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- The <u>level and the excessive volatility of the Rand</u> is impacting on business planning, export market development, the ability to maintain global market share, as well as by influencing export proceeds.
- <u>Reduced global demand</u> due to the recent global recession and a rather fragile recovery, particularly by the advanced economies (SAs largest trading partners for manufactured goods).
- The state of infrastructure in our economy availability, effectiveness, cost, etc.
  - Electricity both availability and the substantial rise in cost over recent years
  - Transport and logistics (rail, ports & harbours) efficiency and costs
  - Telecommunication SA has among the highest costs in a global context
  - Urban infrastructure not adequate to sustain and promote higher levels of economic development.
- High <u>costs of doing business</u> to be reduced by addressing bottlenecks in infrastructural services provision, improve service efficiency and through lowering the costs of economic infrastructure.
- The <u>regulatory environment</u> (e.g. registering a company, issuing of mining licences) as well as bureaucratic red-tape should be addressed so as to provide a more efficient public service.

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### Challenges faced by the manufacturing sector (cont.)



- <u>Investor and business confidence</u> is at low levels considering the rather uncertain outlook for the global economy as the recovery in advanced economies is still fragile.
- <u>Labour costs relative to productivity</u> levels are of concern as the steep rise in demand for salary and wages is not necessarily matched by a similar improvement in output per worker, resulting in rising and often uncompetitive unit-labour costs.
- Incentives provided by government perhaps not always well communicated or well received by private sector (lack of knowledge about their existence and/or access thereto).
- Incentives are biased towards the <u>automotive industry</u>, with the APDP taking the largest share of the DTI incentive allocation.
- SA's manufacturing sector is quite concentrated, with a few key industries dominating production, a situation
  that is even more prevalent on the export side. Such overconcentration makes the country extremely
  vulnerable to changes in economic conditions, both domestically and globally, that impact on either production
  or export performance of these key sectors.
- <u>Barriers to entry</u> and unfair practices (e.g. monopolistic behaviour) need to be lowered so as to provide a more
  enabling operating environment for business enterprises.

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### Challenges faced by the manufacturing sector (cont.)

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- SA's <u>exports still highly reliant on its traditional trading partners</u> (advanced economies), especially in the case
  of manufactured goods. As economic prospects for the advanced economies remain unsatisfactory, demand
  for our manufactured goods could be limited.
- Although China is now our single largest export destination, the <u>export basket is highly skewed towards commodities</u> (mining and mineral products), which account for roughly 80% of exports to this Asian giant. Moreover, iron ore takes the majority share of SA's exports to China. Adding basic iron and steel and non-ferrous metals to these mineral exports, about 90% of all exports comprise mining and primary beneficiated products.
- <u>Trade policy</u> must be geared towards achieving a much more diversified export basket, both in terms of product mix and geography.

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### Challenges faced by the manufacturing sector (cont.)



- <u>Public sector capex</u> should be leveraged to support increased localisation spin-offs and thereby benefitting the establishment of new and/or expansion of existing business enterprises for the development of the SA economy through increased value addition, job creation, export orientation and/or import replacement.
- Government and state-owned enterprises must put actions in place to ensure that a <u>substantially larger portion</u> of the <u>budgeted capex is indeed being spent</u>. Public sector capex could go a long way in reviving much needed business and investor confidence in rather difficult times for the domestic economy.
- <u>Timeous payment for services provided</u> and/or products supplied to the state is critical to the cash flows and the survival of many firms, especially for SME's.
- From a fiscal perspective, government must ensure <u>improved efficiency</u> in the application of scarce funding source, by channelling such funds into creating a more enabling investor and business environment through providing quality and efficient infrastructure.
- Government must prevent of placing a too heavy burden on the economy by limiting/managing the increase in the public sector workforce to more affordable and sustainable levels.
- The <u>tax burden</u> is increasing continuously and thereby limits the private sector to expand its production capacity.

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## Challenges faced by the manufacturing sector (cont.)

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- <u>High energy prices</u> are challenging the viability of many existing projects, whilst a continuation of this rising trend could jeopardise the creation of new investment projects and/or resulting in more existing projects becoming unviable in future.
- Rising <u>energy prices</u> could also have major implications for the country's industrial base and capacity to remain competitive in an ever increasing challenging global trading environment (both for exports and import competition).

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# Recently announced actions to support industrial growth and development



- In December 2011, the Trade and Industry, Finance, and Economic Development Department announced the
   <u>Designated Sectors for Local Procurement</u> programme, with the objective to support the purchasing of various
   goods, such as power pylons, rolling stock, buses, canned vegetables, clothing, textiles, footwear and leather
   goods, as well as Set Top Boxes, from local manufacturers.
- The <u>Manufacturing Competitiveness Enhancement Programme</u> (MCEP) has at its aim to provide production and distressed funding support so as to boost productivity, competitiveness, to raise the level of fixed investment, as well as to create much needed employment opportunities.
- A <u>Special Economic Zones</u> programme was also announced in the 2012 Budget, with its aim to provide
  infrastructure and incentives to develop clusters of firms, encouraging private investment and employment
  growth. Incentives will target improvements to business conditions and productivity through skills development,
  business incubation, reducing red tape, technology transfer and adaptation, and providing assistance with
  access to markets and logistics.

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