



Wholesale trade sales

January 2000

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Key figures for the month ended January 2000

Actual estimates

	January 2000	% change between January 1999 and January 2000	% change between November 1998 to January 1999 and November 1999 to January 2000
Wholesale trade sales at current prices, excluding diamonds and Value Added Tax (R million)	20 303,6	+13,6	+13,5
Wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices, excluding diamonds and Value Added Tax (R million)	15 238,5	+6,3	+7,2

Seasonally adjusted estimates

	January 2000	% change between December 1999 and January 2000	% change between August 1999 to October 1999 and November 1999 to January 2000
Wholesale trade sales at current prices, excluding diamonds and Value Added Tax (R million)	22 828,1	+0,1	+5,8
Wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices, excluding diamonds and Value Added Tax (R million)	17 260,1	+0,1	+4,8

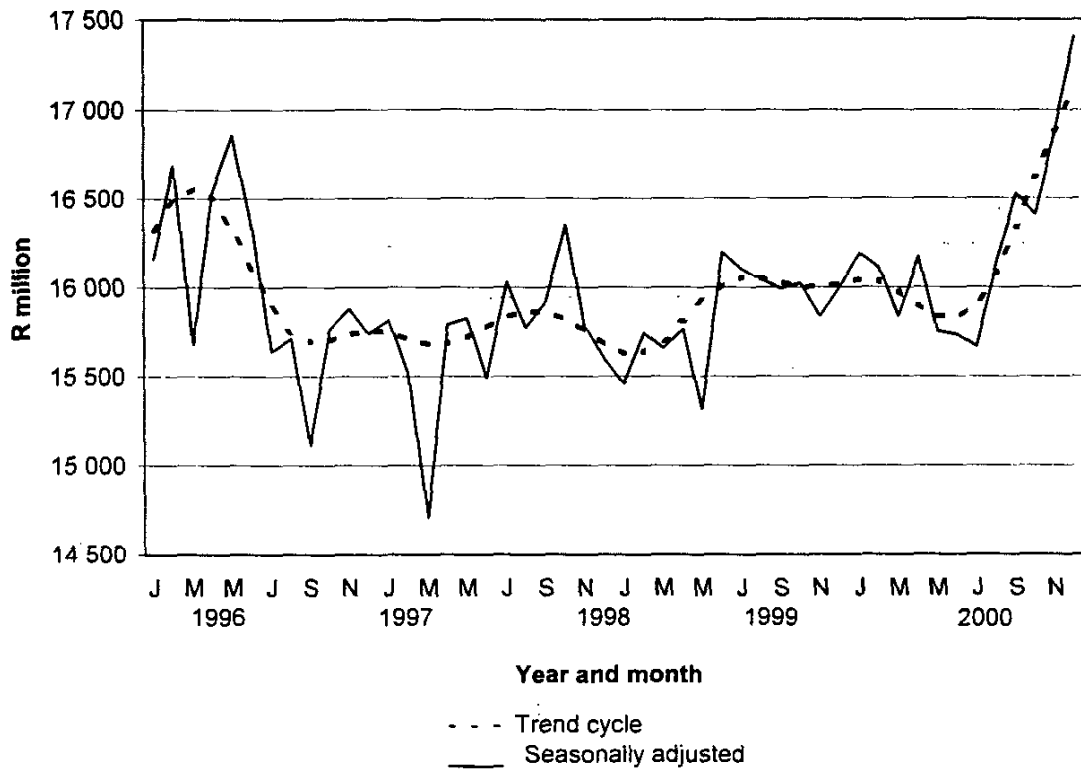
Key findings for the month ended January 2000

Real wholesale trade sales increase

Seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds and Value Added Tax (at constant June 1995 prices), for the three months up to January 2000 reflected an increase of 4,8% compared with the previous three months. Furthermore, real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds and Value Added Tax, for the three months up to January 2000 increased by 7,2% compared with the corresponding three months up to January 1999.

