



# Wholesale trade sales

October 2003

Co-operation between Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), the citizens of the country, the private sector and government institutions is essential for a successful statistical system. Without continued co-operation and goodwill, the timely release of relevant and reliable official statistics will not be possible.

**Embargoed until: 11:00  
Date: 18 December 2003**

Stats SA publishes approximately three hundred different releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally, but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

## Key figures as at the end of October 2003

Actual estimates	October 2003	% change between October 2002 and October 2003	% change between August 2002 to October 2002 and August 2003 to October 2003	% change between January 2002 to October 2002 and January 2003 to October 2003
Wholesale trade sales at current prices, excluding diamonds (R million)	33 312,7	-4,1	+2,4	+5,1
Wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices, excluding diamonds (R million)	17 712,3	+0,1	+5,6	+3,3

Seasonally adjusted estimates	October 2003	% change between September 2003 and October 2003	% change between May 2003 to July 2003 and August 2003 to October 2003
Wholesale trade sales at current prices, excluding diamonds (R million)	31 752,3	-5,3	+1,5
Wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices, excluding diamonds (R million)	16 884,2	-4,7	+0,9

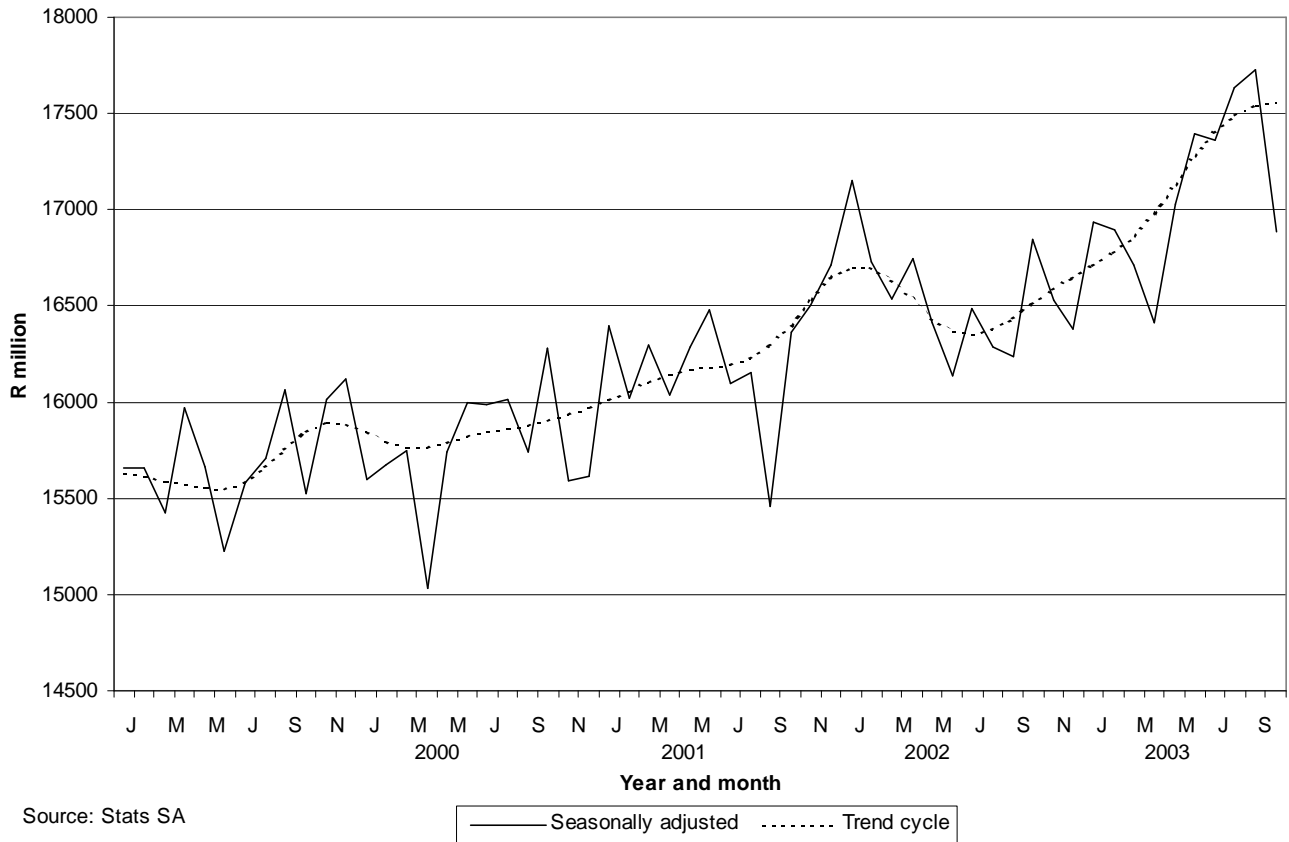
## Key findings for the month ended October 2003

### Real wholesale trade sales increase

*Seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds (at constant June 1995 prices), for the three months ended October 2003 reflected an increase of 0,9% compared with the three months ended July 2003. Furthermore, real wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds), for the three months ended October 2003 increased by 5,6% compared with the three months ended October 2002.*

Six of the nine types of wholesalers, excluding wholesalers in diamonds, reflected increases in seasonally adjusted real wholesale trade sales (at constant June 1995 prices) for the three months ended October 2003 compared with the three months ended July 2003. The largest percentage increase was reported for wholesalers in furniture (+3,9%), followed by wholesalers in miscellaneous goods (+2,8%) and then wholesalers in livestock and farm produce (+2,6%). These increases were partially counteracted by decreases reported by wholesalers in pharmaceuticals and chemical products (-2,5%), wholesalers in construction and building materials (-0,8%) and wholesalers in machinery and equipment (-0,7%).

