

Statistical release P0043

Statistics of liquidations and insolvencies (Preliminary)

December 2010

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Key results for December 2010

Table A - Total number of liquidations

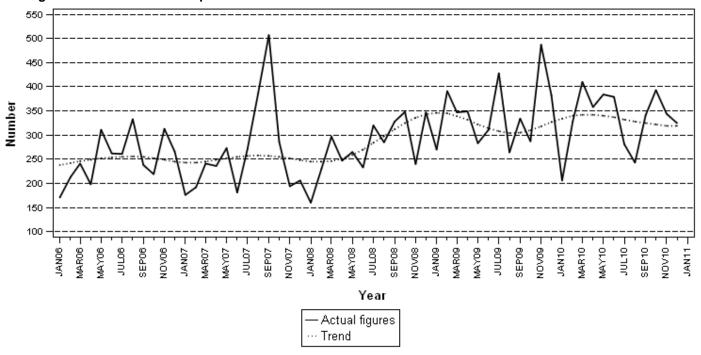
| Number of liquidations December 2010 | % change between December 2009 and December 2010 | % change between October to December 2009 and October to December 2010 | % change between January to December 2009 and January to December 2010 |
|---|---|--|--|
| 325 | -14,9 | -8,1 | -3,4 |

The total number of liquidations for 2010 decreased by 3,4% (from 4 133 to 3 992) compared with 2009. A year-on-year decrease of 14,9% (from 382 to 325) was recorded for December 2010 (see Table A and Tables 6 and 7).

The 3,4% decrease in the total number of liquidations for 2010 was due to decreases of 3,7% in compulsory liquidations (from 295 to 284) and 3,4% in voluntary liquidations (from 3 838 to 3 708) (see Table 2.1 and Table 2.2). Close corporation liquidations decreased by 8,5% (from 2 244 to 2 053) while company liquidations increased by 2,6% (from 1 889 to 1 939) (see Tables 3 and 4).

The highest numbers of liquidations in 2010 were related to businesses in the financing, insurance, real estate and business services industry (1 753 cases or 43,9% of liquidations) and the wholesale and retail trade, catering and accommodation industry (1 122 cases or 28,1% of liquidations) (see Table 1).

Figure 1 – Total number of liquidations



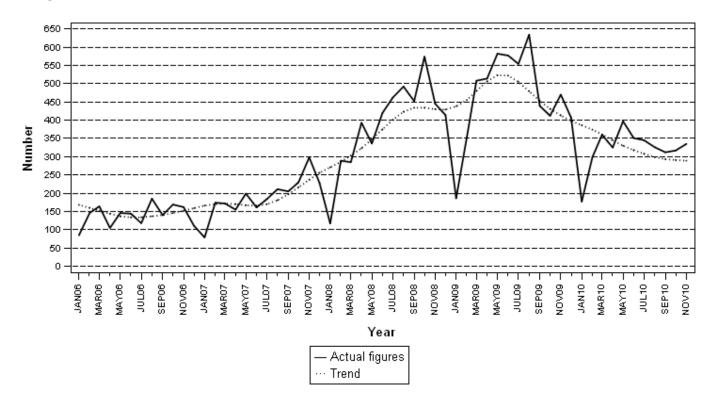
Key findings regarding insolvencies for November 2010

Table B - Total number of insolvencies

| Number of insolvencies November 2010 | % change between November 2009 and November 2010 | % change between September to November 2009 and September to November 2010 | % change between January to November 2009 and January to November 2010 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 335 | -28,7 | -27,0 | -32,2 |

The total number of insolvencies for the first eleven months of 2010 decreased by 32,2% (from 5 229 to 3 544) compared with the first eleven months of 2009. A year-on-year decrease of 28,7% (from 470 to 335) was estimated for November 2010 (see Table B and Tables 8 and 9).

