



**Statistics
South Africa**

Preferred supplier of quality statistics



Statistical release

P2041

Mining: Production and sales (preliminary)

August 2008

**Embargoed until:
9 October 2008
10:00**

Enquiries:

User Information Services
Tel: (012) 310 8600 / 4892 /8390

Forthcoming issue:

September 2008

Expected release date:

13 November 2008

Contents

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS: MINING PRODUCTION AND MINERAL SALES 2

Detailed results: Tables..... 7

Table 1 – Index of the physical volume of mining production including gold 7

Table 2 – Index of the physical volume of mining production excluding gold 7

Table 3 – Indices of physical volume of mining production according to mining divisions, mineral groups and minerals 8

Table 4 – Contribution of the mining divisions to the total mining production (seasonally adjusted)..... 8

Table 5 – Total value of mineral sales including gold (R million) 9

Table 6 – Total value of mineral sales excluding gold (R million) 9

Table 7 – Total value of mineral sales according to mining divisions, mineral groups and minerals (R million) 10

Table 8 – Contribution of the mining divisions to the total value of mineral sales 10

Table 9 – Percentage change in the indices of mining production between the current month and the corresponding month of the previous year 11

Table 10 – Percentage change in the indices of mining production between the current quarter and the corresponding quarter of the previous year 11

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

Table 12 – Percentage change in the seasonally adjusted indices of mining production between the current quarter and the previous quarter 11

Table 13 – Percentage change in the actual value of mineral sales between the current month and the corresponding month of the previous year 12

Table 14 – Percentage change in the actual value of mineral sales between the current quarter and the corresponding quarter of the previous year 12

Table 15 – Percentage change in the seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales between the current month and the previous month 12

Table 16 – Percentage change in the seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales between the current quarter and the previous quarter 12

Explanatory notes 13

Glossary 15

General information 16

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS: MINING PRODUCTION AND MINERAL SALES

Key findings regarding mining production as at the end of August 2008

Seasonally adjusted mining production decreases

The total mining production for the three months ended August 2008, after seasonal adjustment, decreased by 0,5% compared with the previous three months, after large fluctuations since the start of 2008. The three biggest contributors to the 0,5% decrease were gold (-0,7 of a percentage point), diamonds (-0,5 of a percentage point) and coal (-0,4 of a percentage point). Iron ore production was the only significant positive contributor (0,9 of a percentage point) to the mining production for the three months ended August 2008 (see Table 4).

The total mining production for the three months ended August 2008 decreased by 8,0% compared with the three months ended August 2007. The actual total mining production for August 2008 decreased by 6,2% compared with August 2007, reflected by both gold and non-gold minerals production decreasing by 23,2% and 3,5% respectively (see Table A).

