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Production: results for March 2012

Table A – Total mining production

Actual estimate	Base: 2005=100		
	March 2012	% change between March 2011 and March 2012	% change between January to March 2011 and January to March 2012
Volume of mining production index	85,2	-9,8	-9,4

Seasonally adjusted estimate	Base: 2005=100		
	March 2012	% change between February and March 2012	% change between October to December 2011 and January to March 2012
Volume of mining production index	84,2	5,3	-5,5

Table B – Contribution of the mineral group and mineral to the total three-monthly seasonally adjusted growth in mining production

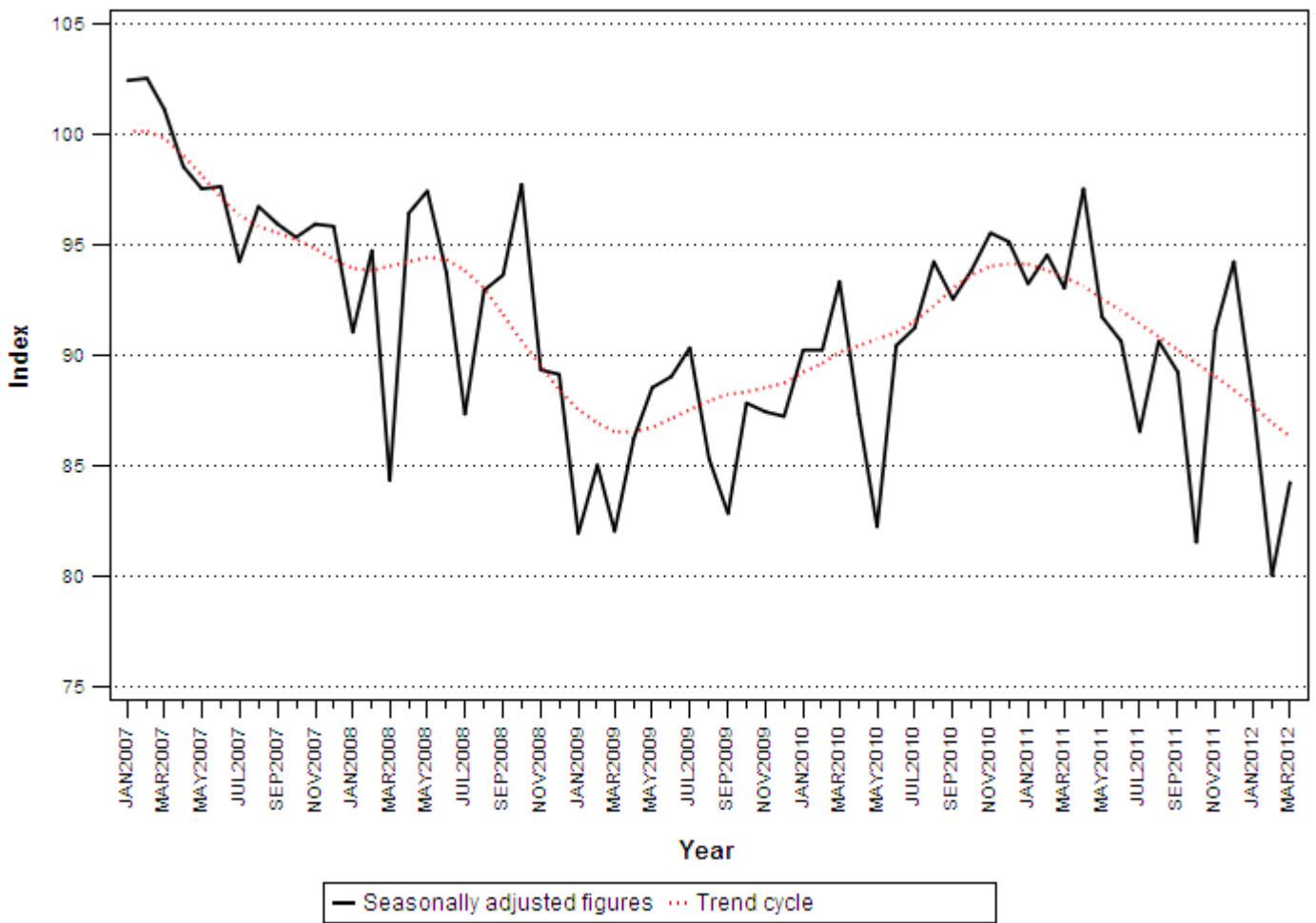
Mineral group and mineral	Base: 2005=100					
	Weights 2005	October to December 2011	January to March 2012	% change between October to December 2011 and January to March 2012	Difference between October to December 2011 and January to March 2012	Contribution (% points) to the % change in total mining production ^{1/}
Gold	17,2	60,8	56,2	-7,6	-4,6	-0,9
Iron ore	5,3	155,0	150,5	-2,9	-4,5	-0,3
Chromium ore	1,3	146,0	156,3	7,1	10,3	0,2
Copper	1,8	86,4	77,1	-10,8	-9,3	-0,2
Manganese ore	1,5	185,8	215,5	16,0	29,7	0,5
PGMs	27,0	86,9	72,1	-17,0	-14,8	-4,5
Nickel	2,8	99,5	90,6	-8,9	-8,9	-0,3
Other metallic minerals	2,8	106,9	103,2	-3,5	-3,7	-0,1
Diamonds	7,6	39,8	39,7	-0,3	-0,1	0,0
Coal	24,9	104,6	106,6	1,9	2,0	0,6
Building materials	2,1	102,4	93,4	-8,8	-9,0	-0,2
Other non-metallic minerals	5,7	61,7	57,4	-7,0	-4,3	-0,3
Total	100,0	88,9	84,0	-5,5	-4,9	-5,5