Seven of the nine types of wholesalers reflected increases in seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds and Value Added Tax, for the three months up to January 2000 compared with the previous three months. The largest percentage increase was reflected by wholesalers in miscellaneous goods (+9,6%), followed by wholesalers in construction and building materials (+9,2%), wholesalers in machinery (+4,5%) and wholesalers in foodstuff, beverages and tobacco (+3,9%).

Figure 1 - Real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds and Value Added Tax (at constant June 1995 prices)



Source: Stats SA

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Notes

Forthcoming issue	Issue	Expected release date
	February 2000	27 April 2000
Purpose of the survey	<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 of the enterprise that are predominantly engaged in the wholesale trade industry.</p>	
Re-engineered wholesale trade sales survey	<p>Prior to April 1999, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) collected and published information on wholesale trade sales including value added tax (VAT). Due to users' needs, specifically compilers of National Accounts, Stats SA has overhauled and re-designed the wholesale trade sales questionnaire. As from April 1999, Stats SA collects information regarding wholesale trade sales excluding VAT. In order to provide users with a continuous time series, Stats SA has calculated wholesale trade sales excluding VAT at current prices, as well as at constant June 1995 prices, for the period January 1985 until April 1999. The results were published in tables 3 to 26 of statistical release P6141.2 (entitled Wholesale trade sales, January 1985 to September 1999) on 15 December 1999.</p>	
New sample	<p>According to international best practice 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. Stats SA will in due course, as the second step, introduce the new sample.</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 Departments of Trade and Industry and 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. As soon as this improvement of businesses has been implemented, Stats SA will draw a new sample.</p>	

Table 1 – Actual values of wholesale trade sales 1/ 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
1999 Jan.	3 652,0	1 075,1	296,7	257,9	1 238,7	577,4
Feb.	3 931,7	1 161,6	368,2	301,0	1 192,3	466,5
Mar.	3 918,7	1 082,5	442,2	366,3	1 425,8	531,0
Apr.	4 162,2	1 124,1	451,4	366,8	1 300,8	39,4
May	4 094,2	1 069,4	459,2	375,4	1 249,1	285,6
June	3 793,5	1 059,7	435,6	376,0	1 548,2	765,1
July	4 385,7	1 079,2	479,0	365,8	1 456,9	366,2
Aug.	4 074,7	1 171,8	444,2	388,1	1 420,6	1 890,9
Sep.	4 280,1	1 361,1	469,9	395,1	1 502,1	1 064,5
Oct.	4 679,2	1 355,3	541,3	452,9	1 516,5	24,3
Nov.	4 542,9	1 507,8	510,3	547,1	1 373,6	1 132,6
Dec.	5 139,5	1 297,8	414,5	434,1	1 204,0	938,4
Total	50 654,4	14 345,4	5 312,4	4 626,3	16 428,7	8 082,4
2000 Jan.	4 198,9	1 125,6	296,0	248,6	1 204,1	746,8

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

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		
1999 Jan.	1 635,6	1 397,9	3 373,1	4 944,6	17 871,6	18 449,0
Feb.	1 853,5	1 672,1	3 684,9	5 548,6	19 713,9	20 180,4
Mar.	1 782,1	1 641,7	3 925,3	5 560,0	20 144,5	20 675,5
Apr.	1 920,8	1 550,0	3 501,9	5 635,4	20 013,4	20 052,8
May	1 897,3	1 650,7	3 646,0	6 096,8	20 538,1	20 823,8
June	1 744,8	1 618,1	3 620,0	6 070,9	20 266,7	21 031,9
July	1 583,3	1 824,2	3 517,9	6 074,8	20 766,9	21 133,1
Aug.	1 892,8	1 793,7	3 607,5	6 436,9	21 230,2	23 121,2
Sep.	1 977,0	1 947,5	4 178,2	6 560,7	22 671,8	23 736,3
Oct.	1 929,6	1 921,0	3 946,0	6 526,6	22 868,4	22 892,8
Nov.	2 029,5	2 169,6	4 101,8	7 349,3	24 131,9	25 264,5
Dec.	1 779,2	1 637,3	3 610,8	7 006,3	22 523,5	23 461,9
Total	22 025,3	20 824,1	44 713,5	73 810,9	252 740,9	260 823,2
2000 Jan.	1 679,8	1 675,6	3 300,9	6 574,1	20 303,6	21 050,4

1/ Excluding Value Added Tax.

