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Statistical release

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Mining: Production and sales (Preliminary)

October 2012

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Production: results for October 2012

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

	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	2,7	5,5	7,6	1,9	-7,2	-7,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	6,2	0,9	-1,8	-2,4	-7,0	-7,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	2,6	7,5	8,8	3,1	-3,2	-10,2

1/ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Mining production decreased by 7,7% year-on-year in October 2012. The highest negative growth rate was recorded for copper (-56,4%), followed by gold (-45,7%) and ‘other’ metallic minerals (-26,9%). The main contributors to the 7,7% decrease were gold (contributing -8,6 percentage points) and iron ore (contributing -4,0 percentage points) – see Tables 6 and 7.

Seasonally adjusted mining production decreased by 7,9% in October 2012 compared with September 2012. This followed month-on-month changes of -7,0% in September 2012 and -2,4% in August 2012.

Table B – Seasonally adjusted index of the volume of mining production for the latest three months by mineral group and mineral (Base: 2010=100)

Mineral group and mineral	Weight (2010)	May – Jul 2012	Aug – Oct 2012	% change between May – Jul 2012 and Aug – Oct 2012	Contribution (% points) to the % change in total mining production
Gold	17,7	91,7	73,1	-20,3	-3,2
Iron ore	14,4	123,6	112,4	-9,1	-1,6
Chromium ore	2,2	104,4	88,4	-15,3	-0,3
Copper	1,4	93,2	43,2	-53,6	-0,7
Manganese ore	3,6	123,7	118,9	-3,9	-0,2
PGMs	24,6	99,5	88,4	-11,2	-2,7
Nickel	2,0	122,0	121,9	-0,1	0,0
Other metallic minerals	2,5	97,2	91,3	-6,1	-0,1
Diamonds	3,1	76,2	73,0	-4,2	-0,1
Coal	23,7	102,1	97,8	-4,2	-1,0
Building materials	1,6	103,7	97,0	-6,5	-0,1
Other non-metallic minerals	3,2	85,6	80,9	-5,5	-0,1
Total	100,0	102,4	92,0	-10,2	-10,2

Seasonally adjusted mining production decreased by 10,2% in the three months ended October 2012 compared with the previous three months. The main contributors to the 10,2% decrease were gold (contributing -3,2 percentage points), PGMs (contributing -2,7 percentage points) and iron ore (contributing -1,6 percentage points) – see Table B.

Figure 1 – Volume of mining production (Base: 2010=100)

