

Mining: production and sales

March 2004

Co-operation between Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), the citizens of the country, the private sector and government institutions is essential for a successful statistical system. Without continued co-operation and goodwill, the timely release of relevant and reliable official statistics will not be possible.

Stats SA publishes approximately three hundred different releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally, but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

This data in this statistical release adheres to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which sets out standards on coverage, periodicity and timeliness of data; access by the public; integrity; and quality of the disseminated data.

**Embargoed until:
11 May 2004
11:00**

NB *The compilation of statistics on mining production and sales is currently undergoing a methodological review.*

This review may lead to a revision of some of the data in the series.

Key figures regarding mining production as at the end of March 2004

Actual estimates

	March 2004	% change between March 2003 and March 2004	% change between January 2003 to March 2003 and January 2004 to March 2004
Index of the physical volume of mining production (2000=100)			
Gold	84,0	-5,8%	- 5,1%
Non-gold minerals	123,9	+16,7%	+17,2%
Total	113,6	+11,6%	+12,1%

Seasonally adjusted estimates

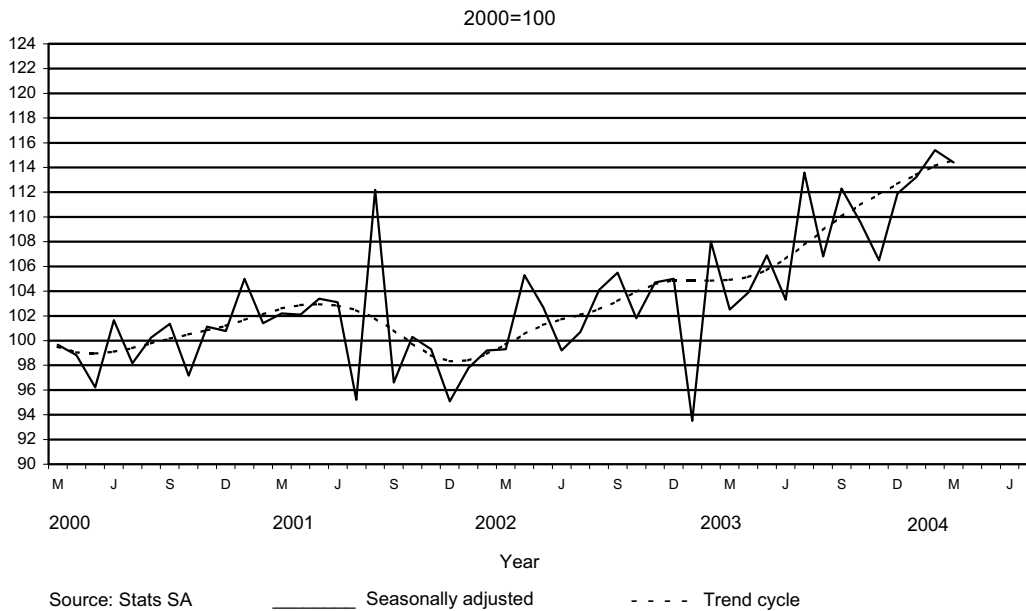
	March 2004	% change between February 2004 and March 2004	% change between October 2003 to December 2003 and January 2004 to March 2004
Index of the physical volume of mining production (2000=100)			
Gold	83,1	-2,0%	-0,9%
Non-gold minerals	125,3	+0,6%	+6,0%
Total	114,4	-0,9%	+4,6%

Key findings regarding mining production as at the end of March 2004

Mining production increases

The total mining production for the first quarter of 2004, after seasonal adjustment, increased by 4,6% compared with the last quarter of 2003. This increase was due to a seasonally adjusted increase of 6,0% in the production of non-gold minerals. However, this increase was partially counteracted by a seasonally adjusted decrease of 0,9% in the production of gold during the first quarter of 2004 compared with the last quarter of 2003. The seasonally adjusted increase of 6,0% in the production of non-gold minerals was mainly due to an increase in the production of PGM's (+4,2 percentage points), other metallic minerals (+0,3 of a percentage point) and nickel (+0,2 of a percentage point).