1/ The contribution (percentage points) of a mineral or mineral group to the percentage change in the total seasonally adjusted mining production is calculated by multiplying the difference in the index for the mineral or mineral group by the weight of the mineral or mineral group and then dividing by the previous period's total index. Figures have been rounded off.

Seasonally adjusted mining production decreased by 5,5% in the first quarter of 2012 compared with the fourth quarter of 2011. The main contributor to the 5,5% decrease was PGMs (contributing -4,5 percentage points) (see Table B).

Actual mining production decreased by 9,4% in the first quarter of 2012 compared with the first quarter of 2011. A year-on-year decrease of 9,8% was recorded in March 2012 compared with a revised 13,4% decrease in February 2012 (see Table 2).

Figure 1 – Volume of mining production (Base: 2005=100)



Sales: results for February 2012

Table C – Total value of mineral sales

Actual estimate	February 2012	% change between February 2011 and February 2012	% change between December 2010 to February 2011 and December 2011 to February 2012	% change between January to February 2011 and January to February 2012
	R million			
Total value of mineral sales	29 879,3	9,0	16,0	11,5

Seasonally adjusted estimate	February 2012	% change between January and February 2012	% change between September to November 2011 and December 2011 to February 2012
	R million		
Total value of mineral sales	32 699,5	-2,5	-0,6

Table D – Contribution of the mineral group and mineral to the seasonally adjusted three-monthly growth in the total value of mineral sales (R million)

Mineral group and mineral	% contribution to total mineral sales during September to November 2011	September to November 2011	December 2011 to February 2012	% change between September to November 2011 and December 2011 to February 2012	Contribution to the % change in the total value of mineral sales ^{1/}	Difference between September to November 2011 and December 2011 to February 2012
		R million	R million		% points	R million
Gold	21,0	21 315,9	20 652,4	-3,1	-0,7	-663,5
Iron ore	16,5	16 792,5	16 664,6	-0,8	-0,1	-127,9
Chromium ore	2,2	2 229,3	2 280,9	2,3	0,1	51,6
Copper	1,3	1 367,5	1 442,3	5,5	0,1	74,8
Manganese ore	2,7	2 768,6	2 809,5	1,5	0,0	40,9
PGMs	20,2	20 524,2	20 145,9	-1,8	-0,4	-378,3
Nickel	1,7	1 682,9	1 670,9	-0,7	0,0	-12,0
Other metallic minerals	3,7	3 753,9	2 390,3	-36,3	-1,3	-1 363,6
Coal	23,7	24 018,8	25 226,5	5,0	1,2	1 207,7
Building materials	2,0	2 070,6	1 984,6	-4,2	-0,1	-86,0
Other non-metallic minerals	5,0	5 033,8	5 664,1	12,5	0,6	630,3
Total	100,0	101 558,0	100 932,0	-0,6	-0,6	-626,0

