

3

DIE BIBLIOTEK / THE LIBRARY
SENTRALE STATISTIEKDIENS
CENTRAL STATISTICAL SERVICE
PRIVAATSAK / PRIVATE BAG X44
0001 PRETORIA



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Wholesale trade sales March 1998

Statistical release P6141.2

Co-operation between the Central Statistical Service and the residents of the RSA, the private sector and the government institutions is essential for a successful statistical system in the RSA. Without this continued co-operation and goodwill, the timely release of relevant and reliable official statistics will not be possible.

The CSS publishes approximately five hundred different releases per year. In the light of expenditure restraints in government, it is no longer economically viable to produce them in more than one of the eleven official languages in South Africa. Since the releases are also extensively used by the international economic and social-scientific communities, from 1996 CSS releases will be published in English.

Embargo: 11:00
Date: 1 June 1998

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

COPYRIGHT, 1997

Users may apply or process this data, provided Central Statistics (CSS) is acknowledged as the original source of the data; that it is specified that the application and/or analysis is the result of the user's independent processing of the data; and that neither the basic data nor any reprocessed version or application thereof may be sold or offered for sale in any form whatsoever.

CONTENTS

Key findings	1
Graph: Figure 1 - Seasonally adjusted real sales	1
Summary	2
Explanatory notes	2
Tables	
1. Wholesale trade sales by type of business	
1.1 At current prices	3
1.2 At constant June 1995 prices	4

A complete set of CSS publications is available at the CSS Library and the following libraries:

State Library, Pretoria
South African Library, Cape Town
Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg

Library of Parliament, Cape Town
Bloemfontein Public Library
Johannesburg Public Library

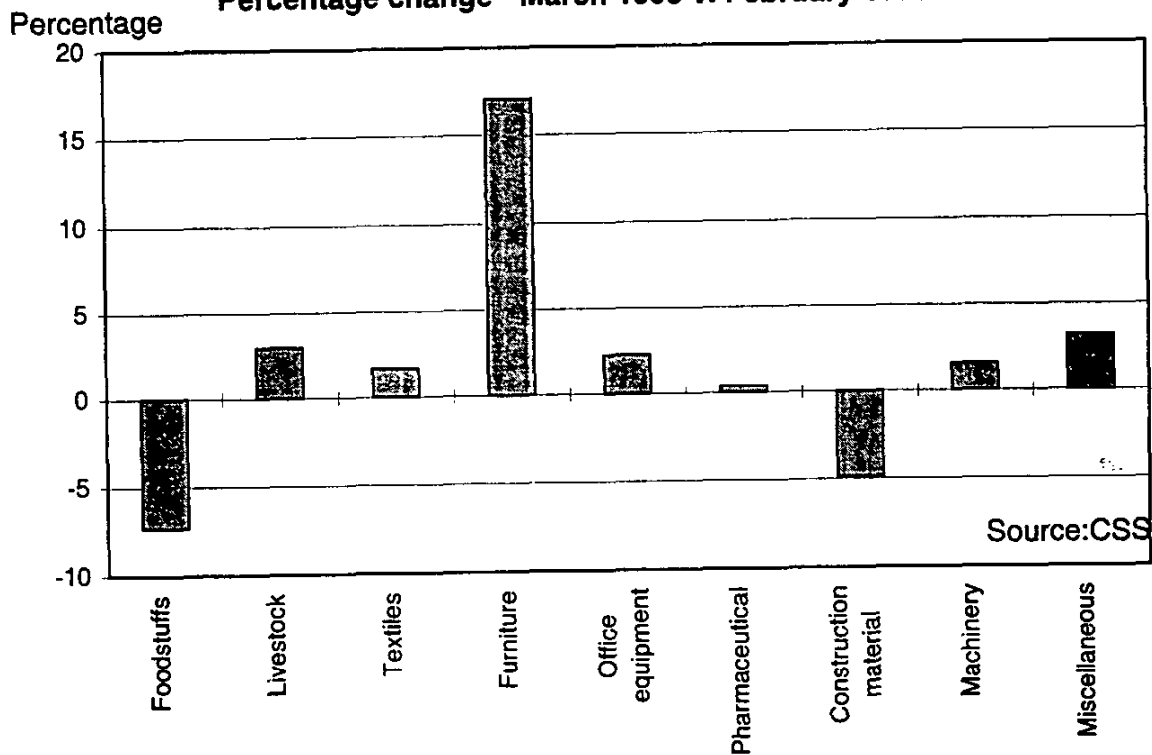
REAL WHOLESALE TRADE SALES INCREASE DURING MARCH 1998

The real wholesale trade sales (at constant June 1995 prices), excluding diamonds, for March 1998 show an increase of 6,2% compared with March 1997, with seven of the nine wholesaler categories (excluding diamonds) recording increases in their real sales over this period.

The total real wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds) for the first three months of 1998 is 2,1% higher than for the corresponding period of 1997. However, the seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds) for the first three months of 1998 reflects a decrease of 2,7% compared with the previous three months.

The real wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds) for March 1998 amounted to R16 828.0 million, which after seasonal adjustment is 2,1% lower than for February 1998. Wholesalers in foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco, which altogether have the third largest market share, reflected a decrease of 7,3%, and wholesalers in construction and building materials reflected a decrease of 4,9% in their seasonally adjusted real sales over this period (cf. figure 1).