Real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds (at constant June 1995 prices), for the first ten months of 2003 reflected an increase of 3,3% compared with the first ten months of 2002. Five of the nine types of wholesalers, excluding wholesalers in diamonds, reflected increases in real wholesale trade sales during this period. The largest percentage increase in real wholesale trade sales during this period was reported by wholesalers in machinery and equipment (+6,7%), followed by wholesalers in foodstuff, beverages and tobacco (+6,5%) and wholesalers in miscellaneous goods (+5,7%). These increases were partially counteracted by decreases in real wholesale trade sales of wholesalers in construction and building materials (-8,6%), wholesalers in office and shop equipment (-6,1%), wholesalers in textiles, clothing and footwear (-3,7%) and wholesalers in furniture and household requisites (-1,4%).

**Figure 1 - Real wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds (at constant June 1995 prices)**

### Comparability of results with other Stats SA data sources

The percentage change in the implicit wholesale trade sales deflator (the deflator is calculated by dividing wholesale trade sales at current prices, excluding diamonds, by wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds, at constant June 1995 prices) for October 2003 compared with October 2002 is -1,9%. The overall Production Price Index (PPI) for all commodities for South African consumption shows an annual rate of decrease of 1,8% at October 2003.

The difference between the percentage change in the implicit wholesale trade sales deflator and the percentage change in the PPI is due to the relative importance of products of petroleum and coal in total wholesale trade sales. Wholesalers in petroleum products contributed 23,5% to total wholesale trade sales, excluding diamonds, for October 2003. The PPI for South African consumption for products of petroleum and coal is used as a sub-index in the compilation of real wholesale trade sales of almost every one of the ten types of wholesalers. The Production Price for South African consumption for products of petroleum and coal shows an annual rate of decrease of 16,3% at October 2003.

pp  
**PJ Lehohla**  
 Statistician-General

## Contents

	Page
<b>Notes</b> .....	4
<b>Tables</b>	
Table 1 Actual values of wholesale trade sales at current prices according to type of wholesaler (R million) .....	5
Table 2 Percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices according to type of wholesaler .....	7
Table 3 Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices according to type of wholesaler (R million) .	9
Table 4 Actual values of wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices according to type of wholesaler (R million) .....	11
Table 5 Percentage change in wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices according to type of wholesaler .....	13
Table 6 Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices according to type of wholesaler (R million) .....	15
<b>Explanatory notes</b> .....	17
<b>Glossary</b> .....	19
<b>General Information</b> .....	20

## Notes

<b>Forthcoming issues</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Expected release date</b>
	November 2003	22 January 2004
	December 2003	26 February 2004
	January 2004	27 March 2004
	February 2004	24 April 2004
	March 2004	22 May 2004
<b>Purpose of the survey</b>	<p>The Wholesale Trade Sales Survey is a monthly survey covering a sample of private enterprises (firms) operating in the wholesale trade industry in South Africa. The results of the survey are used to compile estimates of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and its components, which are used to develop and monitor government policy. These statistics are also used by the private sector in the analysis of comparative business and industry performance. Information is only collected for those establishments (branches) of the enterprise that are predominantly engaged in the wholesale trade industry.</p>	
<b>New sample</b>	<p>According to international best practices and in order to train the relevant respondents in using the new questionnaire, validate the information received and avoid a break in the time series published in this statistical release, Stats SA decided to introduce the new questionnaire as the first step in the re-engineering process.</p> <p>Currently Stats SA is busy re-engineering the register of businesses which serves as the sampling frame, in collaboration with the South African Revenue Service and the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Labour. The process will take some time, since there are hundreds of thousands of businesses, many of them in any period changing ownership, closing, or being registered.</p>	
<b>Response rate</b>	<p>The response rate for the survey of wholesale trade sales for October 2003 was 78,8%.</p>	

Table 1 – Actual values of wholesale trade sales at current prices according to type of wholesaler (R million)

Year and month	Type of wholesaler					
	Foodstuff, beverages and tobacco	Livestock and farm produce	Textiles, clothing and footwear	Furniture and household requisites	Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	Diamonds, jewellery and silverware
2002 Jan.	4 777,8	1 761,5	429,9	275,2	1 539,3	519,5
Feb.	4 815,4	1 652,4	452,6	380,0	1 487,5	381,2
Mar.	5 463,0	1 730,3	500,0	397,9	1 674,0	1 106,2
Apr.	5 044,5	2 009,4	489,4	349,0	1 544,4	1 178,4
May	5 233,4	1 733,1	541,1	460,2	1 541,8	1 412,8
June	5 571,6	1 581,7	491,9	392,2	1 502,7	1 355,3
July	5 370,5	1 617,7	509,0	416,6	1 600,3	573,7
Aug.	5 405,7	1 725,1	466,2	427,8	1 529,4	777,4
Sep.	5 981,8	1 629,1	507,0	492,7	1 534,7	1 186,0
Oct.	6 069,6	2 222,2	617,1	628,0	1 746,1	2 802,4
Nov.	5 941,4	2 258,1	670,9	736,4	1 703,0	1 325,3
Dec.	6 847,2	2 050,9	416,3	420,8	1 184,4	913,4
<b>Total</b>	<b>66 521,9</b>	<b>21 971,5</b>	<b>6 091,4</b>	<b>5 376,8</b>	<b>18 587,5</b>	<b>13 531,6</b>
2003 Jan.	5 642,0	1 822,6	438,2	269,0	1 537,7	560,1
Feb.	5 683,3	1 868,9	448,8	405,4	1 510,2	603,7
Mar.	6 208,9	1 716,2	511,9	395,0	1 569,7	1 223,2
Apr.	5 772,3	1 746,0	504,8	356,4	1 530,7	1 187,0
May	6 043,8	1 517,4	531,1	427,2	1 493,8	1 015,5
June	6 152,5	1 662,5	488,5	416,9	1 433,7	1 257,9
July	5 853,4	1 755,8	528,4	452,9	1 529,9	1 148,3
Aug.	6 336,3	1 819,5	510,3	470,5	1 468,8	571,7
Sep.	6 618,7*	1 822,7	497,7*	501,7*	1 535,7*	720,9
Oct.	6 029,2	2 099,3	615,9	630,7	1 658,5	1 303,8