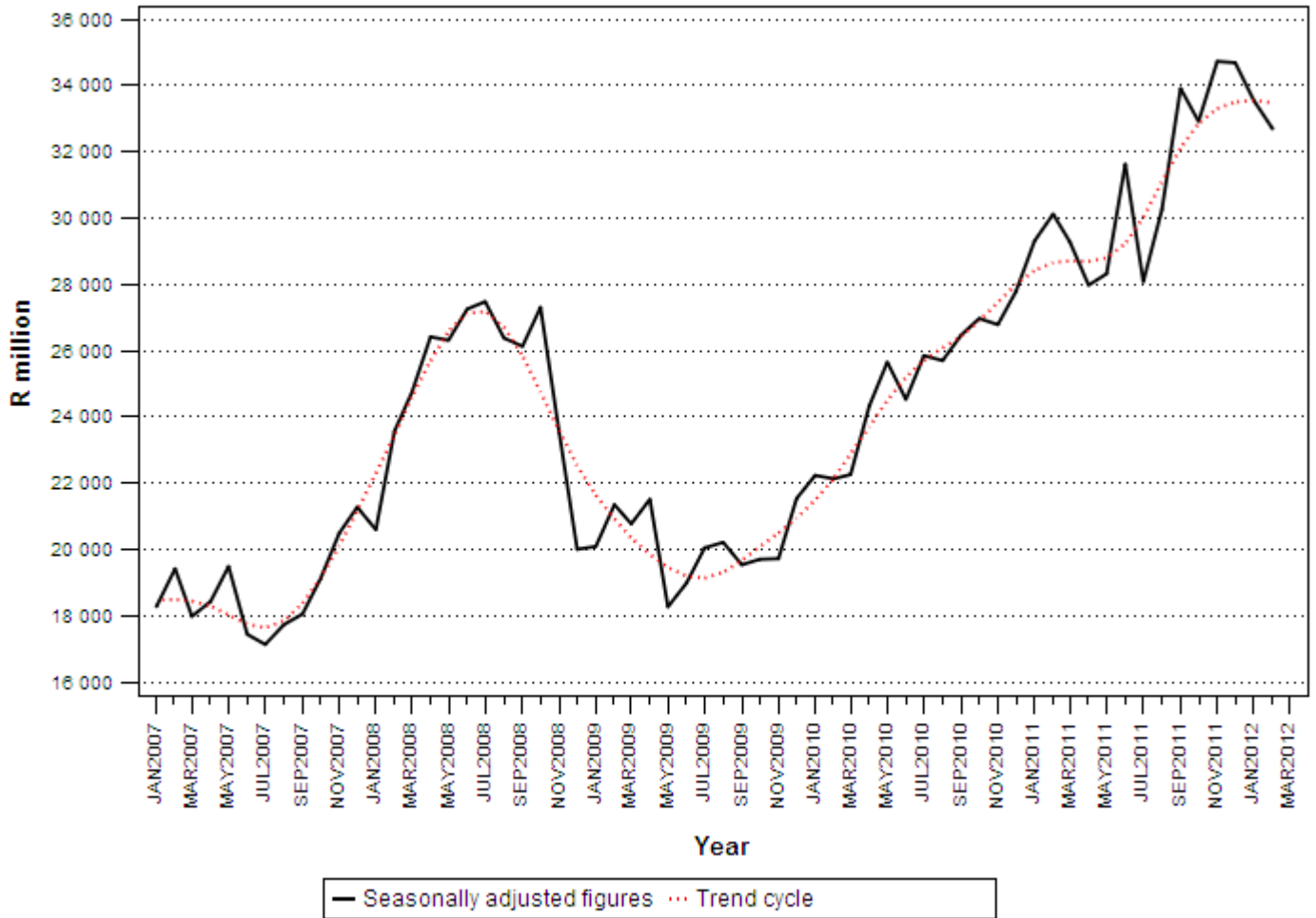
1/ The contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in sales is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each mineral with the percentage contribution to total mineral sales during September to November 2011, divided by 100. Figures have been rounded off.

The seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales at current prices reflected a decrease of 0,6% for the three months ended February 2012 compared with the three months ended November 2011. The 0,6% decrease (-R626 million) was mainly due to a decrease in the sales value of 'other' metallic minerals (contributing -1,3 percentage points or -R1 363,6 million). Coal was the biggest positive contributor (contributing 1,2 percentage points or R1 207,7 million) (see Table D).

The actual value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended February 2012 increased by 16,0% compared with the same three months of the previous year. The major contributors to this increase were:

- gold (contributing 7,3 percentage points or R5 918,6 million);
- coal (contributing 6,9 percentage points or R5 553,3 million); and
- iron ore (contributing 2,8 percentage points or R2 267,9 million) (see Table 12).

Figure 2 – Mineral sales at current prices



PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Tables

Table 1 – Index of the volume of mining production: 2006 – 2012

Month	Base: 2005=100						
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 ^{1/}	2012 ^{1/}
January	87,7	90,1	79,0	71,4	78,3	80,9	77,0
February	85,2	90,8	83,6	74,6	79,9	82,8	71,7
March	101,7	102,9	85,6	83,7	94,8	94,5	85,2
April	94,8	93,9	91,4	81,3	82,5	92,1	
May	98,7	99,0	98,1	88,6	81,9	90,9	
June	104,9	102,6	98,4	93,0	94,1	94,1	
July	99,4	96,0	89,4	92,4	93,4	88,8	
August	103,7	101,6	97,5	89,5	99,1	95,2	
September	105,1	104,5	102,3	90,2	101,6	97,5	
October	100,2	97,0	99,0	89,2	95,1	83,2	
November	104,2	98,6	92,4	91,0	99,9	95,2	
December	98,9	96,8	90,7	89,0	96,9	96,4	
Year	98,7	97,8	92,3	86,2	91,5	91,0	

1/ Preliminary.

Table 2 – Annual percentage change in the volume of mining production: 2006 – 2012

Month	Percentage change						
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	-9,7	2,7	-12,4	-9,6	9,7	3,3	-4,8
February	-5,7	6,5	-7,9	-10,8	7,1	3,6	-13,4
March	-3,0	1,2	-16,8	-2,2	13,3	-0,3	-9,8
April	-4,4	-1,0	-2,6	-11,0	1,5	11,6	
May	-3,9	0,3	-0,9	-9,7	-7,6	11,0	
June	0,9	-2,2	-4,1	-5,5	1,2	0,0	
July	-2,0	-3,4	-6,8	3,3	1,1	-4,9	
August	0,9	-2,0	-4,0	-8,2	10,7	-3,9	
September	2,0	-0,6	-2,1	-11,8	12,6	-4,0	
October	1,7	-3,2	2,1	-9,9	6,6	-12,5	
November	3,7	-5,3	-6,3	-1,5	9,8	-4,7	
December	3,4	-2,1	-6,3	-1,9	8,9	-0,5	
Year	-1,3	-0,9	-5,6	-6,6	6,2	-0,5	

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted index of the volume of mining production: 2006 – 2012

Month	Base: 2005=100						
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	98,2	102,4	91,0	81,9	90,2	93,2	87,9
February	95,1	102,5	94,7	85,0	90,2	94,5	80,0
March	100,1	101,1	84,3	82,0	93,3	93,0	84,2
April	98,9	98,5	96,4	86,2	87,3	97,5	
May	96,9	97,5	97,4	88,5	82,2	91,7	
June	100,3	97,6	93,7	89,0	90,4	90,6	
July	97,7	94,2	87,3	90,3	91,2	86,5	
August	99,0	96,7	92,9	85,3	94,2	90,6	
September	97,6	95,9	93,6	82,8	92,5	89,2	
October	98,5	95,3	97,7	87,8	93,8	81,5	
November	102,0	95,9	89,3	87,4	95,5	91,1	
December	97,6	95,8	89,1	87,2	95,1	94,2	

