

STATISTICAL RELEASE
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Statistics of liquidations and insolvencies
(Preliminary)

January 2019

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Contents

Liquidations: results for January 2019	2
Table A – Number of liquidations.....	2
Figure 1 – Number of liquidations.....	2
Insolvencies: results for December 2018	3
Table B – Number of insolvencies.....	3
Figure 2 – Number of insolvencies.....	3
Tables	4
Table 1 – Total liquidations according to industry (number).....	4
Table 1.1 – Liquidations of companies according to industry (number).....	4
Table 1.2 – Liquidations of close corporations according to industry (number).....	4
Table 2 – Total liquidations (number).....	5
Table 2.1 – Compulsory liquidations (number).....	5
Table 2.2 – Voluntary liquidations (number).....	5
Table 3 – Total liquidations of companies (number).....	6
Table 3.1 – Compulsory liquidations of companies (number).....	6
Table 3.2 – Voluntary liquidations of companies (number).....	6
Table 4 – Total liquidations of close corporations (number).....	7
Table 4.1 – Compulsory liquidations of close corporations (number).....	7
Table 4.2 – Voluntary liquidations of close corporations (number).....	7
Table 5 – Insolvencies of individuals and partnerships (number).....	8
Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted number of insolvencies.....	8
Explanatory notes	9
Glossary	9
Technical enquiries	10
General information	10

