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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS: MINING PRODUCTION AND MINERAL SALES

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

Mining production decreases

The reported electricity supply shortages that led to some mine shaft closures contributed to the 10,7% decrease in mining production for January 2008 compared with January 2007. For that reason, the total mining production for the three months ended January 2008, after seasonal adjustment, decreased by 3,9% compared with the previous three months. This decrease of 3,9% was due to a decrease of 9,2% in the production of gold and a decrease of 3,0% in the production of non-gold minerals. The major contributors to the decrease of 3,9% were the production of diamonds (-1,4 percentage points), gold (-1,3 percentage points) and the platinum group metals (PGMs) (-1,2 percentage points) (see Table A and Table 4).

Furthermore, the total mining production for the three months ended January 2008 decreased by 5,5% compared with the three months ended January 2007 (see Table A).

Gold production decreased by 16,5% for the month of January 2008 compared with January 2007. Furthermore, gold production after seasonal adjustment decreased by 5,0% for January 2008 when compared with December 2007 (see Table A).

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

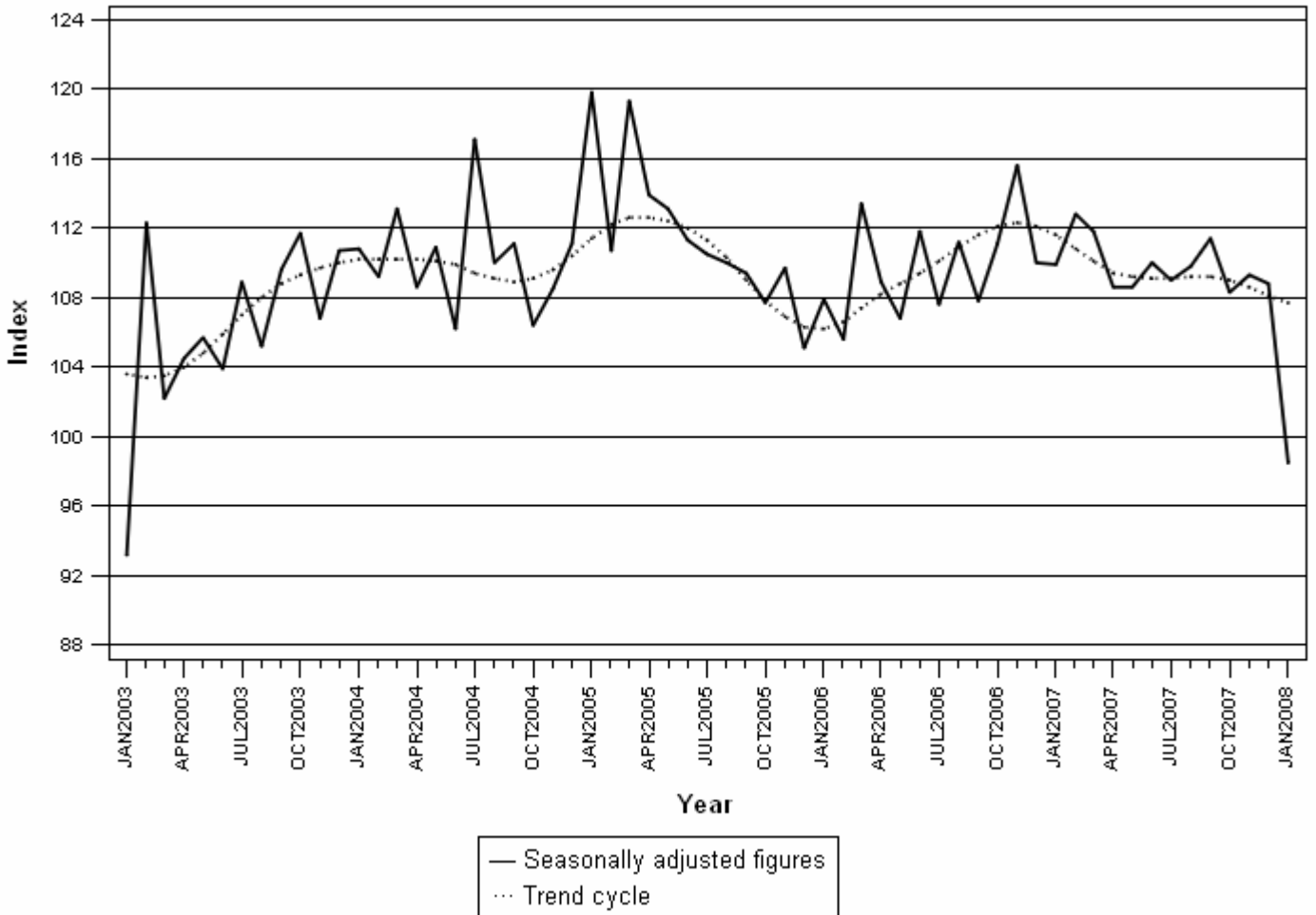
Table A – Selected key figures regarding mining production for January 2008

