

# Wholesale trade sales December 2003

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**Embargoed until:**

**26 February 2004  
09:30**

**NB** *The January 2004 release on wholesale trade sales will be published on data from the new sample.*

*The detail of information published may not necessarily be the same as is in this publication.*

## Key figures as at the end of December 2003

Actual estimates	December 2003	% change between December 2002 and December 2003	% change between October 2002 to December 2002 and October 2003 to December 2003	% change between January 2002 to December 2002 and January 2003 to December 2003
Wholesale trade sales at current prices, excluding diamonds (R million)	33 038,5	+1,0	-2,1	+3,9
Wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices, excluding diamonds (R million)	17 590,4	+5,7	+3,1	+3,7

Seasonally adjusted estimates	December 2003	% change between November 2003 and December 2003	% change between July 2003 to September 2003 and October 2003 to December 2003
Wholesale trade sales at current prices, excluding diamonds (R million)	32 496,5	+1,6	-3,4
Wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices, excluding diamonds (R million)	17 298,2	+0,9	-2,5

## Key findings for the year 2003

### Real wholesale trade sales increase

*Real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds (at constant June 1995 prices), for the year 2003 increased by 3,7% compared with 2002, with five of the nine types of wholesalers reflecting increases.*

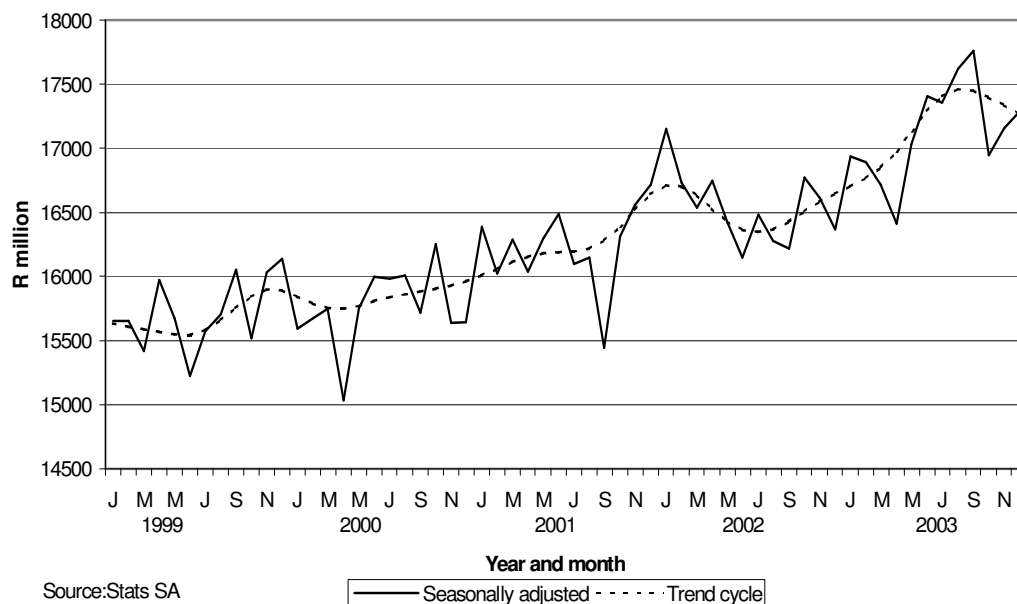
The largest percentage increase in wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds (at constant June 1995 prices) for the year 2003 compared with 2002, was reported by wholesalers in livestock and farm produce (+7,3%), followed by wholesalers in food, beverages and tobacco (+7,0%), wholesalers in machinery and equipment (+6,6%), wholesalers in miscellaneous goods (+5,4%), and wholesalers in pharmaceutical and chemical products (+1,0%). However, these increases were partially counteracted by decreases reported by wholesalers in construction and building materials (-7,5%), wholesalers in textiles, clothing and footwear (-3,3%), wholesalers in office and shop equipment, books and stationery (-3,2%) and wholesalers in furniture and household requisites (-2,0%).

## Key findings as at the end of December 2003

### Seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales decrease

*The seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds (at constant June 1995 prices), for the fourth quarter of 2003 reflected a decrease of 2,5% compared with the third quarter of 2003. However, real wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds), for the fourth quarter of 2003 increased by 3,1% compared with the fourth quarter of 2002.*

The decrease of 2,5% in the seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds (at constant June 1995 prices) was due to decreases reported by wholesalers in pharmaceutical and chemical products (-13,0%), wholesalers in construction and building materials (-5,5%), wholesalers in textiles, clothing and footwear (-2,7%), wholesalers in foodstuff, beverages and tobacco (-2,2%), wholesalers in miscellaneous goods (-2,0%) and wholesalers in furniture and household requisites (-1,1%). However, these decreases were partially counteracted by an increase reported by wholesalers in office and shop equipment, books and stationery (+7,2%). The seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales in machinery and equipment remained unchanged.

**Figure 1 - Real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds (at constant June 1995 prices)**

### Comparability of results with other Stats SA data sources

The percentage change in the implicit wholesale trade sales deflator (the deflator is calculated by dividing wholesale trade sales excluding diamonds, at current prices, by wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices) for December 2003 compared with December 2002 is -4,5%. The overall Production Price Index (PPI) for all commodities for South African consumption shows an annual rate of decrease of 1,8% at December 2003.

