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Last quarter poor, but no knowing what's to come

Greg Bing, A.P. Jones

Cape Town, W. Cape, SA – December so far has been poor – 10% down on last year, even though we have more merchandise, better merchandise, and the same staff. We traded well until September, October levelled off, and November was down.

The staff benefitted from the extra public holiday because they were earning overtime, but it didn't generate much extra business.

We had big expenses this year installing inverters, which have been worth it, and with roof repairs, and we will go ahead with installing solar panels in the New Year.

There are no hard and fast rules in this business, so let's see what the rest of the month brings.

Shoe Zone: Getting better, but not up to previous years

Lenasia, Gauteng, SA – The beginning of the month was slow, but it has since picked up, said Omar Sujee, a member of the 54-store Shoe Zone chain. "It's better now," he said, "but you still can't compare it to previous Decembers. Obviously, we hope it will pick up more."

Casanova to call it a day next year

Durban, KZN, SA – Casanova Fashion Boutique will close within the first 6 months of next year, and its Gateway offshoot, Q'dos, will close at the end of this year, director 'Budgie' Magan said, citing the difficulty of operating independent multi-brand stores against mono-brand stores.

He started Casanova in 1979.

"Some retailers at the top end and bottom end are doing well, not all. But there's no middle ground anymore. He said he would start something else, "but not in clothing".



Components quiet, sandals busy

Matthew Hansen, Reunion Components/Angelsoft Shoes

Durban, KZN, SA – The PU sole plant, in terms of supplying other shoe manufacturers in SA, was not as busy as it could be as most manufacturers complained this year was quieter compared to previous years. However, we can already see global sandal trends are heading towards higher and thicker soles which bodes well for summer 2024 as we are already sampling some of our thicker sandal units for summer 24 ranges to other local manufacturers.

Our Angelsoft sandals had quite a good year and we were busy right to the end and we are still despatching orders even today (last Thursday) and already have orders for January 24.

Death notice

Pietermaritzburg, KZN, SA – Allan Norman, formerly of NR Footwear, died last Wednesday in the UK. There will be an obituary in the January issue of S&V Footwear & Leather Goods.

They Said It

"Yeah, well I am pretty young, but time flies the older you get." - Jonathan van Staden, Laeveld Huide & Velle, Nelspruit, Mpumalanga, SA, who is 40.

New subscribers last week

Bing Alo-Villareal, Marketing Officer, South African Consulate General, New York, USA
Andrew Pittaway, Director, FSP Collection, Salt River, South Africa

Got anything you'd like to share?

Do you have any suggestions, comments or experiences about the industry that you'd like to share with the industry? - tony@svmag.co.za

Birthdays this week

18/12/1978: **Hassive Magaña Maya**, Spanish Commercial Office, Johannesburg, Gauteng, SA.
19/12/1959: **Yegan Pillai**, left the industry, formerly Michelle Footwear, Durban, KZN, SA.
19/12/1944: **Hoosen Patel**, Spectrum group [closed], Durban, KZN, SA.
20/12/1957: **Michael Ngwenya**, Nulaw, Pietermaritzburg, KZN, SA.
20/12/1976: **Zamo Mkhize**, left the industry, formerly Nicole Footwear (closed), Durban, KZN, SA.
20/12/1984: **Carl Prinsloo**, Allied Agencies, Westville, KZN, SA.
21/12/1942: **Allan Kushner**, retired, formerly Shoe Fayre, Pretoria, Gauteng, SA.
23/12/1963: **Trevor Capell**, ? Hilton, KZN, SA.
22/12/1949: **Maryna Bender**, ?
22/12/1966: **Collin Kisten Pillay**, Topline Manufacturers, Durban, KZN, SA.
22/12/1973: **Hassan Adam**, Seadoone Shoes, Amanzimtoti, KZN, SA.
23/12/1947: **Chris Dorasamy**, Robach Components, Pinetown, KZN, SA.
23/12/1949: **Alex Gordon**, Novita Shoes, Durban, KZN, SA.
24/12/1947: **Gerald Borg**, formerly Bata SA and Amshoe (closed), KZN, SA, emigrated to Cyprus.
24/12/1953: **Morgan Naidoo**, Alan D Jackson, Pinetown, KZN, SA.

