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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Wholesale trade sales November 1997

Statistical release P6141.2

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**Embargo: 13:00
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Published by the
Central Statistical Service
Private Bag X44
PRETORIA
0001
Tel. (012) 310-8911

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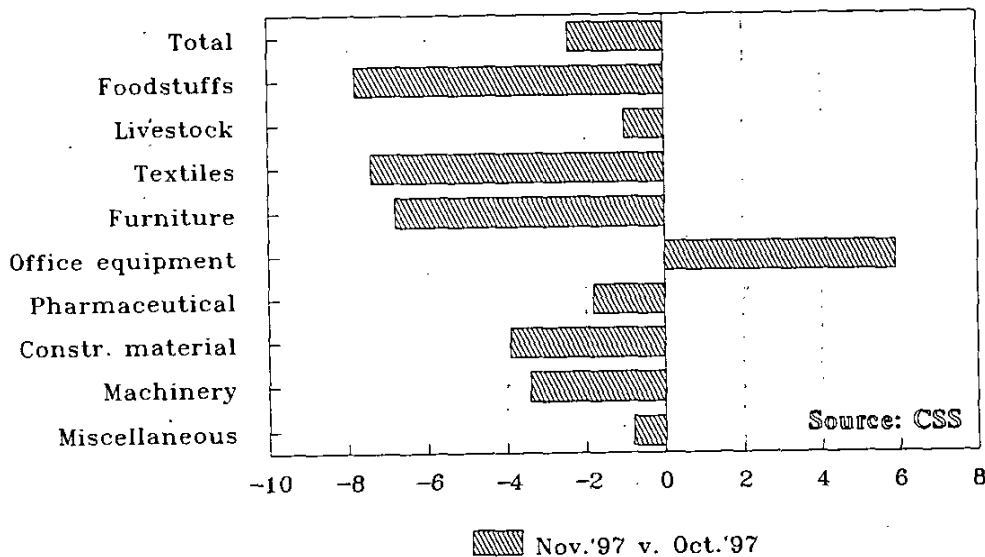
WHOLESALE TRADE SALES DECREASE FOR NOVEMBER 1997

The seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds) for November 1997 show a decrease of 2,4% compared with October 1997. This represents a decrease of 3,1% in real terms (at constant June 1995 prices).

Eight of the nine wholesaler categories reflect decreases in their seasonally adjusted sales for November 1997 compared with October 1997. These decreases fluctuate between 0,8% in respect of sales of wholesalers in miscellaneous goods and 7,8% in respect of sales of wholesalers in foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco. Wholesalers in office and shop equipment, books and stationery reflect an increase of 5,9%.

Despite the month-on-month decrease in November 1997 the seasonally adjusted sales for the three months up to November 1997 are still 3,9% higher than for the previous three months. However, real wholesale trade sales for the first eleven months of 1997 decreased by 1,4% compared with the same period of 1996.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED WHOLESALE TRADE SALES BY TYPE OF BUSINESS Percentage change - month on month




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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				
Sep. 1997 - Nov. 1997	64 880,4	53 985,9	+8,2	+2,5
Sep. 1996 - Nov. 1996	59 944,2	52 676,8		
Seasonally adjusted values				
Sep. 1997 - Nov. 1997	61 346,9	50 999,6	+3,9	+2,7
Jun. 1997 - Aug. 1997	59 042,7	49 675,9		


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 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.

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Symbols used

* = revised

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		Jan. - Nov. 1996	1997		1997		Nov. 1996
	Nov.	Oct.	Nov.	Oct.		Sep.	Aug.	Nov.		
Total	22 175,6	22 511,4	21 338,1	224 412,1	207 776,0	20 249,5	20 745,7	20 351,7	19 835,7	19 425,0
Including diamonds	21 870,9	21 962,7	21 053,7	218 319,5	202 608,6					
Excluding diamonds	3 840,6	4 146,5	3 858,2	39 286,6	38 446,2					
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	1 330,8	1 306,0	1 229,2	11 959,6	11 024,1					
Livestock and farm produce	648,9	712,9	564,1	5 358,9	4 641,6					
Textiles, clothing and footwear	641,9	591,9	688,5	5 027,0	4 762,5					
Furniture and household requisites	1 308,6	1 126,0	1 139,1	11 679,8	10 990,6					
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	304,6	548,7	284,4	6 092,6	5 167,4					
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	1 740,6	1 812,7	1 809,0	18 417,9	18 499,5					
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	2 232,8	2 269,4	2 082,1	21 707,1	19 827,8					
Construction and building materials	3 815,4	3 934,1	3 548,4	39 416,9	34 150,7					
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	6 311,3	6 063,1	6 135,1	65 465,6	60 265,6					
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						
	Nov. 1997		Oct. 1997		Nov. 1996		Jan. - Nov. 1997		Nov. 1997			Nov. 1996	
	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1996	Nov. 1996	Nov. 1996	Nov. 1996	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1997	Sep. 1997	Aug. 1997	Nov. 1996	Nov. 1996	
Total	18 370,7	18 791,1	18 599,4	188 531,3	191 167,2								
Including diamonds	18 107,8	18 316,0	18 282,1	183 290,1	185 858,4								
Excluding diamonds	3 027,7	3 276,6	3 311,2	31 640,9	35 011,0								
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	1 135,6	1 109,9	1 072,3	10 440,4	10 389,9								
Livestock and farm produce	562,3	617,8	521,8	4 729,3	4 388,2								
Textiles, clothing and footwear	560,2	519,6	632,6	4 469,6	4 497,6								
Furniture and household requisites	1 116,4	965,6	1 012,7	10 113,2	10 148,9								
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	262,9	475,2	317,2	5 241,2	5 308,8								
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	1 502,2	1 566,8	1 649,2	16 124,7	17 427,0								
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 891,1	1 921,7	1 886,0	18 715,1	18 526,0								
Construction and building materials	3 353,3	3 487,4	3 259,6	35 236,3	32 381,8								
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	4 959,0	4 850,5	4 936,9	51 820,5	53 087,9								
Miscellaneous													

The former TBVC states are included.