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# Wholesale trade sales

March 1999

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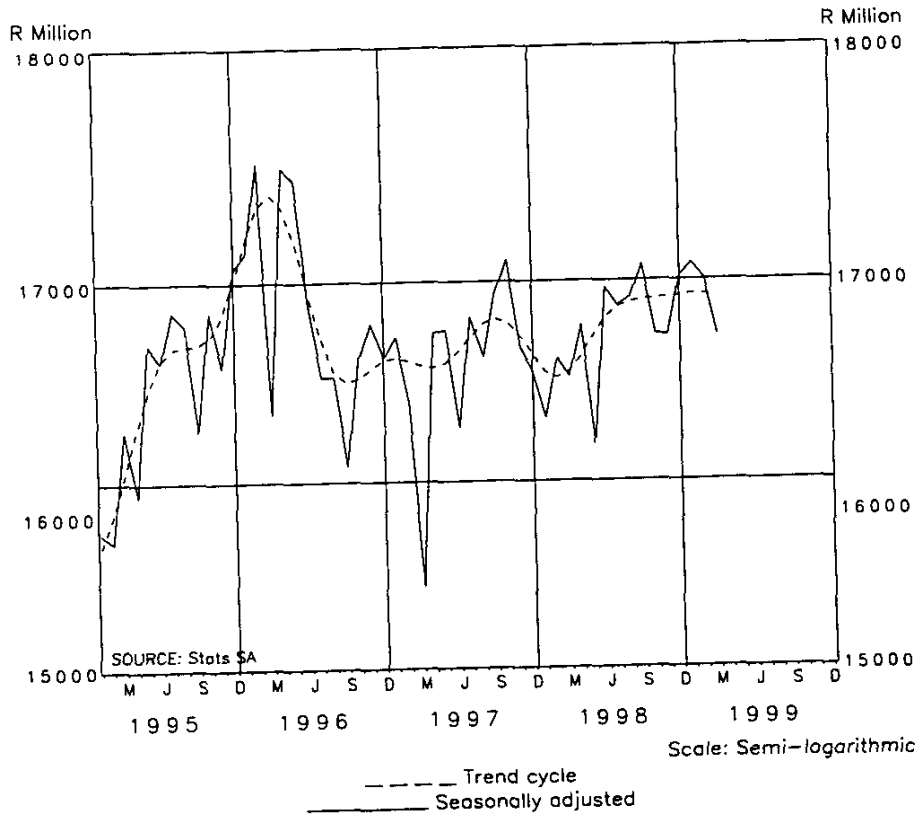


**REAL WHOLESALE TRADE SALES INCREASE DURING FIRST QUARTER OF 1999**

*The seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales (at constant June 1995 prices), excluding diamonds, for the first quarter of 1999 reflected an increase of 0,7% compared with the fourth quarter of 1998. Furthermore, the real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds, for the first quarter of 1999 reflected an increase of 2,6% compared with the corresponding period of 1998. However, the seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds, for March 1999 decreased by 1,7% compared with February 1999.*

Five of the nine wholesaler categories reflected increases in the seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales for the three months up to March 1999 compared with the previous three months. The largest percentage increase was reported by wholesalers in machinery (+8,1%), followed by wholesalers in pharmaceutical and chemical products (+4,1%) and wholesalers in furniture and household requisites (+4,0%).

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
<b>Actual values</b>				
Jan. 1999 - Mar. 1999	60 856,0	48 493,0	+7,4	+2,6
Jan. 1998 - Mar. 1998	56 650,2	47 286,3		
<b>Seasonally adjusted values</b>				
Jan. 1999 - Mar. 1999	63 791,8	50 754,9	+1,3	+0,7
Oct. 1998 - Dec. 1998	62 957,7	50 416,1		

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 Dr F M Orkin  
 Head: Statistics South Africa

