

Mining: production and sales

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Dr F M Orkin

Head: Statistics South Africa

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Key figures regarding mining production as at March 2000

Actual estimates	March 2000	% change between March 1999 and March 2000	% change between January 1999 to March 1999 and January 2000 to March 2000

Index of the physical volume of mining production	98,8	-1,4%	+1,1%
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Seasonally adjusted estimates	March 2000	% change between February 2000 and March 2000	% change between October 1999 to December 1999 and January 2000 to March 2000
Index of the physical volume of mining production	97,5	-1,3%	-0,6%

Key findings regarding mining production as at March 2000

Mining production decreases

The total mining production for the first quarter of 2000 decreased by 0,6% after seasonal adjustment compared with the fourth quarter of 1999.

The decrease of 0,6% after seasonal adjustment in the total mining production was due to a decrease of 3,0% in the production of non-gold minerals during the first quarter of 2000 compared with the fourth quarter of 1999. The major contributors to the decrease of 3,0% after seasonal adjustment in the production of non-gold minerals were the mines involved in the exploitation of coal (contributing 0,8 of a percentage point), building materials (contributing 0,6 percentage points) and copper (contributing 0,5 of a percentage point).

Key figures regarding mineral sales as at February 2000

Actual estimates	February	% change between	% change between	% change between
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	2000	February 1999	December 1998 to February 1999	January 1999 to February 1999
	R million	and February 2000	and December 1999 to February 2000	and January 2000 to February 2000
Mineral sales	7 143,5	+24,1%	+14,4%	+13,4%

Seasonally adjusted estimates	February 2000	% change between January 2000 and February 2000	% change between September 1999 to November 1999 and December 1999 to February 2000
	R million		
Mineral sales	7 490,9	+19,7%	+4,0%

Key findings regarding mineral sales as at February 2000

Mineral sales increase

The seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales for the three months up to February 2000 reflected an increase of 4,0% compared with the previous three months.

The 4,0% increase in the seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales was due to an increase of 7,3% (R1 010,6 million) in non-gold mineral sales. However, this increase was, *inter alia*, partially counteracted by a decrease of 3,0% (R193,3 million) in gold sales during the three months up to February 2000 compared with the previous three months.

Notes

Forthcoming issues Issue Expected release date

April 2000 6 June 2000

Purpose of the survey The monthly mining production and sales survey is a country-wide sample survey covering a sample of 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) to monitor and develop Government policy.

Additional information

Explanatory notes

Introduction 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publishes monthly information regarding the mining industry covering a sample of mining establishments (branches). 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 major groups on a monthly basis.

2 Data shown in the tables are compiled by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on the basis of mining production figures and mineral sales furnished by the Minerals Bureau, Department of Minerals and Energy.

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 better 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 (branch).

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 (cf. 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 1995 supplied by the Minerals Bureau.

Rebasing 10 In accordance with international practice, the indices have to be rebased every five years to a new base year. The indices in this statistical release have been calculated on the basis of 1995=100. The first results on this basis were published in May 1998. Both actual and seasonally adjusted figures are presented.

Seasonal adjustment 11 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 12 Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Figures for the latest month are preliminary.

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 which are not published. The statistics can be made available as: 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 final digit shown. There may, therefore, be slight discrepancies between the sums of the constituent items and the totals shown.

Glossary

Enterprise An enterprise (firm) is a legal entity consisting of one or more establishments (branches). The establishments need not necessarily all be mining establishments, but some may be classifiable as other industries of the economy, such as manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, motor trade and construction.

Establishment An establishment is defined as an enterprise, or part of an enterprise, that is situated at a single location and in which only a single (non-ancillary) productive activity is carried out or in which the principal productive activity accounts for most of the value added.

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 Free-on-board relates to goods destined for the export market. Railage, road transport and

basis docking charges are involved but no charges are made for the transport by sea.

Index of physical volume The index of physical volume of mining production or a production index is a statistical

of mining production measure of the change in the volume of production. The production index of a major group is the ratio between the volume of production of a major group in a given period and the volume of production of the same major group in the base period. The base period is

1995. 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 System of National Accounts (SNA) in the same way as in the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) of all Economic Activities, Fifth Edition of January 1993.

