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**Enquiries:**

User Information Services  
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## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS: MINING PRODUCTION AND MINERAL SALES

### Key findings regarding mining production as at the end of March 2007

#### Mining production increases

The total mining production for the first quarter of 2007 increased by 1,7% compared with the first quarter of 2006. However, the actual total mining production for March 2007 decreased by 2,2% compared with March 2006 (see Table A).

The total mining production for the first quarter of 2007, after seasonal adjustment, decreased by 4,3% compared with the previous quarter. This decrease of 4,3% was due to a decrease of 5,2% in the production of non-gold minerals and an increase of 1,2% in the production of gold. The major contributors to the seasonally adjusted decrease of 5,2% in the total production of non-gold minerals during the first quarter of 2007 compared with the previous quarter was mainly due to the decrease in the production of PGMs (3,5 percentage points) (see Table 4).

Gold production decreased by 10,8% for the period March 2007 compared with March 2006. Furthermore, gold production after seasonal adjustment decreased by 9,5% for March 2007 when compared to February 2007 (see Table A).

### Key figures regarding mining production as at the end of March 2007

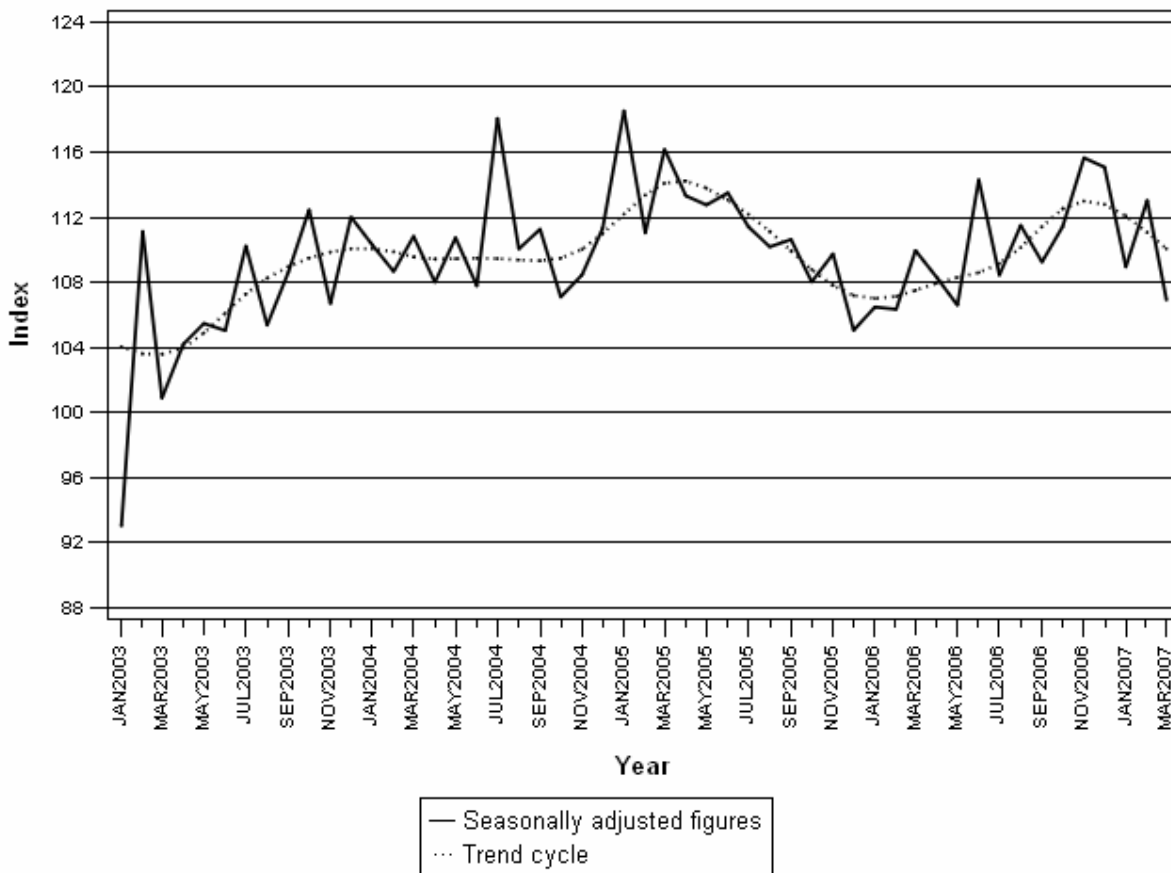
Table A – Selected key figures regarding mining production for distribution for March 2007

