



**Department of
Minerals and Energy**

Mining: Production and sales (preliminary)

March 2006

**Embargoed until:
11 May 2006
11:00**

Table A – Selected key figures regarding mining production for March 2006

Annual estimates

	March 2006	% change between March 2005 and March 2006	% change between January 2005 to March 2005 and January 2006 to March 2006
Index of the physical volume of mining production (2000=100)			
Gold	66,0	-9,3%	-10,6%
Non-gold minerals	130,2	-4,4%	-5,3%
Total	113,7	-5,2%	-6,2%

Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates

	March 2006	% change between February 2006 and March 2006	% change between October 2005 to December 2005 and January 2006 to March 2006
Index of the physical volume of mining production (2000=100)			
Gold	65,1	-1,1%	-3,1%
Non-gold minerals	126,9	8,3%	0,1%
Total	111,0	6,7%	-0,4%

Key findings regarding mining production as at the end of March 2006

Mining production decreases

The total mining production for the first quarter of 2006, after seasonal adjustment, decreased by 0,4% compared with the last quarter of 2005. Furthermore, the actual total mining production for the first quarter of 2006 decreased by 6,2% compared with the first quarter of 2005.

The decrease of 0,4% in the seasonally adjusted total mining production for the first quarter of 2006 compared with the last quarter of 2005 was due to a decrease of 3,1% in the gold production. However, the non-gold production after seasonally adjusted increased slightly by 0,1% (see Table 4)

Figure 1 shows the seasonally adjusted figures and trend series for the index of mining production between January 2002 and March 2006. The trend series has been rising since beginning of 2002 until November of the same year and started to decline until March 2003 and levelled off until August 2004. It started to increase in September 2004 up to April 2005 and started to decline in May 2005 and started to level off in November 2005.

Figure 1 - Indices of physical volume of total mining production including gold
(Month on month)

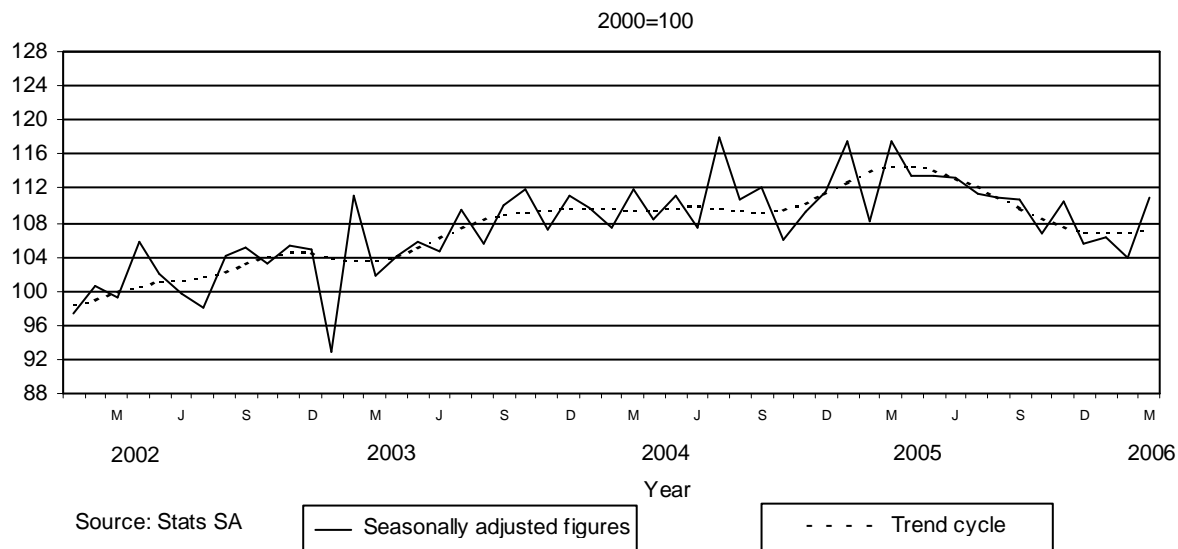


Table B – Selected key figures regarding mineral sales for February 2006

Annual estimates	February 2006 R million	% change between February 2005 and February 2006	% change between December 2004 to February 2005 and December 2005 to February 2006
Mineral sales			
Gold	2 213,2	41,0%	22,5%
Non-gold minerals	10 374,7	32,8%	31,8%
Total	12 587,8	34,1%	30,0%

Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates	February 2006 R million	% change between January 2006 and February 2006	% change between September 2005 to November 2005 and December 2005 to February 2006
Mineral sales			
Gold	2 324,6	-4,6%	19,8%
Non-gold minerals	10 946,4	13,1%	2,6%
Total	13 271,0	9,5%	5,3%

Key findings regarding mineral sales as at the end of February 2006

Mineral sales increase

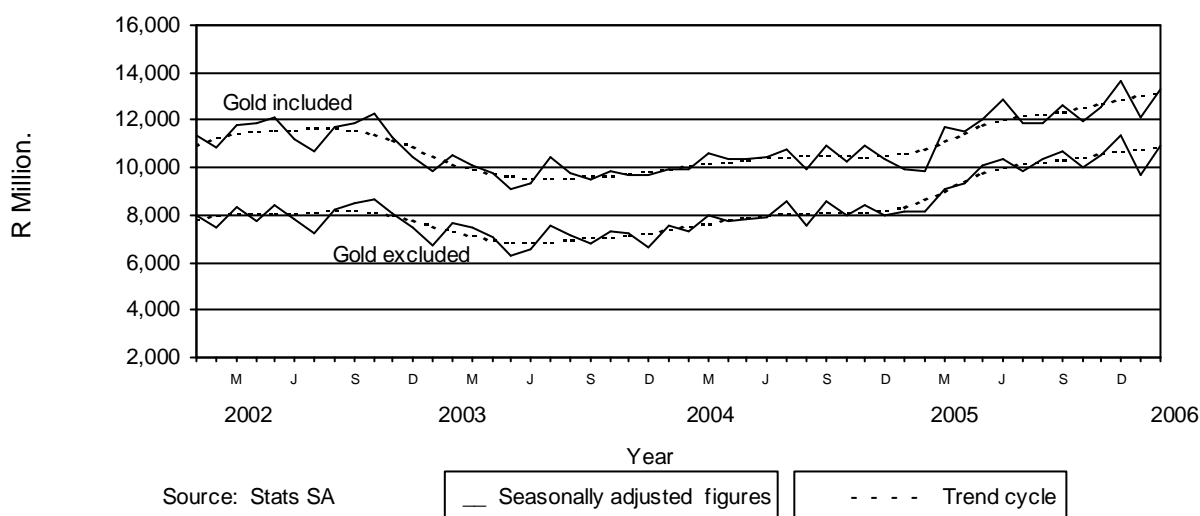
The seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended February 2006 reflected an increase of 5,3% compared with the previous three months. Furthermore, the actual value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended February 2006 increased by 30,0% compared with the three months ended February 2005 (see Table B).

The increase of 5,3% in the seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales for the three months ended February 2006 compared with the previous three months can be attributed to an increase of 19,8% (+R1 173,9 million) in sales of gold and 2,6% (+R804,4 million) in sales of non-gold minerals.

The major contributors to the increase of 30,0% in the actual value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended February 2006 compared with the three months ended February 2005 were PGM's (+14,4 percentage points or +R4 265,0 million), coal (+5,3 percentage points or +R1 568,4 million), gold (+4,4 percentage points or +R1 301,8 million) and iron ore (+3,4 percentage points or +R991,3 million). (see Table 8)

Figure 2 shows the seasonally adjusted figures and trend series of total value of mineral sales between January 2002 and February 2006. The trend series has been rising since the beginning of 2002 up until September of the same year then started to decline until March 2003 and leveled off until December 2004 then it started to rise since January 2005.

Figure 2 - Total value of mineral sales including gold



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Forthcoming issue	Issue	Expected date of publication
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	April 2006	8 June 2006
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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.
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Table 1 - Index of the physical volume of mining production including gold (Base 2000=100)

