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# Wholesale trade sales

November 1998

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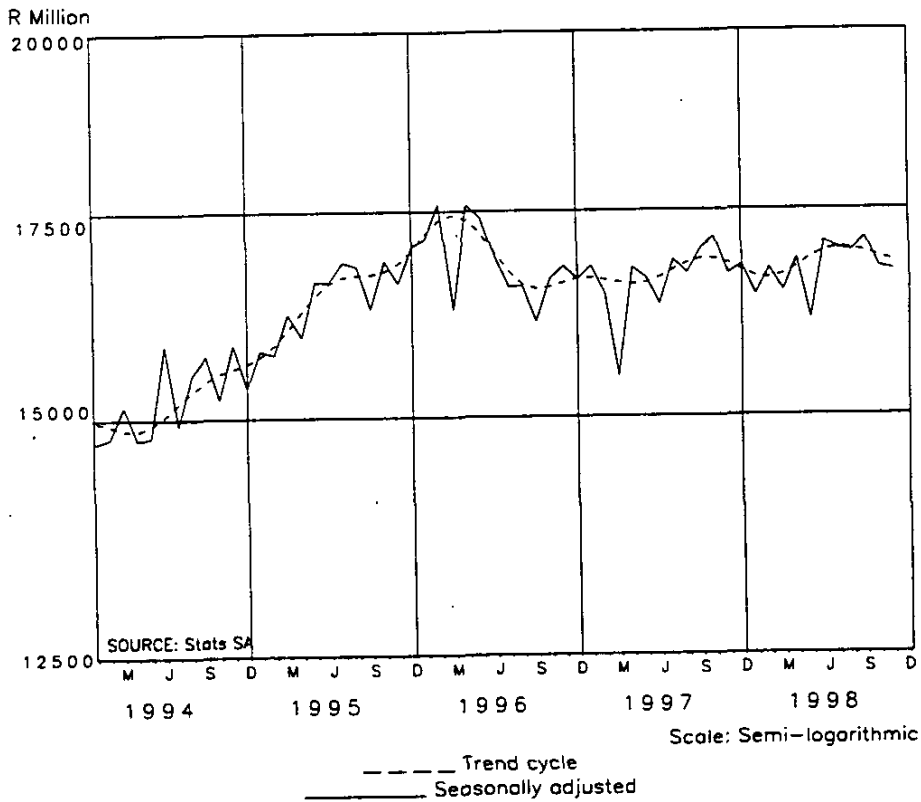


**REAL WHOLESALE TRADE SALES DECREASE**

*The seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales (at constant June 1995 prices), excluding diamonds, for the three months up to November 1998 reflected a decrease of 0,8% compared with the previous three months. The real wholesale trade sales (at constant June 1995 prices), excluding diamonds, for the three months up to November 1998 are 0,5% less than for the corresponding period of 1997. However, real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds, increased slightly by 0,8% during the first eleven months of 1998 compared with the same period of 1997.*

The seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds, for November 1998 compared with October 1998 reflected a slight decrease of 0,2%. Five of the nine wholesaler categories reflected decreases. The largest percentage decrease was reflected by wholesalers in furniture and household requisites (-12,4%), followed by wholesalers in office and shop equipment (-5,3%). Wholesalers in miscellaneous goods, which have the largest market share (26,9% of real sales in November 1998), reflected a decrease of 1,2%.