Table 4 – Index of the volume of mining production by mineral group and mineral

Mineral group and mineral	Base: 2005=100					% change between March 2011 and March 2012
	Weights 2005	Average for 2011 ^{1/}	March 2011 ^{1/}	February 2012 ^{1/}	March 2012 ^{1/}	
Gold	17,2	61,1	63,8	51,9	56,4	-11,6
Iron ore	5,3	146,8	136,8	149,2	160,6	17,4
Chromium ore	1,3	142,5	131,2	134,8	134,0	2,1
Copper	1,8	86,0	93,7	73,6	77,3	-17,5
Manganese ore	1,5	188,5	162,3	195,1	192,4	18,5
PGMs	27,0	95,0	106,7	42,8	79,8	-25,2
Nickel	2,8	102,2	101,7	74,8	100,6	-1,1
Other metallic minerals	2,8	104,0	98,9	93,9	102,3	3,4
Diamonds	7,6	44,7	38,3	37,5	33,1	-13,6
Coal	24,9	103,3	108,0	99,7	105,0	-2,8
Building materials	2,1	96,6	101,0	84,6	85,5	-15,3
Other non-metallic minerals	5,7	68,0	72,0	53,0	57,1	-20,7
Total	100,0	91,0	94,5	71,7	85,2	-9,8

1/ Preliminary.

Table 5 – Seasonally adjusted index of the volume of mining production by mineral group and mineral

Mineral group and mineral	Base: 2005=100				% change between February and March 2012
	Weights 2005	March 2011	February 2012	March 2012	
Gold	17,2	63,2	55,7	55,9	0,4
Iron ore	5,3	137,0	155,0	160,4	3,5
Chromium ore	1,3	145,1	161,3	148,3	-8,1
Copper	1,8	92,3	77,7	76,8	-1,2
Manganese ore	1,5	178,1	222,5	212,6	-4,4
PGMs	27,0	101,2	56,8	75,7	33,3
Nickel	2,8	97,9	75,9	96,5	27,1
Other metallic minerals	2,8	95,9	103,0	99,7	-3,2
Diamonds	7,6	42,9	40,3	37,2	-7,7
Coal	24,9	107,0	107,7	104,3	-3,2
Building materials	2,1	94,5	90,6	79,9	-11,8
Other non-metallic minerals	5,7	70,0	56,5	55,4	-1,9
Total	100,0	93,0	80,0	84,2	5,3

Table 6 – Annual percentage change in the three-monthly volume of mining production by mineral group and mineral

Mineral group and mineral	Base: 2005=100					
	Weights 2005	January to March 2011	January to March 2012	% change between January to March 2011 and January to March 2012	Difference between January to March 2011 and January to March 2012	Contribution (% points) to the % change in total mining production ^{1/}
Gold	17,2	59,3	52,4	-11,6	-6,9	-1,4
Iron ore	5,3	123,2	144,8	17,5	21,6	1,3
Chromium ore	1,3	120,2	133,5	11,1	13,3	0,2
Copper	1,8	85,9	74,9	-12,8	-11,0	-0,2
Manganese ore	1,5	148,4	190,4	28,3	42,0	0,7
PGMs	27,0	91,7	64,1	-30,1	-27,6	-8,7
Nickel	2,8	103,0	92,8	-9,9	-10,2	-0,3
Other metallic minerals	2,8	95,9	101,4	5,7	5,5	0,2
Diamonds	7,6	40,2	33,5	-16,7	-6,7	-0,6
Coal	24,9	100,0	100,7	0,7	0,7	0,2
Building materials	2,1	85,1	83,3	-2,1	-1,8	0,0
Other non-metallic minerals	5,7	69,0	55,7	-19,3	-13,3	-0,9
Total	100,0	86,1	78,0	-9,4	-8,1	-9,4

1/ The contribution (percentage points) of a mineral or mineral group to the percentage change in the total mining production is calculated by multiplying the difference in the index for the mineral or mineral group by the weight of the mineral or mineral group and then dividing by the previous period's total index. Figures have been rounded off.

