



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## Wholesale trade sales March 1997



## Statistical release P6141.2

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**Embargo: 13:00**  
**Date: 29 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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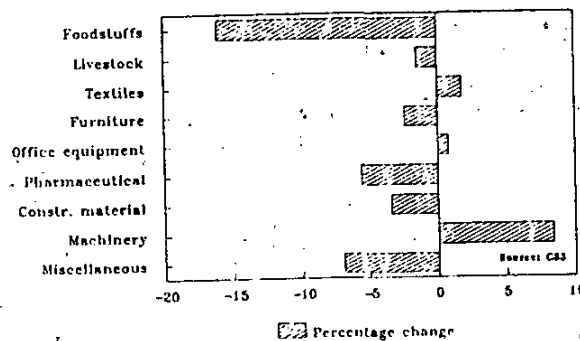
## REAL WHOLESALE TRADE SALES FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1997 ARE LOWER THAN LAST YEAR

The real wholesale trade sales (at constant June 1995 prices), excluding diamonds, for the three months up to March 1997 show a decrease of 4,8% compared with the corresponding period of 1996.

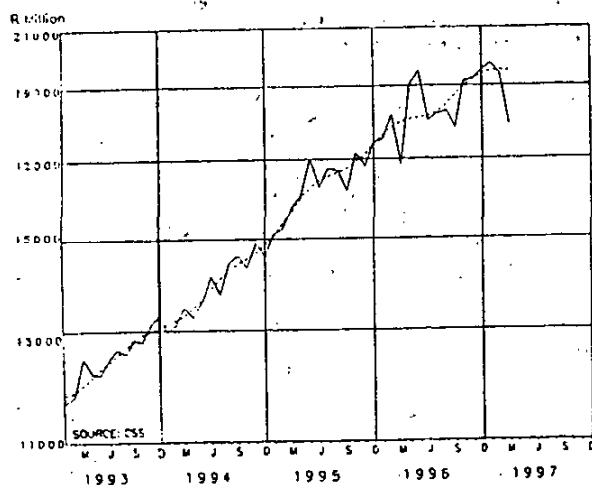
Six of the nine types of wholesalers (excluding diamonds) show decreases in their real sales for the first three months of 1997 compared with the corresponding period of 1996. The real sales of wholesalers in foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco decreased substantially by 16,1%. However, this decrease is mainly technical and due to the restructuring of certain companies which resulted in their wholesale trade subsidiaries becoming dormant and their activities being taken over by the parent companies in other sectors, such as manufacturing. Wholesalers in miscellaneous goods, which have the largest market share, show a decrease of 6,9% in their real sales, whereas wholesalers in machinery and equipment, which have the second largest market share, show an increase of 8,4%.

The total value of wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds) for March 1997 amounted to R18 568,4 million, which is 6,6% higher than for March 1996. This represents a decrease of 5,3% in real terms (at constant June 1995 prices).

REAL WHOLESALE TRADE SALES  
BY TYPE OF BUSINESS  
Jan. - Mar. 1997 v. Jan. - Mar. 1996



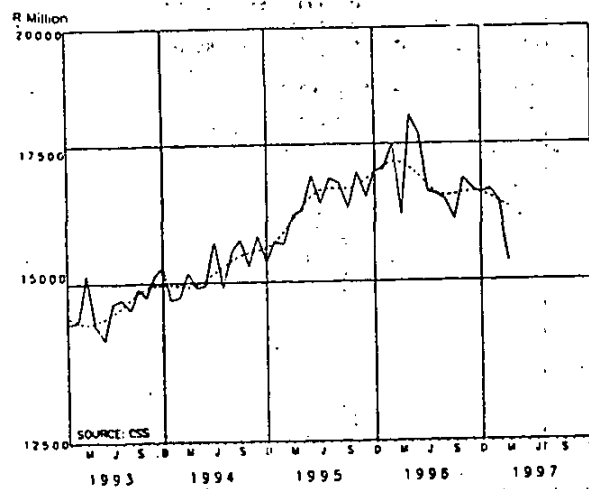
WHOLESALE TRADE SALES (EXCLUDING DIAMONDS)  
(AT CURRENT PRICES)