Key figures regarding mining production as at the end of August 2008

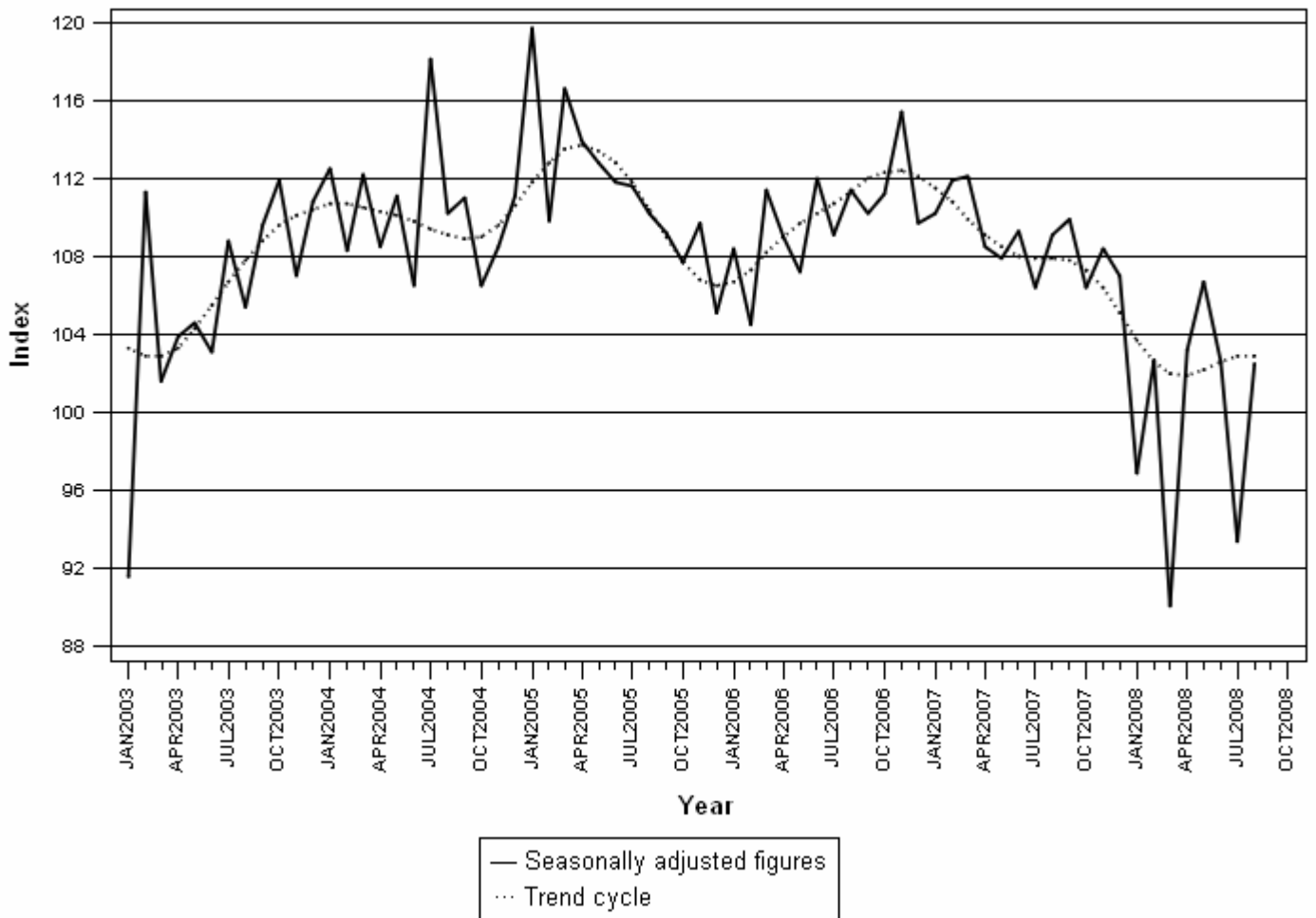
Table A – Selected key figures regarding mining production for August 2008

Actual estimates	Base : 2000=100		
	August 2008	% change between August 2007 and August 2008	% change between June to August 2007 and June to August 2008
Index of the physical volume of mining production			
Gold	47,6	-23,2	-17,5
Non-gold	127,2	-3,5	-6,5
Total	106,8	-6,2	-8,0

Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates	Base : 2000=100		
	August 2008	% change between July and August 2008	% change between March to May 2008 and June to August 2008
Index of the physical volume of mining production			
Gold	45,6	-8,6	-5,6
Non-gold	122,1	12,5	0,3
Total	102,5	9,7	-0,5

Figure 1 shows the seasonally adjusted figures and trend series for the index of total mining production between January 2003 and August 2008.

Figure 1 – Monthly indices of physical volume of total mining production (Base: 2000=100)



Key findings regarding mineral sales as at the end of July 2008

Seasonally adjusted mineral sales increase

The total seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended July 2008 reflected an increase of 7,0% compared with the previous three months. This increase of 7,0% (R5 293,2 million) can be attributed to an increase of 7,9% (R5 059,4 million) in the sale of non-gold minerals and 2,1% (R233,8 million) in the sale of gold (see Table B and Table 16).

The actual estimated total value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended July 2008 increased by 48,7% compared with the three months ended July 2007. The major contributors to this increase of 48,7%, year-on-year, were PGMs (15,8 percentage points or R8 887,5 million), coal (14,1 percentage points or R7 922,7 million) and manganese ore (7,9 percentage points or R4 451,0 million) (see Table 8).

Key figures regarding mineral sales as at the end of July 2008

Table B – Selected key figures regarding mineral sales for July 2008

Actual estimates	July 2008	% change between July 2007 and July 2008	% change between May to July 2007 and May to July 2008
	R million		
Mineral sales			
Gold	4 133,8	25,5	15,4
Non-gold	23 383,6	65,2	56,2
Total	27 517,5	57,7	48,7

Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates	July 2008	% change between June and July 2008	% change between February to April and May to July 2008
	R million		
Mineral sales			
Gold	3 933,6	6,8	2,1
Non-gold	23 384,3	-1,2	7,9
Total	27 317,9	-0,1	7,0

Figure 2 shows the seasonally adjusted figures and trend series of the total value of mineral sales between January 2003 and July 2008.

