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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Wholesale trade sales December 1997



Statistical release P6141.2

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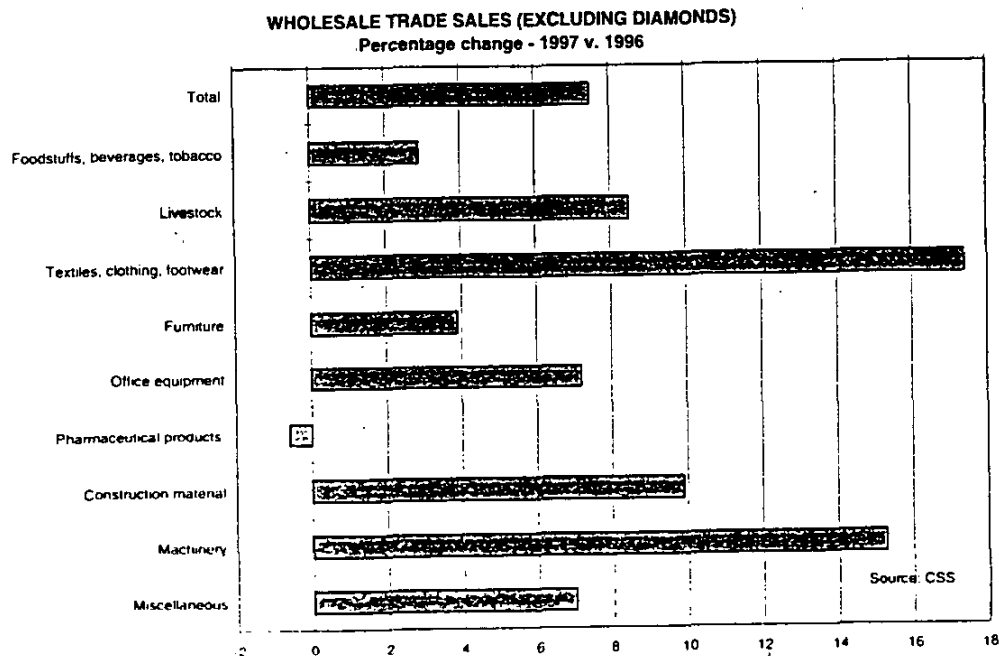
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REAL WHOLESALE TRADE SALES DECREASE FOR 1997

The real wholesale trade sales (at constant June 1995 prices), excluding diamonds, for 1997 show a decrease of 1,2% compared with 1996.

The total wholesale trade sales (at current prices), excluding diamonds, for 1997 amounted to R237 990,9 million, which is 7,5% higher than that for 1996. Eight of the nine wholesaler categories showed increases in their sales over this period. The largest percentage increase occurred in respect of the sales of wholesalers in textiles, clothing and footwear (+17,4%), followed by wholesalers in machinery (+15,3%). The sales of wholesalers in pharmaceutical and chemical products show a decrease of 0,6%.



The wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds) for December 1997 amounted to R19 671,4 million, which is 0,8% higher than for November 1997 after seasonal adjustment. This represents an increase of 0,9% in real terms (at constant June 1995 prices).

There is a declining trend in the growth rate of real wholesale trade sales. The real sales reflected an increase of 7,9% between 1994 and 1995, an increase of 2,3% between 1995 and 1996 and a decrease of 1,2% between 1996 and 1997 (see table).

Year	Total real wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds) R million
1994	R182 780,4
1995	R197 308,1
1996	R201 880,4
1997	R199 458,0

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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				
Oct. 1997 - Dec. 1997	63 505,1	52 591,7	+5,8	+1,2
Oct. 1996 - Dec. 1996	60 040,8	51 990,1		
Seasonally adjusted values				
Oct. 1997 - Dec. 1997	61 285,1	50 633,0	+1,7	+0,2
Jul. 1997 - Sep. 1997	60 231,6	50 525,2		

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 Dr F M Orkin
 Head: Central Statistical Service

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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 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				
	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	Jan. 1997	Dec. 1996	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1997	Sep. 1997	Dec. 1996
	Total	19 964,7	22 175,6	19 135,4	244 376,8	226 911,4	20 369,0	20 207,3	20 708,7	20 409,9
Including diamonds	19 671,4	21 870,9	18 852,7	237 990,9	221 461,3	3 814,1	3 758,4	4 076,5	3 495,4	3 466,7
Excluding diamonds	4 497,2	3 840,6	4 090,5	43 783,8	42 536,7	1 096,6	1 096,1	1 109,9	1 162,0	993,5
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	1 148,2	1 330,8	1 051,8	13 107,8	12 075,9	597,4	539,7	546,6	484,0	412,5
Livestock and farm produce	486,3	648,9	335,1	5 845,2	4 976,8	391,3	438,7	475,0	465,4	448,2
Textiles, clothing and footwear	414,4	641,9	476,4	5 441,5	5 238,9	1 216,9	1 149,7	1 082,7	1 046,2	1 022,4
Furniture and household requisites	1 056,8	1 308,6	885,1	12 736,5	11 875,7	-	-	-	-	-
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	293,3	304,6	282,7	6 385,9	5 450,1	1 661,8	1 645,9	1 677,1	1 681,9	1 714,0
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	1 513,8	1 740,6	1 562,0	19 931,7	20 061,5	2 069,9	1 961,8	2 037,7	1 982,7	1 784,3
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 616,8	2 232,8	1 391,9	23 323,9	21 219,7	3 841,2	3 640,6	3 765,2	3 745,1	3 370,5
Construction and building materials	3 282,5	3 815,4	2 876,1	42 699,5	37 026,8	5 848,3	5 935,4	6 026,2	6 177,1	6 398,5
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	5 655,4	6 311,3	6 183,8	71 121,0	66 449,4					
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				
	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	Jan. 1997	Dec. 1996	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1997	Sep. 1997	Dec. 1996
	Total	16 421,1	18 370,7	16 332,6	204 952,4	207 499,8	16 791,1	16 649,1	17 192,9	17 064,0
Including diamonds	16 167,9	18 107,8	16 021,9	199 458,0	201 880,4	3 036,8	2 934,3	3 215,7	2 727,8	2 957,0
Excluding diamonds	3 549,2	3 027,7	3 462,4	35 190,0	38 473,5	965,4	956,9	962,0	996,3	871,4
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	979,2	1 135,6	896,9	11 419,6	11 286,8	515,9	468,3	474,4	422,6	375,4
Livestock and farm produce	420,5	562,3	305,3	5 149,8	4 693,5	342,6	383,2	416,0	408,6	412,7
Textiles, clothing and footwear	361,6	560,2	437,3	4 831,3	4 934,9	1 035,9	982,8	930,1	894,9	904,2
Furniture and household requisites	900,5	1 116,4	783,4	11 013,7	10 932,3	-	-	-	-	-
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	253,2	262,9	310,7	5 494,4	5 619,4	1 417,9	1 413,5	1 450,7	1 463,7	1 539,1
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	1 305,6	1 502,2	1 422,4	17 430,3	18 849,4	1 738,2	1 655,9	1 720,3	1 680,6	1 600,4
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 368,8	1 891,1	1 258,7	20 083,9	19 784,8	3 372,5	3 202,4	3 324,9	3 321,3	3 082,7
Construction and building materials	2 880,7	3 353,3	2 628,9	38 117,0	35 010,8	4 531,8	4 649,0	4 740,2	4 907,5	4 972,0
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	4 401,8	4 959,0	4 826,5	56 222,3	57 914,5					
Miscellaneous										

The former TBVC states are included.

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