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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS: MINING PRODUCTION AND MINERAL SALES

Key findings regarding mining production for January 2009

Seasonally adjusted mining production decreases

The total mining production for the three months ended January 2009, after seasonal adjustment, decreased by 10,7% compared with the previous three months. The main contributors to the 10,7% decrease were the platinum group metals (PGMs) (-5,7 percentage points) and diamonds (-3,3 percentage points) (see Table 4).

The total mining production for the three months ended January 2009 decreased by 8,7% compared with the three months ended January 2008. The actual total mining production for January 2009 decreased by 11,0% compared with January 2008, which is largely attributable to negative contributions from diamonds (-6,2 percentage points), PGMs (-2,3 percentage points) and chromium (-1,1 percentage points).

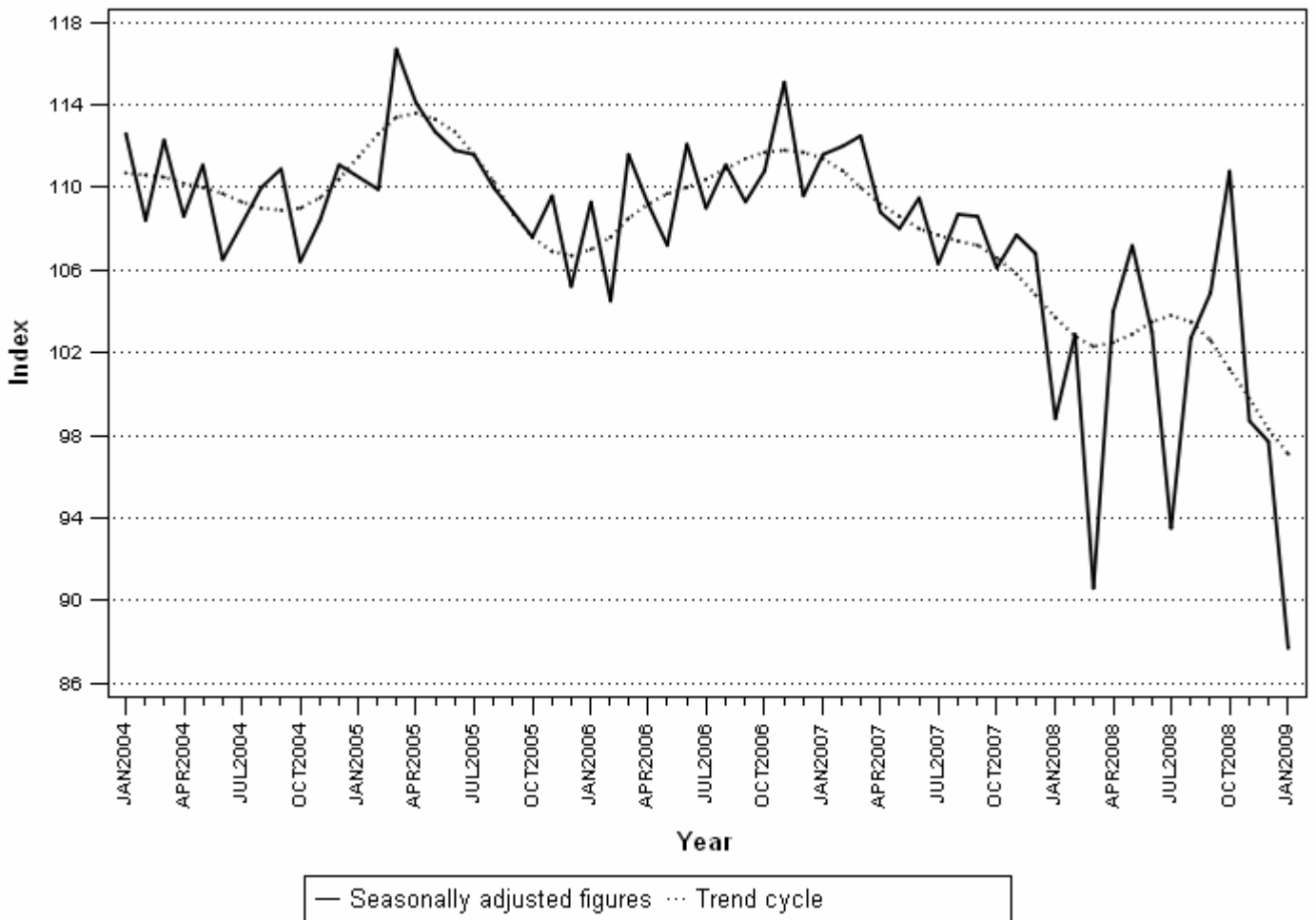
Table A – Selected key figures regarding mining production for January 2009