Table 2 – Percentage change in wholesale trade sales ^{1/} at current prices, according to type of wholesaler

Year ^{2/} and month ^{3/}	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
1999 Jan.	15,5	2,0	-1,6	6,9	31,6	1,5
Feb.	12,9	1,5	-12,2	0,3	7,0	83,5
Mar.	13,0	2,6	-8,0	-5,3	4,4	-2,5
Apr.	14,1	11,8	-4,5	11,1	0,9	-91,8
May	13,3	-0,6	0,6	0,5	9,1	-42,7
June	9,8	-2,8	-5,3	7,3	16,8	142,6
July	21,3	0,5	5,6	-7,2	10,1	-37,5
Aug.	7,0	0,2	-0,3	15,7	9,2	571,8
Sep.	0,7	25,7	-0,1	-6,7	5,0	176,3
Oct.	14,1	7,9	-12,7	-9,6	2,4	-93,6
Nov.	9,9	10,7	0,8	7,4	-9,2	266,5
Dec.	11,9	6,0	5,7	4,4	7,1	56,9
Total	11,7	5,5	-3,0	1,4	7,0	55,3
2000 Jan.	15,0	4,7	-0,2	-3,6	-2,8	29,3

Table 2 – Percentage change in wholesale trade sales ^{1/} at current prices, according to type of wholesaler
(concluded)

Year ^{2/} and month ^{3/}	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		
1999 Jan.	15,9	-7,8	18,0	-2,7	7,9	7,7
Feb.	21,6	-7,1	9,4	7,2	7,6	8,6
Mar.	13,9	-9,2	17,1	3,2	6,8	6,5
Apr.	19,7	-14,7	14,2	10,7	9,2	6,6
May	17,5	-4,2	18,6	10,4	10,4	9,1
June	-3,9	-10,2	7,5	8,6	5,2	7,5
July	2,7	-5,4	3,4	4,2	6,2	4,9
Aug.	9,9	4,1	-3,1	9,0	5,4	13,3
Sep.	3,5	8,3	14,1	12,9	8,8	11,8
Oct.	0,7	0,6	9,5	11,8	7,7	5,9
Nov.	4,9	9,9	10,6	25,0	12,1	15,7
Dec.	17,0	12,8	14,1	23,0	15,0	16,3
Total	9,7	-2,0	10,8	10,5	8,6	9,6
2000 Jan.	2,7	19,9	-2,1	33,0	13,6	14,1

1/ Excluding Value Added Tax.

2/ The percentage change is the growth rate from the previous year.

3/ The percentage change is the growth rate for a given month compared with the same month in the previous year.

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales ^{1/} 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
1999 Jan.	3 989,9	1 126,4	447,9	398,3	1 409,3
Feb.	4 135,3	1 128,0	406,6	375,3	1 227,3
Mar.	4 017,2	1 164,6	436,2	407,5	1 268,1
Apr.	4 181,8	1 265,9	451,9	412,6	1 294,5
May	4 079,5	1 118,9	430,9	375,9	1 361,7
June	4 082,6	1 164,4	429,2	393,8	1 541,7
July	4 466,8	1 167,8	510,6	394,3	1 467,2
Aug.	4 152,7	1 192,9	454,2	386,4	1 464,8
Sep.	4 233,3	1 254,9	445,3	379,2	1 428,9
Oct.	4 440,1	1 206,1	407,7	353,3	1 414,3
Nov.	4 387,3	1 270,7	434,8	379,1	1 198,5
Dec.	4 403,6	1 259,4	478,6	391,9	1 390,7
2000 Jan.	4 596,4	1 185,9	446,6	382,5	1 368,9

