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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Wholesale trade sales May 1998



Statistical release P6141.2

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Published by the
Central Statistical Service
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Tel. (012) 310-8911

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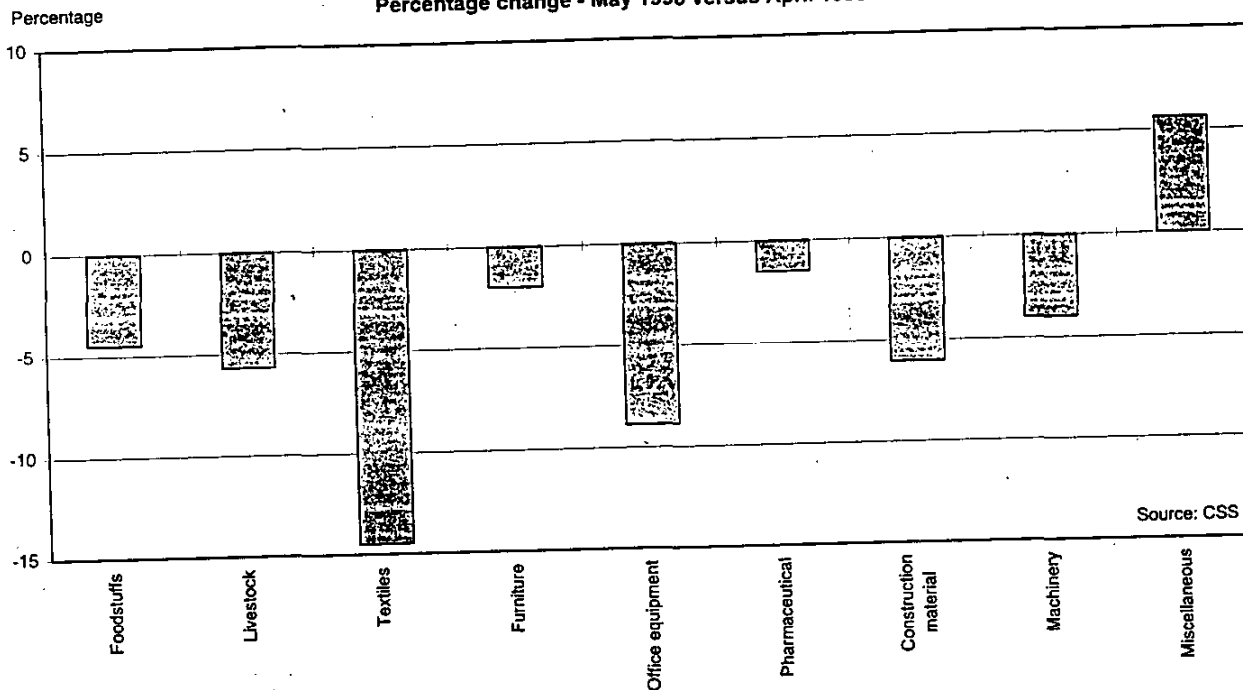
REAL WHOLESALE TRADE SALES DECREASE DURING MAY 1998

The seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds) for May 1998 reflect a decrease of 3,4% compared with April 1998, with eight of the nine wholesaler categories recording decreases in their real sales over this period.

Wholesalers in textiles, clothing and footwear reflected the largest decrease (-14,5%) in their seasonally adjusted real sales during this period, followed by wholesalers in office and shop equipment, books and stationery (-8,9%).

The real wholesale trade sales (at constant June 1995 prices), excluding diamonds, for May 1998 reflect a decrease of 2,7% compared with May 1997. Furthermore, the seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds) for the three months up to May 1998 reflect a decrease of 1,0% compared with the previous three months. However, the total real wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds) for the three months up to May 1998 is 1,4% higher than for the corresponding period of 1997.

Figure 1 - SEASONALLY ADJUSTED REAL WHOLESALE TRADE SALES
Percentage change - May 1998 versus April 1998



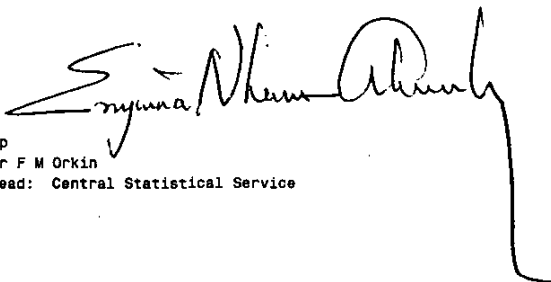
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SUMMARY - WHOLESALE TRADE

P6141.2

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				
Mar. 1998 - May 1998	59 169,4	49 382,2	+2,6	+1,4
Mar. 1997 - May 1997	57 658,3	48 694,0		
Seasonally adjusted values				
Mar. 1998 - May 1998	59 282,9	49 360,3	-1,1	-1,0
Dec. 1997 - Feb. 1998	59 959,4	49 882,5		



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 reported on in this pub. 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.