\* Revised

**Table 1 – Actual values of wholesale trade sales at current prices according to type of wholesaler (R million) (concluded)**

Year and month	Type of wholesaler				Total, excluding diamonds	Total, including diamonds
	Pharmaceutical and chemical products	Construction and building materials	Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	Miscellaneous		
2002 Jan.	2 239,0	2 522,4	4 351,2	9 717,5	27 613,7	28 133,2
Feb.	2 423,1	2 936,0	4 707,8	10 408,0	29 262,7	29 643,9
Mar.	2 273,4	2 234,8	4 668,1	11 482,9	30 424,2	31 530,5
Apr.	2 343,6	2 353,7	4 339,1	11 760,7	30 233,6	31 412,0
May	2 311,8	2 532,9	4 730,5	11 501,0	30 585,8	31 998,6
June	2 382,6	2 306,8	4 701,1	11 152,2	30 082,8	31 438,1
July	2 339,5	2 540,7	4 452,3	11 526,8	30 373,3	30 947,0
Aug.	2 557,7	2 532,3	4 809,4	11 665,0	31 118,5	31 895,9
Sep.	2 638,7	2 445,1	5 065,6	11 985,2	32 279,9	33 465,9
Oct.	2 985,8	2 730,4	5 168,4	12 583,0	34 750,7	37 553,1
Nov.	2 784,2	2 926,6	5 322,8	13 389,7	35 732,9	37 058,2
Dec.	2 448,2	1 987,7	4 864,1	12 501,8	32 721,4	33 634,8
<b>Total</b>	<b>29 727,6</b>	<b>30 049,4</b>	<b>57 180,4</b>	<b>139 673,8</b>	<b>375 179,5</b>	<b>388 711,2</b>
2003 Jan.	2 403,6	2 172,8	4 544,8	11 186,3	30 017,2	30 577,3
Feb.	2 515,3	2 337,6	5 402,6	11 859,0	32 031,0	32 634,7
Mar.	2 383,2	2 402,2	5 454,6	12 560,7	33 202,4	34 425,6
Apr.	2 305,8	2 293,5	4 723,8	11 760,1	30 993,4	32 180,4
May	2 586,4	2 437,9	4 957,7	11 523,2	31 518,6	32 534,1
June	2 677,1	2 388,6	5 231,6	11 670,5	32 122,0	33 379,9
July	2 669,7	2 670,1	5 055,3	11 353,1	31 868,6	33 016,9
Aug.	2 743,2	2 573,6	5 071,2	11 992,6	32 986,0*	33 557,7
Sep.	2 970,2	2 542,9*	5 407,6*	12 282,7*	34 180,0	34 900,9*
Oct.	2 654,3	2 788,4	5 355,8	11 480,6	33 312,7	34 616,5

\* Revised

Table 2 – Percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices according to type of wholesaler

Year <u>1</u> / and month <u>2</u> / 		Type of wholesaler					
		Foodstuff, beverages and tobacco	Livestock and farm produce	Textiles, clothing and footwear	Furniture and household requisites	Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	Diamonds, jewellery and silverware
2002	Jan.	13,3	33,4	28,2	24,3	17,2	-49,3
	Feb.	10,8	26,8	-3,5	14,9	12,7	-78,6
	Mar.	21,2	29,9	-6,8	2,0	4,7	130,1
	Apr.	12,7	39,3	6,3	8,4	25,1	89,4
	May	13,5	38,3	4,2	13,3	21,0	38,7
	June	17,2	23,0	14,3	-9,6	4,5	31,1
	July	17,2	26,7	27,3	9,5	12,9	-46,1
	Aug.	13,8	17,9	4,7	2,3	13,8	-19,8
	Sep.	18,7	13,1	9,8	15,4	13,4	273,7
	Oct.	21,4	26,3	13,5	11,7	13,4	134,4
	Nov.	15,1	16,8	11,5	11,7	8,7	134,0
	Dec.	10,2	28,2	-1,0	9,3	-6,5	-39,8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15,4</b>	<b>26,0</b>	<b>8,3</b>	<b>8,9</b>	<b>11,5</b>	<b>16,7</b>
2003	Jan.	18,1	3,5	1,9	-2,3	-0,1	7,8
	Feb.	18,0	13,1	-0,8	6,7	1,5	58,4
	Mar.	13,7	-0,8	2,4	-0,7	-6,2	10,6
	Apr.	14,4	-13,1	3,1	2,1	-0,9	0,7
	May	15,5	-12,4	-1,8	-7,2	-3,1	-28,1
	June	10,4	5,1	-0,7	6,3	-4,6	-7,2
	July	9,0	8,5	3,8	8,7	-4,4	100,2
	Aug.	17,2	5,5	9,5	10,0	-4,0	-26,5
	Sep.	10,6*	11,9	-1,8*	1,8*	0,1*	-39,2
	Oct.	-0,7	-5,5	-0,2	0,4	-5,0	-53,5

