



**Department of
Minerals and Energy**

Mining: Production and sales (preliminary)

December 2005

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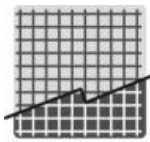


Table A – Selected key figures regarding mining production for December 2005

Annual estimates	December 2005	% change between December 2004 and December 2005	% change between October 2004 to December 2004 and October 2005 to December 2005	% change between January 2004 to December 2004 and January 2005 to December 2005
Index of the physical volume of mining production (2000=100)				
Gold	71,2	-3,8%	-8,8%	-12,8%
Non-gold minerals	124,2	-2,2%	2,6%	6,1%
Total	110,6	-2,4%	0,6%	2,6%

Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates

	December 2005	% change between November 2005 and December 2005	% change between July 2005 to September 2005 and October 2005 to December 2005
Index of the physical volume of mining production (2000=100)			
Gold	69,3	3,4%	3,7%
Non-gold minerals	121,5	-5,2%	-4,3%
Total	108,1	-3,8%	-3,1%

Key findings regarding mining production for the year 2005

Mining production increases

The total mining production for the year 2005, increased by 2,7% compared with the year 2004.

The increase of 2,7% in the total mining production was mainly due to an increase of 6,1% in the production of non-gold minerals whereas, the production of gold reflected a decrease of 12,8% during the above mentioned period.

Key findings regarding mining production as at the end of December 2005

Mining production decreases

The total mining production for the fourth quarter of 2005, after seasonal adjustment, decreased by 3,1% compared with the previous quarter. This decrease was due to a seasonal adjusted decrease of 4,3% in the production of non-gold minerals during the fourth quarter of 2005 compared with the previous quarter. The seasonally adjusted decrease of 4,3% in the production of non-gold minerals was mainly due to a decrease in the production of PGM's (-4,0 percentage points), coal (-0,8 of a percentage point) and iron ore (-0,2 of a percentage point) (see table 4).

Figure 1 shows the seasonally adjusted and trend series for the index of mining production between March 2001 and December 2005. The trend series has been rising since September 2004 up to April 2005 and started to decline in May 2005.

Figure 1 - Indices of physical volume of total mining production including gold (Month on month)

