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Wholesale trade sales

August 1998

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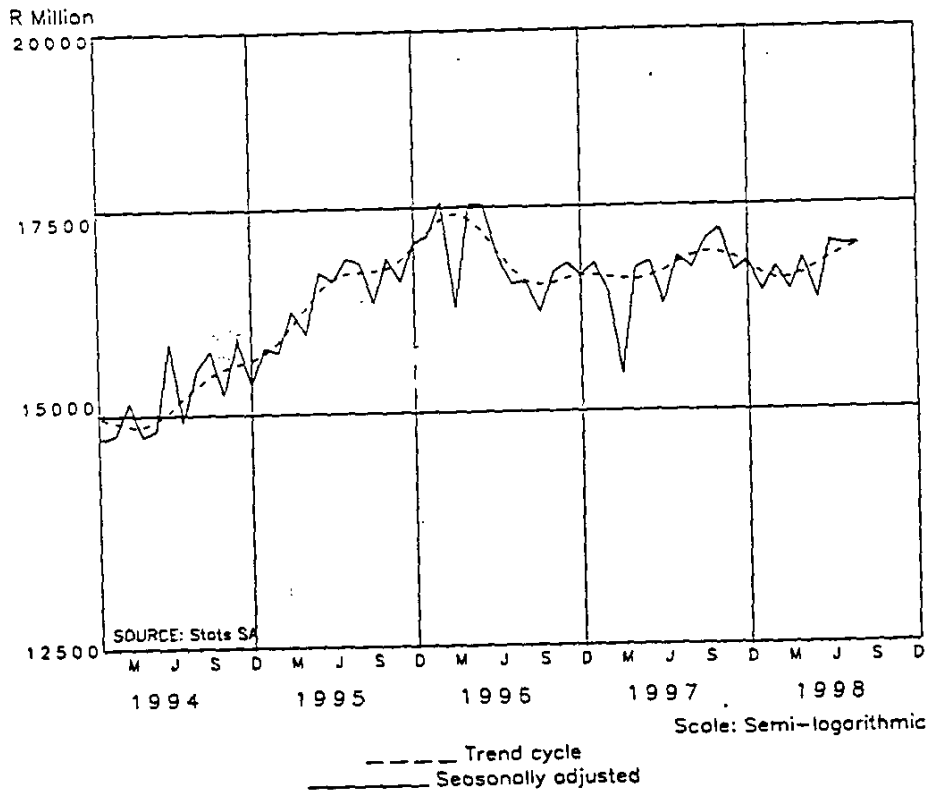


REAL WHOLESALE TRADE SALES MAINTAIN UPWARD TREND

The seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales (at constant June 1995 prices), excluding diamonds, for the three months up to August 1998 reflect an increase of 2,9% compared with the previous three months. Since early 1998 real wholesale trade sales have been showing a slight upward trend (see figure 1).

Furthermore, the real wholesale trade sales (at constant June 1995 prices), excluding diamonds, for the three months up to August 1998 are 2,2% higher than for the corresponding period of 1997. However, the seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds, for August 1998 compared with July 1998 remained unchanged. Five of the nine wholesaler categories reflected increases. The largest percentage increase was reflected by wholesalers in machinery and equipment (+5,1%), followed by wholesalers in livestock and farm produce (+4,8%). Wholesalers in miscellaneous goods, which have the largest market share (28,9%), reflected a slight increase of 0,4%.

Figure 1 – REAL WHOLESALE TRADE SALES (EXCLUDING DIAMONDS)
(AT CONSTANT JUNE 1995 PRICES)



SUMMARY FOR THREE MONTHS - WHOLESALE TRADE SALES

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. 1998 - Aug. 1998	62 342,9	50 944,0	+4,9	+2,2
Jun. 1997 - Aug. 1997	59 421,2	49 871,0		
Seasonally adjusted values				
Jun. 1998 - Aug. 1998	62 311,2	50 949,2	+4,9	+2,9
Mar. 1998 - May 1998	59 421,8	49 501,2		

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 Dr F M Orkin
 Head: Statistics South Africa

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

This statistical release shows final estimates of the wholesale trade sales in the Republic of South Africa. 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.