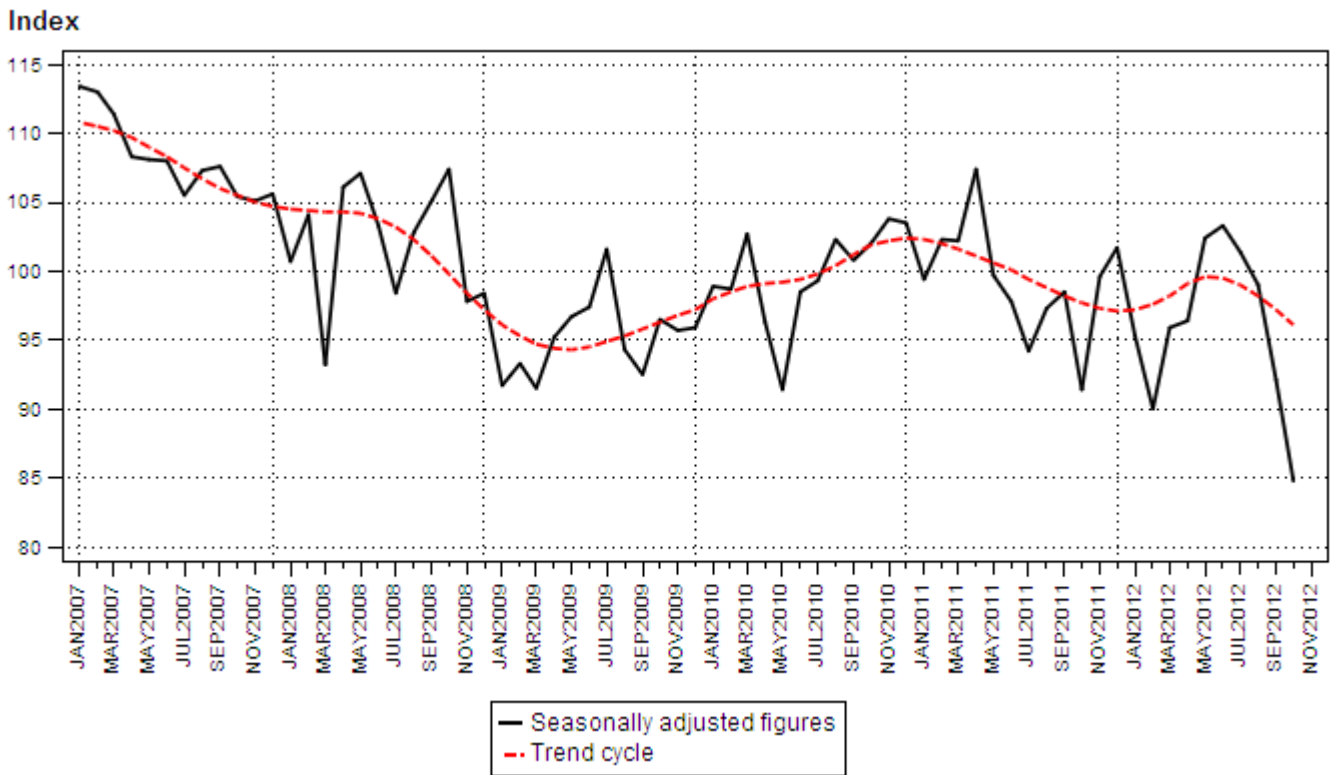
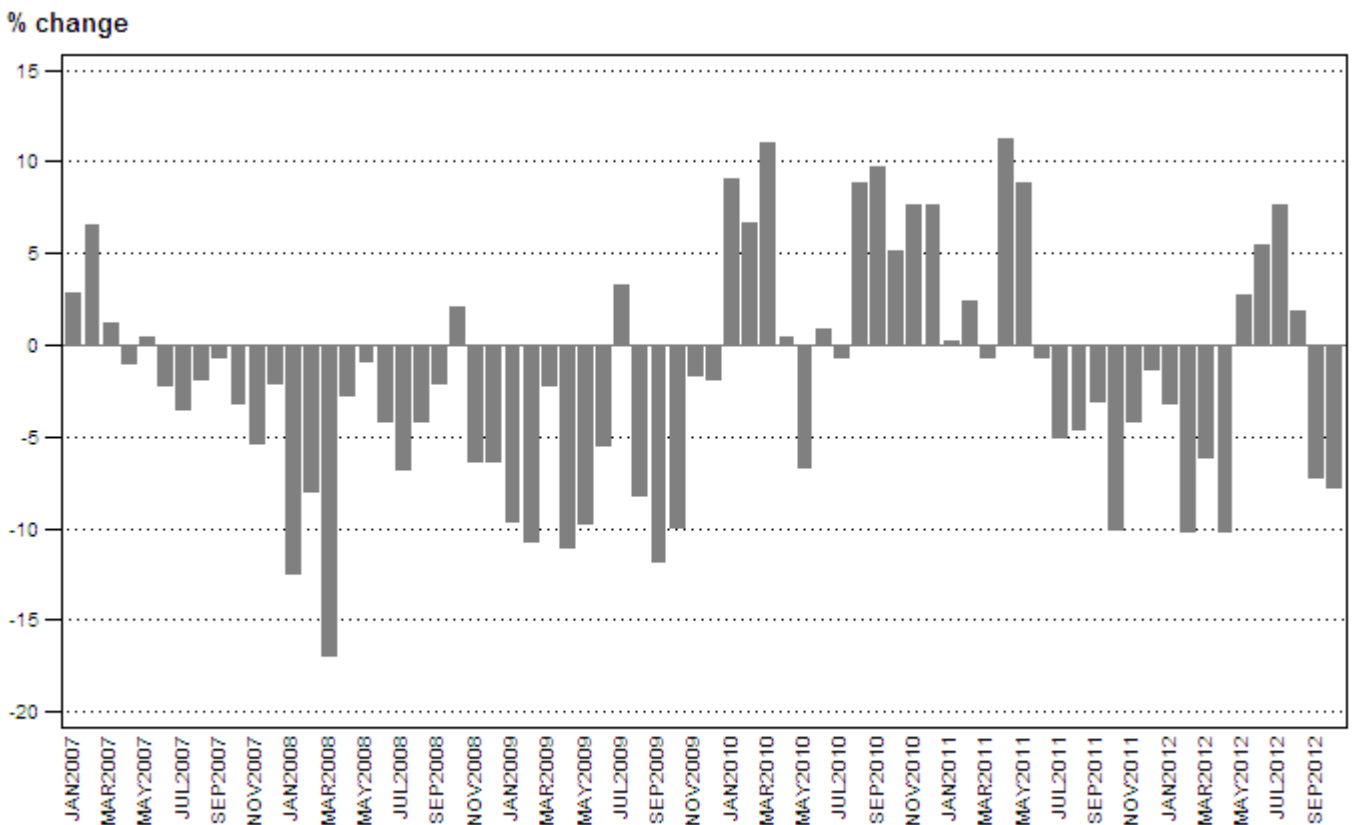