Annual estimates	Base : 2000=100		
	March 2007	% Change between March 2006 and March 2007	% Change between January 2006 to March 2006 and January 2007 to March 2007
Index of the physical volume of mining production			
Gold	59,2	-10,8%	-5,9%
Non-gold	130,0	-0,7%	3,1%
Total	111,8	-2,2%	1,7%

Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates	Base : 2000=100		
	March 2007	% Change between February 2007 and March 2007	% Change between October 2006 to December 2006 and January 2007 to March 2007
Index of the physical volume of mining production			
Gold	58,4	-9,5%	1,2%
Non-gold	125,4	-4,0%	-5,2%
Total	108,2	-4,8%	-4,3%

Figure 1 shows the seasonally adjusted figures and trend series for the index of mining production between January 2003 and March 2007. The trend series rose from the beginning of 2003 until January 2004, but levelled off until November of the same year. The trend reached a peak in April 2005 and a trough in January 2006. From February 2006 the trend increased until November 2006 but started to decline thereafter.

**Figure 1 – Monthly indices of physical volume of total mining production including gold**



## Key findings regarding mineral sales as at the end of February 2007

### Mineral sales decrease

The seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended February 2007 reflected a decrease of 2,8% compared with the previous three months. This decrease of 2,8% can be attributed to a decrease of 7,5% (R789,4 million) in the sales of gold and a decrease of 1,7% (R799,2 million) in the sales of non-gold minerals (see Table B and Table 16).

However, the actual value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended February 2007 increased by 36,9% compared with the three months ended February 2006. The increase of 36,9% is higher than the increase of 30,0% for the same period a year ago (see Table B and Figure 3).

The major contributors to the increase of 36,9% year on year in the actual value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended February 2007 were PGMs (+16,1 percentage points or +R6 168,5 million), gold (+6,3 percentage points or +R2 423,2 million), nickel (+4,9 percentage points or +R1 889,0 million), coal (+3,6 percentage points or +R1 374,4 million) and iron ore (+2,3 percentage points or +R897,0 million) (see Table 8).

Total sales reached R18,3 billion for the month of February 2007.

## Key figures regarding mineral sales as at the end of February 2007

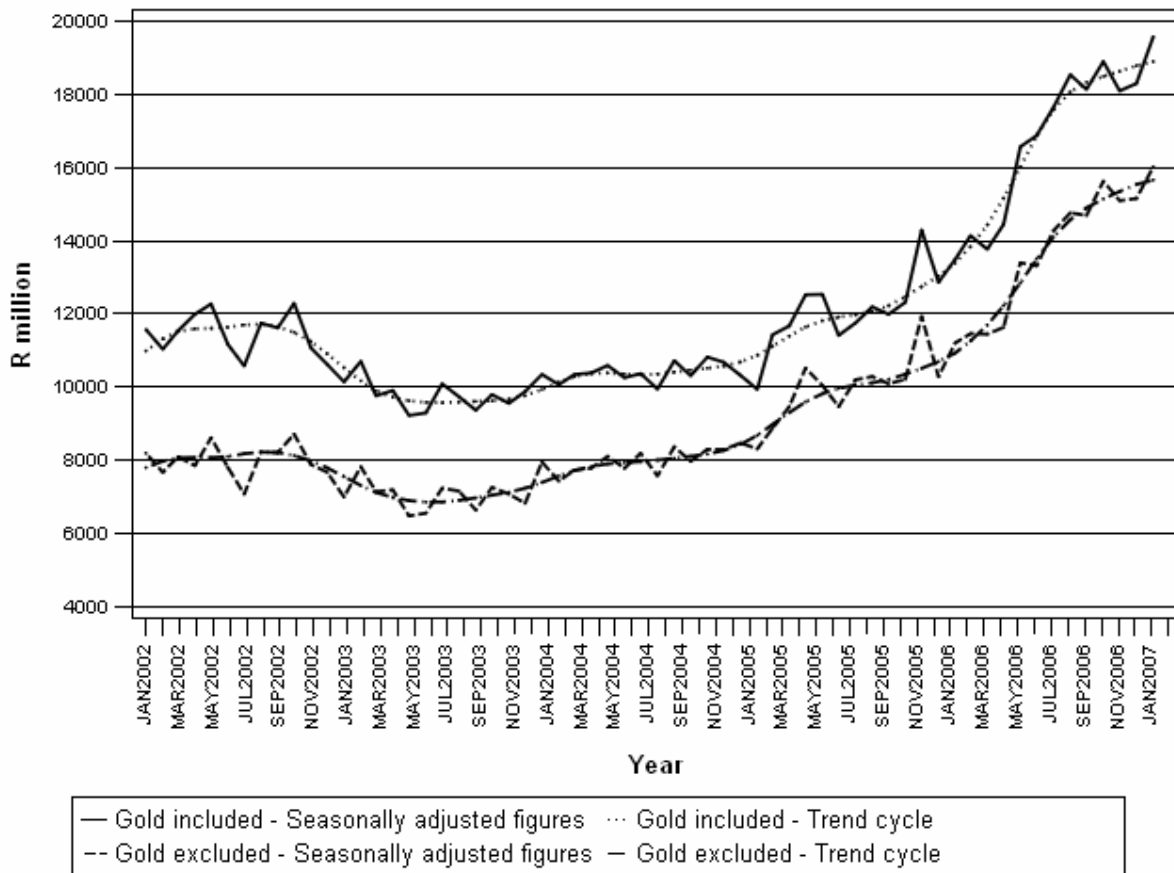
Table B – Selected key figures regarding mineral sales for February 2007