Figure 1 - Indices of physical volume of total mining production including gold



Key figures regarding mineral sales as at the end of February 2004

Actual estimates

	February 2004	% change between February 2003 and February 2004	% change between December 2002 to February 2003 and December 2003 to February 2004	% change between January 2003 to February 2003 and January 2004 to February 2004
Mineral sales	R million			
Gold	2 482,9	-10,8%	-8,6%	-15,4%
Non-gold minerals	7 044,2	-5,0%	-2,0%	+3,5%
Total	9 527,1	-6,6%	-3,9%	-2,1%

Seasonally adjusted estimates

	February 2004	% change between January 2004 and February 2004	% change between September 2003 to November 2003 and December 2003 to February 2004
Mineral sales	R million		
Gold	2 537,4	+4,2%	+5,9%
Non-gold minerals	6 939,3	-5,9%	-5,0%
Total	9 476,7	-3,4%	-2,2%

Key findings regarding mineral sales as at the end of February 2004

Mineral sales decrease

The seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended February 2004 reflected a decrease of 2,2% compared with the previous three months. Furthermore, the actual value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended February 2004 reflected a decrease of 3,9% compared with the three months ended February 2003.

The decrease of 2,2% in the seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales for the three months ended February 2004 compared with the previous three months can be attributed to a decrease of 5,0% (-R1 112,3 million) in sales of non-gold minerals. This decrease was partially counteracted by an increase of 5,9% (+R456,6 million) in sales of gold during the same period.

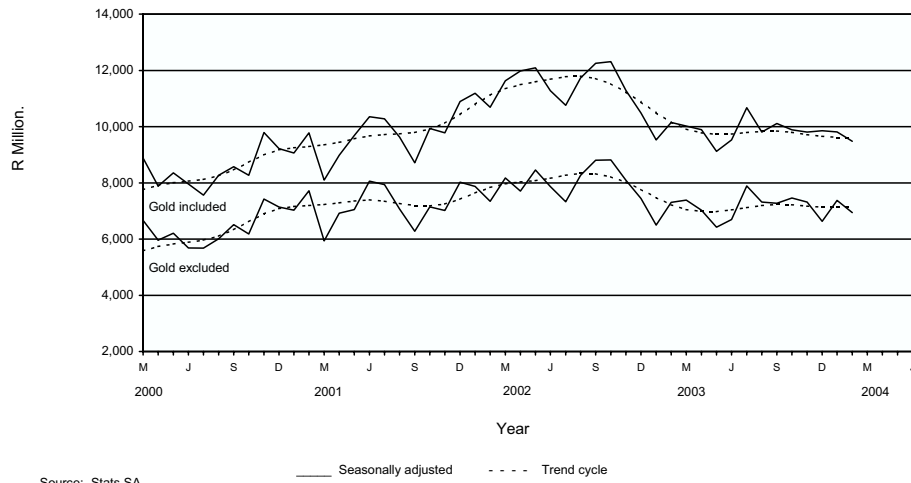
The major contributors to the decrease of 3,9% in the actual value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended February 2004 compared with the three months ended February 2003 were PGM's (-3,0 percentage points or -R926,7 million) and gold (-2,5 percentage points or -R763,8 million) (see table A).

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

Mining division	Percentage contribution to total mineral sales during December 2002 to February 2003	Percentage change between December 2002 to February 2003 and December 2003 to February 2004	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total value of mineral sales 1/	Difference in sales of mining divisions between December 2002 to February 2003 and December 2003 to February 2004 R million
Gold	28,7	-8,6	-2,5	-763,8
Non-gold minerals				
Iron ore	3,7	-14,0	-0,5	-161,3
Copper	1,4	3,5	0,0	14,8
Manganese ore	1,3	-19,1	-0,3	-78,4
Chromium	0,9	23,2	0,2	62,0
PGM's	27,0	-11,2	-3,0	-926,7
Nickel	2,1	45,3	1,0	296,7
Other metallic minerals	2,8	-29,8	-0,8	-260,4
Coal	21,2	5,2	1,1	338,5
Building materials	2,6	-11,0	-0,3	-85,9
Other non-metallic minerals	8,3	14,4	1,2	368,2
Total non-gold minerals	71,3	-2,0	-1,4	-432,5
Total minerals	100,0	-3,9	-3,9	-1 196,3

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 December 2002 to February 2003, divided by 100.

