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# Statistical release

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# Mining: Production and sales (preliminary)

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## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS: MINING PRODUCTION AND MINERAL SALES

### Key findings regarding mining production for March 2009

#### Seasonally adjusted mining production decreases

The total mining production for the first quarter of 2009, after seasonal adjustment, decreased by 12,8% compared with the previous quarter. The main contributors to the 12,8% decrease were the platinum group metals (PGMs) (-6,9 percentage points) and diamonds (-3,9 percentage points) (see Table 4).

The total mining production for the first quarter of 2009 decreased by 9,4% compared with the first quarter of 2008. The actual total mining production for March 2009 decreased by 4,6% compared with March 2008, reflected by both gold and non-gold minerals production decreasing by 7,6% and 4,1% respectively (see Table A).

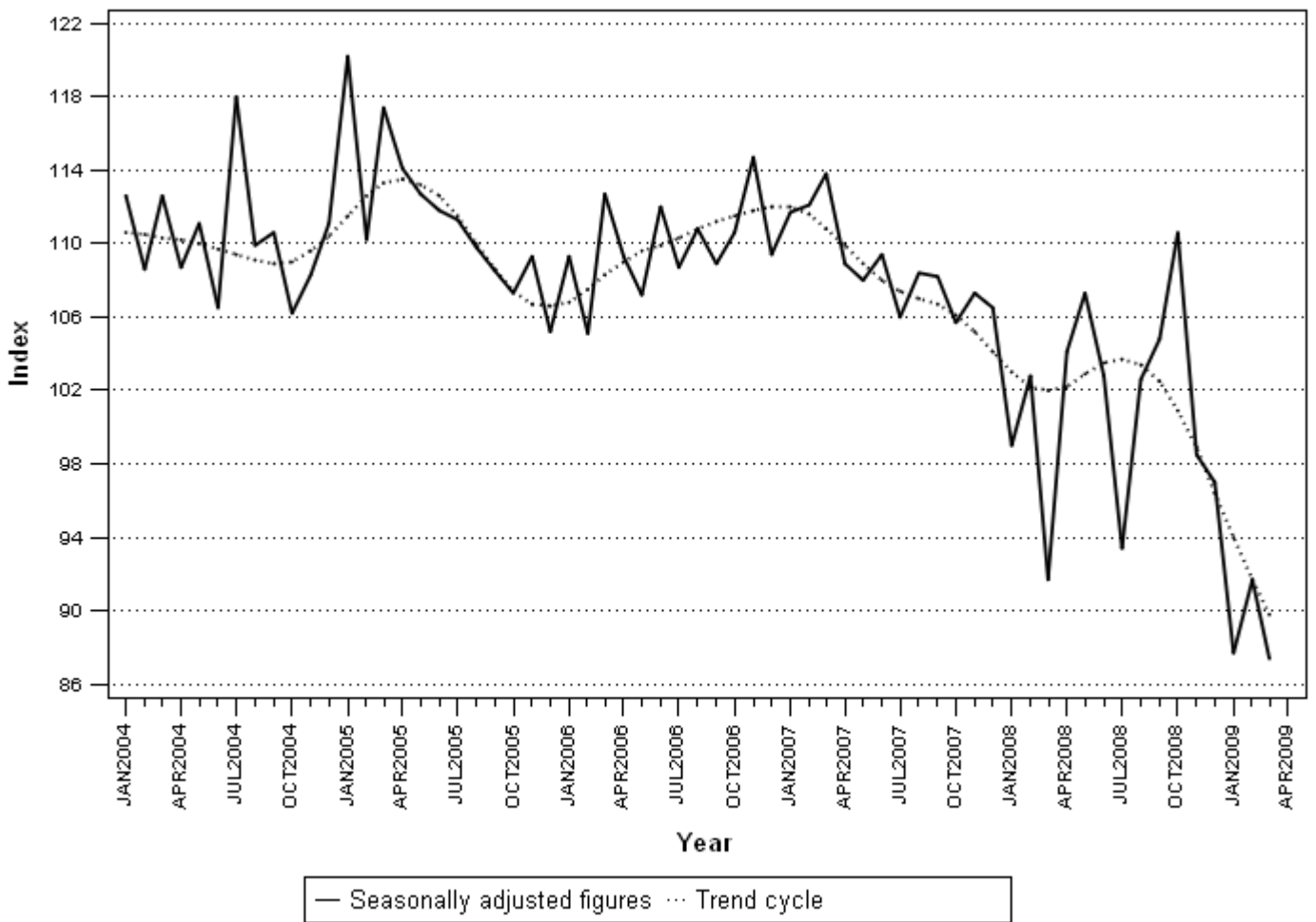
**Table A – Selected key figures regarding mining production for March 2009**

