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## **STATISTICAL RELEASE**

### **P0043**

# Statistics of liquidations and insolvencies (Preliminary)

January 2022

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**ENQUIRIES:**  
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## Contents

<b>Liquidations: results for January 2022</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Table A – Number of liquidations.....	2
Figure 1 – Number of liquidations.....	2
<b>Insolvencies</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Tables</b> .....	<b>4</b>
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
<b>Explanatory notes</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Glossary</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Technical enquiries</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>General information</b> .....	<b>11</b>

## Liquidations: results for January 2022

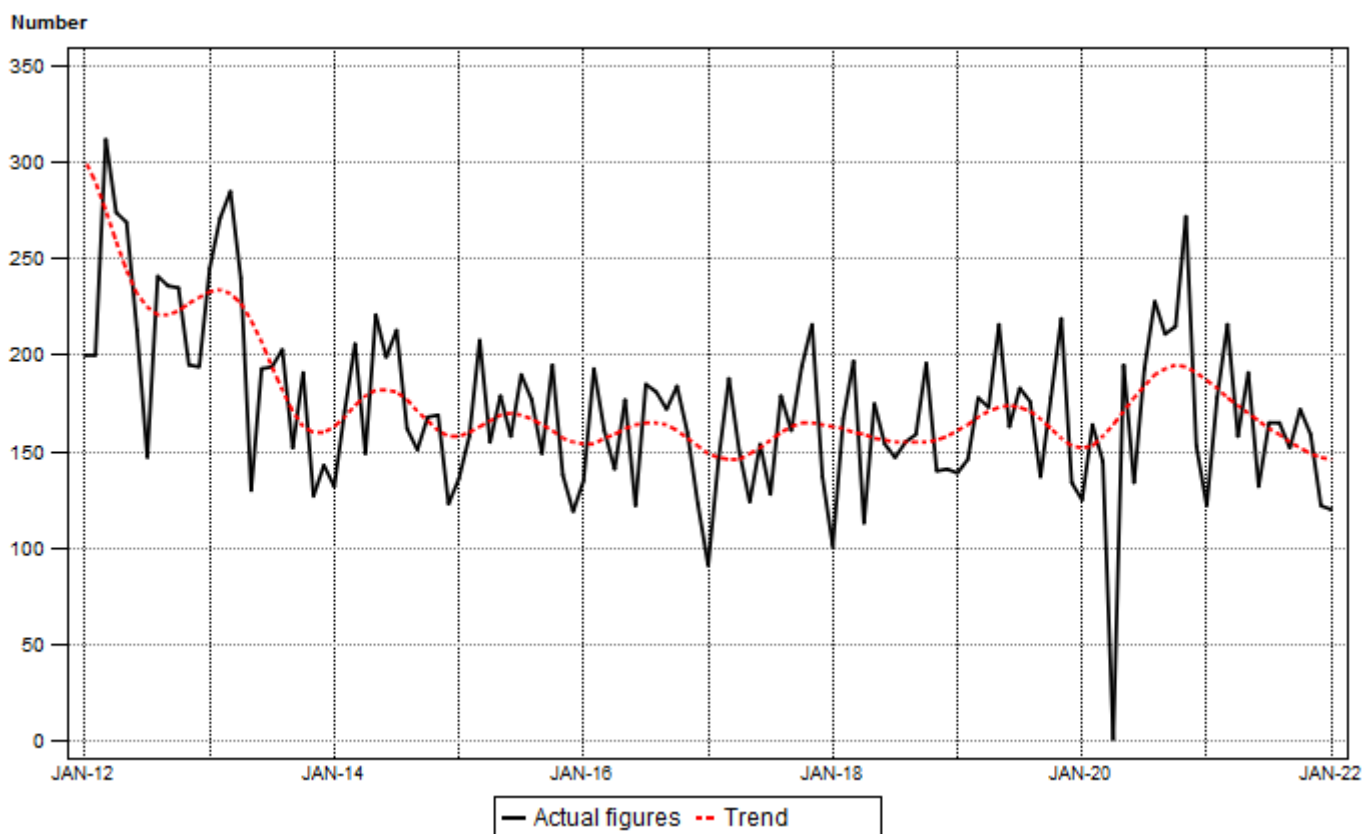
**Table A – Number of liquidations**

Number of liquidations January 2022	% change between January 2021 and January 2022	% change between November 2020 to January 2021 and November 2021 to January 2022
120	-1,6	-26,7

The total number of liquidations decreased by 1,6% in January 2022 compared with January 2021. Liquidations of close corporations decreased by 24 cases, while liquidations of companies increased by 22 cases during this period – see Tables 3 and 4.

