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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## Wholesale trade sales February 1998

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## Statistical release P6141.2

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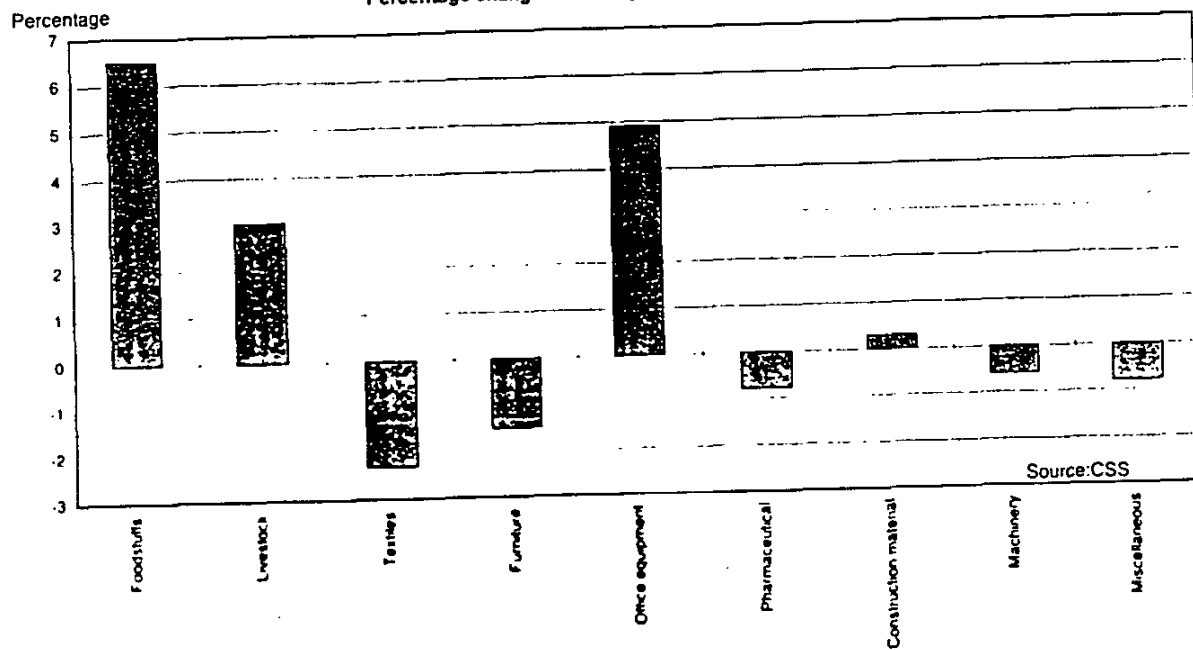
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## REAL WHOLESALE TRADE SALES INCREASE FOR FEBRUARY 1998

The real wholesale trade sales (at constant June 1995 prices), excluding diamonds, show an increase of 2,0% from February 1997 to February 1998. The seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds) for February 1998 show an increase of 1,7% compared with January 1998. However, the total seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds) for the three months up to February 1998 are 2,6% lower than for the previous three months.

Five of the nine wholesaler categories (excluding diamonds) showed increases in their seasonally adjusted real sales for February 1998 compared with January 1998. Wholesalers in foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco reflected the largest percentage increase (+6,1%), followed by wholesalers in office and shop equipment, books and stationery (+4,1%) and wholesalers in livestock and farm produce (+2,6%).

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED REAL SALES  
Percentage change - February 1998 v. January 1998



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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
<b>Actual values</b>				
Dec. 1997 - Feb. 1998	56 603,4	46 780,5	+2,5	-0,0
Dec. 1996 - Feb. 1997	55 212,3	46 761,1		
<b>Seasonally adjusted values</b>				
Dec. 1997 - Feb. 1998	59 878,2	49 573,2	-2,4	-2,6
Sep. 1997 - Nov. 1997	61 364,5	50 897,4		

pp   
 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.