The difference between the percentage change in the implicit wholesale trade sales deflator and the percentage change in the PPI is because products of petroleum and coal have a small weight in the PPI, but a much larger weight in wholesale trade sales. Wholesalers in petroleum products contributed 24,4% to total wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds, for December 2003. The PPI for South African consumption for products of petroleum and coal is used as a sub-index in the compilation of real wholesale trade sales of almost every one of the ten types of wholesalers. The Production Price Index for South African consumption for products of petroleum and coal shows an annual rate of decrease of 14,4% at December 2003.

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## Notes

<b>Forthcoming issues</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Expected release date</b>
<b>New sample</b>	January 2004	24 March 2004
	February 2004	21 April 2004
	March 2004	19 May 2004
	April 2004	23 June 2004
	May 2004	21 July 2004
	June 2004	18 August 2004
 <b>Purpose of the survey</b>	<p>The Wholesale Trade Sales Survey is a monthly survey covering a sample of private enterprises (firms) operating in the wholesale trade industry in South Africa. The results of the survey are used to compile estimates of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and its components, which are used to develop and monitor government policy. These statistics are also used by the private sector in the analysis of comparative business and industry performance. Information is only collected for those establishments (branches) of the enterprise that are predominantly engaged in the wholesale trade industry.</p>	
 <b>New sample</b>	<p>According to international best practices and in order to train the relevant respondents in using the new questionnaire, validate the information received and avoid a break in the time series published in this statistical release, Stats SA decided to introduce the new questionnaire as the first step in the re-engineering process.</p> <p>Currently Stats SA is busy re-engineering the register of businesses which serves as the sampling frame, in collaboration with the South African Revenue Service and the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Labour. The process will take some time, since there are hundreds of thousands of businesses, many of them in any period changing ownership, closing, or being registered.</p>	
 <b>Response rate</b>	<p>The response rate for the survey of wholesale trade sales for December 2003 was 81,8%.</p>	

Table 1 – Actual values of wholesale trade sales at current prices according to type of wholesaler (R million)

Year and month	Type of wholesaler					
	Foodstuff, beverages and tobacco	Livestock and farm produce	Textiles, clothing and footwear	Furniture and household requisites	Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	Diamonds, jewellery and silverware
2002 Jan.	4 777,8	1 761,5	429,9	275,2	1 539,3	519,5
Feb.	4 815,4	1 652,4	452,6	380,0	1 487,5	381,2
Mar.	5 463,0	1 516,9*	500,0	397,9	1 674,0	1 106,2
Apr.	5 044,5	1 796,0*	489,4	349,0	1 544,4	1 178,4
May	5 233,4	1 733,1	541,1	460,2	1 541,8	1 412,8
June	5 571,6	1 581,7	491,9	392,2	1 502,7	1 355,3
July	5 370,5	1 617,7	509,0	416,6	1 600,3	573,7
Aug.	5 405,7	1 725,1	466,2	427,8	1 529,4	777,4
Sep.	5 981,8	1 629,1	507,0	492,7	1 534,7	1 186,0
Oct.	6 069,6	2 222,2	617,1	628,0	1 746,1	2 802,4
Nov.	5 941,4	2 258,1	670,9	736,4	1 703,0	1 325,3
Dec.	6 847,2	2 050,9	416,3	420,8	1 184,4	913,4
<b>Total</b>	<b>66 521,9</b>	<b>21 544,7</b>	<b>6 091,4</b>	<b>5 376,8</b>	<b>18 587,6</b>	<b>13 531,6</b>
2003 Jan.	5 642,0	1 822,6	438,2	269,0	1 537,7	560,1
Feb.	5 683,3	1 868,9	448,8	405,4	1 510,2	603,7
Mar.	6 208,9	1 716,2	511,9	395,0	1 569,7	1 223,2
Apr.	5 772,3	1 746,0	504,8	356,4	1 530,7	1 187,0
May	6 043,8	1 517,4	531,1	427,2	1 493,8	1 015,5
June	6 152,5	1 662,5	488,5	416,9	1 433,7	1 257,9
July	5 853,4	1 755,8	528,4	452,9	1 529,9	1 148,3
Aug.	6 336,3	1 819,5	510,3	470,5	1 468,8	571,7
Sep.	6 618,7	1 822,7	497,7	501,7	1 535,7	720,9
Oct.	6 033,9	2 079,0	615,9	630,7	1 615,3	1 303,8
Nov.	6 627,9*	2 107,8	637,8*	671,8*	1 853,6*	974,3
Dec.	7 597,8	2 045,7	442,3	445,5	1 383,9	763,7
<b>Total</b>	<b>74 570,8</b>	<b>21 964,1</b>	<b>6 155,7</b>	<b>5 443,0</b>	<b>18 463,0</b>	<b>11 330,1</b>

\* Revised

Table 1 – Actual values of wholesale trade sales at current prices according to type of wholesaler (R million) (concluded)