Actual estimates	Base : 2000=100		
	March 2009	% change between March 2008 and March 2009	% change between January to March 2008 and January to March 2009
<b>Index of the physical volume of mining production</b>			
<b>Gold</b>	48,4	-7,6	-4,4
<b>Non-gold</b>	101,7	-4,1	-10,0
<b>Total</b>	88,0	-4,6	-9,4

Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates	Base : 2000=100		
	March 2009	% change between February and March 2009	% change between October to December 2008 and January to March 2009
<b>Index of the physical volume of mining production</b>			
<b>Gold</b>	48,3	0,8	0,2
<b>Non-gold</b>	100,9	-5,5	-14,7
<b>Total</b>	87,4	-4,7	-12,8

Figure 1 shows the seasonally adjusted figures and trend series for the index of total mining production between January 2004 and March 2009.

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



## Key findings regarding mineral sales for February 2009

### Seasonally adjusted mineral sales decrease

The total seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended February 2009 reflected a decrease of 20,0% compared with the previous three months. This decrease of 20,0% (R15 102,7 million) was a result of a decrease of 23,6% (R14 976,0 million) in the sale of non-gold minerals and a decrease of 1,0% (R126,7 million) in the sale of gold (see Table B and Table 16).

The actual estimated total value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended February 2009 decreased by 6,7% compared with the three months ended February 2008. The major contributors to this decrease of 6,7%, year-on-year, were PGMs (-16,1 percentage points or R9 821,7 million), other non-metallic minerals (-2,4 percentage points or R1 473,5 million) and nickel (-2,0 percentage points or R1 201,9 million). The three minerals that made substantial positive contributions to the change were coal (5,9 percentage points or R3 583,3 million), iron ore (5,2 percentage points or R3 121,7 million) and gold (4,4 percentage points or R2 641,0) (see Table 8).

**Table B – Selected key figures regarding mineral sales for February 2009**

Actual estimates	February 2009	% change between February 2008 and February 2009	% change between December 2007 to February 2008 and December 2008 to February 2009
	R million		
<b>Mineral sales</b>			
<b>Gold</b>	4 665,1	37,4	29,2
<b>Non-gold</b>	14 712,5	-19,8	-13,0
<b>Total</b>	19 377,6	-10,9	-6,7

Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates	February 2009	% change between January and February 2009	% change between September to November 2008 and December 2008 to February 2009
	R million		
<b>Mineral sales</b>			
<b>Gold</b>	4 738,8	68,4	-1,0
<b>Non-gold</b>	15 739,2	-8,5	-23,6
<b>Total</b>	20 478,0	2,3	-20,0

Figure 2 shows the seasonally adjusted figures and trend series of the total value of mineral sales between January 2004 and February 2009.

