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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS: MINING PRODUCTION AND MINERAL SALES

Key findings regarding mining production as at the end of April 2007

Mining production increases

The total mining production for the three months ended April 2007 increased by 1,2% compared with the three months ended April 2006. Furthermore, the actual total mining production for April 2007 increased by 0,6% compared with April 2006 (see Table A).

The total mining production for the three months ended April 2007, after seasonal adjustment, decreased by 2,2% compared with the previous three months. This decrease of 2,2% was due to a decrease of 2,7% in the production of non-gold minerals and counteracted by an increase of 1,6% in the production of gold. The major contributor to the seasonally adjusted decrease of 2,7% in the total production of non-gold minerals during the three months ended April 2007 compared with the previous three months was the decrease in the production of PGMs (4,2 percentage points) (see Table 4).

Gold production decreased by 8,2% for the period April 2007 compared with April 2006. However, gold production after seasonal adjustment increased by 3,6% for April 2007 when compared to March 2007 (see Table A).

Key figures regarding mining production as at the end of April 2007

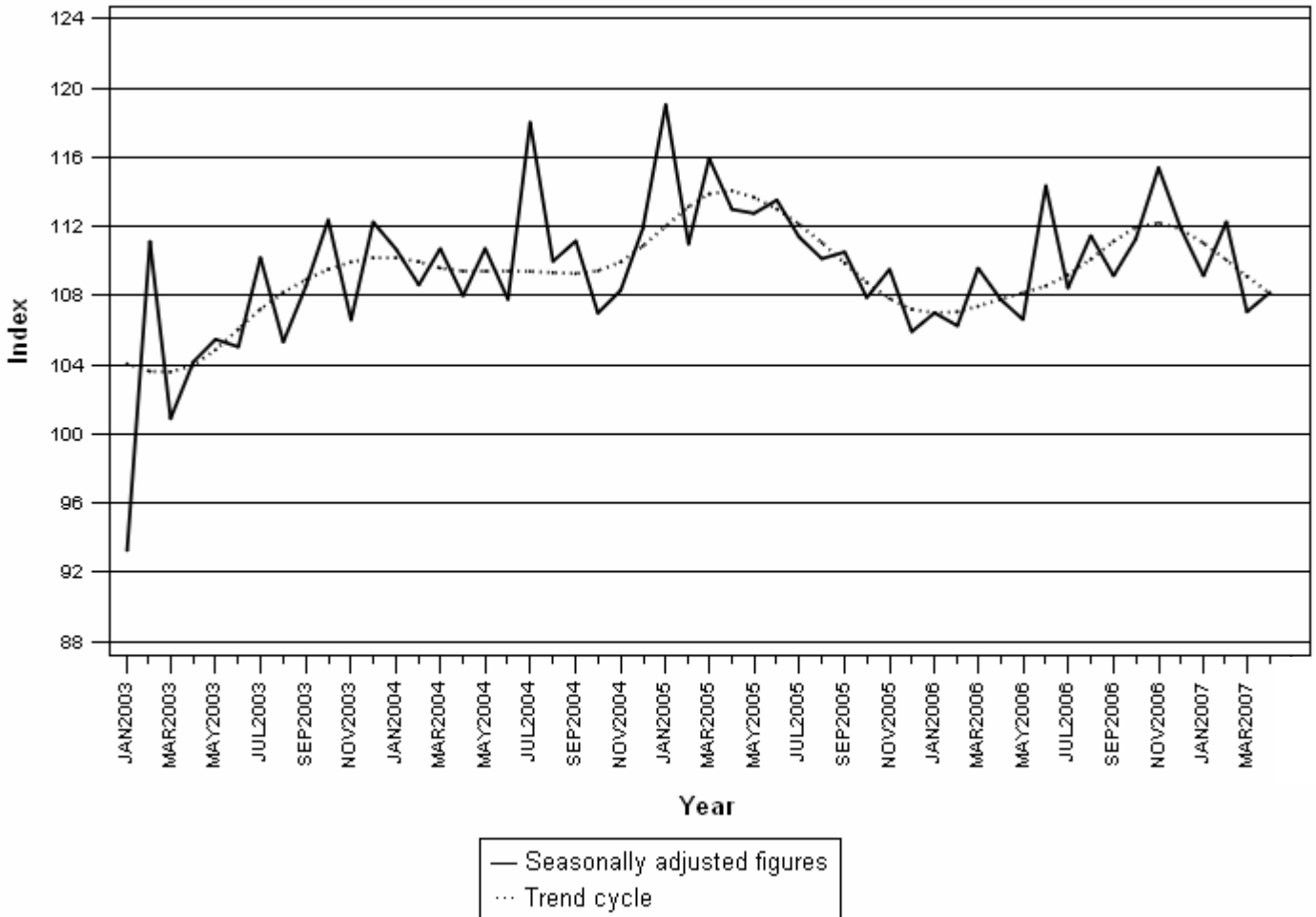
Table A – Selected key figures regarding mining production for April 2007

