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# Statistical release

## P2041

# Mining: Production and sales (preliminary)

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**Enquiries:**

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

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**Note to users:**

The monthly mining production and sales estimates have been revised as from January 2007 on the basis of updated information provided by the Department of Minerals and Energy (DME). The revisions apply mainly in respect of the production of platinum group metals. The total mining production growth rates for 2007 compared with 2006 have been revised from -0,1% to -0,9%, and the sales growth rates have been revised from 16,3% to 15,9%.

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS: MINING PRODUCTION AND MINERAL SALES**

**Key findings regarding mining production as at the end of June 2008**

**Mining production increases**

The total mining production for the second quarter of 2008, after seasonal adjustment, increased by 7,7% compared with the first quarter of 2008. This increase of 7,7% was due to increases of 8,2% in the production of non-gold minerals and 4,2% in the production of gold. The production of platinum group metals (PGMs) contributed 4,4 percentage points while diamonds contributed 1,5 percentage points to the 7,7% increase. Nickel was the only significant negative contributor (-0,1 of a percentage point) to the quarterly change in total mining production (see Table 4).

The total mining production for the second quarter of 2008 decreased by 4,5% compared with the second quarter of 2007. The actual total mining production for June 2008 decreased by 6,3% compared with June 2007 (see Table A).

Gold production decreased by 12,3% in June 2008 compared with June 2007 (see Table A).

**Key figures regarding mining production as at the end of June 2008**

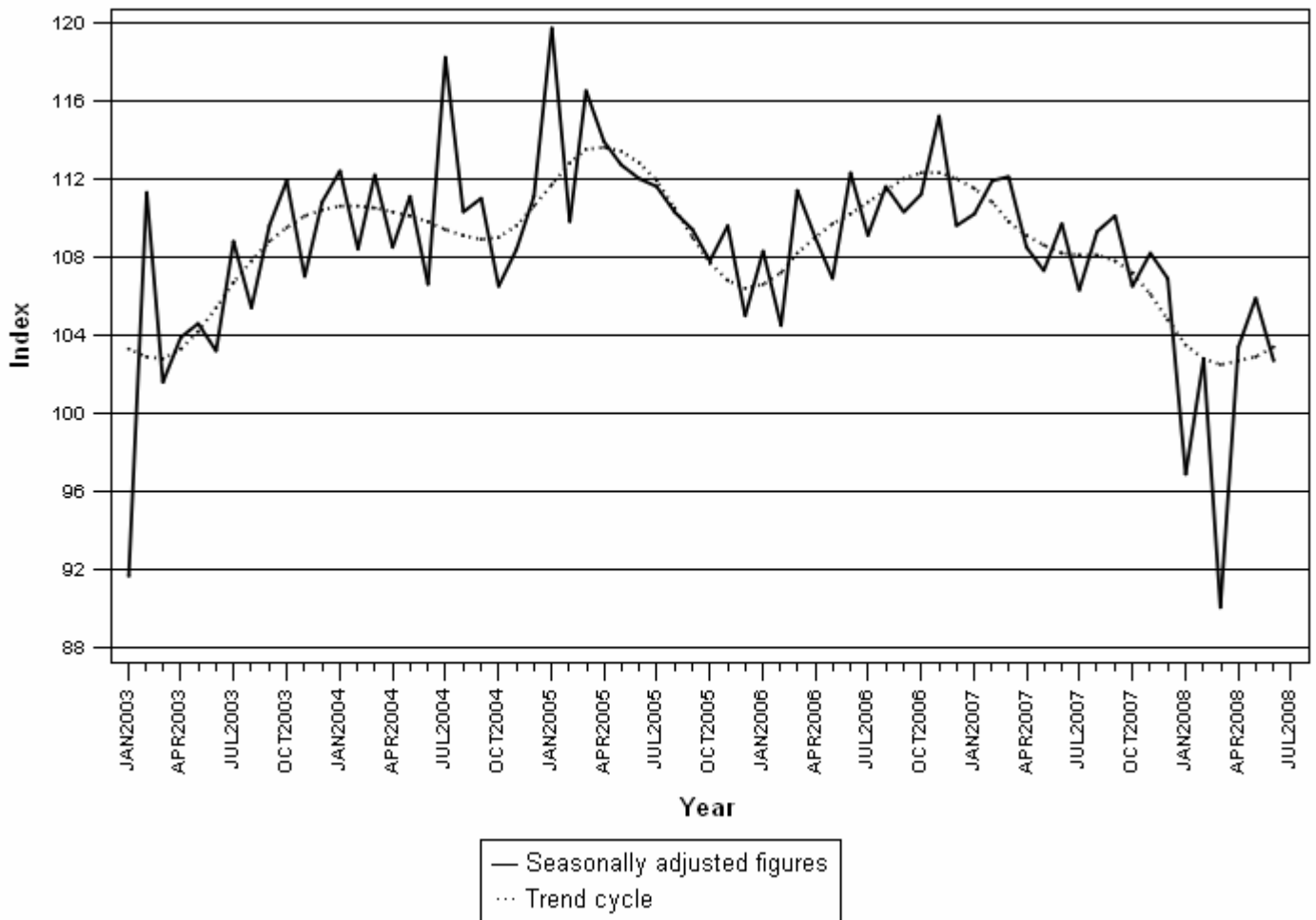
**Table A – Selected key figures regarding mining production for June 2008**

