

**STATISTICAL RELEASE**  
**P2041**

**Mining: Production and sales**  
**(Preliminary)**

**November 2017**

Please note: With effect from the December 2017 statistical release, there will no longer be a one-month lag in mineral sales. The next statistical release (8 February 2018) will provide preliminary data for both production and sales in December 2017.

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## Production: results for November 2017

**Table A – Key growth rates in the volume of mining production**

	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	1,7	2,8	8,7	-0,7	5,2	6,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-1,8	2,0	5,8	-6,8	2,7	-0,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>	1,0	0,5	1,1	2,8	2,6	-1,1

<sup>1</sup> Percentage change between the previous three months and the three months ending in the month indicated.

Mining production increased by 6,5% year-on-year in November 2017. The largest positive contributors were:

- PGMs (12,3% and contributing 2,8 percentage points);
- iron ore (20,7% and contributing 2,5 percentage points); and
- coal (8,5% and contributing 2,1 percentage points).

Gold (decreasing by 8,3% and contributing -1,3 percentage points) was a significant negative contributor – see Tables 6 and 7.

Seasonally adjusted mining production decreased by 0,7% in November 2017 compared with October 2017. This followed month-on-month changes of 2,7% in October 2017 and -6,8% in September 2017.

**Table B – Seasonally adjusted index of the volume of mining production for the latest three months by mineral group and mineral (Base: 2015=100)**

Mineral group and mineral	Weight	Jun – Aug 2017	Sep – Nov 2017	% change between Jun – Aug 2017 and Sep – Nov 2017	Contribution (% points) to the % change in total mining production
Gold	15,49	99,2	92,8	-6,5	-1,0
Iron ore	13,61	103,3	103,7	0,4	0,1
Chromium ore	2,96	110,6	104,0	-6,0	-0,2
Copper <sup>1</sup>	1,24	82,6	95,3	15,4	0,2
Manganese ore <sup>2</sup>	3,27	129,3	132,2	2,2	0,1
PGMs	23,27	93,0	94,4	1,5	0,3
Nickel <sup>2</sup>	1,85	87,7	86,5	-1,4	0,0
Other metallic minerals <sup>1</sup>	2,57	101,5	103,2	1,7	0,0
Diamonds <sup>2</sup>	3,89	143,2	115,6	-19,3	-1,1
Coal	24,69	101,2	102,6	1,4	0,3
Building materials	1,81	108,9	101,8	-6,5	-0,1
Other non-metallic minerals <sup>1</sup>	5,35	101,3	106,1	4,7	0,3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,00</b>	<b>101,8</b>	<b>100,7</b>	<b>-1,1</b>	<b>-1,1</b>

<sup>1</sup> Adjusted for calendar effects only. See notes 4, 5 and 6 on page 11.

<sup>2</sup> Unadjusted.

Seasonally adjusted mining production decreased by 1,1% in the three months ended November 2017 compared with the previous three months. Diamonds (contributing -1,1 percentage points) and gold (contributing -1,0 percentage point) were the largest negative contributors – see Table B.

Figure 1 – Volume of mining production (Base: 2015=100)