Annual estimates	Base : 2000=100		
	April 2007	% Change between April 2006 and April 2007	% Change between February 2006 to April 2006 and February 2007 to April 2007
Index of the physical volume of mining production			
Gold	58,4	-8,2%	-7,0%
Non-gold	122,2	2,1%	2,6%
Total	105,8	0,6%	1,2%

Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates	Base : 2000=100		
	April 2007	% Change between March 2007 and April 2007	% Change between November 2006 to January 2007 and February 2007 to April 2007
Index of the physical volume of mining production			
Gold	60,4	3,6%	1,6%
Non-gold	126,1	0,2%	-2,7%
Total	109,2	0,6%	-2,2%

Figure 1 shows the seasonally adjusted figures and trend series for the index of mining production between January 2003 and April 2007. The trend series rose from the beginning of 2003 until January 2004, but levelled off until November of the same year. The trend reached a peak in April 2005 and a trough in January 2006. From February 2006 the trend increased until November 2006 but started to decline thereafter.

Figure 1 – Monthly indices of physical volume of total mining production including gold



Key findings regarding mineral sales as at the end of March 2007

Mineral sales increase

The seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales at current prices for the first quarter of 2007 reflected an increase of 3,4% compared with the previous quarter. This increase of 3,4% can be attributed to increases of 5,2% (R503,6 million) in the sales of gold and 3,1% (R1 379,1 million) in the sales of non-gold minerals (see Table B and Table 16).

Furthermore, the actual value of mineral sales at current prices for the first quarter of 2007 increased by 38,8% compared with the first quarter of 2006. The increase of 38,8% is higher than the increase of 26,8% for the same period a year ago (see Table B and Figure 3).

The major contributors to the increase of 38,8% year on year in the actual value of mineral sales at current prices for the first quarter of 2007 were PGMs (+16,7 percentage points or +R6 444,7 million), gold (+6,6 percentage points or +R2 559,3 million), nickel (+4,7 percentage points or +R1 777,5 million), coal (+4,2 percentage points or +R1 613,5 million) and iron ore (+3,6 percentage points or +R1 377,4 million) (see Table 8).

Total sales reached R18,8 billion for the month of March 2007.

Key figures regarding mineral sales as at the end of March 2007

Table B – Selected key figures regarding mineral sales for March 2007

Annual estimates	March 2007	% Change between March 2006 and March 2007	% Change between January 2006 to March 2006 and January 2007 to March 2007
	R million		
Mineral sales			
Gold	3 597,3	29,6%	34,5%
Non-gold	15 221,3	33,5%	39,8%
Total	18 818,6	32,7%	38,8%

Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates	March 2007	% Change between February 2007 and March 2007	% Change between October 2006 to December 2006 and January 2007 to March 2007
	R million		
Mineral sales			
Gold	3 409,9	-4,7%	5,2%
Non-gold	15 716,7	-2,0%	3,1%
Total	19 126,6	-2,5%	3,4%

Figure 2 shows the seasonally adjusted figures and trend series of the total value of mineral sales between January 2003 and March 2007. From January 2003 the trend decreased until July 2003. The trend series rose moderately from August 2003 until February 2005. Since March 2005 the trend cycle has been increasing until present.

