

Argent Industrial Limited
Registration number 1993/002054/06
(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)
Share code: ART ISIN code: ZAE000019188
('Argent' or 'the group' or 'the company')

ABRIDGED UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM RESULTS FOR THE 6 MONTHS
ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

Financial Highlights

Revenue up	1.5%
Headline earnings per share	50.1 cents
Gearing	14.9%
Net asset value per share	1 370.9 cents

The abridged unaudited financial statements are presented on a consolidated basis

Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss for the period ended	Unaudited 6 months 30 Sept 2019	Unaudited 6 months 30 Sept 2018	Audited year ended 31 Mar 2019
	R 000	R 000	R 000
Revenue	871,516	858,817	1,721,578
Cost of sales	(643,322)	(655,015)	(1,299,966)
Gross profit	228,194	203,802	421,612
Net operating expenses	(168,372)	(142,775)	(301,920)
Operating profit before finance costs	59,822	61,027	(119,692)
Net interest expense	(7,618)	(2,966)	(4,498)
Profit before taxation	52,204	58,061	115,194
Taxation	(11,927)	(14,714)	(29,730)
Profit for the period	40,277	43,347	85,464
Attributable to equity holders of the			
- Parent	37,901	41,795	83,763
- Non-controlling interest	2,376	1,552	1,701
	40,277	43,347	85,464
Basic earnings per share (cents)	49.7	49.9	101.2
Diluted earnings per share (cents)	49.7	49.9	101.2
Headline earnings per share (cents)	50.1	50.4	104.4
Diluted headline earnings per share (cents)	50.1	50.4	104.4
Dividends per share (cents)	0.0	10.0	10.0
Supplementary information			
Shares in issue (000)			
- at end of period excluding treasury shares	75,518	83,581	77,686
- at end of period including treasury shares	80,201	88,264	82,369
- weighted average	76,230	83,755	82,741
- diluted weighted average	76,230	83,755	82,741
Interest paid on lease liabilities (R 000)	6,290	-	-

Depreciation on right-of-use assets (R 000)	13,895	-	-
Depreciation and amortisation (R 000)	13,044	11,942	24,940
Calculation of headline earnings (R 000)			
Earnings attributable to ordinary shareholders	37,901	41,795	83,763
Loss/(profit) on disposal of property, plant and equipment	367	624	(1,757)
Impairment of property, plant and equipment	-	-	3,889
Total tax effects of adjustments	(103)	(175)	492
Headline earnings attributable to ordinary shareholders	38,165	42,244	86,387
Consolidated Statement of other Comprehensive Income or Loss for the period ended	Unaudited 6 months 30 Sept 2019	Unaudited 6 months 30 Sept 2018	Audited year ended 31 Mar 2019
	R 000	R 000	R 000
Profit for the period	40,277	43,347	85,464
Other comprehensive income for the period			
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit and loss			
Exchange differences on translating foreign operations	2,635	7,149	9,493
Total other comprehensive income for the period	42,912	50,496	94,957
Attributable to equity holders of the			
- Parent	40,536	48,944	93,256
- Non-controlling interest	2,376	1,552	1,701
	42,912	50,496	94,957
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position for the period ended	Unaudited At 30 Sept 2019	Unaudited At 30 Sept 2018	Audited at 31 Mar 2019
	R 000	R 000	R 000
ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	452,212	457,830	450,736
Intangible assets	3,784	3,785	3,798
Goodwill	150,144	124,041	150,144
Right-of-use assets	128,967	-	-
Long-term receivables	15,461	26,036	17,785
Deferred taxation	8,857	-	4,683
Non-current assets	759,425	611,692	627,146
Inventories	371,463	388,230	381,473
Trade and other receivables	271,371	302,741	314,814
Current portion of long-term receivables	5,003	-	6,128