Year and month	Type of wholesaler				Total, excluding diamonds	Total, including diamonds
	Pharmaceutical and chemical products	Construction and building materials	Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	Miscellaneous		
2002 Jan.	2 239,0	2 522,4	4 351,2	9 717,5	27 613,7	28 133,2
Feb.	2 423,1	2 936,0	4 707,8	10 408,0	29 262,7	29 643,9
Mar.	2 273,4	2 234,8	4 668,1	11 482,9	30 424,2	31 530,5
Apr.	2 343,6	2 353,7	4 339,1	11 760,7	30 233,6	31 412,0
May	2 311,8	2 532,9	4 730,5	11 501,0	30 585,8	31 998,6
June	2 382,6	2 306,8	4 701,1	11 152,2	30 082,8	31 438,1
July	2 339,5	2 540,7	4 452,3	11 526,8	30 373,3	30 947,0
Aug.	2 557,7	2 532,3	4 809,4	11 665,0	31 118,5	31 895,9
Sep.	2 638,7	2 445,1	5 065,6	11 985,2	32 279,9	33 465,9
Oct.	2 985,8	2 730,4	5 168,4	12 583,0	34 750,7	37 553,1
Nov.	2 784,2	2 926,6	5 322,8	13 389,7	35 732,9	37 058,2
Dec.	2 448,2	1 987,7	4 864,1	12 501,8	32 721,4	33 634,8
<b>Total</b>	<b>29 727,6</b>	<b>30 049,4</b>	<b>57 180,4</b>	<b>139 673,8</b>	<b>375 179,6</b>	<b>388 711,2</b>
2003 Jan.	2 403,6	2 172,8	4 544,8	11 186,3	30 017,2	30 577,3
Feb.	2 515,3	2 337,6	5 402,6	11 859,0	32 031,0	32 634,7
Mar.	2 383,2	2 402,2	5 454,6	12 560,7	33 202,4	34 425,6
Apr.	2 305,8	2 293,5	4 723,8	11 760,1	30 993,4	32 180,4
May	2 586,4	2 437,9	4 957,7	11 523,2	31 518,6	32 534,1
June	2 677,1	2 388,6	5 231,6	11 670,5	32 122,0	33 379,9
July	2 669,7	2 670,1	5 055,3	11 353,1	31 868,6	33 016,9
Aug.	2 743,2	2 573,6	5 071,2	11 992,6	32 986,0	33 557,7
Sep.	2 970,2	2 542,9	5 407,6	12 282,7	34 180,0	34 900,9
Oct.	2 662,9	2 832,3	5 411,7	11 495,3	33 377,0	34 680,8
Nov.	2 588,1*	2 896,7*	5 414,8*	11 865,0*	34 663,7*	35 637,9*
Dec.	2 507,0	2 053,1	4 814,1	11 749,1	33 038,5	33 802,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>31 012,5</b>	<b>29 601,3</b>	<b>61 489,8</b>	<b>141 297,6</b>	<b>389 998,4</b>	<b>401 328,4</b>

\* Revised

Table 2 – Percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices according to type of wholesaler

Year <u>1/</u> and month <u>2/</u>	Type of wholesaler					
	Foodstuff, beverages and tobacco	Livestock and farm produce	Textiles, clothing and footwear	Furniture and household requisites	Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	Diamonds, jewellery and silverware
2002 Jan.	13,3	33,4	28,2	24,3	17,2	-49,3
Feb.	10,8	26,8	-3,5	14,9	12,7	-78,6
Mar.	21,2	29,9*	-6,8	2,0	4,7	130,1
Apr.	12,7	39,3*	6,3	8,4	25,1	89,4
May	13,5	38,3	4,2	13,3	21,0	38,7
June	17,2	23,0	14,3	-9,6	4,5	31,1
July	17,2	26,7	27,3	9,5	12,9	-46,1
Aug.	13,8	17,9	4,7	2,3	13,8	-19,8
Sep.	18,7	13,1	9,8	15,4	13,4	273,7
Oct.	21,4	26,3	13,5	11,7	13,4	134,4
Nov.	15,1	16,8	11,5	11,7	8,7	134,0
Dec.	10,2	28,2	-1,0	9,3	-6,5	-39,8
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,4</b>	<b>26,0</b>	<b>8,3</b>	<b>8,9</b>	<b>11,5</b>	<b>16,7</b>
2003 Jan.	18,1	3,5	1,9	-2,3	-0,1	7,8
Feb.	18,0	13,1	-0,8	6,7	1,5	58,4
Mar.	13,7	13,1	2,4	-0,7	-6,2	10,6
Apr.	14,4	-2,8	3,1	2,1	-0,9	0,7
May	15,5	-12,4	-1,8	-7,2	-3,1	-28,1
June	10,4	5,1	-0,7	6,3	-4,6	-7,2
July	9,0	8,5	3,8	8,7	-4,4	100,2
Aug.	17,2	5,5	9,5	10,0	-4,0	-26,5
Sep.	10,6	11,9	-1,8	1,8	0,1	-39,2
Oct.	-0,6	-6,4	-0,2	0,4	-7,5	-53,5
Nov.	11,6*	-6,7	-4,9*	-8,8*	8,8*	-26,5
Dec.	11,0	-0,3	6,2	5,9	16,8	-16,4
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,1</b>	<b>1,9</b>	<b>1,1</b>	<b>1,2</b>	<b>-0,7</b>	<b>-16,3</b>

1/ The percentage change is the change in wholesale trade sales of the relevant year compared with wholesale trade sales of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

2/ The percentage change is the change in actual value of wholesale trade sales of the relevant month compared with actual value of wholesale trade sales of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

\* Revised



Table 2 – Percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices according to type of wholesaler (concluded)

