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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS: MINING PRODUCTION AND MINERAL SALES

Key findings regarding mining production as at the end of October 2007

Mining production declined in October

Mining production in October 2007 decreased by 3,0% after seasonal adjustment compared with September 2007 largely due to the closure of some shafts of platinum group metal (PGM) mines due to safety concerns. These closures resulted in the loss of PGM production of 7,8% after seasonal adjustment compared with September 2007.

Total mining production for the three months ended October 2007 decreased by 0,5% compared with the three months ended October 2006 (see Table A).

The total mining production for the three months ended October 2007, after seasonal adjustment, increased by 0,6% compared with the previous three months. This increase of 0,6% was due to an increase of 0,8% in the production of non-gold minerals. The major contributor to the seasonally adjusted increase of 0,8% in the total production of non-gold minerals during the three months ended October 2007 compared with the previous three months was the increase in the production of diamonds (1,5 percentage points) (see Table 4).

Key figures regarding mining production as at the end of October 2007

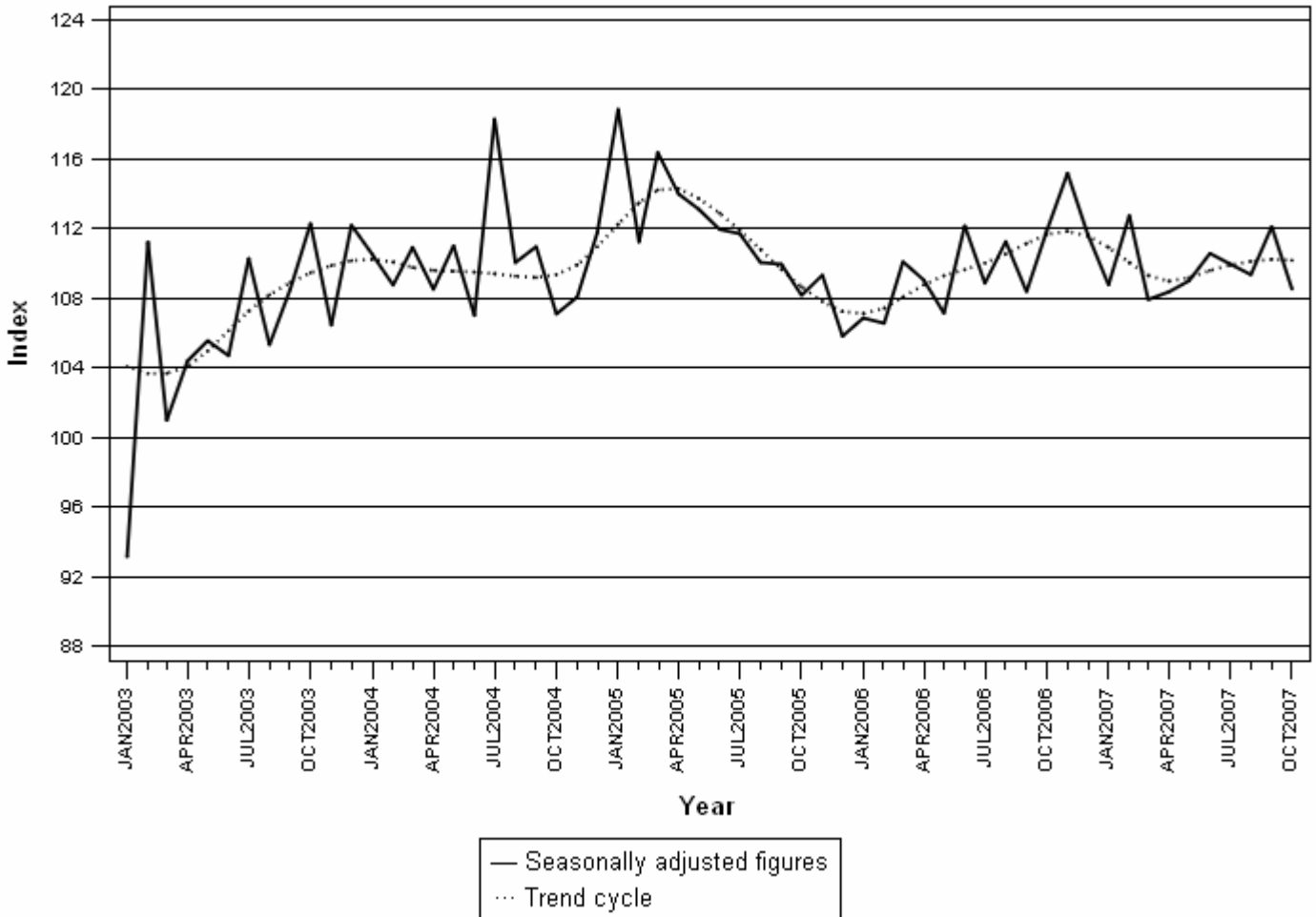
Table A – Selected key figures regarding mining production for October 2007