1/ The percentage change is the change in wholesale trade sales of the relevant year compared with wholesale trade sales of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

2/ The percentage change is the change in actual value of wholesale trade sales of the relevant month compared with actual value of wholesale trade sales of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

\* Revised



Table 2 – Percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices according to type of wholesaler (concluded)

Year <u>1</u> / and month <u>2</u> / 	Type of wholesaler				Total, excluding diamonds	Total, including diamonds
	Pharmaceutical and chemical products	Construction and building materials	Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	Miscellaneous		
2002 Jan.	18,5	24,9	34,7	6,7	16,7	14,0
Feb.	22,1	31,9	31,8	12,6	18,0	11,6
Mar.	13,0	-5,3	16,0	20,4	15,6	17,7
Apr.	18,6	13,8	33,6	15,9	19,0	20,7
May	8,4	4,7	27,0	14,1	15,8	16,6
June	13,6	-8,2	23,5	10,1	11,9	12,6
July	12,2	6,5	21,1	18,1	17,0	14,5
Aug.	17,2	4,0	19,7	22,5	17,1	15,8
Sep.	19,7	-0,2	17,8	43,6	24,0	27,1
Oct.	16,4	-3,2	16,5	29,2	19,9	24,5
Nov.	6,9	-3,9	17,1	26,9	16,5	18,6
Dec.	3,7	-15,3	23,4	21,0	13,4	10,7
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,9</b>	<b>3,3</b>	<b>22,9</b>	<b>19,9</b>	<b>17,0</b>	<b>17,0</b>
2003 Jan.	7,4	-13,9	4,4	15,1	8,7	8,7
Feb.	3,8	-20,4	14,8	13,9	9,5	10,1
Mar.	4,8	7,5	16,8	9,4	9,1	9,2
Apr.	-1,6	-2,6	8,9	0,0	2,5	2,4
May	11,9	-3,8	4,8	0,2	3,0	1,7
June	12,4	3,5	11,3	4,6	6,8	6,2
July	14,1	5,1	13,5	-1,5	4,9	6,7
Aug.	7,3	1,6	5,4	2,8	6,0	5,2
Sep.	12,6	4,0*	6,8*	2,5*	5,9	4,3*
Oct.	-11,1	2,1	3,6	-8,8	-4,1	-7,8

1/ The percentage change is the change in wholesale trade sales of the relevant year compared with wholesale trade sales of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

2/ The percentage change is the change in actual value of wholesale trade sales of the relevant month compared with actual value of wholesale trade sales of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

**Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices according to type of wholesaler (R million)**

Year and month	Type of wholesaler				
	Foodstuff, beverages and tobacco	Livestock and farm produce	Textiles, clothing and footwear	Furniture and household requisites	Office and shop equipment, books and stationery
2002 Jan.	5 088,3	1 769,7	608,2	445,2	1 583,6
Feb.	5 100,4	1 671,8	477,4	438,9	1 551,1
Mar.	5 454,3	1 838,3	468,5	421,2	1 534,1
Apr.	5 249,3	2 122,7	488,2	436,2	1 577,6
May	5 386,4	1 901,8	500,9	462,7	1 617,0
June	5 668,3	1 764,6	507,7	421,8	1 462,7
July	5 644,6	1 774,6	523,1	429,8	1 567,4
Aug.	5 548,7	1 760,4	487,3	424,7	1 555,7
Sep.	5 819,5	1 688,3	510,3	457,1	1 537,8
Oct.	5 924,6	1 971,3	519,5	473,4	1 610,2
Nov.	5 768,4	1 842,2	544,6	488,9	1 595,3
Dec.	5 745,4	1 854,9	474,8	436,8	1 388,5
2003 Jan.	6 001,6	1 818,6	615,9	439,4	1 570,5
Feb.	6 034,3	1 891,7	470,7	464,1	1 564,4
Mar.	6 172,4	1 821,1	478,4	419,7	1 437,7
Apr.	6 044,3	1 841,9	505,4	446,5	1 558,2
May	6 229,1	1 661,6	490,6	428,0	1 557,0
June	6 221,0	1 857,9	506,5	450,9	1 408,5
July	6 172,9	1 929,7	541,6	469,1	1 498,5
Aug.	6 501,2	1 861,5	534,8	468,6	1 498,9
Sep.	6 421,9	1 898,2	503,8	465,5	1 549,2
Oct.	5 912,2	1 863,1	518,9	470,0	1 526,7

**Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices according to type of wholesaler (R million)  
(concluded)**

Year and month	Type of wholesaler				Total, excluding diamonds
	Pharmaceutical and chemical products	Construction and building materials	Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	Miscellaneous	
2002 Jan.	2 414,0	2 758,8	4 840,8	10 622,5	30 131,0
Feb.	2 439,0	2 972,8	4 584,6	10 762,1	29 998,0
Mar.	2 384,2	2 230,3	4 501,3	11 197,8	30 029,8
Apr.	2 450,9	2 571,3	4 695,0	11 493,5	31 084,8
May	2 335,7	2 530,3	4 708,0	11 369,7	30 812,6
June	2 427,9	2 403,5	4 647,5	11 107,2	30 411,1
July	2 478,7	2 489,0	4 606,5	11 720,3	31 233,9
Aug.	2 556,4	2 484,6	4 796,3	11 682,2	31 296,3
Sep.	2 500,0	2 434,6	4 801,9	11 873,0	31 622,5
Oct.	2 689,8	2 440,7	4 894,5	12 620,1	33 144,1
Nov.	2 505,7	2 456,4	4 919,8	12 631,9	32 753,2
Dec.	2 493,5	2 312,0	5 222,8	12 522,2	32 450,9
2003 Jan.	2 580,3	2 356,9	5 050,3	12 181,9	32 615,5
Feb.	2 536,9	2 368,3	5 232,9	12 255,4	32 818,7
Mar.	2 504,8	2 391,2	5 246,8	12 195,8	32 667,8
Apr.	2 427,0	2 507,1	5 129,7	11 434,1	31 894,2
May	2 627,5	2 432,6	4 941,6	11 407,1	31 775,2
June	2 725,6	2 494,6	5 167,0	11 632,5	32 464,6
July	2 810,1	2 619,3	5 240,5	11 564,2	32 845,8
Aug.	2 747,3	2 528,0	5 053,2	12 075,0	33 268,5
Sep.	2 817,8	2 543,6	5 146,4	12 192,4	33 538,8
Oct.	2 382,6	2 492,4	5 074,2	11 512,1	31 752,3

**Table 4 – Actual values of wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices according to type of wholesaler (R million)**

Year and month	Type of wholesaler					
	Foodstuff, beverages and tobacco	Livestock and farm produce	Textiles, clothing and footwear	Furniture and household requisites	Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	Diamonds, jewellery and silverware
2002 Jan.	2 756,1	1 088,3	307,4	189,8	956,5	334,0
Feb.	2 743,5	1 012,0	323,1	252,3	913,3	245,1
Mar.	3 054,0	1 042,5	344,4	263,6	1 024,7	711,2
Apr.	2 765,6	1 224,8	335,8	230,6	922,8	757,5
May	2 872,5	1 082,3	371,1	295,4	898,0	897,4
June	3 037,5	974,9	330,6	251,8	880,4	860,9
July	2 915,0	960,2	341,4	267,4	930,1	375,6
Aug.	2 837,6	988,7	312,3	269,0	878,5	500,2
Sep.	3 100,3	891,1	334,8	309,6	878,6	764,3
Oct.	3 094,2	1 205,3	406,9	394,1	987,5	1 797,1
Nov.	3 041,7	1 242,4	442,4	459,3	958,5	853,1
Dec.	3 498,1	1 125,7	272,1	262,7	672,9	588,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>35 716,1</b>	<b>12 838,2</b>	<b>4 122,2</b>	<b>3 445,6</b>	<b>10 901,8</b>	<b>8 684,4</b>
2003 Jan.	2 893,3	1 062,5	286,1	167,9	879,5	360,6
Feb.	2 928,5	1 140,3	292,9	250,9	855,3	396,0
Mar.	3 207,9	1 049,7	329,8	244,3	883,5	820,6
Apr.	2 924,9	1 100,6	325,3	220,5	862,1	801,4
May	3 165,1	945,2	342,8	265,9	859,7	700,7
June	3 218,4	1 054,0	314,8	259,9	828,8	846,5
July	3 001,7*	1 071,7*	340,5*	281,3*	876,5*	766,5
Aug.	3 251,4*	1 149,8*	329,3*	291,8*	838,5*	391,4
Sep.	3 391,4*	1 131,2*	322,1*	311,4*	875,3*	495,3
Oct.	3 097,8	1 281,5	397,1	391,9	950,2	902,2

\* Revised

**Table 4 – Actual values of wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices according to type of wholesaler (R million) (concluded)**

Year and month	Type of wholesaler				Total, excluding diamonds	Total, including diamonds	
	Pharmaceutical and chemical products	Construction and building materials	Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	Miscellaneous			
2002	Jan.	1 399,3	1 596,0	2 887,9	4 513,6	15 694,8	16 028,8
	Feb.	1 509,6	1 797,1	2 987,4	4 837,9	16 376,2	16 621,3
	Mar.	1 410,3	1 365,5	2 946,8	5 273,4	16 725,2	17 436,3
	Apr.	1 402,7	1 415,7	2 704,3	5 146,6	16 148,9	16 906,4
	May	1 380,4	1 498,0	2 880,8	4 879,9	16 158,3	17 055,6
	June	1 428,6	1 364,0	2 883,7	4 837,0	15 988,4	16 849,3
	July	1 375,8	1 492,0	2 733,5	5 026,1	16 041,4	16 417,0
	Aug.	1 501,9	1 460,8	2 901,8	5 035,8	16 186,4	16 686,7
	Sep.	1 546,1	1 406,7	3 041,5	5 093,1	16 601,8	17 366,2
	Oct.	1 718,4	1 559,8	3 084,0	5 239,7	17 689,9	19 487,0
	Nov.	1 601,9	1 663,7	3 147,5	5 539,1	18 096,4	18 949,5
	Dec.	1 414,2	1 134,9	2 904,8	5 353,7	16 639,3	17 227,3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17 687,2</b>	<b>17 754,1</b>	<b>35 104,0</b>	<b>60 775,9</b>	<b>198 347,0</b>	<b>207 031,4</b>
2003	Jan.	1 381,1	1 230,3	2 735,4	4 925,1	15 561,2	15 921,8
	Feb.	1 441,6	1 303,4	3 216,2	5 119,4	16 548,5	16 944,5
	Mar.	1 363,5	1 337,7	3 227,4	5 279,3	16 923,0	17 743,7
	Apr.	1 307,2	1 274,4	2 805,4	4 979,3	15 799,8	16 601,2
	May	1 479,1	1 359,1	3 021,9	5 319,6	16 758,3	17 458,9
	June	1 534,4	1 329,2	3 216,1	5 500,8	17 256,4	18 102,8
	July	1 541,0*	1 487,7*	3 077,6*	5 195,7*	16 973,8	17 631,3*
	Aug.	1 585,5*	1 415,4*	3 115,2*	5 516,7*	17 484,8*	17 885,0*
	Sep.	1 717,5	1 398,0*	3 323,9*	5 615,3*	18 086,1	18 581,4*
	Oct.	1 532,2	1 544,2	3 260,8	5 256,8	17 712,3	18 614,5