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

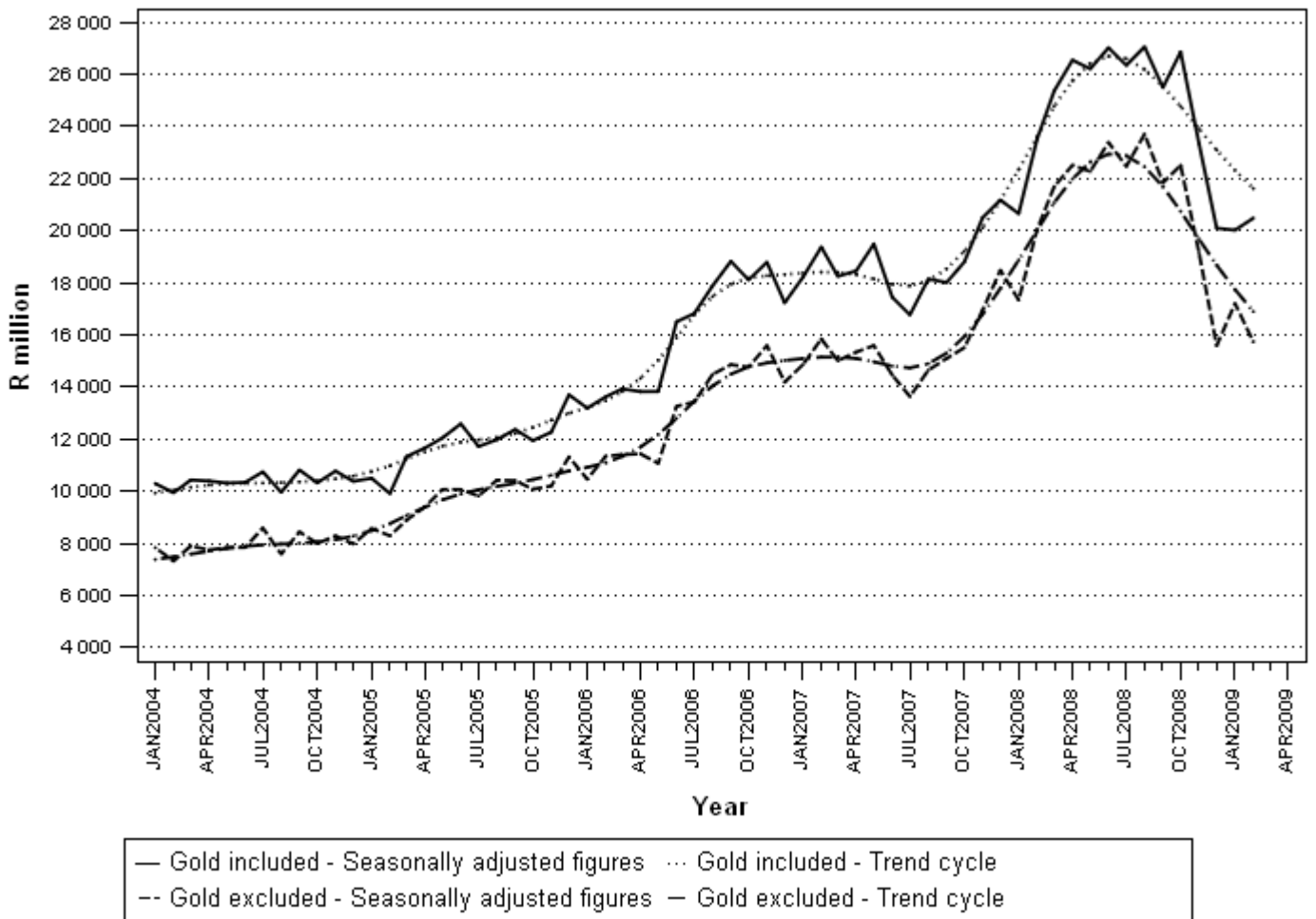
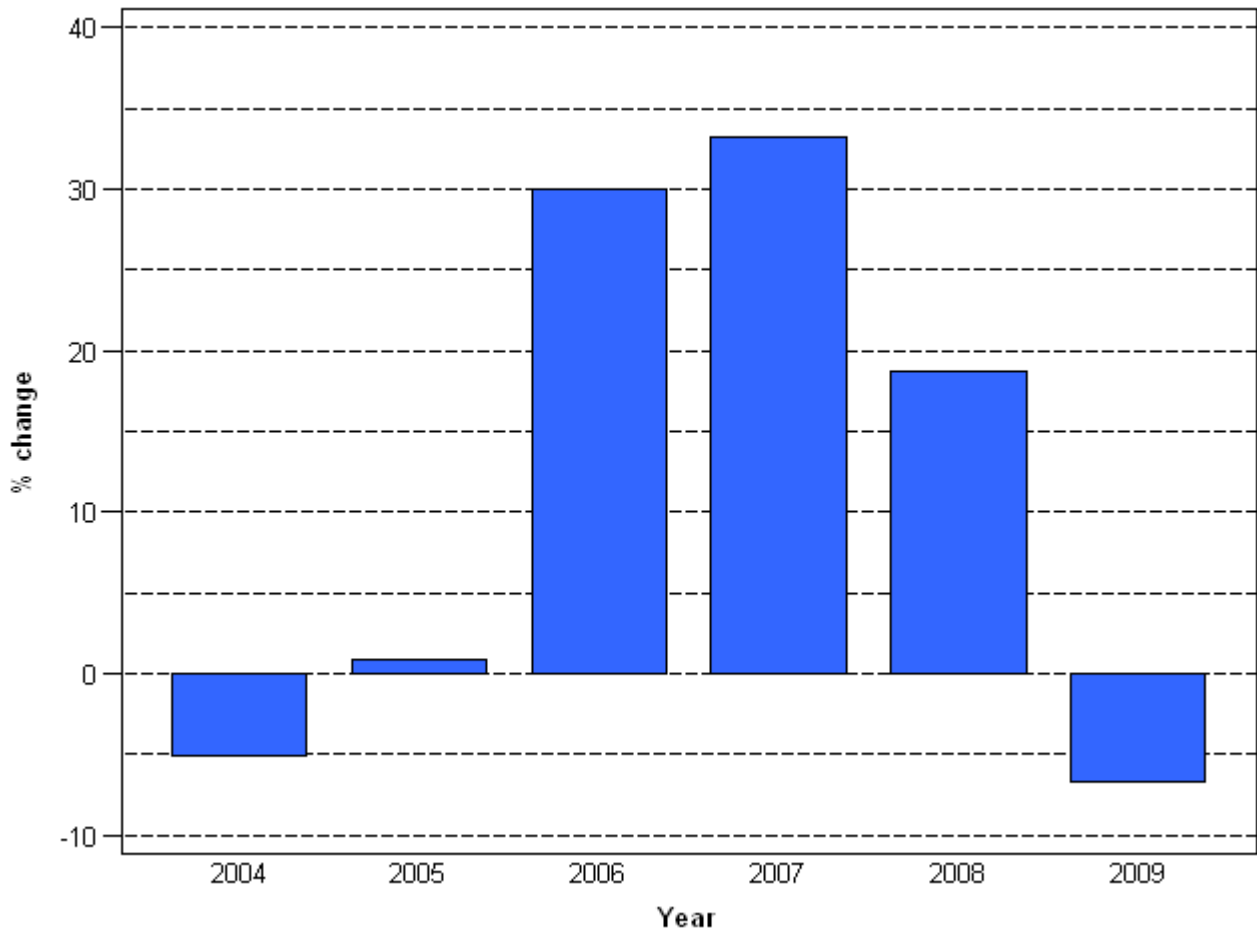


