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Wholesale trade sales

February 1999

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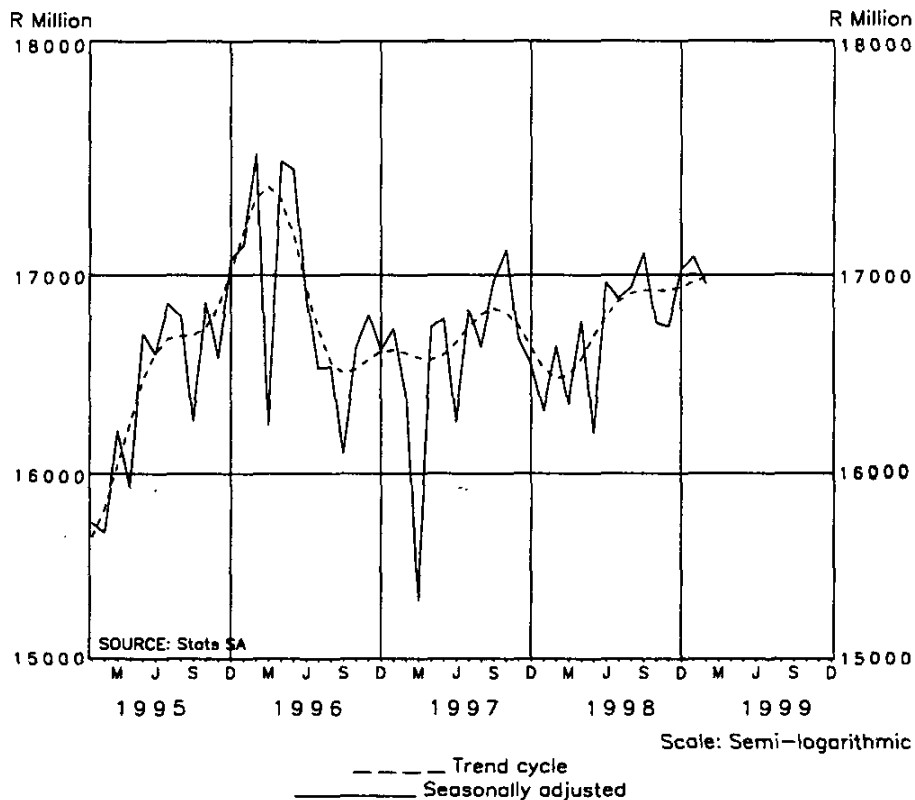


REAL WHOLESALE TRADE SALES INCREASE

The seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales (at constant June 1995 prices), excluding diamonds, for the three months up to February 1999 reflected an increase of 0,9% compared with the previous three months. The real wholesale trade sales (at constant June 1995 prices), excluding diamonds, for the three months up to February 1999 were 3,1% higher than for the corresponding period a year ago.

However, the seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds, for February 1999 compared with January 1999 reflected a decrease of 0,8%. Five of the nine wholesaler categories reflected decreases. The largest percentage decrease was reflected by wholesalers in office and shop equipment (-15,4%), followed by wholesalers in machinery and equipment (-9,9%) and wholesalers in textiles, clothing and footwear (-9,9%). Wholesalers in miscellaneous goods, which have the largest market share (27,5% of real sales in February 1999), reflected an increase of 4,7%.

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				
Dec. 1998 - Feb. 1999	60 154,3	47 966,6	+7,1	+3,1
Dec. 1997 - Feb. 1998	56 185,4	46 515,7		
Seasonally adjusted values				
Dec. 1998 - Feb. 1999	63 734,5	51 026,2	+1,2	+0,9
Sep. 1998 - Nov. 1998	62 968,5	50 550,3		

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Dr F M Orkin
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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. 1999		Feb. 1998		Jan. - Feb. 1999		Feb. 1999			
	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1998	1999	1998	Jan. 1999	Dec. 1998	Nov. 1998	Feb. 1998
Total	21 174,2	19 452,6	19 586,3	40 626,9	37 635,1	21 347,4	21 205,8	21 181,3	20 916,6	19 933,0
Including diamonds	20 680,0	18 841,0	19 316,8	39 521,0	36 762,7					
Excluding diamonds	4 174,2	3 877,2	3 697,2	8 051,4	7 054,3	4 382,6	4 253,7	4 157,7	4 284,7	3 888,9
Foodstuff, beverages and tobacco	1 250,1	1 157,1	1 231,9	2 407,2	2 366,4	1 203,8	1 182,1	1 278,0	1 234,4	1 190,9
Livestock and farm produce	393,7	317,3	448,3	711,0	770,8	435,5	481,5	530,4	418,5	494,3
Textiles, clothing and footwear	321,6	275,5	320,4	597,0	578,1	396,8	423,6	402,2	372,8	393,0
Furniture and household requisites	1 268,4	1 317,9	1 184,5	2 586,2	2 185,3	1 281,6	1 518,2	1 380,5	1 405,9	1 194,5
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	494,2	611,7	269,5	1 105,9	872,4	-	-	-	-	-
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	1 967,4	1 736,1	1 617,4	3 703,4	3 115,5	1 990,1	1 912,9	1 764,9	1 932,7	1 633,0
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 783,0	1 490,5	1 919,4	3 273,5	3 536,6	1 820,2	1 818,6	1 935,9	1 848,6	1 966,1
Construction and building materials	3 815,4	3 583,3	3 577,5	7 398,7	6 612,8	3 747,5	4 060,4	3 802,8	3 704,5	3 503,6
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	5 706,4	5 086,1	5 320,1	10 792,5	10 543,0	5 982,9	5 502,1	5 936,3	5 723,5	5 572,0
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					
	Feb. 1999	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1998	Jan. - Feb.		Feb. 1999	Jan. 1999	Dec. 1998	Nov. 1998	Feb. 1998
				1999	1998					
Total	16 811,4	15 592,8	16 350,3	32 404,2	31 312,4	16 939,7	17 074,6	17 011,9	16 720,2	16 622,8
Including diamonds	16 426,7	15 114,0	16 121,6	31 540,7	30 563,4					
Excluding diamonds	3 121,6	2 902,8	2 907,5	6 024,3	5 540,5	3 270,1	3 205,1	3 126,1	3 222,9	3 055,6
Foodstuff, beverages and tobacco	1 073,1	988,7	1 064,7	2 061,8	2 029,3	1 029,4	1 027,1	1 113,1	1 078,3	1 025,1
Livestock and farm produce	327,8	264,2	387,2	592,0	665,8	361,0	400,8	442,1	348,3	424,8
Textiles, clothing and footwear	250,2	216,0	274,7	466,2	499,4	310,5	331,8	315,4	292,3	338,6
Furniture and household requisites	974,1	1 016,8	998,4	1 990,9	1 849,5	988,2	1 168,0	1 061,8	1 083,7	1 009,6
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	384,7	478,8	228,6	863,6	749,0	-	-	-	-	-
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	1 598,2	1 412,5	1 390,6	3 010,7	2 677,6	1 612,3	1 556,8	1 435,8	1 580,1	1 401,6
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 416,1	1 212,4	1 610,1	2 628,5	2 974,7	1 454,1	1 468,0	1 567,3	1 499,4	1 659,2
Construction and building materials	3 156,1	2 994,3	3 123,1	6 150,4	5 789,8	3 095,0	3 435,2	3 165,3	3 088,9	3 056,4
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	4 509,6	4 106,4	4 365,4	8 615,9	8 536,7	4 733,8	4 521,8	4 682,7	4 529,3	4 575,1
Miscellaneous										