



The lifeblood of a developing nation

ArcelorMittal South Africa Limited

Reviewed group financial results and dividend announcement for the year ended 31 December 2008



ArcelorMittal

Condensed group income statement

	2008 Reviewed Rm	2007 Audited Rm
Year ended 31 December		
Revenue (Note 2)	39 914	29 301
Raw materials and consumables used	(18 556)	(12 141)
Employee costs	(2 598)	(2 210)
Energy	(1 474)	(1 364)
Movement in inventories of finished goods and work in progress	1 844	(21)
Impairment charge (Note 3)	(1 310)	(1 088)
Depreciation	(12)	(11)
Amortisation of intangible assets	(5 228)	(4 763)
Other operating expenses	(12 159)	7 703
Profit from operations	637	(1 311)
(Losses)/gains on changes in foreign exchange rates and financial instruments (Note 4)	318	442
Finance costs (Note 5)	(238)	(117)
Income from investments	2	4
Income from equity accounted investments (net of tax)	331	270
Impairment reversal (Note 6)	36	171
Profit before tax (Note 7)	13 246	8 171
Income tax expense	(3 865)	(2 453)
Profit for the year	9 381	5 716
Attributable to:		
Owners of the company	9 381	5 716
Earnings per share (cents)		
- basic	2 105	1 282
- diluted	2 097	1 279

Condensed group statement of comprehensive income

	2008 Reviewed Rm	2007 Audited Rm
Year ended 31 December		
Profit for the year	9 381	5 716
Other comprehensive income		
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations	591	(63)
(Losses)/gains on available-for-sale investment taken to equity	(71)	62
Movement in gains and losses deferred to equity on cash flow hedges	(91)	(111)
Income tax on income taken directly to equity	25	27
Total comprehensive income for the year	9 835	5 631
Attributable to:		
Owners of the company	9 835	5 631

Condensed group statement of financial position

	2008 Reviewed Rm	2007 Audited Rm
as at 31 December		
Assets		
Non-current assets	18 159	16 887
Property, plant and equipment	15 917	15 525
Intangible assets	76	58
Unlisted equity accounted investments (Note 8)	1 968	1 109
Other financial assets	203	195
Current assets	19 276	11 318
Inventories	8 642	4 790
Trade and other receivables	2 231	2 292
Taxation	174	94
Other financial assets	842	4 034
Cash and cash equivalents	174	94
Total assets	37 435	28 205
Equity and liabilities		
Shareholders' equity	27 995	20 583
Statutory capital	37	37
Non-distributable reserves	1 503	757
Retained income	26 455	19 789
Non-current liabilities	4 774	4 273
Borrowings and other payables	46	7
Finance lease obligations	314	328
Deferred income tax liability	2 526	2 603
Provision for post-retirement medical costs	1 879	1 283
Non-current provisions	4 666	3 449
Current liabilities	3 384	2 873
Trade and other payables	33	10
Borrowings and other payables	40	88
Finance lease obligations	780	617
Taxation	157	37
Other financial liability	272	311
Current provisions	1 782	67
Total equity and liabilities	37 435	28 205

Condensed group statement of cash flows

	2008 Reviewed Rm	2007 Audited Rm
Year ended 31 December		
Cash inflows from operating activities	5 511	4 623
Cash generated from operations	10 939	8 439
Interest income	318	442
Finance costs	(59)	(73)
Dividend paid	(2 398)	(1 948)
Income tax paid	(3 087)	(2 209)
Realised foreign exchange movement	(202)	(28)
Cash outflows from investing activities	(1 813)	(852)
Investment to maintain operations	(1 413)	(1 198)
Investment to expand operations	(419)	(654)
Proceeds from disposals of property, plant and equipment	2	(16)
Investment in associate	3	4
Investment income - interest	3 698	2 074
Dividend from equity accounted investments	(121)	(83)
Net cash inflow	(121)	(6 435)
Cash outflows from financing activities	(121)	(83)
Capital reduction	(6 352)	(83)
Repayment of borrowings and finance lease obligations	(121)	(83)
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	3 577	(3 564)
Effect of foreign exchange rate changes	818	(152)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	4 233	7 787
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	8 429	4 034