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
Actual values				
Sep. 1998 - Nov. 1998	67 036,5	53 707,2	+3,3	-0,5
Sep. 1997 - Nov. 1997	64 882,1	53 987,4		
Seasonally adjusted values				
Sep. 1998 - Nov. 1998	63 015,7	50 586,4	+1,1	-0,8
Jun. 1998 - Aug. 1998	62 346,6	51 019,2		

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Dr F M Orkin  
Head: Statistics South Africa

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

This statistical release shows final estimates of the wholesale trade sales in the Republic of South Africa. 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 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				
	Nov. 1998	Oct. 1998	Nov. 1997	Jan. 1998	Nov. 1997	Nov. 1998	Oct. 1998	Sep. 1998	Aug. 1998	Nov. 1997
Total	23 024,7	22 782,4*	22 176,4	230 392,0	224 413,7	20 898,2	20 915,4	21 202,1	21 047,1	20 113,8
Including diamonds	22 697,4	22 375,4*	21 871,8	225 512,8	218 321,2					
Excluding diamonds	4 390,3	4 352,9	3 840,6	43 252,0	39 286,6	4 322,0	4 292,5	4 346,3	4 141,4	3 776,6
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	1 466,2	1 351,8	1 330,8	13 314,4	11 959,6	1 224,1	1 162,9	1 129,9	1 284,6	1 103,7
Livestock and farm produce	541,5	662,8	649,7	5 439,9	5 360,6	435,0	484,3	483,8	495,6	525,0
Textiles, clothing and footwear	544,1	535,1	641,9	4 428,5	5 027,0	367,3	417,3	457,6	355,0	434,9
Furniture and household requisites	1 608,9	1 575,8	1 308,6	15 940,2	11 679,8	1 427,5	1 503,5	1 476,6	1 475,2	1 160,9
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	327,4	407,0	304,6	4 879,2	6 092,6	-	-	-	-	-
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	2 054,0	2 033,6	1 740,6	19 700,2	18 417,9	1 936,7	1 865,9	1 907,9	1 817,4	1 638,1
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	2 105,7	2 035,9	2 232,8	21 110,6	21 707,1	1 838,8	1 817,8	1 828,9	1 732,6	1 948,3
Construction and building materials	3 940,1	3 825,7*	3 815,4	39 495,3	39 416,9	3 686,2	3 583,9	3 533,4	3 793,1	3 573,3
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	6 046,6	6 001,8	6 311,3	62 831,8	65 465,6	5 715,9	5 873,2	5 862,4	5 927,2	5 945,8
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				
	Nov. 1998	Oct. 1998	Nov. 1997	Jan. 1998	Nov. 1997	Nov. 1998	Oct. 1998	Sep. 1998	Aug. 1998	Nov. 1997
Total	18 377,3	18 257,1	18 371,4	188 763,0	188 532,7	16 713,6	16 750,8	17 122,0	16 955,1	16 674,2
Including diamonds	18 119,7	17 936,7	18 108,5	184 777,2	183 291,5					
Excluding diamonds	3 320,7	3 318,5	3 027,7	33 364,5	31 640,9	3 260,6	3 270,4	3 317,9	3 144,6	2 965,9
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco										
Livestock and farm produce	1 261,3	1 162,0	1 135,6	11 475,2	10 440,4	1 073,5	1 021,0	982,7	1 101,9	961,8
Textiles, clothing and footwear	452,0	553,5	563,0	4 590,0	4 730,7	365,9	405,0	406,3	413,4	457,8
Furniture and household requisites	426,3	423,6	560,2	3 652,7	4 469,6	289,8	330,7	360,4	283,6	382,1
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	1 240,9	1 217,6	1 116,4	12 945,6	10 113,2	1 102,2	1 163,4	1 147,1	1 153,0	991,9
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	257,6	320,3	262,9	3 985,8	5 241,2	-	-	-	-	-
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 680,6	1 664,3	1 502,2	16 573,1	16 124,7	1 583,3	1 532,4	1 582,9	1 524,8	1 411,6
Construction and building materials	1 711,6	1 668,3	1 891,1	17 509,3	18 715,1	1 492,1	1 485,4	1 499,4	1 435,0	1 647,2
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	3 278,5	3 238,5	3 353,3	33 993,0	35 236,3	3 077,2	3 023,0	2 997,0	3 231,2	3 149,7
Miscellaneous	4 748,0	4 690,4	4 959,0	50 673,7	51 820,5	4 496,2	4 553,0	4 578,5	4 608,9	4 677,7