Annual estimates	Base : 2000=100		
	February 2007	% Change between February 2006 and February 2007	% Change between December 2005 to February 2006 and December 2006 to February 2007
	R million		
<b>Mineral sales</b>			
<b>Gold</b>	3 430,5	55,1%	34,2%
<b>Non-gold</b>	14 855,6	41,9%	37,5%
<b>Total</b>	18 286,0	44,2%	36,9%

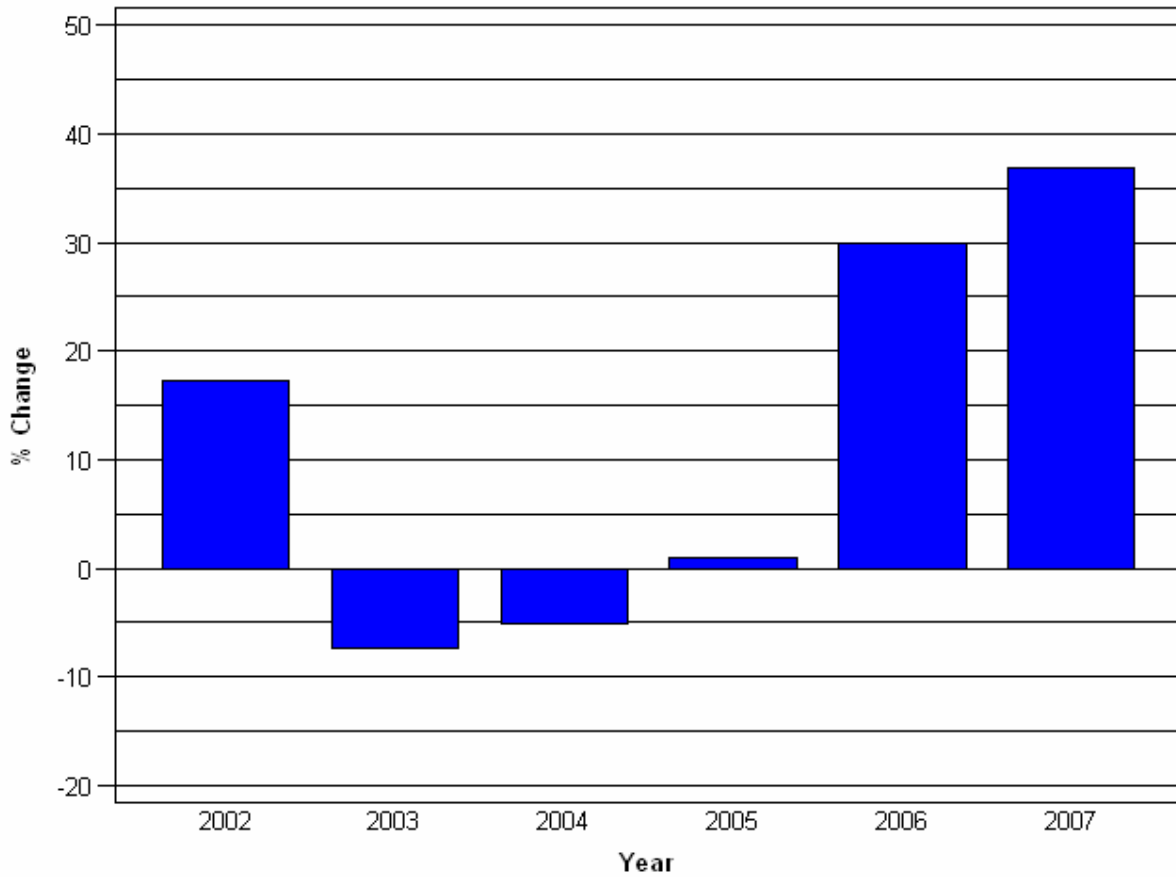
Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates	Base : 2000=100		
	February 2007	% Change between January 2007 and February 2007	% Change between September 2006 to November 2006 and December 2006 to February 2007
	R million		
<b>Mineral sales</b>			
<b>Gold</b>	3 551,8	13,1%	-7,5%
<b>Non-gold</b>	15 967,7	7,9%	-1,7%
<b>Total</b>	19 519,5	8,8%	-2,8%