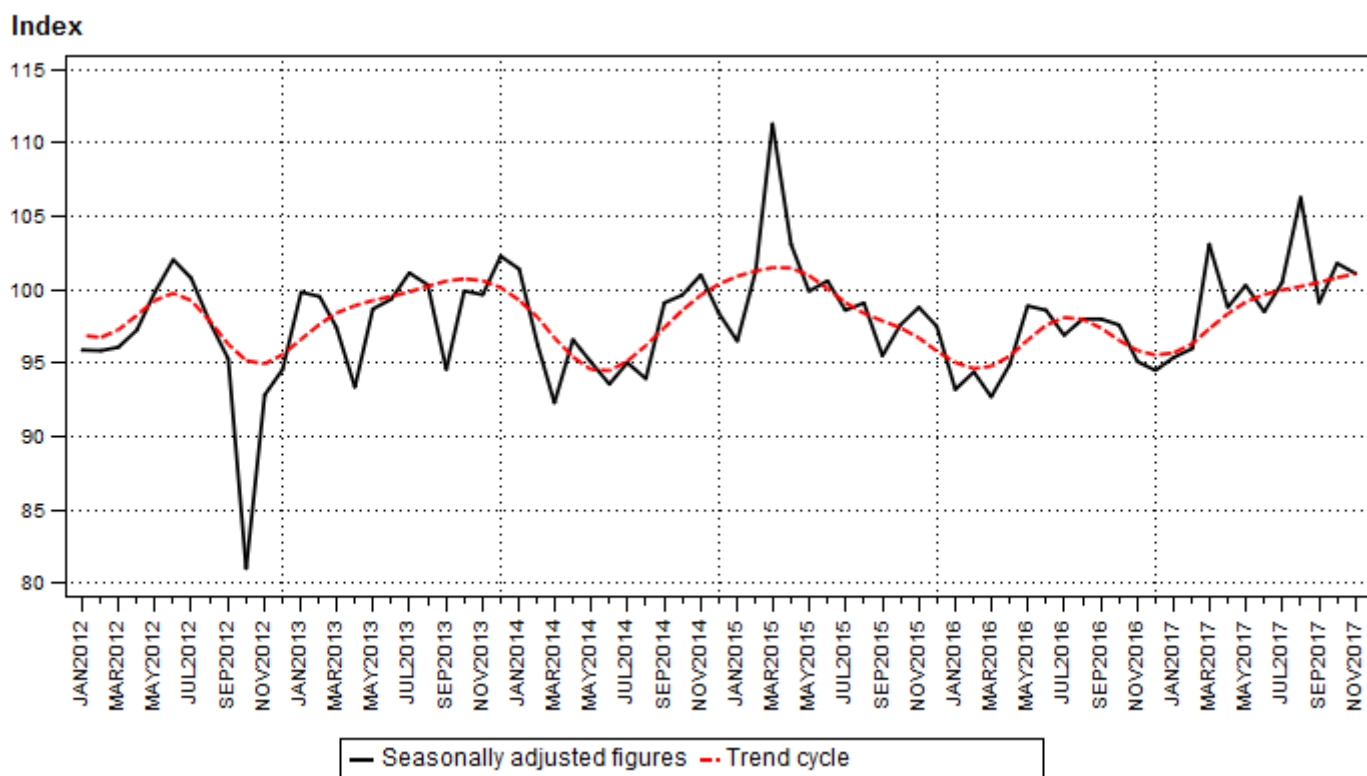