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales ^{1/} at current prices according to type of wholesaler (concluded) (R million)

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	
1999 Jan.	1 806,2	1 681,0	3 916,4	5 351,2	20 126,5
Feb.	1 869,9	1 692,6	3 593,2	5 833,9	20 262,1
Mar.	1 809,2	1 640,5	3 738,6	5 762,3	20 244,0
Apr.	1 892,2	1 599,7	3 721,2	5 821,9	20 641,7
May	1 869,0	1 684,9	3 733,3	6 091,9	20 746,0
June	1 750,3	1 638,8	3 589,4	6 048,8	20 638,9
July	1 714,8	1 710,6	3 537,9	5 853,2	20 823,1
Aug.	1 885,5	1 743,7	3 605,5	6 243,0	21 128,8
Sep.	1 837,0	1 843,7	3 767,3	6 354,8	21 544,5
Oct.	1 780,6	1 714,0	3 712,9	6 398,0	21 427,0
Nov.	1 887,4	1 897,1	3 846,6	6 876,5	22 177,9
Dec.	1 914,5	1 976,9	3 982,0	7 016,0	22 813,5
2000 Jan.	1 857,9	2 016,3	3 844,2	7 129,4	22 828,1

^{1/} Excluding Value Added Tax.

Table 4 – Actual values of wholesale trade sales ^{1/} 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
1999 Jan.	2 733,6	918,4	247,1	202,2	955,9	451,7
Feb.	2 939,8	996,9	306,5	234,2	915,8	363,0
Mar.	2 942,2	920,1	364,7	284,9	1 095,4	409,2
Apr.	3 094,6	969,3	372,1	285,2	995,3	30,1
May	3 044,4	905,0	378,4	290,3	944,5	218,9
June	2 812,5	884,0	358,5	290,3	1 164,7	585,4
July	3 247,2	846,6	393,6	282,4	1 090,8	285,5
Aug.	2 991,0	974,0	362,2	294,2	1 055,9	1 474,3
Sep.	3 132,4	1 129,3	382,1	297,7	1 109,9	829,9
Oct.	3 414,5	1 122,5	439,1	339,2	1 114,0	18,9
Nov.	3 305,6	1 246,7	413,0	407,3	1 003,2	883,1
Dec.	3 729,1	1 071,4	334,6	321,3	874,2	731,6
Total	37 386,9	11 984,0	4 351,7	3 529,0	12 319,5	6 282,0
2000 Jan.	3 033,3	927,8	238,4	182,8	869,2	582,2

Table 4 – Actual values of wholesale trade sales ^{1/} at constant June 1995 prices according to type of wholesaler (concluded) (R million)

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		
1999 Jan.	1 330,7	1 137,0	2 818,2	3 992,4	14 335,4	14 787,2
Feb.	1 505,7	1 328,0	3 047,4	4 384,5	15 658,8	16 021,9
Mar.	1 445,4	1 303,8	3 245,6	4 397,3	15 999,5	16 408,7
Apr.	1 539,1	1 228,2	2 887,0	4 385,5	15 756,2	15 786,4
May	1 512,0	1 296,9	2 975,1	4 481,6	15 828,3	16 047,3
June	1 381,7	1 267,3	2 937,4	4 331,7	15 428,0	16 013,4
July	1 249,3	1 426,2	2 842,5	4 226,9	15 605,4	15 890,9
Aug.	1 494,3	1 398,8	2 918,4	4 775,8	16 264,6	17 738,9
Sep.	1 554,6	1 512,8	3 366,8	4 847,9	17 333,5	18 163,5
Oct.	1 511,3	1 486,4	3 167,7	4 803,6	17 398,2	17 417,2
Nov.	1 583,2	1 672,3	3 279,9	5 387,3	18 298,4	19 181,5
Dec.	1 382,4	1 257,1	2 876,2	5 115,5	16 961,8	17 693,3
Total	17 489,6	16 314,8	36 362,3	55 130,0	194 868,1	201 150,1
2000 Jan.	1 300,1	1 281,5	2 619,3	4 781,2	15 238,5	15 820,8

^{1/} Excluding Value Added Tax.

