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### STATISTICAL RELEASE P0045

# Quarterly Capital Expenditure (QCE)

March 2024

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The total capital expenditure on new assets measured at current prices, for the quarter ended March 2024 was estimated at R83 158 million, showing a decrease of 12,4% compared with the quarter ended December 2023 (R94 931 million).

Table A – Quarterly capital expenditure	<sup>1</sup> on new assets by category and percentage change

Asset category	March 2023	December 2023 <sup>2</sup>	March 2024 <sup>3</sup>	Difference between March 2024 and December 2023	Difference between March 2024 and March 2023
		R million		%	, D
Buildings and improvements	6 071	5 932	4 642	-21,7	-23,5
Construction works	3 025	7 485	6 752	-9,8	123,2
Vehicles and other transport equipment	10 296	9 209	8 595	-6,7	-16,5
Plant, machinery and equipment	51 119	58 881	51 907	-11,8	1,5
Computer and IT equipment	2 996	3 788	3 955	4,4	32,0
Computer software	2 014	2 375	2 052	-13,6	1,9
Other assets	5 409	7 261	5 255	-27,6	-2,8
Total	80 930	94 931	83 158	-12,4	2,8

<sup>1</sup>Based on aggregates from a panel of selected businesses in the South African economy excluding agriculture, financial intermediation, insurance, pension funding, business services not elsewhere classified, government and educational institutions.

<sup>2</sup> Revised.

<sup>3</sup> Preliminary.

Decreases in capital expenditure on new assets between the fourth quarter of 2023 and the first quarter of 2024 were recorded for 'other' assets (-27,6%), buildings and improvements (-21,7%), computer software (-13,6%), plant, machinery and equipment (-11,8%), construction works (-9,8%) and vehicles and other transport equipment (-6,7%). An increase was recorded for computer and IT equipment (+4,4%).

Total capital expenditure on new assets increased by 2,8% between the first quarter of 2023 and the first quarter of 2024. The largest year-on-year increase in capital expenditure was recorded for construction works (+123,2%), followed by computer and IT equipment (+32,0%), computer software (+1,9%) and plant, machinery and equipment (+1,5%). Decreases were recorded for buildings and improvements (-23,5%), vehicles and other transport equipment (-16,5%) and 'other' assets (-2,8%).

#### Table B – Capital expenditure on new assets by category and percentage contribution<sup>1</sup>

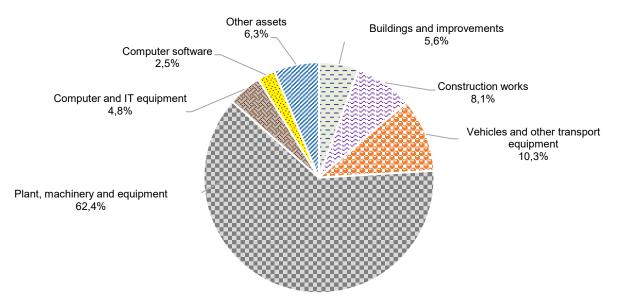
	March 2023		December 2023 <sup>2</sup>		March 2024 <sup>3</sup>	
Asset category	R million	% of total capital expenditure	R million	% of total capital expenditure	R million	% of total capital expenditure
Buildings and improvements	6 071	7,5	5 932	6,2	4 642	5,6
Construction works	3 025	3,7	7 485	7,9	6 752	8,1
Vehicles and other transport equipment	10 296	12,7	9 209	9,7	8 595	10,3
Plant, machinery and equipment	51 119	63,2	58 881	62,0	51 907	62,4
Computer and IT equipment	2 996	3,7	3 788	4,0	3 955	4,8
Computer software	2 014	2,5	2 375	2,5	2 052	2,5
Other assets	5 409	6,7	7 261	7,6	5 255	6,3
Total	80 930	100,0	94 931	100,0	83 158	100,0

<sup>1</sup> The aggregates of the asset category contributions may not add up to totals due to rounding-off.

<sup>2</sup> Revised.

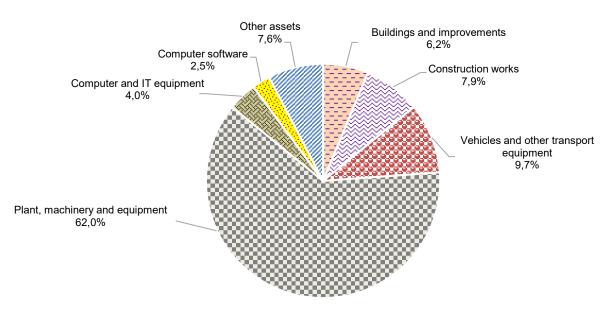
### <sup>3</sup> Preliminary.