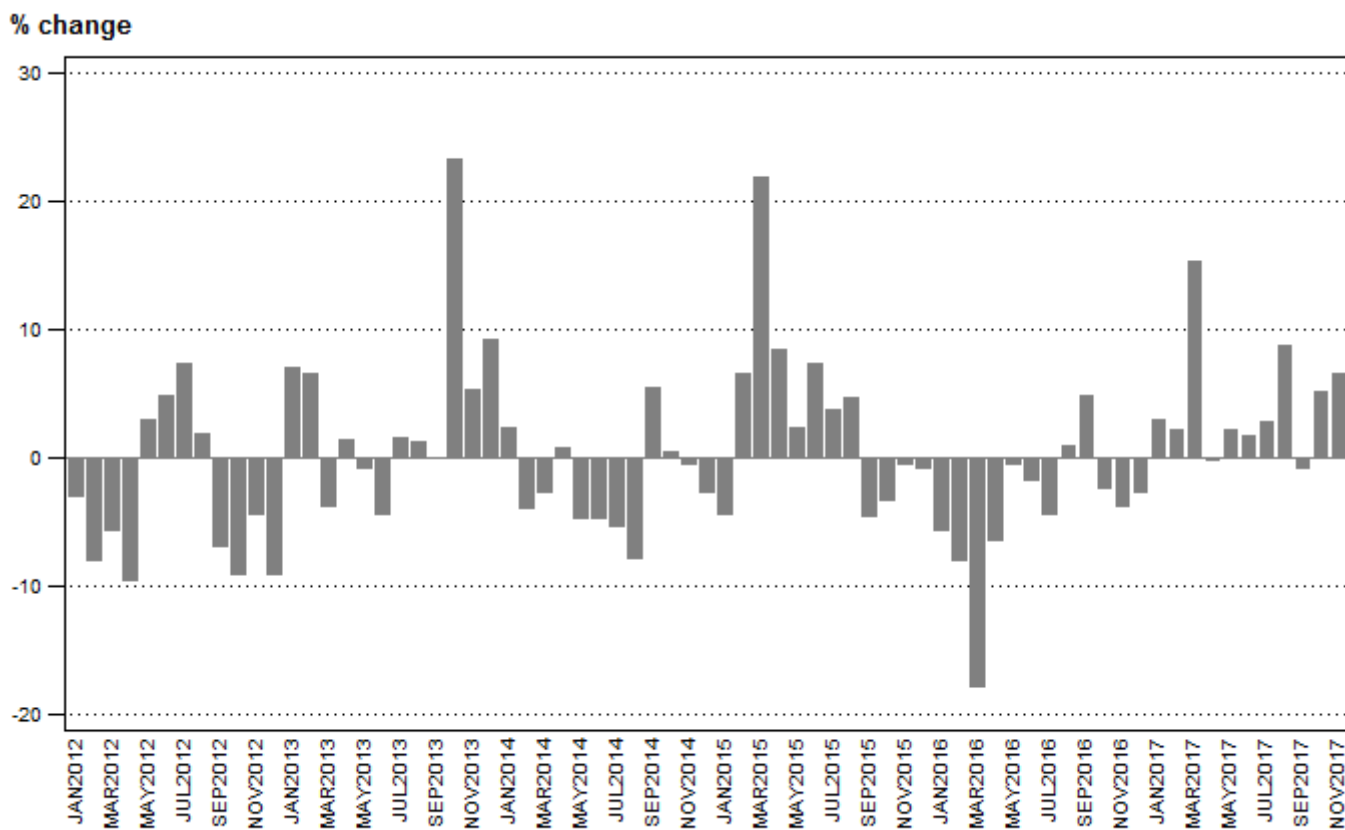