Bank balance and cash	94,242	44,479	73,679
Current assets	742,079	735,450	776,094
Non-current assets held for sale	10,500	23,288	10,500
TOTAL ASSETS	1,512,004	1,370,430	1,413,740
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Capital and reserves			
Stated capital	380,900	420,120	392,809
Reserves	10,561	5,460	7,666
Retained earnings	643,824	575,119	613,664
Attributable to owners of the parent	1,035,285	1,000,699	1,014,139
Non-controlling interest	20,859	18,334	18,483
Total shareholders' funds	1,056,144	1,019,033	1,032,622
Interest-bearing borrowings	4,683	6,423	4,708
Long-term loans	15	1,663	2,621
Lease liabilities	121,891	-	-
Other liabilities	29,832	-	29,832
Deferred tax	56,628	46,329	51,883
Non-current liabilities	213,049	54,415	89,044
Trade and other payables	180,386	223,588	216,195
Taxation	1,614	4,908	9,840
Bank overdraft	30,261	44,811	53,802
Current portion of lease liabilities	22,127	-	-
Current portion of interest-bearing borrowings	8,423	23,675	12,237
Current liabilities	242,811	296,982	292,074
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	1,512,004	1,370,430	1,413,740
Net asset value per share (cents)	1,370.9	1,197.3	1,305.4

Abridged Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the period ended	Unaudited 6 months 30 Sept 2019	Unaudited 6 months 30 Sept 2018	Audited year ended 31 Mar 2018
	R 000	R 000	R 000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash generated from operations	104,555	113,880	164,387
Net interest expense	(7,618)	(2,966)	(4,498)
Dividends paid	-	(8,471)	(8,471)
Normal taxation paid	(16,570)	(1,636)	(13,338)
Cash flows from operating activities	80,367	100,807	138,080
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(17,423)	(14,436)	(43,744)
Additions to intangible assets	(2)	(768)	(768)
Proceeds on disposal of property, plant and equipment	3,326	2,175	38,062
Acquisition of subsidiaries net of cash acquired	-	(81,152)	(77,423)
Long-term receivables repaid	3,449	3,087	5,666

Cash flows from investing activities	(10,650)	(91,094)	(78,207)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Share buy-back	(11,909)	(1,669)	(28,980)
Lease liability payments	(9,596)	-	-
Proceeds from long-term loans	(2,606)	4	962
Proceeds from interest-bearing borrowings	5,524	2,337	4,878
Repayment of interest-bearing borrowings	(7,503)	(17,572)	(33,758)
Cash flows from financing activities	(26,090)	(16,900)	(56,898)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	43,627	(7,187)	2,975
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	19,877	6,855	6,855
Exchange differences on cash and cash equivalents	477	-	10,047
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	63,981	(332)	19,877

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity for the period ended 30 September 2019	Stated capital	Treasury shares	Employee share incentive reserve
	R 000	R 000	R 000
Balance at 1 April 2018 - unaudited	514,835	(93,046)	440
Share-based payments	-	-	301
Share buy-back	(28,980)	-	-
Transfer of reserve to retained earnings	-	-	(289)
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-
Dividends	-	-	-
Less dividend on treasury shares	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2019	485,855	(93,046)	452
Adjustment from adoption of IFRS 16	-	-	-
Adjusted balance at 1 April 2019	485,855	(93,046)	452
Share-based payments	-	-	260
Share buy-back	(11,909)	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-
Balance at 30 September 2019	473,946	(93,046)	712

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity for the period ended 30 September 2019 (continued)	Revaluation reserve	Foreign currency translation reserve	Retained earnings
	R 000	R 000	R 000
Balance at 1 April 2018 - unaudited	8,068	(10,347)	538,083
Share-based payments	-	-	-
Share buy-back	-	-	-
Transfer of reserve to retained earnings	-	-	289

Total comprehensive income for the period	-	9,493	83,763
Dividends	-	-	(8,846)
Less dividend on treasury shares	-	-	375
Balance at 31 March 2019	8,068	(854)	613,664
Adjustment from adoption of IFRS 16	-	-	(7,741)
Adjusted balance at 1 April 2019	8,068	(854)	605,923
Share-based payments	-	-	-
Share buy-back	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	2,635	37,901
Balance at 30 September 2019	8,068	1,781	643,824

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity for the period ended 30 September 2019 (continued)	Total attributable to owners of the parent	Non-controlling interest	Total shareholders' funds
	R 000	R 000	R 000
Balance at 1 April 2018 - unaudited	958,033	16,782	974,815
Share-based payments	301	-	301
Share buy-back	(28,980)	-	(28,980)
Transfer of reserve to retained earnings	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the period	93,256	1,701	94,957
Dividends	(8,846)	-	(8,846)
Less dividend on treasury shares	375	-	375
Balance at 31 March 2019	1,014,139	18,483	1,032,622
Adjustment from adoption of IFRS 16	(7,741)	-	(7,741)
Adjusted balance at 1 April 2019	1,006,398	18,483	1,024,881
Share-based payments	260	-	260
Share buy-back	(11,909)	-	(11,909)
Total comprehensive income for the period	40,536	2,376	42,912
Balance at 30 September 2019	1,035,285	20,859	1,056,144