### Figure 1 – Percentage contribution per category to total capital expenditure on new assets – quarter ended March 2024



The largest contributor to total capital expenditure on new assets in the quarter ended March 2024 was plant, machinery and equipment (contributing 62,4%), followed by vehicles and other transport equipment (10,3%), construction works (8,1%), 'other' assets (6,3%), buildings and improvements (5,6%), computer and IT equipment (4,8%) and computer software (2,5%).

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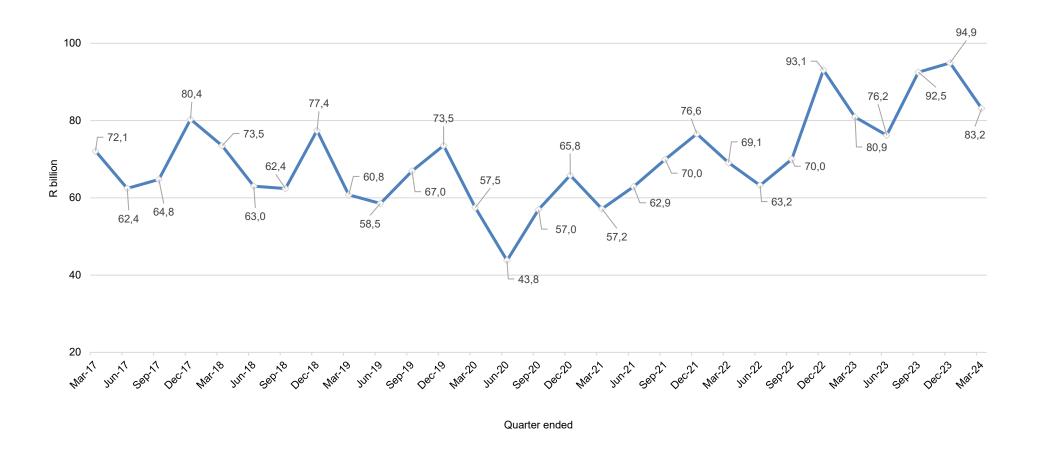


The largest contributor to total capital expenditure on new assets in the quarter ended December 2023 was plant, machinery and equipment (contributing 62,0%), followed by vehicles and other transport equipment (9,7%), construction works (7,9%), 'other' assets (7,6%), buildings and improvements (6,2%), computer and IT equipment (4,0%) and computer software (2,5%).

Luleke

Risenga Maluleke Statistician-General





<sup>1</sup>Based on aggregates from a panel of selected businesses in the South African economy excluding agriculture, financial intermediation, insurance, pension funding, business services not elsewhere classified, government and educational institutions.

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### **Detailed tables**

Quarter	Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing	Electricity, gas and water supply	Transport, storage and communication	Other industries	Total industries	
	R million						
Mar-17	12 866	6 431	27 453	16 548	8 790	72 088	
Jun-17	14 411	8 388	17 697	13 682	8 271	62 449	
Sep-17	15 321	10 500	17 322	14 292	7 325	64 760	
Dec-17	18 772	15 330	16 138	18 873	11 248	80 361	
Mar-18	18 175	8 194	18 499	19 373	9 253	73 494	
Jun-18	17 378	11 613	12 978	11 616	9 444	63 029	
Sep-18	17 032	9 353	12 998	13 086	9 946	62 415	
Dec-18	20 568	12 855	13 180	19 295	11 529	77 427	
Mar-19	16 110	7 824	13 790	14 360	8 692	60 776	
Jun-19	17 704	11 929	10 157	10 299	8 456	58 545	
Sep-19	18 650	11 529	10 940	16 761	9 094	66 974	
Dec-19	24 373	15 973	10 615	13 306	9 262	73 529	
Mar-20	15 099	8 557	8 523	15 950	9 344	57 473	
Jun-20	12 990	6 990	8 810	10 097	4 895	43 782	
Sep-20	16 522	8 425	11 830	15 121	5 090	56 988	
Dec-20	18 191	12 132	11 077	16 494	7 936	65 830	
Mar-21	14 626	7 768	12 019	14 713	8 034	57 160	
Jun-21	19 446	15 757	9 889	9 092	8 726	62 910	
Sep-21	20 277	15 589	10 622	10 862	12 613	69 963	
Dec-21	22 446	11 520	9 936	21 857	10 835	76 594	
Mar-22	16 736	9 805	10 904	19 877	11 809	69 131	
Jun-22	23 060	10 247	8 468	10 931	10 508	63 214	
Sep-22	21 813	11 518	8 740	15 151	12 749	69 971	
Dec-22	25 619	21 295	12 037	21 214	12 922	93 087	
Mar-23	20 064	10 633	12 724	23 894	13 615	80 930	
Jun-23	27 755	11 919	8 352	16 430	11 763	76 219	
Sep-23	28 929	19 902	9 086	20 796	13 827	92 540	
Dec-23 <sup>1</sup>	32 577	17 017	9 799	21 188	14 350	94 931	
Mar-24 <sup>2</sup>	22 659	12 737	16 360	17 772	13 630	83 158	