Figure 2 – Total value of mineral sales including gold

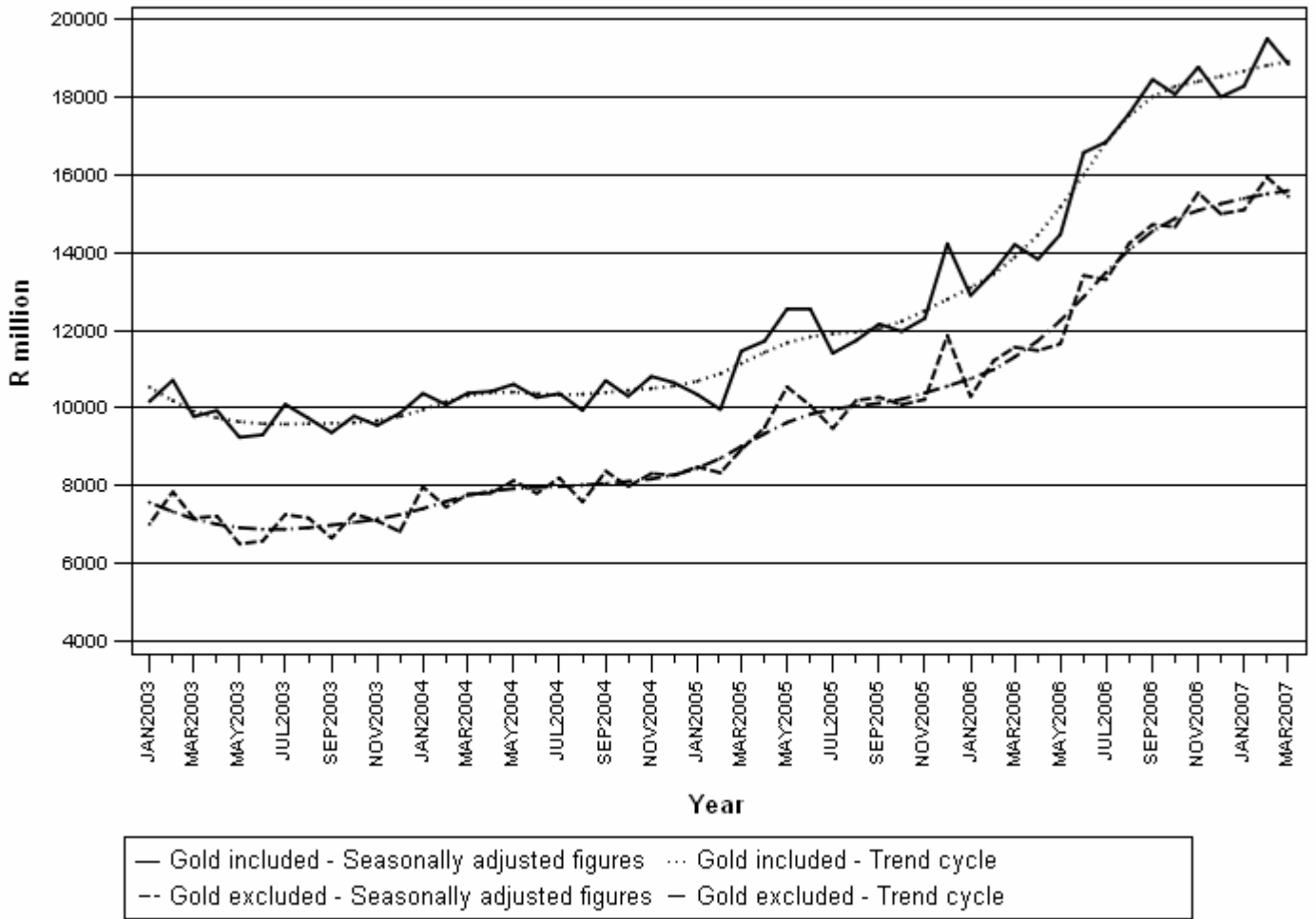
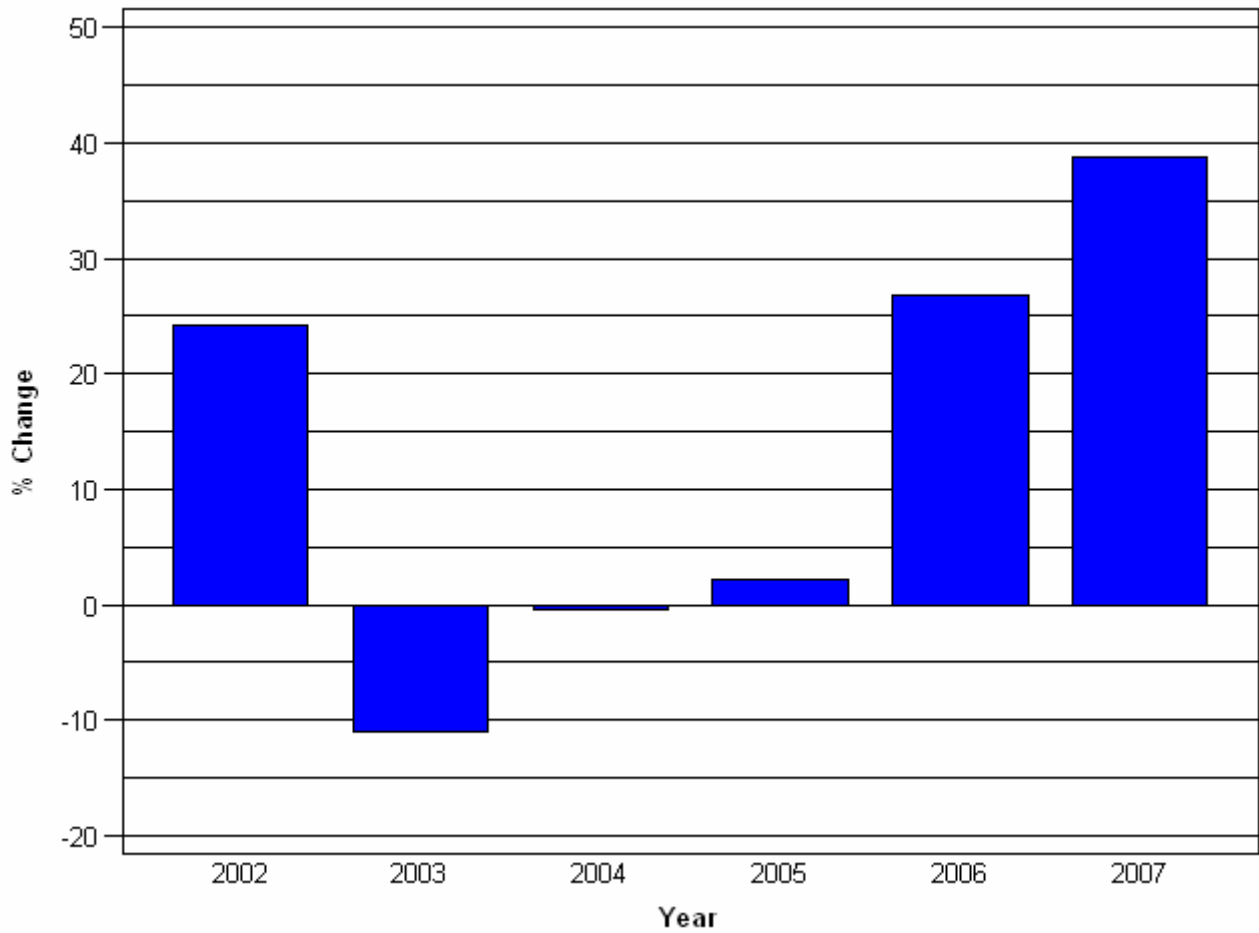


