

P0043

**Statistics of liquidations
and insolvencies**

March 2003

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Key figures as at the end of March 2003 regarding the number of liquidations

Actual estimates	March 2003	January 2003 to March 2003	% change between March 2002 and March 2003	% change between October 2002 to December 2002 and January 2003 to March 2003	% change between January 2002 to March 2002 and January 2003 to March 2003
Number of liquidations	227	950	-32,0	+19,0	-17,2

Key findings as at the end of March 2003 regarding the number of liquidations

Total number of liquidations decreases

The total number of liquidations recorded for March 2003 decreased by 32,0% (from 334 to 227) compared with March 2002. Furthermore, the total number of liquidations recorded for the first quarter of 2003 decreased by 17,2% (from 1148 to 950) compared with the first quarter of 2002. However, the total number of liquidations recorded for the first quarter of 2003 increased by 19,0% (from 798 to 950) compared with the last quarter of 2002.

The decrease of 32,0% in the total number of liquidations for March 2003 compared with March 2002 was due to a decrease of 32,4% (from 68 to 46) in compulsory and 32,0% (from 266 to 181) in voluntary liquidations.

The increase of 19,0% in the total number of liquidations during the first quarter of 2003 compared with the last quarter of 2002 was due to an increase of 20,2% (from 635 to 763) in voluntary liquidations and 14,7% (from 163 to 187) in compulsory liquidations. Voluntary liquidations of companies increased by 37,9% (from 314 to 433) during the above-mentioned period. Furthermore, compulsory liquidations of close corporations increased by 20,7% (from 87 to 105) during the above-mentioned period.

Key figures as at the end of February 2003 regarding the number of insolvencies

Actual estimates	February 2003	December 2002 to February 2003	% change between February 2002 and February 2003	% change between September 2002 to November 2002 and December 2002 to February 2003	% change between January 2002 to February 2002 and January 2003 to February 2003
Number of insolvencies	88	294	-66,4	-49,7	-61,0

Key findings as at the end of February 2003 regarding the number of insolvencies

Total number of insolvencies decreases

The total number of insolvencies recorded for the three months ended February 2003 decreased by 49,7% (from 585 to 294) compared with the previous three months. Furthermore, the total number of insolvencies for February 2003 decreased by 66,4% (from 262 to 88) compared with February 2002. The total number of insolvencies recorded for the first two months of 2003 decreased by 61,0% (from 472 to 184) compared with the first two months of 2002.

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Forthcoming issues	Issue	Expected release date
	April 2003	29 May 2003
	May 2003	03 July 2003
	June 2003	31 July 2003
	July 2003	28 August 2003
	August 2003	02 October 2003
	September 2003	30 October 2003
	October 2003	27 November 2003
	November 2003	18 December 2003
	December 2003	29 January 2004

Purpose of the survey

The Survey of Liquidations and Insolvencies is a monthly survey covering all liquidations and insolvencies in South Africa (SA). Information on liquidations is obtained from the Registrar of Companies and Close Corporations, Department of Trade and Industry, while information on insolvencies is based on Notices of the Master of the Supreme Court which appears in the Government Gazette. The results of this survey 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.

Additional information

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 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.
- Scope of the survey** 3 This survey covers -
- the total number of companies and close corporations which were liquidated; and
 - the total number of individuals and partnerships placed under final sequestration.
- Related publications** 4 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from Stats SA -
- Bulletin of Statistics.
 - SA Statistics.
- Unpublished statistics** 5 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 printout, CD or diskette. Generally a charge is made for providing unpublished statistics.
- Symbols and abbreviations** 6 CD Compact Disc
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** An 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** A 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 voluntarily 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.

For more information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical 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.