Annual estimates	Base : 2000=100		
	June 2008	% change between June 2007 and June 2008	% change between April to June 2007 and April to June 2008
<b>Index of the physical volume of mining production</b>			
Gold	54,0	-12,3	-12,3
Non-gold	126,9	-5,4	-3,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>108,2</b>	<b>-6,3</b>	<b>-4,5</b>

Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates	Base : 2000=100		
	June 2008	% change between May 2008 and June 2008	% change between January to March 2008 and April to June 2008
<b>Index of the physical volume of mining production</b>			
Gold	52,2	0,4	4,2
Non-gold	120,2	-3,5	8,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>102,7</b>	<b>-3,0</b>	<b>7,7</b>

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

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



## Key findings regarding mineral sales as at the end of May 2008

### Mineral sales increase

The total seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended May 2008 reflected an increase of 23,8% compared with the previous three months. This increase of 23,8% (R15 271,7 million) can be attributed to an increase of 26,1% (R2 469,2 million) in the sale of gold and 23,5% (R12 802,5 million) in the sale of non-gold minerals (see Table B and Table 16).

The actual total value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended May 2008 increased by 40,0% compared with the three months ended May 2007. The major contributors to this increase of 40,0%, year-on-year, were PGMs (13,5 percentage points or R7 530,2 million), coal (10,3 percentage points or R5 792,6 million), manganese ore (6,5 percentage points or R3 667,5 million) and iron ore (3,8 percentage points or R2 132,6 million) (see Table 8).

### Key figures regarding mineral sales as at the end of May 2008

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

Annual estimates	May 2008	% Change between May 2007 and May 2008	% Change between March to May 2007 and March to May 2008
	R million		
<b>Mineral sales</b>			
<b>Gold</b>	3 745,0	1,5	13,4
<b>Non-gold</b>	22 825,7	41,3	45,9
<b>Total</b>	26 570,7	33,9	40,0

Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates	May 2008	% Change between April 2008 and May 2008	% Change between December 2007 to February 2008 and March to May 2008
	R million		
<b>Mineral sales</b>			
<b>Gold</b>	4 083,7	-0,8	26,1
<b>Non-gold</b>	22 470,3	-1,1	23,5
<b>Total</b>	26 554,0	-1,1	23,8