\* Revised

Table 5 – Percentage change in wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices according to type of wholesaler

Year <u>1</u> / and month <u>2</u> / 		Type of wholesaler					
		Foodstuff, beverages and tobacco	Livestock and farm produce	Textiles, clothing and footwear	Furniture and household Requisites	Office and shop equipment, books and stationery	Diamonds, jewellery and silverware
2002	Jan.	-1,8	6,7	19,3	17,9	8,7	-57,3
	Feb.	-5,2	1,4	-10,3	6,5	4,0	-81,9
	Mar.	2,3	16,1	-15,8	-5,6	-3,6	93,9
	Apr.	-4,8	26,9	-4,0	-0,0	12,9	59,6
	May	-3,1	16,4	-5,8	2,5	7,8	16,1
	June	-0,2	1,1	2,9	-18,2	-6,1	10,1
	July	-0,0	0,9	15,2	-0,9	1,3	-53,4
	Aug.	-5,5	-5,8	-5,3	-8,3	1,8	-31,8
	Sep.	-2,1	-12,2	-0,8	3,4	1,3	215,7
	Oct.	1,4	0,9	2,5	0,1	1,1	97,1
	Nov.	0,0	-1,1	0,8	0,2	-3,4	97,5
	Dec.	-4,7	9,8	-10,3	-1,6	-16,3	-49,2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-2,0</b>	<b>2,5</b>	<b>-1,7</b>	<b>-1,1</b>	<b>0,7</b>	<b>-1,5</b>
2003	Jan.	5,0	-2,4	-6,9	-11,5	-8,1	8,0
	Feb.	6,7	12,7	-9,3	-0,6	-6,4	61,6
	Mar.	5,0	0,7	-4,2	-7,3	-13,8	15,4
	Apr.	5,8	-10,1	-3,1	-4,4	-6,6	5,8
	May	10,2	-12,7	-7,6	-10,0	-4,3	-21,9
	June	6,0	8,1	-4,8	3,2	-5,9	-1,7
	July	3,0*	11,6*	-0,3*	5,2*	-5,8*	104,1
	Aug.	14,6*	16,3*	5,4*	8,5*	-4,6*	-21,8
	Sep.	9,4*	26,9	-3,8*	0,6*	-0,4*	-35,2
	Oct.	0,1	6,3	-2,4	-0,6	-3,8	-49,8

1/ The percentage change is the change in wholesale trade sales of the relevant year compared with wholesale trade sales of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

2/ The percentage change is the change in actual value of wholesale trade sales of the relevant month compared with actual value of wholesale trade sales of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

\* Revised

**Table 5 – Percentage change in wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices according to type of wholesaler (concluded)**

Year <u>1/</u> and month <u>2/</u>	Type of wholesaler				Total, excluding diamonds	Total, including diamonds
	Pharmaceutical and chemical products	Construction and building materials	Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	Miscellaneous		
2002 Jan.	5,4	13,3	25,0	-5,1	5,1	2,0
Feb.	8,3	18,3	17,9	0,1	4,7	-2,3
Mar.	0,4	-15,1	3,4	6,0	1,5	3,6
Apr.	3,7	1,3	18,1	-1,3	4,0	5,7
May	-5,1	-7,7	11,4	-2,3	0,6	1,3
June	0,2	-19,0	9,3	-2,9	-1,9	-1,4
July	-2,6	-6,2	7,2	4,4	2,1	-0,6
Aug.	1,8	-9,3	4,4	7,8	0,7	-0,7
Sep.	3,8	-13,0	2,4	24,7	4,8	7,9
Oct.	0,8	-15,5	1,4	12,0	2,4	7,1
Nov.	-7,0	-16,2	1,6	8,4	0,0	2,2
Dec.	-9,3	-25,7	8,4	6,1	-1,4	-4,5
<b>Total</b>	<b>-0,2</b>	<b>-8,6</b>	<b>8,6</b>	<b>4,5</b>	<b>1,7</b>	<b>1,5</b>
2003 Jan.	-1,3	-22,9	-5,3	9,1	-0,9	-0,7
Feb.	-4,5	-27,5	7,7	5,8	1,1	1,9
Mar.	-3,3	-2,0	9,5	0,1	1,2	1,8
Apr.	-6,8	-10,0	3,7	-3,3	-2,2	-1,8
May	7,2	-9,3	4,9	9,0	3,7	2,4
June	7,4	-2,6	11,5	13,7	7,9	7,4
July	12,0*	-0,9*	12,6*	3,4*	5,1	7,4*
Aug.	5,6*	-3,1*	7,4*	9,5	8,1	7,2*
Sep.	11,1	-0,6*	9,3*	10,3*	8,9	7,0*
Oct.	-10,8	-1,0	5,7	0,3	0,1	-4,5