Actual estimates	Base : 2000=100		
	January 2009	% change between January 2008 and January 2009	% change between November 2007 to January 2008 and November 2008 to January 2009
Index of the physical volume of mining production			
Gold	42,0	-8,7	-12,1
Non-gold	87,9	-11,4	-8,3
Total	76,1	-11,0	-8,7

Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates	Base : 2000=100		
	January 2009	% change between December 2008 and January 2009	% change between August to October 2008 and November 2008 to January 2009
Index of the physical volume of mining production			
Gold	47,4	0,6	-0,6
Non-gold	101,6	-11,8	-12,1
Total	87,7	-10,2	-10,7

Figure 1 shows the seasonally adjusted figures and trend series for the index of total mining production between January 2004 and January 2009.

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



Key findings regarding mineral sales for December 2008

Mineral sales for 2008 increase

The total value of mineral sales was 33,5% higher in 2008 compared with 2007. The 33,5% increase in the value of mineral sales followed increases of 15,9% in 2007 and 35,5% in 2006.

The major contributors to the annual increase of 33,5% in 2008 were coal (12,4 percentage points or R27 841,0 million), manganese ore (6,1 percentage points or R13 772,8 million), PGMs (5,8 percentage points or R12 938,0 million) and iron ore (3,9 percentage points or R8 758,5 million) (see Table B and Table B.1).

The total seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales at current prices for the fourth quarter of 2008 reflected a decrease of 10,9% compared with the previous three months. This decrease of 10,9% (R8 628,5 million) can be largely attributed to a decrease of 15,8% (R10 829,4 million) in non-gold mineral sales (see Table B and Table 16).

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

Actual estimates	December 2008	% change between December 2007 and December 2008	% change between October to December 2007 and October to December 2008	% change between 2007 and 2008
	R million			
Mineral sales				
Gold	4 554,6	66,0	36,9	17,8
Non-gold	15 793,8	-16,2	12,3	36,7
Total	20 348,3	-5,8	16,2	33,5

Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates	December 2008	% change between November and December 2008	% change between July to September and October to December 2008
	R million		
Mineral sales			
Gold	4 514,5	8,0	20,3
Non-gold	15 688,6	-19,1	-15,8
Total	20 203,1	-14,3	-10,9

Table B.1 – Contribution of the mining divisions, mineral groups and minerals to the total value of mineral sales for 2008

		January to December 2007 R million	January to December 2008 R million	Annual percentage change between 2007 and 2008	Percentage contribution to total mineral sales during 2007	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total value of mineral sales 1/	Difference in sales of mining divisions between 2007 and 2008 R million
Gold		39 036,7	45 992,1	17,8	17,4	3,1	6 955,4
Non-gold minerals	Iron ore	13 483,2	22 241,7	65,0	6,0	3,9	8 758,5
	Chromium	3 006,6	5 513,7	83,4	1,3	1,1	2 507,1
	Copper	5 853,6	5 620,0	-4,0	2,6	-0,1	-233,6
	Manganese ore	3 571,4	17 344,2	385,6	1,6	6,1	13 772,8
	PGMs	78 414,4	91 352,4	16,5	34,9	5,8	12 938,0
	Nickel	8 863,7	5 255,8	-40,7	3,9	-1,6	-3 607,9
	Other metallic minerals	5 272,1	5 886,9	11,7	2,3	0,3	614,8
	Coal	43 811,9	71 652,9	63,5	19,5	12,4	27 841,0
	Building materials	5 986,6	6 825,4	14,0	2,7	0,4	838,8
	Other non-metallic minerals	17 137,4	21 834,0	27,4	7,6	2,1	4 696,6
Total non-gold minerals	185 401,1	253 527,1	36,7	82,6	30,4	68 126,0	
Total minerals	224 437,7	299 519,4	33,5	100,0	33,5	75 081,7	

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 2007, divided by 100. Figures have been rounded off.

