

# **Wholesale trade sales**

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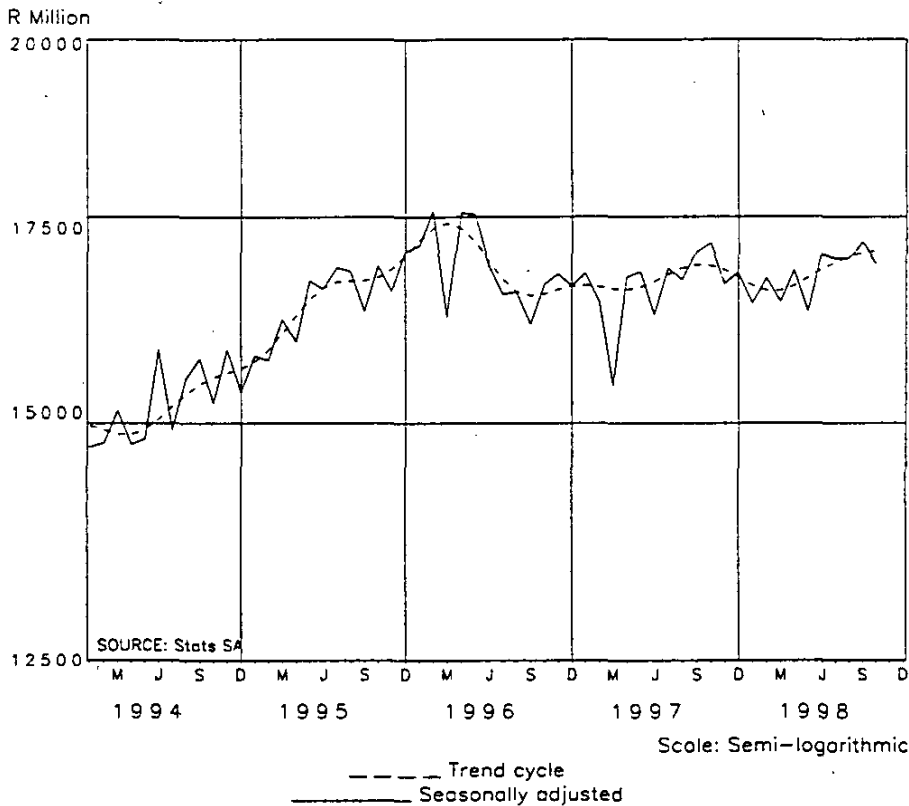


**REAL WHOLESALE TRADE SALES MAINTAIN UPWARD TREND**

*The seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales (at constant June 1995 prices), excluding diamonds, for the three months up to October 1998 reflected an increase of 1,5% compared with the previous three months. Since early 1998 real wholesale trade sales have been showing an upward trend (see figure 1). Real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds, increased slightly by 1,0% during the first ten months of 1998 compared with the same period of 1997.*

The real wholesale trade sales (at constant June 1995 prices), excluding diamonds, for the three months up to October 1998 are 0.1% higher than for the corresponding period of 1997. However, the seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds, for October 1998 compared with September 1998 reflected a decrease of 1,6%. Five of the nine wholesaler categories reflected decreases. The largest percentage decrease was reflected by wholesalers in furniture and household requisites (-7,4%), followed by wholesalers in pharmaceutical and chemical products (-3,2%). Wholesalers in miscellaneous goods, which have the largest market share (27,0% of real sales in October 1998), reflected a slight decrease of 0,5%.