Annual estimates	Base : 2000=100		
	October 2007	% Change between October 2006 and October 2007	% Change between August 2006 to October 2006 and August 2007 to October 2007
Index of the physical volume of mining production			
Gold	58,8	-5,8	-5,5
Non-gold	123,8	-3,1	0,4
Total	107,1	-3,4	-0,5

Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates	Base : 2000=100		
	October 2007	% Change between September 2007 and October 2007	% Change between May 2007 to July 2007 and August 2007 to October 2007
Index of the physical volume of mining production			
Gold	58,6	-0,8	-0,5
Non-gold	125,2	-3,4	0,8
Total	108,1	-3,0	0,6

Figure 1 shows the seasonally adjusted figures and trend series for the index of mining production between January 2003 and October 2007. The trend series rose from the beginning of 2003 until February 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. From April 2007 the trend increased slightly again.

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



Key findings regarding mineral sales as at the end of September 2007

Mineral sales decrease

The total seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales at current prices for the third quarter of 2007 reflected a decrease of 9,7% compared with the second quarter of 2007. This decrease of 9,7% (R5 657,1 million) can be attributed to a decrease of 10,1% (R4 830,4 million) in the sale of non-gold minerals and a decrease of 8,1% (R826,7 million) in the sales of gold (see Table B and Table 16).

The actual total value of mineral sales at current prices for the third quarter of 2007 decreased by 1,0% compared with the third quarter of 2006. The decrease of 1,0% in the third quarter of 2007 is the first annual decline for a quarter since the third quarter of 2003 (see Table B and Figure 3).

The major contributors to the decrease of 1,0% year on year in the actual value of mineral sales at current prices for the third quarter of 2007 were gold (2,4 percentage points or R1 345,6 million), PGMs (1,3 percentage points or R747,9 million) and nickel (0,5 of a percentage point or R273,6 million) (see Table 8).

Key figures regarding mineral sales as at the end of September 2007

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

Annual estimates	September 2007	% Change between September 2006 and September 2007	% Change between July 2006 to September 2006 and July 2007 to September 2007
	R million		
Mineral sales			
Gold	3 098,7	-27,1	-12,3
Non-gold	16 826,8	3,0	1,7
Total	19 925,5	-3,2	-1,0

Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates	September 2007	% Change between August 2007 and September 2007	% Change between April 2007 to June 2007 and July 2007 to September 2007
	R million		
Mineral sales			
Gold	2 800,4	-14,4	-8,1
Non-gold	14 836,8	2,9	-10,1
Total	17 637,2	-0,3	-9,7