Table 7 – Mineral sales at current prices (R million): 2006 – 2012

Month	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 ^{1/}	2012 ^{1/}
January	11 755,1	15 692,9	17 442,2	17 263,9	19 144,4	25 538,5	29 167,8
February	12 680,8	17 928,6	21 737,4	19 906,3	20 335,7	27 418,5	29 879,3
March	14 179,9	18 555,2	25 894,1	22 093,9	23 621,3	31 377,0	
April	13 042,6	17 447,8	25 520,6	20 733,6	23 815,3	27 434,7	
May	14 046,8	19 841,6	26 737,6	18 463,5	25 785,7	27 956,7	
June	17 809,8	19 033,2	29 881,0	20 337,3	26 222,4	33 918,5	
July	17 614,8	17 449,4	27 164,7	20 019,7	25 626,5	27 903,4	
August	17 339,2	17 890,4	27 064,3	20 144,0	25 855,9	30 226,9	
September	20 586,6	19 619,7	27 830,7	20 737,7	27 977,6	35 613,9	
October	18 031,0	18 713,7	27 191,4	19 909,8	27 291,0	33 430,7	
November	18 918,2	20 674,4	23 991,0	20 128,7	27 218,9	35 506,3	
December	17 584,7	21 590,8	20 259,5	21 626,2	27 790,9	34 619,3	
Year	193 589,5	224 437,7	300 714,5	241 364,6	300 685,6	370 944,4	

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Table 8 – Annual percentage change in mineral sales at current prices: 2006 – 2012

Month	Percentage change						
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	22,6	33,5	11,1	-1,0	10,9	33,4	14,2
February	35,1	41,4	21,2	-8,4	2,2	34,8	9,0
March	23,5	30,9	39,6	-14,7	6,9	32,8	
April	18,2	33,8	46,3	-18,8	14,9	15,2	
May	14,8	41,3	34,8	-30,9	39,7	8,4	
June	33,3	6,9	57,0	-31,9	28,9	29,3	
July	46,8	-0,9	55,7	-26,3	28,0	8,9	
August	48,4	3,2	51,3	-25,6	28,4	16,9	
September	52,2	-4,7	41,9	-25,5	34,9	27,3	
October	49,3	3,8	45,3	-26,8	37,1	22,5	
November	51,9	9,3	16,0	-16,1	35,2	30,4	
December	25,7	22,8	-6,2	6,7	28,5	24,6	
Year	35,5	15,9	34,0	-19,7	24,6	23,4	

Table 9 – Seasonally adjusted mineral sales at current prices (R million): 2006 – 2012

Month	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	13 235,1	18 278,1	20 593,1	20 085,2	22 231,6	29 307,8	33 544,4
February	13 589,7	19 414,0	23 566,2	21 349,2	22 130,6	30 119,0	32 699,5
March	13 852,6	17 977,1	24 740,7	20 768,7	22 257,7	29 274,5	
April	13 794,2	18 424,9	26 413,6	21 511,5	24 324,9	27 973,6	
May	13 861,9	19 482,8	26 311,6	18 265,7	25 650,2	28 319,1	
June	16 489,8	17 434,6	27 253,5	18 983,1	24 525,7	31 627,9	
July	17 100,3	17 128,0	27 476,6	20 042,7	25 847,5	28 077,7	
August	17 556,5	17 726,0	26 380,7	20 210,9	25 698,3	30 256,7	
September	18 823,0	18 047,0	26 127,6	19 533,2	26 467,2	33 913,1	
October	18 279,4	19 115,4	27 305,2	19 699,8	26 968,5	32 915,9	
November	18 814,3	20 485,3	23 540,2	19 718,5	26 783,4	34 729,0	
December	17 243,0	21 275,1	20 002,1	21 533,5	27 778,6	34 688,1	

Table 10 – Mineral sales at current prices by mineral group and mineral

Mineral group and mineral	Value of sales for 2011 ^{1/}	Value of sales for February 2011 ^{1/}	Value of sales for January 2012 ^{1/}	Value of sales for February 2012 ^{1/}	% change between February 2011 and February 2012
	R million	R million	R million	R million	
Gold	68 891,4	4 426,5	5 273,1	6 730,0	52,0
Iron ore	62 651,8	4 036,3	5 344,3	4 545,3	12,6
Chromium ore	8 579,5	693,6	628,8	692,7	-0,1
Copper	5 432,8	457,0	363,0	517,6	13,3
Manganese ore	10 190,9	905,2	715,7	863,6	-4,6
PGMs	83 853,2	7 087,3	5 158,9	5 283,2	-25,5
Nickel	6 402,2	558,2	511,1	535,8	-4,0
Other metallic minerals	11 134,1	636,2	748,3	779,7	22,6
Coal	87 831,8	6 388,7	8 133,9	7 753,3	21,4
Building materials	7 681,0	583,5	554,2	557,0	-4,5
Other non-metallic minerals	18 296,1	1 646,0	1 736,6	1 621,1	-1,5
Total	370 944,4	27 418,5	29 167,8	29 879,3	9,0

1/ Preliminary.