Figure 3 shows the -6,7% annual growth rate in the value of mineral sales for the three months ended February 2009 compared with the three months ended February 2008. The decrease for 2009 represents the lowest growth rate compared to the other years for the same period since the negative growth rate of 5,1% in 2004.

**Figure 3 – Comparison of the last six years for the total value of mineral sales for the three months ended February compared with the three months ended February of the previous year**



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**Detailed results: Tables**

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

		Base : 2000=100						
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	1/ 2009
Actual indices	January	85,1	100,7	107,9	96,9	97,8	85,5	75,7
	February	101,7	97,8	98,6	93,6	99,1	90,7	79,6
	March	101,8	112,9	119,9	114,3	115,0	92,2	88,0
	April	101,0	105,0	110,2	105,2	104,7	99,8	
	May	107,1	113,0	115,2	109,0	109,8	108,6	
	June	108,6	111,1	116,8	117,6	115,5	108,9	
	July	110,7	119,5	113,1	110,2	107,1	94,8	
	August	109,1	114,3	114,8	116,3	113,9	107,6	
	September	114,6	117,4	116,7	115,2	118,3	114,4	
	October	114,5	108,2	108,2	110,9	105,9	110,0	
	November	108,6	110,1	111,4	117,3	110,5	101,6	
	December	113,5	113,3	107,4	113,1	109,8	101,1	
	Year	<b>106,4</b>	<b>110,3</b>	<b>111,7</b>	<b>110,0</b>	<b>109,0</b>	<b>101,3</b>	
Seasonally adjusted indices	January	91,7	112,6	120,2	109,3	111,7	99,0	87,7
	February	111,5	108,6	110,2	105,1	112,1	102,8	91,7
	March	101,9	112,6	117,4	112,7	113,8	91,7	87,4
	April	104,0	108,7	114,1	109,3	108,9	104,1	
	May	104,5	111,1	112,7	107,2	108,0	107,3	
	June	103,1	106,5	111,8	112,0	109,4	102,8	
	July	108,7	118,0	111,3	108,7	106,0	93,4	
	August	105,3	109,9	109,8	110,8	108,4	102,6	
	September	109,3	110,6	108,5	108,9	108,2	104,8	
	October	111,8	106,2	107,3	110,6	105,7	110,6	
	November	106,8	108,3	109,3	114,7	107,3	98,5	
	December	110,8	111,1	105,2	109,4	106,5	97,0	

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

		Base : 2000=100						
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	1/ 2009
Actual indices	January	85,7	110,0	121,6	110,1	112,4	99,2	87,4
	February	107,3	104,0	108,7	104,1	111,7	106,6	91,3
	March	106,2	123,6	136,2	130,9	134,4	106,0	101,7
	April	106,3	115,0	127,0	119,7	121,6	117,3	
	May	114,7	124,9	131,3	126,1	127,4	128,4	
	June	116,4	121,1	132,3	135,7	134,2	127,8	
	July	118,8	133,1	129,2	127,1	124,0	110,6	
	August	116,3	125,5	132,2	134,0	131,8	128,4	
	September	122,9	130,0	132,4	131,7	137,3	135,4	
	October	124,2	119,7	122,3	127,7	122,3	131,0	
	November	116,2	121,3	126,2	136,2	129,7	119,9	
	December	123,3	127,0	120,0	131,9	128,2	119,6	
	Year	<b>113,2</b>	<b>121,3</b>	<b>126,6</b>	<b>126,3</b>	<b>126,3</b>	<b>119,2</b>	
Seasonally adjusted indices	January	91,6	123,6	135,6	124,7	128,8	115,3	101,6
	February	119,5	117,6	123,5	118,5	128,4	122,3	106,8
	March	106,7	123,5	133,0	128,9	132,9	105,3	100,9
	April	109,2	118,9	131,3	124,0	126,3	122,2	
	May	110,4	121,7	127,6	123,4	124,8	126,5	
	June	110,0	115,9	126,5	129,1	126,9	120,5	
	July	115,6	130,9	126,7	124,8	122,1	108,5	
	August	112,3	120,7	126,4	127,7	125,4	122,3	
	September	117,6	122,6	123,1	125,0	125,5	124,1	
	October	120,6	117,2	121,5	127,6	122,5	132,2	
	November	114,4	119,5	124,0	133,1	125,6	116,0	
	December	120,4	124,4	117,3	127,1	123,8	114,2	