<sup>1</sup> Revised. <sup>2</sup> Preliminary.

## Table 2 – Quarterly total capital expenditure on new assets for selected industries: quarter-on-quarter percentage change

Quarter	Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing	Electricity, gas and water supply	Transport, storage and communication	Other industries	Total industries	
	<u>%</u>						
Jun-17	12,0	30,4	-35,5	-17,3	-5,9	-13,4	
Sep-17	6,3	25,2	-2,1	4,5	-11,4	3,7	
Dec-17	22,5	46,0	-6,8	32,1	53,6	24,1	
Mar-18	-3,2	-46,5	14,6	2,6	-17,7	-8,5	
Jun-18	-4,4	41,7	-29,8	-40,0	2,1	-14,2	
Sep-18	-2,0	-19,5	0,2	12,7	5,3	-1,0	
Dec-18	20,8	37,4	1,4	47,4	15,9	24,1	
Mar-19	-21,7	-39,1	4,6	-25,6	-24,6	-21,5	
Jun-19	9,9	52,5	-26,3	-28,3	-2,7	-3,7	
Sep-19	5,3	-3,4	7,7	62,7	7,5	14,4	
Dec-19	30,7	38,5	-3,0	-20,6	1,8	9,8	
Mar-20	-38,1	-46,4	-19,7	19,9	0,9	-21,8	
Jun-20	-14,0	-18,3	3,4	-36,7	-47,6	-23,8	
Sep-20	27,2	20,5	34,3	49,8	4,0	30,2	
Dec-20	10,1	44,0	-6,4	9,1	55,9	15,5	
Mar-21	-19,6	-36,0	8,5	-10,8	1,2	-13,2	
Jun-21	33,0	102,8	-17,7	-38,2	8,6	10,1	
Sep-21	4,3	-1,1	7,4	19,5	44,5	11,2	
Dec-21	10,7	-26,1	-6,5	101,2	-14,1	9,5	
Mar-22	-25,4	-14,9	9,7	-9,1	9,0	-9,7	
Jun-22	37,8	4,5	-22,3	-45,0	-11,0	-8,6	
Sep-22	-5,4	12,4	3,2	38,6	21,3	10,7	
Dec-22	17,4	84,9	37,7	40,0	1,4	33,0	
Mar-23	-21,7	-50,1	5,7	12,6	5,4	-13,1	
Jun-23	38,3	12,1	-34,4	-31,2	-13,6	-5,8	
Sep-23	4,2	67,0	8,8	26,6	17,5	21,4	
Dec-23	12,6	-14,5	7,8	1,9	3,8	2,6	
Mar-24	-30,4	-25,2	67,0	-16,1	-5,0	-12,4	