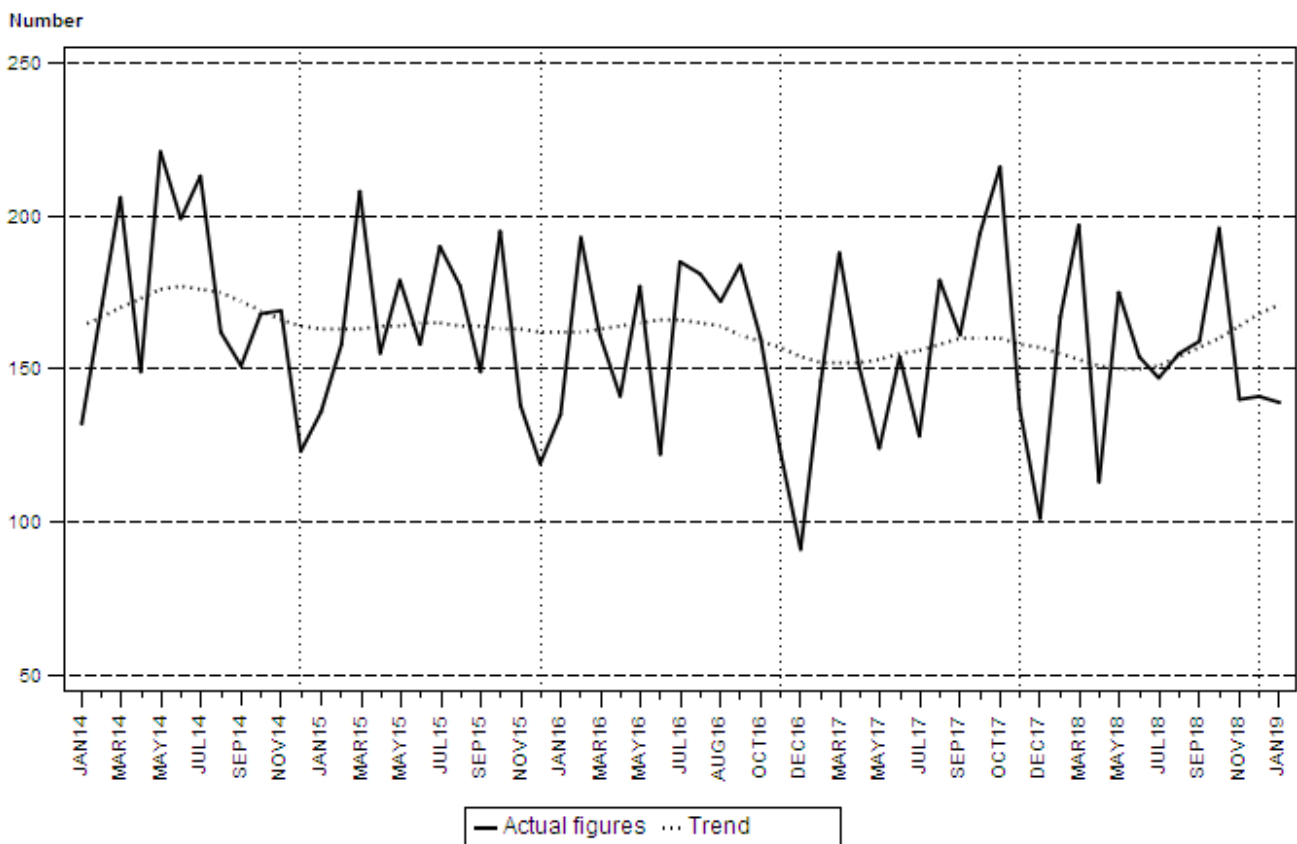
Liquidations: results for January 2019

Table A – Number of liquidations

Number of liquidations January 2019	% change between January 2018 and January 2019	% change between November 2017 to January 2018 and November 2018 to January 2019
139	37,6	-7,5

The total number of liquidations increased by 37,6% (38 more liquidations) in January 2019 compared with January 2018. Voluntary liquidations increased by 32 cases and compulsory liquidations increased by 6 cases during this period. There was a decrease of 7,5% in the three months ended January 2019 compared with the three months ended January 2018.