Figure 3 – Comparison of the last six years for the total value of mineral sales, including gold, for the three months ended March compared to the three months ended March of the previous year.



The mineral sales growth rate of 38,8% for the first quarter of 2007 surpassed the 26,8% growth rate of the first quarter of 2006. Figure 3 shows that there were only two negative growth rates and those were for the first quarters of 2003 and 2004. Since 2005 all first quarter growth rates were positive.

P J Lehohla
Statistician-General

Detailed results: Tables

Table 1 – Index of the physical volume of mining production including gold

		Base : 2000=100						
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Actual indices	January	95,0	89,0	85,1	100,7	107,9	96,9	98,6
	February	96,8	94,2	101,7	97,8	98,6	93,6	98,6
	March	102,3	99,1	101,8	112,9	119,9	114,3	112,4
	April	98,9	102,0	101,0	105,0	110,2	105,2	105,8
	May	103,6	102,9	107,1	113,0	115,2	109,0	
	June	108,4	104,1	108,6	111,1	116,8	117,6	
	July	93,5	99,0	110,7	119,5	113,1	110,3	
	August	115,2	107,2	109,1	114,3	114,8	116,3	
	September	98,4	108,1	114,6	117,4	116,7	115,2	
	October	105,1	106,7	114,5	108,2	108,2	111,0	
	November	102,6	107,5	108,6	110,1	111,4	117,3	
	December	97,2	107,0	113,5	113,3	107,4	113,2	
	Year	101,4	102,2	106,4	110,3	111,7	110,0	
Seasonally adjusted indices	January	104,8	97,5	93,1	110,7	119,1	107,0	108,6
	February	102,3	101,3	112,4	109,4	110,9	105,7	112,8
	March	102,4	99,2	101,4	111,5	116,6	110,5	108,5
	April	102,6	106,0	104,6	108,6	113,8	108,6	109,2
	May	103,2	102,0	105,7	110,8	113,1	106,8	
	June	103,4	99,6	103,8	106,1	111,3	111,9	
	July	93,0	97,7	108,9	117,0	110,3	107,5	
	August	112,3	103,9	105,3	110,0	110,0	111,2	
	September	96,4	105,0	110,1	111,8	110,8	109,5	
	October	101,2	103,4	112,1	106,5	107,6	110,9	
	November	99,6	105,3	107,3	109,5	111,3	118,4	
	December	95,1	104,8	111,2	111,5	105,6	110,8	

Table 2 – Index of the physical volume of mining production excluding gold

		Base : 2000=100						
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Actual indices	January	98,3	89,6	85,7	110,0	121,6	110,1	113,5
	February	98,6	95,8	107,3	104,0	108,7	104,1	111,1
	March	104,4	101,0	106,2	123,6	136,2	130,9	130,7
	April	102,2	105,3	106,3	115,0	127,0	119,7	122,2
	May	108,9	107,0	114,7	124,9	131,3	126,1	
	June	112,5	107,3	116,4	121,1	132,3	135,7	
	July	93,7	102,4	118,8	133,1	129,2	127,1	
	August	124,5	111,2	116,3	125,5	132,2	134,1	
	September	99,7	111,4	122,9	130,0	132,4	131,7	
	October	110,2	111,9	124,2	119,7	122,3	127,8	
	November	106,8	113,3	116,2	121,3	126,2	136,2	
	December	97,7	111,2	123,3	127,0	120,0	132,0	
	Year	104,8	105,6	113,2	121,3	126,6	126,3	
Seasonally adjusted indices	January	108,4	98,1	93,5	121,0	134,3	121,8	125,0
	February	105,0	104,3	120,7	118,7	124,5	119,5	129,5
	March	105,3	101,7	106,1	122,1	132,1	126,1	125,9
	April	106,2	109,6	110,1	119,0	131,1	123,4	126,1
	May	107,2	104,9	112,0	121,3	127,9	122,6	
	June	106,9	102,3	110,8	115,2	125,7	128,7	
	July	92,1	100,1	116,0	129,5	125,3	123,2	
	August	121,7	107,9	112,2	120,6	126,5	128,0	
	September	98,8	109,0	118,7	124,2	126,0	125,4	
	October	105,1	107,7	121,0	117,5	121,7	127,8	
	November	103,3	110,9	115,0	121,2	126,8	138,2	
	December	96,0	109,3	120,9	125,0	118,0	129,0	