Year <u>1/</u> and month <u>2/</u>	Type of wholesaler				Total, excluding diamonds	Total, including diamonds
	Pharmaceutical and chemical products	Construction and building materials	Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	Miscellaneous		
2002 Jan.	18,5	24,9	34,7	6,7	16,7	14,0
Feb.	22,1	31,9	31,8	12,6	18,0	11,6
Mar.	13,0	-5,3	16,0	20,4	16,4*	18,5*
Apr.	18,6	13,8	33,6	15,9	19,9*	21,5*
May	8,4	4,7	27,0	14,1	15,8	16,6
June	13,6	-8,2	23,5	10,1	11,9	12,6
July	12,2	6,5	21,1	18,1	17,0	14,5
Aug.	17,2	4,0	19,7	22,5	17,1	15,8
Sep.	19,7	-0,2	17,8	43,6	24,0	27,0*
Oct.	16,4	-3,2	16,5	29,2	19,9	24,5
Nov.	6,9	-3,9	17,1	26,9	16,5	18,6
Dec.	3,7	-15,3	23,4	21,0	13,4	10,7
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,9</b>	<b>3,3</b>	<b>22,9</b>	<b>19,9</b>	<b>17,2*</b>	<b>17,2*</b>
2003 Jan.	7,4	-13,9	4,4	15,1	8,7	8,7
Feb.	3,8	-20,4	14,8	13,9	9,5	10,1
Mar.	4,8	7,5	16,8	9,4	9,1	9,2
Apr.	-1,6	-2,6	8,9	0,0	2,5	2,4
May	11,9	-3,8	4,8	0,2	3,0	1,7
June	12,4	3,5	11,3	4,6	6,8	6,2
July	14,1	5,1	13,5	-1,5	4,9	6,7
Aug.	7,3	1,6	5,4	2,8	6,0	5,2
Sep.	12,6	4,0	6,8	2,5	5,9	4,3
Oct.	-10,8	3,7	4,7	-8,6	-4,0*	-7,6
Nov.	-7,0*	-1,0*	1,7*	-11,4*	-3,0*	-3,8*
Dec.	2,4	3,3	-1,0	-6,0	1,0	0,5
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,3</b>	<b>-1,5</b>	<b>7,5</b>	<b>1,2</b>	<b>3,9</b>	<b>3,2</b>

1/ The percentage change is the change in wholesale trade sales of the relevant year compared with wholesale trade sales of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

2/ The percentage change is the change in actual value of wholesale trade sales of the relevant month compared with actual value of wholesale trade sales of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

\* Revised

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices according to type of wholesaler (R million)

Year and month	Type of wholesaler				
	Foodstuff, beverages and tobacco	Livestock and farm produce	Textiles, clothing and footwear	Furniture and household requisites	Office and shop equipment, books and stationery
2002 Jan.	5 094,8	1 799,3	610,6	442,5	1 586,1
Feb.	5 105,7	1 671,8	478,2	438,4	1 553,5
Mar.	5 459,1	1 680,3	469,5	420,8	1 547,0
Apr.	5 239,9	1 891,6	489,4	435,3	1 590,6
May	5 386,0	1 918,3	502,3	462,5	1 622,4
June	5 665,9	1 755,4	509,2	422,0	1 412,2
July	5 634,4	1 763,2	520,9	429,1	1 571,2
Aug.	5 558,3	1 745,2	487,7	423,7	1 560,7
Sep.	5 827,5	1 655,5	510,2	455,6	1 545,9
Oct.	5 915,3	1 938,1	517,8	471,3	1 634,7
Nov.	5 774,7	1 853,5	537,5	494,8	1 563,7
Dec.	5 741,0	1 832,0	477,3	438,5	1 401,4
2003 Jan.	6 008,8	1 853,2	619,1	436,5	1 572,8
Feb.	6 039,7	1 891,4	472,0	463,5	1 566,7
Mar.	6 176,5	1 908,7	479,9	419,3	1 451,0
Apr.	6 033,0	1 834,4	507,1	445,7	1 572,7
May	6 223,3	1 677,1	492,4	428,2	1 562,7
June	6 214,8	1 846,2	508,5	451,6	1 354,1
July	6 164,3	1 915,2	539,5	468,6	1 502,4
Aug.	6 509,1	1 843,5	535,6	467,8	1 504,2
Sep.	6 427,3	1 857,5	503,9	464,2	1 558,4
Oct.	5 902,3	1 810,9	517,4	468,1	1 512,6
Nov.	6 453,8	1 734,6	505,8	448,8	1 695,6
Dec.	6 371,5	1 823,9	510,0	470,6	1 643,8

**Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices according to type of wholesaler (R million)**  
(concluded)

Year and month	Type of wholesaler				Total, excluding diamonds
	Pharmaceutical and chemical products	Construction and building materials	Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	Miscellaneous	
2002 Jan.	2 416,8	2 758,2	4 842,4	10 561,5	30 112,3
Feb.	2 441,2	2 973,7	4 588,4	10 756,4	30 007,2
Mar.	2 385,9	2 232,1	4 513,0	11 245,3	29 953,1
Apr.	2 458,2	2 565,6	4 706,2	11 520,3	30 897,2
May	2 337,7	2 534,8	4 693,6	11 406,7	30 864,3
June	2 427,6	2 411,3	4 655,4	11 142,9	30 402,1
July	2 470,6	2 494,7	4 611,7	11 751,3	31 246,9
Aug.	2 539,2	2 486,6	4 797,2	11 677,8	31 276,4
Sep.	2 520,6	2 429,5	4 791,5	11 830,6	31 566,9
Oct.	2 662,4	2 419,9	4 876,0	12 562,5	32 998,0
Nov.	2 544,7	2 458,0	4 945,5	12 724,1	32 896,5
Dec.	2 465,7	2 320,3	5 191,4	12 396,7	32 264,3
2003 Jan.	2 584,2	2 356,9	5 052,1	12 109,1	32 592,8
Feb.	2 539,6	2 369,7	5 237,7	12 252,7	32 833,1
Mar.	2 506,9	2 394,1	5 262,4	12 244,9	32 843,6
Apr.	2 433,5	2 501,1	5 142,0	11 466,4	31 936,0
May	2 630,6	2 437,3	4 923,0	11 450,1	31 824,7
June	2 725,8	2 503,5	5 175,8	11 674,0	32 454,3
July	2 801,8	2 625,7	5 245,2	11 593,5	32 856,2
Aug.	2 725,2	2 529,8	5 052,4	12 065,7	33 233,1
Sep.	2 844,2	2 538,1	5 134,6	12 138,0	33 466,2
Oct.	2 362,9	2 507,5	5 103,4	11 468,2	31 653,4
Nov.	2 371,8	2 428,9	5 042,4	11 289,9	31 971,7
Dec.	2 520,7	2 397,7	5 130,4	11 627,9	32 496,5

**Table 4 – Actual values of wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices according to type of wholesaler (R million)**

Year and month	Type of wholesaler					
	Foodstuff, beverages and tobacco	Livestock and farm produce	Textiles, clothing and footwear	Furniture and household requisites	Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	Diamonds, jewellery and silverware
2002 Jan.	2 756,1	1 088,3	307,4	189,8	956,5	334,0
Feb.	2 743,5	1 012,0	323,1	252,3	913,3	245,1
Mar.	3 054,0	914,0*	344,4	263,6	1 024,7	711,2
Apr.	2 765,6	1 094,7*	335,8	230,6	922,8	757,5
May	2 872,5	1 082,3	371,1	295,4	898,0	897,4
June	3 037,5	974,9	330,6	251,8	880,4	860,9
July	2 915,0	960,2	341,4	267,4	930,1	375,6
Aug.	2 837,6	988,7	312,3	269,0	878,5	500,2
Sep.	3 100,3	891,1	334,8	309,6	878,6	764,3
Oct.	3 094,2	1 205,3	406,9	394,1	987,5	1 797,1
Nov.	3 041,7	1 242,4	442,4	459,3	958,5	853,1
Dec.	3 498,1	1 125,7	272,1	262,7	672,9	588,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>35 716,1</b>	<b>12 579,6</b>	<b>4 122,2</b>	<b>3 445,6</b>	<b>10 901,8</b>	<b>8 684,4</b>
2003 Jan.	2 893,3	1 062,5	286,1	167,9	879,5	360,6
Feb.	2 928,5	1 140,3	292,9	250,9	855,3	396,0
Mar.	3 207,9	1 049,7	329,8	244,3	883,5	820,6
Apr.	2 924,9	1 100,6	325,3	220,5	862,1	801,4
May	3 165,1	945,2	342,8	265,9	859,7	700,7
June	3 218,4	1 054,0	314,8	259,9	828,8	846,5
July	3 001,7	1 071,7	340,5	281,3	876,5	766,5
Aug.	3 251,4	1 149,8	329,3	291,8	838,5	391,4
Sep.	3 391,4	1 131,2	322,1	311,4	877,3	495,3
Oct.	3 061,0	1 247,9	399,1	391,8	930,4	902,2
Nov.	3 361,0*	1 312,5	413,4*	416,0*	1 066,1*	679,4
Dec.	3 812,4	1 236,1	288,5	276,1	797,6	537,9
<b>Total</b>	<b>38 217,2</b>	<b>13 501,5</b>	<b>3 984,7</b>	<b>3 377,9</b>	<b>10 555,3</b>	<b>7 698,5</b>

\* Revised

**Table 4 – Actual values of wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices according to type of wholesaler (R million) (concluded)**

