

Retail trade sales

Statistical release

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Key figures for the month ended January 2000

Actual estimates	January 2000	% change between January 1999 and January 2000	% change between November 1998 to January 1999 and November 1999 to January 2000
Retail trade sales at current prices (R million)	12 807,6	+9,0	+7,2
Retail trade sales at constant 1995 prices (R million)	9 938,1	+4,7	+3,6
Seasonally adjusted estimates	January 2000	% change between December 1999 and January 2000	% change between August 1999 to October 1999 and November 1999 to January 2000
Retail trade sales at current prices (R million)	14 036,7	+1,8	+2,3
Retail trade sales at constant 1995 prices (R million)	10 950,1	+0,1	+1,4

Key findings for the month ended January 2000

Real retail trade sales increase

Seasonally adjusted real retail trade sales (at constant 1995 prices) for the three months up to January 2000 reflected an increase of 1,4% compared with the previous three months. Furthermore, real retail trade sales for the three months up to January 2000 increased by 3,6% compared with the corresponding period a year ago.

Eleven of the nineteen merchandise categories reflected increases in seasonally adjusted real retail trade sales (at constant 1995 prices) for the three months up to January 2000 compared with the previous three months. The largest percentage increase was reported for TV sets, video recorders, etc. (+8,6%), followed by furniture (+6,5%) and audio appliances (+6,2%). However, perishable and processed food products, which contributed 28,2% to total real retail trade sales of the three months up to January 2000, reflected a real decrease of 0,4% for the above-mentioned period.

Cash sales comprised 75,8% of total sales for January 2000. This is 1,2 percentage points lower than the 77,0% for January 1999. Hire purchases, as a percentage of total sales, increased by 1,6 percentage points, while other credit sales, as a percentage of total sales, decreased by 0,4 of a percentage point during this period.

Re-engineered retail trade sales survey

After many consultations with and inputs received from users, Stats SA has redesigned the retail trade sales survey questionnaire. The survey is conducted on an enterprise basis and previously enterprises were requested to submit their total sales, distributed by type of merchandise and by selected area. The information in the former table 4 therefore represented imputations based on the assumption that the merchandise distribution of an enterprise's sales was the same for each selected area in which it traded. Unfortunately respondents had many problems in furnishing Stats SA with selected area information. Stats SA conducted several observational studies where respondents were watched while completing questionnaires in order to determine problems experienced by them. Consultations with many users regarding their needs and problems experienced by respondents revealed that users do not need area information. Therefore, Stats SA no longer collects retail trade sales information by selected area, but only by province. Retail trade sales information by province is published in table 3 of this statistical release.

Explanatory notes

The information in this statistical release is based on a monthly sample survey of retailers in the Republic of South Africa. The results of the sample survey are raised to represent the total of all retailers.

Retail trade sales at current prices include VAT.

The value of sales at constant 1995 prices is obtained by deflating the sales value at current prices by means of sub-indices of the Consumer Price Index on the base 1995=100.

The fifth edition of the Standard Industrial Classification has been implemented retrospectively, resulting in the businesses 'grocers and other dealers in foodstuff', 'general department stores' and 'general dealers' being reported as general dealers.

In order to improve timeliness, some information for the current month has been estimated due to late response. The information for the latest month is therefore preliminary and subject to revision.

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Pre-release policy

New estimates of economic indicators are kept strictly confidential by Stats SA prior to the date and time of release. To enable selected government departments to prepare their public responses, the following pre-release procedure is applied. It accords with practice in leading statistical agencies.

An official representative from the Office of the President, the Deputy President, the Department of Finance, the Department of Trade and Industry and the South African Reserve Bank receive a copy of the release on a strictly confidential basis two hours in advance of the public issue.

