



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Wholesale trade sales February 1997



Statistical release P6141.2

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Embargo: 09:30

Date: 5 May 1997

Published by the
Central Statistical Service
Private Bag X44
PRETORIA
0001
Tel. (012) 310-8911

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CSS Library Cataloguing-in-Publication (CIP) Data

Wholesale trade sales /Central Statistical Service. -
1997-
Pretoria: Central Statistical Service, 1997-
p. : 30 cm. (Statistical release; P6141.2)
Series formerly available as: Statistiese nuus-
berig = Statistical news release; P6141.2 and P13.3
and Statistiese vrystelling = Statistical release;
P6141.2
Title continues in English only
Monthly
1. Wholesale trade. I. South Africa. Central
Statistical Service. II. Series.
(LCSH 16)

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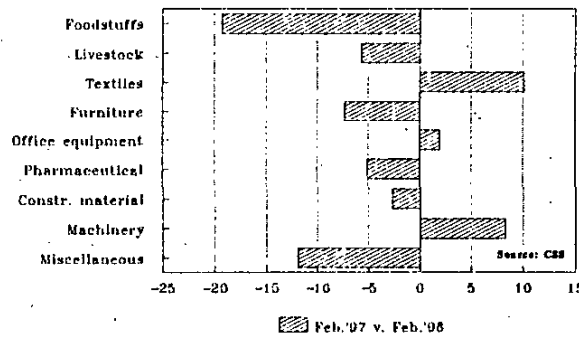
REAL WHOLESALE TRADE SALES DECREASE FOR FEBRUARY 1997

Real wholesale trade sales (at constant June 1995 prices), excluding diamonds, show a decrease of 6,7% from February 1996 to February 1997. The total real wholesale trade sales for the three months up to February 1997 are 4,0% lower than for the three months up to February 1996.

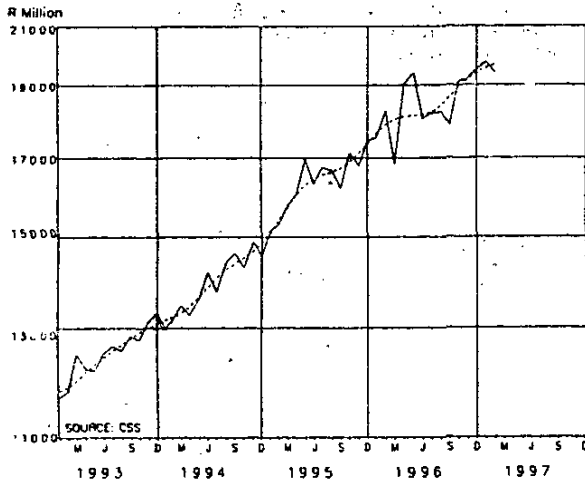
Six of the nine types of wholesalers (excluding wholesalers in diamonds) show decreases in their real sales for February 1997 compared with February 1996. These decreases range from 2,7% in respect of wholesalers in construction and building materials to 19,3% in respect of wholesalers in foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco.

The seasonally adjusted value of wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds) for February 1997 are 1,8% lower than for January 1997. The largest decrease occurred in respect of wholesalers in furniture and household requisites (-6,0%). The value of sales of wholesalers in miscellaneous goods, which have the largest market share, decreased by 2,8% and those of wholesalers in foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco, which have the second largest market share, decreased by 3,2%. Increases occurred in respect of wholesalers in machinery and equipment (+0,9%), wholesalers in textiles, clothing and footwear (+3,8%) and wholesalers in office and shop equipment, books and stationery (+0,7%).

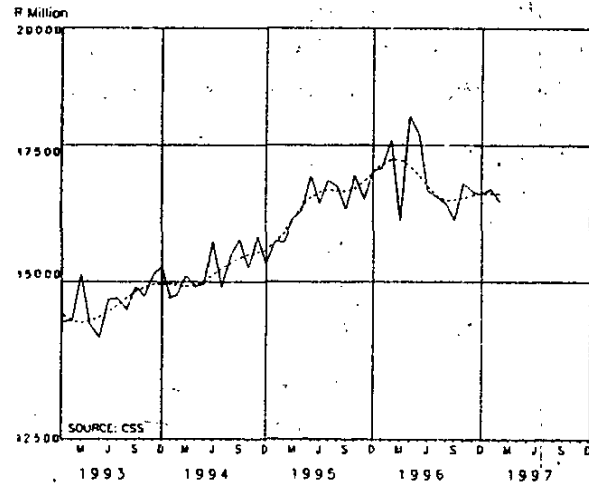
**REAL WHOLESALE TRADE SALES
BY TYPE OF BUSINESS**
Percentage change - year on year