Table 3 – Indices of physical volume of mining production according to mining divisions, mineral groups and minerals

	Base : 2000=100							
	Weights	Actual indices				Seasonally adjusted indices		
		2006	2007		2006	2007		2006
			1/ Apr	Mar *	Apr	Apr	Mar	Apr
Total, gold included	100,0	110,0	105,8	112,4	105,2	109,2	108,5	108,6
Total, gold excluded	74,3	126,3	122,2	130,7	119,7	126,1	125,9	123,4
Gold	25,7	62,9	58,4	59,2	63,6	60,4	58,3	65,8
Iron ore	3,1	122,1	124,0	131,2	126,8	121,6	124,2	124,6
Chromium	1,1	111,4	135,6	146,4	92,0	144,1	152,5	97,3
Copper	1,6	80,8	78,8	80,8	70,0	84,3	86,5	75,1
Manganese ore	1,3	143,0	157,6	179,6	151,6	154,1	190,4	148,1
PGMs	27,6	148,7	140,0	150,8	137,6	142,5	134,8	140,2
Nickel	2,0	113,6	107,2	105,2	114,8	107,8	103,1	115,3
Other metallic minerals	2,9	92,2	81,6	84,4	91,2	82,1	83,7	91,9
Diamonds	8,4	137,6	153,6	153,6	144,8	150,7	160,9	142,9
Coal	20,0	108,6	100,0	110,4	98,0	110,1	112,5	107,4
Building materials	2,6	129,1	127,2	134,4	117,2	131,1	129,4	120,4
Other non-metallic minerals	3,8	84,7	78,8	86,4	86,8	83,5	86,0	92,5

1/ Preliminary.

* Revised.

Table 4 – Contribution of the mining divisions to the total mining production (seasonally adjusted)

		Base : 2000=100			
		Percentage contribution to the total mining production using the weights according to the value of production in the base year	Average seasonally adjusted production index for February 2007 to April 2007	Quarterly percentage change February 2007 to April 2007 compared with the preceding three months	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total mining production 1/
Gold		25,7	61,1	1,6	0,2
Non-gold minerals	Iron ore	3,1	123,7	-3,0	-0,1
	Copper	1,6	84,5	-2,3	0,0
	Manganese Ore	1,3	161,7	12,7	0,2
	Chromium	1,1	144,3	7,5	0,1
	PGMs	27,6	143,8	-10,6	-4,2
	Nickel	2,0	105,0	-5,3	-0,1
	Other metallic minerals	2,9	80,0	-6,1	-0,1
	Diamonds	8,3	149,7	19,9	1,8
	Coal	20,0	112,2	-0,5	-0,1
	Building materials	2,6	132,3	-0,6	0,0
	Other non-metallic minerals	3,8	83,8	6,2	0,2
Total non-gold minerals		74,3	127,2	-2,7	-2,4
Total minerals		100,0	110,2	-2,2	-2,2

1/ The quarterly contribution of a commodity or commodity group to the total seasonally adjusted mining production is calculated by multiplying the weight of the commodity or commodity group with the change in the index for the commodity or commodity group and dividing by the previous period index total. Figures have been rounded off.

Table 5 – Total value of mineral sales including gold (R million)

		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	* 2006	1/ 2007
Actual values	January	9 241,5	11 387,0	9 868,8	9 820,5	9 587,4	11 755,1	16 571,6
	February	9 711,7	10 634,4	10 236,5	9 576,1	9 383,8	12 680,8	18 212,7
	March	8 134,9	11 639,2	9 829,3	10 396,0	11 477,1	14 179,9	18 818,6
	April	8 554,2	11 194,9	9 294,1	9 789,3	11 034,0	13 042,6	
	May	9 675,9	12 145,3	9 104,1	10 373,3	12 239,8	14 051,1	
	June	10 640,7	11 637,2	9 745,9	10 856,0	13 360,1	17 815,0	
	July	10 146,3	10 779,9	10 403,7	10 844,2	12 001,8	17 712,2	
	August	9 586,4	11 633,5	9 612,0	9 841,7	11 687,6	17 472,2	
	September	8 711,5	12 115,1	10 008,1	11 693,2	13 524,1	20 734,4	
	October	9 999,6	12 514,2	9 989,4	10 466,3	12 074,8	18 100,8	
	November	9 627,7	11 059,4	9 535,8	10 815,6	12 453,2	19 044,2	
	December	11 327,7	10 764,4	9 899,2	10 585,6	13 994,2	17 719,3	
	Year	115 358,1	137 504,5	117 526,9	125 057,8	142 817,9	194 307,6	
Seasonally adjusted values	January	9 152,4	11 418,9	9 930,8	10 143,4	10 255,3	12 532,0	17 943,9
	February	9 847,8	10 870,2	10 519,4	9 991,6	9 943,1	13 639,3	19 607,3
	March	8 133,6	11 701,9	9 962,1	10 544,5	11 526,5	14 283,9	19 126,6
	April	8 965,4	11 891,9	9 851,5	10 396,1	11 692,0	13 921,2	
	May	9 715,6	12 143,9	9 126,8	10 480,1	12 347,1	14 318,3	
	June	10 312,3	11 165,9	9 302,6	10 322,0	12 621,5	16 656,1	
	July	10 253,5	10 714,7	10 478,3	10 823,4	11 764,3	16 927,0	
	August	9 599,7	11 709,3	9 700,1	9 884,7	11 727,7	17 622,4	
	September	8 571,2	11 821,7	9 449,7	10 799,1	12 308,1	18 633,7	
	October	9 895,3	12 277,9	9 852,3	10 315,4	11 988,5	18 298,2	
	November	9 752,2	11 258,2	9 663,2	10 847,3	12 373,2	19 234,5	
	December	10 866,9	10 377,9	9 659,5	10 318,8	13 588,8	17 262,4	