Symbol used

* = revised

1. RETAIL TRADE SALES BY TYPE OF BUSINESS
1.1 AT CURRENT PRICES

R MILLION

TYPE OF BUSINESS	ACTUAL VALUES					SEASONALLY ADJUSTED VALUES				
	JAN.	DEC.	JAN.	JAN. - JAN.		JAN.	DEC.	NOV.	OCT.	JAN.
	2000	1999*	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	1999	1999	1999
TOTAL RSA	12 807,6	20 381,4	11 754,2	12 807,6	11 754,2	14 036,7	13 794,2	13 541,8	13 656,0	12 907,3
BUTCHERS	580,2	766,9	513,8	580,2	513,8	596,1	589,9	568,2	560,2	529,3
GENERAL DEALERS 1/	6 333,8	8 901,3	5 862,7	6 333,8	5 862,7	6 666,1	6 467,9	6 265,0	6 447,0	6 184,4
BOTTLE STORES	353,4	707,2	361,2	353,4	361,2	459,3	460,0	485,8	480,8	466,4
DEALERS IN CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND TEXTILES	2 704,0	5 270,3	2 427,5	2 704,0	2 427,5	3 035,8	3 024,9	2 833,4	2 905,2	2 733,2
DEALERS IN FURNITURE AND HOUSEHOLD REQUISITES	1 103,6	2 548,9	955,4	1 103,6	955,4	1 466,0	1 445,9	1 483,8	1 478,4	1 270,3
BOOKSTORES AND STATIONERS	296,4	285,1	262,3	296,4	262,3	237,0	217,7	251,1	254,4	209,4
JEWELLERS	103,0	238,8	107,5	103,0	107,5	113,2	119,7	127,2	123,0	118,1
CHEMISTS	624,9	662,3	558,9	624,9	558,9	649,0	649,8	654,8	646,3	580,6
DEALERS IN MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	708,4	1 000,4	704,9	708,4	704,9	787,0	792,2	789,1	792,9	782,7

1.2 AT CONSTANT 1995 PRICES

R MILLION

TYPE OF BUSINESS	ACTUAL VALUES					SEASONALLY ADJUSTED VALUES				
	JAN.	DEC.	JAN.	JAN. - JAN.		JAN.	DEC.	NOV.	OCT.	JAN.
	2000	1999*	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	1999	1999	1999
TOTAL RSA	9 938,1	16 358,3	9 492,2	9 938,1	9 492,2	10 950,1	10 936,6	10 663,0	10 828,2	10 477,3
BUTCHERS	451,1	622,4	426,7	451,1	426,7	473,3	478,4	467,2	468,7	449,1
GENERAL DEALERS 1/	4 682,3	6 693,7	4 554,8	4 682,3	4 554,8	4 910,2	4 855,9	4 649,6	4 860,7	4 788,4
BOTTLE STORES	245,0	499,9	271,9	245,0	271,9	312,8	318,0	338,9	336,8	345,0
DEALERS IN CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND TEXTILES	2 380,2	4 690,2	2 159,3	2 380,2	2 159,3	2 683,2	2 685,8	2 492,0	2 577,9	2 440,8
DEALERS IN FURNITURE AND HOUSEHOLD REQUISITES	952,6	2 224,9	824,2	952,6	824,2	1 274,8	1 257,8	1 267,5	1 267,6	1 103,6
BOOKSTORES AND STATIONERS	194,8	196,8	193,9	194,8	193,9	154,6	148,9	171,1	174,9	153,5
JEWELLERS	86,5	204,0	94,7	86,5	94,7	94,8	105,0	108,2	105,9	103,6
CHEMISTS	400,7	439,5	390,6	400,7	390,6	423,6	418,7	427,6	427,3	413,0
DEALERS IN MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	544,8	787,0	576,0	544,8	576,0	605,5	617,3	613,1	618,2	640,0

1/ General dealers include grocers and other dealers in foodstuffs and general department stores

