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STATISTICAL RELEASE

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Statistics of liquidations (Preliminary)

January 2026

Statistics South Africa regularly engages with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission to ensure the accuracy of statistics. This allows for an assessment of the current survey's scope and other areas of improvement. Following these discussions, a revised time series is under development and will be published as soon as it becomes available.

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Liquidations: results for January 2026

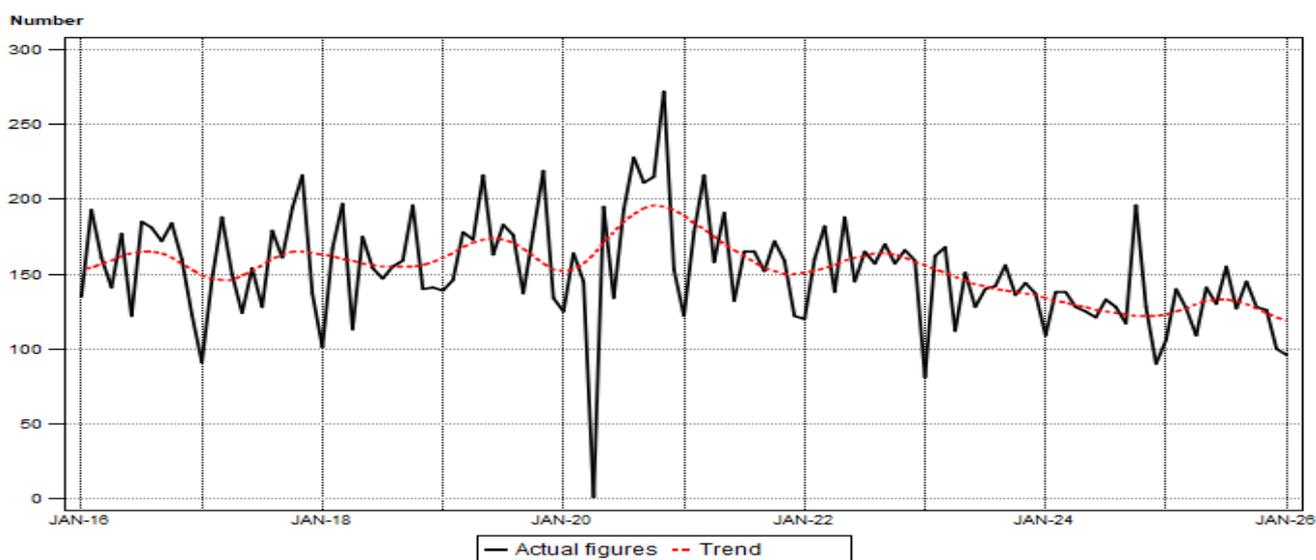
Table A – Key growth rates in the number of liquidations

Number of liquidations Jan 2026	% change between Jan 2025 and Jan 2026	% change between Nov 2024 to Jan 2025 and Nov 2025 to Jan 2026
96	-9,4	-0,6

The total number of liquidations decreased by 9,4% (from 106 to 96) in January 2026 compared with January 2025. Liquidations of close corporations decreased by 23 cases, while liquidations of companies increased by 13 cases during this period – see Table 1.1 and Table 1.2.

The total number of liquidations decreased by 0,6% (from 324 to 322) in the three months ended January 2026 compared with the three months ended January 2025.

Figure 1 – Number of liquidations



Risenga Maluleke
Risenga Maluleke
 Statistician-General

Tables

Table 1 – Total liquidations according to industry (number)

Industry	Total 2025			Jan 2025			Dec 2025			Jan 2026		
	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total
1.Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	6	10	16	0	0	0	1	4	5	1	0	1
2.Mining and quarrying	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
3.Manufacturing	7	49	56	0	3	3	0	1	1	0	2	2
4.Electricity, gas and water	1	6	7	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.Construction	11	58	69	0	4	4	0	2	2	0	6	6
6.Trade, catering and accommodation	40	258	298	3	15	18	2	16	18	2	16	18
7.Transport, storage, communication	4	22	26	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
8.Financing, insurance, real estate, business services	56	447	503	5	35	40	0	20	20	3	23	26
9.Community, social, personal services	14	71	85	2	3	5	1	4	5	0	1	1
10.Unclassified	54	417	471	8	25	33	7	42	49	4	36	40
Total number of liquidations	193	1 341	1 534	19	87	106	11	89	100	10	86	96