Annual estimates	Base : 2000=100		
	January 2008	% Change between January 2007 and January 2008	% Change between November 2006 to January 2007 and November 2007 to January 2008
Index of the physical volume of mining production			
Gold	46,4	-16,5	-11,1
Non-gold	102,4	-9,6	-4,7
Total	88,0	-10,7	-5,5

Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates	Base : 2000=100		
	January 2008	% Change between December 2007 and January 2008	% Change between August 2007 to October 2007 and November 2007 to January 2008
Index of the physical volume of mining production			
Gold	51,7	-5,0	-9,2
Non-gold	114,7	-10,1	-3,0
Total	98,5	-9,5	-3,9

Figure 1 shows the seasonally adjusted figures and trend series for the index of mining production between January 2003 and January 2008. The trend series rose from the beginning of 2003 until February 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 for 2007

Mineral sales for 2007 increase

The total value of mineral sales was 16,6% higher in 2007 compared with 2006. The 16,6% increase in the value of the annual mineral sales followed a 35,5% increase in 2006 and a 14,2% increase in 2005.

The major contributors to the annual increase of 16,6% in 2007 were PGMs (7,5 percentage points or R14 450,9 million), coal (2,7 percentage points or R5 315,6 million), iron ore (1,8 percentage points or R3 498,9 million) and gold (1,3 percentage points or R2 592,9 million) (see Table B and Table B.1).

Furthermore, the total actual value of mineral sales at current prices for the fourth quarter of 2007 increased by 8,7% compared with the fourth quarter of 2006. The major contributors to the increase of 8,7% year on year in the actual value of mineral sales were PGMs (3,2 percentage points or R1 725,1 million), iron ore (2,3 percentage points or R1 232,3 million) and coal (2,0 percentage points or R1 102,5 million) (see Table 8).

Key figures regarding mineral sales for 2007

Table B – Selected key figures regarding mineral sales for 2007

Annual estimates	December 2007	% Change between December 2006 and December 2007	% Change between October 2006 to December 2006 and October 2007 to December 2007	% change between January 2006 to December 2006 and January 2007 to December 2007
	R million			
Mineral sales				
Gold	2 730,6	-12,7	-0,9	7,1
Non-gold	18 679,0	29,2	10,7	18,7
Total	21 409,6	21,8	8,7	16,6

Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates	December 2007	% Change between November 2007 and December 2007	% Change between July 2007 to September 2007 and October 2007 to December 2007
	R million		
Mineral sales			
Gold	2 700,6	-24,2	2,7
Non-gold	17 423,9	5,9	11,7
Total	20 124,5	0,5	10,1

Table B.1 – Contribution of the mining divisions, mineral groups and minerals to the total value of mineral sales for 2007

		January 2006 to December 2006 R million	January 2007 to December 2007 R million	Annual percentage change between 2006 and 2007	Percentage contribution to total mineral sales during 2006	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total value of mineral sales 1/	Difference in sales of mining divisions between 2006 and 2007 R million
Gold		36 404,5	38 997,4	7,1	18,8	1,3	2 592,9
Non-gold minerals	Iron ore	9 931,3	13 430,2	35,2	5,1	1,8	3 498,9
	Chromium	2 309,9	3 006,6	30,2	1,2	0,4	696,7
	Copper	4 956,1	5 863,5	18,3	2,6	0,5	907,4
	Manganese ore	2 245,9	3 571,2	59,0	1,2	0,7	1 325,3
	PGMs	65 443,8	79 894,7	22,1	33,8	7,5	14 450,9
	Nickel	7 145,3	9 324,5	30,5	3,7	1,1	2 179,2
	Other metallic minerals	5 199,1	5 240,7	0,8	2,7	0,0	41,6
	Coal	37 835,8	43 151,4	14,0	19,5	2,7	5 315,6
	Building materials	5 065,7	6 067,8	19,8	2,6	0,5	1 002,1
Other non-metallic minerals	17 052,1	17 096,1	0,3	8,8	0,0	44,0	
Total non-gold minerals	157 184,9	186 647,2	18,7	81,2	15,2	29 462,3	
Total minerals	193 589,5	225 644,6	16,6	100,0	16,6	32 055,1	

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

Figure 2 shows the seasonally adjusted figures and trend series of the total value of mineral sales between January 2003 and December 2007. There was a clear upward trend during 2004–2006, but during 2007 the trend fluctuated.