Figure 2 - Total number of insolvencies



PJ Lehohla Statistician-General

Detailed results: Tables

Table 1 – Total number of liquidations according to industry

| | Jan | January - December 2010 | | Dec | ember | 2009 | Nov | ember | 2010 | Dec | ember | 2010 |
|--|-----|----------------------------|-------|-----|-------|-------|-----|-------|-------|-----|-------|-------|
| Industry | С | ٧ | Total | С | ٧ | Total | С | ٧ | Total | С | ٧ | Total |
| 1.Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing | 6 | 44 | 50 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 2.Mining and quarrying | 4 | 17 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 3.Manufacturing | 13 | 199 | 212 | 0 | 13 | 13 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 19 | 23 |
| 4.Electricity, gas and water | 2 | 19 | 21 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5.Construction | 14 | 222 | 236 | 0 | 18 | 18 | 0 | 22 | 22 | 4 | 11 | 15 |
| 6.Wholesale and retail trade, catering and accommodation | 87 | 1 035 | 1 122 | 0 | 93 | 93 | 2 | 76 | 78 | 10 | 66 | 76 |
| 7.Transport, storage, communication | 4 | 158 | 162 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 52 | 52 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 8.Financing, insurance, real estate, business services | 124 | 1 629 | 1 753 | 1 | 198 | 199 | 13 | 72 | 85 | 13 | 128 | 141 |
| 9.Community, social, personal services | 30 | 385 | 415 | 0 | 46 | 46 | 4 | 77 | 81 | 2 | 56 | 58 |
| Total number of liquidations | 284 | 3 708 | 3 992 | 1 | 381 | 382 | 20 | 324 | 344 | 34 | 291 | 325 |

Table 1.1 – Number of liquidations of companies according to industry

| Industry | Jai | nuary - Dece 2010 | ember | Dec | ember 2 | 2009 | November 2010 December 2 | | | 2010 | | |
|--|-----|----------------------|-------|-----|---------|-------|--------------------------|-----|-------|------|-----|-------|
| | С | ٧ | Total | С | ٧ | Total | С | ٧ | Total | С | ٧ | Total |
| 1.Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing | 5 | 23 | 28 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 2.Mining and quarrying | 3 | 14 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 3.Manufacturing | 6 | 79 | 85 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 12 |
| 4.Electricity, gas and water | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5.Construction | 7 | 28 | 35 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 6.Wholesale and retail trade, catering and accommodation | 55 | 476 | 531 | 0 | 49 | 49 | 2 | 59 | 61 | 7 | 28 | 35 |
| 7.Transport, storage, communication | 4 | 43 | 47 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 8.Financing, insurance, real estate, business services | 101 | 912 | 1 013 | 0 | 138 | 138 | 13 | 67 | 80 | 12 | 75 | 87 |
| 9.Community, social, personal services | 13 | 167 | 180 | 0 | 27 | 27 | 0 | 19 | 19 | 2 | 48 | 50 |
| Total number of liquidations | 196 | 1 743 | 1 939 | 0 | 230 | 230 | 15 | 159 | 174 | 30 | 167 | 197 |

Table 1.2 – Number of liquidations of close corporations according to industry

| Industry | Janu | ary - De 2010 | | December 2009 No | | | No | vember | 2010 | December 2010 | | |
|--|------|------------------|-------|------------------|-----|-------|----|--------|-------|---------------|-----|-------|
| | С | V | Total | С | ٧ | Total | С | ٧ | Total | С | ٧ | Total |
| 1.Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing | 1 | 21 | 22 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 2.Mining and quarrying | 1 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3.Manufacturing | 7 | 120 | 127 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 11 |
| 4.Electricity, gas and water | 0 | 18 | 18 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5.Construction | 7 | 194 | 201 | 0 | 13 | 13 | 0 | 21 | 21 | 0 | 9 | 9 |
| 6.Wholesale and retail trade, catering and accommodation | 32 | 559 | 591 | 0 | 44 | 44 | 0 | 17 | 17 | 3 | 38 | 41 |
| 7.Transport, storage, communication | 0 | 115 | 115 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 51 | 51 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 8.Financing, insurance, real estate, business services | 23 | 717 | 740 | 1 | 60 | 61 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 53 | 54 |
| 9.Community, social, personal services | 17 | 218 | 235 | 0 | 19 | 19 | 4 | 58 | 62 | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| Total number of liquidations | 88 | 1 965 | 2 053 | 1 | 151 | 152 | 5 | 165 | 170 | 4 | 124 | 128 |

C = Compulsory.V = Voluntary.

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Table 2 – Total number of liquidations: 2004 to 2010

| Month | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| January | 388 | 328 | 171 | 176 | 160 | 270 | 206 |
| February | 298 | 296 | 213 | 192 | 230 | 391 | 328 |
| March | 301 | 240 | 241 | 241 | 297 | 347 | 410 |
| April | 244 | 279 | 198 | 236 | 247 | 349 | 358 |
| May | 262 | 265 | 311 | 273 | 265 | 283 | 384 |
| June | 301 | 265 | 262 | 181 | 233 | 311 | 379 |
| July | 291 | 318 | 261 | 272 | 320 | 428 | 281 |
| August | 260 | 273 | 333 | 387 | 285 | 264 | 243 |
| September | 437 | 297 | 238 | 507 | 328 | 334 | 341 |
| October | 253 | 234 | 219 | 286 | 348 | 287 | 393 |
| November | 218 | 234 | 313 | 194 | 240 | 487 | 344 |
| December | 257 | 196 | 266 | 206 | 347 | 382 | 325 |
| Year Total | 3 510 | 3 225 | 3 026 | 3 151 | 3 300 | 4 133 | 3 992 |