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

Figure 2 – Total value of mineral sales including gold

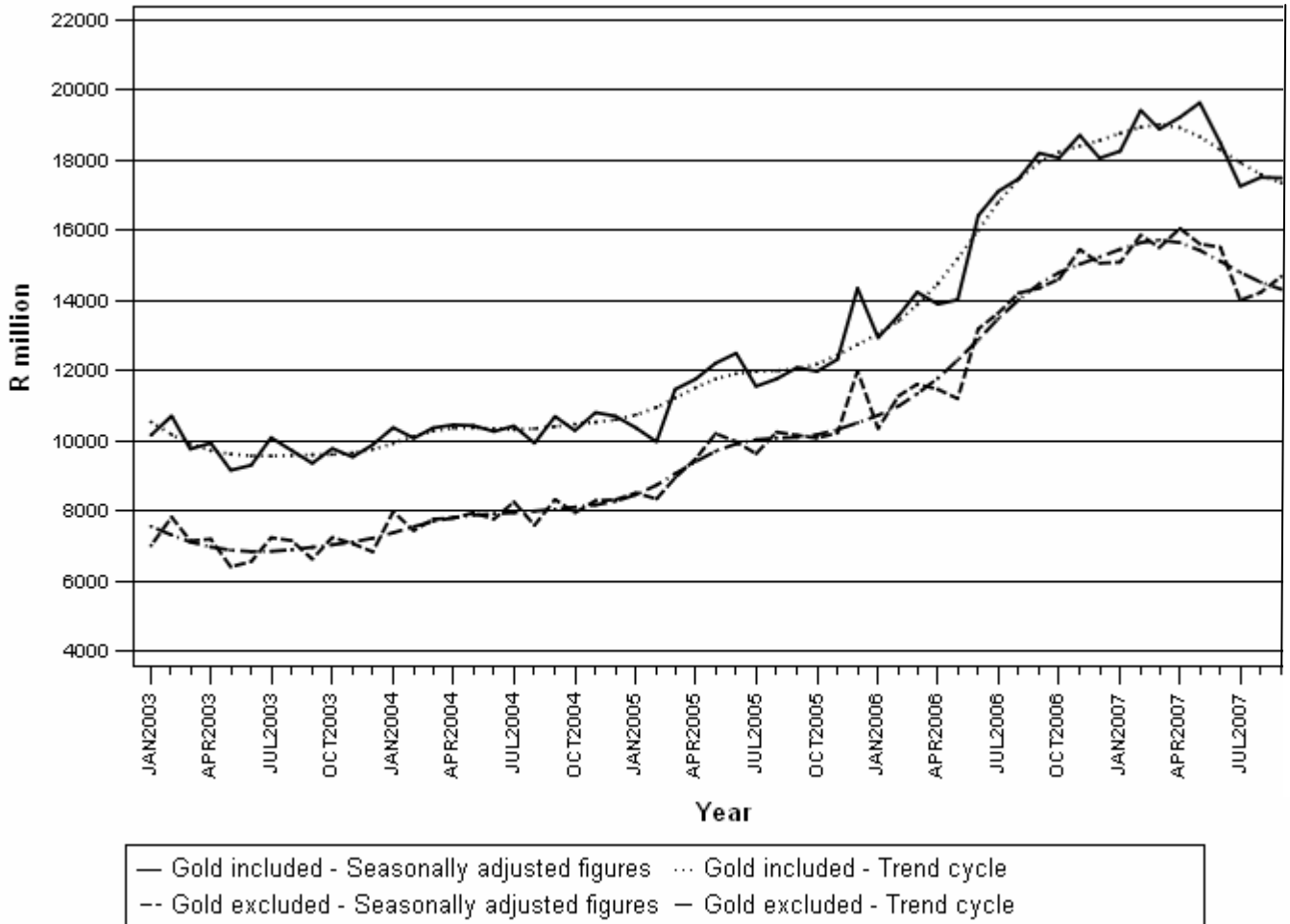


Figure 3 – Comparison of the last six years for the total value of mineral sales, including gold, for the three months ended September compared with the three months ended September of the previous year.