Figure 2 – Total value of mineral sales including gold

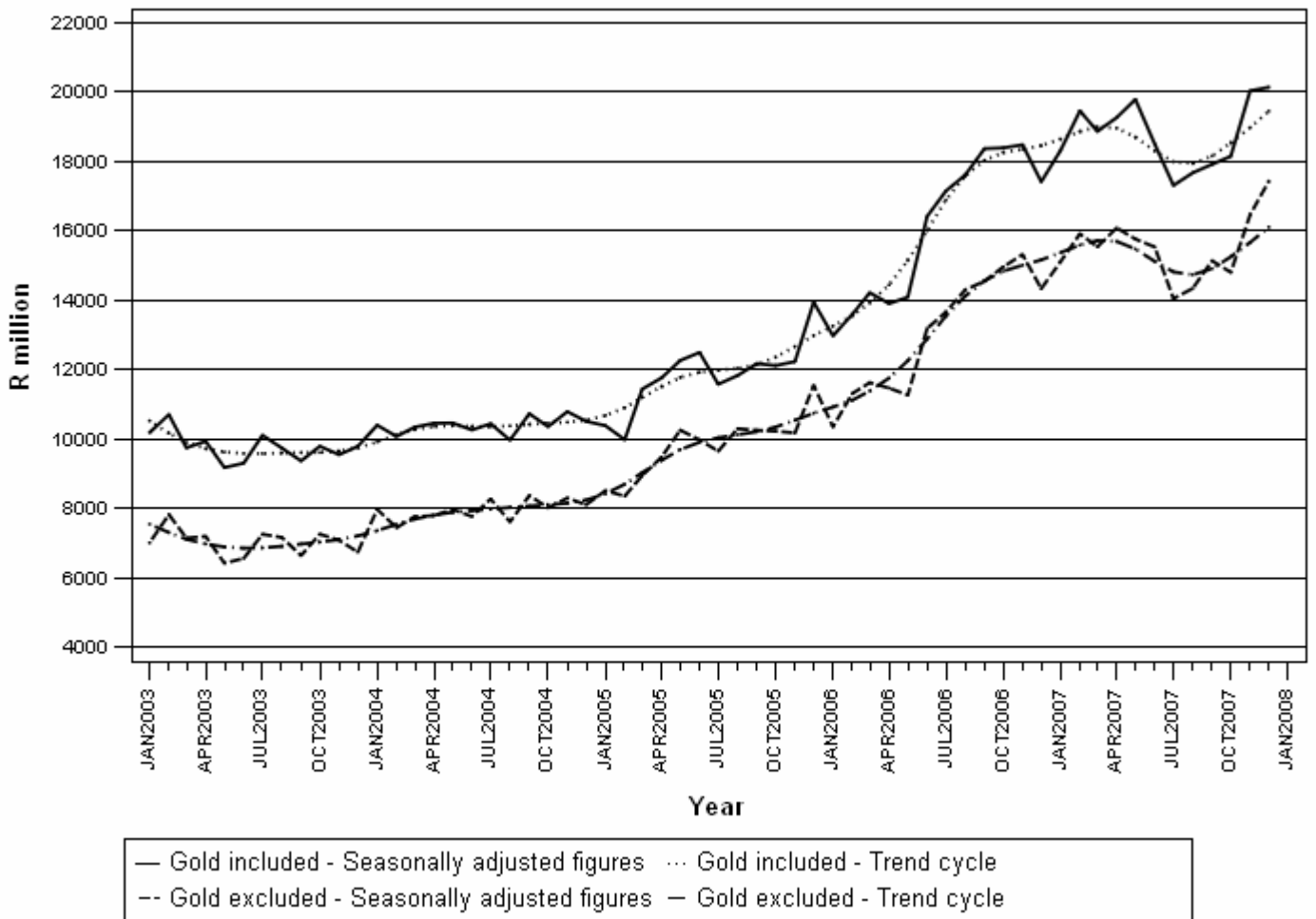


Figure 3 – Annual percentage change for the total value of mineral sales, including gold, from 2002 to 2007.