Table 2.1 – Total number of compulsory liquidations: 2004 to 2010

| Month | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| January | 42 | 30 | 37 | 12 | 29 | 54 | 3 |
| February | 38 | 70 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 26 | 19 |
| March | 57 | 35 | 31 | 12 | 41 | 10 | 23 |
| April | 32 | 18 | 9 | 32 | 22 | 41 | 17 |
| May | 37 | 61 | 20 | 13 | 26 | 26 | 30 |
| June | 63 | 25 | 50 | 9 | 17 | 20 | 12 |
| July | 68 | 84 | 16 | 14 | 13 | 37 | 35 |
| August | 39 | 69 | 46 | 111 | 26 | 49 | 22 |
| September | 83 | 27 | 22 | 47 | 22 | 2 | 20 |
| October | 43 | 40 | 20 | 39 | 48 | 17 | 49 |
| November | 23 | 47 | 56 | 13 | 15 | 12 | 20 |
| December | 39 | 18 | 53 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 34 |
| Year Total | 564 | 524 | 375 | 326 | 276 | 295 | 284 |

Table 2.2 – Total number of voluntary liquidations: 2004 to 2010

| Month | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| January | 346 | 298 | 134 | 164 | 131 | 216 | 203 |
| February | 260 | 226 | 198 | 177 | 215 | 365 | 309 |
| March | 244 | 205 | 210 | 229 | 256 | 337 | 387 |
| April | 212 | 261 | 189 | 204 | 225 | 308 | 341 |
| May | 225 | 204 | 291 | 260 | 239 | 257 | 354 |
| June | 238 | 240 | 212 | 172 | 216 | 291 | 367 |
| July | 223 | 234 | 245 | 258 | 307 | 391 | 246 |
| August | 221 | 204 | 287 | 276 | 259 | 215 | 221 |
| September | 354 | 270 | 216 | 460 | 306 | 332 | 321 |
| October | 210 | 194 | 199 | 247 | 300 | 270 | 344 |
| November | 195 | 187 | 257 | 181 | 225 | 475 | 324 |
| December | 218 | 178 | 213 | 197 | 345 | 381 | 291 |
| Year Total | 2 946 | 2 701 | 2 651 | 2 825 | 3 024 | 3 838 | 3 708 |

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Table 3 – Number of liquidations of companies: 2004 to 2010

| Month | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| January | 191 | 130 | 85 | 99 | 87 | 114 | 96 |
| February | 132 | 154 | 107 | 96 | 117 | 229 | 161 |
| March | 148 | 123 | 127 | 114 | 108 | 152 | 177 |
| April | 119 | 176 | 100 | 143 | 104 | 148 | 176 |
| May | 128 | 122 | 131 | 157 | 108 | 109 | 203 |
| June | 136 | 132 | 140 | 104 | 100 | 147 | 194 |
| July | 132 | 177 | 145 | 129 | 170 | 201 | 128 |
| August | 114 | 124 | 143 | 243 | 98 | 100 | 93 |
| September | 141 | 143 | 122 | 416 | 177 | 162 | 136 |
| October | 126 | 115 | 132 | 175 | 165 | 136 | 204 |
| November | 90 | 95 | 183 | 94 | 111 | 161 | 174 |
| December | 75 | 113 | 167 | 127 | 228 | 230 | 197 |
| Year Total | 1 532 | 1 604 | 1 582 | 1 897 | 1 573 | 1 889 | 1 939 |

Table 3.1 – Number of compulsory liquidations of companies: 2004 to 2010

| Month | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| January | 16 | 6 | 18 | 4 | 8 | 18 | 3 |
| February | 15 | 43 | 4 | 4 | 15 | 11 | 12 |
| March | 32 | 23 | 23 | 5 | 10 | 8 | 19 |
| April | 6 | 13 | 5 | 19 | 8 | 27 | 13 |
| May | 20 | 30 | 5 | 3 | 17 | 9 | 24 |
| June | 16 | 7 | 35 | 2 | 6 | 14 | 3 |
| July | 31 | 62 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 20 | 25 |
| August | 11 | 21 | 11 | 89 | 6 | 10 | 11 |
| September | 33 | 17 | 18 | 34 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| October | 22 | 22 | 13 | 26 | 34 | 10 | 38 |
| November | 12 | 18 | 43 | 7 | 10 | 3 | 15 |
| December | 9 | 13 | 37 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 30 |
| Year Total | 223 | 275 | 218 | 205 | 122 | 131 | 196 |