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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				
	May 1998	Apr. 1998	May 1997	Jan. 1998	May 1997	May 1998	Apr. 1998	Mar. 1998	Feb. 1998	May 1997
	Total	20 240,4	19 951,4	20 351,8	98 617,2	97 191,0	19 526,5	20 113,3	19 643,1	20 032,8
Including diamonds	19 712,2	19 445,3	19 989,2	96 133,5	94 017,9	3 774,9	3 886,0	3 674,0	3 918,1	3 713,8
Excluding diamonds	3 835,3	3 875,0	3 753,7	18 446,3	17 028,8	1 185,8	1 262,0	1 234,6	1 191,5	1 105,5
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	1 158,0	1 082,6	1 079,3	5 743,1	5 116,6	448,1	520,8	490,0	485,3	468,3
Livestock and farm produce	488,3	505,5	513,6	2 278,6	2 124,8	390,7	396,6	455,3	381,9	476,6
Textiles, clothing and footwear	399,2	352,8	481,7	1 743,2	1 966,9	1 430,0	1 524,6	1 331,3	1 297,3	1 262,1
Furniture and household requisites	1 337,1	1 491,3	1 177,0	6 792,6	5 165,8	-	-	-	-	-
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	528,2	506,1	362,6	2 483,7	3 173,1	1 674,8	1 697,8	1 656,1	1 640,4	1 639,4
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	1 713,3	1 703,7	1 672,5	8 193,9	8 159,4	1 882,4	2 008,1	1 875,3	1 971,8	1 978,0
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 836,7	1 938,3	1 925,6	9 239,1	9 020,2	3 328,4	3 461,1	3 542,9	3 462,4	3 611,7
Construction and building materials	3 265,9	3 258,5	3 537,7	16 697,8	16 675,1	5 626,3	5 347,4	5 644,8	5 571,3	5 798,8
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	5 678,4	5 237,7	5 848,0	26 999,0	28 760,3					
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				
	May 1998	Apr. 1998	May 1997	Jan. 1998	May 1997	May 1998	Apr. 1998	Mar. 1998	Feb. 1998	May 1997
Total	16 739,7	16 664,5	17 097,5	82 214,2	82 165,1	16 198,0	16 767,1	16 395,3	16 702,1	16 686,8
Including diamonds	16 326,5	16 237,8	16 786,3	80 125,9	79 433,2					
Excluding diamonds	2 942,5	2 999,5	3 005,1	14 380,4	14 031,2	2 894,1	3 029,3	2 870,3	3 085,5	2 971,0
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	995,2	930,9	957,5	4 939,6	4 532,2	998,5	1 058,7	1 046,2	1 019,5	962,6
Livestock and farm produce	412,2	427,2	457,1	1 941,4	1 903,1	376,3	440,2	419,4	415,8	414,7
Textiles, clothing and footwear	335,8	302,3	428,9	1 491,8	1 775,4	331,4	338,1	386,6	328,6	427,4
Furniture and household requisites	1 106,6	1 255,5	1 018,8	5 714,4	4 508,5	1 183,7	1 299,1	1 116,1	1 095,5	1 092,7
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	413,2	426,7	311,2	2 088,3	2 731,9	-	-	-	-	-
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	1 450,4	1 443,9	1 458,8	6 997,6	7 217,1	1 423,8	1 445,7	1 416,8	1 408,1	1 436,4
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 529,5	1 623,8	1 661,1	7 746,5	7 902,1	1 578,0	1 680,1	1 581,4	1 663,1	1 717,7
Construction and building materials	2 839,9	2 848,8	3 166,8	14 596,2	15 030,2	2 894,8	3 016,5	3 096,1	3 032,3	3 235,8
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	4 714,3	4 405,8	4 632,1	22 318,1	22 533,4	4 732,0	4 482,8	4 701,1	4 554,0	4 651,5
Miscellaneous										

The former TBVC states are included.