Figure 2 – Total value of mineral sales

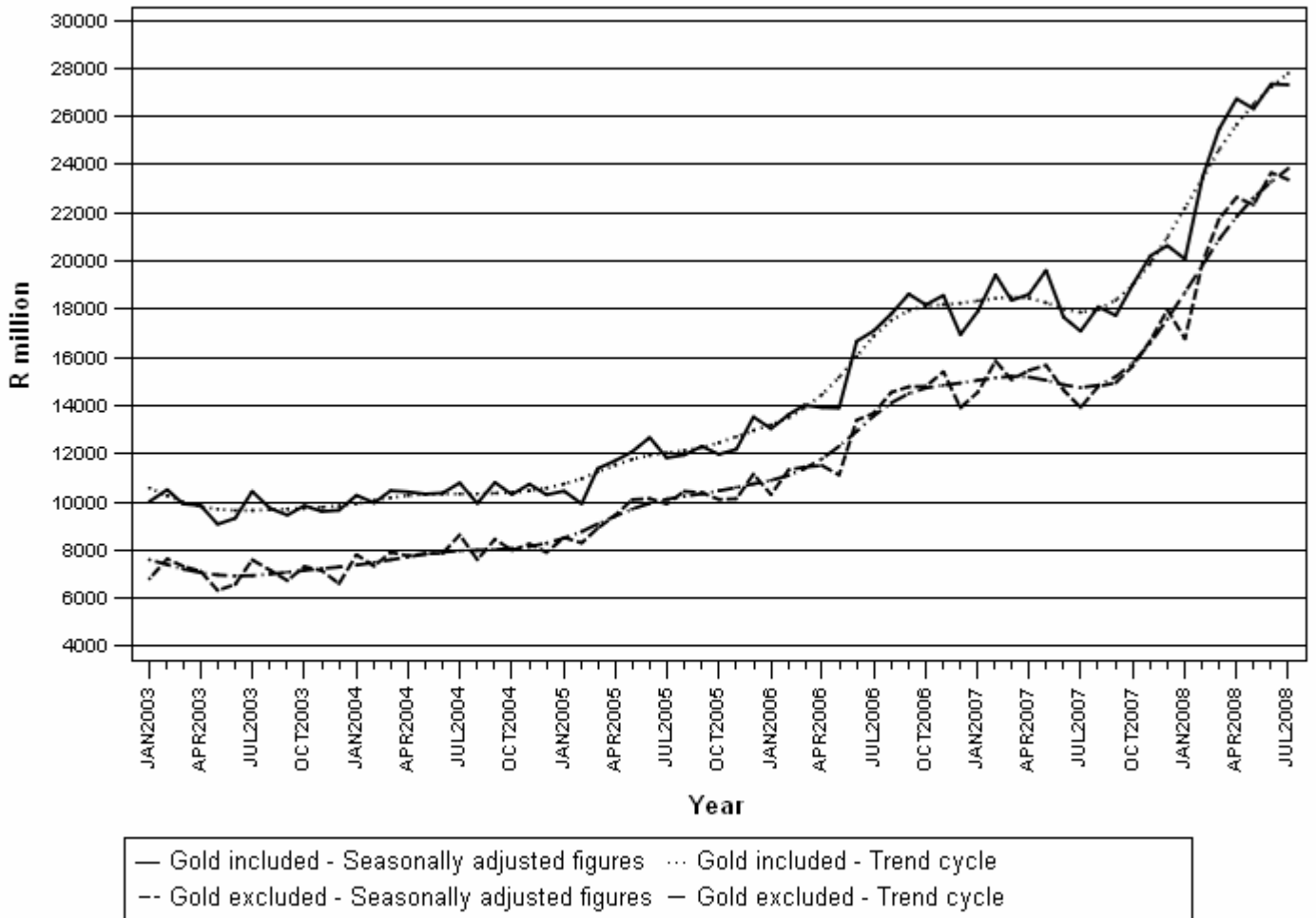
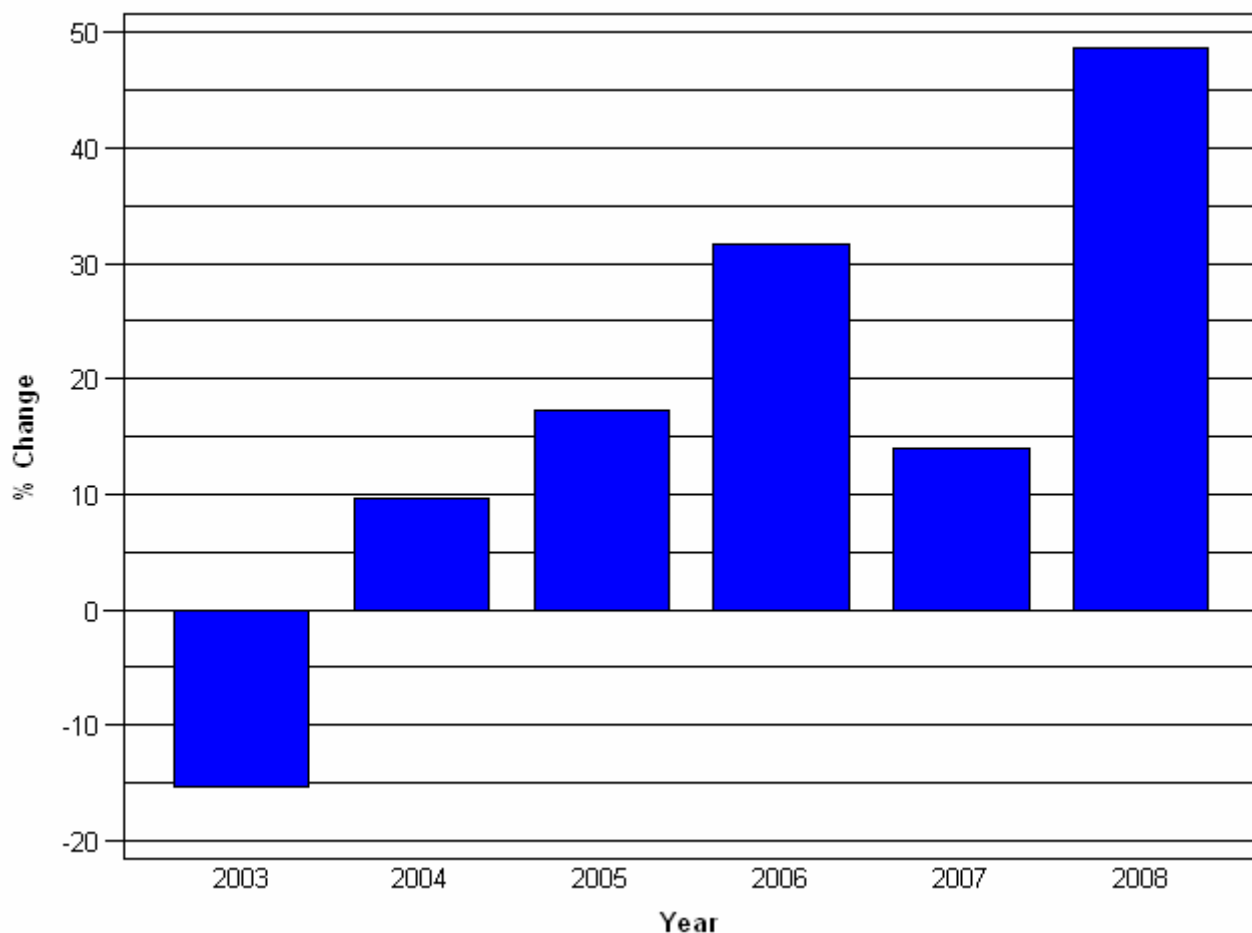