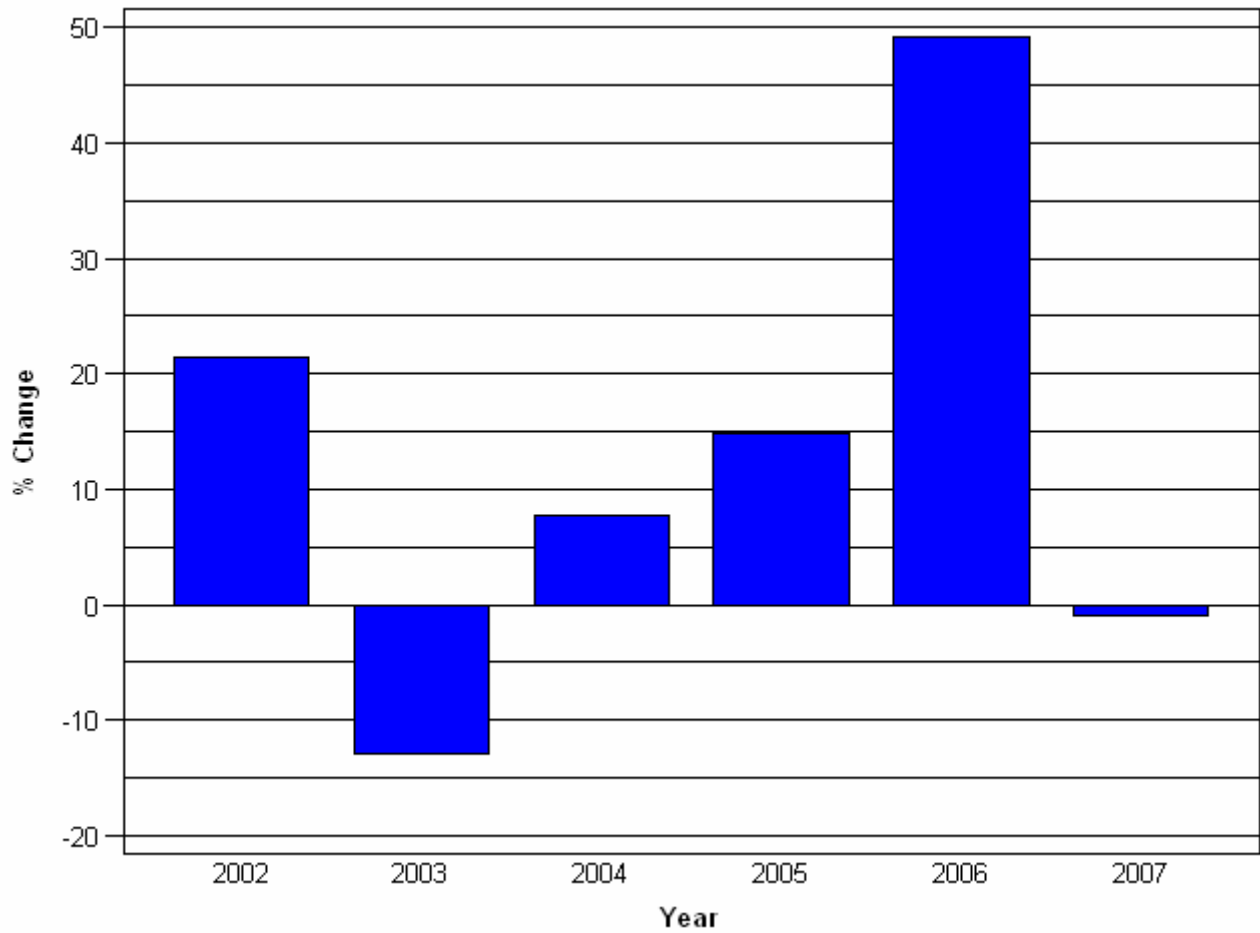


Figure 3 shows the negative annual growth rate in the value of mineral sales for the three months ended September 2007. A negative growth rate was also reported during the three months ended September 2003.