Figure 1 – Number of liquidations



Insolvencies: results for December 2018

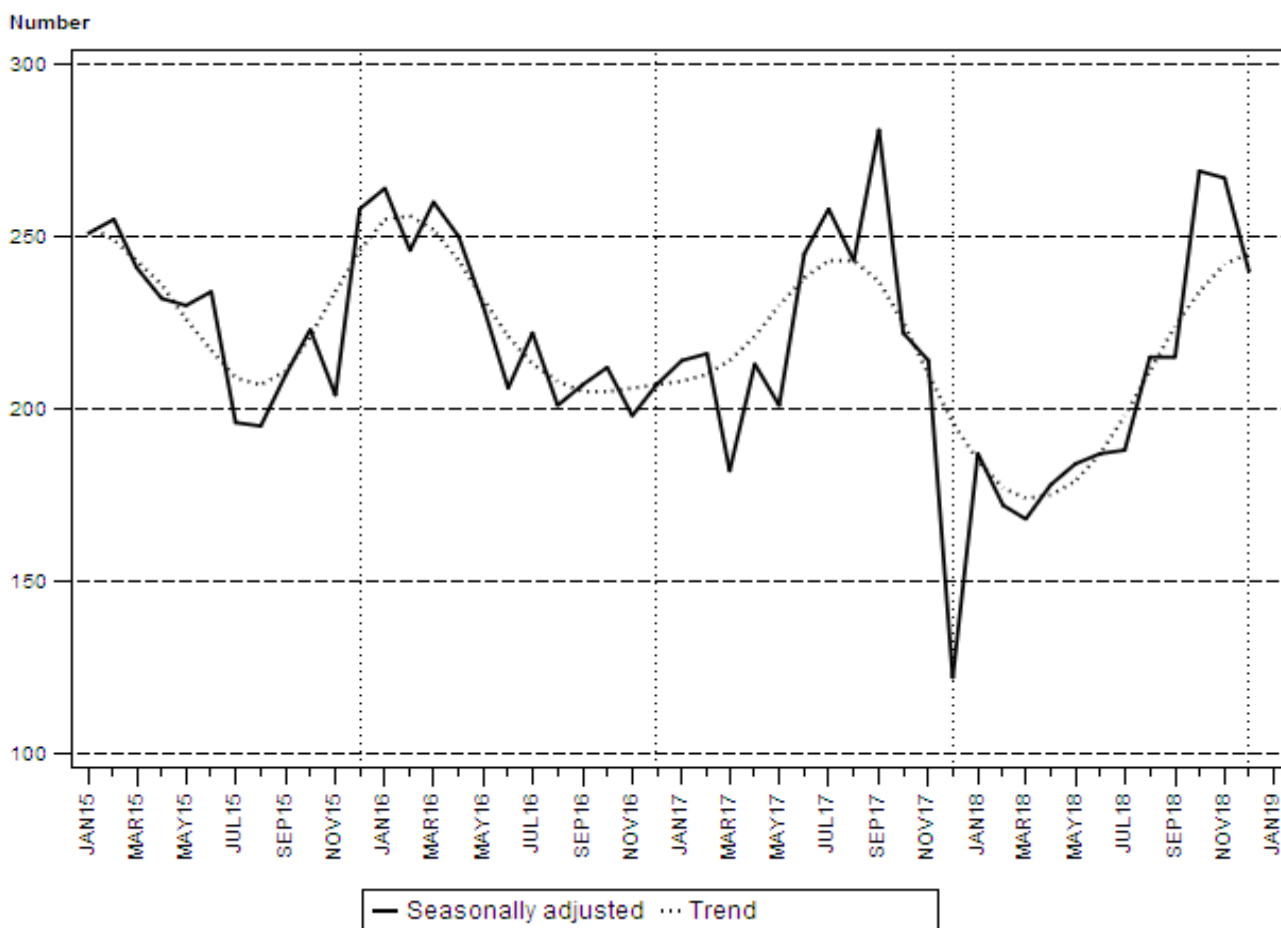
Table B – Number of insolvencies

Number of insolvencies December 2018	% change between December 2017 and December 2018	% change between October to December 2017 and October to December 2018	% change between January to December 2017 and January to December 2018
198	94,1	37,0	-5,6

The estimated number of insolvencies decreased by 5,6% in 2018 compared with 2017. In December 2018 the number of insolvencies increased by 94,1% year-on-year to 198 from a low base of 102 in December 2017. A 37,0% increase was estimated between the fourth quarter of 2017 and the fourth quarter of 2018.

Seasonally adjusted insolvencies decreased by 10,1% in December 2018 compared with November 2018. This followed month-on-month changes of -0,7% in November 2018 and 25,1% in October 2018 – see Table 6.

Figure 2 – Number of insolvencies



Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

Tables

Table 1 – Total liquidations according to industry (number)

Industry	Total 2018			January 2018			December 2018			January 2019		
	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total
1.Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	4	8	12	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	3
2.Mining and quarrying	5	10	15	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0
3.Manufacturing	7	66	73	0	4	4	0	9	9	1	5	6
4.Electricity, gas and water	0	10	10	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
5.Construction	10	81	91	0	3	3	1	7	8	3	9	12
6.Trade, catering and accommodation	30	334	364	2	10	12	0	26	26	3	31	34
7.Transport, storage, communication	3	33	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
8.Financing, insurance, real estate, business services	82	556	638	5	45	50	2	47	49	3	42	45
9.Community, social, personal services	16	132	148	3	9	12	0	5	5	0	6	6
10.Unclassified	42	416	458	1	17	18	3	37	40	5	27	32
Total number of liquidations	199	1 646	1 845	11	90	101	7	134	141	17	122	139

Table 1.1 – Liquidations of companies according to industry (number)

Industry	Total 2018			January 2018			December 2018			January 2019		
	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total
1.Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	2	2	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.Mining and quarrying	3	7	10	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
3.Manufacturing	4	22	26	0	3	3	0	2	2	1	0	1
4.Electricity, gas and water	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.Construction	5	21	26	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	4	4
6.Trade, catering and accommodation	14	124	138	2	5	7	0	10	10	1	8	9
7.Transport, storage, communication	2	12	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.Financing, insurance, real estate, business services	57	293	350	1	35	36	1	33	34	1	23	24
9.Community, social, personal services	3	26	29	1	3	4	0	3	3	0	0	0
10.Unclassified	38	336	374	1	15	16	3	31	34	5	21	26
Total number of liquidations	128	844	972	5	62	67	4	85	89	8	56	64

Table 1.2 – Liquidations of close corporations according to industry (number)

