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P6141.2

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Wholesale trade sales

March 2000

Co-operation between Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), the citizens of the country, the private sector and government institutions is essential for a successful statistical system. Without continued co-operation and goodwill, the timely release of relevant and reliable official statistics will not be possible.

Embargo: 11:00
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Stats SA publishes approximately three hundred different releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally, but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.



Key figures for the month ended March 2000

Actual estimates

	March 2000	% change between March 1999 and March 2000	% change between January 1999 to March 1999 and January 2000 to March 2000
Wholesale trade sales at current prices, excluding diamonds and Value Added Tax (R million)	23 584,2	+17,1	+14,7
Wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices, excluding diamonds and Value Added Tax (R million)	17 564,4	+9,8	+7,7

Seasonally adjusted estimates

	March 2000	% change between February 2000 and March 2000	% change between October 1999 to December 1999 and January 1999 to March 2000
Wholesale trade sales at current prices, excluding diamonds and Value Added Tax (R million)	23 847,9	+3,6	+5,1
Wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices, excluding diamonds and Value Added Tax (R million)	17 518,7	+1,9	+2,9

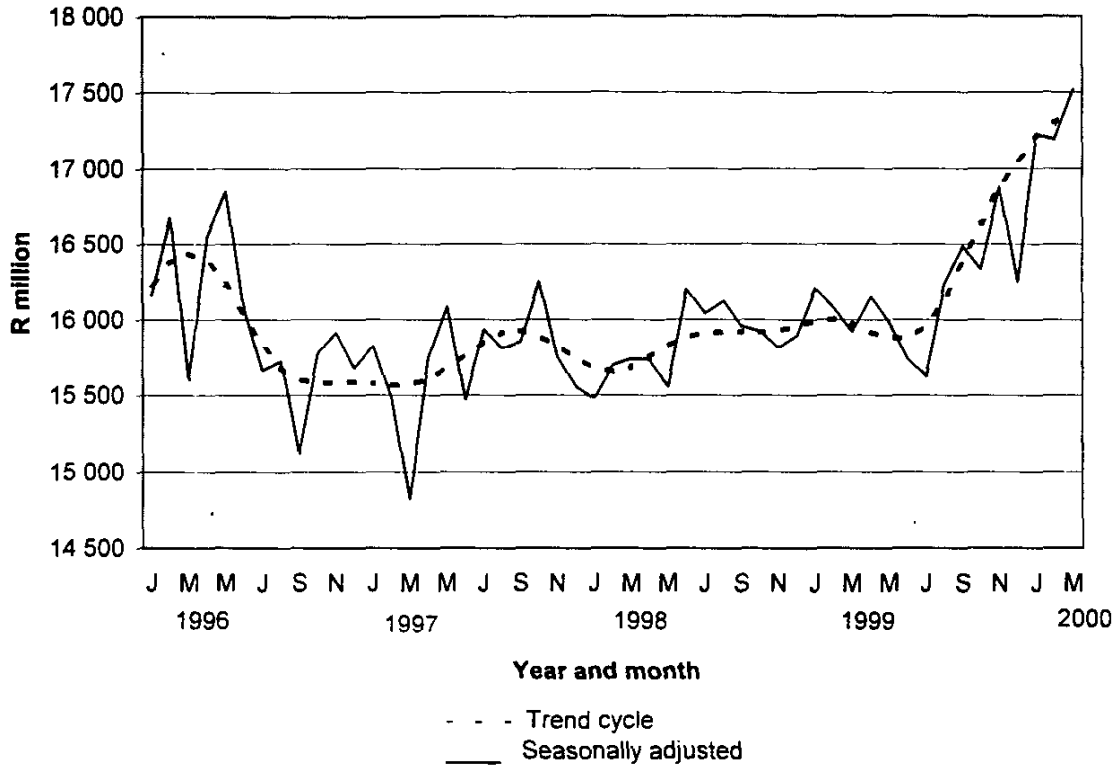
Key findings for the quarter ended March 2000

Real wholesale trade sales increase

Seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds and Value Added Tax (at constant June 1995 prices), for the first quarter of 2000 reflected an increase of 2,9% compared with the fourth quarter of 1999. Furthermore, real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds and Value Added Tax, for the first quarter of 2000 increased by 7,7% compared with the first quarter of 1999.

Five of the nine types of wholesalers reflected increases in seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds and Value Added Tax, for the first quarter of 2000 compared with the fourth of 1999. The largest percentage real increase was reflected by wholesalers in miscellaneous goods (+13,2%), followed by wholesalers in furniture and household requisites (+5,5%) and wholesalers in textiles, clothing and footwear (+4,7%).

