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## **STATISTICAL RELEASE**

### **P0043**

# Statistics of liquidations and insolvencies (Preliminary)

May 2021

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### Liquidations: results for May 2021

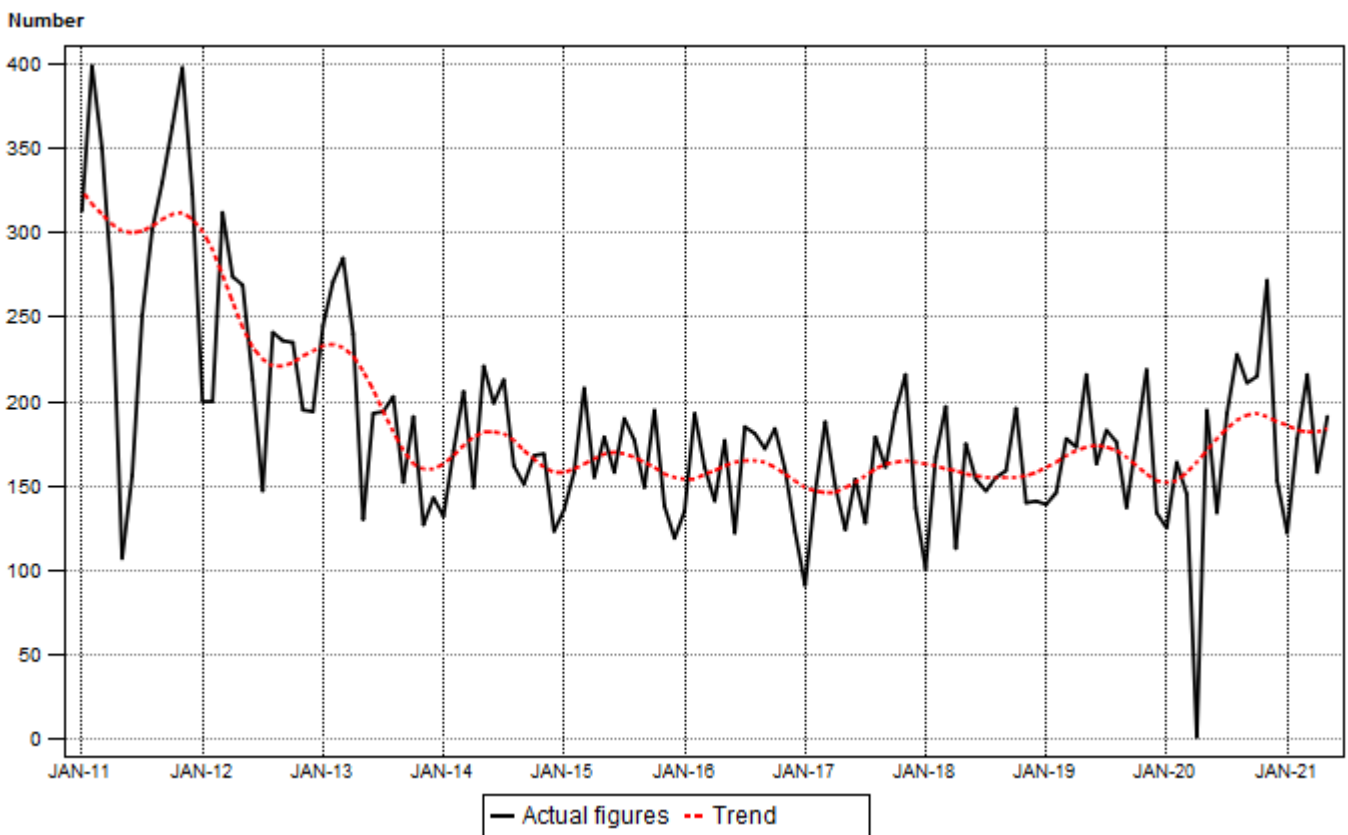
Table A – Number of liquidations

Number of liquidations May 2021	% change between May 2020 and May 2021	% change between March to May 2020 and March to May 2021	% change between January to May 2020 and January to May 2021
191	-2,1	66,2	37,5

The total number of liquidations recorded decreased by 2,1% in May 2021 compared with May 2020. Voluntary liquidations decreased by 7 cases while compulsory liquidations increased by 3 cases.

The total number of liquidations increased by 37,5% in the first five months of 2021 compared with the first five months of 2020.

Figure 1 – Number of liquidations



## Insolvencies: results for April 2021

**Table B – Number of insolvencies**

Number of insolvencies April 2021	% change between April 2020 and April 2021	% change between February to April 2020 and February to April 2021	% change between January to April 2020 and January to April 2021
2	-71,4	-52,0	-48,2

The estimated number of insolvencies decreased by 71,4% in April 2021 compared with April 2020. A 48,2% decrease was estimated in the first four months of 2021 compared with the first four months of 2020.

Seasonally adjusted insolvencies decreased by 97,2% in April 2021 compared with March 2021. This followed month-on-month changes of 18,9% in March 2021 and -43,4% in February 2021 – see Table 6.