Figure 3 shows the 48,7% annual growth rate in the value of mineral sales for the three months ended July 2008. The increase for 2008 represents a higher growth rate compared to last years' growth rate (13,9%) for the same period and it is the fifth consecutive increase since 2003.

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



P J Lehohla
Statistician-General

Detailed results: Tables

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

		Base : 2000=100						
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	1/ 2008
Actual indices	January	89,0	85,1	100,7	107,9	96,9	97,8	85,6
	February	94,2	101,7	97,8	98,6	93,6	99,1	90,5
	March	99,1	101,8	112,9	119,9	114,3	115,0	92,0
	April	102,0	101,0	105,0	110,2	105,2	104,7	99,3
	May	102,9	107,1	113,0	115,2	109,0	109,8	108,1
	June	104,1	108,6	111,1	116,8	117,6	115,5	108,6
	July	99,0	110,7	119,5	113,1	110,2	107,1	94,3
	August	107,2	109,1	114,3	114,8	116,3	113,9	106,8
	September	108,1	114,6	117,4	116,7	115,2	118,3	
	October	106,7	114,5	108,2	108,2	110,9	106,0	
	November	107,5	108,6	110,1	111,4	117,3	110,6	
	December	107,0	113,5	113,3	107,4	113,1	109,9	
	Year	102,2	106,4	110,3	111,7	110,0	109,0	
Seasonally adjusted indices	January	97,5	91,6	112,5	119,7	108,4	110,2	96,9
	February	100,7	111,3	108,3	109,8	104,5	111,9	102,7
	March	99,3	101,6	112,2	116,6	111,4	112,1	90,1
	April	103,1	103,9	108,5	113,9	109,0	108,5	103,2
	May	102,1	104,6	111,1	112,8	107,2	107,9	106,7
	June	99,7	103,1	106,5	111,8	112,0	109,3	102,6
	July	98,5	108,8	118,1	111,6	109,1	106,4	93,4
	August	104,1	105,4	110,2	110,2	111,4	109,1	102,5
	September	104,6	109,6	111,0	109,2	110,2	109,9	
	October	103,4	111,9	106,5	107,7	111,2	106,4	
	November	105,3	107,0	108,5	109,7	115,4	108,4	
	December	104,4	110,8	111,1	105,1	109,7	107,0	