Table 3.2 – Number of voluntary liquidations of companies: 2004 to 2010

| Month | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| January | 175 | 124 | 67 | 95 | 79 | 96 | 93 |
| February | 117 | 111 | 103 | 92 | 102 | 218 | 149 |
| March | 116 | 100 | 104 | 109 | 98 | 144 | 158 |
| April | 113 | 163 | 95 | 124 | 96 | 121 | 163 |
| May | 108 | 92 | 126 | 154 | 91 | 100 | 179 |
| June | 120 | 125 | 105 | 102 | 94 | 133 | 191 |
| July | 101 | 115 | 139 | 125 | 166 | 181 | 103 |
| August | 103 | 103 | 132 | 154 | 92 | 90 | 82 |
| September | 108 | 126 | 104 | 382 | 174 | 161 | 133 |
| October | 104 | 93 | 119 | 149 | 131 | 126 | 166 |
| November | 78 | 77 | 140 | 87 | 101 | 158 | 159 |
| December | 66 | 100 | 130 | 119 | 227 | 230 | 167 |
| Year Total | 1 309 | 1 329 | 1 364 | 1 692 | 1 451 | 1 758 | 1 743 |

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Table 4 – Number of liquidations of close corporations: 2004 to 2010

| Month | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| January | 197 | 198 | 86 | 77 | 73 | 156 | 110 |
| February | 166 | 142 | 106 | 96 | 113 | 162 | 167 |
| March | 153 | 117 | 114 | 127 | 189 | 195 | 233 |
| April | 125 | 103 | 98 | 93 | 143 | 201 | 182 |
| May | 134 | 143 | 180 | 116 | 157 | 174 | 181 |
| June | 165 | 133 | 122 | 77 | 133 | 164 | 185 |
| July | 159 | 141 | 116 | 143 | 150 | 227 | 153 |
| August | 146 | 149 | 190 | 144 | 187 | 164 | 150 |
| September | 296 | 154 | 116 | 91 | 151 | 172 | 205 |
| October | 127 | 119 | 87 | 111 | 183 | 151 | 189 |
| November | 128 | 139 | 130 | 100 | 129 | 326 | 170 |
| December | 182 | 83 | 99 | 79 | 119 | 152 | 128 |
| Year Total | 1 978 | 1 621 | 1 444 | 1 254 | 1 727 | 2 244 | 2 053 |

Table 4.1 – Number of compulsory liquidations of close corporations: 2004 to 2010

| Month | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| January | 26 | 24 | 19 | 8 | 21 | 36 | 0 |
| February | 23 | 27 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 15 | 7 |
| March | 25 | 12 | 8 | 7 | 31 | 2 | 4 |
| April | 26 | 5 | 4 | 13 | 14 | 14 | 4 |
| May | 17 | 31 | 15 | 10 | 9 | 17 | 6 |
| June | 47 | 18 | 15 | 7 | 11 | 6 | 9 |
| July | 37 | 22 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 17 | 10 |
| August | 28 | 48 | 35 | 22 | 20 | 39 | 11 |
| September | 50 | 10 | 4 | 13 | 19 | 1 | 17 |
| October | 21 | 18 | 7 | 13 | 14 | 7 | 11 |
| November | 11 | 29 | 13 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 5 |
| December | 30 | 5 | 16 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Year Total | 341 | 249 | 157 | 121 | 154 | 164 | 88 |

Table 4.2 – Number of voluntary liquidations of close corporations: 2004 to 2010

| Month | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| January | 171 | 174 | 67 | 69 | 52 | 120 | 110 |
| February | 143 | 115 | 95 | 85 | 113 | 147 | 160 |
| March | 128 | 105 | 106 | 120 | 158 | 193 | 229 |
| April | 99 | 98 | 94 | 80 | 129 | 187 | 178 |
| May | 117 | 112 | 165 | 106 | 148 | 157 | 175 |
| June | 118 | 115 | 107 | 70 | 122 | 158 | 176 |
| July | 122 | 119 | 106 | 133 | 141 | 210 | 143 |
| August | 118 | 101 | 155 | 122 | 167 | 125 | 139 |
| September | 246 | 144 | 112 | 78 | 132 | 171 | 188 |
| October | 106 | 101 | 80 | 98 | 169 | 144 | 178 |
| November | 117 | 110 | 117 | 94 | 124 | 317 | 165 |
| December | 152 | 78 | 83 | 78 | 118 | 151 | 124 |
| Year Total | 1 637 | 1 372 | 1 287 | 1 133 | 1 573 | 2 080 | 1 965 |