The total number of liquidations decreased by 26,7% in the three months ended January 2022 compared with the three months ended January 2021.

**Figure 1 – Number of liquidations**



## Insolvencies

Owing to a cyber attack on the Department of Justice, source information for insolvencies is not available after August 2021 (see Tables 5 and 6). The time series has been discontinued until further notice.

Users of the liquidations and insolvencies data are kindly requested to send their contact details (see below) to Ms Joyce Essel-Mensah at [JoyceE@statssa.gov.za](mailto:JoyceE@statssa.gov.za):

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**Risenga Maluleke**  
**Statistician-General**

## Tables

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

Industry	Total 2021			January 2021			December 2021			January 2022		
	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total
1.Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	1	14	15	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	2
2.Mining and quarrying	1	10	11	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1
3.Manufacturing	3	72	75	0	8	8	0	8	8	1	8	9
4.Electricity, gas and water	3	7	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
5.Construction	9	62	71	1	8	9	0	4	4	6	4	10
6.Trade, catering and accommodation	32	382	414	3	19	22	1	27	28	2	19	21
7.Transport, storage, communication	5	43	48	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	0	0
8.Financing, insurance, real estate, business services	62	563	625	10	29	39	3	34	37	7	33	40
9.Community, social, personal services	7	150	157	2	6	8	0	7	7	0	5	5
10.Unclassified	47	459	506	4	28	32	4	30	34	3	27	30
<b>Total number of liquidations</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>1 762</b>	<b>1 932</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>120</b>

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

Industry	Total 2021			January 2021			December 2021			January 2022		
	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total
1.Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	1	7	8	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.Mining and quarrying	1	7	8	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
3.Manufacturing	2	28	30	0	2	2	0	5	5	0	6	6
4.Electricity, gas and water	2	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.Construction	1	16	17	1	0	1	0	3	3	5	1	6
6.Trade, catering and accommodation	14	154	168	2	10	12	1	11	12	1	13	14
7.Transport, storage, communication	1	16	17	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
8.Financing, insurance, real estate, business services	39	297	336	6	13	19	2	19	21	2	24	26
9.Community, social, personal services	2	26	28	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	2	2
10.Unclassified	42	396	438	2	23	25	4	26	30	3	27	30
<b>Total number of liquidations</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>1 057</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>85</b>

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

Industry	Total 2021			January 2021			December 2021			January 2022		
	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total
1.Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2
2.Mining and quarrying	0	3	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.Manufacturing	1	44	45	0	6	6	0	3	3	1	2	3
4.Electricity, gas and water	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
5.Construction	8	46	54	0	8	8	0	1	1	1	3	4
6.Trade, catering and accommodation	18	228	246	1	9	10	0	16	16	1	6	7
7.Transport, storage, communication	4	27	31	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
8.Financing, insurance, real estate, business services	23	266	289	4	16	20	1	15	16	5	9	14
9.Community, social, personal services	5	124	129	1	6	7	0	5	5	0	3	3
10.Unclassified	5	63	68	2	5	7	0	4	4	0	0	0
<b>Total number of liquidations</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>35</b>

C = Compulsory.

V = Voluntary.

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

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	135	91	101	139	125	122	120
February	193	146	167	146	164	178	
March	161	188	197	178	145	216	
April	141	150	113	173	0	158	
May	177	124	175	216	195	191	
June	122	154	154	163	134	132	
July	185	128	147	183	193	165	
August	181	179	155	176	228	165	
September	172	161	159	137	211	152	
October	184	194	196	178	215	172	
November	160	216	140	219	272	159	
December	123	137	141	134	153	122	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 934</b>	<b>1 868</b>	<b>1 845</b>	<b>2 042</b>	<b>2 035</b>	<b>1 932</b>	

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

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	16	6	11	17	29	20	22
February	13	13	26	14	10	12	
March	14	14	15	10	8	18	
April	24	4	16	35	0	13	
May	14	15	8	31	17	20	
June	10	17	11	24	12	12	
July	25	10	17	23	17	12	
August	9	21	23	16	13	10	
September	29	45	39	11	20	7	
October	20	32	17	15	36	18	
November	14	23	9	50	81	20	
December	12	11	7	12	19	8	
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>170</b>	

