## TRUWORTHS

## TRADING UPDATE FOR THE FIRST QUARTER ENDED 06 OCTOBER 2019

## TRADING PERFORMANCE

- **1.** High inflationary conditions, shortages of foreign exchange, severe erosion of consumer disposable incomes persisted in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter.
- 2. Units sold were 68% down on the similar period in the prior year.
- **3.** A monthly interest charge on the 6 month book was introduced with effect from 1 September 2019. Monthly interest rates on the 12 month book were increased in line with increased lending rates in the economy.
- 4. Key Trading Expenses as a % of Turnover in nominal terms

	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2019/2020	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2018/2019
Employment costs Occupancy costs	22.6% 12.3%	22.7% 14.2%
Transport and Distribution costs IT costs	6.5% 2.4%	3.2% 1.4%

5. In nominal terms, the quarter was profitable, with an improvement in margins.

## **OUTLOOK**

The business has entered the traditionally busy Christmas period and is adequately stocked for the anticipated levels of trading.

In the medium-term, Management will focus on product availability and affordability with emphasis on in-house manufacture especially where fabrics are sourced locally with no direct foreign exchange input.

By Order of the Board

B. M. Chibanda Company Secretary

20 November 2019