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

Industry	Total 2025			Jan 2025			Dec 2025			Jan 2026		
	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total
1.Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	4	7	11	0	0	0	0	4	4	1	0	1
2.Mining and quarrying	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
3.Manufacturing	1	20	21	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	2
4.Electricity, gas and water	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.Construction	1	16	17	0	3	3	0	1	1	0	2	2
6.Trade, catering and accommodation	19	95	114	2	6	8	1	5	6	1	8	9
7.Transport, storage, communication	1	7	8	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.Financing, insurance, real estate, business services	29	217	246	1	14	15	0	12	12	2	14	16
9.Community, social, personal services	2	14	16	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
10.Unclassified	50	350	400	7	18	25	7	40	47	4	35	39
Total number of liquidations	108	728	836	11	46	57	8	63	71	8	62	70

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

Industry	Total 2025			Jan 2025			Dec 2025			Jan 2026		
	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total
1.Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	2	3	5	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
2.Mining and quarrying	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.Manufacturing	6	29	35	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.Electricity, gas and water	0	6	6	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.Construction	10	42	52	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	4	4
6.Trade, catering and accommodation	21	163	184	1	9	10	1	11	12	1	8	9
7.Transport, storage, communication	3	15	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
8.Financing, insurance, real estate, business services	27	230	257	4	21	25	0	8	8	1	9	10
9.Community, social, personal services	12	57	69	2	0	2	1	4	5	0	1	1
10.Unclassified	4	67	71	1	7	8	0	2	2	0	1	1
Total number of liquidations	85	613	698	8	41	49	3	26	29	2	24	26

C = Compulsory.

V = Voluntary.

Table 2 – Total liquidations (number)

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
January	125	122	120	81	109	106	96
February	164	178	160	162	138	140	
March	145	216	182	168	138	127	
April	0	158	138	112	128	109	
May	195	191	188	151	125	141	
June	134	132	145	128	121	130	
July	193	165	165	140	133	155	
August	228	165	157	142	128	127	
September	211	152	170	156	117	145	
October	215	172	157	136	196	128	
November	272	159	166	144	128	126	
December	153	122	159	137	90	100	
Total	2 035	1 932	1 907	1 657	1 551	1 534	

Table 2.1 – Compulsory liquidations (number)

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
January	29	20	22	7	11	19	10
February	10	12	22	39	14	14	
March	8	18	25	33	13	22	
April	0	13	22	13	25	11	
May	17	20	25	17	11	19	
June	12	12	15	12	17	13	
July	17	12	17	13	13	14	
August	13	10	13	14	11	19	
September	20	7	20	18	10	20	
October	36	18	27	16	24	18	
November	81	20	15	13	27	13	
December	19	8	7	5	7	11	
Total	262	170	230	200	183	193	

Table 2.2 – Voluntary liquidations (number)

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
January	96	102	98	74	98	87	86
February	154	166	138	123	124	126	
March	137	198	157	135	125	105	
April	0	145	116	99	103	98	
May	178	171	163	134	114	122	
June	122	120	130	116	104	117	
July	176	153	148	127	120	141	
August	215	155	144	128	117	108	
September	191	145	150	138	107	125	
October	179	154	130	120	172	110	
November	191	139	151	131	101	113	
December	134	114	152	132	83	89	
Total	1 773	1 762	1 677	1 457	1 368	1 341	

Table 3 – Total liquidations of companies (number)

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
January	72	63	85	43	71	57	70
February	83	93	96	91	75	73	
March	85	111	112	79	66	76	
April	0	81	61	63	69	62	
May	110	103	75	91	74	86	
June	80	68	79	70	67	75	
July	115	94	95	78	76	72	
August	135	84	96	66	62	72	
September	118	83	103	84	60	76	
October	119	98	83	78	107	61	
November	150	104	105	91	78	55	
December	97	75	101	87	46	71	
Total	1 164	1 057	1 091	921	851	836	