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				
Aug. 1998 - Oct. 1998	65 711,9	52 773,3	+4,1	+0,1
Aug. 1997 - Oct. 1997	63 100,3	52 703,1		
Seasonally adjusted values				
Aug. 1998 - Oct. 1998	63 432,0	51 027,3	+4,1	+1,5
May 1998 - Jul. 1998	60 937,6	50 271,6		

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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				
	Oct. 1998	Sep. 1998	Oct. 1997	Jan. 1998	Oct. 1997	Oct. 1998	Sep. 1998	Aug. 1998	Jul. 1998	Oct. 1997
Total	22 946,5	22 371,7	22 512,2	207 531,3	202 237,4	21 092,7	21 285,3	21 054,0	20 680,7	20 592,8
Including diamonds	22 539,5	21 963,7	21 963,6	202 979,5	196 449,4					
Excluding diamonds	4 352,9	4 514,0	4 146,5	38 861,6	35 446,1	4 302,2	4 353,8	4 145,0	3 922,6	4 092,0
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	1 351,8	1 165,3	1 306,0	11 848,2	10 628,8	1 158,4	1 131,0	1 284,1	1 238,1	1 118,8
Livestock and farm produce	662,8	503,3	713,8	4 898,4	4 710,9	493,9	490,5	498,5	546,2	537,2
Textiles, clothing and footwear	535,1	452,3	591,9	3 884,4	4 385,2	423,1	450,2	356,4	457,6	469,8
Furniture and household requisites	1 575,8	1 522,1	1 126,0	14 331,3	10 371,2	1 510,9	1 481,0	1 476,5	1 565,6	1 082,0
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	407,0	408,1	548,7	4 551,8	5 788,0	-	-	-	-	-
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	2 033,6	2 027,5	1 812,7	17 646,2	16 677,3	1 864,7	1 907,6	1 816,8	1 726,8	1 667,8
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	2 035,9	1 917,3	2 269,4	19 004,9	19 474,3	1 816,4	1 828,6	1 733,9	1 933,7	2 029,7
Construction and building materials	3 989,7	3 888,0	3 934,1	35 719,3	35 601,5	3 712,3	3 542,7	3 798,0	3 583,7	3 686,6
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	6 001,8	5 973,9	6 063,1	56 785,3	59 154,2	5 904,2	5 877,2	5 932,9	5 703,5	5 976,0
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				
	Oct. 1998	Sep. 1998	Oct. 1997	Jan. 1998	Oct. 1997	Oct. 1998	Sep. 1998	Aug. 1998	Jul. 1998	Oct. 1997
Total	18 395,9	17 969,5	18 791,9	170 524,6	170 161,3	16 896,5	17 175,4	16 955,3	16 957,1	17 157,5
Including diamonds	18 075,6	17 650,7	18 316,7	166 796,3	165 183,0					
Excluding diamonds	3 318,5	3 459,5	3 276,6	30 043,8	28 613,2	3 289,2	3 328,1	3 151,9	3 024,9	3 238,8
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	1 162,0	1 003,3	1 109,9	10 214,0	9 304,8	1 017,2	982,1	1 101,4	1 056,2	969,8
Livestock and farm produce	553,5	420,7	618,5	4 138,0	4 167,8	409,1	408,3	414,4	457,9	461,9
Textiles, clothing and footwear	423,6	358,2	519,6	3 226,4	3 909,4	333,7	360,2	283,7	384,7	411,2
Furniture and household requisites	1 217,6	1 181,9	965,6	11 704,8	8 996,8	1 167,9	1 149,6	1 153,7	1 283,1	929,2
Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	320,3	318,7	475,2	3 728,3	4 978,3	-	-	-	-	-
Diamonds, jewellery and silverware	1 664,3	1 686,1	1 566,8	14 892,6	14 622,5	1 532,4	1 583,4	1 524,7	1 462,8	1 447,1
Pharmaceutical and chemical products	1 668,3	1 571,9	1 921,7	15 797,8	16 824,0	1 484,1	1 498,9	1 437,1	1 600,7	1 713,7
Construction and building materials	3 377,4	3 300,8	3 487,4	30 853,4	31 883,0	3 133,4	3 007,1	3 235,5	3 085,7	3 257,2
Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	4 630,4	4 668,2	4 850,5	45 925,7	46 861,5	4 556,1	4 580,3	4 611,2	4 598,2	4 715,5
Miscellaneous										