2. RETAIL TRADE SALES BY TYPE OF MERCHANDISE
2.1 AT CURRENT PRICES

R MILLION

TYPE OF MERCHANDISE	ACTUAL VALUES						SEASONALLY ADJUSTED VALUES				
	JAN.	DEC.	JAN.	JAN. - JAN.		JAN.	DEC.	NOV.	OCT.	JAN.	
	2000	1999	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	1999	1999	1999	
TOTAL RSA	12 807,6	20 381,4	11 754,2	12 807,6	11 754,2	14 036,7	13 794,2	13 541,8	13 656,0	12 907,3	
PERISHABLE AND PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS	3 916,1	5 207,8	3 674,0	3 916,1	3 674,0	4 108,4	4 029,8	4 016,9	4 021,1	3 861,3	
INEDIBLE GROCERIES (DETERGENTS, POLISHES, ETC.)	814,8	1 027,1	794,8	814,8	794,8	839,6	816,2	829,1	856,5	820,2	
ALCOHOLIC AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	589,9	1 003,0	574,7	589,9	574,7	703,7	691,1	725,9	719,8	684,5	
FOOTWEAR FOR MEN, LADIES AND CHILDREN	538,6	995,5	465,1	538,6	465,1	603,5	565,9	526,2	559,3	522,4	
MEN'S AND BOYS' CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES	801,1	1 497,2	721,5	801,1	721,5	850,5	838,6	773,4	803,7	769,0	
LADIES', GIRLS' AND INFANTS' CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES	1 131,9	2 288,8	1 053,3	1 131,9	1 053,3	1 338,4	1 349,1	1 286,7	1 311,1	1 247,5	
TEXTILES (BLANKETS, SHEETS, MATE- RIALS, ETC.) AND HABERDASHERY (BUTTONS, SEWING YARN, ETC.)	284,4	517,5	259,8	284,4	259,8	323,5	312,6	311,9	338,2	296,5	
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE	623,5	1 425,7	510,9	623,5	510,9	851,2	788,6	802,2	782,4	699,2	
DOMESTIC APPLIANCES (REFRIGERA- TORS, STOVES, ETC.)	303,8	633,5	257,2	303,8	257,2	370,5	371,9	362,9	358,7	314,5	
AUDIO APPLIANCES (RADIOS, HI-FI SETS, TAPE RECORDERS, ETC.)	143,4	315,5	128,8	143,4	128,8	178,3	174,6	157,9	165,7	160,5	
TV SETS, VIDEO RECORDERS, ETC.	135,8	297,3	116,8	135,8	116,8	179,0	176,5	164,1	164,7	153,6	
OTHER DOMESTIC FURNISHINGS (CARPETS, MATTRESSES, PILLOWS, ETC.)	145,3	298,0	127,8	145,3	127,8	184,1	181,4	176,0	179,0	162,4	
GLASS, CROCKERY, CUTLERY AND KITCHENWARE	330,4	527,3	285,3	330,4	285,3	359,9	344,4	318,3	337,3	312,8	
PHARMACEUTICALS, PATENTS AND OTHER MEDICINES, BANDAGES AND COSMETICS AND TOILETRIES	1 091,0	1 448,6	988,0	1 091,0	988,0	1 147,4	1 144,7	1 123,2	1 125,9	1 041,8	
BOOKS, MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS AND STATIONERY	367,8	358,4	332,4	367,8	332,4	289,8	284,3	292,4	304,2	260,5	
SPORT AND RECREATION REQUISITES (TOYS, FIRE-ARMS, BOATS, ETC.)	439,0	785,8	418,7	439,0	418,7	465,1	418,7	428,0	454,0	447,4	
JEWELLERY, SILVERWARE, WATCHES AND PRECIOUS STONES	166,2	366,9	159,7	166,2	159,7	182,5	188,5	183,1	182,8	175,3	
HARDWARE (BUILDING MATERIALS, WOOD, IRONWARE, TOOLS, ETC.)	423,0	589,5	407,4	423,0	407,4	485,9	543,8	498,3	491,7	466,7	
ALL OTHER MERCHANDISE 1/	561,6	798,0	478,0	561,6	478,0	588,0	559,5	521,0	542,7	501,1	