Month	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Actual indices							
J	93,8	95,0	89,0	85,1	100,7	107,9	97,9*
F	99,3	96,8	94,2	101,7	97,8	98,6	94,5*
M	100,0	102,3	99,1	101,8	112,9	119,9	1/ 113,7
A	95,0	98,9	102,0	101,0	105,0	110,2	
M	95,7	103,6	102,9	107,1	113,0	115,2	
J	106,8	108,4	104,1	108,6	111,1	116,8	
J	96,9	93,5	99,0	110,7	119,5	113,1	
A	102,1	115,2	107,2	109,1	114,3	114,8	
S	104,9	98,4	108,1	114,6	117,4	116,7	
O	100,0	105,1	106,7	114,5	108,2	108,3	
N	105,5	102,6	107,5	108,6	110,1	111,0*	
D	100,2	97,2	107,0	113,5	113,3	107,1*	
Year	100,0	101,4	102,2	106,4	110,3	111,6	
Seasonally adjusted indices							
J	103,0	104,7	97,3	92,9	109,7	117,5	106,2
F	103,7	102,1	100,7	111,1	107,4	108,2	104,0
M	99,7	102,4	99,2	101,7	111,9	117,5	111,0
A	98,7	102,5	105,8	104,2	108,4	113,6	
M	95,5	103,2	102,1	105,8	111,2	113,4	
J	101,8	103,4	99,8	104,5	107,4	113,3	
J	97,0	93,2	98,1	109,5	118,0	111,3	
A	100,0	112,5	104,1	105,6	110,6	110,9	
S	103,4	96,3	105,0	110,1	112,0	110,7	
O	96,2	101,1	103,3	111,8	106,1	106,7	
N	101,7	99,7	105,4	107,2	109,2	110,4	
D	99,3	95,0	104,8	111,1	111,6	105,5	

Table 2 - Index of the physical volume of mining production excluding gold (Base 2000=100)

Month	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Actual indices							
J	94,4	98,3	89,6	85,7	110,0	121,6	111,5*
F	96,4	98,6	95,8	107,3	104,0	108,7	105,2*
M	97,9	104,4	101,0	106,2	123,6	136,2	1/ 130,2
A	94,1	102,2	105,3	106,3	115,0	127,0	
M	96,6	108,9	107,0	114,7	124,9	131,3	
J	107,5	112,5	107,3	116,4	121,1	132,3	
J	97,6	93,7	102,4	118,8	133,1	129,2	
A	101,7	124,5	111,2	116,3	125,5	132,2	
S	105,1	99,7	111,4	122,9	130,0	132,4	
O	100,6	110,2	111,9	124,2	119,7	122,4	
N	107,4	106,8	113,3	116,2	121,3	125,7*	
D	100,8	97,7	111,2	123,3	127,0	119,6*	
Year	100,0	104,8	105,6	113,2	121,3	126,6	
Seasonally adjusted indices							
J	103,4	108,3	97,8	93,1	119,5	132,0	120,5
F	101,4	104,8	103,6	118,9	116,0	120,9	117,2
M	98,4	105,3	101,8	106,5	122,6	133,3	126,9
A	97,9	106,1	109,3	109,6	118,6	130,7	
M	95,1	107,3	105,1	112,2	121,8	128,4	
J	102,1	106,9	102,5	111,7	116,8	128,2	
J	96,8	92,4	100,6	116,9	130,9	126,7	
A	100,1	121,9	108,1	112,6	121,4	127,8	
S	105,1	98,7	109,1	118,7	124,4	125,8	
O	95,5	104,9	107,5	120,6	116,9	120,5	
N	103,0	103,4	111,0	114,9	120,8	125,6	
D	101,0	96,0	109,4	121,1	125,4	118,2	

1/ Preliminary
* Revised

Table 3 - Indices of physical volume of mining production according to mining divisions, mineral groups and minerals(Base 2000=100)

Minerals	Weights	Actual indices				Seasonally adjusted indices		
		2005	2006		2005	2006		2005
			1/ Mar.	Feb.		Mar.	Mar.	
Total, gold included	100,0	111,6	113,7	94,5	119,9	111,0	104,0	117,5
Total, gold excluded	74,3	126,6	130,2	105,2	136,2	126,9	117,2	133,3
Gold	25,7	68,4	66,0	63,6	72,8	65,1	65,8	71,9
Iron ore	3,1	118,0	126,4	102,8	113,2	119,8	111,7	107,8
Chrome	1,1	112,5	98,0	97,2	112,8	105,7	99,1	121,4
Copper	1,6	76,7	77,2	71,6	79,2	76,9	74,6	78,8
Manganese ore	1,3	126,7	130,0	134,4	119,6	138,6	128,6	126,6
PGM's	27,6	147,4	168,4	99,2	178,8	153,5	124,9	164,9
Nickel	2,0	115,8	119,6	91,6	124,4	118,9	96,7	124,6
Other metallic minerals	2,9	92,7	97,2	90,0	95,6	97,6	96,7	95,9
Diamonds	8,4	143,4	117,6	162,8	130,4	127,5	152,1	139,2
Coal	20,0	108,5	104,4	97,6	102,0	107,5	106,3	105,1
Building materials	2,6	119,2	117,6	112,8	118,4	115,7	124,8	117,0
Other non-metallic minerals	3,8	102,7	92,8	86,0	125,6	98,3	86,8	133,1