Year and month	Type of wholesaler				Total, excluding diamonds	Total, including diamonds	
	Pharmaceutical and chemical products	Construction and building materials	Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	Miscellaneous			
2002	Jan.	1 399,3	1 596,0	2 887,9	4 513,6	15 694,8	16 028,8
	Feb.	1 509,6	1 797,1	2 987,4	4 837,9	16 376,2	16 621,3
	Mar.	1 410,3	1 365,5	2 946,8	5 273,4	16 596,6	17 307,8
	Apr.	1 402,7	1 415,7	2 704,3	5 146,6	16 018,8	16 776,3
	May	1 380,4	1 498,0	2 880,8	4 879,9	16 158,3	17 055,6
	June	1 428,6	1 364,0	2 883,7	4 837,0	15 988,4	16 849,3
	July	1 375,8	1 492,0	2 733,5	5 026,1	16 041,4	16 417,0
	Aug.	1 501,9	1 460,8	2 901,8	5 035,8	16 186,4	16 686,7
	Sep.	1 546,1	1 406,7	3 041,5	5 093,1	16 601,8	17 366,2
	Oct.	1 718,4	1 559,8	3 084,0	5 239,7	17 689,9	19 487,0
	Nov.	1 601,9	1 663,7	3 147,5	5 539,1	18 096,4	18 949,5
	Dec.	1 414,2	1 134,9	2 904,8	5 353,7	16 639,3	17 227,3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17 689,2</b>	<b>17 754,1</b>	<b>35 104,0</b>	<b>60 775,9</b>	<b>198 088,3</b>	<b>206 772,8</b>
2003	Jan.	1 381,1	1 230,3	2 735,4	4 925,1	15 561,2	15 921,8
	Feb.	1 441,6	1 303,4	3 216,2	5 119,4	16 548,5	16 944,5
	Mar.	1 363,5	1 337,7	3 227,4	5 279,3	16 923,0	17 743,7
	Apr.	1 307,2	1 274,4	2 805,4	4 979,3	15 799,8	16 601,2
	May	1 479,1	1 359,1	3 021,9	5 319,6	16 758,3	17 458,9
	June	1 534,4	1 329,2	3 216,1	5 500,8	17 256,4	18 102,8
	July	1 541,0	1 478,7	3 077,6	5 195,7	16 864,8	17 631,3
	Aug.	1 585,5	1 415,4	3 115,2	5 516,7	17 493,6	17 885,0
	Sep.	1 718,5	1 399,6	3 331,4	5 673,0	18 156,6	18 651,9
	Oct.	1 544,1	1 560,5	3 346,3	5 379,8	17 860,9	18 763,1
	Nov.	1 504,7*	1 596,7*	3 353,7*	5 599,1*	18 623,3*	19 302,6*
	Dec.	1 461,1	1 133,6	2 988,5	5 596,6	17 590,4	18 128,4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17 861,8</b>	<b>16 418,6</b>	<b>37 435,1</b>	<b>64 084,4</b>	<b>205 436,8</b>	<b>213 135,2</b>

\* Revised

Table 5 – Percentage change in wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices according to type of wholesaler

Year <u>1/</u> and month <u>2/</u>	Type of wholesaler					
	Foodstuff, beverages and tobacco	Livestock and farm produce	Textiles, clothing and footwear	Furniture and household Requisites	Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	Diamonds, jewellery and Silverware
2002 Jan.	-1,8	6,7	19,3	17,9	8,7	-57,3
Feb.	-5,2	1,4	-10,3	6,5	4,0	-81,9
Mar.	2,3	1,7*	-15,8	-5,6	-3,6	93,9
Apr.	-4,8	13,4*	-4,0	-0,0	12,9	59,6
May	-3,1	16,4	-5,8	2,5	7,8	16,1
June	-0,2	1,1	2,9	-18,2	-6,1	10,1
July	0,0	0,9	15,2	-0,9	1,3	-53,4
Aug.	-5,5	-5,8	-5,3	-8,3	1,8	-31,8
Sep.	-2,1	-12,2	-0,8	3,4	1,3	215,7
Oct.	1,4	0,9	2,5	0,1	1,1	97,1
Nov.	0,0	-1,1	0,8	0,2	-3,4	97,5
Dec.	-4,7	9,8	-10,3	-1,6	-16,3	-49,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>-2,0</b>	<b>2,5</b>	<b>-1,7</b>	<b>-1,1</b>	<b>0,7</b>	<b>-1,5</b>
2003 Jan.	5,0	-2,4	-6,9	-11,5	-8,1	8,0
Feb.	6,7	12,7	-9,3	-0,6	-6,4	61,6
Mar.	5,0	14,8	-4,2	-7,3	-13,8	15,4
Apr.	5,8	0,5	-3,1	-4,4	-6,6	5,8
May	10,2	-12,7	-7,6	-10,0	-4,3	-21,9
June	6,0	8,1	-4,8	3,2	-5,9	-1,7
July	3,0	11,6	-0,3	5,2	-5,8	104,1
Aug.	14,6	16,3	5,4	8,5	-4,6	-21,8
Sep.	9,4	27,0	-3,8	0,6	-0,1	-35,2
Oct.	-1,1	3,5	-1,9	-0,6	-5,8	-49,8
Nov.	10,5*	5,6	-6,6*	-9,4*	11,2*	-20,4
Dec.	9,0	9,8	6,0	5,1	18,5	-8,5
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,0</b>	<b>7,3</b>	<b>-3,3</b>	<b>-2,0</b>	<b>-3,2</b>	<b>-11,4</b>

1/ The percentage change is the change in wholesale trade sales of the relevant year compared with wholesale trade sales of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

2/ The percentage change is the change in actual value of wholesale trade sales of the relevant month compared with actual value of wholesale trade sales of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

\* Revised

**Table 5 – Percentage change in wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices according to type of wholesaler (concluded)**