Figure 2 shows the 33,5% annual growth rate in the value of mineral sales for 2008. From 2004 the annual percentage change grew quite significantly with a peak growth rate during 2006 (35,5%).

Figure 2 – Annual percentage change for the total value of mineral sales from 2003 to 2008

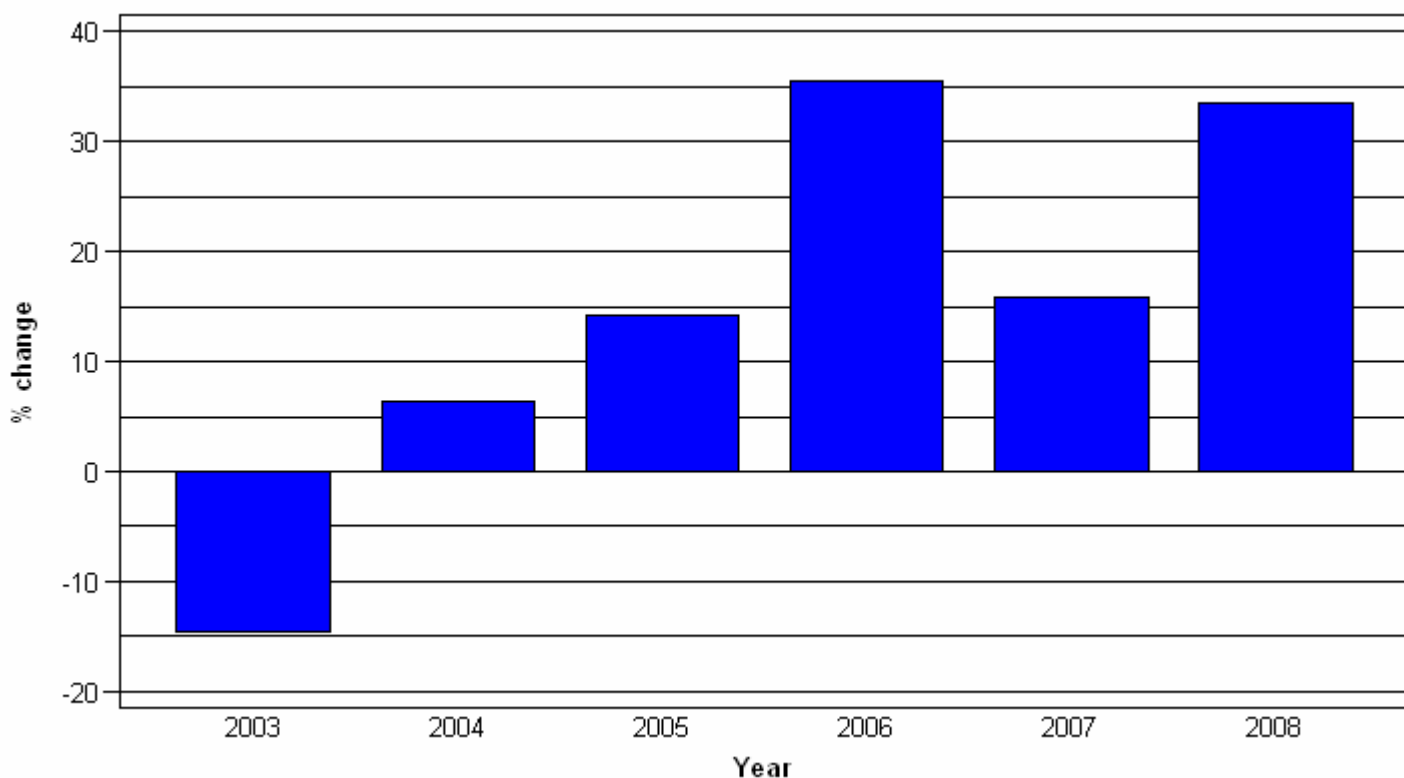
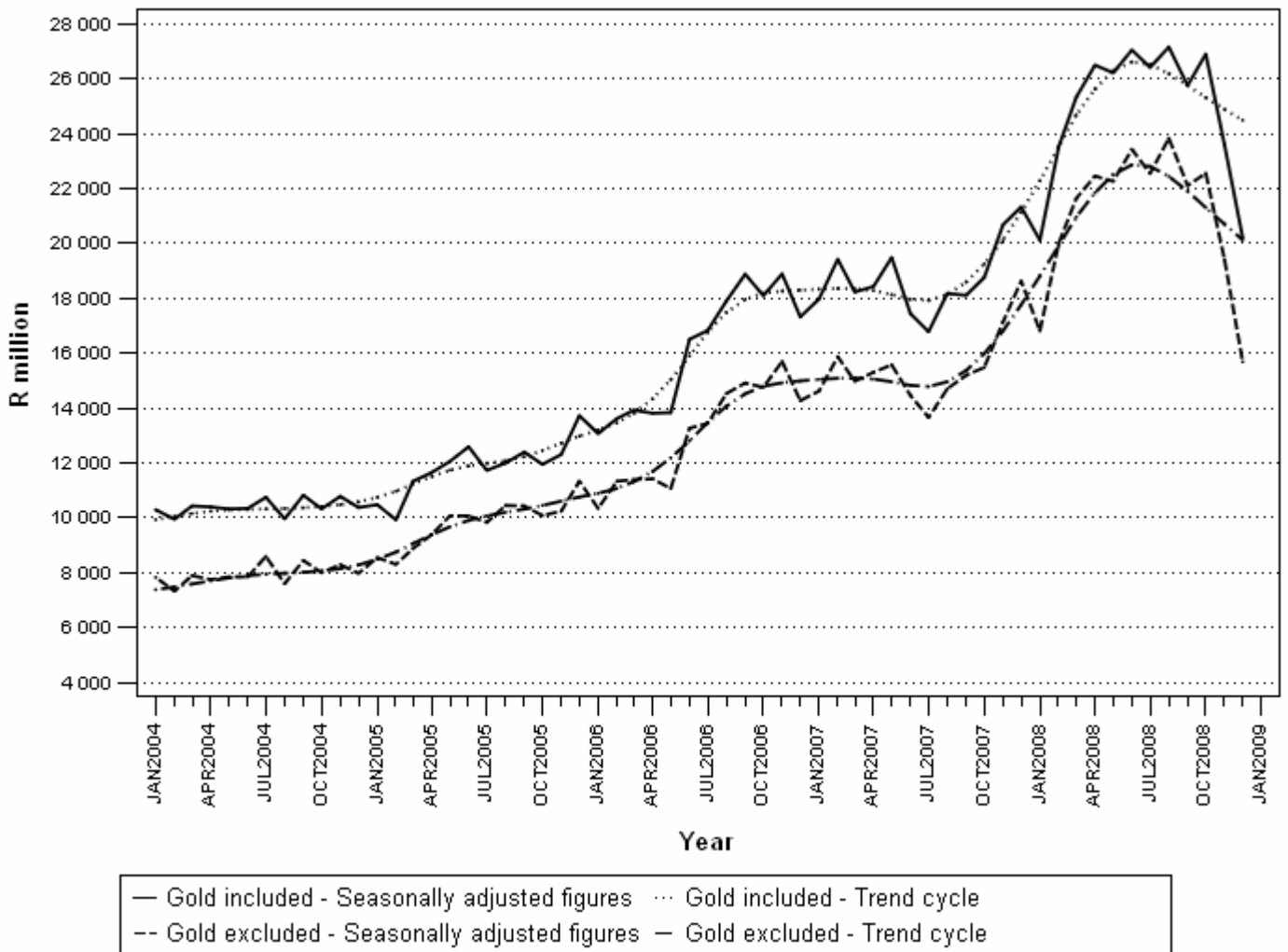