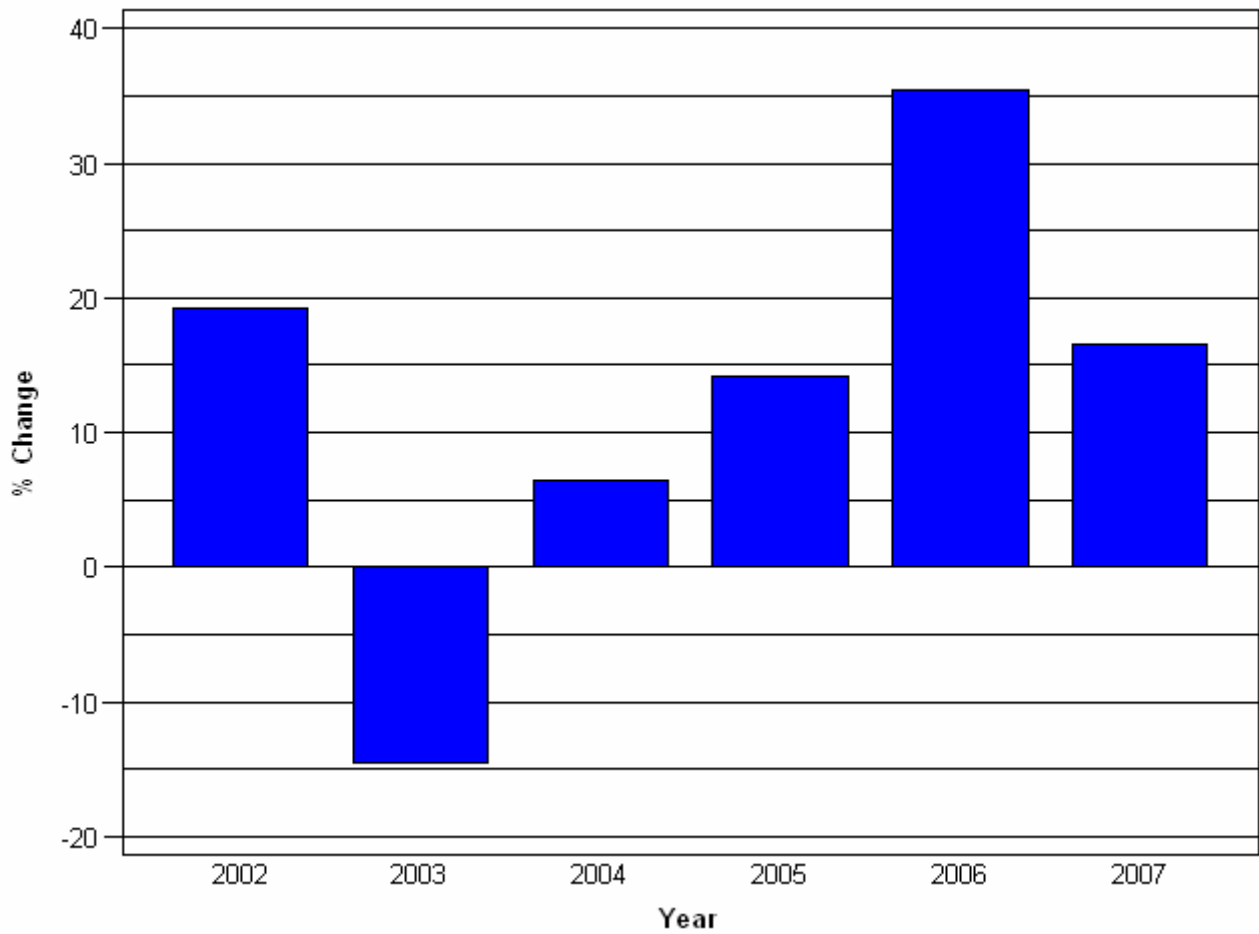


Figure 3 shows the 16,6% annual growth rate in the value of mineral sales for 2007. From 2004 the annual percentage change grew quite significantly with a peak growth rate during 2006 (35,5%).