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

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

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

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/ Oct	Sep *		Oct	Oct	
Total, gold included	100,0	110,0	107,1	119,1	110,9	108,1	111,5	111,4
Total, gold excluded	74,3	126,3	123,8	138,4	127,7	125,2	129,6	128,4
Gold	25,7	62,9	58,8	63,2	62,4	58,6	59,1	62,1
Iron ore	3,1	122,1	133,6	126,4	118,0	127,8	128,5	112,8
Chromium	1,1	111,4	150,8	148,4	132,4	144,2	145,8	126,7
Copper	1,6	80,8	88,0	87,2	86,0	84,9	86,0	82,7
Manganese ore	1,3	143,0	166,0	152,0	149,2	170,1	164,5	153,2
PGMs	27,6	148,7	135,2	176,4	141,2	147,7	160,2	152,7
Nickel	2,0	114,0	103,6	100,8	116,4	106,4	102,5	120,6
Other metallic minerals	2,9	92,2	95,6	88,0	92,0	93,1	87,1	89,9
Diamonds	8,3	137,6	140,4	156,0	139,6	135,9	138,8	135,2
Coal	20,0	108,6	111,6	106,8	122,4	103,5	104,4	113,4
Building materials	2,6	128,2	143,2	140,0	141,2	136,6	131,8	134,4
Other non-metallic minerals	3,8	84,6	74,0	74,4	70,8	74,3	68,3	70,7

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 August 2007 to October 2007	Quarterly percentage change August 2007 to October 2007 compared with the preceding three months	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total mining production 1/
Gold		25,7	59,1	-0,5	-0,1
Non-gold minerals	Iron ore	3,1	125,9	3,5	0,1
	Copper	1,6	86,5	4,9	0,1
	Manganese ore	1,3	170,3	5,5	0,1
	Chromium	1,1	145,3	-0,4	0,0
	PGMs	27,6	149,8	-1,7	-0,6
	Nickel	2,0	98,1	-4,4	-0,1
	Other metallic minerals	2,9	86,7	8,0	0,2
	Diamonds	8,3	147,8	15,1	1,5
	Coal	20,0	105,8	-2,1	-0,4
	Building materials	2,6	136,2	-1,8	-0,1
	Other non-metallic minerals	3,8	71,3	-1,1	0,0
Total non-gold minerals		74,3	127,3	0,8	0,7
Total minerals		100,0	109,8	0,6	0,6

1/ The quarterly contribution of a commodity or commodity group to the total seasonally adjusted mining production is calculated by multiplying the weight of the commodity or commodity group with the change in the index for the commodity or commodity 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)

		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	* 2006	1/ 2007
Actual values	January	9 241,5	11 387,0	9 868,8	9 820,5	9 587,4	11 755,1	16 466,1
	February	9 711,7	10 634,4	10 236,5	9 576,1	9 383,8	12 680,8	18 026,2
	March	8 134,9	11 639,2	9 829,3	10 396,0	11 477,1	14 179,9	18 780,6
	April	8 554,2	11 194,9	9 294,1	9 789,3	11 034,0	13 042,6	18 008,9
	May	9 675,9	12 145,3	9 104,1	10 373,3	12 239,8	14 046,8	19 741,2
	June	10 640,7	11 637,2	9 745,9	10 856,0	13 360,1	17 809,8	20 181,4
	July	10 146,3	10 779,9	10 403,7	10 844,2	12 001,8	17 614,8	17 651,5
	August	9 586,4	11 633,5	9 612,0	9 841,7	11 687,6	17 339,2	17 381,1
	September	8 711,5	12 115,1	10 008,1	11 693,2	13 524,1	20 586,6	19 925,5
	October	9 999,6	12 514,2	9 989,4	10 466,3	12 074,8	18 031,0	
	November	9 627,7	11 059,4	9 535,8	10 815,6	12 453,2	18 919,4	
	December	11 327,7	10 764,4	9 899,2	10 585,6	13 994,2	17 587,1	
	Year	115 358,1	137 504,5	117 526,9	125 057,8	142 817,9	193 593,1	
Seasonally adjusted values	January	9 150,0	11 410,6	9 924,3	10 131,0	10 250,3	12 555,2	17 894,0
	February	9 848,3	10 867,3	10 513,7	9 976,9	9 945,2	13 642,8	19 502,5
	March	8 168,7	11 742,8	10 012,9	10 553,6	11 526,0	14 298,7	19 120,0
	April	8 960,6	11 888,2	9 859,6	10 427,8	11 732,3	13 988,3	19 408,2
	May	9 712,6	12 132,3	9 113,2	10 443,2	12 277,3	14 216,9	20 052,9
	June	10 317,1	11 179,2	9 314,6	10 343,5	12 625,7	16 584,7	18 604,3
	July	10 183,1	10 698,6	10 430,9	10 795,8	11 799,9	16 866,9	17 074,0
	August	9 606,8	11 722,7	9 737,8	9 945,9	11 953,6	17 843,3	17 697,1
	September	8 574,3	11 828,9	9 456,8	10 769,2	12 184,5	18 329,4	17 637,2
	October	9 892,7	12 277,5	9 846,7	10 299,9	11 969,0	18 182,2	
	November	9 740,8	11 243,3	9 644,0	10 822,2	12 340,0	19 045,5	
	December	10 867,9	10 377,8	9 647,3	10 299,2	13 559,8	17 083,6	