Figure 2 – Volume of mining production (Base: 2010=100): year-on-year percentage change



Sales: results for September 2012

Table C – Key growth rates in mineral sales at current prices

	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	0,1	15,9	2,6	13,4	5,7	-12,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-3,4	12,0	-0,9	-1,1	1,7	-7,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	-10,0	-7,9	-1,5	5,8	5,3	0,6

1/ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Mineral sales decreased by 12,9% year-on-year in September 2012. The largest negative growth rate was recorded for copper (-42,5%), followed by 'other' metallic minerals (-33,7%) and chromium ore (-27,5%). The major contributors to the 12,9% decrease were PGMs (contributing -3,9 percentage points), gold (contributing -3,3 percentage points) and iron ore (contributing -3,0 percentage points) – see Tables 13 and 14.

Seasonally adjusted mineral sales at current prices decreased by 7,3% in September 2012 compared with August 2012. This followed month-on-month changes of 1,7% in August 2012 and -1,1% in July 2012.

Table D – Seasonally adjusted mineral sales at current prices for the latest three months by mineral group and mineral

Mineral group and mineral	% contribution to total mineral sales during Apr – Jun 2012	Apr – Jun 2012 R million	Jul – Sept 2012 R million	% change between Apr – Jun 2012 and Jul – Sept 2012	Contribution to the % change in the total value of mineral sales
Gold	22,2	20 843,3	20 509,8	-1,6	-0,4
Iron ore	18,2	17 042,6	16 261,6	-4,6	-0,8
Chromium ore	2,2	2 062,3	1 810,1	-12,2	-0,3
Copper	1,4	1 338,1	1 100,4	-17,8	-0,2
Manganese ore	2,6	2 432,8	3 174,6	30,5	0,8
PGMs	15,9	14 878,0	17 591,6	18,2	2,9
Nickel	1,6	1 502,9	1 689,9	12,4	0,2
Other metallic minerals	3,1	2 915,7	2 476,7	-15,1	-0,5
Coal	26,3	24 623,9	23 287,3	-5,4	-1,4
Building materials	2,2	2 094,7	2 070,8	-1,1	0,0
Other non-metallic minerals	4,2	3 956,9	4 274,0	8,0	0,3
Total	100,0	93 691,2	94 246,8	0,6	0,6

Seasonally adjusted mineral sales at current prices increased by 0,6% in the third quarter 2012 compared with the previous quarter. This increase was driven mainly by an increase in the sales value of PGMs (contributing 2,9 percentage points) – see Table D.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Article – Construction of a new index of physical volume of mining production by adjusting the base period from 2005=100 to 2010=100 and changing the weights

Introduction

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publishes monthly information regarding the mining industry based on the mining production and mineral sales figures furnished by the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR). This statistical release contains detailed information regarding indices of the volume of mining production and the total value of mineral sales according to mineral groups and minerals on a monthly basis. In accordance with international best practice and consideration of quality improvement, the indices are rebased and new weights are introduced every five years. The results of the mining production indices published today contain changes related to rebasing and reweighting.

Reweighting and rebasing

New weights for the mineral groups and minerals were calculated based on the value of mineral sales for the year 2010 as supplied by the DMR. Refer to Table E for a comparison between the old weights and the new weights for the respective mineral groups and minerals and respective periods. The base period is the reference point of an index and is usually set at 100. The new index of mining production is now referenced to 2010=100 from 2005=100 previously.

To convert the base year from reference year 2005 to 2010, the previous individual indices (2005=100) were divided by their averages for 2010 and multiplied by 100. From January 2010 the total mining production index was recalculated by applying the new weights to the individual mineral groups and minerals set to 2010=100. The previous total index (old weights) was linked to the new total index (new 2010 weights) to provide historical continuity.

The impact of the implementation of the rebasing and reweighting with the new weights on the mining production index is illustrated in Figures 3 and 4. Prior to January 2010, the year-on-year rates of change are unaffected.