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



Source: Stats SA

PP
Dr F M Orkin
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Notes

Forthcoming issue	Issue	Expected release date
	April 2000	6 July 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 (branches) 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 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 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) of 15 December 1999.</p>	
New sample	<p>According to international best practices 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 Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of 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
Feb.	4 146,1	1 133,3	429,0	320,9	1 165,2	1 332,0
Mar.	3 919,9	1 075,6	470,8	381,6	1 477,4	2 109,5

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	3 604,7*	6 436,9	21 227,5*	23 118,4*
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	3 948,8*	6 526,6	22 870,0*	22 894,4*
Nov.	2 029,5	2 169,6	4 110,0*	7 349,3	24 140,1*	25 272,7*
Dec.	1 779,2	1 637,3	3 612,3*	7 006,3	22 524,9*	23 463,3*
Total	22 025,3	20 824,1	44 723,1*	73 810,9	252 749,4*	260 831,6*
2000 Jan.	1 679,8	1 675,6	3 303,3*	6 574,1	20 307,3*	21 054,1*
Feb.	1 890,6	1 857,8	3 941,6*	7 442,7	22 312,1*	23 644,1*
Mar.	2 033,7	1 868,1	3 941,6	8 415,6	23 584,2	25 693,7

1/ Excluding Value Added Tax.

* Revised

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
Feb.	5,5	-2,4	16,5	6,6	-2,3	185,5
Mar.	-0,0	-0,6	6,5	4,2	3,6	297,3

1/ Excluding Value Added Tax.

2/ 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.

3/ 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.

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	-3,2*	9,0	5,4	13,3
Sep.	3,5	8,3	14,1	12,9	8,8	11,8
Oct.	0,7	0,6	9,6*	11,8	7,8*	6,0*
Nov.	4,9	9,9	10,8*	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
Feb.	2,0	11,1	7,0*	34,1	13,2	17,2
Mar.	14,1	13,8	0,4	51,4	17,1	24,3

^{1/} Excluding Value Added Tax.

^{2/} 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.

^{3/} 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.

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.	3 956,4	1 118,3	450,7	401,6	1 396,8
Feb.	4 113,3	1 147,5	405,8	378,2	1 265,3
Mar.	4 087,6	1 159,4	437,9	400,5	1 272,2
Apr.	4 175,7	1 266,9	451,9	412,9	1 298,1
May	4 074,8	1 120,9	430,9	376,9	1 362,7
June	4 080,4	1 165,0	428,4	394,0	1 538,8
July	4 466,0	1 167,0	509,6	394,3	1 460,1
Aug.	4 157,1	1 191,1	452,6	384,8	1 455,9
Sep.	4 242,8	1 254,2	443,8	378,1	1 419,1
Oct.	4 448,4	1 204,8	406,3	352,8	1 407,0
Nov.	4 382,4	1 267,7	436,6	379,4	1 195,7
Dec.	4 382,7	1 252,7	478,2	393,9	1 383,4
2000 Jan.	4 552,3	1 175,8	449,6	386,0	1 354,5
Feb.	4 330,0	1 124,0	474,5	406,7	1 248,4
Mar.	4 118,3	1 147,4	467,0	415,3	1 322,9

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.	1 811,9	1 666,3	3 888,7	5 458,8	20 149,5
Feb.	1 874,4	1 700,9	3 593,5	5 796,0	20 274,8
Mar.	1 791,8	1 656,0	3 758,4	5 720,0	20 283,8
Apr.	1 891,8	1 599,5	3 818,8	5 798,8	20 613,3
May	1 868,2	1 685,5	3 727,6	6 087,4	20 734,9
June	1 752,6	1 639,5	3 589,7	6 047,4	20 635,8
July	1 717,0	1 711,2	3 542,0	5 839,3	20 806,5
Aug.	1 891,5	1 744,3	3 606,2	6 239,0	21 122,6
Sep.	1 834,3	1 844,9	3 771,9	6 344,2	21 533,2
Oct.	1 778,2	1 711,1	3 717,7	6 386,2	21 412,6
Nov.	1 886,6	1 894,2	3 851,3	6 878,0	22 171,9
Dec.	1 917,8	1 962,2	3 974,2	7 047,8	22 793,0
2000 Jan.	1 864,0	1 998,0	3 815,0	7 289,1	22 884,1
Feb.	1 913,9	1 889,9	3 854,9	7 766,9	23 009,2
Mar.	2 045,9	1 892,5	3 781,8	8 656,8	23 847,9

^{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
Feb.	2 991,4	932,6	344,7	234,6	836,3	1 035,4
Mar.	2 816,0	883,9	377,4	277,2	1 054,1	1 598,2

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	2 916,2*	4 775,8	16 262,4*	17 736,7*
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	3 169,9*	4 803,6	17 399,5*	17 418,5*
Nov.	1 583,2	1 672,3	3 286,4*	5 387,3	18 305,0*	19 188,0*
Dec.	1 382,4	1 257,1	2 877,4*	5 115,5	16 962,9*	17 694,5*
Total	17 489,6	16 314,8	36 369,9*	55 130,0	194 874,9*	201 157,0*
2000 Jan.	1 300,1	1 281,5	2 621,3*	4 781,2	15 241,4*	15 823,6*
Feb.	1 457,5	1 415,5	3 115,9*	5 391,7	16 709,2*	17 744,6*
Mar.	1 561,7	1 417,9	3 104,3	6 071,8	17 564,4	19 162,6

1/ Excluding Value Added Tax.