Segmental review	Manufacturing	Steel trading	Properties	Consolidated
	R 000	R 000	R 000	R 000
Business segments for the 6 months ended 30 September 2019 - unaudited				
Revenue from external sales	620,820	250,502	194	871,516
Inter-segment sales	26,851	102,412	12,688	
Total revenue	647,671	352,914	12,882	
Profit before taxation	40,569	7,228	4,407	52,204
Taxation				(11,927)
Profit for the period				40,277

Other information				
Net assets	717,392	210,345	128,407	1,056,144
Capital expenditure	13,357	3,713	355	17,425
Depreciation/amortisation	12,005	1,029	10	13,044
Net interest expense *	3,644	(405)	4,379	7,618
* As per the group policy, finance costs and finance income derived from primary banking is netted off.				

Segmental review (continued)	Manufacturing	Steel trading	Properties	Consolidated
	R 000	R 000	R 000	R 000

Business segments
for the 6 months ended 30
September 2018 -
unaudited

Revenue from external sales	598,587	259,219	1,011	858,817
Inter-segment sales	29,219	49,587	13,633	
Total revenue	627,806	308,806	14,644	
Profit before taxation	44,478	8,513	5,070	58,061
Taxation				(14,714)
Profit for the period				43,347

Other information

Net assets	633,128	239,859	146,046	1,019,033
Capital expenditure	12,034	808	2,362	15,204
Depreciation/amortisation	10,641	1,284	17	11,942
Net interest expense *	(2,047)	(718)	5,731	2,966

Segmental review (continued)	Manufacturing	Steel trading	Properties	Consolidated
	R 000	R 000	R 000	R 000

Business segments
for the year ended 31
March 2019 - audited

Revenue from external sales	1,199,290	518,403	3,885	1,721,578
Inter-segment sales	67,119	125,375	26,336	
Total revenue	1,266,409	643,778	30,221	
Profit before taxation	86,691	18,551	9,952	115,194
Taxation				(29,730)
Profit for the year				85,464

Other information

Net assets	691,947	211,845	128,830	1,032,622
Capital expenditure	9,150	16,629	18,733	44,512
Depreciation/amortisation	22,519	2,388	33	24,940
Net interest expense *	(4,923)	(1,739)	11,160	4,498

Segmental review (continued)	South Africa	Rest of the world	Consolidated
	R 000	R 000	R 000
Geographical segments for the 6 months ended 30 September 2019 - unaudited			
Revenue from external sales	678,090	193,426	871,516
Profit before taxation	16,093	36,111	52,204
Taxation			(11,927)
Profit for the period			40,277
Other information			
Net assets	843,864	212,280	1,056,144
Capital expenditure	12,177	5,248	17,425
Depreciation/amortisation	9,267	3,777	13,044
Net interest expense *	7,188	430	7,618
for the 6 months ended 30 September 2018 - unaudited			
Revenue from external sales	720,182	138,635	858,817
Profit before taxation	27,464	30,597	58,061
Taxation			(14,714)
Profit for the period			43,347
Other information			
Net assets	872,210	146,823	1,019,033
Capital expenditure	12,002	3,202	15,204
Depreciation/amortisation	9,098	2,844	11,942
Net interest expense *	3,142	(176)	2,966
for the year ended 31 March 2019 - audited			
Revenue from external sales	1,413,517	308,061	1,721,578
Profit before taxation	67,002	48,192	115,194
Taxation			(29,730)
Profit for the year			85,464
Other information			
Net assets	857,320	175,302	1,032,622
Capital expenditure	37,449	7,063	44,512
Depreciation/amortisation	18,200	6,740	24,940
Net interest expense *	4,782	(284)	4,498

Financial Overview

Argent Industrial Limited had a mixed first six months in that its South African operation were all under margin and turnover pressures, and its United Kingdom operations all exceeded expectations.

Operations Review

Manufacturing

Our overseas operations, Fuel Proof Limited, OSA Door Parts Limited, Cannock Gates Limited and New Joules Engineering North America Inc. performed well. The South African Companies were all under pressure. Two of these companies being Xpanda Security and Megamix, will have a much better second six months

due to several new and re-engineered products as well as the start of the Wind Farm project.