Year <u>1/</u> and month <u>2/</u>	Type of wholesaler				Total, excluding diamonds	Total, including diamonds
	Pharmaceutical and chemical products	Construction and building materials	Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	Miscellaneous		
2002 Jan.	5,4	13,3	25,0	-5,1	5,1	2,0
Feb.	8,3	18,3	17,9	0,1	4,7	-2,3
Mar.	0,4	-15,1	3,4	6,0	0,8	2,8
Apr.	3,7	1,3	18,1	-1,3	3,2	4,8
May	-5,1	-7,7	11,4	-2,3	0,6	1,3
June	0,2	-19,0	9,3	-2,9	-1,9	-1,4
July	-2,6	-6,2	7,2	4,4	2,1	-0,6
Aug.	1,8	-9,3	4,4	7,8	0,7	-0,7
Sep.	3,8	-13,0	2,4	24,7	4,8	7,9
Oct.	0,8	-15,5	1,4	12,0	2,4	7,1
Nov.	-7,0	-16,2	1,6	8,4	0,0	2,2
Dec.	-9,3	-25,7	8,4	6,1	-1,4	-4,5
<b>Total</b>	<b>-0,2</b>	<b>-8,6</b>	<b>8,6</b>	<b>4,5</b>	<b>1,7</b>	<b>1,5</b>
2003 Jan.	-1,3	-22,9	-5,3	9,1	-0,9	-0,7
Feb.	-4,5	-27,5	7,7	5,8	1,1	1,9
Mar.	-3,3	-2,0	9,5	0,1	2,0	2,5
Apr.	-6,8	-10,0	3,7	-3,3	-1,4	-1,0
May	7,2	-9,3	4,9	9,0	3,7	2,4
June	7,4	-2,6	11,5	13,7	7,9	7,4
July	12,0	-0,9	12,6	3,4	5,1	7,4
Aug.	5,6	-3,1	7,4	9,5	8,1	7,2
Sep.	11,2	-0,5	9,5	11,4	9,4	7,4
Oct.	-10,1	0,0	8,5	2,7	1,0	-3,7
Nov.	-6,1*	-4,0*	6,6*	1,1*	2,9*	1,9*
Dec.	3,3	-0,1	2,9	4,5	5,7	5,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,0</b>	<b>-7,5</b>	<b>6,6</b>	<b>5,4</b>	<b>3,7</b>	<b>3,1</b>

1/ The percentage change is the change in wholesale trade sales of the relevant year compared with wholesale trade sales of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

2/ The percentage change is the change in actual value of wholesale trade sales of the relevant month compared with actual value of wholesale trade sales of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

\* Revised

**Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices according to type of wholesaler  
(R million)**

Year and month	Type of wholesaler				
	Foodstuff, beverages and tobacco	Livestock and farm produce	Textiles, clothing and footwear	Furniture and household requisites	Office and shop equipment, books and stationery
2002 Jan.	2 952,9	1 123,5	436,7	302,7	976,5
Feb.	2 904,0	1 030,6	339,4	292,7	948,5
Mar.	3 044,2	1 010,7	325,2	279,2	932,4
Apr.	2 900,4	1 133,5	336,8	286,4	950,5
May	2 950,6	1 197,6	343,9	298,0	941,9
June	3 066,4	1 050,4	343,7	270,6	853,0
July	3 038,3	1 024,6	349,7	275,3	910,1
Aug.	2 903,9	983,7	326,5	267,1	897,9
Sep.	3 004,3	896,7	337,8	286,1	885,3
Oct.	3 033,6	1 050,1	341,6	294,7	927,1
Nov.	2 978,6	1 036,8	352,4	308,7	881,9
Dec.	2 940,4	1 063,4	311,3	274,3	794,5
2003 Jan.	3 095,8	1 092,1	404,3	270,1	890,9
Feb.	3 107,1	1 161,3	306,1	288,7	882,1
Mar.	3 183,3	1 163,7	310,9	259,9	803,1
Apr.	3 087,9	1 134,5	327,8	274,8	886,4
May	3 249,2	1 043,8	317,2	267,5	896,3
June	3 226,5	1 131,8	329,2	281,2	810,7
July	3 137,5	1 144,3	348,1	290,7	857,3
Aug.	3 324,2	1 143,5	345,4	290,9	859,8
Sep.	3 276,2	1 140,7	327,1	288,1	890,2
Oct.	3 013,9	1 088,3	335,4	289,7	873,2
Nov.	3 299,7	1 100,1	325,9	278,0	976,3
Dec.	3 206,1	1 171,4	331,8	292,2	945,2



**Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices according to type of wholesaler  
(R million) (concluded)**

Year and month	Type of wholesaler				Total, excluding diamonds	
	Pharmaceutical and chemical products	Construction and building materials	Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	Miscellaneous		
2002	Jan.	1 517,7	1 735,7	3 187,5	4 930,4	17 163,6
	Feb.	1 521,5	1 832,9	2 924,8	4 936,3	16 730,3
	Mar.	1 477,3	1 369,4	2 863,3	5 122,7	16 424,5
	Apr.	1 492,3	1 547,1	2 948,7	5 007,1	16 602,8
	May	1 404,8	1 508,3	2 901,2	4 871,9	16 418,0
	June	1 456,0	1 426,4	2 850,3	4 825,6	16 142,4
	July	1 455,6	1 463,9	2 821,7	5 137,4	16 476,5
	Aug.	1 487,0	1 441,1	2 893,4	5 069,6	16 270,1
	Sep.	1 465,0	1 398,0	2 857,6	5 080,5	16 211,5
	Oct.	1 534,0	1 380,7	2 901,5	5 300,9	16 764,2
	Nov.	1 457,3	1 390,8	2 922,2	5 275,4	16 604,1
	Dec.	1 407,5	1 304,5	3 075,3	5 212,0	16 383,2
2003	Jan.	1 493,4	1 327,9	3 014,7	5 362,6	16 951,8
	Feb.	1 457,4	1 331,1	3 134,5	5 224,0	16 892,3
	Mar.	1 432,8	1 339,2	3 133,3	5 120,1	16 746,5
	Apr.	1 398,0	1 393,9	3 071,3	4 825,8	16 400,7
	May	1 515,3	1 367,6	3 048,0	5 323,6	17 028,5
	June	1 563,6	1 393,9	3 175,7	5 486,0	17 398,5
	July	1 620,2	1 453,3	3 182,6	5 312,8	17 346,8
	Aug.	1 570,7	1 397,8	3 100,6	5 576,0	17 608,9
	Sep.	1 631,3	1 396,8	3 142,5	5 661,8	17 754,6
	Oct.	1 371,9	1 378,9	3 145,5	5 440,5	16 937,4
	Nov.	1 372,0	1 332,1	3 119,2	5 344,1	17 147,5
	Dec.	1 450,6	1 304,0	3 157,2	5 439,8	17 298,2

