decreased by 0,6% compared with July 1997.

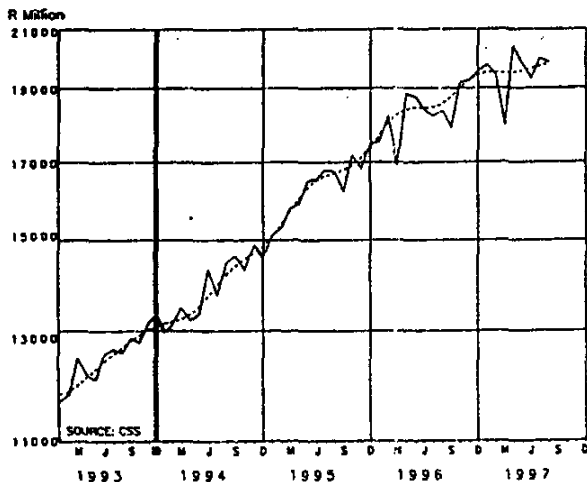
Eight of the nine wholesaler categories reflect increases in their sales for August 1997 compared with the corresponding period of 1996. Wholesalers in machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural) reflect the largest percentage increase (+16,9%) in sales, followed by wholesalers in construction and building material (+13,8%) and wholesalers in textiles, clothing and footwear (+10,3%), while sales of wholesalers in pharmaceutical and chemical products decreased by 2,3%.

The total value of wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds) for the three months up to August 1997 is 7,3% higher than for the same period in 1996. This represents a decrease of 0,4% in real terms (at constant June 1995 prices).

**WHOLESALE TRADE SALES
BY TYPE OF BUSINESS**
Percentage increase - Aug.97 vz Aug.96



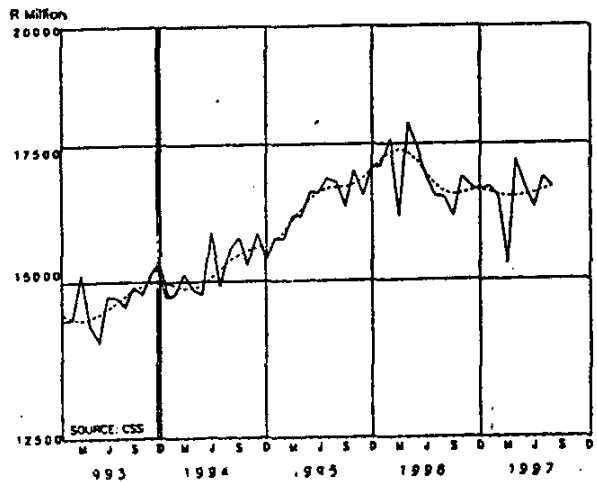
**WHOLESALE TRADE SALES (EXCLUDING DIAMONDS)
(AT CURRENT PRICES)**



Scale: Semi-logarithmic

Trend cycle - - - -
Seasonally adjusted _____

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



Scale: Semi-logarithmic

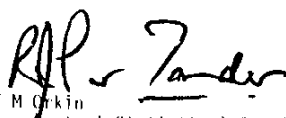
Trend cycle - - - -
Seasonally adjusted _____

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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				
Jun. 1997 - Aug. 1997	59 475,0	49 910,6	+7,3	-0,4
Jun. 1996 - Aug. 1996	55 417,4	50 090,8		
Seasonally adjusted values				
Jun. 1997 - Aug. 1997	59 196,3	49 736,1	+1,8	+1,3
Mar. 1997 - May 1997	58 169,6	49 080,0		


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

R Million

Type of business	Actual values						Seasonally adjusted values					
	1997		1996		Jan. - Aug. 1996		1997		1997		1996	
	Aug.	Jul.	Aug.	Aug.	Jan.	Aug.	Aug.	Jul.	Jun.	May	Aug.	Aug.
Total	20 387,2	20 659,7*	18 946,5	158 081,6	146 332,0		19 871,1	19 991,2	19 334,0	19 790,7	18 393,9	
Including diamonds	20 143,8	20 080,9*	18 678,9	153 492,9	142 664,4							
Excluding diamonds	3 705,0	3 666,2*	3 598,7	27 867,4	27 904,3		3 808,5	3 689,6	3 627,4	3 804,0	3 698,0	
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	1 077,4	1 010,6	1 003,8	8 098,9	7 486,7		1 120,1	1 095,7	1 026,3	1 097,4	1 038,0	
Livestock and farm produce	450,1	405,6	408,1	3 479,5	3 089,2		445,9	452,5	492,2	457,6	405,5	
Textiles, clothing and footwear	475,1	436,1	434,6	3 330,0	3 131,0		483,9	470,6	456,9	481,6	442,6	
Furniture and household requisites	983,4	976,9	902,0	8 118,4	7 784,8		1 033,4	1 027,1	1 003,0	1 075,2	945,0	
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	243,4	578,8	267,6	4 588,8	3 667,7		-	-	-	-	-	
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	1 634,1	1 577,8	1 672,2	13 075,2	13 022,4		1 608,6	1 625,4	1 678,7	1 643,5	1 641,7	
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	2 081,0	2 068,3	1 828,7	15 095,1	13 952,5		1 919,5	1 969,1	1 907,2	1 962,5	1 685,7	
Construction and building materials	3 681,1	3 654,1	3 149,0	27 511,6	23 644,4		3 574,1	3 584,7	3 365,1	3 572,6	3 058,7	
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	6 055,6	6 285,4	5 681,5	46 916,9	42 649,2		5 895,6	5 959,5	5 740,5	5 814,7	5 514,0	
Miscellaneous												

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		1996		1997		1997		1996	
	Aug.	Jul.	Aug.	Jan. - Aug.	Aug.	1996	Aug.	Jul.	Jun.	May	1997	Aug.
Total	17 073,2	17 393,0*	16 987,9	133 288,5	136 865,5		16 636,9	16 824,7	16 274,6	16 652,1	16 471,7	
Including diamonds	16 863,9	16 898,1*	16 717,5	129 343,8	133 181,7							
Excluding diamonds	2 927,8	2 903,0*	3 198,3	22 623,4	25 822,1		3 016,9	2 927,6	2 876,0	3 001,3	3 297,7	
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	943,3	892,5	927,1	7 153,3	7 266,4		980,7	957,1	881,1	962,4	960,0	
Livestock and farm produce	397,7	358,5	383,3	3 100,5	2 951,9		392,8	400,3	435,7	405,5	379,8	
Textiles, clothing and footwear	417,3	388,2	404,8	2 983,2	2 986,7		426,8	418,2	406,4	430,7	413,8	
Furniture and household requisites	846,6	848,2	822,6	7 062,4	7 265,2		889,6	892,2	869,3	929,7	862,3	
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	209,3	494,9	270,3	3 944,7	3 683,9		-	-	-	-	-	
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	1 421,8	1 373,6	1 555,0	11 499,3	12 401,1		1 402,5	1 431,0	1 466,4	1 441,1	1 530,3	
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 765,4	1 784,9	1 674,6	13 113,6	13 174,9		1 637,5	1 697,3	1 649,8	1 693,4	1 551,4	
Construction and building materials	3 269,2	3 277,2	2 939,7	24 711,4	22 655,9		3 187,7	3 207,7	3 028,3	3 202,0	2 867,5	
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	4 874,9	5 072,1	4 812,0	37 095,8	38 657,5		4 761,1	4 843,3	4 635,3	4 674,0	4 685,6	
Miscellaneous												

The former TBVC states are included.