Tricks Wrought Iron Services is in the process of being downsized and will be relocated into a portion of our Phoenix Steel Natal operations.

Steel Trading

The groups two mild steel operations did very well showing a combined R7.3 million profit before tax. Both Gammid operations are however very much linked into the construction sector and as a result only made a combined R0.504 million profit. Given the sectors outlook, we have decided to close Gammid Jhb. We expect the process to be completed by the end of November and have provided an additional R2 million for the disposal of our potential excess stock.

Properties

The group has one property for sale:

15 Vulcan Street, Klerksdorp Industrial, Klerksdorp - vacant.

The following property was sold for R10.5 million and is awaiting transfer: 127-131 Terrace Road, Sebenza, Edenvale.

Argent Industrial Investments is in the process of raising a R120 million loan against its South African properties. The loan is repayable over a period of 5 years. The proceeds will be used to repay its loan to Argent Industrial Limited and should be in place by 31 December 2019.

Share buy-back programme

Argent repurchased and cancelled 2 167 464 shares in the period under review and will be aiming to repurchase an additional 15 634 854 shares over the next 4 months.

IFRS 16 Leases

The group implemented IFRS 16, the revised accounting standard for leases on 1 April 2019.

IFRS 16 requires the lessee to record an asset with a corresponding lease liability. Practically, operating leases and rental cost expenses will be replaced by an interest expense and a depreciation charge.

Profit before tax was reduced by R4.3 million. This accounting adjustment is a non-cash flow item and is explained in more detail below under changes in significant accounting policies.

Earnings were negatively impacted by 4 cents per share for the 6 months to 30 September 2019 as a result of the adoption of IFRS 16.

Outlook

The group is on track with its net asset realisation and offshore investment philosophy.

To this end we have a certain number of our South African operations for sale and will be buying back R20 million worth of shares in the short term.

Argent Industrial Limited will be utilizing the R120 million loan proceeds mentioned above to increase the share buy-back to the maximum number of shares as per the authority received at our 2019 AGM.

The group will continue to look for acquisitions in both the United Kingdom and America, in line with its current offshore business parameters.

Basis of preparation

The abridged unaudited and unreviewed, consolidated interim financial statements were prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), the presentation and disclosure requirements of IAS 34 - Interim Financial Reporting, the SAICA Financial Reporting Guides as issued by the Accounting Practices Committee, the Financial Reporting Pronouncements as issued by the Financial Reporting Standards Council and in compliance with the Companies Act of South Africa (Act No. 71 of 2008) and the Listings Requirements of the JSE Limited.

The results have been prepared in terms of IFRS on the historical cost basis, except for the revaluation of land and buildings and certain financial instruments which are carried at either fair value or amortised cost.

The accounting policies are consistent with those of the previous annual financial statements, except for the adoption of IFRS 16 Leases, which was effective from 1 April 2019. The adoption of improved, revised or new standards and interpretations, besides IFRS 16 Leases, did not have any significant impact on the financial statements.

The abridged unaudited and unreviewed, consolidated interim financial statements were prepared under the supervision of the Financial Director, Ms SJ Cox CA (SA). Any reference to future financial performance included in this announcement has not been reviewed or reported on by the group's auditors.

Changes in significant accounting policies

The group applied IFRS 16 Leases, the revised accounting standards for leases from 1 April 2019. This introduces a single lessee accounting model, where a right-of-use (ROU) asset together with a lease liability for the future payments is recognised for all leases with a term of more than 12 months, unless the underlying asset is of low value.

As permitted by IFRS 16 Leases, the group elected not to restate comparative information and has recorded the cumulative effect of initially applying the new standard as an adjustment to the opening balance of equity at the date of initial application. Therefore, the comparative information has not been restated and is reported under the previous standard.

Definition of a lease

Under IFRS 16, a contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys a right to control the use of an identified asset for a period in exchange for consideration.

Short term leases are defined as leases that, at commencement date, have a lease term of 12 months or less.

A low-value lease is defined as a lease where the underlying asset is less than R150 000. The value is determined for a new asset, regardless of the age of the underlying asset being leased.

On transition to IFRS 16, the group elected to apply the practical expedient

to apply IFRS 16 only to contracts that were previously identified as leases. Therefore, the definition of a lease under IFRS 16 has been applied only to contracts entered into or changed on or after 1 April 2019.

Lessees

As a lessee, the group leases properties. Under IFRS 16, the group recognises ROU assets and lease liabilities for most leases.