Figure 2 shows the seasonally adjusted figures and trend series of total value of mineral sales between January 2003 and February 2007. From January 2003 the trend decreased until July 2003. The trend series rose moderately from August 2003 until February 2005. Since March 2005 the trend cycle has been increasing until present.

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



**Figure 3 – Comparison of the last six years for the total value of mineral sales, including gold, for the three months ended February compared to the three months ended February of the previous year.**



Mineral sales for the quarter ended February 2007 and its growth rate of 36,9 surpassed the 30,0% growth rate of the quarter ended February 2006. Figure 3 shows that there were only two negative growth rates and those were for the quarters ended February 2003 and February 2004 respectively. Since 2005 all growth rates have been positive.

**P J Lehohla**  
**Statistician-General**



**Detailed results: Tables**

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

		Base : 2000=100						
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Actual indices	January	95,0	89,0	85,1	100,7	107,9	96,9	99,0
	February	96,8	94,2	101,7	97,8	98,6	93,6	99,2
	March	102,3	99,1	101,8	112,9	119,9	114,3	111,8
	April	98,9	102,0	101,0	105,0	110,2	105,2	
	May	103,6	102,9	107,1	113,0	115,2	109,0	
	June	108,4	104,1	108,6	111,1	116,8	117,6	
	July	93,5	99,0	110,7	119,5	113,1	110,3	
	August	115,2	107,2	109,1	114,3	114,8	116,3	
	September	98,4	108,1	114,6	117,4	116,7	115,2	
	October	105,1	106,7	114,5	108,2	108,2	111,0	
	November	102,6	107,5	108,6	110,1	111,4	117,3	
	December	97,2	107,0	113,5	113,3	107,4	117,5	
	Year	101,4	102,2	106,4	110,3	111,7	110,4	
Seasonally adjusted indices	January	104,7	97,4	92,9	110,2	118,4	106,1	108,2
	February	102,3	101,3	112,5	109,4	111,0	105,9	113,6
	March	102,6	99,2	101,5	111,7	116,7	110,5	108,2
	April	102,7	106,0	104,5	108,6	113,9	108,8	
	May	103,2	102,0	105,7	110,9	113,2	106,8	
	June	103,5	99,7	103,8	106,1	111,3	111,9	
	July	93,1	97,7	108,9	117,0	110,3	107,6	
	August	112,4	103,9	105,3	110,1	110,0	111,3	
	September	96,1	104,8	110,0	111,9	110,8	109,5	
	October	101,2	103,4	112,1	106,5	107,7	110,9	
	November	99,6	105,4	107,5	109,7	111,6	118,7	
	December	95,1	104,8	111,2	111,4	105,5	115,3	