Figure 2 - Total value of mineral sales including gold



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Notes

Forthcoming issues	Issue	Expected date of publication
	April 2004	8 June 2004
	May 2004	6 July 2004
	June 2004	10 August 2004
	July 2004	7 September 2004
	August 2004	12 October 2004
	September 2004	9 November 2004
	October 2004	7 January 2005
	November 2004	11 February 2005
	December 2004	10 March 2005

Purpose of the survey The monthly mining production and sales survey is a survey conducted by the Minerals Bureau, covering all mining establishments operating in the South African economy. The results of this survey are used to calculate physical volume of mining production indices in order to estimate the gross domestic product (GDP) and its components, which in turn are used to develop and monitor Government policy.

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

Month	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003*	2004
January	92,6	93,8	95,0	89,0	85,1	101,9*
February	99,0	99,3	96,8	94,2	101,7	108,0
March	104,8	100,0	102,3	99,1	101,8	113,6 1/
April	96,2	95,0	98,9	102,0	101,0	
May	104,5	95,7	103,6	102,9	107,3	
June	103,7	106,8	108,4	104,1	108,7	
July	102,5	96,9	93,5	99,0	110,9	
August	98,4	102,1	115,2	107,2	110,2	
September	104,4	104,9	98,4	108,1	115,3	
October	104,2	100,0	105,1	106,7	115,3	
November	107,0	105,5	102,6	107,5	109,2	
December	100,9	100,2	97,2	107,0	114,0	
Year	101,5	100,0	101,4	102,2	106,7	

Table 2 - Seasonally adjusted indices of mining production including gold (Base 2000=100)

Month	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
January	98,2	103,1	105,0	97,8	93,5	113,2
February	100,0	103,4	101,4	99,2	108,0	115,4
March	101,7	99,4	102,2	99,3	102,5	114,4
April	97,1	98,4	102,1	105,3	103,9	
May	103,7	95,6	103,4	102,7	106,9	
June	98,1	101,7	103,1	99,2	103,3	
July	103,7	98,6	95,2	100,7	113,6	
August	95,9	99,8	112,2	104,1	106,8	
September	99,6	103,6	96,6	105,5	112,3	
October	100,3	96,0	100,3	101,8	109,6	
November	102,7	101,6	99,3	104,7	106,5	
December	100,4	99,4	95,1	105,0	111,9	

* Revised

1/ preliminary

Table 3 - Index of the physical volume of mining production excluding gold (Base 2000=100)

Month	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003*	2004
January	90,6	94,4	98,3	89,6	85,7	109,8*
February	96,1	96,4	98,6	95,8	107,3	116,9
March	98,6	97,9	104,4	101,0	106,2	123,9 1/
April	91,6	94,1	102,2	105,3	106,3	
May	105,1	96,6	108,9	107,0	114,9	
June	100,7	107,5	112,5	107,3	116,6	
July	103,5	97,6	93,7	102,4	119,1	
August	97,1	101,7	124,5	111,2	117,8	
September	100,6	105,1	99,7	111,4	124,1	
October	104,6	100,6	110,2	111,9	125,3	
November	107,7	107,4	106,8	113,3	117,0	
December	97,2	100,8	97,7	111,2	124,0	
Year	99,5	100,0	104,8	105,6	113,7	

Table 4 - Seasonally adjusted indices of mining production excluding gold (Base 2000=100)

Month	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
January	95,8	103,7	109,0	98,9	94,7	123,2
February	98,0	101,0	103,9	101,7	114,9	126,0
March	98,1	98,1	105,0	101,9	107,5	125,3
April	93,3	97,5	105,6	108,9	109,5	
May	102,5	95,1	107,4	105,6	113,3	
June	95,8	102,0	106,6	101,9	110,3	
July	103,7	98,8	94,8	103,7	121,9	
August	95,4	99,7	121,4	107,9	114,1	
September	97,8	105,3	99,0	109,7	121,7	
October	99,3	95,2	103,8	105,5	117,7	
November	102,8	102,9	102,8	109,8	113,6	
December	99,7	101,1	96,1	109,6	122,1	