Table 6 – Total value of mineral sales excluding gold (R million)

		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	* 2006	1/ 2007
Actual values	January	7 181,9	8 002,3	6 744,1	7 480,6	7 809,6	9 316,0	13 613,2
	February	7 720,8	7 368,2	7 452,6	7 039,8	7 813,9	10 469,6	14 782,2
	March	5 912,0	8 110,9	7 140,7	7 710,4	8 840,3	11 403,2	15 221,3
	April	6 748,0	7 481,9	6 815,2	7 366,5	8 963,2	10 850,3	
	May	7 139,7	8 619,3	6 477,2	8 029,3	10 372,9	11 449,4	
	June	8 245,9	8 035,5	6 759,5	8 107,4	10 562,0	14 222,4	
	July	7 779,6	7 344,7	7 613,1	8 699,0	10 082,3	14 211,4	
	August	6 942,5	8 065,2	7 052,7	7 546,9	10 210,5	14 285,4	
	September	6 219,3	8 562,1	7 092,3	9 114,1	11 390,1	16 481,1	
	October	6 971,4	8 711,8	7 345,5	8 089,0	10 186,0	14 716,0	
	November	6 953,1	7 981,8	7 154,9	8 406,4	10 436,1	15 907,8	
	December	8 532,3	7 834,8	6 825,9	8 138,7	11 549,8	14 590,3	
	Year	86 346,5	96 118,5	84 473,7	95 728,1	118 216,7	157 902,9	
Seasonally adjusted values	January	7 108,9	8 033,1	6 771,3	7 731,8	8 389,8	9 922,4	14 754,0
	February	7 794,1	7 507,1	7 640,1	7 353,8	8 309,0	11 339,8	16 030,9
	March	5 971,9	8 266,4	7 345,6	7 935,3	8 990,3	11 636,4	15 716,7
	April	6 937,8	7 752,0	7 127,3	7 775,1	9 462,5	11 570,6	
	May	7 078,8	8 486,6	6 378,2	7 995,0	10 338,0	11 496,4	
	June	8 027,4	7 805,6	6 564,4	7 844,8	10 132,3	13 486,8	
	July	7 871,3	7 214,0	7 631,8	8 650,9	9 823,1	13 379,5	
	August	7 032,7	8 193,9	7 130,1	7 524,8	10 184,0	14 271,6	
	September	6 147,2	8 419,1	6 730,9	8 463,4	10 418,6	14 893,6	
	October	7 085,6	8 709,6	7 328,0	7 986,2	10 100,7	14 876,7	
	November	7 005,9	8 083,1	7 199,1	8 343,4	10 283,3	15 995,5	
	December	8 039,6	7 438,8	6 608,8	7 928,7	11 220,0	14 250,3	

1/ Preliminary.
* Revised.

Table 7 – Total value of mineral sales according to mining divisions, mineral groups and minerals (R million)

	Actual values				Seasonally adjusted values		
	2006	2007		2006 March	2007		2006 March
		1/ March	February *		March	February	
Total, gold included	194 307,6	18 818,6	18 212,7	14 179,9	19 126,6	19 607,3	14 283,9
Total, gold excluded	157 902,9	15 221,3	14 782,2	11 403,2	15 716,7	16 030,9	11 636,4
Gold	36 404,5	3 597,3	3 430,5	2 776,7	3 409,9	3 576,4	2 647,5
Iron ore	9 928,1	1 214,2	1 044,9	855,3	1 152,1	1 110,0	811,1
Chromium	2 309,9	241,2	182,7	140,5	261,5	207,7	151,7
Copper	4 956,2	413,9	386,4	283,5	415,8	442,5	285,5
Manganese ore	2 245,9	240,0	212,7	235,1	230,6	220,6	226,5
PGMs	65 443,8	6 380,4	6 032,2	4 364,9	6 779,0	6 631,9	4 650,0
Nickel	7 779,9	1 024,1	1 037,2	348,8	1 091,4	956,5	376,2
Other metallic minerals	5 199,6	404,8	390,6	251,0	520,5	500,4	320,5
Coal	37 806,5	3 379,8	3 735,2	2 722,1	3 533,1	4 024,6	2 834,0
Building materials	5 126,6	484,1	452,7	418,2	469,6	484,0	405,1
- Granite or norite	395,7	35,4	38,7	30,9	36,2	43,0	31,7
- Lime and limestone	1 527,4	145,6	127,2	119,4	144,1	140,7	118,5
- Other building materials	3 203,4	303,1	286,8	267,9	289,3	300,3	254,9
Other non-metallic minerals	17 106,8	1 438,8	1 307,6	1 783,8	1 263,1	1 452,7	1 575,8

1/ Preliminary.