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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	1/ 2007	1/ 2008
Actual indices	January	89,0	85,1	100,7	107,9	96,9	98,5	88,0
	February	94,2	101,7	97,8	98,6	93,6	98,7	
	March	99,1	101,8	112,9	119,9	114,3	113,0	
	April	102,0	101,0	105,0	110,2	105,2	105,0	
	May	102,9	107,1	113,0	115,2	109,0	111,1	
	June	104,1	108,6	111,1	116,8	117,6	116,3	
	July	99,0	110,7	119,5	113,1	110,2	111,7	
	August	107,2	109,1	114,3	114,8	116,3	114,8	
	September	108,1	114,6	117,4	116,7	115,2	119,5	
	October	106,7	114,5	108,2	108,2	110,9	107,6	
	November	107,5	108,6	110,1	111,4	117,3	111,3	
	December	107,0	113,5	113,3	107,4	113,1	111,5	
	Year	102,2	106,4	110,3	111,7	110,0	109,9	
Seasonally adjusted indices	January	97,6	93,2	110,8	119,8	107,9	109,9	98,5
	February	101,3	112,3	109,2	110,7	105,6	112,8	
	March	99,4	102,2	113,1	119,3	113,4	111,8	
	April	106,0	104,5	108,6	113,9	108,9	108,6	
	May	102,1	105,7	110,9	113,1	106,8	108,6	
	June	99,8	103,9	106,2	111,3	111,8	110,0	
	July	97,8	108,9	117,1	110,5	107,6	109,0	
	August	103,8	105,2	110,0	110,0	111,2	109,8	
	September	104,7	109,6	111,1	109,4	107,8	111,4	
	October	103,2	111,7	106,4	107,7	111,1	108,3	
	November	105,2	106,8	108,5	109,7	115,6	109,3	
	December	104,6	110,7	111,1	105,1	110,0	108,8	

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

		Base : 2000=100						
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	1/ 2007	1/ 2008
Actual indices	January	89,6	85,7	110,0	121,6	110,1	113,3	102,4
	February	95,8	107,3	104,0	108,7	104,1	111,3	
	March	101,0	106,2	123,6	136,2	130,9	131,7	
	April	105,3	106,3	115,0	127,0	119,7	122,0	
	May	107,0	114,7	124,9	131,3	126,1	129,2	
	June	107,3	116,4	121,1	132,3	135,7	135,3	
	July	102,4	118,8	133,1	129,2	127,1	130,2	
	August	111,2	116,3	125,5	132,2	134,0	133,0	
	September	111,4	122,9	130,0	132,4	131,7	139,0	
	October	111,9	124,2	119,7	122,3	127,7	124,7	
	November	113,3	116,2	121,3	126,2	136,2	130,7	
	December	111,2	123,3	127,0	120,0	131,9	130,5	
	Year	105,6	113,2	121,3	126,6	126,3	127,6	
Seasonally adjusted indices	January	98,1	93,5	121,1	135,0	122,8	126,5	114,7
	February	104,3	120,6	118,5	124,3	119,4	129,5	
	March	102,0	107,2	124,2	135,7	129,9	130,4	
	April	109,5	109,9	118,7	130,9	123,3	125,7	
	May	105,0	112,1	121,4	128,0	122,9	125,6	
	June	102,6	111,1	115,5	125,8	128,6	127,5	
	July	100,2	116,0	129,6	125,4	123,2	126,3	
	August	107,8	112,1	120,7	126,6	128,1	127,2	
	September	108,6	118,0	123,3	124,2	123,2	129,5	
	October	107,4	120,5	117,4	121,9	128,2	125,7	
	November	110,7	114,3	119,7	124,5	134,3	128,5	
	December	109,1	120,5	124,8	117,7	128,4	127,6	

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	2008	2007		2008	2007	
				1/ Jan	Dec *		Jan	Jan
Total, gold included	100,0	109,9	88,0	111,5	98,5	98,5	108,8	109,9
Total, gold excluded	74,3	127,6	102,4	130,5	113,3	114,7	127,6	126,5
Gold	25,7	58,8	46,4	56,4	55,6	51,7	54,4	61,9
Iron ore	3,1	124,4	116,4	137,6	121,6	121,4	133,8	126,7
Chromium	1,1	144,8	139,2	127,6	130,8	147,9	139,6	138,9
Copper	1,6	86,1	85,6	88,4	82,8	90,1	86,2	86,3
Manganese ore	1,3	162,9	140,0	174,8	136,0	147,8	166,9	143,2
PGMs	27,6	150,3	108,0	174,4	128,4	123,0	154,8	145,6
Nickel	2,0	103,5	85,6	105,6	96,8	99,5	102,0	111,7
Other metallic minerals	2,9	83,2	83,2	82,4	79,6	86,2	84,4	82,5
Diamonds	8,3	137,3	98,4	114,8	94,8	121,7	129,5	116,7
Coal	20,0	110,2	98,0	98,4	112,0	106,3	106,1	121,1
Building materials	2,6	139,0	135,6	124,0	112,0	160,5	152,3	132,3
Other non-metallic minerals	3,8	74,8	64,8	68,4	80,4	66,5	66,0	82,1

1/ Preliminary.