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

**Figure 2 – Total value of mineral sales including gold**

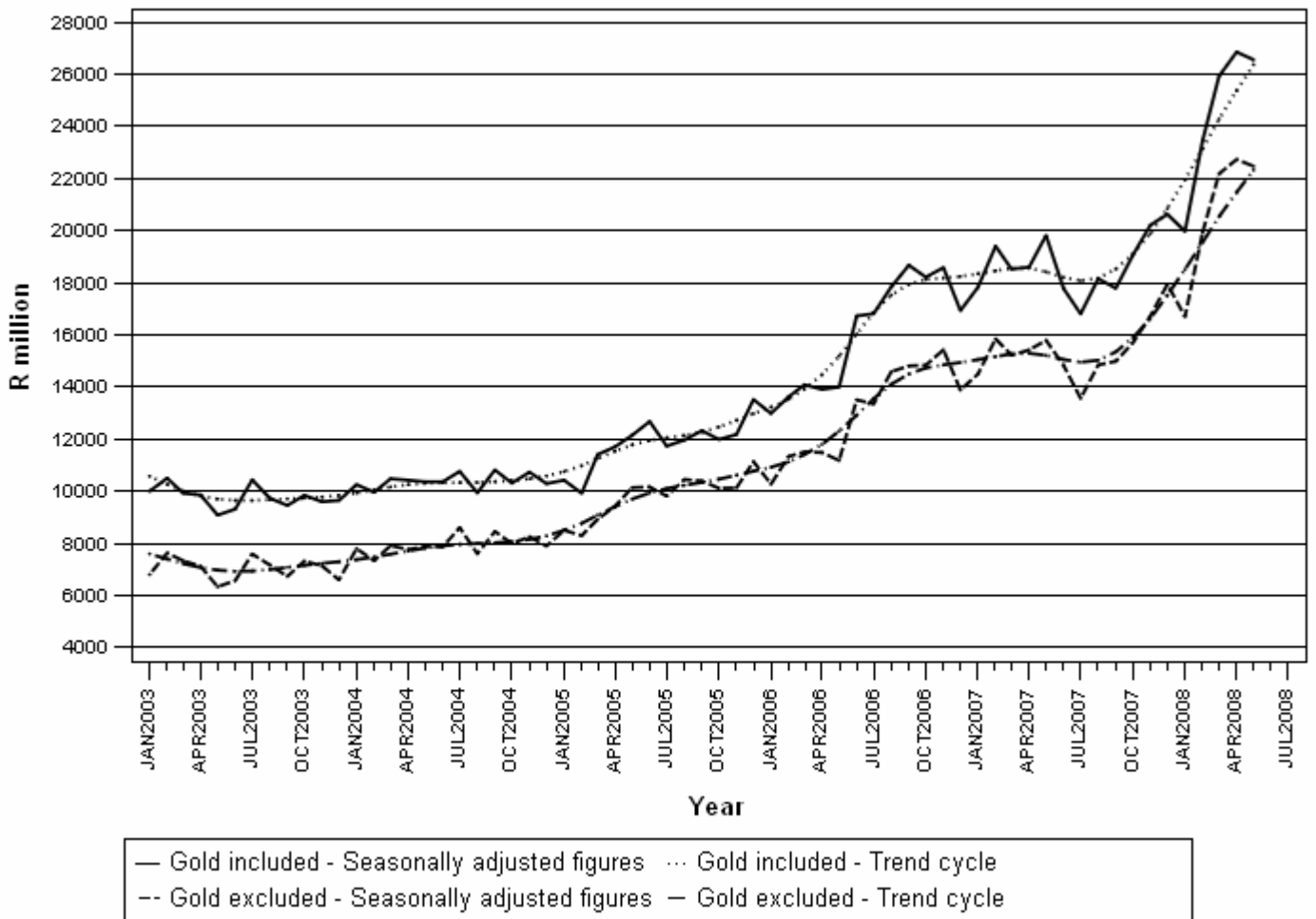
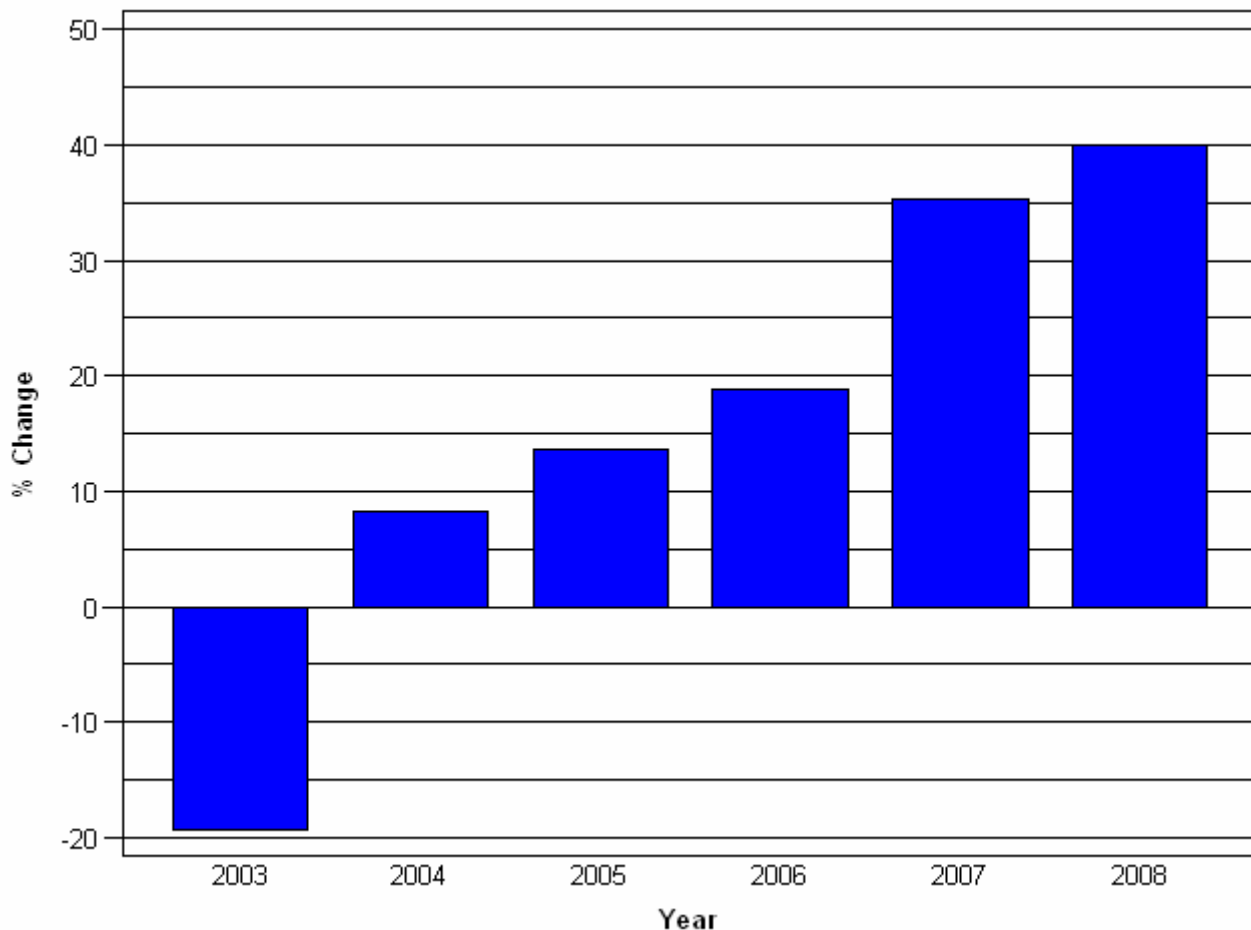