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

		Base : 2000=100						
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	1/ 2008
Actual indices	January	89,6	85,7	110,0	121,6	110,1	112,4	99,4
	February	95,8	107,3	104,0	108,7	104,1	111,7	106,4
	March	101,0	106,2	123,6	136,2	130,9	134,4	105,7
	April	105,3	106,3	115,0	127,0	119,7	121,6	116,6
	May	107,0	114,7	124,9	131,3	126,1	127,4	127,8
	June	107,3	116,4	121,1	132,3	135,7	134,2	127,5
	July	102,4	118,8	133,1	129,2	127,1	124,0	110,0
	August	111,2	116,3	125,5	132,2	134,0	131,8	127,2
	September	111,4	122,9	130,0	132,4	131,7	137,4	
	October	111,9	124,2	119,7	122,3	127,7	122,4	
	November	113,3	116,2	121,3	126,2	136,2	129,8	
	December	111,2	123,3	127,0	120,0	131,9	128,3	
	Year	105,6	113,2	121,3	126,6	126,3	126,3	
Seasonally adjusted indices	January	98,0	91,5	123,4	135,0	123,4	126,8	112,6
	February	103,5	119,2	117,2	122,9	117,8	128,1	122,2
	March	101,9	106,4	123,0	131,9	127,1	130,7	103,2
	April	105,7	109,1	118,6	130,9	123,5	125,7	121,0
	May	105,0	110,5	121,7	127,7	123,4	124,6	125,7
	June	102,5	110,0	115,9	126,5	129,0	126,6	120,2
	July	101,0	115,7	131,0	127,0	125,2	122,6	108,5
	August	108,0	112,4	121,0	126,9	128,4	126,3	122,1
	September	108,5	118,0	123,2	124,0	126,5	127,6	
	October	107,6	120,8	117,5	121,9	128,3	123,3	
	November	110,9	114,6	119,8	124,5	134,0	127,1	
	December	108,8	120,5	124,7	117,6	127,9	125,0	

1/ Preliminary.

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		
		2007	2007		1/ 2008	2007	2008	
			Aug	Jul	Aug		Aug	Jul
Total, gold included	100,0	109,0	113,9	94,3	106,8	109,1	93,4	102,5
Total, gold excluded	74,3	126,3	131,8	110,0	127,2	126,3	108,5	122,1
Gold	25,7	58,9	62,0	48,8	47,6	59,4	49,9	45,6
Iron ore	3,1	124,4	118,0	154,8	162,0	120,3	158,9	164,8
Chromium	1,1	145,1	153,6	156,4	154,8	146,2	149,5	146,9
Copper	1,6	86,6	92,0	68,4	70,0	89,2	65,7	67,5
Manganese ore	1,3	162,9	174,4	194,8	208,0	171,2	198,9	203,7
PGMs	27,6	147,0	145,2	96,0	143,2	137,9	97,1	136,5
Nickel	2,0	102,4	90,0	79,6	98,4	83,2	81,7	91,4
Other metallic minerals	2,9	83,1	84,0	88,8	90,8	80,6	85,1	87,0
Diamonds	8,3	137,4	174,4	134,8	127,6	170,1	133,3	124,0
Coal	20,0	110,3	116,4	117,2	115,6	111,0	111,1	110,3
Building materials	2,6	* 136,1	* 151,2	136,8	132,8	141,1	130,7	124,0
Other non-metallic minerals	3,8	74,9	74,4	72,4	71,2	74,2	75,6	71,6