In memoriam this week

18/12/2003: **Ben Stoltzman** (b. 03.05/1933), Vogue Shoes/Sportshoe SA [closed], Cape Town, W. Cape, SA.
19/12/2022: **Reg Hattings** (b. 12/01/1936), agent, Johannesburg, Gauteng, SA.
22/12/2008: **John Whittle** (b. 21/05/1936), John Whittle Components, Pinetown, KZN, SA.
23/12/2004: **Stewart Dorrington** (b.?), King Tanning [closed], King William's Town, E. Cape, SA.
23/12/2014: **Mohammed Seedat** (b. 16/07/1942), Jino's Clothing, Johannesburg, Gauteng, SA.

Have you let us know about your birthday, or the birthdays of your colleagues? Our readers love this section, so please become part of it. This also applies to the In Memoriam section. Help us remember former colleagues.

Directory entries updated last week

Evolution Engineering cc, Durban, KZN, SA.
Ezweni Shoe Components cc, Durban, KZN, SA.

Trade Fairs **Seminars**
Conferences
Range Launches

Do you have an event you want listed in the calendar?
Email tony@svmag.co.za

No charge for associations, R199 + Vat for all others

DEC 2023						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 FFANY M...	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Over 4500 entries, divided into:

- Leather
- Components & Services
- Footwear & Leather Goods
- Commission Agents
- Retailers
- Associations & Support Organisations
- and much more

The abridged Directory lists business names and their principal phone numbers.

The comprehensive Directory, which lists the names of personnel, cell numbers, emails, descriptions of products & services, and much more, is also available by subscription only.

Click **HERE** to view.

Email tony@svmag.co.za.

Exchange rates

Note: For previous rates, see [HERE](#)

1. SA Rand (ZAR)/Lesotho Loti (LSL)/Namibian Dollar (NAD)/Swazi Lilangeni (SZL)

Source: <http://www.x-rates.com/calculator/>

	Euro €	GBP £	US \$	CNY ¥
04/12/2023	R20.32	R23.69	R18.70	R2.62
09/12/2023	R20.37	R23.74	R18.91	R2.64
16/12/2023	R20.11	R23.41	R18.46	R2.59

2. Botswana Pula (BWP)

Source: <https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

	Euro €	GBP £	US \$	CNY ¥
04/12/2023	14.70	17.14	13.53	1.90
09/12/2023	14.67	17.09	13.62	1.90
16/12/2023	14.56	16.95	13.36	1.87

3. Malawian Kwacha (MWK)

Source: <https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

	Euro €	GBP £	US \$	CNY ¥
04/12/2023	1831.63	2135.08	1685.42	236.61
09/12/2023	1813.14	2113.02	1683.79	235.28
16/12/2023	1833.98	2134.67	1683.14	236.49

4. Zambian Kwacha (ZMW)

Source: <https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

	Euro €	GBP £	US \$	CNY ¥
04/12/2023	25.88	30.17	23.82	3.34
09/12/2023	26.21	30.54	24.34	3.40
16/12/2023	26.64	30.01	24.45	3.43

5. Zimbabwean Dollar (ZWL\$)

Source: <https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

	Euro €	GBP £	CNY ¥	Official US\$
04/12/2023	6312.9	7357.01	818.20	5797.01
09/12/2023	6266.70	7303.15	813.20	5835.77
16/12/2023	6464.28	7477.57	828.40	5912.24

Note: For previous rates, see [HERE](#)

ABSA Agri Trends: Hides & skins prices

Johannesburg, Gauteng, SA (14 December 2023) - The average hide price decreased by 0.07% to R3.288/kg from R3.286/kg in the previous week. The current price is 0.23% higher than the average price a month ago and 21.3% lower than the average price a year ago. The range of prices reported was as follows: Minimum price: R3.25 Maximum price: R3.50. Please note: Our methodology weighs the prices we collect according to the number of hides they sell in a month. This is done to make it more representative of the prevailing market price. NB* Hide prices are determined by the average of the RMAA (Red Meat Abattoir Association) and independent companies. - **Marlene Louw**, senior agricultural economist, and **Nkhensani Mashimbyi**, agricultural economist, and **Zama Sangweni**, agricultural economist, Absa group.

Note: For previous prices, see [HERE](#)

Have a look at these links

We invite businesses to send us links to websites, Facebook pages and the like which they feel would be of interest to others. The links below are from our database:

[GWK](#), Douglas, N. Cape, SA. Co-op.

Contact us

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Next newsletter: December 27, 2023.

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