Figure 2 – Volume of mining production (Base: 2015=100): year-on-year percentage change



**Sales: results for October 2017****Table C – Key growth rates in mineral sales at current prices**

	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-5,4	-3,7	18,0	19,1	6,4	14,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	2,2	-0,9	2,7	5,2	0,3	5,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>	-2,1	-0,9	1,7	3,2	6,4	8,8

<sup>1</sup> Percentage change between the previous three months and the three months ending in the month indicated.

Mineral sales increased by 14,3% year-on-year in October 2017. The main positive contributors were:

- coal (14,0% and contributing 4,1 percentage points);
- manganese ore (84,6% and contributing 3,6 percentage points);
- iron ore (41,3% and contributing 3,5 percentage points); and
- gold (18,4% and contributing 3,1 percentage points) – see Tables 12 and 13.

Seasonally adjusted mineral sales at current prices increased by 5,2% in October 2017 compared with September 2017. This followed month-on-month changes of 0,3% in September 2017 and 5,2% in August 2017.

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**Statistician-General**

## Tables

**Table 1 – Index of the volume of mining production (Base: 2015=100)**

Month	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 <sup>1</sup>	2017 <sup>1</sup>
Jan	86,0	83,5	89,4	91,5	87,6	82,7	85,1
Feb	89,8	82,6	88,0	84,6	90,1	83,0	84,8
Mar	101,8	96,1	92,5	90,1	109,7	90,2	104,0
Apr	100,1	90,6	91,9	92,6	100,4	94,0	93,9
May	99,2	102,1	101,3	96,6	98,8	98,3	100,5
Jun	102,7	107,7	103,0	98,2	105,4	103,6	105,4
Jul	96,2	103,3	104,8	99,2	102,9	98,5	101,3
Aug	102,3	104,1	105,4	97,2	101,8	102,7	111,6
Sep	105,6	98,4	98,4	103,7	99,0	103,8	103,1
Oct	92,9	84,4	104,0	104,4	101,1	98,7	103,8
Nov	103,5	99,0	104,2	103,7	103,3	99,4	105,9
Dec	104,2	94,8	103,5	100,7	100,0	97,4	
<b>Year</b>	<b>98,7</b>	<b>95,6</b>	<b>98,9</b>	<b>96,9</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>96,0</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary.

**Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in the volume of mining production**

Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2017 year-to-date
Jan	-2,9	7,0	2,3	-4,3	-5,6	2,9	2,9
Feb	-8,0	6,5	-3,8	6,5	-7,9	2,2	2,5
Mar	-5,6	-3,7	-2,6	21,8	-17,8	15,3	7,0
Apr	-9,5	1,4	0,8	8,4	-6,4	-0,1	5,1
May	3,0	-0,9	-4,6	2,3	-0,5	2,2	4,6
Jun	4,8	-4,3	-4,7	7,4	-1,7	1,7	3,9
Jul	7,5	1,4	-5,4	3,8	-4,3	2,8	3,8
Aug	1,8	1,2	-7,8	4,8	0,9	8,7	4,5
Sep	-6,9	0,0	5,5	-4,6	4,8	-0,7	3,9
Oct	-9,1	23,2	0,4	-3,2	-2,4	5,2	4,0
Nov	-4,4	5,3	-0,5	-0,4	-3,8	6,5	4,2
Dec	-9,1	9,2	-2,8	-0,7	-2,6		
<b>Year</b>	<b>-3,1</b>	<b>3,4</b>	<b>-2,0</b>	<b>3,2</b>	<b>-4,0</b>		

**Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted volume of total mining production**

Month	Index (Base: 2015=100)				Month-on-month % change			
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017
Jan	101,4	96,5	93,2	95,4	-0,9	-1,9	-4,4	1,0
Feb	96,2	101,3	94,4	96,0	-5,1	5,0	1,3	0,6
Mar	92,4	111,3	92,7	103,1	-4,0	9,9	-1,8	7,4
Apr	96,6	103,1	94,9	98,8	4,5	-7,4	2,4	-4,2
May	95,1	99,9	98,9	100,3	-1,6	-3,1	4,2	1,5
Jun	93,6	100,6	98,6	98,5	-1,6	0,7	-0,3	-1,8
Jul	95,0	98,6	96,9	100,5	1,5	-2,0	-1,7	2,0
Aug	93,9	99,1	98,0	106,3	-1,2	0,5	1,1	5,8
Sep	99,1	95,5	98,0	99,1	5,5	-3,6	0,0	-6,8
Oct	99,6	97,6	97,6	101,8	0,5	2,2	-0,4	2,7
Nov	101,0	98,8	95,1	101,1	1,4	1,2	-2,6	-0,7
Dec	98,4	97,5	94,5		-2,6	-1,3	-0,6	