Table E – Historical weights for the mineral group and mineral

Mineral group and mineral	Weights according to the value of mineral sales for the year 1995	Weights according to the value of mineral sales for the year 2000	Weights according to the value of mineral sales for the year 2005	Weights according to the value of mineral sales for the year 2010
	1995-1999	2000-2004	2005-2009	2010-present
Gold	42,5	25,7	17,2	17,7
Iron ore	3,0	3,1	5,3	14,4
Chromium ore	1,1	1,1	1,3	2,2
Copper	3,1	1,6	1,8	1,4
Manganese ore	1,3	1,3	1,5	3,6
PGMs	11,9	27,6	27,0	24,6
Nickel	1,5	2,0	2,8	2,0
Other metallic minerals	2,4	2,9	2,8	2,5
Diamonds	4,4	8,3	7,6	3,1
Coal	23,2	20,0	24,9	23,7
Building materials	3,5	2,6	2,1	1,6
Other non-metallic minerals	2,1	3,8	5,7	3,2
Total	100	100	100	100

Figure 3 – Comparison of the total mining production index based on 2005=100 and 2010=100

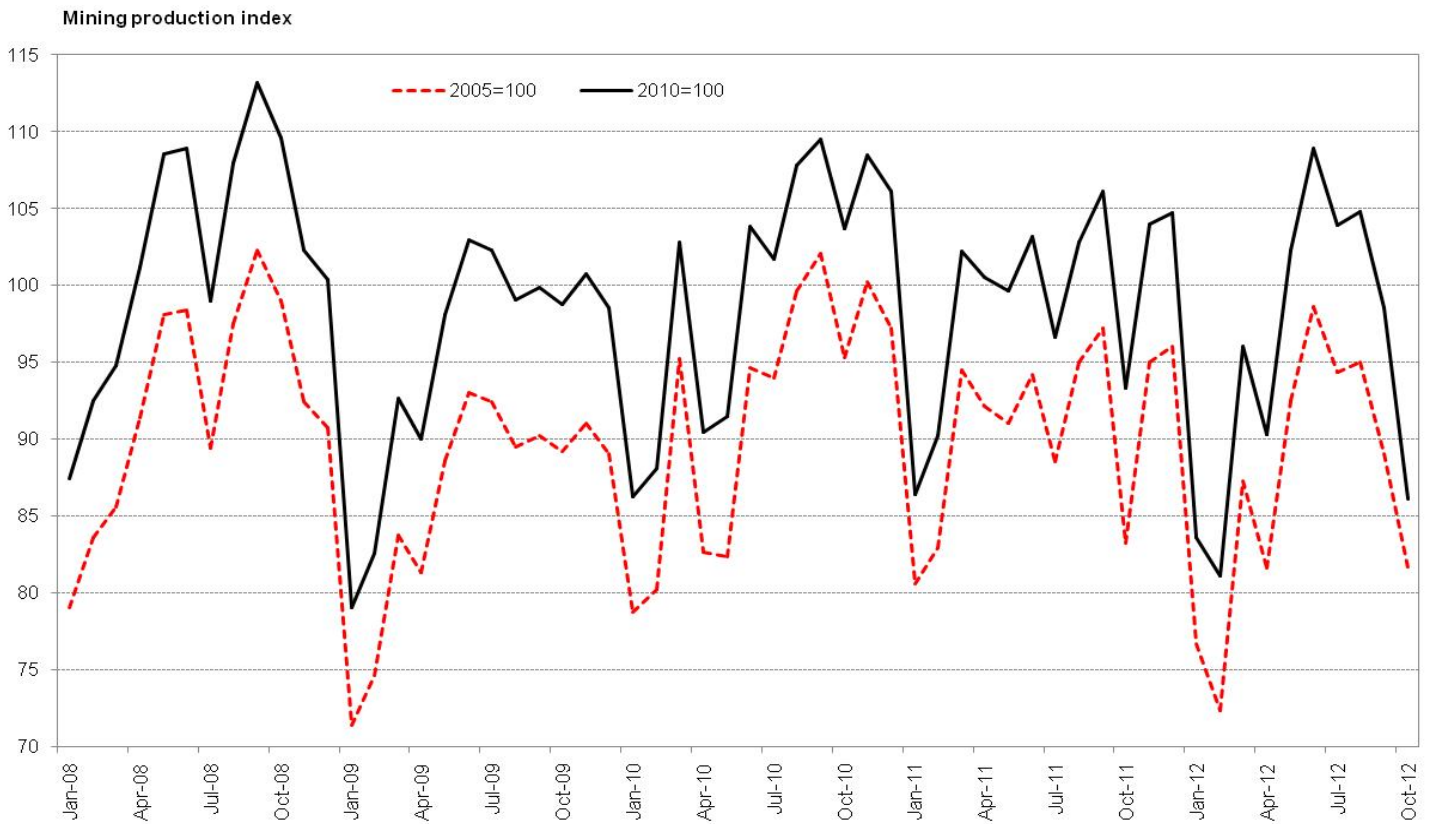
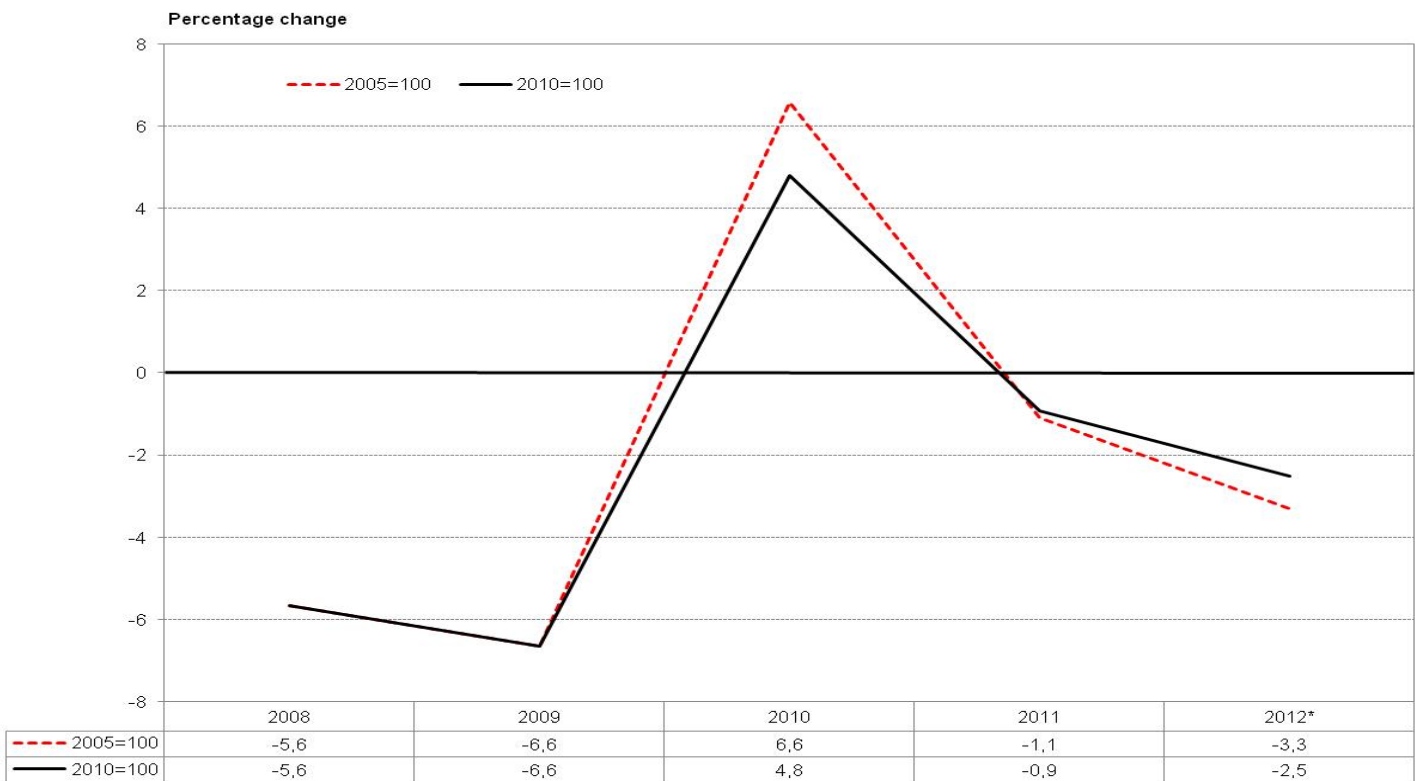