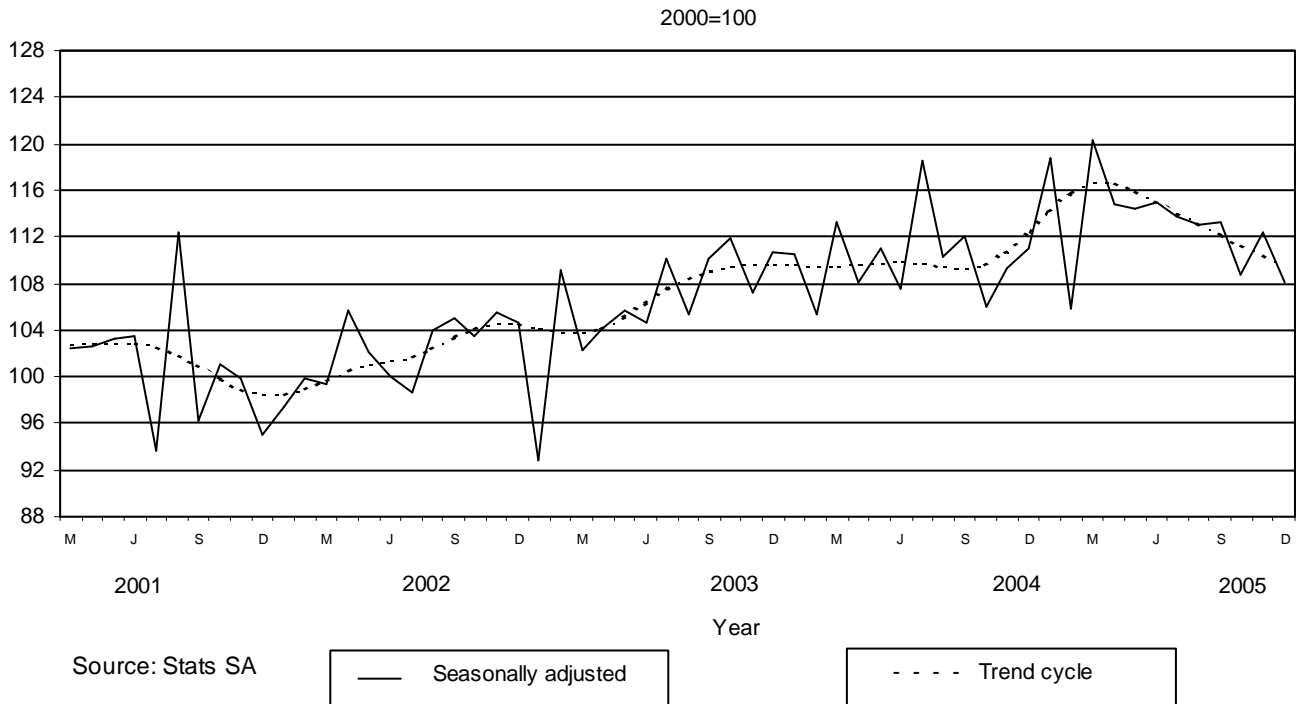


Table B – Selected key figures regarding mineral sales for November 2005

Annual estimates

	November 2005 R million	% change between November 2004 and November 2005	% change between September 2004 to November 2004 and September 2005 to November 2005
Mineral sales			
Gold	2 052,8	-14,8%	-17,5%
Non-gold minerals	10 563,0	25,7%	26,3%
Total	12 615,7	16,6%	16,5%

Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates

	November 2005 R million	% change between October 2005 and November 2005	% change between June 2005 to August 2005 and September 2005 to November 2005
Mineral sales			
Gold	2 055,0	11,6%	-2,9%
Non-gold minerals	10 561,3	3,8%	2,3%
Total	12 616,3	5,0%	1,5%

Key findings regarding mineral sales as at the end of November 2005

Mineral sales increase

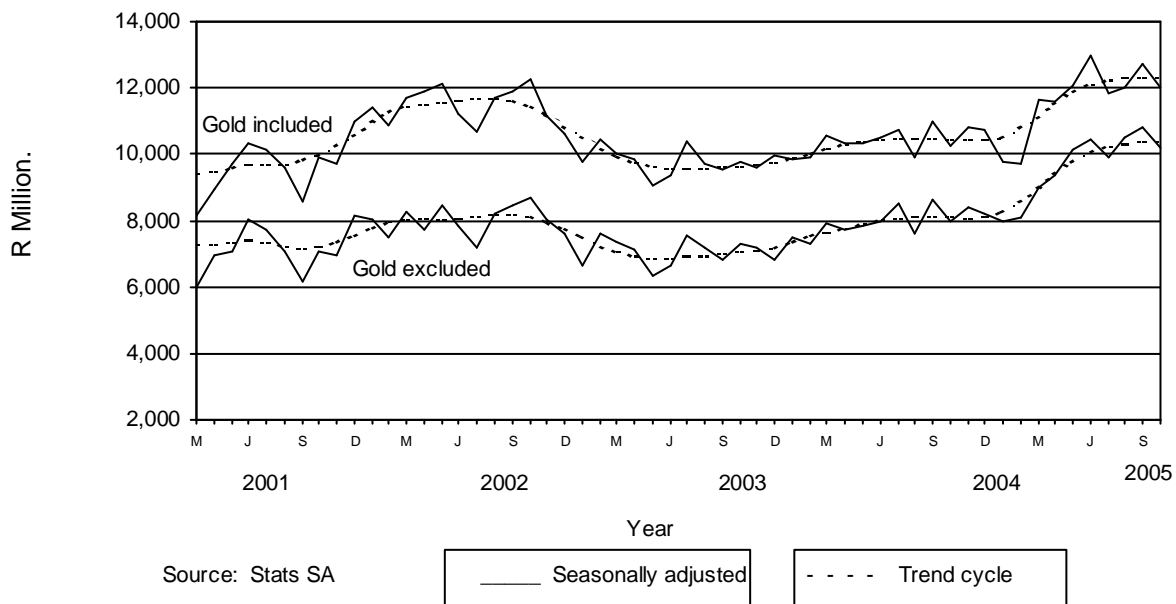
The seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended November 2005 reflected an increase of 1,5% compared with the previous three months. Furthermore, the actual value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended November 2005 increased by 16,5% compared with the three months ended November 2004.