**Table 4 – Index of the volume of mining production by mineral group and mineral (Base: 2015=100) <sup>1</sup>**

Mineral group and mineral	Weight	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17
Gold	15,49	105,5	103,2	102,6	105,6	98,8	92,4
Iron ore	13,61	109,6	98,1	116,2	96,5	114,4	107,9
Chromium ore	2,96	116,0	114,3	117,8	112,3	114,2	102,8
Copper	1,24	73,2	88,3	88,3	107,2	102,6	75,4
Manganese ore	3,27	146,6	111,9	129,4	131,6	132,5	132,5
PGMs	23,27	94,3	90,7	112,5	100,7	89,5	110,1
Nickel	1,85	89,2	81,8	92,1	95,0	73,9	90,6
Other metallic minerals	2,57	97,6	94,1	115,2	106,0	100,7	102,1
Diamonds	3,89	137,6	146,0	145,9	97,8	127,7	121,4
Coal	24,69	104,6	106,1	106,7	102,1	106,8	106,5
Building materials	1,81	117,2	116,4	117,3	113,6	114,0	116,7
Other non-metallic minerals	5,35	105,4	90,0	113,6	106,7	107,4	103,9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,00</b>	<b>105,4</b>	<b>101,3</b>	<b>111,6</b>	<b>103,1</b>	<b>103,8</b>	<b>105,9</b>

<sup>1</sup> All index values in this table are preliminary.

**Table 5 – Seasonally adjusted index of the volume of mining production by mineral group and mineral (Base: 2015=100)**

Mineral group and mineral	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Month-on-month % change
Gold	96,2	102,0	99,5	96,4	94,8	87,3	-7,9
Iron ore	100,6	95,2	114,0	95,6	110,3	105,3	-4,5
Chromium ore	109,0	110,8	112,0	104,8	107,3	99,8	-7,0
Copper <sup>1</sup>	74,4	86,7	86,7	108,4	101,0	76,6	-24,2
Manganese ore <sup>2</sup>	146,6	111,9	129,4	131,6	132,5	132,5	0,0
PGMs	82,9	95,0	101,0	92,3	91,6	99,4	8,5
Nickel <sup>2</sup>	89,2	81,8	92,1	95,0	73,9	90,6	22,6
Other metallic minerals <sup>1</sup>	99,0	92,2	113,3	107,4	98,8	103,5	4,8
Diamonds <sup>2</sup>	137,6	146,0	145,9	97,8	127,7	121,4	-4,9
Coal	100,2	101,8	101,7	101,1	103,0	103,8	0,8
Building materials	108,7	109,2	108,8	104,5	100,6	100,2	-0,4
Other non-metallic minerals <sup>1</sup>	101,5	92,3	110,2	107,6	110,1	100,5	-8,7
<b>Total</b>	<b>98,5</b>	<b>100,5</b>	<b>106,3</b>	<b>99,1</b>	<b>101,8</b>	<b>101,1</b>	<b>-0,7</b>

<sup>1</sup> Adjusted for calendar effects only. See notes 4, 5 and 6 on page 11.

<sup>2</sup> Unadjusted.

**Table 6 – Year-on-year percentage change in the volume of mining production by mineral group and mineral**

Mineral group and mineral	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17
Gold	-3,0	5,5	7,2	2,2	-0,5	-8,3
Iron ore	3,6	-5,0	8,9	-7,5	17,9	20,7
Chromium ore	19,6	18,8	19,6	1,8	9,8	1,8
Copper	90,6	26,5	-19,9	-2,7	-2,4	-27,0
Manganese ore	26,4	20,2	23,8	35,0	20,2	3,4
PGMs	-13,8	-3,8	2,1	-9,4	0,6	12,3
Nickel	9,7	5,1	4,2	11,6	-15,9	16,2
Other metallic minerals	-12,2	-1,3	20,8	5,6	-5,4	6,1
Diamonds	59,1	16,6	29,8	-7,0	-6,9	-4,6
Coal	-0,3	1,5	4,5	-0,4	6,2	8,5
Building materials	8,6	6,9	8,3	-2,3	-1,5	-5,8
Other non-metallic minerals	35,5	18,7	39,6	35,9	19,9	11,6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,7</b>	<b>2,8</b>	<b>8,7</b>	<b>-0,7</b>	<b>5,2</b>	<b>6,5</b>

**Table 7 – Contribution of each mineral group and mineral to the year-on-year percentage change in the volume of mining production (percentage points)**