1/ The percentage change is the change in wholesale trade sales of the relevant year compared with wholesale trade sales of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

2/ The percentage change is the change in actual value of wholesale trade sales of the relevant month compared with actual value of wholesale trade sales of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

\* Revised

**Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices according to type of wholesaler  
(R million)**

Year and month	Type of wholesaler				
	Foodstuff, beverages and tobacco	Livestock and farm produce	Textiles, clothing and footwear	Furniture and household requisites	Office and shop equipment, books and stationery
2002 Jan.	2 950,0	1 109,6	435,0	304,6	978,5
Feb.	2 903,0	1 031,2	338,8	293,2	950,8
Mar.	3 046,2	1 124,1	324,5	279,5	934,4
Apr.	2 905,7	1 276,5	335,9	287,2	951,0
May	2 958,4	1 204,1	342,9	298,1	943,2
June	3 074,1	1 057,3	342,5	270,1	848,6
July	3 040,8	1 033,5	350,4	275,6	910,5
Aug.	2 901,1	993,1	325,9	267,8	896,7
Sep.	2 993,2	907,3	337,9	287,1	882,4
Oct.	3 055,9	1 054,7	343,4	296,1	915,3
Nov.	2 980,1	1 029,7	356,7	305,0	902,8
Dec.	2 911,3	1 053,6	310,4	272,8	785,1
2003 Jan.	3 093,3	1 077,5	402,2	272,0	892,9
Feb.	3 106,6	1 162,8	305,3	289,2	884,4
Mar.	3 186,2	1 131,7	310,0	260,3	804,9
Apr.	3 095,1	1 144,3	326,6	275,5	886,7
May	3 261,1	1 051,2	315,9	267,5	897,6
June	3 237,4	1 140,9	327,8	280,4	806,2
July	3 142,0	1 115,4	348,6	290,9	857,8
Aug.	3 321,9	1 156,2	344,7	291,5	858,7
Sep.	3 263,6	1 155,5	327,0	288,9	885,0
Oct.	3 076,9	1 123,3	335,4	291,1	879,0



**Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant June 1995 prices according to type of wholesaler (R million) (concluded)**

Year and month	Type of wholesaler				Total, excluding diamonds
	Pharmaceutical and chemical products	Construction and building materials	Machinery and equipment (mining, industrial and agricultural)	Miscellaneous	
2002 Jan.	1 517,1	1 735,5	3 185,8	4 937,2	17 153,4
Feb.	1 521,4	1 832,0	2 923,1	4 936,5	16 729,9
Mar.	1 477,3	1 368,2	2 863,2	5 121,9	16 539,3
Apr.	1 482,8	1 554,5	2 941,7	5 006,7	16 742,1
May	1 399,4	1 505,7	2 889,4	4 869,0	16 410,1
June	1 456,0	1 422,8	2 849,2	4 815,1	16 135,6
July	1 459,1	1 460,6	2 820,3	5 134,2	16 485,0
Aug.	1 497,1	1 440,0	2 891,7	5 071,1	16 284,7
Sep.	1 454,5	1 401,1	2 867,1	5 110,0	16 240,7
Oct.	1 551,0	1 391,1	2 916,6	5 321,7	16 845,8
Nov.	1 436,9	1 391,4	2 912,0	5 217,1	16 531,7
Dec.	1 426,5	1 295,2	3 090,4	5 234,2	16 379,6
2003 Jan.	1 492,3	1 327,5	3 012,0	5 369,4	16 939,1
Feb.	1 457,1	1 330,0	3 131,5	5 224,0	16 891,0
Mar.	1 432,7	1 337,5	3 131,8	5 119,1	16 714,3
Apr.	1 388,0	1 401,3	3 065,5	4 825,8	16 409,0
May	1 508,4	1 364,9	3 036,7	5 320,8	17 024,1
June	1 563,1	1 389,8	3 174,2	5 473,6	17 393,2
July	1 624,4	1 449,5	3 181,5	5 310,4	17 360,5
Aug.	1 582,9	1 396,5	3 099,4	5 579,2	17 631,0
Sep.	1 617,3	1 398,6	3 144,5	5 642,3	17 722,6
Oct.	1 378,2	1 376,1	3 084,0	5 340,3	16 884,2