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Table 1- Total number of liquidations according to industry

Industry	2002 Total			March 2002			February 2003			March 2003		
	Compul- sory	Volun- tary	Total	Compul- sory	Volun- tary	Total	Compul- sory	Volun- tary	Total	Compul- sory	Volun- tary	Total
1.Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry & Fishing	11	28	39	2	4	6	4	2	6	1	2	3
2.Mining & Quarrying	29	51	80	1	4	5	2	0	2	0	2	2
3.Manufacturing	107	225	332	13	23	36	11	20	31	8	9	17
4.Electricity, Gas & Water	0	7	7	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
5.Construction	117	254	371	9	19	28	6	16	22	3	13	16
6.Wholesale and Retail Trade, Catering & Accommodation	237	981	1 218	18	80	98	18	76	94	15	53	68
7.Transport, Storage, Communication	43	132	175	5	11	16	2	4	6	0	1	1
8.Financing, Insurance, Real estate, Business Services	241	1 312	1 553	19	112	131	17	121	138	15	85	100
9.Community, Social, Personal Services	40	96	136	1	11	12	5	24	29	4	14	18
Total number of liquidations	825	3 086	3 911	68	266	334	65	263	328	46	181	227

Table 2 - Number of liquidations of companies according to industry

Industry	2002 Total			March 2002			February 2003			March 2003		
	Compul- sory	Volun- tary	Total	Compul- sory	Volun- tary	Total	Compul- sory	Volun- tary	Total	Compul- sory	Volun- tary	Total
1.Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry & Fishing	10	13	23	2	4	6	2	1	3	0	1	1
2.Mining & Quarrying	1	15	16	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
3.Manufacturing	29	108	137	3	16	19	4	14	18	1	6	7
4.Electricity, Gas & Water	0	6	6	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
5.Construction	24	67	91	1	7	8	0	8	8	2	8	10
6.Wholesale and Retail Trade, Catering & Accommodation	115	489	604	9	47	56	6	41	47	4	28	32
7.Transport, Storage, Communication	19	32	51	4	2	6	0	2	2	0	0	0
8.Financing, Insurance, Real estate, Business Services	114	737	851	13	63	76	11	75	86	7	53	60
9.Community, Social, Personal Services	27	52	79	0	10	10	4	19	23	3	12	15
Total number of liquidations of companies	339	1 519	1 858	32	151	183	28	160	188	17	110	127

Table 3 - Number of liquidations of close corporations according to industry

Industry	2002 Total			March 2002			February 2003			March 2003		
	Compul- sory	Volun- tary	Total	Compul- sory	Volun- tary	Total	Compul- sory	Volun- tary	Total	Compul- sory	Volun- tary	Total
1.Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry & Fishing	1	15	16	0	0	0	2	1	3	1	1	2
2.Mining & Quarrying	28	36	64	1	4	5	1	0	1	0	1	1
3.Manufacturing	78	117	195	10	7	17	7	6	13	7	3	10
4.Electricity, Gas & Water	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
5.Construction	93	187	280	8	12	20	6	8	14	1	5	6
6.Wholesale and Retail trade, Catering and Accommodation	122	492	614	9	33	42	12	35	47	11	25	36
7.Transport, Storage, Communication	24	100	124	1	9	10	2	2	4	0	1	1
8.Financing, Insurance, Real estate, Business Services	127	575	702	6	49	55	6	46	52	8	32	40
9.Community, Social, Personal Services	13	44	57	1	1	2	1	5	6	1	2	3
Total number of liquidations of close corporations	486	1 567	2 053	36	115	151	37	103	140	29	71	100

Table 9 - Number of voluntary liquidations of companies: 1991 to 2003

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year-tot	Year-ave
1991	14	15	18	16	16	15	7	15	24	12	11	13	176	15
1992	13	14	10	9	5	16	15	15	15	9	17	16	154	13
1993	17	22	31	14	22	19	23	33	28	25	50	58	342	29
1994	60	77	97	71	120	75	85	94	118	127	174	118	1 216	101
1995	97	106	138	78	84	53	97	88	74	59	40	41	955	80
1996	44	37	43	45	26	44	32	33	41	50	31	23	449	37
1997	50	37	50	37	47	54	33	33	68	67	53	47	576	48
1998	35	46	59	128	52	116	63	48	57	40	116	84	844	70
1999	65	102	95	79	69	68	71	92	96	80	60	51	928	77
2000	59	94	94	79	90	73	57	104	62	85	87	83	967	81
2001	73	102	104	102	115	76	103	111	82	115	146	99	1 228	103
2002	111	166	151	108	105	116	150	156	142	96	81	137	1 519	127
2003	163	160	110											144