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

		Base : 2000=100						
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Actual indices	January	98,3	89,6	85,7	110,0	121,6	110,1	114,0
	February	98,6	95,8	107,3	104,0	108,7	104,1	111,9
	March	104,4	101,0	106,2	123,6	136,2	130,9	130,0
	April	102,2	105,3	106,3	115,0	127,0	119,7	
	May	108,9	107,0	114,7	124,9	131,3	126,1	
	June	112,5	107,3	116,4	121,1	132,3	135,7	
	July	93,7	102,4	118,8	133,1	129,2	127,1	
	August	124,5	111,2	116,3	125,5	132,2	134,1	
	September	99,7	111,4	122,9	130,0	132,4	131,7	
	October	110,2	111,9	124,2	119,7	122,3	127,8	
	November	106,8	113,3	116,2	121,3	126,2	136,2	
	December	97,7	111,2	123,3	127,0	120,0	137,9	
	Year	104,8	105,6	113,2	121,3	126,6	126,8	
Seasonally adjusted indices	January	108,3	97,9	93,3	120,5	133,5	120,8	124,7
	February	105,0	104,3	120,8	118,8	124,7	119,8	130,6
	March	105,5	101,8	106,3	122,3	132,2	126,1	125,4
	April	106,3	109,6	110,0	118,9	131,2	123,5	
	May	107,2	104,9	112,0	121,3	128,0	122,7	
	June	107,0	102,4	110,9	115,3	125,7	128,7	
	July	92,2	100,1	116,0	129,5	125,3	123,3	
	August	121,8	107,9	112,2	120,7	126,5	128,1	
	September	98,5	108,8	118,5	124,3	126,0	125,4	
	October	105,0	107,6	121,0	117,5	121,8	127,8	
	November	103,3	111,0	115,2	121,4	127,2	138,6	
	December	96,1	109,3	120,9	124,9	117,9	135,1	

**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		
		2006	2007		2006	2007		2006
			1/ Mar	Feb *		Mar	Mar	
<b>Total, gold included</b>	100,0	110,4	111,8	99,2	114,3	108,2	113,6	110,5
<b>Total, gold excluded</b>	74,3	126,8	130,0	111,9	130,9	125,4	130,6	126,1
<b>Gold</b>	25,7	62,9	59,2	62,4	66,4	58,4	64,5	65,5
<b>Iron ore</b>	3,1	122,1	129,6	113,6	128,0	123,4	125,4	122,1
<b>Chrome</b>	1,1	111,4	134,8	125,6	96,8	141,2	129,6	101,5
<b>Copper</b>	1,6	80,8	81,6	77,2	62,8	87,4	83,4	66,9
<b>Manganese ore</b>	1,3	143,0	179,6	146,4	131,2	189,0	139,5	138,1
<b>PGMs</b>	27,6	148,7	150,4	112,8	166,4	132,9	154,7	149,1
<b>Nickel</b>	2,0	113,6	108,4	97,2	119,6	105,6	103,6	117,9
<b>Other metallic minerals</b>	2,9	92,2	87,6	75,2	94,0	86,2	81,2	92,9
<b>Diamonds</b>	8,4	141,9	156,0	147,6	121,6	166,3	139,6	128,8
<b>Coal</b>	20,0	108,6	109,2	106,8	107,2	112,2	116,1	110,0
<b>Building materials</b>	2,6	129,4	132,8	125,2	134,4	128,5	137,6	130,0
<b>Other non-metallic minerals</b>	3,8	84,7	80,0	79,2	93,2	82,4	81,7	96,6

1/ Preliminary.

\* Revised.

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

		Base : 2000=100			
		Percentage contribution to the total mining production using the weights according to the value of production in the base year	Average seasonally adjusted production index for January 2007 to March 2007	Quarterly percentage change January 2007 to March 2007 compared with the preceding three months	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total mining production 1/
<b>Gold</b>		25,7	61,2	1,2	0,3
<b>Non-gold minerals</b>	<b>Iron ore</b>	3,1	125,0	1,4	0,0
	<b>Copper</b>	1,6	85,6	0,1	0,0
	<b>Manganese Ore</b>	1,3	155,6	3,9	0,1
	<b>Chromium</b>	1,1	134,3	3,3	0,0
	<b>PGM's</b>	27,6	143,3	-12,5	-3,5
	<b>Nickel</b>	2,0	106,5	-7,6	-0,2
	<b>Other metallic minerals</b>	2,9	83,4	-5,5	-0,2
	<b>Diamonds</b>	8,3	137,8	-7,9	-0,7
	<b>Coal</b>	20,0	117,1	6,0	1,2
	<b>Building materials</b>	2,6	133,7	-0,6	0,0
	<b>Other non-metallic minerals</b>	3,8	82,5	11,2	0,4
<b>Total non-gold minerals</b>		74,3	126,9	-5,2	-3,9
<b>Total minerals</b>		100,0	110,0	-4,3	-4,3

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. Figures have been rounded off.