## Explanatory notes

- Introduction**
- 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey of the wholesale trade sub-industry. This statistical release contains results of the monthly survey regarding wholesale trade sales. Wholesale trade sales exclude Value Added Tax (VAT).
  - 2 The statistics include actual and seasonally adjusted values of wholesale trade sales according to type of wholesaler at **current** as well as at **constant** June 1995 prices.
- Scope of the survey**
- 3 The survey of wholesale trade sales includes -
    - wholesalers in foodstuff, beverages and tobacco;
    - wholesalers in livestock and farm produce;
    - wholesalers in textiles, clothing and footwear;
    - wholesalers in furniture and household requisites;
    - wholesalers in office and shop equipment, books and stationery;
    - wholesalers in diamonds, jewellery and silverware;
    - wholesalers in pharmaceutical and chemical products;
    - wholesalers in construction and building materials;
    - wholesalers in machinery and equipment; and
    - miscellaneous.
- Classification**
- 4 The 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)*, Fifth edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 *International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC)* with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC subgroup (5 digit) level. Each statistical unit is classified to the type of wholesaler which reflects the predominant activity of the enterprise.
- Statistical unit**
- 5 The statistical unit for this survey is an enterprise. An enterprise is a legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its production activities. Data are only collected for those establishments of the enterprise that are predominantly engaged in the wholesale trade industry.
- Survey methodology and design**
- 6 All statistical units are stratified by type of wholesaler according to SIC and measure of size, where measure of size is the turnover of the enterprise. All large enterprises (size category one cases) are completely enumerated. For medium size enterprises (size category two) and small enterprises (size category three), samples are drawn by systematically selecting enterprises with equal probability. The results of the sample survey are weighted in order to represent all wholesale trade enterprises in South Africa.
  - 7 The data are collected by mail each month from a sample of approximately 500 wholesale trade enterprises. Questionnaires have to be returned to Stats SA within 10 days after the end of the month concerned. Fax and telephone reminders are used to follow up non-respondents.
- Seasonal adjustment**
- 8 Seasonally adjusted estimates of wholesale trade sales are generated each month, using the X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by US Bureau of the Census Economic Research and Analyses Division, 1968.
  - 9 Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month. Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variations. Therefore, the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour.
  - 10 The time series on wholesalers in diamonds does not have a seasonal pattern. Therefore, no seasonally adjusted values for wholesalers in diamonds and total wholesale trade sales, including diamonds, are published.

- Trend** 11 The trend is a long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted data.
- Constant prices** 12 The value of wholesale trade sales at constant prices measures wholesale trade sales in terms of ruling prices in a specific base year. The current base year regarding wholesale trade sales is June 1995=100.
- 13 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.
- Reliability of estimates** 14 Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample of enterprises and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all wholesale trade enterprises in South Africa.
- 15 Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling error. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling error to a minimum by careful designing of the questionnaire, pilot studies, editing of data and efficient operating procedures.
- Related publications** 16 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from Stats SA:
- *Bulletin of Statistics.*
  - *SA Statistics.*
- Unpublished statistics** 17 In some cases Stats SA can also make available statistics which are not published. The statistics can be made available in one or more of the following ways: computer printouts, CD and diskette. Generally a charge is made for providing unpublished statistics.
- Symbols and abbreviations** 18 Stats SA      Statistics South Africa  
 ..              Figures not available  
 -                Nil or not applicable  
 \*                Revised figures
- Rounding-off of figures** 19 When figures have been rounded off discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

## Glossary

<b>Enterprise</b>	An enterprise is a legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its production activities.
<b>Establishment</b>	An establishment is the smallest economic unit that functions as a separate entity. Each statistical unit is classified to an industry.
<b>Percentage change</b>	<p>When using annual data, the percentage change is the change in wholesale trade sales of the relevant year compared to wholesale trade sales of the previous year expressed as a percentage.</p> <p>When using monthly actual values, the percentage change is the change in actual values of wholesale trade sales of the relevant month compared to actual values of wholesale trade sales of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.</p>
<b>Real wholesale trade sales</b>	Real wholesales trade sales represent the estimated total sales of merchandise in the wholesale sector, measured at constant prices (i.e. at the prices ruling in a specific base year).
<b>Reference month</b>	Reference month for the survey refers to one calendar month.
<b>Wholesale trade</b>	Wholesale trade includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to other wholesalers, retailers, agricultural, industrial, commercial, institutional and professional users.
<b>Wholesaler</b>	A wholesaler is an enterprise deriving 50% or more of its turnover from sales of goods to other businesses and institutions.

## General information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

Stats SA has copyright on this publication. Users may apply the information as they wish, provided that they acknowledge Stats SA as the source of the basic data wherever they process, apply, utilise, publish or distribute the data; and also that they specify that the relevant application and analysis (where applicable) result from their own processing of the data.

### Stats SA products

A complete set of Stats SA publications is available at the Stats SA Library and the following libraries:

National Library of South Africa, Pretoria Division  
 National Library of South Africa, Cape Town Division  
 Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg  
 Library of Parliament, Cape Town  
 Bloemfontein Public Library  
 Johannesburg Public Library  
 Eastern Cape Library Services, King William's Town  
 Central Regional Library, Polokwane  
 Central Reference Library, Nelspruit  
 Central Reference Collection, Kimberley  
 Central Reference Library, Mmabatho

Stats SA also provides a subscription service.

### Electronic services

A large range of data are available via on-line services, diskette, CD and computer printouts. For more details about our electronic data services, contact (012) 310 8600//8390/8351/4892/8496/8095.

You can visit us on the Internet at: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za)

### Enquiries

Telephone number: (012) 310 8600//8390/8351/4892/8496/8095 (user information services)  
 (012) 310 8404 (technical enquiries)  
 (012) 310 8161 (orders)  
 (012) 310 8490 (library)

Fax number: (012) 310 8309 (technical enquiries)

Email address: [caiphusr@statssa.gov.za](mailto:caiphusr@statssa.gov.za)  
[henriettef@statssa.gov.za](mailto:henriettef@statssa.gov.za)

Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

*Produced by Stats SA*