Figure 3 shows the 40% annual growth rate in the value of mineral sales for the three months ended May 2008. The increase for 2008 represents a higher growth rate compared to last years' growth rate (35,3%) for the same period and it is the fifth consecutive increase since 2003.

**Figure 3 – Comparison of the last six years for the total value of mineral sales, including gold, for the three months ended May compared with the three months ended May 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	85,7
	February	94,2	101,7	97,8	98,6	93,6	99,1	90,6
	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	107,9
	June	104,1	108,6	111,1	116,8	117,6	115,5	108,2
	July	99,0	110,7	119,5	113,1	110,2	107,1	
	August	107,2	109,1	114,3	114,8	116,3	113,9	
	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	<b>102,2</b>	<b>106,4</b>	<b>110,3</b>	<b>111,7</b>	<b>110,0</b>	<b>109,0</b>	
Seasonally adjusted indices	January	97,5	91,7	112,4	119,7	108,3	110,2	96,9
	February	100,7	111,3	108,4	109,8	104,5	111,9	102,8
	March	99,3	101,6	112,2	116,5	111,4	112,1	90,1
	April	103,1	103,9	108,5	113,9	109,0	108,5	103,4
	May	102,1	104,6	111,1	112,7	106,9	107,3	105,9
	June	99,7	103,2	106,6	112,0	112,3	109,7	102,7
	July	98,5	108,8	118,2	111,6	109,1	106,3	
	August	104,1	105,4	110,3	110,3	111,6	109,3	
	September	104,7	109,6	111,0	109,4	110,3	110,1	
	October	103,4	111,9	106,5	107,8	111,2	106,5	
	November	105,3	107,0	108,4	109,6	115,2	108,2	
	December	104,3	110,8	111,1	105,0	109,6	106,9	

**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	99,5
	February	95,8	107,3	104,0	108,7	104,1	111,7	106,5
	March	101,0	106,2	123,6	136,2	130,9	134,4	105,8
	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	127,4
	June	107,3	116,4	121,1	132,3	135,7	134,2	126,9
	July	102,4	118,8	133,1	129,2	127,1	124,0	
	August	111,2	116,3	125,5	132,2	134,0	131,8	
	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	<b>105,6</b>	<b>113,2</b>	<b>121,3</b>	<b>126,6</b>	<b>126,3</b>	<b>126,3</b>	
Seasonally adjusted indices	January	98,0	91,6	123,4	135,0	123,4	126,9	112,7
	February	103,5	119,2	117,3	123,0	117,8	128,1	122,4
	March	101,9	106,4	122,9	131,9	127,1	130,7	103,3
	April	105,7	109,1	118,6	130,9	123,6	125,8	121,2
	May	105,0	110,5	121,7	127,5	122,9	123,8	124,5
	June	102,5	110,0	115,9	126,7	129,3	127,1	120,2
	July	101,0	115,7	131,1	127,0	125,3	122,5	
	August	108,0	112,4	121,1	127,0	128,7	126,5	
	September	108,6	118,0	123,2	124,2	126,7	127,9	
	October	107,6	120,8	117,5	122,0	128,3	123,4	
	November	110,9	114,6	119,7	124,4	133,8	126,9	
	December	108,7	120,5	124,6	117,5	127,7	124,8	