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

		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Actual values</b>	January	9 241,5	11 387,0	9 868,8	9 820,5	9 587,4	11 755,1	16 609,6
	February	9 711,7	10 634,4	10 236,5	9 576,1	9 383,8	12 680,8	18 286,0
	March	8 134,9	11 639,2	9 829,3	10 396,0	11 477,1	14 179,9	
	April	8 554,2	11 194,9	9 294,1	9 789,3	11 034,0	13 043,0	
	May	9 675,9	12 145,3	9 104,1	10 373,3	12 239,8	14 053,5	
	June	10 640,7	11 637,2	9 745,9	10 856,0	13 360,1	17 815,4	
	July	10 146,3	10 779,9	10 403,7	10 844,2	12 001,8	17 712,5	
	August	9 586,4	11 633,5	9 612,0	9 841,7	11 687,6	17 475,8	
	September	8 711,5	12 115,1	10 008,1	11 693,2	13 524,1	20 729,8	
	October	9 999,6	12 514,2	9 989,4	10 466,3	12 074,8	18 097,9	
	November	9 627,7	11 059,4	9 535,8	10 815,6	12 453,2	19 130,3	
	December	11 327,7	10 764,4	9 899,2	10 585,6	13 994,2	17 703,8	
	Year	115 358,1	137 504,5	117 526,9	125 057,8	142 817,9	194 377,8	
<b>Seasonally adjusted values</b>	January	9 150,3	11 409,7	9 916,0	10 129,0	10 248,2	12 494,1	17 936,8
	February	9 842,9	10 862,8	10 505,9	9 963,1	9 906,4	13 566,2	19 519,5
	March	8 130,1	11 697,2	9 956,1	10 528,7	11 518,6	14 297,0	
	April	8 962,2	11 883,4	9 834,9	10 369,4	11 655,3	13 874,0	
	May	9 712,7	12 136,9	9 118,1	10 468,0	12 330,1	14 296,0	
	June	10 309,9	11 163,4	9 301,3	10 322,8	12 623,3	16 658,8	
	July	10 254,2	10 716,6	10 485,8	10 835,7	11 779,8	16 952,2	
	August	9 599,5	11 713,2	9 709,1	9 903,1	11 747,1	17 668,3	
	September	8 585,9	11 841,8	9 471,5	10 826,3	12 343,1	18 702,0	
	October	9 895,6	12 282,0	9 862,9	10 330,6	12 010,6	18 333,8	
	November	9 752,8	11 262,9	9 671,2	10 851,9	12 371,6	19 327,1	
	December	10 875,7	10 391,0	9 675,3	10 344,3	13 638,2	17 318,0	

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

		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Actual values</b>	January	7 181,9	8 002,3	6 744,1	7 480,6	7 809,6	9 316,0	13 651,2
	February	7 720,8	7 368,2	7 452,6	7 039,8	7 813,9	10 469,6	14 855,6
	March	5 912,0	8 110,9	7 140,7	7 710,4	8 840,3	11 403,2	
	April	6 748,0	7 481,9	6 815,2	7 366,5	8 963,2	10 850,6	
	May	7 139,7	8 619,3	6 477,2	8 029,3	10 372,9	11 451,8	
	June	8 245,9	8 035,5	6 759,5	8 107,4	10 562,0	14 222,9	
	July	7 779,6	7 344,7	7 613,1	8 699,0	10 082,3	14 211,7	
	August	6 942,5	8 065,2	7 052,7	7 546,9	10 210,5	14 289,0	
	September	6 219,3	8 562,1	7 092,3	9 114,1	11 390,1	16 476,5	
	October	6 971,4	8 711,8	7 345,5	8 089,0	10 186,0	14 713,1	
	November	6 953,1	7 981,8	7 154,9	8 406,4	10 436,1	15 993,9	
	December	8 532,3	7 834,8	6 825,9	8 138,7	11 549,8	14 574,8	
	Year	86 346,5	96 118,5	84 473,7	95 728,1	118 216,7	157 973,1	
<b>Seasonally adjusted values</b>	January	7 106,8	8 032,2	6 771,5	7 737,0	8 402,0	9 919,6	14 795,7
	February	7 789,5	7 500,6	7 628,7	7 330,9	8 279,3	11 280,8	15 967,7
	March	5 968,8	8 261,5	7 339,8	7 916,1	8 965,9	11 621,6	
	April	6 936,0	7 748,9	7 122,2	7 767,9	9 451,1	11 553,6	
	May	7 076,6	8 482,9	6 374,1	7 989,0	10 327,8	11 485,0	
	June	8 025,4	7 804,5	6 564,5	7 846,7	10 135,9	13 492,2	
	July	7 872,5	7 215,5	7 636,4	8 658,8	9 833,7	13 395,1	
	August	7 031,8	8 195,3	7 133,8	7 534,9	10 196,2	14 300,6	
	September	6 161,0	8 434,6	6 743,3	8 477,8	10 440,0	14 932,6	
	October	7 084,8	8 709,6	7 331,7	7 991,7	10 112,1	14 890,2	
	November	7 001,9	8 077,6	7 193,9	8 332,5	10 266,0	16 060,9	
	December	8 045,2	7 447,1	6 623,5	7 958,4	11 279,2	14 321,1	