Table 11 – Seasonally adjusted mineral sales at current prices by mineral group and mineral

Mineral group and mineral	Value of sales for February 2011	Value of sales for January 2012	Value of sales for February 2012	% change between January and February 2012
	R million	R million	R million	
Gold	4 638,4	6 811,6	7 080,7	4,0
Iron ore	4 640,7	5 507,2	5 316,3	-3,5
Chromium ore	748,6	774,1	740,7	-4,3
Copper	461,8	454,3	516,8	13,8
Manganese ore	995,7	857,8	957,4	11,6
PGMs	8 119,1	5 984,9	6 041,8	1,0
Nickel	567,8	553,3	537,4	-2,9
Other metallic minerals	736,4	908,9	913,5	0,5
Coal	6 705,1	8 527,7	8 195,7	-3,9
Building materials	608,9	693,1	584,3	-15,7
Other non-metallic minerals	1 896,5	2 471,5	1 814,9	-26,6
Total	30 119,0	33 544,4	32 699,5	-2,5

Table 12 – Annual percentage change in the three-monthly value of mineral sales by mineral group and mineral

Mineral group and mineral	% contribution to total mineral sales during December 2010 to February 2011	Value of sales for December 2010 to February 2011	Value of sales for December 2011 to February 2012	% change between December 2010 to February 2011 and December 2011 to February 2012	Contribution to the % change in the total value of mineral sales ^{1/}	Difference in sales between December 2010 to February 2011 and December 2011 to February 2012
		R million	R million		% points	R million
Gold	16,2	13 105,4	19 024,0	45,2	7,3	5 918,6
Iron ore	16,3	13 185,4	15 453,3	17,2	2,8	2 267,9
Chromium ore	2,3	1 823,9	1 960,1	7,5	0,2	136,2
Copper	1,7	1 360,8	1 277,1	-6,2	-0,1	-83,7
Manganese ore	3,3	2 633,0	2 795,5	6,2	0,2	162,5
PGMs	24,9	20 116,3	18 456,4	-8,3	-2,1	-1 659,9
Nickel	2,1	1 698,2	1 600,5	-5,8	-0,1	-97,7
Other metallic minerals	2,5	2 057,9	2 326,0	13,0	0,3	268,1
Coal	23,3	18 847,8	24 401,1	29,5	6,9	5 553,3
Building materials	1,8	1 434,9	1 654,5	15,3	0,3	219,6
Other non-metallic minerals	5,6	4 484,6	4 718,0	5,2	0,3	233,4
Total	100,0	80 747,9	93 666,4	16,0	16,0	12 918,5

1/ The contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in sales is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each mineral with the percentage contribution to total mineral sales during December 2010 to February 2011, divided by 100. Figures have been rounded off.

Table 13 – Annual percentage change in the cumulative value of mineral sales by mineral group and mineral

Mineral group and mineral	% contribution to total mineral sales during January to February 2011	Value of sales for January to February 2011	Value of sales for January to February 2012	% change between January to February 2011 and January to February 2012	Contribution to the % change in the total value of mineral sales ^{2/}	Difference in sales between January to February 2011 and January to February 2012
		R million	R million		% points	R million
Gold	15,7	8 336,1	12 003,1	44,0	6,9	3 667,0
Iron ore	16,5	8 751,8	9 889,6	13,0	2,1	1 137,8
Chromium ore	2,3	1 206,4	1 321,5	9,5	0,2	115,1
Copper	1,5	792,8	880,6	11,1	0,2	87,8
Manganese ore	3,1	1 662,3	1 579,3	-5,0	-0,2	-83,0
PGMs	25,9	13 693,5	10 442,1	-23,7	-6,1	-3 251,4
Nickel	2,1	1 103,9	1 046,9	-5,2	-0,1	-57,0
Other metallic minerals	2,3	1 205,1	1 528,0	26,8	0,6	322,9
Coal	23,9	12 649,7	15 887,2	25,6	6,1	3 237,5
Building materials	1,9	1 004,0	1 111,2	10,7	0,2	107,2
Other non-metallic minerals	4,8	2 551,6	3 357,7	31,6	1,5	806,1
Total	100,0	52 957,0	59 047,1	11,5	11,5	6 090,1

2/ The contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in sales is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each mineral with the percentage contribution to total mineral sales during January to February 2011, divided by 100. Figures have been rounded off.