* Revised.

Table 4 – Contribution of the mining divisions, mineral groups and minerals 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 November 2007 to January 2008	Quarterly percentage change November 2007 to January 2008 compared with the preceding three months	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total mining production 1/
Gold		25,7	53,3	-9,2	-1,3
Non-gold minerals	Iron ore	3,1	125,9	0,2	0,0
	Chromium	1,1	143,5	-1,0	0,0
	Copper	1,6	89,1	2,1	0,0
	Manganese ore	1,3	159,2	-5,5	-0,1
	PGMs	27,6	144,0	-3,3	-1,2
	Nickel	2,0	104,0	3,9	0,1
	Other metallic minerals	2,9	85,5	-1,9	0,0
	Diamonds	8,3	128,2	-12,8	-1,4
	Coal	20,0	106,9	-0,5	-0,1
	Building materials	2,6	151,7	9,8	0,3
	Other non-metallic minerals	3,8	68,8	-4,0	-0,1
Total non-gold minerals		74,3	123,6	-3,0	-2,6
Total minerals		100,0	105,5	-3,9	-3,9

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	16 475,0
	February	9 711,7	10 634,4	10 236,5	9 576,1	9 383,8	12 680,8	18 025,5
	March	8 134,9	11 639,2	9 829,3	10 396,0	11 477,1	14 179,9	18 788,1
	April	8 554,2	11 194,9	9 294,1	9 789,3	11 034,0	13 042,6	18 026,8
	May	9 675,9	12 145,3	9 104,1	10 373,3	12 239,8	14 046,8	19 777,7
	June	10 640,7	11 637,2	9 745,9	10 856,0	13 360,1	17 809,8	20 203,0
	July	10 146,3	10 779,9	10 403,7	10 844,2	12 001,8	17 614,8	17 673,9
	August	9 586,4	11 633,5	9 612,0	9 841,7	11 687,6	17 339,2	17 397,1
	September	8 711,5	12 115,1	10 008,1	11 693,2	13 524,1	20 586,6	20 011,2
	October	9 999,6	12 514,2	9 989,4	10 466,3	12 074,8	18 031,0	17 516,9
	November	9 627,7	11 059,4	9 535,8	10 815,6	12 453,2	18 918,2	20 339,8
	December	11 327,7	10 764,4	9 899,2	10 585,6	13 994,2	17 584,7	21 409,6
	Year	115 358,1	137 504,5	117 526,9	125 057,8	142 817,9	193 589,5	225 644,6
Seasonally adjusted values	January	9 145,2	11 418,2	9 938,4	10 113,5	10 181,4	12 557,9	17 945,2
	February	9 848,8	10 868,6	10 516,3	9 981,7	9 949,1	13 661,2	19 533,8
	March	8 175,1	11 739,5	10 012,8	10 530,9	11 505,7	14 267,0	19 073,2
	April	8 960,0	11 888,3	9 862,4	10 426,2	11 731,5	13 981,7	19 406,4
	May	9 709,0	12 126,8	9 111,4	10 431,0	12 259,0	14 186,2	20 030,9
	June	10 311,3	11 169,4	9 306,9	10 332,7	12 626,8	16 575,4	18 599,6
	July	10 199,8	10 710,3	10 436,8	10 786,0	11 799,7	16 927,1	17 137,0
	August	9 606,9	11 728,6	9 753,9	9 985,3	12 050,6	18 028,5	17 883,5
	September	8 575,8	11 836,1	9 462,3	10 803,6	12 267,2	18 480,6	17 907,8
	October	9 898,8	12 293,9	9 866,3	10 375,7	12 095,1	18 612,8	18 141,8
	November	9 740,1	11 240,0	9 646,3	10 792,3	12 233,4	18 714,7	20 021,9
	December	10 852,5	10 357,5	9 617,3	10 231,7	13 346,4	16 715,1	20 124,5