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		
	2006	2007		2006	2007		2006
		1/ February	January *	February	February	January	February
<b>Total, gold included</b>	194 377,8	18 286,0	16 609,6	12 680,8	19 519,5	17 936,8	13 566,2
<b>Total, gold excluded</b>	157 973,1	14 855,6	13 651,2	10 469,6	15 967,7	14 795,7	11 280,8
<b>Gold</b>	36 404,5	3 430,5	2 958,5	2 211,2	3 551,8	3 141,1	2 285,4
<b>Iron ore</b>	9 928,1	1 044,9	1 269,2	775,1	1 111,1	1 613,9	817,2
<b>Chrome</b>	2 302,0	184,8	221,1	145,2	211,7	225,7	165,4
<b>Copper</b>	4 956,2	386,4	452,4	235,6	449,3	518,6	270,3
<b>Manganese ore</b>	2 245,9	212,7	183,8	150,3	217,3	181,5	156,3
<b>PGMs</b>	65 443,8	6 032,2	6 119,0	3 841,8	6 573,8	6 187,8	4 149,5
<b>Nickel</b>	7 779,9	1 100,8	784,1	445,2	918,1	845,0	376,0
<b>Other metallic minerals</b>	5 196,6	395,9	496,3	510,5	503,6	613,9	643,3
<b>Coal</b>	37 807,5	3 748,0	2 910,0	2 760,0	4 035,8	2 979,4	2 953,8
<b>Building materials</b>	5 128,8	448,5	401,5	368,2	483,5	479,7	396,0
- Granite or norite	395,7	38,7	26,5	27,5	43,1	33,8	31,4
- Lime and limestone	1 527,4	128,9	136,2	109,6	142,2	136,3	120,5
- Other building materials	3 205,6	280,9	238,7	231,1	298,2	309,6	244,1
<b>Other non-metallic minerals</b>	17 184,7	1 301,4	813,8	1 237,7	1 463,5	1 150,2	1 353,0

1/ Preliminary.

\*/ Revised.

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

	Percentage contribution to total mineral sales during December 2005 to February 2006	Percentage change between December 2005 to February 2006 and December 2006 to February 2007	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total value of mineral sales 1/	Difference in sales of mining divisions between December 2005 to February 2006 and December 2006 to February 2007	
				R million	
<b>Gold</b>	18,5	34,2	6,3	2 423,2	
<b>Non-gold minerals</b>	Iron ore	5,9	39,4	2,3	897,0
	Copper	1,7	78,7	1,3	520,7
	Manganese Ore	1,4	11,4	0,2	61,6
	Chromium	1,1	40,0	0,4	174,3
	PGM's	31,5	51,0	16,1	6 168,5
	Nickel	2,4	204,4	4,9	1 889,0
	Other metallic minerals	3,0	17,5	0,5	201,1
	Coal	22,9	15,6	3,6	1 374,4
	Building materials	2,5	26,8	0,7	258,5
	Other non-metallic minerals	9,1	5,8	0,5	201,1
<b>Total non-gold minerals</b>	81,5	37,5	30,6	11 746,2	
<b>Total minerals</b>	100,0	36,9	36,9	14 169,3	