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 major group is the ratio of the production of a major group to the total production of the mining industry. The weight of a major group reflects the importance of the major 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 8332

e-mail: Elizevdm@statssa.pwv.gov.za

Mosesmn@statssa.pwv.gov.za

Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

Table 1 - The index of the physical volume of mining production including gold (Base 1995=100)

Month	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998*	1999*	2000
Actual indices							
J	99,8	95,0	96,0	93,6	95,0	88,7	91,1*
F	101,9	99,3	98,3	98,8	97,3	94,5	96,5*
M	101,0	101,1	99,1	97,6	98,9	100,2	98,8
A	99,8	95,9	93,3	96,7	95,6	91,8	
M	95,6	96,2	97,6	101,9	96,0	99,9	
J	101,5	105,1	100,8	105,7	104,1	99,1	
J	100,0	100,2	98,6	100,6	97,4	98,6	
A	104,4	104,4	99,5	103,1	99,5	94,8	
S	103,6	104,6	98,8	102,6	99,8	100,2	
O	100,1	98,9	98,7	100,6	104,6	100,0	
N	104,3	100,1	100,3	104,4	102,4	102,6	
D	98,2	99,2	98,9	98,6	98,8	96,4	
Year	100,9	100,0	98,3	100,4	99,1	97,2	
Seasonally adjusted indices							
J	104,8	99,4	100,9	98,8	100,8	94,4	97,0
F	102,6	99,7	99,2	100,3	99,2	96,6	98,8
M	101,3	100,8	98,5	96,8	97,8	99,0	97,5
A	102,9	99,0	97,0	100,7	99,8	95,8	
M	97,1	97,4	98,7	103,0	96,9	100,8	
J	99,9	102,2	97,3	101,3	99,5	94,6	
J	100,0	100,1	98,6	100,7	97,5	98,6	
A	101,7	101,6	97,2	101,2	98,3	93,9	
S	102,0	102,3	96,6	100,3	97,7	98,2	
O	100,1	98,5	98,3	99,9	103,6	99,0	
N	102,5	97,8	97,6	101,2	98,9	98,9	
D	100,4	100,4	99,6	99,0	99,3	97,1	

Table 2 - The index of the physical volume of mining production excluding gold (Base 1995=100)

Month	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998*	1999*	2000
Actual indices							
J	92,3	1995	98,4	99,8	100,4	96,2	103,3*
F	95,8	97,0	97,0	103,3	103,8	102,2	103,0
M	91,7	98,9	100,1	97,7	107,5	105,3	108,9
A	93,0	95,4	95,3	101,8	104,6	97,7	
M	89,8	99,1	100,0	107,0	105,5	112,2	
J	95,0	108,1	104,9	114,4	112,9	107,5	
J	94,3	100,1	103,6	107,5	105,3	111,5	
A	99,3	105,4	102,3	107,7	106,3	104,9	

S	96,5	106,1	104,0	104,7	105,8	108,0	
O	93,8	96,9	101,5	105,6	117,5	112,1	
N	99,9	100,2	102,1	106,0	111,0	115,5	
D	91,8	98,8	99,7	100,4	102,3	103,6	
Year	94,4	100,0	100,7	104,7	106,9	106,4	
Seasonally adjusted indices							
J	95,8	97,5	101,9	103,5	104,4	100,3	108,0
F	96,4	97,9	98,3	105,2	106,1	104,8	105,7
M	92,6	99,4	100,1	97,2	106,4	104,1	107,5
A	95,2	98,0	98,4	105,3	108,6	101,3	
M	90,5	99,8	100,5	107,1	105,3	111,9	
J	91,3	103,0	99,2	107,6	105,8	100,7	
J	92,6	98,5	102,1	105,9	103,5	109,6	
A	95,3	101,9	99,8	106,2	105,6	104,7	
S	94,8	104,5	103,0	104,1	105,6	108,0	
O	94,5	97,5	101,5	104,9	116,2	110,7	
N	98,6	98,9	100,5	103,9	108,2	112,2	
D	96,0	102,9	103,7	104,4	106,5	108,1	

* Revised

Table 3 - Indices of physical volume of mining production according to major divisions, major groups and minerals (Base 1995=100)