1/ INCLUDES CIGARETTES AND MANUFACTURED TOBACCO

2. RETAIL TRADE SALES BY TYPE OF MERCHANDISE
2.2 AT CONSTANT 1995 PRICES

R MILLION

TYPE OF MERCHANDISE	ACTUAL VALUES						SEASONALLY ADJUSTED VALUES				
	JAN.	DEC.	JAN.	JAN. - JAN.		JAN.	DEC.	NOV.	OCT.	JAN.	
	2000	1999*	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	1999	191999	191999	
TOTAL RSA	9 938,1	16 358,3	9 492,2	9 938,1	9 492,2	10 950,1	10 936,6	10 663,0	10 828,2	10 477,3	
PERISHABLE AND PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS	2 912,0	3 935,8	2 873,4	2 912,0	2 873,4	3 078,6	3 048,4	3 059,9	3 109,2	3 040,2	
INEDIBLE GROCERIES (DETERGENTS, POLISHES, ETC.)	561,1	715,7	580,5	561,1	580,5	578,8	568,9	579,5	601,9	599,5	
ALCOHOLIC AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	416,5	712,5	436,9	416,5	436,9	487,5	480,4	506,1	505,6	510,9	
FOOTWEAR FOR MEN, LADIES AND CHILDREN	452,6	881,8	422,1	452,6	422,1	512,2	495,6	466,5	491,7	478,2	
MEN'S AND BOYS' CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES	753,2	1 421,4	686,5	753,2	686,5	800,6	795,6	716,1	761,6	732,7	
LADIES', GIRLS' AND INFANTS' CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES	1 019,0	2 075,0	956,3	1 019,0	956,3	1 203,1	1 219,6	1 159,8	1 183,8	1 130,8	
TEXTILES (BLANKETS, SHEETS, MATERIALS, ETC.) AND HABERDASHERY (BUTTONS, SEWING YARN, ETC.)	223,1	405,9	199,7	223,1	199,7	255,7	248,1	247,4	267,1	229,5	
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE	518,3	1 186,1	421,2	518,3	421,2	708,3	656,7	648,5	633,8	577,1	
DOMESTIC APPLIANCES (REFRIGERATORS, STOVES, ETC.)	270,1	563,1	234,9	270,1	234,9	329,2	330,1	323,4	319,7	287,1	
AUDIO APPLIANCES (RADIOS, HI-FI SETS, TAPE RECORDERS, ETC.)	139,0	305,9	118,3	139,0	118,3	173,0	168,1	149,6	155,6	147,4	
TV SETS, VIDEO RECORDERS, ETC.	135,1	296,0	110,1	135,1	110,1	173,1	174,5	159,1	159,7	141,0	
OTHER DOMESTIC FURNISHINGS (CARPETS, MATTRESSES, PILLOWS, ETC.)	126,5	259,4	113,7	126,5	113,7	160,9	158,7	154,4	157,4	145,0	
GLASS, CROCKERY, CUTLERY AND KITCHENWARE	284,5	454,2	248,7	284,5	248,7	309,5	295,5	273,3	290,4	272,3	
PHARMACEUTICALS, PATENTS AND OTHER MEDICINES, BANDAGES AND COSMETICS AND TOILETRIES	698,6	948,1	686,0	698,6	686,0	738,0	736,8	727,5	734,9	726,6	
BOOKS, MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS AND STATIONERY	240,1	243,0	243,9	240,1	243,9	188,2	188,4	197,5	206,9	189,7	
SPORT AND RECREATION REQUISITES (TOYS, FIRE-ARMS, BOATS, ETC.)	388,2	694,8	370,2	388,2	370,2	411,7	370,0	378,3	399,8	396,1	
JEWELLERY, SILVERWARE, WATCHES AND PRECIOUS STONES	142,0	314,4	142,0	142,0	142,0	156,3	166,1	156,6	158,0	155,9	
HARDWARE (BUILDING MATERIALS, WOOD, IRONWARE, TOOLS, ETC.)	315,8	443,9	327,8	315,8	327,8	361,7	408,9	376,9	371,9	374,5	
ALL OTHER MERCHANDISE 1/	342,4	501,4	320,1	342,4	320,1	355,2	343,5	314,9	332,5	332,5	

1/ INCLUDES CIGARETTES AND MANUFACTURED TOBACCO

3. RETAIL TRADE SALES BY PROVINCE
AT CURRENT PRICES

R MILLION

SELECTED AREAS	ACTUAL VALUES					
	JAN.	DEC.	JAN.	JAN. - JAN.		
	2000	1999	1999	2000	1999	
TOTAL RSA	12 807,6	20 381,4	11 754,2	12 807,6	11 754,2	
WESTERN CAPE	2 456,2	3 956,7	2 284,5	2 456,2	2 284,5	
EASTERN CAPE	1 230,1	1 926,4	981,4	1 230,1	981,4	
NORTHERN CAPE	383,9	540,1	312,0	383,9	312,0	
FREE STATE	667,1	993,1	581,4	667,1	581,4	
KWAZULU-NATAL	2 088,3	3 350,2	2 003,8	2 088,3	2 003,8	
NORTH WEST	610,4	1 014,6	561,3	610,4	561,3	
GAUTENG	4 318,5	6 806,9	4 033,1	4 318,5	4 033,1	
MPUMALANGA	629,7	1 080,6	567,7	629,7	567,7	
NORTHERN PROVINCE	423,6	712,9	429,0	423,6	429,0	

4. CASH SALES, INSTALMENT SALE TRANSACTIONS
AND OTHER CREDIT SALES AT CURRENT PRICES

R MILLION

TYPE OF SALES	ACTUAL VALUES					SEASONALLY ADJUSTED VALUES				
	JAN.	DEC.	JAN.	JAN. - JAN.		JAN.	DEC.	NOV.	OCT.	JAN.
	2000	1999	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	1999	191999	191999
TOTAL RSA	12 807,6	20 381,4	11 754,2	12 807,6	11 754,2	14 036,7	13 794,2	13 541,8	13 656,0	12 907,3
CASH SALES (INCLUDING INSTALMENT SALE TRANSACTIONS FINANCED BY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS)	9 704,4	14 677,0	9 054,8	9 704,4	9 054,8	10 323,8	10 173,3	10 008,6	10 165,2	9 652,9
INSTALMENT SALE TRANSACTIONS (HIRE PURCHASE, FINANCED BY OWN BUSINESS)	1 004,2	2 181,6	724,7	1 004,2	724,7	1 333,0	1 141,6	1 113,9	1 115,4	967,8
OTHER CREDIT SALES	2 099,0	3 522,8	1 974,7	2 099,0	1 974,7	2 471,5	2 376,7	2 344,9	2 396,5	2 327,4