1/ Preliminary.



**Table 3 – Indices of the physical volume of mining production according to mineral groups and minerals**

	Base : 2000=100							
	Weights	Actual indices				Seasonally adjusted indices		
		2008	1/ 2009			2008	2009	
			Mar	Feb	Mar		Mar	Feb
<b>Total, gold included</b>	100,0	101,3	92,2	79,6	88,0	91,7	91,7	87,4
<b>Total, gold excluded</b>	74,3	119,2	106,0	91,3	101,7	105,3	106,8	100,9
<b>Gold</b>	25,7	49,4	52,4	46,0	48,4	52,2	47,9	48,3
<b>Iron ore</b>	3,1	145,6	131,6	153,2	145,2	128,5	167,5	142,0
<b>Chromium</b>	1,1	* 146,0	143,6	50,4	68,0	150,2	53,0	71,0
<b>Copper</b>	1,6	71,8	84,0	72,8	77,2	89,9	86,2	82,8
<b>Manganese ore</b>	1,3	183,1	168,0	98,4	111,6	176,6	102,6	117,0
<b>PGMs</b>	27,6	133,3	102,8	107,2	115,2	101,0	137,2	114,5
<b>Nickel</b>	2,0	86,5	89,6	70,4	91,6	86,3	79,5	88,5
<b>Other metallic minerals</b>	2,9	84,5	90,0	74,8	80,0	88,3	82,2	78,4
<b>Diamonds</b>	8,3	114,9	119,6	33,6	54,4	123,5	33,4	55,6
<b>Coal</b>	20,0	* 112,0	105,6	95,2	108,0	104,8	103,9	106,8
<b>Building materials</b>	2,6	133,9	125,6	116,0	119,6	120,0	121,1	114,3
<b>Other non-metallic minerals</b>	3,8	67,4	66,0	57,2	64,4	64,0	61,3	62,6

1/ Preliminary.

\*Revised

**Table 4 – Contribution of the mineral groups and minerals 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 to March 2009	Quarterly percentage change January to March 2009 compared with the preceding three months	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total mining production 1/	
<b>Gold</b>	25,7	47,9	0,2	0,0	
<b>Non-gold minerals</b>	<b>Iron ore</b>	3,1	155,4	-0,6	0,0
	<b>Chromium</b>	1,1	56,4	-52,2	-0,7
	<b>Copper</b>	1,6	83,0	21,5	0,2
	<b>Manganese ore</b>	1,3	107,9	-37,0	-0,8
	<b>PGMs</b>	27,6	123,7	-17,1	-6,9
	<b>Nickel</b>	2,0	78,1	-3,9	-0,1
	<b>Other metallic minerals</b>	2,9	82,7	-1,2	0,0
	<b>Diamonds</b>	8,3	44,2	-52,2	-3,9
	<b>Coal</b>	20,0	105,7	-1,9	-0,4
	<b>Building materials</b>	2,6	120,4	-9,8	-0,3
<b>Other non-metallic minerals</b>	3,8	63,8	-0,3	0,0	
<b>Total non-gold minerals</b>	74,3	103,1	-14,7	-12,9	
<b>Total minerals</b>	100,0	88,9	-12,8	-12,8	

1/ The quarterly contribution of a mineral or mineral group to the total seasonally adjusted mining production is calculated by multiplying the weight of the mineral or mineral group with the change in the index for the mineral or mineral group and dividing by the previous period index total. Figures have been rounded off.