Table 10 - Number of liquidations of close corporations: 1991 to 2003

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year-tot	Year-ave
1991	58	30	52	61	49	47	70	102	80	72	47	70	738	62
1992	84	98	165	81	78	91	95	100	108	122	105	90	1 217	101
1993	106	112	140	104	127	146	82	124	103	129	107	96	1 376	115
1994	44	137	78	80	119	104	92	128	144	122	78	89	1 215	101
1995	118	118	156	135	137	104	150	155	114	174	151	38	1 550	129
1996	119	102	123	115	117	142	149	174	151	157	169	58	1 576	131
1997	147	154	200	134	167	179	188	183	131	137	179	154	1 953	163
1998	76	135	145	149	166	221	215	196	191	228	306	105	2 133	178
1999	233	169	167	204	237	183	219	157	264	132	205	104	2 274	190
2000	102	78	85	107	128	210	225	359	397	163	236	89	2 179	182
2001	191	263	185	228	175	165	163	355	201	244	165	150	2 485	207
2002	268	204	151	184	182	152	166	166	172	215	148	45	2 053	171
2003	195	140	100											145

Table 11 - Number of compulsory liquidations of close corporations: 1991 to 2003

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year-tot	Year-ave
1991	56	29	51	59	46	47	67	99	79	67	42	70	712	59
1992	82	86	159	75	71	85	83	95	103	115	103	85	1 142	95
1993	96	110	127	100	120	133	68	111	91	111	73	86	1 226	102
1994	24	94	51	57	89	79	60	97	89	59	36	43	778	65
1995	73	51	95	62	63	45	98	105	84	147	112	18	953	79
1996	98	53	110	88	83	117	125	143	119	110	129	44	1 219	102
1997	93	107	167	104	128	142	133	119	93	94	112	107	1 399	117
1998	37	77	73	107	116	154	151	115	133	160	221	68	1 412	118
1999	175	81	62	90	113	85	97	55	108	37	83	48	1 034	86
2000	53	21	25	38	17	90	45	199	210	23	103	32	856	71
2001	37	97	40	98	40	35	40	218	64	86	39	47	841	70
2002	59	41	36	34	48	40	36	57	48	32	39	16	486	41
2003	39	37	29											35

Table 12 - Number of voluntary liquidations of close corporations: 1991 to 2003

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year-tot	Year-ave
1991	2	1	1	2	3	0	3	3	1	5	5	0	26	2
1992	2	12	6	6	7	6	12	5	5	7	2	5	75	6
1993	10	2	13	4	7	13	14	13	12	18	34	10	150	13
1994	20	43	27	23	30	25	32	31	55	63	42	46	437	36
1995	45	67	61	73	74	59	52	50	30	27	39	20	597	50
1996	21	49	13	27	34	25	24	31	32	47	40	14	357	30
1997	54	47	33	30	39	37	55	64	38	43	67	47	554	46
1998	39	58	72	42	50	67	64	81	58	68	85	37	721	60
1999	58	88	105	114	124	98	122	102	156	95	122	56	1 240	103
2000	49	57	60	69	111	120	180	160	187	140	133	57	1 323	110
2001	154	166	145	130	135	130	123	137	137	158	126	103	1 644	137
2002	209	163	115	150	134	112	130	109	124	183	109	29	1 567	131
2003	156	103	71											110

Table 13 - Total number of insolvencies: 1991 to 2003

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year-tot	Year-ave
1991	271	257	325	320	315	306	369	432	411	448	349	254	4 057	338
1992	369	349	485	435	370	447	414	460	548	480	512	385	5 254	438
1993	379	408	553	386	376	390	377	419	385	379	472	319	4 843	404
1994	336	298	399	237	243	283	323	381	275	256	251	191	3 473	289
1995	246	238	250	210	210	212	194	316	231	240	259	164	2 770	231
1996	224	240	240	217	209	230	268	241	236	253	216	229	2 803	234
1997	194	257	218	272	247	300	323	300	330	310	312	220	3 283	274
1998	203	259	418	345	278	339	326	378	367	416	507	453	4 289	357
1999	354	372	645	475	547	703	471	602	479	525	567	286	6 025	502
2000	284	445	396	401	412	410	381	494	309	385	415	323	4 655	388
2001*	251	304	353	315	387	323	399	373	296	322	315	231	3 869	323
2002*	210	262	257	303	239	229	250	238	201	206	178	110	2 683	224
2003	96*	88^												92

^ Preliminary
* Revised