

## Ackermans deal with Universal Footwear creates over 400 jobs

Ackermans has partnered with footwear importer and distributor, Universal Footwear, to locally design, source and produce its leather sandals. The deal creates much-needed jobs in South Africa's struggling clothing and textile industry.



According to Ackermans, the retail sector, with its footprint in both urban and rural areas, has the potential to create more sustainable jobs, especially since SA's unemployment rate has climbed to a grim 29%.

“As a proudly South African retailer that is dedicated to adding value to the lives of our customers and the communities we operate in, we are proud to have created over 400 direct jobs and around 100 indirect jobs in the Western Cape, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal, through our partnership with Universal Footwear.

“Also, more importantly, is that we can now offer our customers a high-quality, on-trend, leather product at an affordable price,” says Raynard Potgieter, buying director at Ackermans.

Universal Footwear's team of designers/merchandisers work closely with partners such as Ackermans, to develop styles that are relevant and key to each season.



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Lauren Hartzenberg 15 May 2019



## Community upliftment

Philippe Hasson, managing director at Universal Footwear, says: “Together with Ackermans, we have developed a world-class range of leather upper sandals. This collaboration has also been one of the most fulfilling, as we’ve had the opportunity to make a meaningful impact in our community through new job creation.”

In addition, the leather is sourced from local tanneries. “Ackermans’ leather range is designed, sourced, and produced in the country – making them truly South African!” adds Hasson.

“As a proud member of every community we operate in, Ackermans is proud to make a sustainable impact within our customers’ communities, as they are at the heart of everything we do as a business,” concludes Potgieter.

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