Figure 3 shows the seasonally adjusted figures and trend series of the total value of mineral sales between January 2004 and December 2008.

Figure 3 – Total value of mineral sales



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Detailed results: Tables

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

		Base : 2000=100						
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	1/ 2009
Actual indices	January	85,1	100,7	107,9	96,9	97,8	85,5	76,1
	February	101,7	97,8	98,6	93,6	99,1	90,6	
	March	101,8	112,9	119,9	114,3	115,0	92,2	
	April	101,0	105,0	110,2	105,2	104,7	99,8	
	May	107,1	113,0	115,2	109,0	109,8	108,6	
	June	108,6	111,1	116,8	117,6	115,5	108,8	
	July	110,7	119,5	113,1	110,2	107,1	94,6	
	August	109,1	114,3	114,8	116,3	113,9	107,5	
	September	114,6	117,4	116,7	115,2	118,3	114,1	
	October	114,5	108,2	108,2	110,9	105,9	109,7	
	November	108,6	110,1	111,4	117,3	110,5	101,4	
	December	113,5	113,3	107,4	113,1	109,8	* 101,4	
	Year	106,4	110,3	111,7	110,0	109,0	101,2	
Seasonally adjusted indices	January	91,7	112,6	120,3	109,3	111,6	98,8	87,7
	February	111,3	108,4	109,9	104,5	112,0	102,9	
	March	101,7	112,3	116,7	111,6	112,5	90,6	
	April	104,0	108,6	114,1	109,2	108,8	104,0	
	May	104,6	111,1	112,7	107,2	108,0	107,2	
	June	103,1	106,5	111,8	112,1	109,5	103,0	
	July	108,7	118,1	111,6	109,0	106,3	93,5	
	August	105,3	110,0	110,0	111,1	108,7	102,7	
	September	109,5	110,9	108,8	109,3	108,6	104,9	
	October	111,9	106,4	107,6	110,8	106,1	110,8	
	November	107,0	108,4	109,6	115,1	107,7	98,7	
	December	110,8	111,1	105,2	109,6	106,8	97,7	

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

		Base : 2000=100						
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	1/ 2009
Actual indices	January	85,7	110,0	121,6	110,1	112,4	99,2	87,9
	February	107,3	104,0	108,7	104,1	111,7	106,6	
	March	106,2	123,6	136,2	130,9	134,4	106,0	
	April	106,3	115,0	127,0	119,7	121,6	117,3	
	May	114,7	124,9	131,3	126,1	127,4	128,4	
	June	116,4	121,1	132,3	135,7	134,2	127,8	
	July	118,8	133,1	129,2	127,1	124,0	110,5	
	August	116,3	125,5	132,2	134,0	131,8	128,2	
	September	122,9	130,0	132,4	131,7	137,3	135,0	
	October	124,2	119,7	122,3	127,7	122,3	130,4	
	November	116,2	121,3	126,2	136,2	129,7	119,6	
	December	123,3	127,0	120,0	131,9	128,2	* 119,9	
	Year	113,2	121,3	126,6	126,3	126,3	119,1	
Seasonally adjusted indices	January	91,6	123,6	135,7	124,7	128,7	115,1	101,6
	February	119,2	117,3	123,0	117,8	128,2	122,5	
	March	106,5	123,1	132,1	127,4	131,1	103,9	
	April	109,2	118,8	131,2	123,9	126,2	122,1	
	May	110,5	121,7	127,6	123,4	124,8	126,4	
	June	110,0	115,9	126,5	129,2	127,0	120,7	
	July	115,7	131,1	127,0	125,1	122,5	108,7	
	August	112,3	120,8	126,6	128,0	125,7	122,5	
	September	117,9	123,0	123,5	125,5	126,1	124,2	
	October	120,7	117,4	121,8	127,9	122,9	132,3	
	November	114,6	119,7	124,3	133,6	126,2	116,2	
	December	120,4	124,5	117,5	127,6	124,4	115,2	

1/ Preliminary.

* Revised

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		
		2008	2008		1/ 2009	2008		2009
			Jan	* Dec	Jan	Jan	Dec	Jan
Total, gold included	100,0	101,2	85,5	101,4	76,1	98,8	97,7	87,7
Total, gold excluded	74,3	119,1	99,2	119,9	87,9	115,1	115,2	101,6
Gold	25,7	49,5	46,0	48,0	42,0	51,7	47,1	47,4
Iron ore	3,1	145,6	117,2	168,0	153,6	122,1	161,4	160,6
Chromium	1,1	146,8	136,4	68,0	48,4	151,3	76,1	53,9
Copper	1,6	71,8	62,4	76,8	74,0	64,5	72,0	76,7
Manganese ore	1,3	183,0	150,8	168,8	94,0	164,4	165,3	103,9
PGMs	27,6	133,3	103,2	163,2	96,0	125,4	139,9	118,0
Nickel	2,0	86,5	80,8	96,4	61,2	94,8	87,7	72,2
Other metallic minerals	2,9	84,5	81,6	80,8	85,6	84,2	83,5	88,3
Diamonds	8,3	114,9	98,0	60,4	34,4	125,6	71,8	45,1
Coal	20,0	111,5	96,8	100,8	94,0	107,0	108,8	104,3
Building materials	2,6	133,7	120,0	110,4	117,2	141,9	137,9	138,4
Other non-metallic minerals	3,8	67,3	65,6	64,0	68,4	66,1	63,9	68,6