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

		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	* 2008	1/ 2009
<b>Actual values</b>	<b>January</b>	9 868,8	9 820,5	9 587,4	11 755,1	15 692,9	17 442,2	16 958,2
	<b>February</b>	10 236,5	9 576,1	9 383,8	12 680,8	17 928,6	21 737,4	19 377,6
	<b>March</b>	9 829,3	10 396,0	11 477,1	14 179,9	18 555,2	25 894,1	
	<b>April</b>	9 294,1	9 789,3	11 034,0	13 042,6	17 447,8	25 525,8	
	<b>May</b>	9 104,1	10 373,3	12 239,8	14 046,8	19 841,6	26 669,4	
	<b>June</b>	9 745,9	10 856,0	13 360,1	17 809,8	19 033,2	29 810,0	
	<b>July</b>	10 403,7	10 844,2	12 001,8	17 614,8	17 449,4	27 088,4	
	<b>August</b>	9 612,0	9 841,7	11 687,6	17 339,2	17 890,4	26 990,3	
	<b>September</b>	10 008,1	11 693,2	13 524,1	20 586,6	19 619,7	27 564,8	
	<b>October</b>	9 989,4	10 466,3	12 074,8	18 031,0	18 713,7	26 736,2	
	<b>November</b>	9 535,8	10 815,6	12 453,2	18 918,2	20 674,4	23 759,2	
	<b>December</b>	9 899,2	10 585,6	13 994,2	17 584,7	21 590,8	20 352,1	
	<b>Year</b>	<b>117 526,9</b>	<b>125 057,8</b>	<b>142 817,9</b>	<b>193 589,5</b>	<b>224 437,7</b>	<b>299 569,9</b>	
<b>Seasonally adjusted values</b>	<b>January</b>	10 030,1	10 301,8	10 504,5	13 193,4	18 216,8	20 653,0	20 020,6
	<b>February</b>	10 497,4	9 947,6	9 916,2	13 624,8	19 371,9	23 500,8	20 478,0
	<b>March</b>	9 905,4	10 437,4	11 335,5	13 933,8	18 248,7	25 355,9	
	<b>April</b>	9 849,9	10 399,9	11 659,7	13 825,7	18 458,1	26 541,0	
	<b>May</b>	9 069,0	10 318,8	12 052,3	13 831,0	19 488,6	26 205,8	
	<b>June</b>	9 311,5	10 342,3	12 594,4	16 506,5	17 447,5	27 012,2	
	<b>July</b>	10 434,9	10 750,2	11 722,3	16 820,0	16 770,5	26 341,0	
	<b>August</b>	9 758,6	9 965,4	11 985,3	17 884,3	18 144,7	27 048,1	
	<b>September</b>	9 461,1	10 820,6	12 374,8	18 826,0	18 010,8	25 488,4	
	<b>October</b>	9 847,5	10 327,4	11 948,9	18 111,0	18 797,0	26 853,8	
	<b>November</b>	9 626,6	10 779,3	12 271,1	18 788,6	20 501,6	23 353,2	
	<b>December</b>	9 701,5	10 385,1	13 705,2	17 232,6	21 173,4	20 094,1	

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

		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	* 2008	1/ 2009
<b>Actual values</b>	<b>January</b>	6 744,1	7 480,6	7 809,6	9 316,0	12 734,4	14 526,9	14 481,7
	<b>February</b>	7 452,6	7 039,8	7 813,9	10 469,6	14 498,1	18 341,8	14 712,5
	<b>March</b>	7 140,7	7 710,4	8 840,3	11 403,2	14 955,5	21 803,3	
	<b>April</b>	6 815,2	7 366,5	8 963,2	10 850,3	14 595,8	21 864,4	
	<b>May</b>	6 477,2	8 029,3	10 372,9	11 445,0	16 150,6	22 929,7	
	<b>June</b>	6 759,5	8 107,4	10 562,0	14 217,3	15 745,9	25 828,8	
	<b>July</b>	7 613,1	8 699,0	10 082,3	14 114,1	14 154,8	22 954,6	
	<b>August</b>	7 052,7	7 546,9	10 210,5	14 152,3	14 647,2	23 892,6	
	<b>September</b>	7 092,3	9 114,1	11 390,1	16 333,3	16 531,7	23 718,3	
	<b>October</b>	7 345,5	8 089,0	10 186,0	14 646,2	15 351,6	22 260,0	
	<b>November</b>	7 154,9	8 406,4	10 436,1	15 781,8	17 188,8	19 660,0	
	<b>December</b>	6 825,9	8 138,7	11 549,8	14 455,8	18 846,7	15 797,6	
	<b>Year</b>	<b>84 473,7</b>	<b>95 728,1</b>	<b>118 216,7</b>	<b>157 184,9</b>	<b>185 401,1</b>	<b>253 578,0</b>	
<b>Seasonally adjusted values</b>	<b>January</b>	6 829,4	7 839,3	8 578,2	10 466,6	14 865,1	17 339,2	17 206,4
	<b>February</b>	7 627,3	7 329,1	8 296,6	11 348,6	15 846,3	20 031,0	15 739,2
	<b>March</b>	7 334,8	7 906,4	8 894,3	11 410,5	15 011,8	21 686,8	
	<b>April</b>	7 120,0	7 752,2	9 402,8	11 438,9	15 342,7	22 511,1	
	<b>May</b>	6 325,3	7 847,8	10 074,6	11 075,3	15 592,3	22 268,9	
	<b>June</b>	6 569,8	7 848,9	10 072,3	13 262,5	14 461,1	23 383,7	
	<b>July</b>	7 595,0	8 595,8	9 823,4	13 427,4	13 637,0	22 462,3	
	<b>August</b>	7 172,0	7 595,7	10 431,4	14 488,6	14 648,9	23 701,9	
	<b>September</b>	6 733,0	8 445,9	10 411,8	14 860,6	15 096,2	21 838,9	
	<b>October</b>	7 321,4	8 002,7	10 083,5	14 766,8	15 512,6	22 503,1	
	<b>November</b>	7 165,1	8 291,4	10 205,7	15 595,7	16 953,7	19 167,9	
	<b>December</b>	6 649,2	7 988,4	11 323,2	14 190,3	18 483,0	15 588,3	