1/ Preliminary

Table 4 - Contribution of the mining divisions to the total mining production (Base 2000=100)

Mining division	Percentage contribution to the total mining production using the weights	Average seasonally adjusted production index for January 2006 to March 2006	Quarterly percentage change January 2006 to March 2006 compared with the preceding three months	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total mining production 1/ three months
Gold	25,7	65,2	-3,1	-0,8
Non-gold minerals				
Iron ore	3,1	116,0	3,5	0,1
Copper	1,6	74,6	-6,9	-0,1
Manganese ore	1,3	135,2	7,6	0,1
Chromium	1,1	99,7	-1,4	0,0
PGM's	27,6	138,8	3,9	1,1
Nickel	2,0	104,8	-2,1	0,0
Other metallic minerals	2,9	97,5	5,8	0,2
Diamonds	8,3	140,2	-6,0	-0,5
Coal	20,0	105,9	-2,0	-0,4
Building materials	2,6	120,2	-1,2	0,0
Other non-metallic minerals	3,8	91,3	-2,6	-0,1
Total non-gold minerals	74,3	121,5	0,1	0,4
Total minerals	100	107,1	-0,4	-0,4

1/ The contribution is calculated by multiplying the quarterly percentage change of each mining division with its corresponding weight in the base year, divided by 100.

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

Month	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005*	2006
Actual values							
J	6 244,1	9 241,5	11 387,0	9 868,8	9 820,5	9 587,4	11 841,4*
F	7 115,7	9 711,7	10 634,4	10 236,5	9 576,1	9 383,8	1/ 12 587,8
M	8 958,5	8 134,9	11 639,2	9 829,3	10 396,0	11 477,1	
A	7 521,3	8 554,2	11 194,9	9 294,1	9 789,3	11 034,0	
M	8 222,7	9 675,9	12 145,3	9 104,1	10 373,3	12 240,1	
J	8 222,5	10 640,7	11 637,2	9 745,9	10 856,0	13 354,0	
J	7 640,3	10 146,3	10 779,9	10 403,7	10 844,2	12 000,2	
A	8 223,4	9 586,4	11 633,5	9 612,0	9 841,7	11 722,0	
S	8 568,9	8 711,5	12 115,1	10 008,1	11 693,2	13 491,8	
O	8 317,6	9 999,6	12 514,2	9 989,4	10 466,3	12 071,3	
N	9 828,5	9 627,7	11 059,4	9 535,8	10 815,6	12 442,0	
D	9 474,9	11 327,7	10 764,4	9 899,2	10 585,6	13 981,5	
Year	98 338,4	115 358,1	137 504,5	117 526,9	125 057,8	142 785,2	
Seasonally adjusted values							
J	6 174,9	9 161,2	11 379,5	9 843,3	9 923,3	9 946,4	12 116,5
F	7 189,9	9 851,0	10 866,3	10 493,1	9 914,6	9 831,0	13 271,0
M	9 662,9	8 180,6	11 755,1	10 100,9	10 617,0	11 708,6	
A	7 749,3	8 945,6	11 870,1	9 793,5	10 317,2	11 546,4	
M	8 263,5	9 698,6	12 107,9	9 046,3	10 312,2	12 052,5	
J	7 940,7	10 316,9	11 181,9	9 356,6	10 461,2	12 871,0	
J	7 472,3	10 162,0	10 714,1	10 431,5	10 779,1	11 855,6	
A	8 266,8	9 609,7	11 724,0	9 728,6	9 905,2	11 905,5	
S	8 562,2	8 588,2	11 871,6	9 547,0	10 978,2	12 610,3	
O	8 346,5	9 883,8	12 270,9	9 846,5	10 292,2	11 909,8	
N	9 937,5	9 740,0	11 258,4	9 688,4	10 923,7	12 559,5	
D	9 067,7	10 910,2	10 442,9	9 702,8	10 362,3	13 670,4	