Table 5 – Percentage change in wholesale trade sales ^{1/} at constant June 1995 prices, according to type of wholesaler

Year ^{2/} and month ^{3/}	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
1999 Jan.	10,2	2,5	-5,1	-3,9	19,5	-8,0
Feb.	7,4	0,8	-15,3	-8,9	-2,4	68,3
Mar.	7,8	0,7	-10,6	-14,1	-5,1	-13,2
Apr.	9,6	12,1	-6,8	0,8	-8,3	-92,5
May	9,9	-2,1	-1,8	-7,7	-0,3	-43,9
June	5,2	-6,8	-7,5	-1,6	6,4	122,8
July	16,8	-9,2	3,2	-14,7	0,4	-38,2
Aug.	2,7	-3,3	-3,2	10,7	4,6	570,7
Sep.	-3,9	21,2	-2,9	-11,2	-0,1	175,9
Oct.	9,3	4,0	-15,1	-14,5	-2,7	-93,7
Nov.	5,7	6,4	-2,3	2,1	-14,0	263,4
Dec.	8,8	4,0	2,2	-1,4	0,6	56,4
Total	7,3	2,5	-5,8	-5,8	-0,7	48,6
2000 Jan.	11,1	1,0	-3,5	-9,6	-9,1	28,9

Table 5 – Percentage change in wholesale trade sales ^{1/} at constant June 1995 prices, according to type of wholesaler (concluded)

Year ^{2/} and month ^{3/}	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		
1999 Jan.	9,7	-11,2	12,3	-1,6	4,6	4,2
Feb.	14,9	-12,1	3,7	3,3	2,4	3,3
Mar.	7,6	-14,1	10,6	-3,0	0,9	0,5
Apr.	13,1	-19,3	7,7	2,4	2,9	0,5
May	10,6	-9,6	11,3	-2,2	2,8	1,6
June	-10,0	-15,4	0,6	-5,0	-3,1	-1,0
July	-3,8	-11,0	-3,2	-10,2	-2,8	-3,8
Aug.	3,2	-0,8	-7,6	4,2	0,6	8,2
Sep.	-2,1	2,6	8,4	6,8	3,6	6,6
Oct.	-3,6	-5,0	3,9	5,3	2,3	0,6
Nov.	-0,0	4,2	6,3	16,7	6,5	10,1
Dec.	11,1	6,4	9,0	12,6	8,8	10,2
Total	3,8	-7,3	5,0	2,5	2,4	3,5
2000 Jan.	-2,3	12,7	-7,1	19,8	6,3	7,0

^{1/} Excluding Value Added Tax.

^{2/} The percentage change is the growth rate from the previous year.

^{3/} The percentage change is the growth rate for a given month compared with the same month in the previous year.

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales 1/ 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
1999 Jan.	2 999,2	973,0	372,7	311,9	1 091,9
Feb.	3 081,4	957,9	336,4	293,4	944,5
Mar.	2 980,7	978,1	361,0	311,9	968,6
Apr.	3 125,5	1 059,4	373,1	318,2	981,5
May	3 032,4	935,1	352,7	287,6	1 025,7
June	3 015,0	959,3	352,8	302,7	1 153,2
July	3 332,5	911,3	420,4	302,9	1 090,3
Aug.	3 053,6	989,9	369,4	293,7	1 098,0
Sep.	3 082,7	1 058,0	363,7	288,3	1 062,6
Oct.	3 245,3	1 013,7	331,2	266,7	1 044,1
Nov.	3 193,6	1 063,1	355,4	284,9	879,5
Dec.	3 205,0	1 060,0	382,9	290,8	1 011,7
2000 Jan.	3 338,3	988,2	359,4	281,0	992,2