The CSS will be redesigning this survey, including the questionnaire. Any inputs regarding the new questionnaire will be greatly 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					
	1998		1997		1998		1997		1997	
	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.	Dec.	Nov.	Feb.	
Total	19 825,8	18 118,1*	19 175,0	37 943,9	37 795,6	20 022,6	19 675,6	20 179,9	20 180,8	19 253,2
Including diamonds	19 556,3	17 515,1*	18 764,2	37 071,5	36 359,6	3 925,3	3 684,5	3 811,6	3 748,7	3 354,2
Excluding diamonds	3 697,2	3 357,0	3 148,2	7 054,3	6 417,2	1 177,8	1 143,2	1 103,0	1 101,1	1 052,7
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	1 231,9	1 134,4	1 090,8	2 366,4	2 152,1	484,2	495,4	445,7	511,9	470,7
Livestock and farm produce	447,7	322,5	433,9	770,2	726,4	376,3	382,1	389,8	435,5	445,7
Textiles, clothing and footwear	320,4	257,6	380,4	578,1	698,1	1 297,7	1 237,6	1 220,8	1 151,9	1 027,8
Furniture and household requisites	1 316,7	1 070,0*	1 045,1	2 386,7	1 933,3	-	-	-	-	-
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	269,5	602,9	410,8	872,4	1 435,9	1 630,7	1 644,1	1 659,1	1 645,2	1 682,4
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	1 617,4	1 498,1	1 667,1	3 115,5	3 250,0	1 980,1	1 973,3	2 059,5	1 958,1	1 918,8
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 919,4	1 617,2	1 855,3	3 536,6	3 486,2	3 443,8	3 463,5	3 783,5	3 619,8	3 407,5
Construction and building materials	3 577,5	3 035,3*	3 526,5	6 612,8	6 417,0	5 551,9	5 598,8	5 783,3	5 916,3	5 863,4
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	5 320,1	5 222,9	5 616,9	10 543,0	11 279,4					
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		1997		1998		1997		1997	
	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.	Jan.	Feb.	Feb.	Jan.	Dec.	Nov.	Feb.	
Total	16 461,2	15 021,0*	16 265,1	31 482,2	31 971,6		16 609,9	16 324,9	16 638,4	16 618,2	16 316,8	
Including diamonds												
Excluding diamonds	16 232,6	14 500,6*	15 908,1	30 733,2	30 739,2		16 609,9	16 324,9	16 638,4	16 618,2	16 316,8	
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	2 907,5	2 633,0	2 652,5	5 540,5	5 375,7		3 105,7	2 926,6	3 033,9	2 923,7	2 845,0	
Livestock and farm produce	1 064,7	964,7	979,6	2 029,3	1 902,8		1 010,4	984,9	970,6	960,5	938,4	
Textiles, clothing and footwear	386,7	278,6	392,9	665,3	657,8		414,9	426,4	386,3	442,0	422,7	
Furniture and household requisites	274,7	224,7	344,0	499,4	634,7		323,9	331,7	341,8	380,8	404,4	
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	1 109,8	910,0*	912,5	2 019,8	1 690,2		1 097,8	1 054,1	1 038,7	984,4	900,2	
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	228,6	520,4	357,0	749,0	1 232,4		-	-	-	-	-	
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 390,6	1 287,0	1 487,0	2 677,6	2 903,1		1 391,6	1 409,4	1 413,5	1 411,7	1 490,2	
Construction and building materials	1 610,1	1 364,6	1 624,1	2 974,7	3 088,6		1 670,3	1 654,9	1 731,1	1 654,0	1 689,7	
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	3 123,1	2 666,8*	3 171,9	5 789,8	5 803,2		3 016,8	3 030,8	3 324,0	3 184,3	3 077,1	
Miscellaneous	4 365,4	4 171,3	4 343,7	8 536,7	8 683,1		4 515,3	4 477,2	4 520,9	4 642,7	4 496,9	