* Revised

1/ preliminary

Table 5 - Indices of physical volume of mining production according to mining divisions, mineral groups and minerals (Base 2000=100)

Minerals	Weights	2003	Actual indices			Seasonally adjusted indices		
			March 2004	February.* 2004	March 2003	March 2004	February 2004	March 2003
Total, gold included	100,0	106,7	113,6	108,0	101,8	114,4	115,4	102,5
Total, gold excluded	74,3	113,7	123,9	116,9	106,2	125,3	126,0	107,5
Gold	25,7	86,6	84,0	82,4	89,2	83,1	84,8	87,9
Iron ore	3,1	114,6	122,0	106,4	114,4	119,9	113,1	113,2
Chrome	1,1	111,1	98,0	102,0	104,0	105,5	109,1	111,7
Copper	1,6	88,3	77,2	81,6	91,6	78,3	89,4	92,7
Manganese ore	1,3	93,4	98,4	111,2	88,8	102,8	106,9	92,3
PGM's	27,6	129,0	149,2	146,4	118,4	152,6	162,5	120,6
Nickel	2,0	112,0	118,0	107,6	102,4	125,8	121,4	108,8
Other metallic minerals	2,9	83,9	76,8	74,0	79,2	75,8	77,1	78,1
Diamonds	8,4	117,9	142,4	113,6	110,8	134,6	114,0	106,1
Coal	20,0	105,9	109,6	103,2	98,4	111,3	110,3	99,7
Building materials	2,6	97,3	98,8	88,0	97,2	101,7	95,1	100,1
Other non-metallic minerals	3,8	85,8	68,0	68,4	84,4	71,4	68,4	88,5

* Revised
1/ preliminary

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

Month	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003*	2004
January	6 098,8	6 244,1	9 241,5	11 387,0	9 820,6	10 076,8
February	5 763,6	7 115,7	9 711,7	10 634,4	10 202,2	9 527,1 1/
March	6 445,1	8 958,5	8 134,9	11 639,2	9 801,4	
April	5 706,5	7 521,3	8 554,2	11 194,9	9 276,1	
May	5 702,9	8 222,7	9 675,9	12 145,3	9 205,1	
June	6 391,3	8 222,5	10 640,7	11 637,2	9 811,5	
July	5 996,1	7 640,3	10 146,3	10 779,9	10 478,3	
August	6 852,9	8 223,4	9 586,4	11 633,5	9 661,8	
September	6 548,3	8 568,9	8 711,5	12 115,1	10 043,4	
October	6 005,9	8 317,6	9 999,6	12 514,2	10 060,2	
November	7 573,0	9 828,5	9 627,7	11 059,4	9 568,5	
December	7 346,9	9 474,9	11 327,7	10 764,4	9 987,0	
Year	76 431,3	98 338,4	115 358,1	137 504,5	117 916,1	

Table 7 - Seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales including gold (R million)

Month	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
January	5 967,7	6 134,4	9 057,8	11 182,4	9 528,9	9 811,5
February	5 882,9	7 173,0	9 774,3	10 691,8	10 151,3	9 476,7
March	6 493,2	9 484,7	8 100,7	11 628,9	10 022,2	
April	5 915,9	7 773,2	8 976,3	11 975,8	9 889,6	
May	5 815,0	8 259,0	9 683,9	12 093,6	9 118,2	
June	6 268,3	7 946,7	10 351,7	11 279,4	9 523,7	
July	5 864,1	7 494,2	10 279,0	10 756,9	10 671,4	
August	6 805,0	8 289,4	9 626,0	11 733,4	9 802,2	
September	6 775,1	8 609,3	8 713,7	12 254,2	10 105,8	
October	5 951,0	8 385,0	9 934,6	12 309,7	9 883,4	
November	7 690,5	9 971,9	9 773,3	11 288,3	9 802,7	
December	7 144,7	9 067,5	10 890,6	10 484,8	9 848,0	

* Revised
1/ preliminary

Table 8 - Total value of mineral sales excluding gold (R million)