Mineral group and mineral	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17
Gold	-0,5	0,8	1,0	0,3	-0,1	-1,3
Iron ore	0,5	-0,7	1,3	-1,0	2,4	2,5
Chromium ore	0,5	0,5	0,6	0,1	0,3	0,1
Copper	0,4	0,2	-0,3	0,0	0,0	-0,3
Manganese ore	1,0	0,6	0,8	1,1	0,7	0,1
PGMs	-3,4	-0,9	0,5	-2,4	0,1	2,8
Nickel	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,2	-0,3	0,2
Other metallic minerals	-0,3	0,0	0,5	0,1	-0,1	0,2
Diamonds	1,9	0,8	1,3	-0,3	-0,4	-0,2
Coal	-0,1	0,4	1,1	-0,1	1,6	2,1
Building materials	0,2	0,1	0,2	0,0	0,0	-0,1
Other non-metallic minerals	1,4	0,8	1,7	1,5	1,0	0,6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,7</b>	<b>2,8</b>	<b>8,7</b>	<b>-0,7</b>	<b>5,2</b>	<b>6,5</b>



**Table 8 – Mineral sales at current prices (R million)**

Month	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 <sup>1</sup>	2017 <sup>1</sup>
Jan	25 341,3	28 079,4	28 977,1	32 608,8	27 714,6	26 969,1	33 013,3
Feb	27 573,2	29 335,5	30 361,5	35 488,2	30 712,0	30 933,5	34 212,2
Mar	31 547,4	30 912,0	34 761,4	35 172,2	34 751,6	34 144,8	39 233,2
Apr	27 370,2	26 772,5	31 865,2	31 647,7	32 675,8	30 843,8	34 242,7
May	27 870,5	31 257,0	30 402,1	30 932,4	32 812,7	37 994,3	35 934,0
Jun	33 940,1	33 958,2	35 088,5	31 630,8	35 668,4	41 023,0	39 506,2
Jul	27 947,7	30 899,0	32 847,9	31 517,7	30 620,3	30 372,3	35 825,9
Aug	30 300,9	31 402,3	35 523,4	32 124,1	31 313,7	34 052,2	40 564,6
Sep	35 700,1	30 367,0	34 731,0	35 345,8	33 416,7	39 162,7	41 675,1
Oct	33 393,7	28 258,6	34 544,7	34 101,5	33 004,9	37 222,0	42 554,3
Nov	35 268,1	29 921,3	34 122,6	32 274,1	30 901,0	39 519,9	
Dec	34 027,5	32 954,5	34 452,5	33 434,3	34 055,0	41 769,2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>370 280,7</b>	<b>364 117,3</b>	<b>397 677,9</b>	<b>396 277,6</b>	<b>387 646,7</b>	<b>424 006,8</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary.**Table 9 – Year-on-year percentage change in mineral sales at current prices**

Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2017 year-to-date
Jan	10,8	3,2	12,5	-15,0	-2,7	22,4	22,4
Feb	6,4	3,5	16,9	-13,5	0,7	10,6	16,1
Mar	-2,0	12,5	1,2	-1,2	-1,7	14,9	15,7
Apr	-2,2	19,0	-0,7	3,2	-5,6	11,0	14,5
May	12,2	-2,7	1,7	6,1	15,8	-5,4	9,8
Jun	0,1	3,3	-9,9	12,8	15,0	-3,7	7,0
Jul	10,6	6,3	-4,0	-2,8	-0,8	18,0	8,5
Aug	3,6	13,1	-9,6	-2,5	8,7	19,1	9,8
Sep	-14,9	14,4	1,8	-5,5	17,2	6,4	9,4
Oct	-15,4	22,2	-1,3	-3,2	12,8	14,3	9,9
Nov	-15,2	14,0	-5,4	-4,3	27,9		
Dec	-3,2	4,5	-3,0	1,9	22,7		
<b>Total</b>	<b>-1,7</b>	<b>9,2</b>	<b>-0,4</b>	<b>-2,2</b>	<b>9,4</b>		