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

		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	* 2006	1/ 2007
Actual values	January	7 181,9	8 002,3	6 744,1	7 480,6	7 809,6	9 316,0	13 507,7
	February	7 720,8	7 368,2	7 452,6	7 039,8	7 813,9	10 469,6	14 595,7
	March	5 912,0	8 110,9	7 140,7	7 710,4	8 840,3	11 403,2	15 180,9
	April	6 748,0	7 481,9	6 815,2	7 366,5	8 963,2	10 850,3	15 156,9
	May	7 139,7	8 619,3	6 477,2	8 029,3	10 372,9	11 445,0	16 047,1
	June	8 245,9	8 035,5	6 759,5	8 107,4	10 562,0	14 217,3	16 880,5
	July	7 779,6	7 344,7	7 613,1	8 699,0	10 082,3	14 114,1	14 364,3
	August	6 942,5	8 065,2	7 052,7	7 546,9	10 210,5	14 152,3	14 171,8
	September	6 219,3	8 562,1	7 092,3	9 114,1	11 390,1	16 333,3	16 826,8
	October	6 971,4	8 711,8	7 345,5	8 089,0	10 186,0	14 646,2	
	November	6 953,1	7 981,8	7 154,9	8 406,4	10 436,1	15 783,0	
	December	8 532,3	7 834,8	6 825,9	8 138,7	11 549,8	14 458,2	
	Year	86 346,5	96 118,5	84 473,7	95 728,1	118 216,7	157 188,5	
Seasonally adjusted values	January	7 106,8	8 034,7	6 781,2	7 738,4	8 399,2	9 967,3	14 732,5
	February	7 794,9	7 504,3	7 637,1	7 346,8	8 319,0	11 357,6	15 952,2
	March	6 006,9	8 306,7	7 398,9	7 956,1	9 009,3	11 680,0	15 750,6
	April	6 936,4	7 752,2	7 127,3	7 776,3	9 458,8	11 568,5	16 249,0
	May	7 074,9	8 472,8	6 364,9	7 961,4	10 275,9	11 402,4	16 034,6
	June	8 031,4	7 814,2	6 572,2	7 848,7	10 109,4	13 358,5	15 638,2
	July	7 799,6	7 196,0	7 584,8	8 633,5	9 880,7	13 399,4	13 830,7
	August	7 038,7	8 208,7	7 171,7	7 608,1	10 440,2	14 588,8	14 423,9
	September	6 149,2	8 422,7	6 728,7	8 405,0	10 256,4	14 486,1	14 836,8
	October	7 081,9	8 705,6	7 316,6	7 963,7	10 071,7	14 740,3	
	November	6 994,9	8 069,2	7 178,7	8 314,8	10 243,2	15 793,0	
	December	8 038,9	7 435,9	6 600,6	7 919,5	11 208,0	14 094,3	