Industry	Total 2018			January 2018			December 2018			January 2019		
	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total
1.Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	2	6	8	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	3
2.Mining and quarrying	2	3	5	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
3.Manufacturing	3	44	47	0	1	1	0	7	7	0	5	5
4.Electricity, gas and water	0	9	9	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
5.Construction	5	60	65	0	3	3	1	2	3	3	5	8
6.Trade, catering and accommodation	16	210	226	0	5	5	0	16	16	2	23	25
7.Transport, storage, communication	1	21	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
8.Financing, insurance, real estate, business services	25	263	288	4	10	14	1	14	15	2	19	21
9.Community, social, personal services	13	106	119	2	6	8	0	2	2	0	6	6
10.Unclassified	4	80	84	0	2	2	0	6	6	0	6	6
Total number of liquidations	71	802	873	6	28	34	3	49	52	9	66	75

C = Compulsory.

V = Voluntary.

Table 2 – Total liquidations (number)

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	245	132	136	135	91	101	139
February	271	171	158	193	146	167	
March	285	206	208	161	188	197	
April	240	149	155	141	150	113	
May	130	221	179	177	124	175	
June	193	199	158	122	154	154	
July	194	213	190	185	128	147	
August	203	162	177	181	179	155	
September	152	151	149	172	161	159	
October	191	168	195	184	194	196	
November	127	169	138	160	216	140	
December	143	123	119	123	137	141	
Total	2 374	2 064	1 962	1 934	1 868	1 845	

Table 2.1 – Compulsory liquidations (number)

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	3	22	13	16	6	11	17
February	26	12	22	13	13	26	
March	53	18	39	14	14	15	
April	17	35	7	24	4	16	
May	9	29	20	14	15	8	
June	16	89	29	10	17	11	
July	18	47	34	25	10	17	
August	19	25	23	9	21	23	
September	13	20	15	29	45	39	
October	9	33	14	20	32	17	
November	4	23	12	14	23	9	
December	24	13	10	12	11	7	
Total	211	366	238	200	211	199	

Table 2.2 – Voluntary liquidations (number)

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	242	110	123	119	85	90	122
February	245	159	136	180	133	141	
March	232	188	169	147	174	182	
April	223	114	148	117	146	97	
May	121	192	159	163	109	167	
June	177	110	129	112	137	143	
July	176	166	156	160	118	130	
August	184	137	154	172	158	132	
September	139	131	134	143	116	120	
October	182	135	181	164	162	179	
November	123	146	126	146	193	131	
December	119	110	109	111	126	134	
Total	2 163	1 698	1 724	1 734	1 657	1 646	

Table 3 – Total liquidations of companies (number)

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	121	74	79	66	42	67	64
February	123	87	80	100	81	94	
March	147	89	101	78	80	92	
April	104	78	70	80	73	64	
May	56	108	87	96	56	109	
June	96	104	90	65	84	74	
July	92	109	93	108	62	77	
August	97	86	87	97	94	68	
September	82	75	79	85	85	65	
October	100	78	88	98	106	102	
November	55	75	59	72	107	71	
December	75	65	56	67	88	89	
Total	1 148	1 028	969	1 012	958	972	

Table 3.1 – Compulsory liquidations of companies (number)

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	3	16	9	9	3	5	8
February	5	7	16	9	12	22	
March	32	6	18	6	6	5	
April	10	24	5	17	3	14	
May	7	20	16	9	5	5	
June	11	54	22	4	11	8	
July	9	26	21	9	4	9	
August	11	20	12	6	14	15	
September	9	13	3	17	25	22	
October	4	22	8	13	23	11	
November	2	6	7	6	9	8	
December	14	8	3	8	8	4	
Total	117	222	140	113	123	128	

Table 3.2 – Voluntary liquidations of companies (number)

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	118	58	70	57	39	62	56
February	118	80	64	91	69	72	
March	115	83	83	72	74	87	
April	94	54	65	63	70	50	
May	49	88	71	87	51	104	
June	85	50	68	61	73	66	
July	83	83	72	99	58	68	
August	86	66	75	91	80	53	
September	73	62	76	68	60	43	
October	96	56	80	85	83	91	
November	53	69	52	66	98	63	
December	61	57	53	59	80	85	
Total	1 031	806	829	899	835	844	

Table 4 – Total liquidations of close corporations (number)