Quarter	Buildings and improve- ments	Construc- tion works	Vehicles and other transport equipment	Plant, machinery and equipment	Computer and IT equipment	Computer software	Other assets	Total assets
	R million							
Mar-17	4 401	801	5 412	55 297	1 705	2 705	1 767	72 088
Jun-17	4 697	1 245	3 094	46 619	2 943	1 393	2 458	62 449
Sep-17	4 183	858	3 082	50 072	2 884	1 723	1 958	64 760
Dec-17	7 471	962	3 714	58 513	3 095	2 936	3 670	80 361
Mar-18	2 711	1 185	4 283	54 049	1 161	2 656	7 449	73 494
Jun-18	4 906	2 034	4 337	44 467	1 114	2 027	4 144	63 029
Sep-18	4 010	2 073	4 570	43 747	3 421	1 710	2 884	62 415
Dec-18	4 125	2 751	3 325	47 289	10 995	4 165	4 777	77 427
Mar-19	3 716	1 110	3 504	42 838	3 223	1 807	4 578	60 776
Jun-19	2 735	2 282	3 676	42 274	2 844	1 830	2 904	58 545
Sep-19	3 759	2 203	2 840	46 076	5 548	1 271	5 277	66 974
Dec-19	8 399	5 329	3 034	51 822	1 592	1 267	2 086	73 529
Mar-20	5 193	2 012	2 850	42 453	2 717	1 688	560	57 473
Jun-20	2 500	1 579	2 466	33 794	1 706	1 476	261	43 782
Sep-20	3 394	2 119	1 482	44 624	2 655	1 746	968	56 988
Dec-20	4 788	2 318	3 508	50 978	2 384	1 351	503	65 830
Mar-21	2 270	2 182	5 076	44 661	1 608	1 208	155	57 160
Jun-21	4 610	2 146	4 779	48 618	864	1 326	567	62 910
Sep-21	2 990	1 743	4 028	58 278	861	1 450	613	69 963
Dec-21	4 699	2 159	4 655	59 951	1 178	2 341	1 611	76 594
Mar-22	4 067	2 239	4 883	53 841	1 020	2 090	991	69 131
Jun-22	5 117	2 731	5 168	46 062	1 115	1 381	1 640	63 214
Sep-22	4 512	2 470	4 934	51 134	1 350	2 656	2 915	69 971
Dec-22	5 788	3 233	8 348	62 420	2 926	4 213	6 159	93 087
Mar-23	6 071	3 025	10 296	51 119	2 996	2 014	5 409	80 930
Jun-23	5 592	4 637	4 456	49 952	2 173	2 156	7 253	76 219
Sep-23	12 342	5 267	11 064	51 754	1 991	3 672	6 450	92 540
Dec-231	5 932	7 485	9 209	58 881	3 788	2 375	7 261	94 931
Mar-24 <sup>2</sup>	4 642	6 752	8 595	51 907	3 955	2 052	5 255	83 158

### Table 3 – Quarterly total capital expenditure on new assets by category: R million

<sup>1</sup> Revised. <sup>2</sup> Preliminary.

Quarter	Buildings and improve- ments	Construc- tion works	Vehicles and other transport equipment	Plant, machinery and equipment	Computer and IT equipment	Computer software	Other assets	Total assets		
	%									
Jun-17	6,7	55,4	-42,8	-15,7	72,6	-48,5	39,1	-13,4		
Sep-17	-10,9	-31,1	-0,4	7,4	-2,0	23,7	-20,3	3,7		
Dec-17	78,6	12,1	20,5	16,9	7,3	70,4	87,4	24,1		
Mar-18	-63,7	23,2	15,3	-7,6	-62,5	-9,5	103,0	-8,5		
Jun-18	81,0	71,6	1,3	-17,7	-4,0	-23,7	-44,4	-14,2		
Sep-18	-18,3	1,9	5,4	-1,6	207,1	-15,6	-30,4	-1,0		
Dec-18	2,9	32,7	-27,2	8,1	221,4	143,6	65,6	24,1		
Mar-19	-9,9	-59,7	5,4	-9,4	-70,7	-56,6	-4,2	-21,5		
Jun-19	-26,4	105,6	4,9	-1,3	-11,8	1,3	-36,6	-3,7		
Sep-19	37,4	-3,5	-22,7	9,0	95,1	-30,5	81,7	14,4		
Dec-19	123,4	141,9	6,8	12,5	-71,3	-0,3	-60,5	9,8		
Mar-20	-38,2	-62,2	-6,1	-18,1	70,7	33,2	-73,2	-21,8		
Jun-20	-51,9	-21,5	-13,5	-20,4	-37,2	-12,6	-53,4	-23,8		
Sep-20	35,8	34,2	-39,9	32,0	55,6	18,3	270,9	30,2		
Dec-20	41,1	9,4	136,7	14,2	-10,2	-22,6	-48,0	15,5		
Mar-21	-52,6	-5,9	44,7	-12,4	-32,6	-10,6	-69,2	-13,2		
Jun-21	103,1	-1,6	-5,9	8,9	-46,3	9,8	265,8	10,1		
Sep-21	-35,1	-18,8	-15,7	19,9	-0,3	9,4	8,1	11,2		
Dec-21	57,2	23,9	15,6	2,9	36,8	61,4	162,8	9,5		
Mar-22	-13,4	3,7	4,9	-10,2	-13,4	-10,7	-38,5	-9,7		
Jun-22	25,8	22,0	5,8	-14,4	9,3	-33,9	65,5	-8,6		
Sep-22	-11,8	-9,6	-4,5	11,0	21,1	92,3	77,7	10,7		
Dec-22	28,3	30,9	69,2	22,1	116,7	58,6	111,3	33,0		
Mar-23	4,9	-6,4	23,3	-18,1	2,4	-52,2	-12,2	-13,1		
Jun-23	-7,9	53,3	-56,7	-2,3	-27,5	7,1	34,1	-5,8		
Sep-23	120,7	13,6	148,3	3,6	-8,4	70,3	-11,1	21,4		
Dec-23	-51,9	42,1	-16,8	13,8	90,3	-35,3	12,6	2,6		
Mar-24	-21,7	-9,8	-6,7	-11,8	4,4	-13,6	-27,6	-12,4		