1/ Preliminary.  
\* Revised.

**Table 7 – Total value of mineral sales according to mineral groups and minerals (R million)**

	Actual values				Seasonally adjusted values		
	* 2008	2008	1/ 2009		2008	2009	
		February	January	February	February	January	February
<b>Total, gold included</b>	299 569,9	21 737,4	16 958,2	19 377,6	23 500,8	20 020,6	20 478,0
<b>Total, gold excluded</b>	253 578,0	18 341,8	14 481,7	14 712,5	20 031,0	17 206,4	15 739,2
<b>Gold</b>	45 992,1	3 395,7	2 476,5	4 665,1	3 469,8	2 814,2	4 738,8
<b>Iron ore</b>	22 241,7	1 427,7	2 462,1	2 702,6	1 413,7	2 640,5	2 660,8
<b>Chromium</b>	5 493,7	359,5	103,3	286,4	425,3	107,2	340,0
<b>Copper</b>	5 620,0	498,6	255,7	250,3	582,1	294,5	292,2
<b>Manganese ore</b>	17 343,6	930,7	1 238,5	82,5	1 021,0	1 465,7	91,2
<b>PGMs</b>	91 352,4	6 846,7	3 562,0	4 018,5	7 662,5	4 367,8	4 508,8
<b>Nickel</b>	5 255,8	549,7	226,2	211,4	549,6	277,7	209,4
<b>Other metallic minerals</b>	5 886,9	489,9	313,8	248,5	581,9	347,8	292,8
<b>Coal</b>	71 664,8	5 418,3	4 943,9	5 450,8	5 594,7	5 492,9	5 599,6
<b>Building materials</b>	6 891,2	566,5	492,1	545,0	582,8	586,8	558,5
- Granite or norite	686,7	53,6	56,7	65,5	52,8	68,9	63,5
- Lime and limestone	1 912,2	144,4	157,9	145,8	156,5	159,1	157,9
- Other building materials	4 292,5	368,5	277,5	333,6	373,5	358,8	337,1
<b>Other non-metallic minerals</b>	21 827,6	1 254,3	884,1	916,6	1 617,4	1 625,5	1 185,9

1/ Preliminary.  
\* Revised.

**Table 8 – Contribution of the mineral groups and minerals to the total value of mineral sales**

	Percentage contribution to total mineral sales during December 2007 to February 2008	Percentage change between December 2007 to February 2008 and December 2008 to February 2009	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total value of mineral sales 1/	Difference in sales of mining divisions between December 2007 to February 2008 and December 2008 to February 2009
				R million
<b>Gold</b>	14,9	29,2	4,4	2 641,0
<b>Non-gold minerals</b>				
Iron ore	7,2	71,7	5,2	3 121,7
Chromium	1,6	-45,6	-0,7	-449,6
Copper	2,0	-39,4	-0,8	-482,9
Manganese ore	3,4	10,0	0,3	204,6
PGMs	35,1	-46,0	-16,1	-9 821,7
Nickel	2,9	-68,6	-2,0	-1 201,9
Other metallic minerals	2,3	-18,5	-0,4	-255,8
Coal	21,7	27,1	5,9	3 583,3
Building materials	2,4	3,7	0,1	52,5
Other non-metallic minerals	6,6	-36,9	-2,4	-1 473,5
<b>Total non-gold minerals</b>	85,1	-13,0	-11,1	-6 723,6
<b>Total minerals</b>	100,0	-6,7	-6,7	-4 082,5

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 2007 to February 2008, divided by 100. Figures have been rounded off.