Major divisions, major groups and minerals	Weights	Actual indices				Seasonally adjusted indices		
		1999*	2000		1999	2000		1999
			Mar.	Feb.	Mar.	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.
Total production, gold included	100,0	97,2	98,8	96,5	100,2	97,5	98,8	99,0
Total production, gold included	57,5	106,4	108,9	103,0	105,3	107,5	105,7	104,1
Gold	42,5	84,9	85,0	87,7	93,3	84,0	89,5	92,2
Iron ore	3,0	92,3	99,4	96,6	85,1	100,2	101,9	85,0
Chrome	1,1	128,3	132,9	119,0	125,4	137,2	130,5	129,0
Copper	3,1	89,2	85,6	72,8	76,5	83,4	74,7	73,4
Manganese ore	1,3	100,4	125,0	117,8	97,6	123,1	112,8	96,6
Platinum	11,9	122,7	138,9	120,6	121,0	132,1	129,5	114,9
Nickel	1,5	120,1	144,6	115,9	141,1	137,4	128,6	135,3
Other metallic minerals	2,4	96,8	107,8	102,4	91,1	114,0	108,0	95,5
Diamonds	4,4	98,3	86,6	107,1	102,5	89,3	102,9	104,7
Coal	23,2	108,0	105,6	103,0	106,8	106,5	104,9	107,8

Building materials	3,5	83,6	69,2	66,4	88,3	63,8	64,5	81,7
Other non-metallic minerals	2,1	89,5	87,6	84,0	90,1	87,7	86,4	90,2

* Revised

Table 4 - Total value of mineral sales including gold (R million)

Month	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998*	1999*	2000
Actual values							
J	4 428,8	4 669,2	5 165,8	6 447,8	5 577,2	6 102,0	6 305,4*
F	3 619,4	4 234,8	4 604,2	5 159,4	5 316,4	5 757,9	7 143,5
M	4 201,9	4 700,0	5 002,8	4 936,6	5 539,0	6 440,7	
A	4 001,4	4 413,4	5 380,9	5 576,8	5 667,0	5 695,0	
M	4 325,1	4 704,9	5 345,1	5 309,0	5 440,4	5 692,1	
J	4 115,8	4 525,2	4 994,8	5 445,9	6 026,4	6 384,0	
J	4 669,5	4 777,7	5 795,5	5 780,3	6 669,1	6 005,1	
A	4 415,7	4 667,3	5 478,0	5 546,2	6 316,8	6 844,7	
S	4 526,6	4 840,0	5 124,5	5 568,2	6 068,1	6 583,1	
O	4 343,9	5 133,4	6 227,7	6 026,1	6 440,0	6 050,1	
N	4 153,1	4 538,8	5 117,2	5 130,8	5 983,5	7 570,4	
D	3 910,4	3 805,3	4 868,2	5 386,9	6 341,4	7 371,9	
Year	50 711,6	55 010,0	63 104,7	66 314,0	71 385,3	76 497,0	
Seasonally adjusted values							
J	4 291,9	4 542,5	5 031,1	6 318,7	5 498,7	6 036,6	6 255,9
F	4 039,0	4 645,0	4 978,1	5 483,7	5 594,6	6 053,8	7 490,9
M	4 216,1	4 723,0	5 056,0	5 006,5	5 647,9	6 625,9	
A	3 952,8	4 350,5	5 315,4	5 548,6	5 682,8	5 729,9	
M	4 318,1	4 697,3	5 371,0	5 400,4	5 604,2	5 913,5	
J	4 262,6	4 628,3	5 060,0	5 433,0	5 952,7	6 279,2	
J	4 256,9	4 411,1	5 404,9	5 435,2	6 340,5	5 733,2	
A	4 219,0	4 516,1	5 345,8	5 443,3	6 209,6	6 725,4	
S	4 413,7	4 755,5	5 065,9	5 541,5	6 045,0	6 565,7	
O	4 070,3	4 820,3	5 851,3	5 652,3	6 071,6	5 716,9	
N	4 449,7	4 851,2	5 457,7	5 430,2	6 309,4	7 961,8	
D	4 260,7	4 035,5	5 056,8	5 473,3	6 336,7	7 314,8	