The increase of 1,5% in the seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales for the three months ended November 2005 compared with the previous three months can be attributed to an increase of 2,3% (+R723,2 million) in sales of non-gold minerals during the same period.

The major contributors to the increase of 16,5% in the actual value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended November 2005 compared with the three months ended November 2004 were PGM's (+7,3 percentage points or +R2 395,6 million), coal (+6,8 percentage points or +R2 248,8 million) and iron ore (+3,1 percentage points or +R1 010,1 million). However, this increase was counteracted by a decrease in the sales of gold (-3,9 percentage points or -R1 288,6 million) (see table 8).

Figure 2 shows the seasonally adjusted and trend series of mineral sales between March 2001 and November 2005. The trend series has been rising since the beginning of the year.

Figure 2 - Total value of mineral sales including gold



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Contents

Notes	5
Tables	
Table 1 Index of the physical volume of mining production including gold (Base 2000=100)	6
Table 2 Index of the physical volume of mining production excluding gold (Base 2000=100)	6
Table 3 Indices of physical volume of mining production according to mining divisions, mineral groups and minerals (Base 2000=100)	7
Table 4 Contribution of the mining divisions to the total mining production (Base 2000=100)	7
Table 5 Total value of mineral sales including gold (R million)	8
Table 6 Total value of mineral sales excluding gold (R million)	8
Table 7 Total value of mineral sales according to mining divisions, mineral groups and minerals (R million)	9
Table 8 Contribution of the mining divisions to the total value of mineral sales	9
Table 9 Percentage change in indices of mining production between the current month and the corresponding month of the previous year	10
Table 10 Percentage change in indices of mining production between the current quarter and the corresponding quarter of the previous year	10
Table 11 Percentage change in indices of mining production between 2005 and 2004	10
Table 12 Percentage change in seasonally adjusted indices of mining production between the current month and the previous month	10
Table 13 Percentage change in seasonally adjusted indices of mining production between the current quarter and the previous quarter	11
Table 14 Percentage change in actual value of mineral sales between the current month and the corresponding month of the previous year	11
Table 15 Percentage change in actual value of mineral sales between the current quarter and the corresponding quarter of the previous year	11
Table 16 Percentage change in seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales between the current month and the previous month	11
Table 17 Percentage change in seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales between the current quarter and the previous quarter	12
Explanatory notes	13
Glossary	15
General information	16

Notes

Forthcoming issue	Issue	Expected date of publication
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Purpose of the survey

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.

Table 1 - Index of the physical volume of mining production including gold (Base 2000=100)