Explanatory notes

Introduction	1	Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publishes monthly mining production indices and mineral sales figures on the information furnished by the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR). Data in this release are presented by mineral group and mineral.
	2	In accordance with international practice, the indices are usually re-based every five years to a new base year. The current base year of the index of the volume of mining production is 2005=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 had to be 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.
Purpose of the survey	6	The monthly mining production and sales survey is conducted by the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR), covering all mining establishments operating in the South African economy. The results of this survey are used to calculate the 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.
Scope of the survey	7	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	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. Each statistical unit is classified to an industry which reflects the predominant activity of the establishment. Statistics in this publication are presented according to mineral group and mineral.
Statistical unit	9	The statistical unit for the collection of information is the mining establishment. An establishment is the smallest economic unit that functions as a separate entity.
Related publications	10	Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from Stats SA – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bulletin of Statistics</i> issued quarterly; and • <i>SA Statistics</i> issued annually.
Rounding-off figures	11	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.
Historical data and past publications	12	Historical data and past publications are available on the Stats SA webpage. Click on the following links (Time series data) or (Past publications) to access the data and releases electronically.

Technical notes

Index of the volume of mining production	1	The index of the volume of mining production (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 2005. The production in the base period is set at 100.
Index weighting	2	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.
	3	The weights, which are used to aggregate minerals to mineral groups; and mineral groups to total mining, are based on the value of sales derived from detailed information for 2005 supplied by the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR).
Seasonal adjustment	4	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.
	5	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.
Trend cycle	6	The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimate the underlying trend cycle.
Reliability of estimates	7	Figures for the latest 2 calendar years are preliminary.
Month-on-month percentage change	8	The month-on-month percentage change is the difference between the index/sales of the relevant month and the previous month expressed as a percentage of the latter.
Year-on-year (annual) percentage change	9	The year-on-year percentage change is the change in the index/sales of the relevant month of the current year compared with the corresponding month of the previous year expressed as a percentage of the latter.
Production index contribution (percentage points)	10	The contribution (percentage points) of a mineral group or mineral to the percentage change in the total mining production for a given period is calculated by multiplying the difference in the index for each mineral group or mineral by the weight of the mineral group or mineral and then dividing by the previous period's total index.
Sales contribution (percentage points)	11	The contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in total sales is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each mineral group or mineral for a given period with its percentage contribution to total mineral sales of the previous period, divided by 100.

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	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.																
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.																
PGMs – Platinum group metals	Platinum group metals include platinum; iridium; osmium; palladium; rhodium; ruthenium and osmium.																
Sales	Sales are the total value of sales of primary minerals at the first point of saleability by the mining establishment.																
Symbols and abbreviations	<table> <tr> <td>DMR</td> <td>Department of Mineral Resources</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GDP</td> <td>Gross domestic product</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ISIC</td> <td>International Standard Industrial Classification</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PGMs</td> <td>Platinum group metals</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SIC</td> <td>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SNA</td> <td>System of National Accounts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stats SA</td> <td>Statistics South Africa</td> </tr> <tr> <td>*</td> <td>Revised</td> </tr> </table>	DMR	Department of Mineral Resources	GDP	Gross domestic product	ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification	PGMs	Platinum group metals	SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities	SNA	System of National Accounts	Stats SA	Statistics South Africa	*	Revised
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*	Revised																

Technical enquiries for mining production and sales

JP Terblanche	Telephone number: (012) 310 2965 Email: juan-pierret@statssa.gov.za
Martin Kohler	Telephone number: (012) 444 3734 Email: martin.kohler@dmr.gov.za
Gerda Bruwer	Telephone number: (012) 310 8249 Email: gerdab@statssa.gov.za

General information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical 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.

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General enquiries

User information services Telephone number: (012) 310 8600
Email address: info@statssa.gov.za

Orders/subscription services Telephone number: (012) 310 8358
Email address: magdaj@statssa.gov.za

Postal address Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001