Figure 4 – Comparison between the total mining production indices' annual growth rates based on 2005=100 and 2010=100



* Until October 2012

Tables

Table 1 – Index of the volume of mining production (Base: 2010=100)

Month	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 1/	2012 1/
Jan	97,1	99,8	87,4	79,0	86,2	86,4	83,6
Feb	94,3	100,5	92,5	82,6	88,1	90,2	81,1
Mar	112,5	113,9	94,7	92,6	102,8	102,2	96,0
Apr	105,0	103,9	101,1	90,0	90,4	100,5	90,3
May	109,2	109,6	108,6	98,1	91,5	99,6	102,3
Jun	116,1	113,5	108,9	102,9	103,8	103,2	108,9
Jul	110,0	106,2	99,0	102,3	101,7	96,6	103,9
Aug	114,7	112,5	107,9	99,1	107,8	102,8	104,8
Sep	116,3	115,6	113,2	99,8	109,5	106,1	98,5
Oct	110,9	107,3	109,6	98,7	103,7	93,3	86,1
Nov	115,3	109,2	102,3	100,7	108,5	104,0	
Dec	109,4	107,1	100,4	98,5	106,1	104,7	
Year	109,2	108,3	102,1	95,4	100,0	99,1	

1/ Preliminary.

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

Month	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2012 year-to-date
Jan	2,7	-12,4	-9,6	9,1	0,2	-3,2	-3,2
Feb	6,5	-7,9	-10,8	6,7	2,4	-10,1	-6,7
Mar	1,2	-16,8	-2,2	11,0	-0,6	-6,1	-6,5
Apr	-1,0	-2,6	-11,0	0,5	11,2	-10,1	-7,4
May	0,3	-0,9	-9,7	-6,7	8,9	2,7	-5,3
Jun	-2,2	-4,1	-5,5	0,9	-0,6	5,5	-3,4
Jul	-3,4	-6,8	3,3	-0,5	-5,0	7,6	-1,9
Aug	-2,0	-4,0	-8,2	8,8	-4,6	1,9	-1,3
Sep	-0,6	-2,1	-11,8	9,7	-3,1	-7,2	-2,0
Oct	-3,2	2,1	-9,9	5,0	-10,0	-7,7	-2,5
Nov	-5,3	-6,3	-1,5	7,7	-4,1		
Dec	-2,1	-6,3	-1,9	7,7	-1,3		
Year	-0,9	-5,6	-6,6	4,8	-0,9		

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted volume of total mining production

Month	Index (Base: 2010=100)				Month-on-month % change			
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012
Jan	91,7	98,9	99,4	95,3	-6,8	3,1	-4,0	-6,3
Feb	93,3	98,7	102,3	90,0	1,7	-0,2	2,9	-5,6
Mar	91,5	102,7	102,2	95,9	-1,9	4,1	-0,1	6,6
Apr	95,2	96,3	107,4	96,4	4,0	-6,2	5,1	0,5
May	96,7	91,4	99,7	102,4	1,6	-5,1	-7,2	6,2
Jun	97,4	98,5	97,8	103,3	0,7	7,8	-1,9	0,9
Jul	101,6	99,3	94,2	101,4	4,3	0,8	-3,7	-1,8
Aug	94,3	102,3	97,3	99,0	-7,2	3,0	3,3	-2,4
Sep	92,5	100,8	98,5	92,1	-1,9	-1,5	1,2	-7,0
Oct	96,5	102,0	91,4	84,8	4,3	1,2	-7,2	-7,9
Nov	95,7	103,8	99,6		-0,8	1,8	9,0	
Dec	95,9	103,5	101,7		0,2	-0,3	2,1	

Table 4 – Index of the volume of mining production by mineral group and mineral (Base: 2010=100) 1/

Mineral group and mineral	Weight (2010)	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12
Gold	17,7	94,0	98,4	89,7	88,3	89,0	54,0
Iron ore	14,4	123,9	131,4	127,4	128,8	129,0	86,7
Chromium ore	2,2	115,5	113,5	107,9	104,5	88,8	93,1
Copper	1,4	101,9	97,7	98,1	44,2	32,4	39,3
Manganese ore	3,6	134,3	135,8	121,6	142,7	109,5	121,7
PGMs	24,6	87,8	109,0	101,7	105,7	91,1	82,9
Nickel	2,0	125,3	131,8	110,9	122,2	114,7	121,6
Other metallic minerals	2,5	109,8	95,8	94,4	103,7	89,9	84,4
Diamonds	3,1	79,8	81,8	87,9	79,6	92,2	85,5
Coal	23,7	105,5	105,2	104,6	104,5	99,4	105,8
Building materials	1,6	113,5	106,7	108,5	108,2	105,5	109,5
Other non-metallic minerals	3,2	90,7	88,1	83,7	81,6	88,2	84,2
Total	100,0	102,3	108,9	103,9	104,8	98,5	86,1

1/ All values in this table are preliminary.