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	
			Jun	May	Jun		Jun	May
<b>Total, gold included</b>	100,0	* 109,0	* 115,5	107,9	108,2	109,7	105,9	102,7
<b>Total, gold excluded</b>	74,3	* 126,3	* 134,2	127,4	126,9	127,1	124,5	120,2
<b>Gold</b>	25,7	58,9	61,6	51,2	54,0	59,5	52,0	52,2
<b>Iron ore</b>	3,1	124,4	139,2	124,0	153,6	126,8	125,7	139,7
<b>Chromium</b>	1,1	145,1	156,4	152,8	150,0	152,7	149,0	147,0
<b>Copper</b>	1,6	86,6	86,4	77,2	83,2	84,2	73,9	81,2
<b>Manganese ore</b>	1,3	162,9	201,6	193,2	210,8	179,4	186,7	187,2
<b>PGMs</b>	27,6	* 147,0	* 166,4	144,0	148,8	151,4	139,6	134,3
<b>Nickel</b>	2,0	102,9	106,8	94,8	82,4	105,4	89,5	81,5
<b>Other metallic minerals</b>	2,9	83,1	78,4	91,2	88,0	79,3	89,5	89,2
<b>Diamonds</b>	8,3	137,4	136,4	132,4	125,6	134,3	144,7	123,9
<b>Coal</b>	20,0	110,3	110,0	119,6	111,6	108,7	112,0	110,5
<b>Building materials</b>	2,6	* 135,9	* 134,0	136,8	134,4	131,6	127,2	132,1
<b>Other non-metallic minerals</b>	3,8	74,9	68,0	73,6	65,6	70,9	73,1	68,5

1/ Preliminary.

\* Revised.

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

		Base : 2000=100			
		Percentage contribution to the total mining production using the weights according to the value of production in the base year	Average seasonally adjusted production index for April to June 2008	Quarterly percentage change April to June 2008 compared with the preceding three months	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total mining production 1/
<b>Gold</b>		25,7	52,0	4,2	0,6
<b>Non-gold minerals</b>	<b>Iron ore</b>	3,1	131,0	4,4	0,2
	<b>Chromium</b>	1,1	152,4	1,6	0,0
	<b>Copper</b>	1,6	79,0	3,7	0,0
	<b>Manganese ore</b>	1,3	182,8	7,9	0,2
	<b>PGMs</b>	27,6	134,6	12,9	4,4
	<b>Nickel</b>	2,0	83,9	-7,3	-0,1
	<b>Other metallic minerals</b>	2,9	84,1	-1,3	0,0
	<b>Diamonds</b>	8,3	131,2	15,6	1,5
	<b>Coal</b>	20,0	114,6	3,1	0,7
	<b>Building materials</b>	2,6	136,1	-1,3	0,0
	<b>Other non-metallic minerals</b>	3,8	70,3	7,3	0,2
<b>Total non-gold minerals</b>		74,3	122,0	8,2	7,1
<b>Total minerals</b>		100,0	104,0	7,7	7,7