Month	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004*	2005*
Actual indices							
J	92,6	93,8	95,0	89,0	85,1	100,7	107,9
F	99,0	99,3	96,8	94,2	101,7	97,8	98,6
M	104,8	100,0	102,3	99,1	101,8	112,9	119,9
A	96,2	95,0	98,9	102,0	101,0	105,0	111,8
M	104,5	95,7	103,6	102,9	107,1	113,0	116,5
J	103,7	106,8	108,4	104,1	108,6	111,1	118,5
J	102,5	96,9	93,5	99,0	110,7	119,5	115,2
A	98,4	102,1	115,2	107,2	109,1	114,3	117,3
S	104,4	104,9	98,4	108,1	114,6	117,4	119,5
O	104,2	100,0	105,1	106,7	114,5	108,2	110,3
N	107,0	105,5	102,6	107,5	108,6	110,1	112,8
D	100,9	100,2	97,2	107,0	113,5	113,3	1/ 110,6
Year	101,5	100,0	101,4	102,2	106,4	110,3	113,2
Seasonally adjusted indices							
J	98,3	102,9	104,6	97,4	92,8	110,5	118,8
F	100,1	103,6	101,7	99,9	109,2	105,3	105,9
M	102,0	99,7	102,4	99,3	102,3	113,3	120,2
A	97,4	98,7	102,6	105,7	104,1	108,1	114,8
M	103,7	95,5	103,2	102,1	105,7	111,0	114,5
J	98,3	101,9	103,5	100,0	104,6	107,5	115,0
J	102,7	97,3	93,6	98,6	110,1	118,5	113,7
A	95,9	100,0	112,4	104,0	105,4	110,3	113,0
S	99,4	103,5	96,3	105,0	110,1	112,0	113,3
O	100,4	96,2	101,1	103,4	111,8	106,1	108,8
N	102,9	101,8	99,8	105,5	107,3	109,3	112,4
D	100,5	99,3	95,1	104,7	110,7	111,0	108,1

Table 2 - Index of the physical volume of mining production excluding gold (Base 2000=100)

Month	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004*	2005*
Actual indices							
J	90,6	94,4	98,3	89,6	85,7	110,0	121,6
F	96,1	96,4	98,6	95,8	107,3	104,0	108,7
M	98,6	97,9	104,4	101,0	106,2	123,6	136,2
A	91,6	94,1	102,2	105,3	106,3	115,0	129,1
M	105,1	96,6	108,9	107,0	114,7	124,9	133,0
J	100,7	107,5	112,5	107,3	116,4	121,1	134,6
J	103,5	97,6	93,7	102,4	118,8	133,1	132,0
A	97,1	101,7	124,5	111,2	116,3	125,5	135,5
S	100,6	105,1	99,7	111,4	122,9	130,0	136,1
O	104,6	100,6	110,2	111,9	124,2	119,7	125,2
N	107,7	107,4	106,8	113,3	116,2	121,3	128,1
D	97,2	100,8	97,7	111,2	123,3	127,0	1/ 124,2
Year	99,5	100,0	104,8	105,6	113,2	121,3	128,7
Seasonally adjusted indices							
J	95,8	103,3	108,3	98,1	93,5	121,1	134,3
F	98,1	101,2	104,2	102,4	116,4	113,1	117,6
M	98,3	98,3	105,2	101,9	107,3	124,4	136,9
A	93,6	97,8	106,1	109,2	109,4	118,1	132,3
M	102,6	95,1	107,2	105,0	112,1	121,6	129,9
J	96,0	102,2	107,0	102,7	111,8	116,9	130,5
J	102,4	97,2	92,9	101,2	117,7	131,6	130,0
A	95,5	100,0	121,8	108,0	112,4	121,1	130,5
S	97,6	105,2	98,7	109,1	118,7	124,4	129,3
O	99,5	95,5	104,9	107,6	120,6	116,9	123,3
N	103,0	103,2	103,5	111,1	114,9	120,8	128,1
D	99,8	101,0	96,0	109,2	120,5	124,5	121,5

* Revised
1/ Preliminary

Table 3 - Indices of physical volume of mining production according to mining divisions, mineral groups and minerals(Base 2000=100)