Significant accounting policies

The ROU asset is initially measured at cost and is depreciated over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term on a straight-line basis.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments on the commencement date, discounted using the group's incremental borrowing rate. The lease liability is subsequently increased by the interest cost on the lease liability and decreased by lease payments made. It is remeasured when there is a change in the future lease payments arising from a change in index or rate.

Critical accounting estimates and judgements in applying IFRS 16

Extension and termination options

Extension options (or periods after termination options) are only included in the lease term if the lease is reasonably certain to be extended (or not terminated). Factors such as the importance of the underlying asset to our operations, undertaking of significant leasehold improvements and our past practice were considered to determine reasonable certainty.

The assessment is reviewed if a significant event or a significant change in circumstances occurs that is within the control of the lessee.

Discount rate

The lease liabilities were measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments, discounted using the group's incremental borrowing rate as at 1 April 2019. This incremental borrowing rate was derived from rates applicable to the group's external borrowing facilities in issue.

Transition

The group used the following practical expedients when applying IFRS 16 to leases previously classified as operating leases under IAS 17:

- Applied the exemption not to recognise ROA assets and liabilities for leases with less than a 12-month lease term;
- Low-value assets - all leases that meet the criteria of a lease of a low-value asset are accounted for on a straight-line basis over the lease term;
- Reliance on previous assessment of onerous leases;
- Use a single discount rate for a portfolio of leases with reasonably similar characteristics;
- Exclude initial direct costs for measurement of the ROU asset at the date of initial application.

Impact on the financial statements on transition

On transition to IFRS 16, the group recognised ROU assets together with additional lease liabilities. The impact on transition is recognised below as at 1 April 2019.

	R 000
Right-of-use assets	142,863
Retained earnings	10,751
Deferred tax asset	3,010
Lease liabilities	153,614

The total undiscounted operating lease commitments as at 31 March 2019 amount to R48.8 million, the lease liability as at 1 April 2019 amounted to R153.6 million. The differences relate to extension periods previously not included in the lease commitments to the value of R181.2 million, which increased the undiscounted operating lease commitments. The undiscounted operating lease commitments balance was discounted using the group's incremental borrowing rate curve which ranges from 3% to 10.5%.

	R 000
Operating lease commitments as at 31 March 2019	48,847
Add: Adjustments as a result of a different treatment of extension and termination options	181,214
Operating lease commitments as at 1 April 2019	230,061
Less: Short-term lease commitments	-
Less: Low-value lease commitments	-
Total commitments to be discounted using incremental borrowing rate at date of initial application	230,061
Lease liabilities recognised as at 1 April 2019	168,301
Representing:	230,061
Current lease liabilities	28,438
Non-current lease liabilities	139,863
	168,301

As a result of initially applying IFRS 16 in relation to the leases that were previously classified as operating leases, the group recognised R128.9 million of right-of-use assets and R144 million of lease liabilities as at 30 September 2019.

Also, in relation to those leases under IFRS 16, the group recognised depreciation and interest costs, instead of operating lease expenses. During the 6 months ended 30 September 2019, the group recognised R13.9 million of depreciation in cost of sales, R6.3 million of interest costs in net interest expense and operating lease reversals of R15.9 million for these leases.

Earnings were negatively impacted by 4 cents per share for the 6 months to 30 September 2019 as a result of the adoption of IFRS 16.

Going concern

Shareholders are advised that the abridged unaudited results for the six-month period ended 30 September 2019 have been prepared on the going concern concept. This basis presumes that funds will be available to finance future operations and that the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities, contingent obligations and commitments will occur in the ordinary course of business.

Dividend

No dividends were declared by the Board of Directors for the six-month period ending 30 September 2019. Excess funds will be utilised for the share buy-back programme.

On behalf of the board

TR Hendry CA (SA) Umhlanga Rocks
Chief Executive Officer 13 November 2019

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Auditors: SNG Grant Thornton (EY Lakhi as designated
auditor)

Sponsors: PSG Capital

Transfer Secretaries: Link Market Services South Africa

Company Secretary: Jaco Dauth

Directors: CD Angus (Independent Non-executive), PA Christofides
(Independent Non-executive), Ms SJ Cox (Financial Director), TR Hendry
(Chief Executive Officer), AF Litschka, K Mapasa (Independent Non-
executive), T Scharrighuisen (Non-executive Chairman).