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	13 516,5
	February	7 720,8	7 368,2	7 452,6	7 039,8	7 813,9	10 469,6	14 595,1
	March	5 912,0	8 110,9	7 140,7	7 710,4	8 840,3	11 403,2	15 188,5
	April	6 748,0	7 481,9	6 815,2	7 366,5	8 963,2	10 850,3	15 174,8
	May	7 139,7	8 619,3	6 477,2	8 029,3	10 372,9	11 445,0	16 083,6
	June	8 245,9	8 035,5	6 759,5	8 107,4	10 562,0	14 217,3	16 902,1
	July	7 779,6	7 344,7	7 613,1	8 699,0	10 082,3	14 114,1	14 386,6
	August	6 942,5	8 065,2	7 052,7	7 546,9	10 210,5	14 152,3	14 187,5
	September	6 219,3	8 562,1	7 092,3	9 114,1	11 390,1	16 333,3	16 912,5
	October	6 971,4	8 711,8	7 345,5	8 089,0	10 186,0	14 646,2	14 226,6
	November	6 953,1	7 981,8	7 154,9	8 406,4	10 436,1	15 781,8	16 794,4
	December	8 532,3	7 834,8	6 825,9	8 138,7	11 549,8	14 455,8	18 679,0
	Year	86 346,5	96 118,5	84 473,7	95 728,1	118 216,7	157 184,9	186 647,2
Seasonally adjusted values	January	7 101,4	8 025,6	6 768,3	7 693,2	8 311,1	9 940,4	14 746,1
	February	7 795,0	7 505,4	7 639,8	7 353,9	8 325,9	11 381,6	15 996,3
	March	6 013,4	8 314,3	7 415,2	7 958,7	9 016,6	11 680,4	15 752,0
	April	6 935,5	7 751,0	7 125,9	7 768,0	9 449,9	11 551,1	16 232,9
	May	7 072,0	8 467,0	6 361,3	7 946,8	10 255,7	11 369,7	16 013,5
	June	8 026,0	7 807,2	6 567,9	7 841,2	10 111,7	13 351,2	15 638,5
	July	7 815,2	7 206,4	7 589,1	8 620,8	9 874,1	13 444,9	13 880,2
	August	7 039,6	8 212,3	7 183,4	7 634,3	10 521,8	14 727,3	14 558,6
	September	6 151,0	8 431,2	6 740,5	8 450,0	10 351,2	14 668,8	15 135,1
	October	7 087,9	8 722,7	7 338,5	8 043,7	10 207,0	15 188,5	14 799,7
	November	6 995,2	8 067,3	7 184,4	8 306,9	10 180,9	15 558,2	16 460,1
	December	8 028,1	7 423,2	6 572,0	7 830,6	10 951,9	13 638,7	17 423,9

1/ Preliminary.

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

	Actual values				Seasonally adjusted values		
	2007	2007		2006	2007		2006
		1/ December	November *	December	December	November	December
Total, gold included	225 644,6	21 409,6	20 339,8	17 584,7	20 124,5	20 021,9	16 715,1
Total, gold excluded	186 647,2	18 679,0	16 794,4	14 455,8	17 423,9	16 460,1	13 638,7
Gold	38 997,4	2 730,6	3 545,4	3 128,9	2 700,6	3 561,8	3 076,4
Iron ore	13 430,2	1 528,2	1 333,5	864,5	1 211,3	1 219,1	698,2
Chromium	3 006,6	260,2	276,8	212,4	286,1	268,9	233,4
Copper	5 863,5	396,5	505,0	343,7	459,1	463,5	392,7
Manganese ore	3 571,2	631,8	404,5	207,5	573,3	432,1	194,4
PGMs	79 894,7	8 034,3	6 799,3	6 119,2	7 169,8	7 056,7	5 476,3
Nickel	9 324,5	876,2	633,7	810,8	946,6	719,1	869,5
Other metallic minerals	5 240,7	397,5	510,2	458,6	386,7	426,9	448,0
Coal	43 151,4	4 193,8	3 933,6	3 540,2	4 012,8	3 684,6	3 378,8
Building materials	6 067,8	439,8	575,9	354,1	584,3	535,7	468,1
- Granite or norite	487,0	42,6	44,5	32,8	46,2	39,3	35,7
- Lime and limestone	1 701,4	135,8	157,9	117,5	154,9	150,8	134,2
- Other building materials	3 879,8	261,3	373,5	203,8	383,2	345,6	298,2
Other non-metallic minerals	17 096,1	1 920,5	1 822,0	1 544,8	1 793,9	1 653,5	1 479,3

1/ Preliminary.
* Revised.