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

Month	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005*	2006
Actual values							
J	4 476,9	7 181,9	8 002,3	6 744,1	7 480,6	7 809,6	9 402,6*
F	4 963,8	7 720,8	7 368,2	7 452,6	7 039,8	7 813,9	1/ 10 374,7
M	6 688,4	5 912,0	8 110,9	7 140,7	7 710,4	8 840,3	
A	5 790,2	6 748,0	7 481,9	6 815,2	7 366,5	8 963,2	
M	6 166,9	7 139,7	8 619,3	6 477,2	8 029,3	10 373,2	
J	5 908,5	8 245,9	8 035,5	6 759,5	8 107,4	10 555,9	
J	5 700,6	7 779,6	7 344,7	7 613,1	8 699,0	10 080,8	
A	5 892,6	6 942,5	8 065,2	7 052,7	7 546,9	10 244,9	
S	6 479,6	6 219,3	8 562,1	7 092,3	9 114,1	11 357,8	
O	6 047,1	6 971,4	8 711,8	7 345,5	8 089,0	10 182,4	
N	7 529,4	6 953,1	7 981,8	7 154,9	8 406,4	10 424,9	
D	7 422,4	8 532,3	7 834,8	6 825,9	8 138,7	11 537,1	
Year	73 066,4	86 346,5	96 118,5	84 473,7	95 728,1	118 184,0	
Seasonally adjusted values							
J	4 419,8	7 122,6	8 029,7	6 751,0	7 606,0	8 182,4	9 680,7
F	4 941,1	7 798,1	7 503,5	7 617,0	7 274,1	8 187,9	10 946,4
M	7 451,6	6 018,9	8 311,5	7 462,7	7 958,7	9 087,5	
A	5 832,3	6 917,8	7 728,8	7 083,8	7 721,4	9 348,3	
M	6 114,1	7 058,3	8 442,6	6 303,8	7 845,4	10 077,8	
J	5 669,8	8 028,9	7 808,2	6 592,5	7 940,3	10 321,2	
J	5 570,2	7 777,4	7 202,2	7 553,3	8 562,4	9 867,3	
A	6 009,4	7 039,7	8 206,6	7 167,7	7 570,1	10 388,6	
S	6 507,9	6 162,7	8 461,8	6 792,6	8 580,6	10 644,7	
O	6 260,8	7 073,6	8 698,5	7 322,4	7 971,9	10 040,6	
N	7 571,5	6 993,5	8 082,1	7 229,1	8 429,2	10 477,0	
D	6 994,8	8 084,4	7 503,7	6 670,5	7 998,9	11 339,6	

1/ Preliminary

* Revised

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

Minerals	Actual value					Seasonally adjusted value		
	2005	2006			2005	2006		2005
		1/	Feb.	Jan.		Feb.	Jan.	
Total, gold included	142 785,2	12 587,8	11 841,4	9 383,8	13 271,0	12 116,5	9 831,0	
Total, gold excluded	118 184,0	10 374,7	9 402,6	7 813,9	10 946,4	9 680,7	8 187,9	
Gold	24 601,2	2 213,2	2 438,8	1 569,9	2 324,6	2 435,8	1 643,1	
Iron ore	7 519,6	770,0	519,5	453,1	816,2	650,2	477,8	
Chrome	1 896,2	148,3	151,8	133,4	161,4	152,3	144,5	
Copper	2 583,0	235,6	190,7	158,6	241,2	210,5	160,1	
Manganese ore	2 200,8	152,1	206,6	205,6	167,2	189,7	224,0	
PGM's	38 448,8	3 841,8	3 880,2	2 571,1	4 058,4	3 683,7	2 684,8	
Nickel	3 923,1	445,2	273,9	282,7	394,3	259,0	253,6	
Other metallic minerals	4 009,3	497,2	206,2	185,8	545,1	301,9	207,0	
Coal	35 576,2	2 868,6	2 976,7	2 482,8	3 057,5	3 078,3	2 629,4	
Building materials	4 336,6	360,0	327,8	304,3	385,3	371,3	324,7	
- Granite or norite	426,5	27,4	24,2	34,2	34,3	26,5	42,6	
- Lime and limestone	1 320,4	115,4	127,1	81,3	127,7	125,7	89,3	
- Other building materials	2 589,6	217,3	176,5	188,8	223,3	219,1	192,8	
Other non-metallic minerals	17 690,6	1 055,9	669,3	1 036,5	1 119,8	783,8	1 082,0	