**Figure 2 – Number of insolvencies**



**Risenga Maluleke  
Statistician-General**

## Tables

**Table 1 – Total liquidations according to industry (number)**

Industry	January – May 2021			May 2020			April 2021			May 2021		
	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total
1.Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	1	8	9	0	1	1	0	4	4	1	1	2
2.Mining and quarrying	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
3.Manufacturing	1	38	39	1	8	9	1	3	4	0	9	9
4.Electricity, gas and water	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
5.Construction	3	30	33	1	8	9	0	2	2	1	6	7
6.Trade, catering and accommodation	18	169	187	4	37	41	3	39	42	2	40	42
7.Transport, storage, communication	3	19	22	0	4	4	1	2	3	0	7	7
8.Financing, insurance, real estate, business services	28	250	278	7	51	58	1	41	42	9	50	59
9.Community, social, personal services	5	53	58	1	10	11	1	10	11	1	13	14
10.Unclassified	23	209	232	3	59	62	6	41	47	6	44	50
<b>Total number of liquidations</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>191</b>

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

Industry	January – May 2021			May 2020			April 2021			May 2021		
	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total
1.Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	1	4	5	0	0	0	0	3	3	1	0	1
2.Mining and quarrying	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
3.Manufacturing	1	16	17	0	4	4	1	1	2	0	4	4
4.Electricity, gas and water	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
5.Construction	1	9	10	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	3	3
6.Trade, catering and accommodation	6	55	61	1	19	20	1	15	16	1	13	14
7.Transport, storage, communication	0	7	7	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2
8.Financing, insurance, real estate, business services	17	128	145	4	25	29	1	17	18	6	26	32
9.Community, social, personal services	1	7	8	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	1
10.Unclassified	21	174	195	3	50	53	6	31	37	6	39	45
<b>Total number of liquidations</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>103</b>

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

Industry	January – May 2021			May 2020			April 2021			May 2021		
	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total
1.Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	0	4	4	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
2.Mining and quarrying	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
3.Manufacturing	0	22	22	1	4	5	0	2	2	0	5	5
4.Electricity, gas and water	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.Construction	2	21	23	0	7	7	0	1	1	1	3	4
6.Trade, catering and accommodation	12	114	126	3	18	21	2	24	26	1	27	28
7.Transport, storage, communication	3	12	15	0	3	3	1	2	3	0	5	5
8.Financing, insurance, real estate, business services	11	122	133	3	26	29	0	24	24	3	24	27
9.Community, social, personal services	4	46	50	1	9	10	1	8	9	1	12	13
10.Unclassified	2	35	37	0	9	9	0	10	10	0	5	5
<b>Total number of liquidations</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>88</b>

C = Compulsory.

V = Voluntary.

**Table 2 – Total liquidations (number)**

Month	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	136	135	91	101	139	125	122
February	158	193	146	167	146	164	178
March	208	161	188	197	178	145	216
April	155	141	150	113	173	0	158
May	179	177	124	175	216	195	191
June	158	122	154	154	163	134	
July	190	185	128	147	183	193	
August	177	181	179	155	176	228	
September	149	172	161	159	137	211	
October	195	184	194	196	178	215	
November	138	160	216	140	219	272	
December	119	123	137	141	134	153	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 962</b>	<b>1 934</b>	<b>1 868</b>	<b>1 845</b>	<b>2 042</b>	<b>2 035</b>	

**Table 2.1 – Compulsory liquidations (number)**

Month	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	13	16	6	11	17	29	20
February	22	13	13	26	14	10	12
March	39	14	14	15	10	8	18
April	7	24	4	16	35	0	13
May	20	14	15	8	31	17	20
June	29	10	17	11	24	12	
July	34	25	10	17	23	17	
August	23	9	21	23	16	13	
September	15	29	45	39	11	20	
October	14	20	32	17	15	36	
November	12	14	23	9	50	81	
December	10	12	11	7	12	19	
<b>Total</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>262</b>	

**Table 2.2 – Voluntary liquidations (number)**

Month	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	123	119	85	90	122	96	102
February	136	180	133	141	132	154	166
March	169	147	174	182	168	137	198
April	148	117	146	97	138	0	145
May	159	163	109	167	185	178	171
June	129	112	137	143	139	122	
July	156	160	118	130	160	176	
August	154	172	158	132	160	215	
September	134	143	116	120	126	191	
October	181	164	162	179	163	179	
November	126	146	193	131	169	191	
December	109	111	126	134	122	134	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 724</b>	<b>1 734</b>	<b>1 657</b>	<b>1 646</b>	<b>1 784</b>	<b>1 773</b>	

**Table 3 – Total liquidations of companies (number)**

Month	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	79	66	42	67	64	72	63
February	80	100	81	94	78	83	93
March	101	78	80	92	96	85	111
April	70	80	73	64	89	0	81
May	87	96	56	109	114	110	103
June	90	65	84	74	85	80	
July	93	108	62	77	108	115	
August	87	97	94	68	78	135	
September	79	85	85	65	82	118	
October	88	98	106	102	98	119	
November	59	72	107	71	119	150	
December	56	67	88	89	68	97	
<b>Total</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>1 012</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>1 079</b>	<b>1 164</b>	