**Figure 1 - SEASONALLY ADJUSTED REAL SALES
Percentage change - March 1998 v. February 1998**



ENQUIRIES:

Tel. (012) 310-8095/310-8040
 (012) 310-8351/310-8390
 (012) 310-8404 (technical enquiries)
 Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001
 Fax: 310-8162
 E-mail: info @ css.pwv.gov.za
 Internet: <http://www.css.gov.za>

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
Actual values				
Jan. 1998 - Mar. 1998	56 975,9	47 561,6	+3,7	+2,1
Jan. 1997 - Mar. 1997	54 928,1	46 579,5		
Seasonally adjusted values				
Jan. 1998 - Mar. 1998	59 080,1	49 197,3	-3,3	-2,7
Oct. 1997 - Dec. 1997	61 070,8	50 552,2		


 pp
 Dr F M Orkin
 Head: Central Statistical Service

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.

Contact person at CSS:
 Telephone number : (012) 3108404
 Fax number : (012) 3108162
 E-mail : Elisel@css.pwv.gov.za

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							
	Mar. 1998		Feb. 1998		Mar. 1997		Jan. 1998		Mar. 1997		Dec. 1997		Mar. 1997	
	Mar. 1998	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1998	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1997	Jan. 1998	Mar. 1997	Mar. 1998	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1998	Dec. 1997	Mar. 1997	Mar. 1997	
Total	20 588,8	19 718,5*	19 114,4	58 425,4	56 909,9	19 491,7	19 921,5	19 667,0	20 180,9	18 049,2				
Including diamonds	20 011,8	19 449,0*	18 568,4	56 975,9	54 928,1									
Excluding diamonds	3 681,7	3 697,2	3 442,3	10 736,0	9 859,5	3 650,1	3 904,2	3 677,4	3 816,7	3 409,2				
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	1 136,1	1 231,9	882,4	3 502,5	3 034,5	1 233,1	1 188,3	1 148,7	1 104,6	954,3				
Livestock and farm produce	513,9	448,3*	437,0	1 284,8	1 163,5	498,2	488,0	501,5	558,1	420,8				
Textiles, clothing and footwear	413,2	320,4	394,0	991,2	1 092,1	449,5	379,1	388,8	387,8	425,7				
Furniture and household requisites	1 577,5	1 316,7	1 071,6	3 964,1	3 004,9	1 333,9	1 297,7	1 237,2	1 220,9	904,2				
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	577,0	269,5	545,9	1 449,4	1 981,9	-	-	-	-	-				
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	1 661,4	1 617,4	1 559,4	4 776,9	4 809,4	1 642,4	1 630,0	1 642,9	1 657,1	1 539,1				
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 927,5	1 919,4	1 736,9	5 464,1	5 223,1	1 864,4	1 963,7	1 959,4	2 054,2	1 673,2				
Construction and building materials	3 560,6	3 577,5	3 315,3	10 173,4	9 732,4	3 518,2	3 449,3	3 465,0	3 780,6	3 255,4				
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	5 539,9	5 320,1	5 729,4	16 082,9	17 008,7	5 641,7	5 573,1	5 610,2	5 795,0	5 818,3				
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				
	Mar. 1998	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1997	Jan. 1998	Mar. 1997	Mar. 1998	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1998	Dec. 1997	Mar. 1997
	Total	17 327,3	16 461,7	16 315,3	48 810,0	48 286,9	16 262,8	16 606,7	16 327,8	16 734,2
Including diamonds	16 828,0	16 233,1*	15 840,2	47 561,6	46 579,5					
Excluding diamonds	2 897,9	2 907,5	2 909,8	8 438,4	8 285,5	2 862,9	3 086,8	2 920,8	3 039,4	2 871,9
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	984,1	1 064,7	784,8	3 013,4	2 687,6	1 047,0	1 016,5	987,8	971,1	831,6
Livestock and farm produce	436,3	387,2*	389,5	1 102,0	1 047,3	425,8	418,7	432,3	479,8	377,6
Textiles, clothing and footwear	354,3	274,7	356,4	853,7	991,1	381,7	326,0	336,4	341,4	381,5
Furniture and household requisites	1 332,4	1 109,8	939,3	3 352,3	2 629,5	1 122,7	1 097,0	1 053,3	1 038,8	789,4
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	499,4	228,6	475,0	1 248,4	1 707,4	-	-	-	-	-
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	1 425,6	1 390,6	1 392,2	4 103,2	4 295,3	1 402,4	1 396,3	1 411,3	1 414,4	1 367,0
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 618,5	1 610,1	1 521,8	4 593,2	4 610,4	1 574,0	1 655,7	1 641,9	1 726,2	1 473,4
Construction and building materials	3 117,6	3 123,1	2 991,6	8 907,4	8 794,9	3 069,8	3 021,2	3 031,8	3 320,8	2 925,9
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	4 661,3	4 365,4	4 554,7	13 198,0	13 237,8	4 701,1	4 555,5	4 495,5	4 525,0	4 583,7
Miscellaneous										

The former TBVC states are included.