Month	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003*	2004
January	4 033,9	4 476,9	7 181,9	8 002,3	6 695,9	7 558,5
February	3 801,6	4 963,8	7 720,8	7 368,2	7 418,3	7 044,2 1/
March	3 938,7	6 688,4	5 912,0	8 110,9	7 112,9	
April	3 802,4	5 790,2	6 748,0	7 481,9	6 797,2	
May	3 826,7	6 166,9	7 139,7	8 619,3	6 578,3	
June	4 413,3	5 908,5	8 245,9	8 035,5	6 825,2	
July	4 061,6	5 700,6	7 779,6	7 344,7	7 687,7	
August	4 956,0	5 892,6	6 942,5	8 065,2	7 102,5	
September	4 480,8	6 479,6	6 219,3	8 562,1	7 127,6	
October	3 947,8	6 047,1	6 971,4	8 711,8	7 416,3	
November	5 038,1	7 529,4	6 953,1	7 981,8	7 187,6	
December	5 139,7	7 422,4	8 532,3	7 834,8	6 913,8	
Year	51 440,6	73 066,4	86 346,5	96 118,5	84 863,3	

Table 9 - Seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales including gold (R million)

Month	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
January	3 922,1	4 379,0	7 027,8	7 876,1	6 496,8	7 376,8
February	3 802,5	4 921,9	7 719,1	7 341,0	7 307,4	6 939,3
March	4 015,7	7 268,7	5 932,6	8 173,7	7 385,0	
April	3 874,4	5 848,4	6 922,3	7 706,4	7 030,1	
May	3 848,0	6 110,0	7 050,9	8 459,8	6 421,2	
June	4 255,3	5 674,3	8 054,3	7 866,0	6 699,6	
July	4 034,4	5 609,3	7 935,3	7 329,7	7 887,5	
August	4 972,2	6 031,3	7 067,9	8 265,3	7 315,5	
September	4 717,8	6 554,6	6 277,7	8 803,1	7 275,8	
October	4 088,2	6 300,3	7 142,0	8 814,0	7 464,2	
November	5 074,9	7 605,4	7 017,5	8 094,3	7 315,7	
December	4 923,6	6 986,1	8 023,4	7 439,8	6 627,3	

* Revised
1/ preliminary

Table 10 – Total value of mineral sales according to mining divisions, mineral groups and minerals (R million)

Minerals	2003	Actual value			Seasonally adjusted value		
		February 2004	January. * 2004	February 2003	February 2004	January 2004	February 2003
Total, gold included	117 916,1	9 527,1	10 076,8	10 202,2	9 476,7	9 811,5	10 151,3
Total, gold excluded	84 863,3	7 044,2	7 558,5	7 418,3	6 939,3	7 376,8	7 307,4
Gold	33 053,0	2 482,9	2 518,3	2 783,9	2 537,4	2 434,7	2 843,9
Iron ore	4 191,0	317,9	332,2	397,1	325,6	352,1	405,7
Chrome	1 151,6	113,2	117,0	82,8	113,9	109,4	83,9
Copper	1 641,3	160,8	135,4	172,2	144,7	142,7	158,8
Manganese ore	1 467,5	106,1	131,6	81,2	114,8	114,6	83,5
PGM's	28 823,9	2 274,7	2 892,5	2 629,3	2 219,0	2 609,1	2 587,0
Nickel	2 729,2	373,6	304,3	204,7	361,1	298,4	198,6
Other metallic minerals	2 938,5	234,9	121,7	208,1	274,2	159,4	242,9
Coal	26 703,6	2 189,5	2 301,7	2 214,1	2 201,9	2 222,3	2 221,0
Building materials	3 648,0	245,4	228,7	271,0	255,4	256,0	285,8
- Granite or norite	801,0	27,7	25,3	50,6	34,0	33,0	60,2
- Lime and limestone	1 197,2	76,6	82,2	96,2	80,7	82,7	101,2
- Other building material	1 649,9	141,1	121,2	124,2	140,7	140,3	124,4
Other non-metallic minerals	11 568,6	1 028,2	993,4	1 157,8	928,7	1 112,8	1 040,2