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 November 2008 to January 2009	Quarterly percentage change November 2008 to January 2009 compared with the preceding three months	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total mining production 1/
Gold		25,7	47,5	-0,6	-0,1
Non-gold minerals	Iron ore	3,1	158,7	0,4	0,0
	Chromium	1,1	90,6	-40,7	-0,6
	Copper	1,6	75,4	22,2	0,2
	Manganese ore	1,3	146,3	-25,4	-0,6
	PGMs	27,6	131,4	-14,3	-5,7
	Nickel	2,0	78,9	-14,4	-0,3
	Other metallic minerals	2,9	86,2	3,5	0,1
	Diamonds	8,3	72,1	-36,6	-3,3
	Coal	20,0	105,9	-3,1	-0,6
	Building materials	2,6	133,7	0,9	0,0
Other non-metallic minerals	3,8	66,4	1,5	0,0	
Total non-gold minerals		74,3	111,0	-12,1	-10,7
Total minerals		100,0	94,7	-10,7	-10,7

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	17 442,2
	February	10 634,4	10 236,5	9 576,1	9 383,8	12 680,8	17 928,6	21 735,1
	March	11 639,2	9 829,3	10 396,0	11 477,1	14 179,9	18 555,2	25 892,3
	April	11 194,9	9 294,1	9 789,3	11 034,0	13 042,6	17 447,8	25 520,7
	May	12 145,3	9 104,1	10 373,3	12 239,8	14 046,8	19 841,6	26 663,7
	June	11 637,2	9 745,9	10 856,0	13 360,1	17 809,8	19 033,2	29 805,5
	July	10 779,9	10 403,7	10 844,2	12 001,8	17 614,8	17 449,4	27 077,5
	August	11 633,5	9 612,0	9 841,7	11 687,6	17 339,2	17 890,4	26 984,3
	September	12 115,1	10 008,1	11 693,2	13 524,1	20 586,6	19 619,7	27 559,8
	October	12 514,2	9 989,4	10 466,3	12 074,8	18 031,0	18 713,7	26 716,3
	November	11 059,4	9 535,8	10 815,6	12 453,2	18 918,2	20 674,4	23 773,7
	December	10 764,4	9 899,2	10 585,6	13 994,2	17 584,7	21 590,8	20 348,3
	Year	137 504,5	117 526,9	125 057,8	142 817,9	193 589,5	224 437,7	299 519,4
Seasonally adjusted values	January	11 471,1	10 029,3	10 296,8	10 481,2	13 070,7	17 973,7	20 112,9
	February	10 848,9	10 498,3	9 952,7	9 929,5	13 617,2	19 420,8	23 510,1
	March	11 673,8	9 906,1	10 435,5	11 329,4	13 924,5	18 227,5	25 322,0
	April	11 881,4	9 850,0	10 398,5	11 652,9	13 812,3	18 427,2	26 490,8
	May	12 103,8	9 071,9	10 324,2	12 055,8	13 834,6	19 482,2	26 210,2
	June	11 176,7	9 312,2	10 344,5	12 592,1	16 505,2	17 441,0	27 041,9
	July	10 710,5	10 433,2	10 751,8	11 730,8	16 824,9	16 780,5	26 404,6
	August	11 725,3	9 756,4	9 964,5	11 998,2	17 902,2	18 175,2	27 150,0
	September	11 832,2	9 463,6	10 825,2	12 398,2	18 877,0	18 106,5	25 750,7
	October	12 277,9	9 847,2	10 328,0	11 949,3	18 093,8	18 756,6	26 891,5
	November	11 234,2	9 631,1	10 785,6	12 308,9	18 886,8	20 677,6	23 582,2
	December	10 406,5	9 693,8	10 376,7	13 721,6	17 318,1	21 324,8	20 203,1