**Table 3.1 – Compulsory liquidations of companies (number)**

Month	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	9	9	3	5	8	16	12
February	16	9	12	22	7	1	5
March	18	6	6	5	5	4	8
April	5	17	3	14	16	0	9
May	16	9	5	5	19	9	14
June	22	4	11	8	13	11	
July	21	9	4	9	16	12	
August	12	6	14	15	5	9	
September	3	17	25	22	6	13	
October	8	13	23	11	8	21	
November	7	6	9	8	30	46	
December	3	8	8	4	2	14	
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>156</b>	

**Table 3.2 – Voluntary liquidations of companies (number)**

Month	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	70	57	39	62	56	56	51
February	64	91	69	72	71	82	88
March	83	72	74	87	91	81	103
April	65	63	70	50	73	0	72
May	71	87	51	104	95	101	89
June	68	61	73	66	72	69	
July	72	99	58	68	92	103	
August	75	91	80	53	73	126	
September	76	68	60	43	76	105	
October	80	85	83	91	90	98	
November	52	66	98	63	89	104	
December	53	59	80	85	66	83	
<b>Total</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>1 008</b>	

**Table 4 – Total liquidations of close corporations (number)**

Month	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	57	69	49	34	75	53	59
February	78	93	65	73	68	81	85
March	107	83	108	105	82	60	105
April	85	61	77	49	84	0	77
May	92	81	68	66	102	85	88
June	68	57	70	80	78	54	
July	97	77	66	70	75	78	
August	90	84	85	87	98	93	
September	70	87	76	94	55	93	
October	107	86	88	94	80	96	
November	79	88	109	69	100	122	
December	63	56	49	52	66	56	
<b>Total</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>871</b>	

**Table 4.1 – Compulsory liquidations of close corporations (number)**

Month	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	4	7	3	6	9	13	8
February	6	4	1	4	7	9	7
March	21	8	8	10	5	4	10
April	2	7	1	2	19	0	4
May	4	5	10	3	12	8	6
June	7	6	6	3	11	1	
July	13	16	6	8	7	5	
August	11	3	7	8	11	4	
September	12	12	20	17	5	7	
October	6	7	9	6	7	15	
November	5	8	14	1	20	35	
December	7	4	3	3	10	5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>106</b>	

**Table 4.2 – Voluntary liquidations of close corporations (number)**

Month	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	53	62	46	28	66	40	51
February	72	89	64	69	61	72	78
March	86	75	100	95	77	56	95
April	83	54	76	47	65	0	73
May	88	76	58	63	90	77	82
June	61	51	64	77	67	53	
July	84	61	60	62	68	73	
August	79	81	78	79	87	89	
September	58	75	56	77	50	86	
October	101	79	79	88	73	81	
November	74	80	95	68	80	87	
December	56	52	46	49	56	51	
<b>Total</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>765</b>	



**Table 5 – Insolvencies of individuals and partnerships (number)**

Month	1/ 2015	1/ 2016	1/ 2017	1/ 2018	1/ 2019	1/ 2020	1/ 2021
January	168	180	156	138	166	189	113
February	254	244	213	177	237	226	90
March	293	297	225	176	229	175	104
April	224	233	180	171	168	7	2
May	231	237	206	194	203	42	
June	254	228	270	188	232	113	
July	214	219	249	192	345	104	
August	224	233	290	260	340	138	
September	207	210	262	200	248	153	
October	245	219	249	308	357	189	
November	213	208	235	297	317	293	
December	226	176	122	198	168	223	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 753</b>	<b>2 684</b>	<b>2 657</b>	<b>2 499</b>	<b>3 010</b>	<b>1 852</b>	

1/ Preliminary.

**Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted number of insolvencies**

Month	Number				Month-on-month % change			
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	181	211	239	159	19,1	-15,6	13,3	-40,0
February	178	238	233	90	-1,7	12,8	-2,5	-43,4
March	182	240	185	107	2,2	0,8	-20,6	18,9
April	195	213	9	3	7,1	-11,3	-95,1	-97,2
May	202	216	50		3,6	1,4	455,6	
June	191	247	115		-5,4	14,4	130,0	
July	184	314	90		-3,7	27,1	-21,7	
August	206	277	117		12,0	-11,8	30,0	
September	214	255	152		3,9	-7,9	29,9	
October	241	265	143		12,6	3,9	-5,9	
November	243	268	241		0,8	1,1	68,5	
December	250	211	265		2,9	-21,3	10,0	

## Explanatory notes

- Introduction**
- 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) collects administrative information on liquidations from Companies and Intellectual Property Commission, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, 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](#)
- Note:** Owing to the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown, additive outlier adjustments were performed. The methodology will be reviewed as more data points are added to the time series.
- 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

<b>Compulsory liquidation</b>	A compulsory liquidation takes place when the affairs of a company or close corporation are wound up by order of the court.
<b>Insolvency</b>	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.
<b>Liquidation</b>	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.
<b>Voluntary liquidation</b>	A voluntary liquidation takes place when a company or close corporation, by own choice, resolves to wind-up its affairs.

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