Segment information

IFRS 8, Operating Segments, requires operating segments to be identified on the basis of internal reports about components of the group that are regularly reviewed by the chief operating decision maker in order to allocate resources to the segment and to assess its performance. In contrast, the predecessor Standard (IAS 14 Segment Reporting) required an entity to identify two sets of segments (business and geographical), using a risks and rewards approach, with the entity's system of internal financial reporting to key management personnel serving only as the starting point for the identification of such segments. Following the adoption of IFRS 8, the identification of the group's reportable segments has not changed, other than for the re-allocation of the Maputo Works from the Corporate and Other - to the Long Carbon Steel Products segment, following the commencement of operations at the unit in the current year. The group's reportable segments under IFRS 8 therefore are as follows:

- Flat Carbon Steel Products consisting of the Vanderbijlpark- and Saldanha Works;
- Long Carbon Steel Products consisting of the Newcastle-, Vereeniging- and Maputo Works;
- Coke and Chemicals undertaking the processing and marketing of by-products and the production and marketing of commercial-grade coking coal; and
- Corporate and Other, housing the sales and marketing functions, shared services, procurement and logistics activities, the decommissioned Pretoria Works, available-for-sale investments and the results of the consolidated subsidiaries and special purpose entities.

The income statement categories, gains and losses on changes in foreign exchange rates and financial instruments, interest income, finance costs, income from investments and after tax income from equity accounted investments are allocated and remain in Corporate.

Segment revenue

	2008 Reviewed Rm	2007 Audited Rm
Year ended 31 December		
Flat Carbon Steel Products - external sales	24 447	18 612
- inter-segment sales	1 066	628
Long Carbon Steel Products - external sales	11 936	8 666
- inter-segment sales	1 014	572
Coke and Chemicals - external sales	3 496	2 022
- inter-segment sales	67	43
Adjustments and eliminations	(2 112)	(1 242)
Total revenue	39 914	29 301
Distributed as:		
- Local	34 931	23 689
- Africa	2 752	2 695
- Europe	1 696	382
- Asia	1 998	2 388
- Other	212	147

All of the segment revenue reported above is from external customers.

Segment profit from operations

	2008 Reviewed Rm	2007 Audited Rm
Year ended 31 December		
Operating profit/(loss) before depreciation, amortisation and impairment	8 112	5 265
- Flat Carbon Steel Products	3 993	2 838
- Long Carbon Steel Products	1 781	765
- Coke and Chemicals	(284)	(66)
- Corporate and Other	(1 105)	(438)
Depreciation and amortisation	(200)	(186)
- Flat Carbon Steel Products	(38)	(38)
- Long Carbon Steel Products	21	(437)
- Corporate and Other	(121)	
Impairment charge	7 007	4 827
Profit/(loss) from operations	3 672	2 652
- Flat Carbon Steel Products	1 743	727
- Long Carbon Steel Products	(263)	(503)
- Corporate and Other	12 159	7 703

Segment assets

	2008 Reviewed Rm	2007 Audited Rm
Year ended 31 December		
Flat Carbon Steel Products	20 158	18 244
Long Carbon Steel Products	5 097	4 007
Coke and Chemicals	1 130	1 043
Corporate and Other	11 010	4 911
Total assets	37 435	28 205

Unaudited supplementary physical information ('000 tonnes)

	2008 Unaudited	2007 Unaudited
Year ended 31 December		
Flat Carbon Steel Products		
Liquid steel production	4 084	4 231
Sales	3 412	3 920
Long Carbon Steel Products		
Liquid steel production	1 690	2 144
Sales	1 677	1 899
Total		
Liquid steel production	5 774	6 375
Sales	5 089	5 819
- local	4 375	4 422
- export	714	1 397
Local sales as percentage of total sales	86	76

Revenue increased by 36% to R39,9 billion

Operating profit increased by 58% to R12,2 billion

Headline earnings increased by 65% to R9,5 billion

Final dividend 365 cents per share

Financial review

Headline earnings for 2008 improved by 65% to a record R9,5 billion despite a sharp decline in earnings in the fourth quarter as the global economic crisis spread to the steel industry. (See breakdown of quarterly earnings below.)

The substantial increase in annual earnings was driven by higher global steel prices, a significantly improved income contribution from our Coke & Chemicals business, as well as higher gains on foreign exchange transactions and financial instruments. Lower sales volumes and escalating costs partially offset these gains.