Table 5 - Total number of insolvencies of individuals and partnerships: 2004 to 2010

| Month | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 1/ 2009 | 1/ 2010 |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|
| January | 145 | 106 | 85 | * 79 | 117 | 186 | 177 |
| February | 143 | 118 | 146 | 174 | 289 | 353 | 299 |
| March | 247 | 148 | 164 | 172 | 285 | 508 | 360 |
| April | 211 | 124 | 105 | 155 | 393 | 514 | 325 |
| May | 153 | 131 | 146 | 199 | 336 | 582 | 397 |
| June | 187 | 141 | 144 | 161 | 420 | 577 | 351 |
| July | 164 | 122 | 118 | 184 | 462 | 554 | 345 |
| August | 155 | 176 | 185 | 211 | * 492 | 634 | 326 |
| September | 182 | 145 | 140 | 205 | * 452 | 439 | 312 |
| October | 127 | 134 | 169 | 230 | * 574 | 412 | 317 |
| November | 142 | 166 | 162 | 298 | * 445 | 470 | 335 |
| December | 119 | 131 | 111 | 228 | 414 | 407 | |
| Year Total | 1 975 | 1 642 | 1 675 | 2 296 | 4 679 | 5 636 | • |

^{1/} Preliminary.

Table 6 - Percentage change between December 2009 and December 2010 regarding the number of liquidations

| Number of liquidations December 2009 | Number of liquidations December 2010 | % change between December 2009 and December 2010 | Difference between December 2009 and December 2010 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 382 | 325 | -14,9 | -57 |

Table 7 - Percentage change between 2009 and 2010 regarding the number of liquidations

| Number of liquidations January to December 2009 | Number of liquidations January to December 2010 | % change between January to December 2009 and January to December 2010 | Difference between January to December 2009 and January to December 2010 |
|--|--|---|---|
| 4 133 | 3 992 | -3,4 | -141 |

Table 8 – Percentage change between November 2009 and November 2010 regarding the number of insolvencies

| Number of insolvencies November 2009 | Number of insolvencies November 2010 | % change between November 2009 and November 2010 | Difference between November 2009 and November 2010 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 470 | 335 | -28,7 | -135 |

Table 9 – Percentage change between the first eleven months of 2009 and the first eleven months of 2010 regarding the number of insolvencies

| Number of insolvencies January to November 2009 | Number of insolvencies January to November 2010 | % change between January to November 2009 and January to November 2010 | Difference between January to November 2009 and January to November 2010 |
|--|--|---|---|
| 5 229 | 3 544 | -32,2 | -1 685 |

^{*} Revised.

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Explanatory notes

Introduction

- 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) collects administrative information on liquidations from the Registrar of Companies and Close Corporations, Department of Trade and Industry, while information on insolvencies is gathered from Notices of the Master of the Supreme Court which appears in the Government Gazette.
- 2 This statistical release reflects voluntary and compulsory liquidations of companies and close corporations and insolvencies of individuals and partnerships.

Purpose of the 3 survey

- The aggregated data in this release are used by the private and public sectors to measure economic performance and are also an important indicator of the scope of unpaid debt in South Africa.
- 4 Due to insolvencies figures being available late, the data on insolvencies are published a month later than liquidations.

Scope of the survey

- 5 This survey covers
 - the total number of companies and close corporations which were liquidated.
 - the total number of individuals and partnerships placed under final sequestration.

Related publications

- **6** Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from Stats SA -
 - Bulletin of Statistics.
 - SA Statistics.

Symbols and abbreviations

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Stats SA - Statistics South Africa

Glossary

Compulsory liquidation

A compulsory liquidation takes place when the affairs of a company or close corporation are wound up by order of the court.

Insolvency

Insolvency refers to an individual or partnership which is unable to pay its debt and is placed under final sequestration. The number of insolvencies does not refer to the number of persons involved, as a partnership which is unable to pay its debt is regarded as one insolvency, irrespective of the number of partners.

Liquidation

Liquidation refers to the winding-up of the affairs of a company or close corporation when liabilities exceed assets and it can be resolved by voluntary action or by an order of the court.

Voluntary liquidation

A voluntary liquidation takes place when a company or close corporation, by own choice, resolves to wind-up its affairs.

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