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
<b>Actual values</b>	<b>January</b>	11 387,0	9 868,8	9 820,5	9 587,4	11 755,1	15 692,9	17 448,8
	<b>February</b>	10 634,4	10 236,5	9 576,1	9 383,8	12 680,8	17 928,6	21 702,8
	<b>March</b>	11 639,2	9 829,3	10 396,0	11 477,1	14 179,9	18 555,2	26 028,9
	<b>April</b>	11 194,9	9 294,1	9 789,3	11 034,0	13 042,6	17 447,8	25 579,1
	<b>May</b>	12 145,3	9 104,1	10 373,3	12 239,8	14 046,8	19 841,6	26 570,7
	<b>June</b>	11 637,2	9 745,9	10 856,0	13 360,1	17 809,8	19 033,2	
	<b>July</b>	10 779,9	10 403,7	10 844,2	12 001,8	17 614,8	17 448,0	
	<b>August</b>	11 633,5	9 612,0	9 841,7	11 687,6	17 339,2	17 886,1	
	<b>September</b>	12 115,1	10 008,1	11 693,2	13 524,1	20 586,6	19 625,3	
	<b>October</b>	12 514,2	9 989,4	10 466,3	12 074,8	18 031,0	18 716,8	
	<b>November</b>	11 059,4	9 535,8	10 815,6	12 453,2	18 918,2	20 674,4	
	<b>December</b>	10 764,4	9 899,2	10 585,6	13 994,2	17 584,7	21 595,8	
	<b>Year</b>	<b>137 504,5</b>	<b>117 526,9</b>	<b>125 057,8</b>	<b>142 817,9</b>	<b>193 589,5</b>	<b>224 445,7</b>	
<b>Seasonally adjusted values</b>	<b>January</b>	11 454,1	10 004,6	10 258,7	10 429,1	12 989,2	17 831,0	19 977,9
	<b>February</b>	10 862,7	10 509,0	9 966,2	9 930,0	13 626,8	19 405,9	23 448,7
	<b>March</b>	11 689,9	9 932,1	10 484,3	11 408,3	14 088,9	18 528,5	25 921,5
	<b>April</b>	11 891,5	9 863,5	10 429,8	11 711,0	13 912,2	18 598,1	26 849,8
	<b>May</b>	12 116,8	9 089,4	10 367,9	12 151,1	14 003,3	19 814,1	26 554,0
	<b>June</b>	11 180,0	9 318,5	10 368,0	12 680,5	16 729,2	17 773,6	
	<b>July</b>	10 710,9	10 442,6	10 766,8	11 737,2	16 815,2	16 807,2	
	<b>August</b>	11 711,7	9 738,3	9 944,2	11 968,7	17 844,4	18 155,3	
	<b>September</b>	11 834,9	9 460,6	10 822,2	12 331,0	18 672,8	17 790,8	
	<b>October</b>	12 284,0	9 850,9	10 319,0	11 990,4	18 217,1	19 055,7	
	<b>November</b>	11 212,9	9 602,3	10 737,3	12 181,6	18 580,6	20 213,2	
	<b>December</b>	10 383,4	9 653,3	10 297,1	13 523,2	16 933,5	20 627,0	

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

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	* 2007	1/ 2008
<b>Actual values</b>	<b>January</b>	8 002,3	6 744,1	7 480,6	7 809,6	9 316,0	12 734,4	14 533,4
	<b>February</b>	7 368,2	7 452,6	7 039,8	7 813,9	10 469,6	14 498,1	18 307,1
	<b>March</b>	8 110,9	7 140,7	7 710,4	8 840,3	11 403,2	14 955,5	21 937,6
	<b>April</b>	7 481,9	6 815,2	7 366,5	8 963,2	10 850,3	14 595,8	21 917,2
	<b>May</b>	8 619,3	6 477,2	8 029,3	10 372,9	11 445,0	16 150,6	22 825,7
	<b>June</b>	8 035,5	6 759,5	8 107,4	10 562,0	14 217,3	15 745,9	
	<b>July</b>	7 344,7	7 613,1	8 699,0	10 082,3	14 114,1	14 153,4	
	<b>August</b>	8 065,2	7 052,7	7 546,9	10 210,5	14 152,3	14 642,8	
	<b>September</b>	8 562,1	7 092,3	9 114,1	11 390,1	16 333,3	16 537,3	
	<b>October</b>	8 711,8	7 345,5	8 089,0	10 186,0	14 646,2	15 354,7	
	<b>November</b>	7 981,8	7 154,9	8 406,4	10 436,1	15 781,8	17 188,8	
	<b>December</b>	7 834,8	6 825,9	8 138,7	11 549,8	14 455,8	18 851,7	
	<b>Year</b>	<b>96 118,5</b>	<b>84 473,7</b>	<b>95 728,1</b>	<b>118 216,7</b>	<b>157 184,9</b>	<b>185 409,0</b>	
<b>Seasonally adjusted values</b>	<b>January</b>	8 055,2	6 809,9	7 803,6	8 510,2	10 280,8	14 502,6	16 702,7
	<b>February</b>	7 500,1	7 635,8	7 341,9	8 304,5	11 339,1	15 850,3	19 928,3
	<b>March</b>	8 267,9	7 340,8	7 920,4	8 926,1	11 514,1	15 225,2	22 178,3
	<b>April</b>	7 751,6	7 126,0	7 771,0	9 432,2	11 490,6	15 422,4	22 731,7
	<b>May</b>	8 457,6	6 340,4	7 883,8	10 145,5	11 182,9	15 794,4	22 470,3
	<b>June</b>	7 817,8	6 579,9	7 877,6	10 169,7	13 510,4	14 830,9	
	<b>July</b>	7 209,2	7 597,6	8 606,9	9 821,1	13 354,7	13 567,3	
	<b>August</b>	8 201,2	7 176,0	7 610,0	10 456,6	14 589,4	14 849,3	
	<b>September</b>	8 432,2	6 739,2	8 462,0	10 401,5	14 813,8	14 989,2	
	<b>October</b>	8 714,9	7 326,4	7 999,4	10 119,8	14 839,8	15 695,2	
	<b>November</b>	8 042,5	7 143,9	8 258,1	10 133,5	15 431,5	16 723,5	
	<b>December</b>	7 446,7	6 607,6	7 903,7	11 142,1	13 886,7	17 946,8	