Minerals	Weights	Actual indices					Seasonally adjusted indices		
		2004	2005		2004	2005			
			Dec.	Nov. *		Dec.	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.
Total, gold included	100,0	113,2	110,6	112,8	113,3	108,1	112,4	111,0	
Total, gold excluded	74,3	128,7	124,2	128,1	127,0	121,5	128,1	124,5	
Gold	25,7	68,4	71,2	68,4	74,0	69,3	67,0	71,8	
Iron ore	3,1	118,0	116,8	98,0	126,4	115,2	100,6	125,2	
Chrome	1,1	112,7	81,6	114,0	116,8	89,3	109,7	127,7	
Copper	1,6	80,9	74,0	92,4	75,6	74,1	89,2	75,8	
Manganese ore	1,3	124,9	118,8	143,2	134,8	113,6	143,0	129,9	
PGM's	27,6	152,5	157,2	135,6	154,4	138,1	142,3	135,3	
Nickel	2,0	116,2	107,6	115,6	135,2	102,5	110,1	128,4	
Other metallic minerals	2,9	93,0	88,8	96,4	92,0	88,1	96,0	90,7	
Diamonds	8,4	143,5	120,4	196,0	133,2	129,2	183,3	144,1	
Coal	20,0	108,6	100,4	110,0	99,6	111,7	107,6	111,2	
Building materials	2,6	122,6	114,4	130,8	94,8	135,4	123,1	112,4	
Other non-metallic minerals	3,8	102,7	103,6	89,2	125,2	99,9	89,6	122,1	

* Revised

Table 4 - Contribution of the mining divisions to the total mining production (Base 2000=100)

Mining division	Percentage contribution to the total mining production using the weights	Average seasonally adjusted production index for October 2005 to December 2005	Quarterly percentage change October 2005 to December 2005 compared with the preceding three months	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total mining production 1/ three months
Gold	25,7	67,8	3,7	1,0
Non-gold minerals				
Iron ore	3,1	112,0	-6,5	-0,2
Copper	1,6	80,7	-8,3	-0,1
Manganese ore	1,3	118,8	-0,5	0,0
Chromium	1,1	102,1	-10,1	-0,1
PGM's	27,6	141,3	-13,9	-4,0
Nickel	2,0	108,8	-4,1	-0,1
Other metallic minerals	2,9	92,4	-0,5	0,0
Diamonds	8,4	149,8	10,1	0,9
Coal	20,0	109,0	-4,0	-0,8
Building materials	2,6	127,0	3,5	0,1
Other non-metallic minerals	3,8	93,5	5,4	0,2
Total non-gold minerals	74,3	124,3	-4,3	-4,1
Total minerals	100	109,8	-3,1	-3,1

1/ The contribution is calculated by multiplying the quarterly percentage change of each mining division with its corresponding weight in the base year, divided by 100.

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

Month	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004*	2005*
Actual values							
J	6 098,8	6 244,1	9 241,5	11 387,0	9 868,8	9 820,5	9 587,4
F	5 763,6	7 115,7	9 711,7	10 634,4	10 236,5	9 576,1	9 383,7
M	6 445,1	8 958,5	8 134,9	11 639,2	9 829,3	10 396,0	11 479,8
A	5 706,5	7 521,3	8 554,2	11 194,9	9 294,1	9 789,3	11 032,1
M	5 702,9	8 222,7	9 675,9	12 145,3	9 104,1	10 373,3	12 235,5
J	6 391,3	8 222,5	10 640,7	11 637,2	9 745,9	10 856,0	13 353,7
J	5 996,1	7 640,3	10 146,3	10 779,9	10 403,7	10 844,2	12 012,1
A	6 852,9	8 223,4	9 586,4	11 633,5	9 612,0	9 841,7	11 755,7
S	6 548,3	8 568,9	8 711,5	12 115,1	10 008,1	11 693,2	13 585,9
O	6 005,9	8 317,6	9 999,6	12 514,2	9 989,4	10 466,3	12 229,1
N	7 573,0	9 828,5	9 627,7	11 059,4	9 535,8	10 815,6	12 615,7
D	7 346,9	9 474,9	11 327,7	10 764,4	9 899,2	10 585,6	
Year	76 431,3	98 338,4	115 358,1	137 504,5	117 526,9	125 057,8	
Seasonally adjusted values							
J	5 997,7	6 175,0	9 162,1	11 382,0	9 805,9	9 839,6	9 765,4
F	5 892,4	7 195,2	9 858,2	10 870,8	10 461,7	9 894,4	9 728,6
M	6 487,6	9 476,7	8 139,1	11 707,4	10 002,1	10 583,3	11 630,8
A	5 909,3	7 762,0	8 960,6	11 886,3	9 813,2	10 331,1	11 575,9
M	5 810,6	8 264,9	9 697,4	12 111,8	9 055,3	10 332,3	12 095,1
J	6 259,5	7 941,4	10 321,7	11 196,3	9 380,6	10 501,5	12 952,0
J	5 860,9	7 467,3	10 133,7	10 696,6	10 392,7	10 732,2	11 857,1
A	6 805,9	8 263,2	9 604,8	11 722,1	9 732,9	9 916,4	12 003,1
S	6 770,5	8 576,1	8 596,2	11 876,3	9 538,4	10 990,6	12 725,1
O	5 938,9	8 350,3	9 882,7	12 253,3	9 806,4	10 248,1	12 017,7
N	7 674,7	9 936,5	9 714,7	11 184,9	9 594,2	10 820,2	12 616,3
D	7 154,6	9 091,8	10 979,1	10 603,5	9 940,1	10 725,7	