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/ September	August *	September	September	August	September
Total, gold included	193 593,1	19 925,5	17 381,1	20 586,6	17 637,2	17 697,1	18 329,4
Total, gold excluded	157 188,5	16 826,8	14 171,8	16 333,3	14 836,8	14 423,9	14 486,1
Gold	36 404,5	3 098,7	3 209,3	4 253,2	2 800,4	3 273,2	3 843,3
Iron ore	9 931,3	974,8	898,7	875,2	1 003,3	888,3	893,1
Chromium	2 309,9	268,6	272,7	210,6	260,4	270,2	203,4
Copper	4 956,1	585,0	604,0	471,4	544,8	537,9	440,2
Manganese ore	2 245,9	392,0	349,0	186,2	342,8	382,8	162,8
PGMs	65 443,8	7 359,6	6 069,8	7 465,6	6 155,9	6 055,6	6 257,3
Nickel	7 145,3	411,4	600,2	878,0	384,8	633,5	825,4
Other metallic minerals	5 199,1	454,8	369,0	580,4	444,1	511,6	585,2
Coal	37 835,8	3 902,5	3 504,7	3 521,6	3 722,7	3 431,0	3 368,7
Building materials	5 073,3	519,2	556,5	481,6	493,5	500,4	457,0
- Granite or norite	395,7	39,7	52,2	53,6	38,6	43,1	51,2
- Lime and limestone	1 510,3	138,9	145,9	129,7	138,4	138,7	128,5
- Other building materials	3 167,3	340,6	358,4	298,3	316,5	318,6	277,3
Other non-metallic minerals	17 048,0	1 958,8	947,1	1 662,7	1 484,5	1 212,6	1 293,0

1/ Preliminary.
* Revised.

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

		Percentage contribution to total mineral sales during July 2006 to September 2006	Percentage change between July 2006 to September 2006 and July 2007 to September 2007	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total value of mineral sales 1/	Difference in sales of mining divisions between July 2006 to September 2006 and July 2007 to September 2007
		R million			
Gold		19,7	-12,3	-2,4	-1 345,6
Non-gold minerals	Iron ore	4,9	10,0	0,5	270,5
	Copper	2,7	10,7	0,3	161,4
	Manganese ore	0,9	79,7	0,7	413,5
	Chromium	1,1	27,2	0,3	169,5
	PGMs	36,4	-3,7	-1,3	-747,9
	Nickel	3,6	-13,6	-0,5	-273,6
	Other metallic minerals	2,5	-11,2	-0,3	-157,1
	Coal	18,1	8,5	1,5	859,3
	Building materials	2,5	14,9	0,4	208,1
	Other non-metallic minerals	7,4	-3,4	-0,3	-140,8
Total non-gold minerals		80,3	1,7	1,4	763,2
Total minerals		100,0	-1,0	-1,0	-582,5

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 July 2006 to September 2006, divided by 100.

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 October 2006	Actual estimates October 2007	% Change between October 2006 and October 2007	Difference between October 2006 and October 2007
	Percentage points			
Gold	62,4	58,8	-5,8	-3,6
Non-gold minerals	127,7	123,8	-3,1	-3,9
Total	110,9	107,1	-3,4	-3,8

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 August 2006 to October 2006	Actual estimates August 2007 to October 2007	% Change between August 2006 to October 2006 and August 2007 to October 2007	Difference between August 2006 to October 2006 and August 2007 to October 2007
	Percentage points			
Gold	194,8	184,0	-5,5	-10,8
Non-gold minerals	393,4	394,8	0,4	1,4
Total	342,4	340,7	-0,5	-1,7

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

	Base : 2000=100			
	Actual estimates September 2007	Actual estimates October 2007	% Change between September 2007 and October 2007	Difference between September 2007 and October 2007
	Percentage points			
Gold	59,1	58,6	-0,8	-0,5
Non-gold minerals	129,6	125,2	-3,4	-4,4
Total	111,5	108,1	-3,0	-3,4

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

	Base : 2000=100			
	Actual estimates May 2007 to July 2007	Actual estimates August 2007 to October 2007	% Change between May 2007 to July 2007 and August 2007 to October 2007	Difference between May 2007 to July 2007 and August 2007 to October 2007
	Percentage points			
Gold	178,2	177,3	-0,5	-0,9
Non-gold minerals	378,9	381,9	0,8	3,0
Total	327,4	329,4	0,6	2,0

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 September 2006	Actual estimates September 2007	% Change between September 2006 and September 2007	Difference between September 2006 and September 2007
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	4 253,2	3 098,7	-27,1	-1 154,5
Non-gold minerals	16 333,3	16 826,8	3,0	493,5
Total	20 586,6	19 925,5	-3,2	-661,1