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	
		May	April	May	May	April	May
<b>Total, gold included</b>	224 445,7	* 19 841,6	25 579,1	26 570,7	19 814,1	26 849,8	26 554,0
<b>Total, gold excluded</b>	185 409,0	* 16 150,6	21 917,2	22 825,7	15 794,4	22 731,7	22 470,3
<b>Gold</b>	39 036,7	3 691,0	3 661,9	3 745,0	4 019,7	4 118,1	4 083,7
<b>Iron ore</b>	13 483,2	988,2	1 800,0	1 825,7	1 028,5	1 936,9	1 932,0
<b>Chromium</b>	3 006,6	235,0	450,9	394,0	223,2	439,3	376,6
<b>Copper</b>	5 853,6	610,6	615,5	522,7	629,0	671,8	544,8
<b>Manganese ore</b>	3 571,4	259,9	2 033,8	1 537,0	237,9	1 635,9	1 416,3
<b>PGMs</b>	78 414,4	* 6 886,1	8 047,6	9 433,2	6 787,0	8 891,6	9 267,5
<b>Nickel</b>	8 863,7	1 046,2	690,8	585,1	934,2	639,7	513,2
<b>Other metallic minerals</b>	5 272,1	505,2	434,1	360,7	509,6	450,9	377,0
<b>Coal</b>	43 811,9	3 309,0	5 581,9	5 466,3	3 441,3	5 643,8	5 715,6
<b>Building materials</b>	5 998,8	548,9	571,8	550,3	524,8	597,7	525,1
- Granite or norite	476,5	54,5	60,5	47,2	61,0	67,5	52,8
- Lime and limestone	1 708,3	144,5	155,3	152,0	142,0	157,1	149,8
- Other building materials	3 814,1	349,9	356,0	351,1	321,8	373,1	322,5
<b>Other non-metallic minerals</b>	17 133,3	1 761,5	1 691,0	2 150,8	1 478,9	1 824,1	1 802,2

1/ Preliminary.

\* Revised.

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

		Percentage contribution to total mineral sales during March to May 2007	Percentage change between March to May 2007 and March to May 2008	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total value of mineral sales 1/	Difference in sales of mining divisions between March to May 2007 and March to May 2008
					R million
<b>Gold</b>		18,2	13,4	2,4	1 355,5
<b>Non-gold minerals</b>	<b>Iron ore</b>	5,5	69,5	3,8	2 132,6
	<b>Chromium</b>	1,3	76,7	1,0	553,1
	<b>Copper</b>	2,5	19,5	0,5	276,3
	<b>Manganese ore</b>	1,3	499,3	6,5	3 667,5
	<b>PGMs</b>	34,7	38,9	13,5	7 530,2
	<b>Nickel</b>	5,0	-37,4	-1,9	-1 047,4
	<b>Other metallic minerals</b>	2,3	3,3	0,1	42,4
	<b>Coal</b>	18,5	55,9	10,3	5 792,6
	<b>Building materials</b>	2,7	8,4	0,2	127,2
	<b>Other non-metallic minerals</b>	8,0	42,9	3,4	1 904,0
<b>Total non-gold minerals</b>		81,8	45,9	37,5	20 978,6
<b>Total minerals</b>		100,0	40,0	40,0	22 334,1

1/ The contribution to the percentage change in sales is calculated by multiplying the quarterly percentage change of each mineral with the percentage contribution to total mineral sales during March to May 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 June 2007	Actual estimates June 2008	% change between June 2007 and June 2008	Difference between June 2007 and June 2008
	Percentage points			
Gold	61,6	54,0	-12,3	-7,6
Non-gold minerals	134,2	126,9	-5,4	-7,3
Total	115,5	108,2	-6,3	-7,3