## Explanatory notes

- Introduction**
- 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey of the wholesale trade sub-industry. This statistical release contains results of the monthly survey regarding wholesale trade sales. Wholesale trade sales exclude value added tax (VAT).
  - 2 The statistics include actual and seasonally adjusted values of wholesale trade sales according to type of wholesaler at **current** as well as at **constant** June 1995 prices.
- Scope of the survey**
- 3 The survey of wholesale trade sales includes -
    - wholesalers in foodstuff, beverages and tobacco;
    - wholesalers in livestock and farm produce;
    - wholesalers in textiles, clothing and footwear;
    - wholesalers in furniture and household requisites;
    - wholesalers in office and shop equipment, books and stationery;
    - wholesalers in diamonds, jewellery and silverware;
    - wholesalers in pharmaceutical and chemical products;
    - wholesalers in construction and building materials;
    - wholesalers in machinery and equipment; and
    - miscellaneous.
- Classification**
- 4 The 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)*, Fifth edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 *International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC)* with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC subgroup (5 digit) level. Each statistical unit is classified to the type of wholesaler which reflects the predominant activity of the enterprise.
- Statistical unit**
- 5 The statistical unit for this survey is an enterprise. An enterprise is a legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its production activities. Data are only collected for those establishments of the enterprise that are predominantly engaged in the wholesale trade industry.
- Survey methodology and design**
- 6 All statistical units are stratified by type of wholesaler according to SIC and measure of size, where measure of size is the turnover of the enterprise. All large enterprises (size category one cases) are completely enumerated. For medium size enterprises (size category two) and small enterprises (size category three), samples are drawn by systematically selecting enterprises with equal probability. The results of the sample survey are weighted in order to represent all wholesale trade enterprises in South Africa.
  - 7 The data are collected by mail each month from a sample of approximately 500 wholesale trade enterprises. Questionnaires have to be returned to Stats SA within 10 days after the end of the month concerned. Fax and telephone reminders are used to follow up non-respondents.
- Seasonal adjustment**
- 8 Seasonally adjusted estimates of wholesale trade sales are generated each month, using the X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by US Bureau of the Census Economic Research and Analyses Division, 1968.
  - 9 Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month. Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variations. Therefore, the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour.
  - 10 The time series on wholesalers in diamonds does not have a seasonal pattern. Therefore, no seasonally adjusted values for wholesalers in diamonds and total wholesale trade sales, including diamonds, are published.

- Trend** 11 The trend is a long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted data.
- Constant prices** 12 The value of wholesale trade sales at constant prices measures wholesale trade sales in terms of ruling prices in a specific base year. The current base year regarding wholesale trade sales is June 1995=100.
- 13 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.
- Reliability of estimates** 14 Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample of enterprises and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all wholesale trade enterprises in South Africa.
- 15 Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling error. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling error to a minimum by careful designing of the questionnaire, pilot studies, editing of data and efficient operating procedures.
- Related publications** 16 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from Stats SA:
- *Bulletin of Statistics.*
  - *SA Statistics.*
- Unpublished statistics** 17 In some cases Stats SA can also make available statistics which are not published. The statistics can be made available in one or more of the following ways: computer printouts, CD and diskette. Generally a charge is made for providing unpublished statistics.
- Symbols and abbreviations** 18 Stats SA      Statistics South Africa  
\*                Revised figures
- Rounding-off of figures** 19 When figures have been rounded off discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

## Glossary

<b>Enterprise</b>	An enterprise is a legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its production activities.
<b>Establishment</b>	An establishment is the smallest economic unit that functions as a separate entity. Each statistical unit is classified to an industry.
<b>Percentage change</b>	<p>When using annual data, the percentage change is the change in wholesale trade sales of the relevant year compared to wholesale trade sales of the previous year expressed as a percentage.</p> <p>When using monthly actual values, the percentage change is the change in actual values of wholesale trade sales of the relevant month compared to actual values of wholesale trade sales of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.</p>
<b>Real wholesale trade sales</b>	Real wholesales trade sales represent the estimated total sales of merchandise in the wholesale sector, measured at constant prices (i.e. at the prices ruling in a specific base year).
<b>Reference month</b>	Reference month for the survey refers to one calendar month.
<b>Wholesale trade</b>	Wholesale trade includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to other wholesalers, retailers, agricultural, industrial, commercial, institutional and professional users.
<b>Wholesaler</b>	A wholesaler is an enterprise deriving 50% or more of its turnover from sales of goods to other businesses and institutions.

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