* Revised

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
Feb.	1,8	-6,4	12,5	0,2	-8,7	185,2
Mar.	-4,3	-3,9	3,5	-2,7	-3,8	290,6

1/ Excluding Value Added Tax.

2/ 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.

3/ 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.

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	-7,7*	4,2	0,6	8,2
Sep.	-2,1	2,6	8,4	6,8	3,6	6,6
Oct.	-3,6	-5,0	4,0*	5,3	2,3	0,7*
Nov.	-0,0	4,2	6,5*	16,7	6,6*	10,1
Dec.	11,1	6,4	9,0	12,6	8,8	10,2
Total	3,8	-7,3	5,0	2,5	2,5*	3,5
2000 Jan.	-2,3	12,7	-7,0*	19,8	6,3	7,0
Feb.	-3,2	6,6	2,2*	23,0	6,7	10,8
Mar.	8,0	8,8	-4,4	38,1	9,8	16,8

1/ Excluding Value Added Tax.

2/ 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.

3/ 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.

* Revised

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.	2 984,8	963,4	374,7	314,1	1 079,6
Feb.	3 080,9	976,8	337,2	295,4	972,3
Mar.	3 008,8	976,2	362,5	312,9	972,9
Apr.	3 124,0	1 068,4	373,5	318,2	985,4
May	3 031,9	936,6	352,5	294,0	1 025,5
June	3 016,0	958,7	352,6	302,5	1 151,3
July	3 331,4	912,4	419,7	302,1	1 085,3
Aug.	3 054,1	988,0	368,5	291,9	1 091,6
Sep.	3 090,7	1 050,2	362,6	285,5	1 056,2
Oct.	3 247,6	1 012,3	329,8	265,0	1 039,2
Nov.	3 182,4	1 060,1	354,0	281,9	877,8
Dec.	3 192,4	1 052,4	383,7	292,2	1 006,0
2000 Jan.	3 319,5	976,8	361,4	283,4	979,1
Feb.	3 130,2	918,2	380,9	298,4	895,9
Mar.	2 896,4	935,2	375,7	303,4	939,3

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.	1 475,6	1 348,2	3 256,4	4 411,4	16 208,2
Feb.	1 521,1	1 356,6	2 980,5	4 551,6	16 072,5
Mar.	1 448,9	1 317,2	3 106,6	4 414,0	15 920,1
Apr.	1 522,8	1 265,6	3 050,0	4 443,7	16 151,6
May	1 491,9	1 327,2	3 037,0	4 486,3	15 982,9
June	1 382,3	1 283,3	2 914,9	4 380,1	15 741,7
July	1 356,8	1 332,6	2 854,1	4 028,6	15 623,1
Aug.	1 491,1	1 367,6	2 913,3	4 662,9	16 229,0
Sep.	1 439,4	1 433,9	3 039,1	4 726,8	16 484,4
Oct.	1 397,6	1 324,0	2 979,9	4 736,1	16 331,6
Nov.	1 473,2	1 457,5	3 093,4	5 097,6	16 877,8
Dec.	1 487,5	1 503,8	3 172,8	5 158,2	17 248,9
2000 Jan.	1 444,1	1 520,7	3 035,6	5 301,1	17 221,6
Feb.	1 474,2	1 445,8	3 056,0	5 587,3	17 186,8
Mar.	1 565,4	1 438,1	2 976,1	6 089,1	17 518,7

^{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. 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 | 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. Each statistical unit is classified to the type of wholesaler which reflects the predominant activity of the enterprise. |
| Statistical unit | 5 | The <i>statistical unit for this survey</i> 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 | 6 | 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. The results of the sample survey are weighted in order to represent all wholesale trade enterprises (firms) in South Africa. |
| | 7 | 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** 8 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.
- 9 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.
- 10 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** 11 The trend is a long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted data.
- Constant prices** 12 The value of wholesale trade sales at constant prices measures wholesale trade sales in terms of ruling prices in a specific base year. The base year regarding wholesale trade sales is June 1995=100.
- 13 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.
- Reliability of estimates** 14 Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample 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 wholesale trade enterprises in South Africa.
- 15 Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling error. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling error to a minimum by careful designing of the questionnaire, pilot studies, editing of data and efficient operating procedures.
- 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 March 2000 survey was 78,1%.

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	<i>Reference month</i> for the survey refers to one calendar month. The reference month for this survey is March 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>

For more information

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