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The data in this statistical release are based on a monthly sample survey of 500 wholesalers in the Republic of South Africa. The response rate for this month was 87,9% and the outstanding 54 questionnaires were imputed. 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						
	Mar. 1999		Feb. 1999		Mar. 1998	Mar. 1999		Jan. 1999		Dec. 1998	Mar. 1998	
	Mar. 1999	Feb. 1999	Mar. 1998	Jan. 1999	Mar. 1998	Mar. 1999	Feb. 1999	Jan. 1999	Dec. 1998	Mar. 1998	Mar. 1998	Mar. 1998
Total	21 798,6	21 273,2	20 464,5	62 524,4	58 099,6	21 167,3	21 407,4	21 217,1	21 189,8	19 755,0		
Including diamonds	21 236,1	20 779,0	19 887,5	60 856,0	56 650,2							
Excluding diamonds	4 159,9	4 174,2	3 681,7	12 211,3	10 736,0	4 250,4	4 384,6	4 253,6	4 156,3	3 735,4		
Foodstuff, beverages and tobacco	1 165,0	1 250,1	1 136,1	3 572,2	3 502,5	1 253,9	1 209,0	1 185,5	1 280,3	1 226,1		
Livestock and farm produce	472,9	393,7	513,9	1 183,9	1 284,8	467,2	436,4	482,6	523,1	502,7		
Textiles, clothing and footwear	391,3	321,6	413,2	988,3	991,2	422,9	400,1	425,8	402,6	446,4		
Furniture and household requisites	1 516,8	1 268,4	1 453,1	4 103,1	3 638,4	1 303,2	1 281,6	1 516,4	1 378,7	1 245,2		
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	562,5	494,2	577,0	1 668,4	1 449,4	-	-	-	-	-		
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	1 891,5	1 967,4	1 661,4	5 595,0	4 776,9	1 919,4	1 986,2	1 909,9	1 762,9	1 678,6		
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 750,6	1 783,0	1 927,5	5 024,1	5 464,1	1 752,1	1 810,1	1 811,2	1 931,9	1 917,0		
Construction and building materials	4 169,6	3 914,3	3 560,6	11 667,2	10 173,4	4 189,8	3 847,9	4 073,6	3 809,0	3 556,1		
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	5 718,4	5 706,4	5 539,9	16 510,9	16 082,9	5 902,8	5 993,7	5 495,0	5 938,6	5 708,7		
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				
	Mar. 1999	Feb. 1999	Mar. 1998	Jan. 1999	Mar. 1998	Mar. 1999	Feb. 1999	Jan. 1999	Dec. 1998	Mar. 1998
Total	17 304,2	16 893,2	17 222,3	49 790,3	48 534,7	16 703,1	16 987,1	17 064,7	17 000,9	16 501,8
Including diamonds	16 870,6	16 508,5	16 722,9	48 493,0	47 286,3					
Excluding diamonds	3 124,3	3 121,6	2 897,9	9 148,6	8 438,4					
Foodstuff, beverages and tobacco										
Livestock and farm produce	990,6	1 073,1	984,1	3 052,4	3 013,4					
Textiles, clothing and footwear	390,0	327,8	436,3	982,0	1 102,0					
Furniture and household requisites	304,3	250,2	354,3	770,6	853,7					
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	1 165,1	974,1	1 227,4	3 156,0	3 076,9					
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	433,7	384,7	499,4	1 297,2	1 248,4					
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 534,2	1 598,2	1 425,6	4 544,9	4 103,2					
Construction and building materials	1 390,2	1 416,1	1 618,5	4 018,7	4 593,2					
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	3 448,5	3 237,9	3 117,6	9 680,7	8 907,4					
Miscellaneous	4 523,3	4 509,6	4 661,3	13 139,2	13 198,0					
						16 703,1	3 269,0	3 203,4	3 123,8	2 909,3
						3 154,9	1 028,0	1 026,3	1 113,4	1 046,6
						387,2	361,4	401,2	439,7	429,0
						326,5	312,6	333,3	315,7	380,1
						989,7	986,0	1 166,0	1 060,4	1 039,1
						-	-	-	-	-
						1 557,7	1 610,4	1 555,0	1 434,3	1 440,2
						1 399,8	1 444,8	1 461,0	1 567,1	1 620,7
						3 456,3	3 192,8	3 395,6	3 179,5	3 105,5
						4 589,3	4 725,4	4 518,0	4 680,3	4 728,4