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	14 526,9
	February	7 368,2	7 452,6	7 039,8	7 813,9	10 469,6	14 498,1	18 339,4
	March	8 110,9	7 140,7	7 710,4	8 840,3	11 403,2	14 955,5	21 801,6
	April	7 481,9	6 815,2	7 366,5	8 963,2	10 850,3	14 595,8	21 859,3
	May	8 619,3	6 477,2	8 029,3	10 372,9	11 445,0	16 150,6	22 924,0
	June	8 035,5	6 759,5	8 107,4	10 562,0	14 217,3	15 745,9	25 824,2
	July	7 344,7	7 613,1	8 699,0	10 082,3	14 114,1	14 154,8	22 943,6
	August	8 065,2	7 052,7	7 546,9	10 210,5	14 152,3	14 647,2	23 886,6
	September	8 562,1	7 092,3	9 114,1	11 390,1	16 333,3	16 531,7	23 713,2
	October	8 711,8	7 345,5	8 089,0	10 186,0	14 646,2	15 351,6	22 240,0
	November	7 981,8	7 154,9	8 406,4	10 436,1	15 781,8	17 188,8	19 674,5
	December	7 834,8	6 825,9	8 138,7	11 549,8	14 455,8	18 846,7	15 793,8
	Year	96 118,5	84 473,7	95 728,1	118 216,7	157 184,9	185 401,1	253 527,1
Seasonally adjusted values	January	8 068,1	6 827,5	7 833,2	8 553,8	10 346,1	14 619,7	16 814,1
	February	7 488,0	7 627,5	7 332,5	8 307,6	11 335,1	15 871,0	19 996,2
	March	8 264,1	7 333,2	7 900,4	8 882,2	11 392,1	14 977,8	21 636,7
	April	7 749,7	7 119,7	7 749,6	9 393,5	11 420,7	15 304,5	22 449,4
	May	8 447,7	6 327,8	7 851,2	10 075,1	11 071,5	15 575,0	22 260,6
	June	7 811,9	6 571,0	7 852,7	10 073,0	13 266,4	14 461,8	23 423,0
	July	7 210,7	7 593,4	8 598,9	9 835,3	13 442,2	13 659,6	22 542,9
	August	8 200,6	7 175,0	7 603,8	10 451,9	14 528,8	14 703,8	23 827,4
	September	8 429,1	6 734,3	8 449,5	10 434,5	14 913,8	15 194,2	22 103,6
	October	8 707,0	7 321,5	8 004,5	10 085,8	14 756,5	15 480,6	22 552,0
	November	8 061,1	7 170,0	8 298,0	10 244,4	15 697,9	17 136,2	19 403,9
	December	7 465,7	6 642,1	7 978,6	11 336,8	14 271,7	18 630,9	15 688,6

1/ Preliminary.

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

	Actual values				Seasonally adjusted values		
	2008	2007	1/ 2008		2007	2008	
		December	November	December		December	November
Total, gold included	299 519,4	21 590,8	23 773,7	20 348,3	21 324,8	23 582,2	20 203,1
Total, gold excluded	253 527,1	18 846,7	19 674,5	15 793,8	18 630,9	19 403,9	15 688,6
Gold	45 992,1	2 744,1	4 099,1	4 554,6	2 693,9	4 178,3	4 514,5
Iron ore	22 241,7	1 528,2	2 490,4	2 309,6	1 383,7	2 210,8	2 115,6
Chromium	5 513,7	260,2	454,0	146,1	315,3	472,9	178,4
Copper	5 620,0	412,2	467,5	237,6	510,6	396,6	302,6
Manganese ore	17 344,2	632,0	919,1	927,0	663,5	1 219,6	962,9
PGMs	91 352,4	8 279,5	5 215,8	3 929,8	7 997,7	5 501,4	3 834,7
Nickel	5 255,8	736,1	227,9	113,7	819,3	241,0	127,4
Other metallic minerals	5 886,9	435,9	599,8	562,2	420,0	531,0	536,7
Coal	71 652,9	4 256,7	6 724,5	6 380,0	4 227,0	6 429,9	6 347,4
Building materials	6 825,4	389,1	610,9	458,4	510,8	571,6	617,0
- Granite or norite	671,7	43,5	67,7	46,8	50,1	61,9	54,2
- Lime and limestone	1 908,5	135,8	164,9	115,8	153,2	155,9	130,4
- Other building materials	4 245,2	209,8	378,2	295,9	307,5	353,8	432,4
Other non-metallic minerals	21 834,0	1 916,6	1 964,6	729,5	1 783,0	1 829,1	665,9

1/ Preliminary.