Hot rolled coil cash costs per tonne were up 59% year-on-year while the cost of billets increased by 65% amid surging prices of major input materials, led by coal, scrap and alloys. Scrap prices in particular rose steeply contributing to the sharp escalation in the production cost of billets at our Vereeniging Works, which is to a large extent scrap based.

Sales volumes were down 13% compared with 2007 as domestic and export sales declined by 1% and 49% respectively. The sharp drop in exports can be explained by our focus on meeting the demands of the local market first. Average net export prices though were 45% higher in dollar terms and 70% in rand terms than prices in 2007.

Quarterly headline earnings

Quarter to	Rm	US\$m	Exchange rate
March 2007	1 530	211	7,24
June 2007	1 624	229	7,10
Average	1 577	220	7,11
September 2007	1 055	148	7,11
December 2007	1 532	226	6,77
Average	1 294	187	6,94
March 2008	2 003	265	7,55
June 2008	2 573	330	7,79
Average	2 288	298	7,67
September 2008	3 772	485	7,78
December 2008	1 126	114	9,93
Average	2 454	300	8,86

Market review

International market

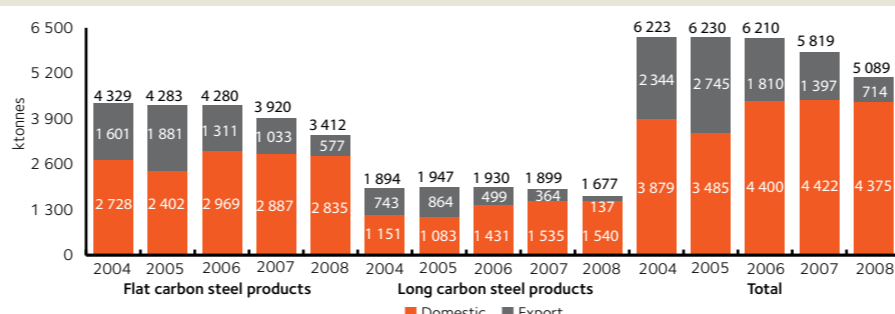
After a buoyant 2007, during which global steel consumption rose by 7.5%, growth slowed in 2008 to an estimated 1%. Growth was experienced during the first seven months of the year with global hot rolled coil prices reaching a high of \$1 200 per tonne in July. However by year-end prices had dropped by 59.6% following the collapse in the demand for steel since September amid the downturn in real consumption and destocking by customers. This led to sharp production cutbacks in all steel producing regions, starting with a year-on-year decline of 3.6% in September and gradually accelerating to a 24% cut in output in December. China, the world's largest producer, raised its output by 1.7% last year after an increase of 15.7% in 2007. It now accounts for 38.4% of total world steel output (2007: 37.2%). Whereas the Chinese government instituted policies and measures to curb steel production and exports in 2007, last year it announced the suspension of a 5% export duty on hot rolled coil from December and introduced a \$586 billion stimulus package to boost infrastructure spending over the next two years.

ArcelorMittal South Africa reduced its exports outside the African region to 6% of total steel product sales from 12% in 2007, emphasising the strategy to focus sales on the African continent.

Domestic market

Domestic demand for steel remained strong for the first three quarters of the year, driven mainly by the increase in public sector infrastructure spending. During the fourth quarter, however, the impact of the global financial crisis spilled over to the local economy and led to a sharp decline in demand further aggravated by destocking of inventory levels. In addition high interest and inflation rates resulted in a slowdown in residential building activity as well as reduced consumer spending on durable goods such as automobiles and household appliances. Figures by the South African Iron and Steel Institute (IASI) show that steel consumption declined from 5,9 million tonnes in 2007 to an estimated 5,6 million tonnes last year.

Shipment volumes (unaudited)



Operational review

Operating profits for 2008 increased by 58% year-on-year to R12,2 billion. The Coke & Chemicals business boosted its operating income by 100% to R7,5 billion. Flat Carbon Steel Products contributed R4,7 billion. Long Carbon Steel Products contributed R2,0 billion. Liquid steel production for the year however was 9% lower compared to 2007 primarily due to the relapse of the Corex and Midrex plants at Saldanha Works and the mini-rcline of Blast Furnace N5 at Newcastle Works during the first half of the year. Further production cutbacks were implemented in the fourth quarter to align output levels at our operations with falling demand. Other short-term interventions to cushion the company against the worst effects of the global financial crisis focussed on cost reduction and cost-management initiatives.