**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 April to June 2007	Actual estimates April to June 2008	% change between April to June 2007 and April to June 2008	Difference between April to June 2007 and April to June 2008
	Percentage points			
Gold	58,7	51,5	-12,3	-7,2
Non-gold minerals	127,7	123,6	-3,2	-4,1
Total	110,0	105,1	-4,5	-4,9

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

	Base : 2000=100			
	May 2008	June 2008	% change between May and June 2008	Difference between May and June 2008
	Percentage points			
Gold	52,0	52,2	0,4	0,2
Non-gold minerals	124,5	120,2	-3,5	-4,3
Total	105,9	102,7	-3,0	-3,2

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

	Base : 2000=100			
	January to March 2008	April to June 2008	% change between January to March 2008 and April to June 2008	Difference between January to March 2008 and April to June 2008
	Percentage points			
Gold	49,9	52,0	4,2	2,1
Non-gold minerals	112,8	122,0	8,2	9,2
Total	96,6	104,0	7,7	7,4

**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 May 2007	Actual estimates May 2008	% change between May 2007 and May 2008	Difference between May 2007 and May 2008
	R million	R million		R million
<b>Gold</b>	3 691,0	3 745,0	1,5	54,0
<b>Non-gold minerals</b>	16 150,6	22 825,7	41,3	6 675,1
<b>Total</b>	19 841,6	26 570,7	33,9	6 729,1

**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 March to May 2007	Actual estimates March to May 2008	% change between March to May 2007 and March to May 2008	Difference between March to May 2007 and March to May 2008
	R million	R million		R million
<b>Gold</b>	10 142,7	11 498,2	13,4	1 355,5
<b>Non-gold minerals</b>	45 701,9	66 680,5	45,9	20 978,6
<b>Total</b>	55 844,6	78 178,7	40,0	22 334,1

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

	April 2008	May 2008	% change between April and May 2008	Difference between April and May 2008
	R million	R million		R million
<b>Gold</b>	4 118,1	4 083,7	-0,8	-34,4
<b>Non-gold minerals</b>	22 731,7	22 470,3	-1,1	-261,4
<b>Total</b>	26 849,8	26 554,0	-1,1	-295,8

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

	December 2007 to February 2008	March to May 2008	% change between December 2007 to February 2008 and March to May 2008	Difference between December 2007 to February 2008 and March to May 2008
	R million	R million		R million
<b>Gold</b>	9 475,8	11 945,0	26,1	2 469,2
<b>Non-gold minerals</b>	54 577,8	67 380,3	23,5	12 802,5
<b>Total</b>	64 053,6	79 325,3	23,8	15 271,7

## Explanatory notes

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>	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.
	<b>2</b>	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.
	<b>3</b>	Due to mining production figures being available earlier than mineral sales figures, mining production indices are published one month earlier than mineral sales.
	<b>4</b>	The value of mineral sales is calculated, in general, on a free-on-rail/free-on-board basis.
	<b>5</b>	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.
<b>Purpose of the survey</b>	<b>6</b>	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.
<b>Scope of the survey</b>	<b>7</b>	This survey covers mining establishments conducting activities regarding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extracting, dressing and beneficiating of minerals occurring naturally, for example solids such as coal and ores.</li> </ul>
<b>Classification</b>	<b>8</b>	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.
<b>Statistical unit</b>	<b>9</b>	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).
<b>Weighting</b>	<b>10</b>	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.

<b>Seasonal adjustment</b>	<b>11</b>	<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>
<b>Reliability of estimates</b>	<b>12</b>	<p>Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Figures for the latest month are preliminary.</p>
<b>Historical data</b>	<b>13</b>	<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: <a href="http://www.statssa.gov.za">www.statssa.gov.za</a></p>
<b>Related publications</b>	<b>14</b>	<p>Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from Stats SA -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Bulletin of Statistics.</i></li> <li>• <i>SA Statistics.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Unpublished statistics</b>	<b>15</b>	<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>
<b>Rounding-off of figures</b>	<b>16</b>	<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>

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## Glossary

<b>Free-on-rail</b>	Free-on-rail relates to goods sold on the local market where no railage or road transport costs are involved.
<b>Free-on-board basis</b>	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.
<b>Index of physical volume of mining production</b>	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.
<b>Industry</b>	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.
<b>PGMs - Platinum Group Metals</b>	Platinum Group Metals include platinum; iridium; osmiridium; palladium; rhodium; ruthenium and osmium.
<b>Sales</b>	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.
<b>Weight</b>	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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Fax number: (012) 310 8664 (technical enquiries)

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

Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

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