Table 8 – Contribution of the mining divisions, mineral groups and minerals to the total value of mineral sales

		Percentage contribution to total mineral sales during October 2006 to December 2006	Percentage change between October 2006 to December 2006 and October 2007 to December 2007	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total value of mineral sales 1/	Difference in sales of mining divisions between October 2006 to December 2006 and October 2007 to December 2007
					R million
Gold		17,7	-0,9	-0,2	-83,8
Non-gold minerals	Iron ore	5,1	44,2	2,3	1 232,3
	Chromium	1,2	27,8	0,3	178,4
	Copper	2,6	-1,2	0,0	-16,9
	Manganese ore	1,1	108,5	1,2	636,1
	PGMs	34,0	9,3	3,2	1 725,1
	Nickel	4,6	-22,5	-1,0	-566,2
	Other metallic minerals	2,9	-16,8	-0,5	-262,3
	Coal	19,7	10,2	2,0	1 102,5
	Building materials	2,4	18,9	0,5	249,2
Other non-metallic minerals	8,7	11,4	1,0	537,9	
Total non-gold minerals		82,3	10,7	8,8	4 816,2
Total minerals		100,0	8,7	8,7	4 732,4

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 October 2006 to December 2006, 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 January 2007	Actual estimates January 2008	% Change between January 2007 and January 2008	Difference between January 2007 and January 2008
	Percentage points			
Gold	55,6	46,4	-16,5	-9,2
Non-gold minerals	113,3	102,4	-9,6	-10,9
Total	98,5	88,0	-10,7	-10,5

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 November 2006 to January 2007	Actual estimates November 2007 to January 2008	% Change between November 2006 to January 2007 and November 2007 to January 2008	Difference between November 2006 to January 2007 and November 2007 to January 2008
	Percentage points			
Gold	177,2	157,6	-11,1	-19,6
Non-gold minerals	381,4	363,6	-4,7	-17,8
Total	328,9	310,8	-5,5	-18,1

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 December 2007	Actual estimates January 2008	% Change between December 2007 and January 2008	Difference between December 2007 and January 2008
	Percentage points			
Gold	54,4	51,7	-5,0	-2,7
Non-gold minerals	127,6	114,7	-10,1	-12,9
Total	108,8	98,5	-9,5	-10,3

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 August 2007 to October 2007	Actual estimates November 2007 to January 2008	% Change between August 2007 to October 2007 and November 2007 to January 2008	Difference between August 2007 to October 2007 and November 2007 to January 2008
	Percentage points			
Gold	176,3	160,0	-9,2	-16,3
Non-gold minerals	382,4	370,8	-3,0	-11,6
Total	329,5	316,6	-3,9	-12,9

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 December 2006	Actual estimates December 2007	% Change between December 2006 and December 2007	Difference between December 2006 and December 2007
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	3 128,9	2 730,6	-12,7	-398,3
Non-gold minerals	14 455,8	18 679,0	29,2	4 223,2
Total	17 584,7	21 409,6	21,8	3 824,9

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 October 2006 to December 2006	Actual estimates October 2007 to December 2007	% Change between October 2006 to December 2006 and October 2007 to December 2007	Difference between October 2006 to December 2006 and October 2007 to December 2007
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	9 650,1	9 566,3	-0,9	-83,8
Non-gold minerals	44 883,8	49 700,0	10,7	4 816,2
Total	54 533,9	59 266,3	8,7	4 732,4

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

	Actual seasonal adjusted estimates November 2007	Actual seasonal adjusted estimates December 2007	% Change between November 2007 and December 2007	Difference between November 2007 and December 2007
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	3 561,8	2 700,6	-24,2	-861,2
Non-gold minerals	16 460,1	17 423,9	5,9	963,8
Total	20 021,9	20 124,5	0,5	102,6

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

	Actual estimates July 2007 to September 2007	Actual estimates October 2007 to December 2007	% Change between July 2007 to September 2007 and October 2007 to December 2007	Difference between July 2007 to September 2007 and October 2007 to December 2007
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	9 354,4	9 604,5	2,7	250,1
Non-gold minerals	43 573,9	48 683,7	11,7	5 109,8
Total	52 928,3	58 288,2	10,1	5 359,9

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.
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.

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