* Revised
1/ preliminary

Explanatory notes

- Introduction**
- 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publishes monthly information regarding the mining industry on the basis of mining production figures and mineral sales furnished by the Minerals Bureau, Department of Minerals and Energy. This statistical release contains detailed information regarding indices of the physical volume of mining production and the total value of mineral sales according to mining divisions and mineral groups on a monthly basis.
 - 2 In accordance with international practice, the indices have to be re-based every five years to a new base year. The base year of the index of the physical volume of mining production is currently 2000=100. Both actual and seasonally adjusted figures are presented.
 - 3 Due to mining production figures being available earlier than mineral sales figures, mining production indices are published one month earlier than mineral sales.
 - 4 The value of mineral sales is calculated, in general, on a free-on-rail/free-on-board basis.
 - 5 In order to improve timeliness, some information for the current month may have been estimated due to late response. These estimates will be revised in future statistical release(s) as soon as more up-to-date information is available.
- Scope of the survey**
- 6 This survey covers mining establishments conducting activities regarding -
 the extracting, dressing and beneficiating of minerals occurring naturally, for example solids such as coal and ores.
- Classification**
- 7 The 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)*, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 *International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC)* with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC division, major group and subgroup level. Each statistical unit is classified to an industry which reflects the predominant activity of the establishment.
- Statistical unit**
- 8 The basic statistical unit for the collection of information is the mining establishment. An establishment is the smallest economic unit that functions as a separate entity. Each statistical unit is classified to an industry (see paragraph 7).
- Weighting**
- 9 The weights which are used to aggregate minerals to mineral groups and mineral groups to total mining, are based on the value of production derived from detailed information for 2000 supplied by the Minerals Bureau, Department of Minerals and Energy.
- Seasonal adjustment**
- 10 Seasonally adjusted estimates of all items are generated each month, using the X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by US Bureau of the Census Economic Research and Analyses Division, 1968. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month.

 Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variations. This means the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour.

- Reliability of estimates** **11** Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Figures for the latest month are preliminary.
- Historical data** **12** More comprehensive detail on the method of calculation and historical data in respect of the production indices according to mining mineral groups for the period February 1990 to November 2002 is available in statistical release P2041.1, entitled *Mining statistics: Indices of the physical volume of mining production, Base: 2000=100, February 1990 to November 2002*, published on 11 February 2003 on the Stats SA website www.statssa.gov.za.
- Related publications** **13** Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from Stats SA -
- Bulletin of Statistics.*
SA Statistics.
- Unpublished statistics** **14** In some cases Stats SA can also make available statistics which are not published. The statistics can be made available via: computer printouts or diskette or CD. Generally a charge is made for providing unpublished statistics.
- Rounding-off of figures** **15** The figures in the tables have, where necessary, been rounded off to the nearest digit shown. There may, therefore, be slight discrepancies between the sums of the constituent items and the totals shown.

Glossary

Free-on-rail	Free-on-rail relates to goods sold on the local market where no railage or road transport costs are involved.
Free-on-board basis	Free-on-board relates to goods destined for the export market. Railage, road transport and docking charges are involved but no charges are made for the transport by sea.
Index of physical volume of mining production	The index of physical volume of mining production or a production index is a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production. The production index of a mineral group is the ratio between the volume of production of a mineral group in a given period and the volume of production of the same mineral group in the base period. The current base period is 2000. The production in the base period is set at 100.
Industry	An industry consists of a group of establishments engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the <i>System of National Accounts (SNA)</i> in the same way as in the <i>Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) of all Economic Activities</i> , Fifth Edition of May 1993.
PGM's - Platinum Group Metals	Platinum Group Metals includes platinum; iridium; osmiridium; palladium; rhodium; ruthenium and osmium.
Sales	Sales are the total value of sales and transfers-out of goods mined by the mining establishments and the amounts received for installation, erection or assembly or other services rendered.
Weight	The weight of a mineral group is the ratio of the sales of a mineral group to the total sales of the mining industry. The weight of a mineral group reflects the importance of the mineral group in the total mining industry. The weights change over time due to quality changes and changes in relative prices. New weights need to be calculated from time to time.

General information

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