

Q1 2009 TRADING ACTIVITY UP AT THE JOHANNESBURG STOCK EXCHANGE

Paris, 22 April 2009 – Today, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) revealed that the number of trades for Q1 2009 at the South African bourse had increased by 24% relative to Q1 2008. Data from March 2009 showed that trades were up by a substantial 54% from March 2008.

“This is contrary to trends where some overseas exchanges are experiencing reduced transaction activity when comparing 2008 to 2009 figures,” comments Leanne Parsons, Chief Operating Officer at the JSE “At the JSE, we are also seeing increased activity from foreign buyers who are looking for opportunities and returns that our emerging market can offer.”

March 2009 was an especially good month for the JSE, apart from the rise in number of trades; the number of shares traded was up by 27% while value of trades was only down by 6% from March 2008. March 2009 also saw the JSE break a trading record on the 19th March 2009 where the exchange recorded 171 289 trades breaking the previous trading record from the 18th December 2008 of 128 324 trades. “This trading record can be largely attributed to increased trade in derivatives, during this quarter’s Futures Closeout day,” adds Parsons.

“Healthy trading figures are an indication of a strong financial market and also of the interest that South Africa holds for international investors. While, we are feeling the effects of the global financial crisis, in South Africa our financial markets are relatively protected and our banking sector is well-regulated and capitalized,” concludes Parsons.