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 June to August 2008	Quarterly percentage change June to August 2008 compared with the preceding three months	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total mining production 1/
Gold		25,7	49,1	-5,6	-0,7
Non-gold minerals	Iron ore	3,1	159,5	23,7	0,9
	Chromium	1,1	146,9	-4,1	-0,1
	Copper	1,6	70,5	-13,0	-0,2
	Manganese ore	1,3	199,0	11,3	0,3
	PGMs	27,6	122,1	0,4	0,1
	Nickel	2,0	84,2	-0,2	0,0
	Other metallic minerals	2,9	87,7	5,1	0,1
	Diamonds	8,3	126,6	-4,7	-0,5
	Coal	20,0	110,6	-1,9	-0,4
	Building materials	2,6	129,2	-3,7	-0,1
	Other non-metallic minerals	3,8	71,9	4,5	0,1
Total non-gold minerals		74,3	116,9	0,3	0,2
Total minerals		100,0	99,5	-0,5	-0,5

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)

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	* 2007	1/ 2008
Actual values	January	11 387,0	9 868,8	9 820,5	9 587,4	11 755,1	15 692,9	17 446,8
	February	10 634,4	10 236,5	9 576,1	9 383,8	12 680,8	17 928,6	21 703,1
	March	11 639,2	9 829,3	10 396,0	11 477,1	14 179,9	18 555,2	25 831,4
	April	11 194,9	9 294,1	9 789,3	11 034,0	13 042,6	17 447,8	25 446,8
	May	12 145,3	9 104,1	10 373,3	12 239,8	14 046,8	19 841,6	26 568,9
	June	11 637,2	9 745,9	10 856,0	13 360,1	17 809,8	19 033,2	29 688,0
	July	10 779,9	10 403,7	10 844,2	12 001,8	17 614,8	17 449,4	27 517,5
	August	11 633,5	9 612,0	9 841,7	11 687,6	17 339,2	17 890,4	
	September	12 115,1	10 008,1	11 693,2	13 524,1	20 586,6	19 617,8	
	October	12 514,2	9 989,4	10 466,3	12 074,8	18 031,0	18 718,1	
	November	11 059,4	9 535,8	10 815,6	12 453,2	18 918,2	20 678,0	
	December	10 764,4	9 899,2	10 585,6	13 994,2	17 584,7	21 591,5	
	Year	137 504,5	117 526,9	125 057,8	142 817,9	193 589,5	224 444,5	
Seasonally adjusted values	January	11 462,5	10 019,7	10 278,0	10 456,2	13 040,9	17 930,0	20 084,5
	February	10 864,3	10 511,1	9 963,5	9 928,1	13 629,5	19 430,1	23 487,8
	March	11 683,0	9 923,6	10 469,4	11 384,9	14 020,6	18 372,3	25 472,5
	April	11 887,3	9 859,0	10 421,0	11 710,0	13 921,9	18 620,7	26 735,4
	May	12 110,3	9 076,8	10 332,4	12 086,4	13 901,2	19 613,9	26 321,4
	June	11 184,2	9 326,1	10 371,8	12 676,8	16 673,7	17 670,5	27 349,6
	July	10 711,6	10 442,7	10 792,6	11 834,3	17 101,9	17 091,5	27 317,9
	August	11 713,5	9 741,5	9 940,0	11 954,9	17 807,2	18 101,3	
	September	11 832,9	9 455,9	10 811,7	12 312,4	18 632,2	17 742,9	
	October	12 281,0	9 847,4	10 312,0	11 978,4	18 185,5	19 022,6	
	November	11 217,4	9 608,1	10 743,8	12 189,5	18 576,2	20 216,5	
	December	10 384,1	9 656,6	10 300,7	13 533,8	16 943,6	20 645,5	