*/ Revised.

Table 8 – Contribution of the mining divisions to the total value of mineral sales

		Percentage contribution to total mineral sales during January 2006 to March 2006	Percentage change between March 2006 and January 2007 to March 2007	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total value of mineral sales 1/	Difference in sales of mining divisions between January 2006 to March 2006 and January 2007 to March 2007
					R million
Gold		19,2	34,5	6,6	2 559,3
Non-gold minerals	Iron ore	5,6	64,0	3,6	1 377,4
	Copper	1,8	76,5	1,4	542,9
	Manganese Ore	1,5	7,5	0,1	44,3
	Chromium	1,1	47,5	0,5	210,2
	PGMs	31,3	53,3	16,7	6 444,7
	Nickel	2,8	166,4	4,7	1 777,5
	Other metallic minerals	2,5	33,4	0,8	323,7
	Coal	21,7	19,3	4,2	1 613,5
	Building materials	2,8	22,0	0,6	241,9
	Other non-metallic minerals	9,6	-4,0	-0,4	-148,2
Total non-gold minerals		80,8	39,8	32,2	12 427,9
Total minerals		100,0	38,8	38,8	14 987,1

1/ The contribution to the percentage change in sales is calculated by multiplying the quarterly percentage change of each mineral with the percentage contribution to total mineral sales during January 2006 to March 2006, divided by 100.

Table 9 – Percentage change in indices of mining production between the current month and the corresponding month of the previous year

	Base : 2000=100			
	Actual estimates April 2006	Actual estimates April 2007	% Change between April 2006 and April 2007	Difference between April 2006 and April 2007
	Percentage points			
Gold	63,6	58,4	-8,2%	-5,2
Non-gold minerals	119,7	122,2	2,1%	2,5
Total	105,2	105,8	0,6%	0,6

Table 10 – Percentage change in indices of mining production between the current quarter and the corresponding quarter of the previous year

	Base : 2000=100			
	Actual estimates February 2006 to April 2006	Actual estimates February 2007 to April 2007	% Change between February 2006 to April 2006 and February 2007 to April 2007	Difference between February 2006 to April 2006 and February 2007 to April 2007
	Percentage points			
Gold	193,6	180,0	-7,0%	-13,6
Non-gold minerals	354,7	364,0	2,6%	9,3
Total	313,1	316,8	1,2%	3,7

Table 11 – Percentage change in seasonally adjusted indices of mining production between the current month and the previous month

	Base : 2000=100			
	Actual estimates March 2007	Actual estimates April 2007	% Change between March 2007 and April 2007	Difference between March 2007 and April 2007
	Percentage points			
Gold	58,3	60,4	3,6%	2,1
Non-gold minerals	125,9	126,1	0,2%	0,2
Total	108,5	109,2	0,6%	0,7

Table 12 – Percentage change in seasonally adjusted indices of mining production between the current quarter and the previous quarter

	Base : 2000=100			
	Actual estimates November 2006 to January 2007	Actual estimates February 2007 to April 2007	% Change between November 2006 to January 2007 and February 2007 to April 2007	Difference between November 2006 to January 2007 and February 2007 to April 2007
	Percentage points			
Gold	180,3	183,2	1,6%	2,9
Non-gold minerals	392,2	381,5	-2,7%	-10,7
Total	337,8	330,5	-2,2%	-7,3

Table 13 – Percentage change in actual value of mineral sales between the current month and the corresponding month of the previous year

	Actual estimates March 2006	Actual estimates March 2007	% Change between March 2006 and March 2007	Difference between March 2006 and March 2007
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	2 776,7	3 597,3	29,6%	820,6
Non-gold minerals	11 403,2	15 221,3	33,5%	3 818,1
Total	14 179,9	18 818,6	32,7%	4 638,7

Table 14 – Percentage change in actual value of mineral sales between the current quarter and the corresponding quarter of the previous year

	Actual estimates January 2006 to March 2006	Actual estimates January 2007 to March 2007	% Change between January 2006 to March 2006 and January 2007 to March 2007	Difference between January 2006 to March 2006 and January 2007 to March 2007
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	7 427,0	9 986,3	34,5%	2 559,3
Non-gold minerals	31 188,8	43 616,7	39,8%	12 427,9
Total	38 615,8	53 602,9	38,8%	14 987,1

Table 15 – Percentage change in seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales between the current month and the previous month

	Actual seasonal adjusted estimates February 2007	Actual seasonal adjusted estimates March 2007	% Change between February 2007 and March 2007	Difference between February 2007 and March 2007
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	3 576,4	3 409,9	-4,7%	-166,5
Non-gold minerals	16 030,9	15 716,7	-2,0%	-314,2
Total	19 607,3	19 126,6	-2,5%	-480,7