1/ Preliminary

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

Mining division	Percentage contribution to total mineral sales during December 2004 to February 2005	Percentage change between November 2004 to January 2005 and December 2005 to February 2006	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total value of mineral sales 1/	Difference in sales of mining divisions between November 2004 to January 2005 and December 2005 to February 2006 R million
Gold	19,6	22,5	4,4	1 301,8
Non-gold minerals				
Iron ore	4,3	77,4	3,4	991,3
Copper	1,7	33,5	0,6	166,1
Manganese ore	1,8	3,4	0,1	18,0
Chromium	1,4	4,3	0,1	17,9
PGM's	26,5	54,4	14,4	4 265,0
Nickel	3,4	-8,1	-0,4	-81,1
Other metallic minerals	2,2	78,8	1,7	500,0
Coal	25,1	21,2	5,3	1 568,4
Building materials	2,9	13,5	0,4	117,0
Other non-metallic minerals	11,1	-0,3	0,0	-10,5
Total non-gold minerals	80,4	31,8	25,6	7 552,1
Total minerals	100,0	30,0	30,0	8 853,9

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 November 2004 to January 2005, divided by 100.

Table 9 - Percentage change in indices of mining production between the current month and the corresponding month of the previous year.

	Actual estimates March 2005	Actual estimates March 2006	% change between March 2005 and March 2006	Difference between March 2005 and March 2006
Gold	72,8	66,0	-9,3%	-6,8
Non-gold minerals	136,2	130,2	-4,4%	-6,0
Total	119,9	113,7	-5,2%	-6,2

Table 10 - Percentage change in indices of mining production between the current quarter and the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

	Actual estimates January 2005 to March 2005	Actual estimates January 2006 to March 2006	% change between January 2005 to March 2005 and January 2006 to March 2006	Difference between January 2005 to March 2005 and January 2006 to March 2006
Gold	210,4	188,0	-10,6%	-22,4
Non-gold minerals	366,5	346,9	-5,3%	-19,6
Total	326,4	306,1	-6,2%	-20,3

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

	Actual estimates February 2006	Actual estimates March 2006	% change between February 2006 and March 2006	Difference between February 2006 and March 2006
Gold	65,8	65,1	-1,1%	-0,7
Non-gold minerals	117,2	126,9	8,3%	9,7
Total	104,0	111,0	6,7%	7,0

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

	Actual estimates October 2005 to December 2005	Actual estimates January 2006 to March 2006	% change between October 2005 to December 2005 and January 2006 to March 2006	Difference between September 2005 to November 2005 and December 2005 to February 2006
Gold	202,0	195,7	-3,1%	-6,3
Non-gold minerals	364,3	364,6	0,1%	0,3
Total	322,6	321,2	-0,4%	-1,4

Table 13 - Percentage change in actual value of mineral sales between the current month and the corresponding month of the previous year

	Actual estimates February 2005 R million	Actual estimates February 2006 R million	% change between February 2005 and February 2006	Difference between February 2005 and February 2006
Gold	1 569,9	2 213,2	41,0%	643,3
Non-gold minerals	7 813,9	10 374,7	32,8%	2 560,8
Total	9 383,8	12 587,8	34,1%	3 204,0

Table 14 - Percentage change in actual value of mineral sales between the current quarter and the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

	Actual estimates December 2004 to February 2005 R million	Actual estimates December 2005 to February 2006 R million	% change between December 2004 to February 2005 and December 2005 to February 2006	Difference between December 2004 to February 2005 and December 2005 to February 2006
Gold	5 794,6	7 096,4	22,5%	1 301,8
Non-gold minerals	23 762,2	31 314,4	31,8%	7 552,2
Total	29 556,8	38 410,7	30,0%	8 853,9

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

	Actual estimates January 2006 R million	Actual estimates February 2006 R million	% change between January 2006 and February 2006	Difference between January 2006 and February 2006
Gold	2 435,8	2 324,6	-4,6%	-111,2
Non-gold minerals	9 680,7	10 946,4	13,1%	1 265,7
Total	12 116,5	13 271,0	9,5%	1 154,5

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

	Actual estimates September 2005 to November 2005 R million	Actual estimates December 2005 to February 2006 R million	% change between September 2005 to November 2005 and December 2005 to February 2006	Difference between September 2005 to November 2005 and December 2005 to February 2006
Gold	5 917,3	7 091,2	19,8%	1 173,9
Non-gold minerals	31 162,3	31 966,7	2,6%	804,4
Total	37 079,6	39 057,9	5,3%	1 978,3

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 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.
- 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 January 1993.
PGM' s - 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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