**Table 10 – Seasonally adjusted total mineral sales at current prices**

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017
Jan	36 132,2	30 578,7	31 004,7	37 669,4	7,8	-5,3	-2,1	-3,3
Feb	37 463,1	32 395,8	32 695,4	36 087,8	3,7	5,9	5,5	-4,2
Mar	33 742,3	33 639,9	31 867,6	37 093,3	-9,9	3,8	-2,5	2,8
Apr	33 458,0	33 397,0	32 953,0	36 195,9	-0,8	-0,7	3,4	-2,4
May	31 047,8	34 172,2	39 178,3	36 984,5	-7,2	2,3	18,9	2,2
Jun	29 760,0	33 551,0	37 448,3	36 637,1	-4,1	-1,8	-4,4	-0,9
Jul	31 895,5	31 471,5	32 279,1	37 635,1	7,2	-6,2	-13,8	2,7
Aug	32 742,1	31 373,2	34 344,8	39 580,3	2,7	-0,3	6,4	5,2
Sep	33 627,2	31 775,2	36 280,1	39 682,5	2,7	1,3	5,6	0,3
Oct	33 141,9	31 685,1	36 481,9	41 751,0	-1,4	-0,3	0,6	5,2
Nov	31 782,4	30 726,1	39 330,5		-4,1	-3,0	7,8	
Dec	32 280,9	31 657,6	38 936,2		1,6	3,0	-1,0	

**Table 11 – Mineral sales at current prices by mineral group and mineral (R million) <sup>1</sup>**

Mineral group and mineral	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17
Gold	5 924,3	6 093,8	6 145,6	6 675,5	6 176,6	7 438,4
Iron ore	3 205,8	3 225,0	3 695,3	4 571,7	4 369,1	4 491,8
Chromium ore	2 175,5	1 766,1	1 678,0	1 796,9	2 118,1	2 048,3
Copper	292,1	322,3	293,2	501,7	526,9	504,1
Manganese ore	2 107,0	3 933,1	2 777,6	2 378,0	3 139,3	2 960,0
PGMs	7 578,2	7 897,0	6 828,8	9 275,5	8 829,3	7 767,3
Nickel	604,1	552,4	359,3	542,6	459,2	685,7
Other metallic minerals	612,5	1 122,5	1 071,6	488,9	1 207,7	913,0
Coal	10 164,3	9 593,0	10 949,9	11 291,0	10 895,3	12 326,8
Building materials	1 102,1	1 061,9	1 047,4	1 071,0	1 077,2	1 072,8
Other non-metallic minerals	2 168,1	3 939,0	979,2	1 971,9	2 876,3	2 346,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>35 934,0</b>	<b>39 506,2</b>	<b>35 825,9</b>	<b>40 564,6</b>	<b>41 675,1</b>	<b>42 554,3</b>

<sup>1</sup> All values in this table are preliminary.

**Table 12 – Year-on-year percentage change in mineral sales at current prices by mineral group and mineral**

Mineral group and mineral	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17
Gold	-16,5	-14,5	-3,5	19,1	-17,6	18,4
Iron ore	-9,6	-4,6	0,3	13,9	40,7	41,3
Chromium ore	52,8	36,3	59,9	43,8	46,6	14,2
Copper	-9,5	11,7	31,5	59,9	70,6	35,4
Manganese ore	9,7	97,9	117,9	128,3	176,1	84,6
PGMs	-28,6	-33,8	-1,2	13,1	-12,0	0,4
Nickel	-3,0	23,4	-21,0	-17,2	-19,8	28,8
Other metallic minerals	-9,4	24,9	106,2	-40,7	47,6	-3,6
Coal	16,0	4,8	37,0	16,8	9,3	14,0
Building materials	11,6	9,5	9,2	9,6	7,0	7,1
Other non-metallic minerals	7,1	10,8	4,2	30,9	-12,3	-20,7
<b>Total</b>	<b>-5,4</b>	<b>-3,7</b>	<b>18,0</b>	<b>19,1</b>	<b>6,4</b>	<b>14,3</b>