Table 5 – Seasonally adjusted index of the volume of mining production by mineral group and mineral (Base: 2010=100)

Mineral group and mineral	Weight (2010)	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Month-on-month % change
Gold	17,7	91,6	90,8	84,2	81,6	53,5	-34,4
Iron ore	14,4	124,8	123,6	126,6	128,2	82,4	-35,7
Chromium ore	2,2	104,7	100,9	96,9	83,7	84,5	1,0
Copper	1,4	89,4	95,8	49,3	36,9	43,5	17,9
Manganese ore	3,6	121,7	124,9	127,9	110,5	118,4	7,1
PGMs	24,6	101,3	101,1	97,3	78,5	89,4	13,9
Nickel	2,0	128,1	114,0	118,0	121,1	126,7	4,6
Other metallic minerals	2,5	96,0	90,8	102,1	90,0	81,9	-9,0
Diamonds	3,1	76,5	75,8	73,3	72,3	73,4	1,5
Coal	23,7	103,8	99,0	98,2	95,0	100,1	5,4
Building materials	1,6	103,1	101,4	98,9	94,1	98,1	4,3
Other non-metallic minerals	3,2	84,7	80,9	78,6	81,7	82,3	0,7
Total	100,0	103,3	101,4	99,0	92,1	84,8	-7,9

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

Mineral group and mineral	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12
Gold	-2,1	-3,9	-4,9	0,1	-12,1	-45,7
Iron ore	24,6	30,5	22,7	25,7	21,0	-22,8
Chromium ore	7,9	5,4	3,3	-6,8	-17,0	-19,0
Copper	-14,4	-18,5	-10,2	-51,2	-60,2	-56,4
Manganese ore	-11,0	-6,0	29,1	6,4	-15,4	-2,9
PGMs	-6,0	4,7	11,6	-1,9	-17,9	17,6
Nickel	22,6	24,3	-4,5	13,4	6,7	91,5
Other metallic minerals	-6,4	-21,3	-19,7	-7,7	-15,3	-26,9
Diamonds	-11,3	5,7	-19,0	3,4	-0,4	-12,1
Coal	7,1	8,3	12,4	-0,7	-4,1	10,6
Building materials	15,1	3,4	7,2	-1,5	-9,2	-4,5
Other non-metallic minerals	-9,0	-19,7	-11,3	-21,5	-13,4	24,2
Total	2,7	5,5	7,6	1,9	-7,2	-7,7

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	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12
Gold	-0,4	-0,7	-0,8	0,0	-2,1	-8,6
Iron ore	3,5	4,3	3,5	3,7	3,0	-4,0
Chromium ore	0,2	0,1	0,1	-0,2	-0,4	-0,5
Copper	-0,2	-0,3	-0,2	-0,6	-0,6	-0,8
Manganese ore	-0,6	-0,3	1,0	0,3	-0,7	-0,1
PGMs	-1,4	1,2	2,7	-0,5	-4,6	3,3
Nickel	0,5	0,5	-0,1	0,3	0,1	1,2
Other metallic minerals	-0,2	-0,6	-0,6	-0,2	-0,4	-0,8
Diamonds	-0,3	0,1	-0,7	0,1	0,0	-0,4
Coal	1,7	1,9	2,8	-0,2	-0,9	2,6
Building materials	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,0	-0,2	-0,1
Other non-metallic minerals	-0,3	-0,7	-0,4	-0,7	-0,4	0,6
Total	2,7	5,5	7,6	1,9	-7,2	-7,7

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

Month	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 1/	2012 1/
Jan	11 755,1	15 692,9	17 442,2	17 263,9	19 185,1	25 367,7	28 830,3
Feb	12 680,8	17 928,6	21 737,4	19 906,3	20 408,4	27 544,0	30 011,2
Mar	14 179,9	18 555,2	25 894,1	22 093,9	23 860,1	31 486,9	31 790,9
Apr	13 042,6	17 447,8	25 520,6	20 733,6	23 551,4	27 388,9	27 406,1
May	14 046,8	19 841,6	26 737,6	18 463,5	25 535,2	27 851,9	32 278,4
Jun	17 809,8	19 033,2	29 881,0	20 337,3	25 882,9	33 949,7	34 830,8
Jul	17 614,8	17 449,4	27 164,7	20 019,7	25 588,6	27 910,5	31 645,6
Aug	17 339,2	17 890,4	27 064,3	20 144,0	25 897,8	30 304,5	32 042,5
Sep	20 586,6	19 619,7	27 830,7	20 737,7	27 994,7	35 735,9	31 134,6
Oct	18 031,0	18 713,7	27 191,4	19 909,8	27 535,5	33 429,6	
Nov	18 918,2	20 674,4	23 991,0	20 128,7	27 114,9	35 304,7	
Dec	17 584,7	21 590,8	20 259,5	21 626,2	27 737,9	34 562,7	
Total	193 589,5	224 437,7	300 714,5	241 364,6	300 292,5	370 837,0	

1/ Preliminary.