Table 16 – Percentage change in seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales between the current quarter and the previous quarter

	Actual estimates October 2006 to December 2006	Actual estimates January 2007 to March 2007	% Change between October 2006 to December 2006 and January 2007 to March 2007	Difference between October 2006 to December 2006 and January 2007 to March 2007
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	9 672,6	10 176,2	5,2%	503,6
Non-gold minerals	45 122,5	46 501,6	3,1%	1 379,1
Total	54 795,1	56 677,8	3,4%	1 882,7

Explanatory notes

Introduction	1	Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publishes monthly information regarding the mining industry on the basis of mining production figures and mineral sales furnished by the Minerals Bureau, Department of Minerals and Energy. This statistical release contains detailed information regarding indices of the physical volume of mining production and the total value of mineral sales according to mining divisions and mineral groups on a monthly basis.
	2	In accordance with international practice, the indices have to be re-based every five years to a new base year. The base year of the index of the physical volume of mining production is currently 2000=100. Both actual and seasonally adjusted figures are presented.
	3	Due to mining production figures being available earlier than mineral sales figures, mining production indices are published one month earlier than mineral sales.
	4	The value of mineral sales is calculated, in general, on a free-on-rail/free-on-board basis.
	5	In order to improve timeliness, some information for the current month may have been estimated due to late response. These estimates will be revised in future statistical release(s) as soon as more up-to-date information is available.
Purpose of the survey	6	The monthly mining production and sales survey is a survey conducted by the Minerals Bureau, covering all mining establishments operating in the South African economy. The results of this survey are used to calculate physical volume of mining production indices in order to estimate the gross domestic product (GDP) and its components, which in turn are used to develop and monitor Government policy.
Scope of the survey	7	This survey covers mining establishments conducting activities regarding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extracting, dressing and beneficiating of minerals occurring naturally, for example solids such as coal and ores.
Classification	8	The 1993 edition of the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)</i> , Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC)</i> with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC division, major group and subgroup level. Each statistical unit is classified to an industry which reflects the predominant activity of the establishment.
Statistical unit	9	The basic statistical unit for the collection of information is the mining establishment. An establishment is the smallest economic unit that functions as a separate entity. Each statistical unit is classified to an industry (see paragraph 8).
Weighting	10	The weights which are used to aggregate minerals to mineral groups and mineral groups to total mining are based on the value of production derived from detailed information for 2000 supplied by the Minerals Bureau, Department of Minerals and Energy.

Seasonal adjustment	11	<p>Seasonally adjusted estimates of all items are generated each month, using the X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by US Bureau of the Census Economic Research and Analyses Division, 1968. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month.</p> <p>Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variations. This means the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour.</p>
Reliability of estimates	12	<p>Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Figures for the latest month are preliminary.</p>
Historical data	13	<p>More comprehensive detail on the method of calculation and historical data in respect of the production indices according to mining mineral groups for the period February 1990 to November 2002 is available in statistical release P2041.1, entitled <i>Mining statistics: Indices of the physical volume of mining production, Base: 2000=100, February 1990 to November 2002</i>, published on 11 February 2003 on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za</p>
Related publications	14	<p>Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from Stats SA -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bulletin of Statistics.</i> • <i>SA Statistics.</i>
Unpublished statistics	15	<p>In some cases Stats SA can also make available statistics not included in standard publications. The statistics can be made available via computer printouts or diskette or CD. Generally, a charge is made for providing unpublished statistics.</p>
Rounding-off of figures	16	<p>The figures in the tables have, where necessary, been rounded off to the nearest digit shown. There may, therefore, be slight discrepancies between the sums of the constituent items and the totals shown.</p>

Glossary

Free-on-rail	Free-on-rail relates to goods sold on the local market where no railage or road transport costs are involved.
Free-on-board basis	Free-on-board relates to goods destined for the export market. Railage, road transport and docking charges are involved but no charges are made for the transport by sea.
Index of physical volume of mining production	The index of physical volume of mining production or a production index is a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production. The production index of a mineral group is the ratio between the volume of production of a mineral group in a given period and the volume of production of the same mineral group in the base period. The current base period is 2000. The production in the base period is set at 100.
Industry	An industry consists of a group of establishments engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the <i>System of National Accounts (SNA)</i> in the same way as in the <i>Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) of all Economic Activities</i> , Fifth Edition of January 1993.
PGMs - Platinum Group Metals	Platinum Group Metals include platinum; iridium; osmiridium; palladium; rhodium; ruthenium and osmium.
Sales	Sales are the total value of sales and transfers-out of goods mined by the mining establishments and the amounts received for installation, erection or assembly or other services rendered.
Weight	The weight of a mineral group is the ratio of the sales of a mineral group to the total sales of the mining industry. The weight of a mineral group reflects the importance of the mineral group in the total mining industry. The weights change over time due to quality changes and changes in relative prices. New weights need to be calculated from time to time.

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