Stats SA is currently redesigning this survey, including the questionnaire. Any inputs regarding The new questionnaire will be appreciated.

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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				
	Aug. 1998	Jul. 1998	Aug. 1997	Jan. 1998	Aug. 1997	Aug. 1998	Jul. 1998	Jun. 1998	May 1998	Aug. 1997
				1998	1997					
Total	21 506,9	21 344,6	20 333,4	162 213,2	158 027,8	21 084,3	20 694,4	20 532,5	19 699,7	19 910,2
Including diamonds	21 208,7	20 723,8	20 090,0	158 476,4	153 439,1					
Excluding diamonds	4 041,9	3 838,4	3 648,3	29 994,8	27 809,8	4 043,5	3 897,2	3 873,6	3 803,3	3 660,9
Foodstuff, beverages and tobacco	1 258,7	1 155,7	1 077,4	9 331,1	8 098,9	1 301,0	1 247,5	1 323,0	1 190,3	1 112,6
Livestock and farm produce	476,4	485,1	450,1	3 732,3	3 479,5	503,9	547,3	495,5	440,2	471,9
Textiles, clothing and footwear	358,3	421,2	475,1	2 897,0	3 330,0	358,5	456,5	386,8	389,6	477,5
Furniture and household requisites	1 384,1	1 527,5	1 000,4	11 233,4	8 135,3	1 487,4	1 574,3	1 519,3	1 449,6	1 065,8
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	298,2	620,8	243,4	3 736,8	4 588,8	-	-	-	-	-
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	1 827,3	1 636,4	1 661,9	13 585,1	13 102,9	1 804,6	1 723,2	1 902,9	1 680,2	1 634,8
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 836,5	2 055,1	2 081,0	15 051,7	15 095,1	1 741,5	1 941,8	1 919,5	1 887,5	1 958,7
Construction and building materials	3 953,2	3 612,4	3 681,1	27 841,5	27 511,6	3 813,1	3 590,2	3 469,9	3 355,0	3 543,9
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	6 072,4	5 992,0	6 014,7	44 809,6	46 876,0	5 932,7	5 699,3	5 685,9	5 664,3	5 858,7
Miscellaneous										

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				
	1998		1997		1998	1998		1998		1997
	Aug.	Jul.	Aug.	Aug.	Jan. - Aug.	Aug.	Jul.	Jun.	May	Aug.
Total	17 279,9	17 511,0	17 033,5	134 159,2	133 248,8	16 968,8	16 965,7	17 014,7	16 291,5	16 694,7
Including diamonds	17 047,0	17 021,4	16 824,2	131 070,0	129 304,2					
Excluding diamonds	3 093,2	2 952,2	2 882,2	23 265,8	22 577,9	3 107,5	3 014,2	2 994,3	2 919,1	2 905,5
Foodstuff, beverages and tobacco	1 084,4	1 003,6	943,3	8 048,6	7 153,3	1 113,9	1 063,3	1 120,6	1 006,3	969,0
Livestock and farm produce	400,1	407,8	397,7	3 163,8	3 100,5	420,8	459,5	417,2	369,9	414,6
Textiles, clothing and footwear	283,8	353,8	417,3	2 444,5	2 983,2	283,6	384,8	326,7	330,3	418,9
Furniture and household requisites	1 073,9	1 253,8	861,2	9 305,2	7 077,0	1 158,1	1 287,0	1 253,5	1 197,5	920,0
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	232,9	489,6	209,3	3 089,2	3 944,7	-	-	-	-	-
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	1 536,4	1 378,2	1 446,0	11 542,2	11 523,4	1 518,4	1 458,9	1 607,9	1 427,5	1 423,4
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 503,9	1 709,2	1 765,4	12 557,6	13 113,6	1 437,6	1 609,2	1 597,7	1 578,6	1 674,1
Construction and building materials	3 356,7	3 118,5	3 269,2	24 175,2	24 711,4	3 251,8	3 093,2	3 015,7	2 921,6	3 161,5
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	4 714,6	4 844,4	4 842,0	36 567,1	37 063,9	4 613,3	4 596,2	4 690,3	4 723,9	4 725,3
Miscellaneous										