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

Month	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004*	2005*
Actual values							
J	4 033,9	4 476,9	7 181,9	8 002,3	6 744,1	7 480,6	7 809,6
F	3 801,6	4 963,8	7 720,8	7 368,2	7 452,6	7 039,8	7 813,8
M	3 938,7	6 688,4	5 912,0	8 110,9	7 140,7	7 710,4	8 843,0
A	3 802,4	5 790,2	6 748,0	7 481,9	6 815,2	7 366,5	8 961,3
M	3 826,7	6 166,9	7 139,7	8 619,3	6 477,2	8 029,3	10 368,6
J	4 413,3	5 908,5	8 245,9	8 035,5	6 759,5	8 107,4	10 555,7
J	4 061,6	5 700,6	7 779,6	7 344,7	7 613,1	8 699,0	10 092,7
A	4 956,0	5 892,6	6 942,5	8 065,2	7 052,7	7 546,9	10 277,8
S	4 480,8	6 479,6	6 219,3	8 562,1	7 092,3	9 114,1	11 451,2
O	3 947,8	6 047,1	6 971,4	8 711,8	7 345,5	8 089,0	10 339,5
N	5 038,1	7 529,4	6 953,1	7 981,8	7 154,9	8 406,4	10 563,0
D	5 139,7	7 422,4	8 532,3	7 834,8	6 825,9	8 138,7	
Year	51 440,6	73 066,4	86 346,5	96 118,5	84 473,7	95 728,1	
Seasonally adjusted values							
J	3 951,2	4 418,1	7 117,9	8 009,3	6 669,2	7 466,9	7 954,3
F	3 813,2	4 945,1	7 804,2	7 510,2	7 602,5	7 279,5	8 110,4
M	4 014,9	7 264,6	5 976,6	8 261,8	7 361,4	7 922,9	9 006,8
A	3 870,7	5 844,3	6 932,0	7 742,8	7 101,1	7 733,6	9 376,3
M	3 845,3	6 117,7	7 060,6	8 451,6	6 316,4	7 870,0	10 124,6
J	4 248,8	5 671,1	8 036,1	7 828,3	6 623,7	7 990,4	10 414,8
J	4 017,9	5 568,0	7 755,3	7 196,3	7 526,1	8 525,4	9 878,3
A	4 974,9	6 007,5	7 039,9	8 217,1	7 186,1	7 597,0	10 496,2
S	4 714,2	6 523,3	6 175,5	8 479,3	6 800,9	8 611,5	10 775,3
O	4 075,9	6 265,4	7 076,1	8 697,0	7 304,7	7 958,6	10 175,9
N	5 062,0	7 572,0	6 971,6	8 034,9	7 176,9	8 393,0	10 561,3
D	4 932,1	7 012,6	8 132,5	7 606,8	6 799,5	8 232,0	