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



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



Scale: Semi-logarithmic
Trend cycle - - - -
Seasonally adjusted _____

Scale: Semi-logarithmic
Trend cycle - - - -
Seasonally adjusted _____

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SUMMARY - WHOLESALE TRADE

P6141.2

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				
Dec. 1996 - Feb. 1997	55 155,6	46 710,2	+10,0	-4,0
Dec. 1995 - Feb. 1996	50 137,1	48 655,5		
Seasonally adjusted values				
Dec. 1996 - Feb. 1997	58 683,9	49 621,0	+4,3	+0,3
Sep. 1996 - Nov. 1996	56 261,6	49 449,8		



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Head: Central Statistical Service

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					
	1997		1996		Feb. 1997	Jan. 1997	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1996	Feb. 1996	
	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.						
Total	19 118,3	18 620,5*	18 164,8*	37 738,9	34 300,6	19 408,2	19 759,3	19 516,4	19 252,1	18 289,8
Including diamonds	18 707,5	17 595,4*	17 622,8*	36 302,9	33 240,8					
Excluding diamonds	3 148,2	3 269,0	3 503,1	6 417,2	6 781,1	3 447,8	3 563,6	3 479,0	3 747,0	3 839,7
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	1 034,1	1 061,2	1 007,0	2 095,4	1 915,5	1 032,5	1 080,5	971,9	985,9	1 007,7
Livestock and farm produce	433,9	292,5	367,1	726,4	634,5	477,5	460,0	431,2	476,3	406,0
Textiles, clothing and footwear	380,4	317,7	382,8	698,1	642,5	449,4	478,1	439,6	476,3	450,3
Furniture and household requisites	1 045,1	888,2	947,3	1 933,3	1 765,9	1 035,2	1 028,3	1 037,6	1 019,9	936,8
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	410,8	1 025,1	542,0	1 435,9	1 059,8	-	-	-	-	-
Diamonds; jewellery and silverware	1 667,1	1 582,9	1 618,7	3 250,0	3 065,2	1 673,9	1 749,3	1 712,0	1 684,2	1 628,3
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 855,3	1 630,9*	1 742,0	3 486,2	3 242,7	1 947,1	1 959,0	1 798,2	1 797,9	1 819,9
Construction and building materials	3 526,5	2 890,5	3 000,4	6 417,0	5 486,4	3 434,7	3 214,0	3 445,6	3 373,1	2 928,3
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	5 616,9	5 662,5	5 054,2*	11 279,4	9 707,1	5 904,8	6 073,3	6 353,3	5 690,4	5 313,7
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		1997		1996			
	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.	Dec.	Nov.		
Total	16 214,2	15 706,5*	17 522,4*	31 920,7	33 207,9	16 407,6	16 650,6	16 562,8	16 605,1	17 591,7
Including diamonds	15 857,2	14 831,1*	16 993,7*	30 688,3	32 178,3					
Excluding diamonds										
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	2 652,5	2 723,2	3 286,5	5 375,7	6 383,0	2 901,9	3 006,6	2 967,5	3 145,4	3 600,3
Livestock and farm produce	928,6	923,2	984,8	1 851,9	1 857,3	920,5	945,4	848,3	876,1	979,9
Textiles, clothing and footwear	392,9	264,9	357,0	657,8	617,2	428,1	414,5	392,3	442,4	390,8
Furniture and household requisites	344,0	290,7	371,1	634,7	626,8	407,4	435,2	403,5	439,3	437,2
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	912,5	777,8	895,3	1 690,2	1 679,3	904,4	902,5	917,4	910,2	885,6
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	357,0	875,4	528,7	1 232,4	1 029,6	-	-	-	-	-
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 487,0	1 416,1	1 566,1	2 903,1	2 966,3	1 496,7	1 567,0	1 521,8	1 526,0	1 578,9
Construction and building materials	1 624,1	1 464,5*	1 669,1	3 088,6	3 132,0	1 718,2	1 745,0	1 611,8	1 622,8	1 757,4
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	3 171,9	2 631,3	2 931,0	5 803,2	5 377,3	3 109,1	2 895,7	3 151,4	3 099,9	2 877,5
Miscellaneous	4 343,7	4 339,4	4 932,9*	8 683,1	9 539,2	4 499,6	4 616,6	4 877,2	4 539,3	5 112,9

The former TBVC states are included.