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales 1/ at constant June 1995 prices according to type of wholesaler (concluded) (R million)

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	
1999 Jan.	1 471,8	1 359,6	3 276,5	4 386,7	16 244,8
Feb.	1 515,6	1 351,3	2 980,5	4 582,9	16 045,7
Mar.	1 467,6	1 303,5	3 093,1	4 451,9	15 920,1
Apr.	1 524,0	1 265,3	3 051,7	4 448,9	16 149,0
May	1 493,9	1 326,3	3 039,1	4 488,8	15 982,3
June	1 377,0	1 283,2	2 914,3	4 380,2	15 741,0
July	1 352,6	1 333,0	2 851,2	4 022,8	15 620,3
Aug.	1 487,0	1 368,2	2 913,5	4 660,6	16 226,8
Sep.	1 441,1	1 434,3	3 036,1	4 727,3	16 495,4
Oct.	1 399,2	1 325,5	2 976,3	4 736,9	16 333,6
Nov.	1 473,8	1 460,1	3 089,9	5 092,6	16 887,0
Dec.	1 485,3	1 512,7	3 180,3	5 117,5	17 247,5
2000 Jan.	1 440,3	1 533,7	3 055,6	5 269,6	17 260,1

1/ Excluding Value Added Tax.

Explanatory notes

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|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Introduction | 1 | This publication contains results of the monthly sample survey regarding wholesale trade sales. The results of the sample survey are weighted in order to represent all wholesale trade enterprises in South Africa. 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 | <p>The survey of wholesale trade sales includes -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | Each statistical unit is classified to the type of wholesaler which reflects the predominant activity of the enterprise (firm). |
| | 5 | 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. |
| Statistical unit | 6 | The statistical unit for this survey is an enterprise. An enterprise is a legal entity consisting of one or more establishments (branches), including the head office, but excluding holding or subsidiary companies. Data are only collected for those establishments of the enterprise that are predominantly engaged in the wholesale trade industry. |
| Survey methodology and design | 7 | 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. |
| | 8 | 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** 9 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.
- 10 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.
- 11 The series has been seasonally adjusted since January 1966.
- 12 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** 13 The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing data.
- Constant price estimates of wholesale trade sales** 14 Constant price estimates of wholesale trade sales measure the change in value after the direct effects of price changes have been eliminated. The deflators used to revalue the current price estimates of sales are relevant sub-indices of the production price index (June 1995=100).
- Reliability of estimates** 15 Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from samples 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 business (organisations) in South Africa.
- 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
 .. Figures not available
 - Nil or not applicable
 * Revised figures
- Rounding-off of figures** 19 When figures have been rounded-off discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

Technical notes

Response rate The response rate for the January 2000 survey was 74,1%.

Glossary

Enterprise (firm)	An enterprise (firm) is a legal entity consisting of one or more establishments (branches) including the head office, but excluding holding or subsidiary companies.
Establishment (branch)	An establishment (branch) is defined as the smallest economic unit which operates as a separate entity for which comprehensive financial records are kept.
Reference month	Reference month for the survey refers to one calendar month. The reference month for this survey was January 2000.
Wholesale trade	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.
Wholesaler	A wholesaler is an enterprise deriving 50% or more of its turnover from sales of goods to other businesses and institutions.
Percentage change	<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> <p>When using monthly seasonally adjusted values, the percentage change is the change in seasonally adjusted values of wholesale trade sales of the relevant month compared to the seasonally adjusted values of wholesale trade sales of the previous month expressed as a percentage.</p>

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