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 July 2006 to September 2006	Actual estimates July 2007 to September 2007	% Change between July 2006 to September 2006 and July 2007 to September 2007	Difference between July 2006 to September 2006 and July 2007 to September 2007
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	10 940,8	9 595,2	-12,3	-1 345,6
Non-gold minerals	44 599,7	45 362,9	1,7	763,2
Total	55 540,6	54 958,1	-1,0	-582,5

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

	Actual seasonal adjusted estimates August 2007	Actual seasonal adjusted estimates September 2007	% Change between August 2007 and September 2007	Difference between August 2007 and September 2007
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	3 273,2	2 800,4	-14,4	-472,8
Non-gold minerals	14 423,9	14 836,8	2,9	412,9
Total	17 697,1	17 637,2	-0,3	-59,9

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

	Actual estimates April 2007 to June 2007	Actual estimates July 2007 to September 2007	% Change between April 2007 to June 2007 and July 2007 to September 2007	Difference between April 2007 to June 2007 and July 2007 to September 2007
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	10 143,6	9 316,9	-8,1	-826,7
Non-gold minerals	47 921,8	43 091,4	-10,1	-4 830,4
Total	58 065,4	52 408,3	-9,7	-5 657,1

Explanatory notes

Introduction	1	Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publishes monthly information regarding the mining industry on the basis of mining production figures and mineral sales furnished by the Minerals Bureau, Department of Minerals and Energy. This statistical release contains detailed information regarding indices of the physical volume of mining production and the total value of mineral sales according to mining divisions and mineral groups on a monthly basis.
	2	In accordance with international practice, the indices have to be re-based every five years to a new base year. The base year of the index of the physical volume of mining production is currently 2000=100. Both actual and seasonally adjusted figures are presented.
	3	Due to mining production figures being available earlier than mineral sales figures, mining production indices are published one month earlier than mineral sales.
	4	The value of mineral sales is calculated, in general, on a free-on-rail/free-on-board basis.
	5	In order to improve timeliness, some information for the current month may have been estimated due to late response. These estimates will be revised in future statistical release(s) as soon as more up-to-date information is available.
Purpose of the survey	6	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.
Scope of the survey	7	This survey covers mining establishments conducting activities regarding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC division, major group and subgroup level. Each statistical unit is classified to an industry which reflects the predominant activity of the establishment.
Statistical unit	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).
Weighting	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.

Seasonal adjustment	11	<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>
Reliability of estimates	12	<p>Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Figures for the latest month are preliminary.</p>
Historical data	13	<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: www.statssa.gov.za</p>
Related publications	14	<p>Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from Stats SA -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bulletin of Statistics.</i> • <i>SA Statistics.</i>
Unpublished statistics	15	<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>
Rounding-off of figures	16	<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

Free-on-rail	Free-on-rail relates to goods sold on the local market where no railage or road transport costs are involved.
Free-on-board basis	Free-on-board relates to goods destined for the export market. Railage, road transport and docking charges are involved but no charges are made for the transport by sea.
Index of physical volume of mining production	The index of physical volume of mining production or a production index is a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production. The production index of a mineral group is the ratio between the volume of production of a mineral group in a given period and the volume of production of the same mineral group in the base period. The current base period is 2000. The production in the base period is set at 100.
Industry	An industry consists of a group of establishments engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the <i>System of National Accounts (SNA)</i> in the same way as in the <i>Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) of all Economic Activities</i> , Fifth Edition of January 1993.
PGMs - Platinum Group Metals	Platinum Group Metals include platinum; iridium; osmiridium; palladium; rhodium; ruthenium and osmium.
Sales	Sales are the total value of sales and transfers-out of goods mined by the mining establishments and the amounts received for installation, erection or assembly or other services rendered.
Weight	The weight of a mineral group is the ratio of the sales of a mineral group to the total sales of the mining industry. The weight of a mineral group reflects the importance of the mineral group in the total mining industry. The weights change over time due to quality changes and changes in relative prices. New weights need to be calculated from time to time.

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