**Table 13 – Contribution of each mineral group and mineral to the year-on-year percentage change in mineral sales at current prices (percentage points)**

Mineral group and mineral	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17
Gold	-3,1	-2,5	-0,7	3,1	-3,4	3,1
Iron ore	-0,9	-0,4	0,0	1,6	3,2	3,5
Chromium ore	2,0	1,1	2,1	1,6	1,7	0,7
Copper	-0,1	0,1	0,2	0,6	0,6	0,4
Manganese ore	0,5	4,7	4,9	3,9	5,1	3,6
PGMs	-8,0	-9,8	-0,3	3,2	-3,1	0,1
Nickel	0,0	0,3	-0,3	-0,3	-0,3	0,4
Other metallic minerals	-0,2	0,5	1,8	-1,0	1,0	-0,1
Coal	3,7	1,1	9,7	4,8	2,4	4,1
Building materials	0,3	0,2	0,3	0,3	0,2	0,2
Other non-metallic minerals	0,4	0,9	0,1	1,4	-1,0	-1,6
<b>Total</b>	<b>-5,4</b>	<b>-3,7</b>	<b>18,0</b>	<b>19,1</b>	<b>6,4</b>	<b>14,3</b>

## Survey information

<b>Introduction</b>	1	Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publishes monthly mining production indices and mineral sales based 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 2015=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.
<b>Purpose of the survey</b>	6	The monthly mining production and sales survey is conducted by the 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.
<b>Scope of the survey</b>	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.
<b>Classification</b>	8	The 1993 edition of the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</i> (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 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</i> (ISIC) 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 by mineral group and mineral.
<b>Statistical unit</b>	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.
<b>Rounding-off of figures</b>	10	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.
<b>Historical data and past publications</b>	11	Historical mining data and past publications are available on the Stats SA website. Click on the following link ( <a href="#">Time series data</a> ) or ( <a href="#">Past publications</a> ) to access the data and releases electronically.

## Technical notes

<b>Index of the volume of mining production</b>	<b>1</b>	The index of the volume of mining production, also known as the 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 2015. The production in the base period is set at 100.
<b>Index weighting</b>	<b>2</b>	The weight of a mineral group is the ratio of its value added to the total value added 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 improvements and changes in relative prices. New weights will be calculated annually.
	<b>3</b>	The weights, which are used to aggregate minerals to mineral groups and mineral groups to total mining, are derived from national accounts value added data. The latest weights (implemented in the August 2017 publication) are based on an average of value added data for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015. These weights are applicable from January 2015.
<b>Seasonal adjustment</b>	<b>4</b>	Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month using the X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the US Bureau of the Census, 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 recognised more clearly. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month.
	<b>5</b>	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. The X-12-ARIMA procedure for mining production and sales is described in more detail on the Stats SA website at: <a href="#">Click to download seasonal adjustment for mining production and sales</a>
<b>Calendar effects</b>	<b>6</b>	These are effects due to calendar variations. Such calendar effects include the number of working/trading days in a week, moving holidays such as Easter and the length of month (some months have more days than others).
<b>Trend cycle</b>	<b>7</b>	The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimate the underlying trend cycle.
<b>Reliability of estimates</b>	<b>8</b>	Figures for the latest 2 calendar years are preliminary.
<b>Month-on-month percentage change</b>	<b>9</b>	The month-on-month percentage change in a variable for any given month is the change between that month and the previous month, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
<b>Year-on-year percentage change</b>	<b>10</b>	The year-on-year percentage change in a variable for any given period is the change between that period and the corresponding period of the previous year, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
<b>Index contribution (percentage points)</b>	<b>11</b>	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)**

**12** The contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in total sales for a given period is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each mineral group or mineral 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 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 *System of National Accounts* (SNA) in the same way as in the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities* (SIC), 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**

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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