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

		Percentage contribution to total mineral sales during October to December 2007	Percentage change between October to December 2007 and October to December 2008	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total value of mineral sales 1/	Difference in sales of mining divisions between October to December 2007 and October to December 2008
					R million
Gold		15,7	36,9	5,8	3 538,1
Non-gold minerals	Iron ore	6,7	76,6	5,1	3 121,4
	Chromium	1,3	37,6	0,5	308,5
	Copper	2,4	-25,6	-0,6	-371,8
	Manganese ore	2,0	138,7	2,8	1 695,9
	PGMs	35,2	-25,9	-9,1	-5 570,8
	Nickel	3,5	-71,8	-2,5	-1 532,3
	Other metallic minerals	2,2	25,2	0,6	332,1
	Coal	19,8	65,9	13,0	7 963,3
	Building materials	2,5	13,5	0,3	204,4
	Other non-metallic minerals	8,7	3,2	0,3	170,7
Total non-gold minerals		84,3	12,3	10,4	6 321,2
Total minerals		100,0	16,2	16,2	9 859,4

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 to December 2007, divided by 100. Figures have been rounded off.

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 2008	Actual estimates January 2009	% change between January 2008 and January 2009	Difference between January 2008 and January 2009
	Percentage points			
Gold	46,0	42,0	-8,7	-4,0
Non-gold minerals	99,2	87,9	-11,4	-11,3
Total	85,5	76,1	-11,0	-9,4

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 2007 to January 2008	Actual estimates November 2008 to January 2009	% change between November 2007 to January 2008 and November 2008 to January 2009	Difference between November 2007 to January 2008 and November 2008 to January 2009
	Percentage points			
Gold	52,7	46,3	-12,1	-6,4
Non-gold minerals	119,0	109,1	-8,3	-9,9
Total	101,9	93,0	-8,7	-8,9

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

	Base : 2000=100			
	Seasonally adjusted December 2008	Seasonally adjusted January 2009	% change between December 2008 and January 2009	Difference between December 2008 and January 2009
	Percentage points			
Gold	47,1	47,4	0,6	0,3
Non-gold minerals	115,2	101,6	-11,8	-13,6
Total	97,7	87,7	-10,2	-10,0

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

	Base : 2000=100			
	Seasonally adjusted August to October 2008	Seasonally adjusted November 2008 to January 2009	% change between August to October 2008 and November 2008 to January 2009	Difference between August to October 2008 and November 2008 to January 2009
	Percentage points			
Gold	47,8	47,5	-0,6	-0,3
Non-gold minerals	126,3	111,0	-12,1	-15,3
Total	106,1	94,7	-10,7	-11,4

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 2007	Actual estimates December 2008	% Change between December 2007 and December 2008	Difference between December 2007 and December 2008
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	2 744,1	4 554,6	66,0	1 810,5
Non-gold minerals	18 846,7	15 793,8	-16,2	-3 052,9
Total	21 590,8	20 348,3	-5,8	-1 242,5

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 to December 2007	Actual estimates October to December 2008	% change between October to December 2007 and October to December 2008	Difference between October to December 2007 and October to December 2008
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	9 591,8	13 129,9	36,9	3 538,1
Non-gold minerals	51 387,1	57 708,3	12,3	6 321,2
Total	60 978,9	70 838,3	16,2	9 859,4

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

	Seasonally adjusted estimates November 2008	Seasonally adjusted estimates December 2008	% change between November 2008 and December 2008	Difference between November 2008 and December 2008
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	4 178,3	4 514,5	8,0	336,2
Non-gold minerals	19 403,9	15 688,6	-19,1	-3 715,3
Total	23 582,2	20 203,1	-14,3	-3 379,1

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

	Seasonally adjusted estimates July to September 2008	Seasonally adjusted estimates October to December 2008	% change between July to September and October to December 2008	Difference between July to September and October to December 2008
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	10 831,4	13 032,3	20,3	2 200,9
Non-gold minerals	68 473,9	57 644,5	-15,8	-10 829,4
Total	79 305,3	70 676,8	-10,9	-8 628,5

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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