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

	Base : 2000=100			
	Actual estimates March 2008	Actual estimates March 2009	% change between March 2008 and March 2009	Difference between March 2008 and March 2009
	Percentage points			
<b>Gold</b>	52,4	48,4	-7,6	-4,0
<b>Non-gold minerals</b>	106,0	101,7	-4,1	-4,3
<b>Total</b>	92,2	88,0	-4,6	-4,2

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

	Base : 2000=100			
	Actual estimates January to March 2008	Actual estimates January to March 2009	% change between January to March 2008 and January to March 2009	Difference between January to March 2008 and January to March 2009
	Percentage points			
<b>Gold</b>	47,6	45,5	-4,4	-2,1
<b>Non-gold minerals</b>	103,9	93,5	-10,0	-10,4
<b>Total</b>	89,5	81,1	-9,4	-8,4

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

	Base : 2000=100			
	Seasonally adjusted February 2009	Seasonally adjusted March 2009	% change between February and March 2009	Difference between February and March 2009
	Percentage points			
<b>Gold</b>	47,9	48,3	0,8	0,4
<b>Non-gold minerals</b>	106,8	100,9	-5,5	-5,9
<b>Total</b>	91,7	87,4	-4,7	-4,3

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

	Base : 2000=100			
	Seasonally adjusted October to December 2008	Seasonally adjusted January to March 2009	% change between October to December 2008 and January to March 2009	Difference between October to December 2008 and January to March 2009
	Percentage points			
<b>Gold</b>	47,8	47,9	0,2	0,1
<b>Non-gold minerals</b>	120,8	103,1	-14,7	-17,7
<b>Total</b>	102,0	88,9	-12,8	-13,1

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

	Actual estimates February 2008	Actual estimates February 2009	% change between February 2008 and February 2009	Difference between February 2008 and February 2009
	R million	R million		R million
<b>Gold</b>	3 395,7	4 665,1	37,4	1 269,4
<b>Non-gold minerals</b>	18 341,8	14 712,5	-19,8	-3 629,3
<b>Total</b>	21 737,4	19 377,6	-10,9	-2 359,8

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

	Actual estimates December 2007 to February 2008	Actual estimates December 2008 to February 2009	% change between December 2007 to February 2008 and December 2008 to February 2009	Difference between December 2007 to February 2008 and December 2008 to February 2009
	R million	R million		R million
<b>Gold</b>	9 055,2	11 696,2	29,2	2 641,0
<b>Non-gold minerals</b>	51 715,4	44 991,8	-13,0	-6 723,6
<b>Total</b>	60 770,4	56 687,9	-6,7	-4 082,5

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

	Seasonally adjusted estimates January 2009	Seasonally adjusted estimates February 2009	% change between January and February 2009	Difference between January and February 2009
	R million	R million		R million
<b>Gold</b>	2 814,2	4 738,8	68,4	1 924,6
<b>Non-gold minerals</b>	17 206,4	15 739,2	-8,5	-1 467,2
<b>Total</b>	20 020,6	20 478,0	2,3	457,4

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

	Seasonally adjusted estimates September to November 2008	Seasonally adjusted estimates December 2008 to February 2009	% change between September to November 2008 and December 2008 to February 2009	Difference between September to November 2008 and December 2008 to February 2009
	R million	R million		R million
<b>Gold</b>	12 185,5	12 058,8	-1,0	-126,7
<b>Non-gold minerals</b>	63 509,9	48 533,9	-23,6	-14 976,0
<b>Total</b>	75 695,4	60 592,7	-20,0	-15 102,7

## Explanatory notes

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>	<p>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.</p>
	<b>2</b>	<p>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.</p>
	<b>3</b>	<p>Due to mining production figures being available earlier than mineral sales figures, mining production indices are published one month earlier than mineral sales.</p>
	<b>4</b>	<p>The value of mineral sales is calculated, in general, on a free-on-rail/free-on-board basis.</p>
	<b>5</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Purpose of the survey</b>	<b>6</b>	<p>The monthly mining production and sales survey is conducted by the Minerals Bureau, covering all mining establishments operating in the South African economy. The results of this survey are used to calculate physical volume of mining production indices in order to estimate the gross domestic product (GDP) and its components, which in turn are used to develop and monitor government policy.</p>
<b>Scope of the survey</b>	<b>7</b>	<p>This survey covers mining establishments conducting activities regarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extracting, dressing and beneficiating of minerals occurring naturally, for example solids such as coal and ores.</li> </ul>
<b>Classification</b>	<b>8</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Statistical unit</b>	<b>9</b>	<p>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).</p>
<b>Weighting</b>	<b>10</b>	<p>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.</p>

<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>

## 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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