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 2005 to February 2006, 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 2006	Actual estimates March 2007	% Change between March 2006 and March 2007	Difference between March 2006 and March 2007
Gold	66,4	59,2	-10,8%	-7,2
Non-gold minerals	130,9	130,0	-0,7%	-0,9
Total	114,3	111,8	-2,2%	-2,5

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

	Actual estimates January 2006 to March 2006	Actual estimates January 2007 to March 2007	% Change between January 2006 to March 2006 and January 2007 to March 2007	Difference between January 2006 to March 2006 and January 2007 to March 2007
Gold	188,4	177,2	-5,9%	-11,2
Non-gold minerals	345,1	355,9	3,1%	10,8
Total	304,8	310,0	1,7%	5,2

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

	Actual estimates February 2007	Actual estimates March 2007	% Change between February 2007 and March 2007	Difference between February 2007 and March 2007
Gold	64,5	58,4	-9,5%	-6,1
Non-gold minerals	130,6	125,4	-4,0%	-5,2
Total	113,6	108,2	-4,8%	-5,4

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

	Actual estimates October 2006 to December 2006	Actual estimates January 2007 to March 2007	% Change between October 2006 to December 2006 and January 2007 to March 2007	Difference between October 2006 to December 2006 and January 2007 to March 2007
Gold	181,3	183,5	1,2%	2,2
Non-gold minerals	401,5	380,7	-5,2%	-20,8
Total	344,9	330,0	-4,3%	-14,9

**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 2006	Actual estimates February 2007	% Change between February 2006 and February 2007	Difference between February 2006 and February 2007
	R million	R million		
Gold	2 211,2	3 430,5	55,1%	1 219,3
Non-gold minerals	10 469,6	14 855,6	41,9%	4 386,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12 680,8</b>	<b>18 286,0</b>	<b>44,2%</b>	<b>5 605,2</b>

**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 2005 to February 2006	Actual estimates December 2006 to February 2007	% Change between December 2005 to February 2006 and December 2006 to February 2007	Difference between December 2005 to February 2006 and December 2006 to February 2007
	R million	R million		
Gold	7 094,7	9 517,9	34,2%	2 423,2
Non-gold minerals	31 335,4	43 081,6	37,5%	11 746,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>38 430,1</b>	<b>52 599,4</b>	<b>36,9%</b>	<b>14 169,3</b>

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

	Actual seasonal adjusted estimates January 2007	Actual seasonal adjusted estimates February 2007	% Change between January 2007 and February 2007	Difference between January 2007 and February 2007
	R million	R million		
Gold	3 141,1	3 551,8	13,1%	410,7
Non-gold minerals	14 795,7	15 967,7	7,9%	1 172,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>17 936,8</b>	<b>19 519,5</b>	<b>8,8%</b>	<b>1 582,7</b>

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

	Actual estimates September 2006 to November 2006	Actual estimates December 2006 to February 2007	% Change between September 2006 to November 2006 and December 2006 to February 2007	Difference between September 2006 to November 2006 and December 2006 to February 2007
	R million	R million		
Gold	10 479,2	9 689,8	-7,5%	-789,4
Non-gold minerals	45 883,7	45 084,5	-1,7%	-799,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>56 362,9</b>	<b>54 774,3</b>	<b>-2,8%</b>	<b>-1 588,6</b>

## Explanatory notes

<b>Introduction</b>	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.
<b>Purpose of the survey</b>	6	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.
<b>Scope of the survey</b>	7	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>	8	The 1993 edition of the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)</i> , Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC)</i> with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC division, major group and subgroup level. Each statistical unit is classified to an industry which reflects the predominant activity of the establishment.
<b>Statistical unit</b>	9	The basic statistical unit for the collection of information is the mining establishment. An establishment is the smallest economic unit that functions as a separate entity. Each statistical unit is classified to an industry (see paragraph 8).
<b>Weighting</b>	10	The weights which are used to aggregate minerals to mineral groups and mineral groups to total mining, are based on the value of production derived from detailed information for 2000 supplied by the Minerals Bureau, Department of Minerals and Energy.

<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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### General enquiries

Telephone number (012) 317 8485 (technical inquiries)  
(012) 310 2965/ 8220 (technical enquiries)  
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(012) 310 4883/ 4885/ 8018 (library)

Fax number: (012) 310 8664 (technical enquiries)

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

Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001