

P0043

**Statistics of liquidations
and insolvencies**

May 2003

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

Actual estimates	May 2003	March 2003 to May 2003	% change between May 2002 and May 2003	% change between December 2002 to February 2003 and March 2003 to May 2003	% change between January 2002 to May 2002 and January 2003 to May 2003
Number of liquidations	346	932	+15,7	-0,2	-7,6

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

Total number of liquidations increases

The total number of liquidations recorded for May 2003 increased by 15,7% (from 299 to 346) compared with May 2002. However, the total number of liquidations recorded for the three months ended May 2003 decreased by 0,2% (from 934 to 932) compared with the previous three months. Furthermore, the total number of liquidations recorded for the first five months of 2003 decreased by 7,6% (from 1 792 to 1 655) compared with the first five months of 2002.

The increase of 15,7% in the total number of liquidations for May 2003 compared with May 2002 was due to an increase of 23,0% (from 239 to 294) in voluntary liquidations.

The decrease of 7,6% in the total number of liquidations during the first five months of 2003 compared with the first five months of 2002 was due to a decrease of 20,5% (from 380 to 302) in compulsory liquidations and 4,2% (from 1 412 to 1 353) in voluntary liquidations. Compulsory liquidations of companies decreased by 26,2% (from 172 to 127) during the above-mentioned period. Furthermore, voluntary liquidations of close corporations decreased by 15,4% (from 771 to 652) during the above-mentioned period.

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

Actual estimates	April 2003	February 2003 to April 2003	% change between April 2002 and April 2003	% change between November 2002 to January 2003 and February 2003 to April 2003	% change between January 2002 to April 2002 and January 2003 to April 2003
Number of insolvencies	97	308	-68,3	-30,6	-60,3

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

Total number of insolvencies decreases

The total number of insolvencies recorded for the three months ended April 2003 decreased by 30,6% (from 444 to 308) compared with the previous three months. Furthermore, the total number of insolvencies for April 2003 decreased by 68,3% (from 306 to 97) compared with April 2002. The total number of insolvencies recorded for the first four months of 2003 decreased by 60,3% (from 1 039 to 413) compared with the first three months of 2002.

Contents

	Page
Notes	4
Tables	
Table 1 Total number of liquidations according to industry	5
Table 2 Number of liquidations of companies according to industry	5
Table 3 Number of liquidations of close corporations according to industry	6
Table 4 Total number of liquidations: 1991 to 2003.....	6
Table 5 Total number of compulsory liquidations: 1991 to 2003	6
Table 6 Total number of voluntary liquidations: 1991 to 2003	6
Table 7 Number of liquidations of companies: 1991 to 2003.....	6
Table 8 Number of compulsory liquidations of companies: 1991 to 2003	7
Table 9 Number of voluntary liquidations of companies: 1991 to 2003	7
Table 10 Number of liquidations of close corporations: 1991 to 2003	7
Table 11 Number of voluntary liquidations of close corporations: 1991 to 2003.....	7
Table 12 Number of compulsory liquidations of close corporations: 1991 to 2003	7
Table 13 Total number of insolvencies: 1991 to 2003	7
Additional information	
Explanatory notes	8
Glossary	9
For more information	10

Notes

Forthcoming issues	Issue	Expected release date
	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			May 2002			April 2003			May 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	0	0	0	1	5	6	1	2	3
2.Mining & Quarrying	29	51	80	4	3	7	0	1	1	0	0	0
3.Manufacturing	107	225	332	3	14	17	5	19	24	2	28	30
4.Electricity,Gas & Water	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.Construction	117	254	371	17	24	41	10	23	33	4	21	25
6.Wholesale and Retail Trade, Catering & Accommodation	237	981	1 218	14	73	87	23	117	140	16	89	105
7.Transport, Storage, Communication	43	132	175	4	9	13	4	9	13	3	13	16
8.Financing,Insurance, Real estate, Business Services	241	1 312	1 553	16	110	126	18	93	111	19	96	115
9.Community, Social, Personal Services	40	96	136	2	6	8	2	29	31	7	45	52
Total number of liquidations	825	3 086	3 911	60	239	299	63	296	359	52	294	346

Table 2 - Number of liquidations of companies according to industry

Industry	2002 Total			May 2002			April 2003			May 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	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	1
2.Mining & Quarrying	1	15	16	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
3.Manufacturing	29	108	137	1	7	8	1	11	12	1	11	12
4.Electricity,Gas & Water	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.Construction	24	67	91	4	3	7	1	9	10	0	1	1
6.Wholesale and Retail Trade, Catering & Accommodation	115	489	604	3	27	30	7	34	41	11	37	48
7.Transport, Storage, Communication	19	32	51	1	3	4	1	4	5	1	2	3
8.Financing,Insurance, Real estate, Business Services	114	737	851	3	65	68	6	49	55	8	48	56
9.Community, Social, Personal Services	27	52	79	0	0	0	1	24	25	6	35	41
Total number of liquidations of companies	339	1 519	1 858	12	105	117	17	134	151	28	134	162

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

Industry	2002 Total			May 2002			April 2003			May 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	1	3	4	0	2	2
2.Mining & Quarrying	28	36	64	4	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.Manufacturing	78	117	195	2	7	9	4	8	12	1	17	18
4.Electricity,Gas & Water	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.Construction	93	187	280	13	21	34	9	14	23	4	20	24
6.Wholesale and Retail trade,Catering and Accommodation	122	492	614	11	46	57	16	83	99	5	52	57
7.Transport, Storage, Communication	24	100	124	3	6	9	3	5	8	2	11	13
8.Financing,Insurance, Real estate, Business Services	127	575	702	13	45	58	12	44	56	11	48	59
9.Community, Social, Personal Services	13	44	57	2	6	8	1	5	6	1	10	11
Total number of liquidations of close corporations	486	1 567	2 053	48	134	182	46	162	208	24	160	184

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	134	134									140

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	208	184									165

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	46	24									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	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	162	160									130

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	495*	311	385	415	323	4 658	388
2001*	251	304	353	316	388	323	399	373	297	324	316	233	3 877	323
2002*	212	263	258	306	242	234	257	246	213	223	212	127	2 793	231
2003	105	101*	110*	97^										103

^ Preliminary

* Revised