* Revised
1/ Preliminary

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

Minerals	Actual value						Seasonally adjusted value		
	2004	2005		2004	2005		2004	2005	
		Nov.	Oct. *		Nov.	Nov.		Oct.	Nov.
Total, gold included	142 860,8	12 615,7	12 229,1	10 815,6	12 616,3	12 017,7	10 820,2		
Total, gold excluded	118 676,0	10 563,0	10 339,5	8 406,4	10 561,3	10 175,9	8 393,0		
Gold	24 184,9	2 052,8	1 889,6	2 409,3	2 055,0	1 841,8	2 427,2		
Iron ore	7 334,4	772,4	733,3	396,7	783,6	757,5	395,8		
Chrome	1 896,3	153,2	175,7	166,3	149,4	170,6	159,8		
Copper	2 584,1	260,5	243,1	151,0	254,1	225,2	147,5		
Manganese ore	2 151,7	220,7	55,6	163,9	207,4	62,5	158,7		
PGM's	38 715,7	3 251,4	3 263,0	2 436,1	3 381,1	3 400,5	2 528,1		
Nickel	3 989,2	210,7	219,6	252,9	227,3	224,3	270,3		
Other metallic minerals	4 030,2	426,3	428,5	350,2	376,2	356,2	310,9		
Coal	35 637,6	3 368,5	3 171,7	2 507,2	3 420,1	3 157,0	2 559,0		
Building materials	4 350,4	412,2	391,5	360,6	380,8	361,4	331,3		
- Granite or norite	418,7	34,5	25,9	48,3	25,8	27,9	36,9		
- Lime and limestone	1 310,4	118,1	112,2	107,4	113,2	106,6	103,1		
- Other building materials	2 621,3	259,6	253,4	204,9	241,8	226,9	191,3		
Other non-metallic minerals	17 986,5	1 487,1	1 657,5	1 621,4	1 381,3	1 460,7	1 531,6		

* Revised

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

Mining division	Percentage contribution to total mineral sales during September 2005 to November 2005	Percentage change between September 2004 to November 2004 and September 2005 to November 2005	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total value of mineral sales 1/	Difference in sales of mining divisions between September 2004 to November 2004 and September 2005 to November 2005 R million
Gold	22,3	-17,5	-3,9	-1 288,6
Non-gold minerals				
Iron ore	3,6	85,1	3,1	1 010,1
Copper	1,6	42,7	0,7	219,0
Manganese ore	1,6	-3,3	-0,1	-17,1
Chromium	1,5	0,5	0,0	2,6
PGM's	24,7	29,4	7,3	2 395,6
Nickel	2,5	11,5	0,3	93,3
Other metallic minerals	2,7	34,7	0,8	306,4
Coal	22,3	30,6	6,8	2 248,8
Building materials	3,1	11,4	0,4	121,0
Other non-metallic minerals	14,1	7,8	1,1	364,5
Total non-gold minerals	77,7	26,3	20,4	6744,2
Total minerals	100,0	16,5	16,5	5 455,6

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 September 2005 to November 2005, divided by 100.

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

	Actual estimates December 2004	Actual estimates December 2005	% change between December 2004 and December 2005	Difference between December 2004 and December 2005
Gold	74,0	71,2	-3,8%	-2,8
Non-gold minerals	127,0	124,2	-2,2%	-2,8
Total	113,3	110,6	-2,4%	-2,7

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

	Actual estimates October 2004 to December 2004	Actual estimates October 2005 to December 2005	% change between October 2004 to December 2004 and October 2005 to December 2005	Difference between October 2004 to December 2004 and October 2005 to December 2005
Gold	226,8	206,8	-8,8%	-20,0
Non-gold minerals	368,0	377,5	2,6%	9,5
Total	331,6	333,7	0,6%	2,1

Table 11 - Percentage change in indices of mining production between 2005 and 2004

	Actual estimates January 2004 to December 2004	Actual estimates January 2005 to December 2005	% change between January 2004 to December 2004 and January 2005 to December 2005	Difference between January 2004 to December 2004 and January 2005 to December 2005
Gold	941,6	821,2	-12,8%	-120,4
Non-gold minerals	1 455,2	1 544,3	6,1%	89,1
Total	1 323,3	1 358,9	2,6%	35,6

Table 12 - Percentage change in seasonally adjusted indices of mining production between the current month and the previous month.