### Table 4 – Quarterly total capital expenditure on new assets by category: quarter-on-quarter percentage change

### **Explanatory notes**

Background	This statistical release consists of aggregates of actual quarterly capital expenditure by selected enterprises operating in the formal business sector of the South African economy excluding agriculture, financial intermediation, insurance, government and educational institutions. The aggregates are generated from data collected through the <i>Quarterly capital expenditure</i> (QCE) survey conducted by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA).
	<ul> <li>The statistical release contains information regarding quarterly capital expenditure trends for the following asset categories:</li> <li>buildings and improvements;</li> <li>construction works;</li> <li>vehicles and other transport equipment;</li> <li>plant, machinery and equipment;</li> <li>computer and IT equipment;</li> <li>computer software; and</li> <li>other assets.</li> </ul>
Purpose of the survey	The purpose of the QCE survey is to collect data on new capital expenditure by asset type that is used in compiling gross fixed capital formation, which is a component of expenditure on gross domestic product (GDP). The survey is designed to improve the timeliness of capital information provided by respondents and quality gaps by focusing on a panel of large businesses, including providing data on expanded asset categories.
Scope of the survey	<ul> <li>The QCE survey covers the capital expenditure of the large businesses operating in the following industries according to the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities</i> (SIC), Fifth edition, January 1993:</li> <li>mining and quarrying;</li> <li>manufacturing;</li> <li>electricity, gas and water supply;</li> <li>construction;</li> <li>trade;</li> <li>transport, storage and communication;</li> <li>activities auxiliary to financial intermediation, real estate and other business services (excluding financial intermediation, insurance, pension funding and business services not elsewhere classified); and</li> <li>community, social and personal services (excluding government and educational institutions).</li> </ul>
	interest.
Classification	The 1993 edition of the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities</i> (SIC), Fifth edition, January 1993, was used to classify the enterprises in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities</i> (ISIC) with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Statistics in this publication are only presented at an industry level, i.e. one-digit level (SIC major division). Each enterprise is classified to an industry which reflects the predominant activity of the enterprise.
Statistical unit	The statistical unit for the collection of information in this survey is the enterprise, defined as a legal unit or combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its activities.

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Survey methodology and design

The panel is selected from the data reported in the *Annual financial statistics* (AFS) survey (statistical release P0021). The design of the QCE survey is based on a panel of predominantly large enterprises with respect to reported total capital expenditure. The panel was chosen based on the largest contributors to capital expenditure up to a cumulative 85% of total capital expenditure in the AFS. The rationale for using the AFS mainly relates to the large sample of the AFS, and the expectation that the panel-based aggregates will be benchmarked to AFS levels. A new panel was selected in 2023 and implemented in the December 2023 statistical release.

The release presents aggregates for selected industries that have a material contribution to the total capital expenditure on new property, plant and equipment (PPE) and intangible assets.

Distribution of panel members across different industries:

Industry	Number of enterprises in the panel
Mining and quarrying	70
Manufacturing	96
Electricity, gas and water supply	8
Construction	9
Trade	50
Transport, storage and communication	44
Activities auxiliary to financial intermediation, real estate and other business services	44
Community, social and personal services, excluding government and educational institutions	10
Total panel	331

Capital expenditure comprises the total cost of an item of property, plant and equipment (PPE) and intangible assets.