Safety, health and environment

We remain committed to providing a safe workplace for our employees and contractors and our "Journey to Zero" initiative is aimed at achieving zero fatalities and injuries at our operations. Our operations set several safety records last year despite a number of major refurbishments, including 3 million man hours without a lost time injury at Vanderbijlpark Works and 2 million time free man hours at Saldanha- and Newcastle Works. These achievements were unfortunately marred by two fatalities during an accident at Saldanha Works in September. After an extensive investigation, measures were introduced to prevent a similar accident in future. Environmental matters are a high priority for the company and a number of projects were initiated or accelerated last year to fast-track the environmental improvement programme and resolve issues raised by environmental authorities and other stakeholders. We also finalised our longer-term capital expenditure plans to improve our overall environmental performance. Total environmental capital expenditure for the year amounted to R217 million of which the following two projects stand out:

- The installation of a dust extraction system at Vereeniging Works' steelmaking facilities is on track for completion early in 2010.
- The Coke Gas and Water Cleaning project at Vanderbijlpark Works has experienced commissioning delays, but will be operational during the first quarter of 2009 and lead to a reduction of 46% in SO₂ emissions at the operation.

Capital projects

The company completed two capital projects during the year that will significantly improve the supply of liquid iron at its operations namely the successful relapse of the Corex and Midrex plants at Saldanha Works and the mini-rcline of Blast Furnace N5 at Newcastle Works. The construction of two new Direct Reduction kilns at Vanderbijlpark Works is also nearing completion. Once completed the kilns will enable the company to become less reliant on scrap as feedstock to the Electric Arc Furnaces, while at the same time adding 220 000 tonnes of liquid steel to our manufacturing capacity. The global economic crisis has forced us to reconsider our expansion programme, but we remain committed to growing our business in the medium to long term and continue to monitor all indicators to optimise the timing of our capital expenditure plan.

Contingent liabilities

In the case brought before the Competition Tribunal by gold miners Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited and DRD Gold Limited alleging excessive, an appeal heard took place before the Competition Tribunal on 1 October 2008. The ruling is still pending. The administrative penalty imposed by the Competition Tribunal of R692 million remains disclosed as a contingent liability and no amount has been raised as a provision.

In another case brought before the Competition Tribunal by Barnes Fencing Industries Limited - relating to alleged price and payment discrimination on the sale of low carbon wire rod products - a date for the plea hearing and the beginning of the initial proceedings is awaited.

Changes to the board of directors

- Mr M Mukherjee resigned as non-executive director with effect from 13 May 2008.
- Mr CPD Cornier has been appointed as non-executive director with effect from 14 May 2008.
- Mr MAL Wurth resigned as non-executive director with effect from 30 November 2008.
- Mr AMHO Poupart-Lafarge has been appointed as non-executive director with effect from 30 November 2008.

Outlook for quarter one 2009

Earnings for the first quarter of 2009 are set to fall substantially compared to the fourth quarter of 2008, as the full impact of the decline in steel prices will be felt. Furthermore the drop in the cost of input materials, especially coal, will only start to flow through from the second quarter. The decline in earnings will be further aggravated by lower income expected from the Coke & Chemicals business due to reduced demand for market coke from the ferro-alloy industry.

Domestic steel demand is expected to remain under pressure for at least the first half of 2009. A decline in inflation, further possible interest rate cuts and Government's commitment to continue with its infrastructure programme could boost consumer and investment spending towards the latter part of the year.

Global production and consumption in 2009 are also forecast to be below 2008 levels. A return to stability is only expected in the second half of the year when production cuts should bring the market closer to equilibrium.

Dividend announcement

In line with company policy, the Board has declared a final cash dividend of 365 cents (2007: 196 cents), covered approximately three times by headline earnings. Payment in South African Rands will be made to shareholders recorded in the register at the close of business on the record date. The payment dates for shareholders are:

Last date to trade shares cum dividend	Friday, 6 March 2009
Shares commence trading ex dividend	Monday, 9 March 2009
Record date	Friday, 13 March 2009
Dividend payment date	Monday, 16 March 2009

Share certificates may not be dematerialised or rematerialised between Monday, 9 March 2009 and Friday, 13 March 2009, both days inclusive. Dividend entitlements of less than ten rand will be donated to charity in terms of the articles of association.