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	124	58	57	69	49	34	75
February	148	84	78	93	65	73	
March	138	117	107	83	108	105	
April	136	71	85	61	77	49	
May	74	113	92	81	68	66	
June	97	95	68	57	70	80	
July	102	104	97	77	66	70	
August	106	76	90	84	85	87	
September	70	76	70	87	76	94	
October	91	90	107	86	88	94	
November	72	94	79	88	109	69	
December	68	58	63	56	49	52	
Total	1 226	1 036	993	922	910	873	

Table 4.1 – Compulsory liquidations of close corporations (number)

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	0	6	4	7	3	6	9
February	21	5	6	4	1	4	
March	21	12	21	8	8	10	
April	7	11	2	7	1	2	
May	2	9	4	5	10	3	
June	5	35	7	6	6	3	
July	9	21	13	16	6	8	
August	8	5	11	3	7	8	
September	4	7	12	12	20	17	
October	5	11	6	7	9	6	
November	2	17	5	8	14	1	
December	10	5	7	4	3	3	
Total	94	144	98	87	88	71	

Table 4.2 – Voluntary liquidations of close corporations (number)

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	124	52	53	62	46	28	66
February	127	79	72	89	64	69	
March	117	105	86	75	100	95	
April	129	60	83	54	76	47	
May	72	104	88	76	58	63	
June	92	60	61	51	64	77	
July	93	83	84	61	60	62	
August	98	71	79	81	78	79	
September	66	69	58	75	56	77	
October	86	79	101	79	79	88	
November	70	77	74	80	95	68	
December	58	53	56	52	46	49	
Total	1 132	892	895	835	822	802	

Table 5 – Insolvencies of individuals and partnerships (number)

Month	1/ 2012	1/ 2013	1/ 2014	1/ 2015	1/ 2016	1/ 2017	1/ 2018
January	294	164	187	168	180	156	138
February	411	269	281	254	244	213	168
March	468	339	323	293	297	225	176
April	351	241	254	220	233	180	171
May	367	316	277	230	237	206	194
June	346	291	267	248	228	270	188
July	331	304	291	214	219	249	192
August	409	349	331	218	233	290	260
September	277	243	261	203	210	262	200
October	298	264	285	234	219	249	308
November	309	274	258	212	208	235	297
December	205	196	211	226	176	102	198
Total	4 066	3 250	3 226	2 720	2 684	2 637	2 490

1/ Preliminary.

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted number of insolvencies

Month	Number				Month-on-month % change			
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018
January	251	264	214	187	-2,3	2,3	3,4	53,3
February	255	246	216	172	1,6	-6,8	0,9	-8,0
March	241	260	182	168	-5,5	5,7	-15,7	-2,3
April	232	250	213	178	-3,7	-3,8	17,0	6,0
May	230	230	201	184	-0,9	-8,0	-5,6	3,4
June	234	206	245	187	1,7	-10,4	21,9	1,6
July	196	222	258	188	-16,2	7,8	5,3	0,5
August	195	201	243	215	-0,5	-9,5	-5,8	14,4
September	210	207	281	215	7,7	3,0	15,6	0,0
October	223	212	222	269	6,2	2,4	-21,0	25,1
November	204	198	214	267	-8,5	-6,6	-3,6	-0,7
December	258	207	122	240	26,5	4,5	-43,0	-10,1

Explanatory notes

- Introduction**
- 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) collects administrative information on liquidations from Companies and Intellectual Property Commission, Department of Trade and Industry, while information on insolvencies is gathered from Notices of the Master of the High Court that appear 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 survey**
- 3 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; and
 - individuals and partnerships placed under final sequestration.
- Symbols and abbreviations**
- 6 Stats SA – Statistics South Africa
- Seasonal adjustment**
- 7 Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month using the X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the US Bureau of the Census, 1968. 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 recognised more clearly. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month.
 - 8 Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variations. This means the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour. The X-12-ARIMA procedure for liquidations and insolvencies is described in more detail on the Stats SA website: [click to download seasonal adjustment P0043 April 2018](#)
- Trend cycle**
- 9 The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-12- ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimate the underlying trend cycle.

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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