Scale: Semi-logarithmic

Trend cycle - - - - -  
Seasonally adjusted \_\_\_\_\_

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



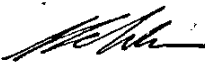
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Period	Sales (Excluding diamonds) R million		Percentage change of sales	
	At current prices	At constant June 1995 prices	At current prices	At constant June 1995 prices
<b>Actual values</b>				
Jan. 1997 - Mar. 1997	54 928,1	46 579,5	18,4	14,8
Jan. 1996 - Mar. 1996	50 665,9	48 906,1		
<b>Seasonally adjusted values</b>				
Jan. 1997 - Mar. 1997	57 033,7	48 271,6	-1,6	-3,4
Oct. 1996 - Dec. 1996	57 973,4	49 984,4		

  
pp  
Dr F M Orkin  
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		1997		1996		1997		1996	
	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.	Feb.	Jan.	Mar.	Jan.	Mar.	Jan.	Feb.	Dec.	Mar.
Total	19 114,4	19 175,0*	17 834,5	56 909,9	52 135,1	17 933,3	19 368,2	19 732,2	19 516,9	16 832,0		
Including diamonds	18 568,4	18 764,2*	17 425,1	54 928,1	50 665,9							
Excluding diamonds	3 442,3	3 148,2	3 718,3	9 859,5	10 499,4	3 390,8	3 396,7	3 554,3	3 476,6	3 662,4		
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	882,4	1 090,8	877,0	3 034,5	2 792,5	976,5	1 069,4	1 079,4	971,5	962,9		
Livestock and farm produce	437,0	433,9	428,6	1 163,5	1 063,2	418,0	472,0	457,4	432,1	408,8		
Textiles, clothing and footwear	394,0	380,4	401,1	1 092,1	1 043,5	425,8	444,1	471,3	438,3	429,7		
Furniture and household requisites	1 071,6	1 045,1	985,6	3 004,9	2 751,5	919,1	1 020,9	1 019,7	1 033,5	840,2		
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	545,9	410,8	409,4	1 981,9	1 469,2							
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	1 559,4	1 667,1	1 636,0	4 809,4	4 701,2	1 540,1	1 659,0	1 744,1	1 708,2	1 616,1		
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 736,9	1 855,3	1 712,5	5 223,1	4 955,2	1 640,9	1 920,5	1 977,3	1 790,0	1 615,1		
Construction and building materials	3 315,3	3 526,5	2 808,5	9 732,4	8 294,9	3 115,7	3 384,2	3 206,6	3 428,1	2 634,4		
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	5 729,4	5 616,9	4 857,3	17 008,7	14 564,4	5 901,2	5 873,1	6 047,4	6 343,2	4 985,3		
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			
	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.	Jan. - Mar.	Mar.	Feb.	Jan.	Dec.		
Total	16 315,3	16 265,1*	17 127,2	48 286,9	50 335,0	15 301,9	16 365,2	16 604,5	16 551,5	16 153,9
Including diamonds	15 840,2	15 908,1*	16 727,8	46 579,5	48 906,2					
Excluding diamonds						2 876,4	2 885,7	3 000,8	2 966,1	3 444,7
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	2 909,8	2 652,5	3 486,8	8 285,5	9 869,8					
Livestock and farm produce	784,8	979,6*	871,3	2 687,6	2 728,6	851,0	951,0	942,4	841,9	936,2
Textiles, clothing and footwear	389,5	392,9	411,6	1 047,3	1 028,8	374,6	425,1	410,7	393,4	394,6
Furniture and household requisites	356,4	344,0	388,7	991,1	1 015,5	384,0	402,2	429,1	402,3	414,8
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	939,3	912,5	929,4	2 629,5	2 608,7	799,6	893,9	896,8	915,4	786,7
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	475,0	357,0	399,3	1 707,4	1 428,9					
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 392,2	1 487,0	1 582,4	4 295,3	4 548,6	1 358,6	1 480,3	1 562,9	1 515,3	1 545,3
Construction and building materials	1 521,8	1 624,1	1 639,9	4 610,4	4 771,9	1 440,2	1 696,0	1 758,3	1 604,7	1 548,8
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	2 991,6	3 171,9	2 739,2	8 794,9	8 116,5	2 794,3	3 057,6	2 903,4	3 130,6	2 553,1
Miscellaneous	4 554,7	4 343,7	4 678,6	13 237,8	14 217,8	4 603,9	4 501,6	4 616,8	4 873,9	4 719,4

The former TBVC states are included.