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

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	* 2007	1/ 2008
Actual values	January	8 002,3	6 744,1	7 480,6	7 809,6	9 316,0	12 734,4	14 531,4
	February	7 368,2	7 452,6	7 039,8	7 813,9	10 469,6	14 498,1	18 307,4
	March	8 110,9	7 140,7	7 710,4	8 840,3	11 403,2	14 955,5	21 740,7
	April	7 481,9	6 815,2	7 366,5	8 963,2	10 850,3	14 595,8	21 785,3
	May	8 619,3	6 477,2	8 029,3	10 372,9	11 445,0	16 150,6	22 829,2
	June	8 035,5	6 759,5	8 107,4	10 562,0	14 217,3	15 745,9	25 706,8
	July	7 344,7	7 613,1	8 699,0	10 082,3	14 114,1	14 154,8	23 383,6
	August	8 065,2	7 052,7	7 546,9	10 210,5	14 152,3	14 647,2	
	September	8 562,1	7 092,3	9 114,1	11 390,1	16 333,3	16 529,8	
	October	8 711,8	7 345,5	8 089,0	10 186,0	14 646,2	15 356,0	
	November	7 981,8	7 154,9	8 406,4	10 436,1	15 781,8	17 192,4	
	December	7 834,8	6 825,9	8 138,7	11 549,8	14 455,8	18 847,4	
	Year	96 118,5	84 473,7	95 728,1	118 216,7	157 184,9	185 407,9	
Seasonally adjusted values	January	8 059,5	6 817,6	7 813,2	8 526,8	10 309,6	14 566,7	16 773,2
	February	7 501,6	7 637,3	7 337,2	8 299,5	11 332,8	15 854,4	19 945,4
	March	8 264,1	7 336,8	7 911,3	8 908,8	11 451,4	15 075,1	21 735,4
	April	7 751,4	7 124,9	7 765,5	9 437,8	11 510,8	15 465,6	22 647,8
	May	8 452,3	6 329,7	7 856,3	10 098,2	11 122,9	15 675,6	22 336,1
	June	7 817,1	6 580,2	7 872,2	10 139,4	13 399,0	14 645,3	23 667,6
	July	7 210,9	7 600,1	8 636,2	9 926,6	13 682,6	13 918,2	23 384,3
	August	8 202,4	7 178,3	7 605,2	10 443,2	14 552,6	14 795,2	
	September	8 431,7	6 738,6	8 456,7	10 388,7	14 783,3	14 948,8	
	October	8 712,9	7 323,6	7 991,4	10 105,5	14 798,7	15 650,2	
	November	8 047,3	7 149,7	8 260,2	10 134,3	15 407,9	16 702,1	
	December	7 447,8	6 610,2	7 909,5	11 159,1	13 910,7	17 978,6	

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		
	2007	2007	1/ 2008		2007	2008	
		July	June	July		July	June
Total, gold included	* 224 444,5	17 449,4	29 688,0	27 517,5	17 091,5	27 349,6	27 317,9
Total, gold excluded	* 185 407,9	14 154,8	25 706,8	23 383,6	13 918,2	23 667,6	23 384,3
Gold	39 036,7	3 294,6	3 981,2	4 133,8	3 173,3	3 682,0	3 933,6
Iron ore	13 483,2	1 101,9	1 436,3	1 646,9	1 109,1	1 399,7	1 654,8
Chromium	3 006,6	251,0	531,8	571,9	234,0	487,7	533,0
Copper	5 853,6	521,5	537,6	685,7	464,5	530,7	598,2
Manganese ore	3 571,4	191,4	2 246,8	1 405,5	231,8	1 737,0	1 708,9
PGMs	78 414,4	5 780,9	10 356,8	8 918,9	5 460,9	9 285,2	8 493,0
Nickel	8 863,7	635,6	525,9	430,3	670,2	460,8	467,1
Other metallic minerals	5 272,1	421,3	577,1	410,9	401,3	502,8	399,1
Coal	43 811,9	3 624,5	6 573,0	6 309,3	3 587,7	6 449,2	6 208,9
Building materials	* 5 998,9	534,8	562,7	577,3	504,7	544,4	544,4
- Granite or norite	* 479,6	48,8	54,2	53,9	41,1	50,8	45,5
- Lime and limestone	1 708,3	143,2	154,6	155,7	139,4	154,5	152,1
- Other building materials	* 3 811,2	342,8	353,9	367,7	324,2	339,1	346,8
Other non-metallic minerals	* 17 131,9	1 092,0	2 358,8	2 427,0	1 254,0	2 270,1	2 776,9

1/ Preliminary.

* Revised.

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

		Percentage contribution to total mineral sales during May to July 2007	Percentage change between May to July 2007 and May to July 2008	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total value of mineral sales 1/	Difference in sales of mining divisions between May to July 2007 and May to July 2008
					R million
Gold		18,2	15,4	2,8	1 581,7
Non-gold minerals	Iron ore	5,6	56,2	3,1	1 766,6
	Chromium	1,3	101,4	1,3	754,1
	Copper	2,9	7,1	0,2	116,3
	Manganese ore	1,3	604,8	7,9	4 451,0
	PGMs	34,9	45,2	15,8	8 887,5
	Nickel	4,5	-35,8	-1,6	-908,5
	Other metallic minerals	2,6	-6,6	-0,2	-94,8
	Coal	18,5	76,0	14,1	7 922,7
	Building materials	2,8	7,8	0,2	123,1
	Other non-metallic minerals	7,3	69,0	5,0	2 850,3
Total non-gold minerals		81,8	56,2	46,0	25 868,3
Total minerals		100,0	48,7	48,7	27 450,2

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 May to July 2007, divided by 100.