According to IAS 16, the cost of PPE includes all costs necessary to bring the asset to working condition for its intended use. Items included in the cost of PPE are:

- acquiring fixed and, in some cases, intangible assets;
- repairing an existing asset so as to improve its useful life;
  - upgrading an existing asset if it results in a superior fixture;
- preparing an asset to be used in business;
- restoring property or adapting it to a new or different use; and
- starting or acquiring a new business.

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The QFS survey results comprise weighted estimates generated from a sample survey, and the QCE survey results comprise aggregates of capital expenditure reported by a selected panel of large enterprises. Refer to the explanatory note on survey methodology and design.

The results from the capital expenditure survey represent aggregates from a panel of large private businesses.

Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and totals.

**Capital expenditure** 

Data comparison: Quarterly financial statistics (QFS) survey and Quarterly capital expenditure (QCE) survey

Aggregates

Rounding-off of figures

Revised figures	Revised figures are mainly due to late submission of data to Stats SA, or respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures. The reasons for routine revisions are outlined in the following schedule. Any unscheduled revisions will be promptly indicated in relevant tables to maintain transparency and accuracy.					
	Statistical release	Reason for revision	Period subject to revision			
	Mar-24	Additional information from respondents	Dec-23			
	Jun-24	Additional information from respondents	Mar-24			
	Sep-24	Additional information from respondents	Jun-24			
	Dec-24	Additional information from respondents	Sep-24			
Collection rate		inary collection rate for the quarter revised collection rate for the quarte				
Imputations	Data that are not received at the time of publishing the results are imputed using the expected values reported by enterprises in the previous quarter's submission and historical data method. Mean imputations are used where there are no historical enterprise data available.					
Glossary						
Buildings and improvements		et category consists of residential bu and improvements conducted on bu				
Capital expenditure	Any expenditure incurred or incidental to the acquisition or improvement of land, buildings, engineering structures and machinery and equipment and intangible assets.					
Computer and IT equipment	<ul> <li>A physical electronics device that is capable of instructing the computer to execute various electronic functions. This asset category includes, but is not limited to, the following asset categories:</li> <li>computers;</li> <li>IT equipment;</li> <li>peripherals;</li> <li>built-in process computers;</li> <li>support equipment; and</li> <li>data processing equipment.</li> </ul>					
Computer software	<ul> <li>This asset category includes, but is not limited to, the following categories:</li> <li>licence fees paid for standardised software; and</li> <li>software developed for a specific function and unique to the process/organisation.</li> </ul>					
Enterprise	Legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its production activities.					

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Machinery, plant and equipm	<ul> <li>This asset category includes, but is not limited to, the following asset categories:</li> <li>plant;</li> <li>machinery;</li> <li>equipment;</li> <li>production assets;</li> <li>furniture and fittings;</li> <li>furnaces;</li> <li>kilns;</li> <li>earthmoving equipment;</li> <li>containers;</li> <li>printers;</li> <li>fax machines;</li> <li>copiers;</li> <li>underground mining equipment; and</li> <li>reconditionable spares.</li> </ul>
Property, plant and equipmer	t These are tangible assets that an enterprise holds for its own use and expects to use during more than one financial year.
Other assets	<ul> <li>Other assets include, but are not limited to, the following asset categories:</li> <li>research and development;</li> <li>mineral exploration and evaluation;</li> <li>patents and trademarks;</li> <li>goodwill and marketing assets;</li> <li>entertainment, artistic and literary originals;</li> <li>contracts, leases and licences;</li> <li>capital work in progress;</li> <li>concession assets;</li> <li>refractory relines;</li> <li>right of use assets not elsewhere classified; and</li> <li>shutdown costs capitalised.</li> </ul>
Vehicles and other transport equipment	<ul> <li>This asset category includes, but is not limited to, the following asset categories:</li> <li>vehicles;</li> <li>trucks;</li> <li>aircraft;</li> <li>boats;</li> <li>trailers; and</li> <li>locomotives and other transport equipment.</li> </ul>
Symbols and abbreviations	
	AFSAnnual financial statisticsIASInternational accounting standardISICInternational Standard Industrial ClassificationRRandSICStandard Industrial Classification of All Economic ActivitiesStats SAStatistics South AfricaQCEQuarterly capital expenditureQFSQuarterly financial statistics

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