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Wholesale trade sales

December 1998

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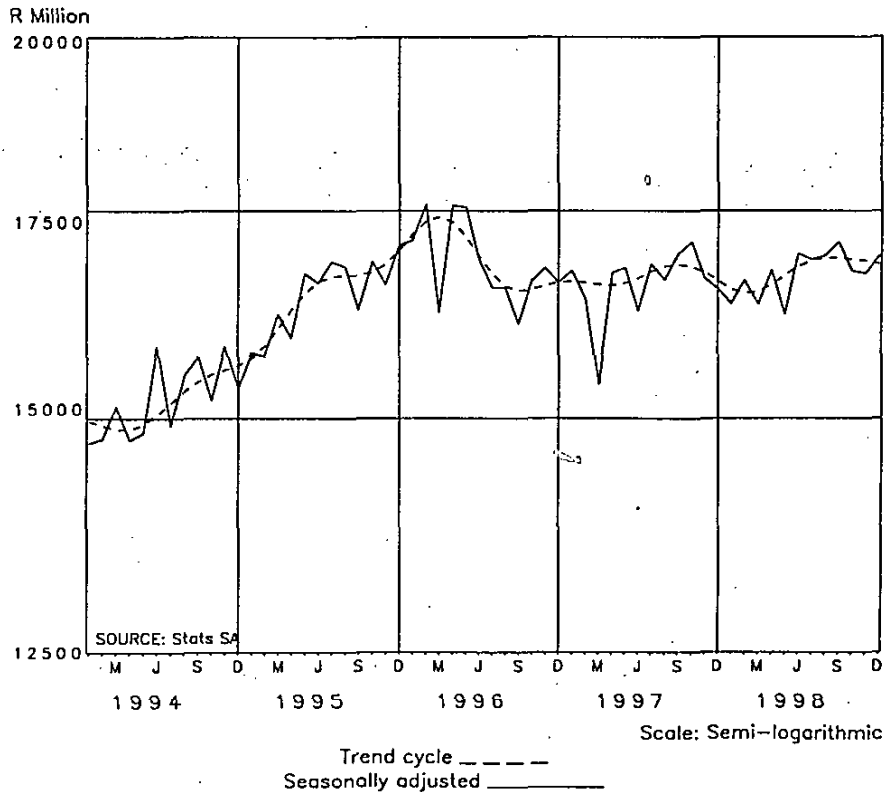
REAL WHOLESALE TRADE SALES INCREASE DURING 1998

The real wholesale trade sales (at constant June 1995 prices), excluding diamonds, for 1998 reflected an increase of 0,8% compared with 1997. Four of the nine wholesaler categories reflected increases. The largest percentage increase was reflected by wholesalers in office and shop equipment, books and stationery (+20,3%, mainly due to a higher demand for office machines), followed by wholesalers in livestock and farm produce (+10,2%, mainly due to a good tobacco season and increases in exports), wholesalers in foodstuff, beverages and tobacco (+5,2%) and wholesalers in pharmaceutical and chemical products (+2,7%):

The real wholesale trade sales (at constant June 1995 prices), excluding diamonds, for the fourth quarter of 1998 reflected an increase of 0,2% compared with the fourth quarter of 1997. However, the seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds, for the last quarter of 1998 decreased by 1,1% compared with the previous quarter.

The seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds, for December 1998 increased by 1,3% compared with November 1998. Six of the nine wholesalers categories reflected increases. The largest percentage increase was reflected by wholesalers in furniture and household requisites (+5,2%), followed by wholesalers in textiles, clothing and footwear (+4,6%) and wholesalers in construction and building materials (+4,1%). Wholesalers in miscellaneous goods, which have the largest market share (28,6% of real sales in December 1998), reflected an increase of 3,2%.