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

	Base : 2000=100			
	Actual estimates August 2007	Actual estimates August 2008	% change between August 2007 and August 2008	Difference between August 2007 and August 2008
	Percentage points			
Gold	62,0	47,6	-23,2	-14,4
Non-gold minerals	131,8	127,2	-3,5	-4,6
Total	113,9	106,8	-6,2	-7,1

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

	Base : 2000=100			
	Actual estimates June to August 2007	Actual estimates June to August 2008	% change between June to August 2007 and June to August 2008	Difference between June to August 2007 and June to August 2008
	Percentage points			
Gold	60,7	50,1	-17,5	-10,6
Non-gold minerals	130,0	121,6	-6,5	-8,4
Total	112,2	103,2	-8,0	-9,0

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

	Base : 2000=100			
	Actual estimates July 2008	Actual estimates August 2008	% change between July and August 2008	Difference between July and August 2008
	Percentage points			
Gold	49,9	45,6	-8,6	-4,3
Non-gold minerals	108,5	122,1	12,5	13,6
Total	93,4	102,5	9,7	9,1

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

	Base : 2000=100			
	Actual estimates March to May 2008	Actual estimates June to August 2008	% change between March to May and June to August 2008	Difference between March to May and June to August 2008
	Percentage points			
Gold	52,0	49,1	-5,6	-2,9
Non-gold minerals	116,6	116,9	0,3	0,3
Total	100,0	99,5	-0,5	-0,5

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

	Actual estimates July 2007	Actual estimates July 2008	% change between July 2007 and July 2008	Difference between July 2007 and July 2008
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	3 294,6	4 133,8	25,5	839,2
Non-gold minerals	14 154,8	23 383,6	65,2	9 228,8
Total	17 449,4	27 517,5	57,7	10 068,1

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

	Actual estimates May to July 2007	Actual estimates May to July 2008	% change between May to July 2007 and May to July 2008	Difference between May to July 2007 and May to July 2008
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	10 273,0	11 854,7	15,4	1 581,7
Non-gold minerals	46 051,3	71 919,6	56,2	25 868,3
Total	56 324,2	83 774,4	48,7	27 450,2

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

	Actual seasonal adjusted estimates June 2008	Actual seasonal adjusted estimates July 2008	% change between June and July 2008	Difference between June and July 2008
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	3 682,0	3 933,6	6,8	251,6
Non-gold minerals	23 667,6	23 384,3	-1,2	-283,3
Total	27 349,6	27 317,9	-0,1	-31,7

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

	Actual estimates February to April 2008	Actual estimates May to July 2008	% change between February to April and May to July 2008	Difference between February to April and May to July 2008
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	11 367,1	11 600,9	2,1	233,8
Non-gold minerals	64 328,6	69 388,0	7,9	5 059,4
Total	75 695,7	80 988,9	7,0	5 293,2

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 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.

General information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

Stats SA has copyright on this publication. Users may apply the information as they wish, provided that they acknowledge Stats SA as the source of the basic data wherever they process, apply, utilise, publish or distribute the data: and also that they specify that the relevant application and analysis (where applicable) result from their own processing of the data.

Advanced release calendar

An advanced release calendar is disseminated on www.statssa.gov.za

Stats SA products

A complete set of Stats SA publications is available at the Stats SA Library and the following libraries:

National Library of South Africa, Pretoria Division
National Library of South Africa, Cape Town Division
Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg
Library of Parliament, Cape Town
Bloemfontein Public Library
Johannesburg Public Library
Eastern Cape Library Services, King William's Town
Central Regional Library, Polokwane
Central Reference Library, Nelspruit
Central Reference Collection, Kimberley
Central Reference Library, Mmabatho

Stats SA also provides a subscription service.

Electronic services

A large range of data is available via on-line services, diskette, CD and computer printouts. For more details about our electronic data services, contact (012) 310 8600/8390/8351/8496/4892/8095.

You can visit us on the Internet at: www.statssa.gov.za

General enquiries

Telephone number (012) 317 8485 (technical inquiries)
(012) 310 2965/ 8220 (technical enquiries)
(012) 310 8161 (orders)
(012) 310 4883/ 4885/ 8018 (library)

Fax number: (012) 310 8664 (technical enquiries)

Email: martin.kohler@dme.gov.za (technical enquiries)
juan-pierret@statssa.gov.za (technical enquiries)
info@statssa.gov.za (user information services)
distribution@statssa.gov.za (orders)

Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

Produced by Stats SA