Table 3.1 – Compulsory liquidations of companies (number)

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
January	16	12	12	4	7	11	8
February	1	5	17	25	9	6	
March	4	8	16	17	9	16	
April	0	9	15	9	15	6	
May	9	14	7	13	6	13	
June	11	8	10	8	11	8	
July	12	6	12	13	10	6	
August	9	6	8	7	9	13	
September	13	5	14	12	4	8	
October	21	16	15	11	18	7	
November	46	9	10	9	18	6	
December	14	7	3	2	4	8	
Total	156	105	139	130	120	108	

Table 3.2 – Voluntary liquidations of companies (number)

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
January	56	51	73	39	64	46	62
February	82	88	79	66	66	67	
March	81	103	96	62	57	60	
April	0	72	46	54	54	56	
May	101	89	68	78	68	73	
June	69	60	69	62	56	67	
July	103	88	83	65	66	66	
August	126	78	88	59	53	59	
September	105	78	89	72	56	68	
October	98	82	68	67	89	54	
November	104	95	95	82	60	49	
December	83	68	98	85	42	63	
Total	1 008	952	952	791	731	728	

Table 4 – Total liquidations of close corporations (number)

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
January	53	59	35	38	38	49	26
February	81	85	64	71	63	67	
March	60	105	70	89	72	51	
April	0	77	77	49	59	47	
May	85	88	113	60	51	55	
June	54	64	66	58	54	55	
July	78	71	70	62	57	83	
August	93	81	61	76	66	55	
September	93	69	67	72	57	69	
October	96	74	74	58	89	67	
November	122	55	61	53	50	71	
December	56	47	58	50	44	29	
Total	871	875	816	736	700	698	

Table 4.1 – Compulsory liquidations of close corporations (number)

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
January	13	8	10	3	4	8	2
February	9	7	5	14	5	8	
March	4	10	9	16	4	6	
April	0	4	7	4	10	5	
May	8	6	18	4	5	6	
June	1	4	5	4	6	5	
July	5	6	5	0	3	8	
August	4	4	5	7	2	6	
September	7	2	6	6	6	12	
October	15	2	12	5	6	11	
November	35	11	5	4	9	7	
December	5	1	4	3	3	3	
Total	106	65	91	70	63	85	

Table 4.2 – Voluntary liquidations of close corporations (number)

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
January	40	51	25	35	34	41	24
February	72	78	59	57	58	59	
March	56	95	61	73	68	45	
April	0	73	70	45	49	42	
May	77	82	95	56	46	49	
June	53	60	61	54	48	50	
July	73	65	65	62	54	75	
August	89	77	56	69	64	49	
September	86	67	61	66	51	57	
October	81	72	62	53	83	56	
November	87	44	56	49	41	64	
December	51	46	54	47	41	26	
Total	765	810	725	666	637	613	

Explanatory notes

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|---|
| Introduction | 1 | Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) collects administrative information on liquidations from the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) and the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC). |
| | 2 | This statistical release reflects voluntary and compulsory liquidations of companies and close corporations. |
| Purpose of the survey | 3 | The aggregated data in this release are used by both the private and public sectors to measure economic performance and serve as an important indicator of the scope of unpaid debt in South Africa. |
| Scope of the survey | 4 | This survey covers the total number of companies and close corporations which were liquidated. |
| Symbols and abbreviations | 5 | Stats SA – Statistics South Africa
CIPC – Companies and Intellectual Property Commission
DTIC – Department of Trade, Industry and Competition
C – Compulsory
V – Voluntary |
| Seasonal adjustment | 6 | Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month using the X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the United States Census Bureau. 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. |
| | 7 | 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 is described in more detail on the Stats SA website:
click to download seasonal adjustment P0043 April 2018 . |
| Trend cycle | 8 | 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

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

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