	Actual estimates November 2005	Actual estimates December 2005	% change between November 2005 and December 2005	Difference between November 2005 and December 2005
Gold	67,0	69,3	3,4%	2,3
Non-gold minerals	128,1	121,5	-5,2%	-6,6
Total	112,4	108,1	-3,8%	-4,3

Table 13 - Percentage change in seasonally adjusted indices of mining production between the current quarter and the previous quarter.

	Actual estimates July 2005 to September 2005	Actual estimates October 2005 to December 2005	% change between July 2005 to September 2005 and October 2005 to December 2005	Difference between July 2005 to September 2005 and October 2005 to December 2005
Gold	196,0	203,3	3,7%	7,3
Non-gold minerals	389,8	372,9	-4,3%	-16,9
Total	340,0	329,3	-3,1%	-10,7

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

	Actual estimates November 2004 R million	Actual estimates November 2005 R million	% change between November 2004 and November 2005	Difference between November 2004 and November 2005
Gold	2 409,3	2 052,8	-14,8%	-356,5
Non-gold minerals	8 406,4	10 563,0	25,7%	2 156,6
Total	10 815,6	1 2615,7	16,5%	1 800,1

Table 15 - Percentage change in actual value of mineral sales between the current quarter and the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

	Actual estimates September 2004 to November 2004 R million	Actual estimates September 2005 to November 2005 R million	% change between September 2004 to November 2004 and September 2005 to November 2005	Difference between September 2004 to November 2004 and September 2005 to November 2005
Gold	7 365,7	6 077,1	-17,5%	-1 288,6
Non-gold minerals	25 609,5	32 353,7	26,3%	6 744,2
Total	32 975,1	38 430,7	16,5%	5 455,6

Table 16 - Percentage change in seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales between the current month and the previous month.

	Actual estimates October 2005 R million	Actual estimates November 2005 R million	% change between October 2005 and November 2005	Difference between October 2005 and November 2005
Gold	1 841,8	2 055,0	11,6%	213,2
Non-gold minerals	10 175,9	10 561,3	3,8%	385,4
Total	12 017,7	12 616,3	5,0%	598,6

Table 17 - Percentage change in seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales between the current quarter and the previous quarter

	Actual estimates June 2005 to Augustus 2005 R million	Actual estimates September 2005 to November 2005 R million	% change between June 2005 to August 2005 and September 2005 to November 2005	Difference between June 2005 to August 2005 and September 2005 to November 2005
Gold	6 022,9	5 846,6	-2,9%	-176,3
Non-gold minerals	30 789,3	31 512,5	2,3%	723,2
Total	36 812,2	37 359,1	1,5%	546,9

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.
- Scope of the survey**
- 6 This survey covers mining establishments conducting activities regarding -
 - the extracting, dressing and beneficiating of minerals occurring naturally, for example solids such as coal and ores.
- Classification**
- 7 The 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)*, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 *International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC)* 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**
- 8 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 7).
- Weighting**
- 9 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**
- 10 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.
- 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.

- Reliability of estimates** **11** Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Figures for the latest month are preliminary.
- Historical data** **12** 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 *Mining statistics: Indices of the physical volume of mining production, Base: 2000=100, February 1990 to November 2002*, published on 11 February 2003 on the Stats SA website www.statssa.gov.za
- Related publications** **13** Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from Stats SA -
- *Bulletin of Statistics.*
 - *SA Statistics.*
- Unpublished statistics** **14** 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.
- Rounding-off of figures** **15** 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.

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.
PGM' s - Platinum Group Metals	Platinum Group Metals includes 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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