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				
Oct. 1998 - Dec. 1998	65 625,4	52 415,0	+3,8	+0,2
Oct. 1997 - Dec. 1997	63 198,1	52 325,0		
Seasonally adjusted values				
Oct. 1998 - Dec. 1998	62 865,9	50 358,5	+0,1	-1,1
Jul. 1998 - Sep. 1998	62 824,6	50 905,6		

PP *amylburgh*
Dr F M Orkin
Head: Statistics South Africa

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				
	Jan. - Dec.									
	Dec. 1998	Nov. 1998	Dec. 1997	1998	1997	Dec. 1998	Nov. 1998	Oct. 1998	Sep. 1998	Dec. 1997
Total										
Including diamonds	21 186,0	23 024,7	19 716,1	250 773,9	243 720,0*					
Excluding diamonds	20 552,6	22 697,4	19 422,8	245 261,3	237 334,1*	21 064,9	20 896,9	20 904,2	21 169,1	19 939,1
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	4 873,3	4 390,3	4 497,2	48 125,3	43 783,8	4 155,7	4 286,4	4 274,9	4 351,0	3 835,6
Livestock and farm produce	1 317,4	1 466,2	1 148,2	14 631,8	13 107,8	1 283,5	1 238,8	1 172,4	1 110,1	1 110,8
Textiles, clothing and footwear	338,8	541,5	346,8	5 778,7	5 707,4*	445,8	425,6	483,0	482,5	455,3
Furniture and household requisites	444,2	544,1	354,4	4 872,7	4 971,6*	397,6	374,3	411,4	450,4	317,8
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	1 196,1	1 608,9	1 006,8	16 332,2	12 686,5*	1 381,2	1 406,5	1 485,6	1 454,8	1 165,7
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	633,3	327,4	293,3	5 512,5	6 385,9	-	-	-	-	-
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 614,5	2 054,0	1 513,8	21 314,6	19 931,7*	1 772,2	1 931,2	1 863,3	1 907,5	1 662,6
Construction and building materials	1 547,9	2 105,7	1 616,8	22 658,4	23 323,9	1 933,5	1 852,0	1 826,0	1 833,0	2 025,9
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	3 362,1	3 940,1	3 282,5	42 857,4	42 699,5	3 777,6	3 695,5	3 590,1	3 537,7	3 712,5
Miscellaneous	5 858,4	6 046,6	5 655,4	68 690,2	71 121,0	5 941,3	5 729,1	5 883,1	5 867,9	5 742,2

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		Jan. - Dec. 1998	1998		1998		Dec. 1997
	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.	1998		Nov.	Oct.	Sep.		
Total										
Including diamonds	16 854,4	18 377,3	16 205,5	204 945,4	204 372,5*					
Excluding diamonds	16 358,6	18 119,7	15 952,3	200 463,8	198 878,2*	16 923,0	16 703,4	16 732,1	17 099,5	16 514,5
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	3 638,4	3 320,7	3 549,2	37 002,9	35 190,0	3 124,6	3 219,8	3 250,8	3 313,8	3 047,3
Livestock and farm produce	1 109,6	1 261,3	979,2	12 584,8	11 419,6*	1 120,9	1 084,1	1 027,4	972,8	979,7
Textiles, clothing and footwear	282,8	452,0	299,9	4 872,8	5 030,6*	371,4	354,9	404,6	405,6	393,0
Furniture and household requisites	348,3	426,3	309,3	4 001,0	4 413,3*	312,3	296,9	327,0	353,4	277,8
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	924,2	1 240,9	857,9	13 197,9	10 971,2*	1 062,2	1 083,9	1 146,9	1 131,9	988,4
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	495,8	257,6	253,2	4 481,6	5 494,4	-	-	-	-	-
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 320,4	1 680,6	1 305,6	17 893,5	17 430,3	1 442,3	1 578,4	1 529,9	1 582,0	1 424,6
Construction and building materials	1 259,2	1 711,6	1 368,8	18 768,5	20 083,9	1 564,1	1 502,5	1 491,7	1 502,0	1 705,0
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	2 804,3	3 278,5	2 880,7	36 797,4	38 117,0	3 151,9	3 084,5	3 027,8	3 001,2	3 257,6
Miscellaneous	4 671,4	4 748,0	4 401,8	55 345,0	56 222,3	4 675,9	4 532,3	4 579,7	4 591,2	4 413,2