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

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	119	85	90	122	96	102	98
February	180	133	141	132	154	166	
March	147	174	182	168	137	198	
April	117	146	97	138	0	145	
May	163	109	167	185	178	171	
June	112	137	143	139	122	120	
July	160	118	130	160	176	153	
August	172	158	132	160	215	155	
September	143	116	120	126	191	145	
October	164	162	179	163	179	154	
November	146	193	131	169	191	139	
December	111	126	134	122	134	114	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 734</b>	<b>1 657</b>	<b>1 646</b>	<b>1 784</b>	<b>1 773</b>	<b>1 762</b>	

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

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	66	42	67	64	72	63	85
February	100	81	94	78	83	93	
March	78	80	92	96	85	111	
April	80	73	64	89	0	81	
May	96	56	109	114	110	103	
June	65	84	74	85	80	68	
July	108	62	77	108	115	94	
August	97	94	68	78	135	84	
September	85	85	65	82	118	83	
October	98	106	102	98	119	98	
November	72	107	71	119	150	104	
December	67	88	89	68	97	75	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 012</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>1 079</b>	<b>1 164</b>	<b>1 057</b>	

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

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	9	3	5	8	16	12	12
February	9	12	22	7	1	5	
March	6	6	5	5	4	8	
April	17	3	14	16	0	9	
May	9	5	5	19	9	14	
June	4	11	8	13	11	8	
July	9	4	9	16	12	6	
August	6	14	15	5	9	6	
September	17	25	22	6	13	5	
October	13	23	11	8	21	16	
November	6	9	8	30	46	9	
December	8	8	4	2	14	7	
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>105</b>	

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

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	57	39	62	56	56	51	73
February	91	69	72	71	82	88	
March	72	74	87	91	81	103	
April	63	70	50	73	0	72	
May	87	51	104	95	101	89	
June	61	73	66	72	69	60	
July	99	58	68	92	103	88	
August	91	80	53	73	126	78	
September	68	60	43	76	105	78	
October	85	83	91	90	98	82	
November	66	98	63	89	104	95	
December	59	80	85	66	83	68	
<b>Total</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>1 008</b>	<b>952</b>	

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

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	69	49	34	75	53	59	35
February	93	65	73	68	81	85	
March	83	108	105	82	60	105	
April	61	77	49	84	0	77	
May	81	68	66	102	85	88	
June	57	70	80	78	54	64	
July	77	66	70	75	78	71	
August	84	85	87	98	93	81	
September	87	76	94	55	93	69	
October	86	88	94	80	96	74	
November	88	109	69	100	122	55	
December	56	49	52	66	56	47	
<b>Total</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>875</b>	

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

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	7	3	6	9	13	8	10
February	4	1	4	7	9	7	
March	8	8	10	5	4	10	
April	7	1	2	19	0	4	
May	5	10	3	12	8	6	
June	6	6	3	11	1	4	
July	16	6	8	7	5	6	
August	3	7	8	11	4	4	
September	12	20	17	5	7	2	
October	7	9	6	7	15	2	
November	8	14	1	20	35	11	
December	4	3	3	10	5	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>65</b>	

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

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	62	46	28	66	40	51	25
February	89	64	69	61	72	78	
March	75	100	95	77	56	95	
April	54	76	47	65	0	73	
May	76	58	63	90	77	82	
June	51	64	77	67	53	60	
July	61	60	62	68	73	65	
August	81	78	79	87	89	77	
September	75	56	77	50	86	67	
October	79	79	88	73	81	72	
November	80	95	68	80	87	44	
December	52	46	49	56	51	46	
<b>Total</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>810</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	226	233	180	171	173	7	72
May	233	237	206	194	203	42	110
June	254	228	270	188	232	113	280
July	214	219	249	192	345	104	268
August	224	233	290	260	340	138	244
September	208	210	262	200	248	153	
October	246	219	249	308	357	189	
November	215	208	235	297	317	293	
December	226	176	126	198	168	223	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 761</b>	<b>2 684</b>	<b>2 661</b>	<b>2 499</b>	<b>3 015</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	16,0	-15,3	14,4	-39,5
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	197	219	9	92	8,2	-8,8	-95,1	-14,0
May	203	217	51	136	3,0	-0,9	466,7	47,8
June	191	246	115	283	-5,9	13,4	125,5	108,1
July	184	313	89	239	-3,7	27,2	-22,6	-15,5
August	206	277	117	201	12,0	-11,5	31,5	-15,9
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	249	209	263		2,5	-22,0	9,1	

## 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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