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

Month	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998*	1999*	2000
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Actual values							
J	2 106,9	2 612,9	2 764,4	3 394,4	3 737,4	4 035,7	4 538,3*
F	1 965,1	2 454,0	2 613,0	3 280,4	3 579,7	3 795,9	5 010,9
M	2 095,5	2 678,6	3 031,1	3 172,6	3 704,6	3 934,2	
A	2 165,1	2 390,1	2 828,6	3 441,4	3 784,6	3 790,9	
M	2 118,6	2 716,5	3 078,3	3 245,0	3 684,4	3 815,9	
J	2 239,9	2 751,4	3 104,1	3 663,5	4 130,8	4 406,0	
J	2 266,1	2 727,9	3 229,8	3 429,2	4 285,7	4 070,6	
A	2 319,0	2 577,6	3 066,1	3 555,0	4 120,5	4 947,8	
S	2 333,5	2 695,9	3 088,7	3 573,9	3 858,8	4 515,7	
O	2 076,3	2 635,1	3 539,1	3 566,2	4 169,1	3 992,1	
N	2 029,1	2 819,6	3 130,9	3 332,1	3 942,8	5 035,6	
D	2 043,2	2 615,1	3 148,1	3 583,1	4 091,4	5 164,7	
Year	25 758,3	31 674,7	36 622,2	41 236,8	47 089,8	51 505,1	
Seasonally adjusted values							
J	2 136,4	2 615,1	2 738,4	3 352,0	3 680,3	3 972,9	4 471,8
F	2 077,5	2 576,8	2 718,7	3 398,7	3 696,4	3 923,4	5 180,3
M	2 051,0	2 632,6	2 992,1	3 141,9	3 697,7	3 955,9	
A	2 134,2	2 363,7	2 811,2	3 449,4	3 821,2	3 835,1	
M	2 114,7	2 705,4	3 083,0	3 285,1	3 777,9	3 949,5	
J	2 106,4	2 597,4	2 935,6	3 467,5	3 894,3	4 145,5	
J	2 198,8	2 632,1	3 130,8	3 331,6	4 198,0	4 000,3	
A	2 239,3	2 523,7	3 028,0	3 516,5	4 072,5	4 870,5	
S	2 254,3	2 638,9	3 058,7	3 579,1	3 878,9	4 542,8	
O	2 125,7	2 688,5	3 566,4	3 553,1	4 122,0	3 936,8	
N	2 151,9	2 989,0	3 308,1	3 496,2	4 124,9	5 271,6	
D	2 175,8	2 745,5	3 240,4	3 621,2	4 068,5	5 109,7	

* Revised

Table 6 - Total value of mineral sales according to major divisions, major groups and minerals (R million)

Major divisions, major groups and minerals	Actual value				Seasonally adjusted value		
	1999*	2000		1999	2000		1999
		Feb.	Jan. *		Feb.	Feb.	
Total sales, gold included	76 497,0	7 143,5	6 305,4	5 757,9	7 490,9	6 255,9	6 053,8
Total sales, gold excluded	51 505,1	5 010,9	4 538,3	3 795,9	5 180,3	4 471,8	3 923,4
Gold	24 991,7	2 132,6	1 767,2	1 961,9	2 310,6	1 784,1	2 130,4
Iron ore	2 205,9	213,6	193,5	161,5	211,7	191,0	160,4

Chrome	1 011,3	99,1	79,3	69,9	99,2	80,8	70,3
Copper	1 392,1	83,5	89,2	80,8	95,1	101,4	88,7
Manganese ore	934,6	135,3	60,2	78,9	115,0	59,6	68,4
Platinum	14 885,1	1 511,3	1 575,9	964,7	1 675,6	1 560,7	1 068,8
Nickel	1 142,2	148,2	149,6	64,6	171,4	159,9	74,0
Other metallic minerals	2 469,9	196,7	195,5	146,2	248,8	237,7	183,6
Coal	17 580,3	1 592,7	1 398,8	1 495,6	1 580,7	1 450,5	1 489,5
Building materials	2 546,1	172,8	180,0	198,9	179,3	207,7	206,8
- Granite or norite	651,2	31,4	45,9	40,4	34,0	70,4	43,8
- Lime and limestone	888,5	74,6	65,3	66,0	76,1	66,3	67,6
- Other building materials	1 006,3	66,7	68,8	92,5	63,7	82,8	88,3
Other non-metallic minerals	7 337,6	857,7	616,1	534,8	773,1	533,6	485,7

* Revised

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