Table 9 – Year-on-year percentage change in mineral sales at current prices

Month	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2012 year-to-date
Jan	33,5	11,1	-1,0	11,1	32,2	13,6	13,6
Feb	41,4	21,2	-8,4	2,5	35,0	9,0	11,2
Mar	30,9	39,6	-14,7	8,0	32,0	1,0	7,4
Apr	33,8	46,3	-18,8	13,6	16,3	0,1	5,6
May	41,3	34,8	-30,9	38,3	9,1	15,9	7,6
Jun	6,9	57,0	-31,9	27,3	31,2	2,6	6,7
Jul	-0,9	55,7	-26,3	27,8	9,1	13,4	7,6
Aug	3,2	51,3	-25,6	28,6	17,0	5,7	7,3
Sep	-4,7	41,9	-25,5	35,0	27,7	-12,9	4,6
Oct	3,8	45,3	-26,8	38,3	21,4		
Nov	9,3	16,0	-16,1	34,7	30,2		
Dec	22,8	-6,2	6,7	28,3	24,6		
Total	15,9	34,0	-19,7	24,4	23,5		

Table 10 – Seasonally adjusted mineral sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012
Jan	19 963,5	22 099,9	28 840,2	32 907,9	0,2	3,2	5,0	-4,0
Feb	21 190,0	21 886,2	29 692,8	32 195,7	6,1	-1,0	3,0	-2,2
Mar	20 833,6	22 643,3	29 757,4	30 034,7	-1,7	3,5	0,2	-6,7
Apr	21 887,7	24 771,6	29 039,8	29 000,0	5,1	9,4	-2,4	-3,4
May	18 356,8	25 529,2	28 233,8	32 492,3	-16,1	3,1	-2,8	12,0
Jun	18 947,7	23 927,4	31 059,1	32 198,9	3,2	-6,3	10,0	-0,9
Jul	20 025,1	25 624,9	27 986,6	31 840,9	5,7	7,1	-9,9	-1,1
Aug	20 543,8	25 893,8	30 542,6	32 379,2	2,6	1,0	9,1	1,7
Sep	19 480,9	26 659,7	34 324,8	30 026,7	-5,2	3,0	12,4	-7,3
Oct	19 558,8	26 935,4	32 522,7		0,4	1,0	-5,3	
Nov	19 646,5	26 545,6	34 211,0		0,4	-1,4	5,2	
Dec	21 409,5	27 478,6	34 296,8		9,0	3,5	0,3	

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

Mineral group and mineral	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12
Gold	5 634,5	7 300,2	7 643,4	6 808,6	7 346,3	6 618,6
Iron ore	5 670,9	6 374,5	6 564,6	5 595,6	4 080,3	5 125,6
Chromium ore	666,3	727,2	748,1	636,4	708,4	584,0
Copper	476,8	393,5	513,5	461,4	349,1	264,4
Manganese ore	780,8	906,2	924,9	835,8	1 310,2	931,7
PGMs	3 638,9	5 134,1	6 396,7	5 850,2	6 821,7	6 574,4
Nickel	364,6	693,5	707,5	435,1	536,9	558,2
Other metallic minerals	680,5	904,5	1 066,3	993,3	722,7	763,9
Coal	7 759,7	7 118,7	8 020,3	8 422,9	8 237,0	7 268,4
Building materials	641,8	748,9	707,9	749,8	737,5	715,1
Other non-metallic minerals	1 091,2	1 977,1	1 537,6	856,4	1 192,3	1 730,3
Total	27 406,1	32 278,4	34 830,8	31 645,6	32 042,5	31 134,6

1/ All values in this table are preliminary.

Table 12 – Seasonally adjusted mineral sales at current prices by mineral group and mineral (R million)

Mineral group and mineral	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Month-on-month % change
Gold	7 467,5	7 306,2	6 856,3	7 282,0	6 371,5	-12,5
Iron ore	5 998,1	5 718,3	5 451,2	5 695,9	5 114,5	-10,2
Chromium ore	674,5	696,0	616,3	621,6	572,2	-7,9
Copper	381,9	435,9	428,0	383,2	289,2	-24,5
Manganese ore	888,2	868,8	1 019,7	1 141,6	1 013,3	-11,2
PGMs	5 101,9	5 446,2	5 900,4	6 151,6	5 539,6	-9,9
Nickel	608,3	517,6	555,4	540,8	593,7	9,8
Other metallic minerals	1 130,6	834,2	1 019,2	837,7	619,8	-26,0
Coal	8 124,1	8 310,8	7 982,6	7 785,8	7 518,9	-3,4
Building materials	729,7	691,3	703,3	692,3	675,2	-2,5
Other non-metallic minerals	1 387,5	1 373,6	1 308,5	1 246,7	1 718,8	37,9
Total	32 492,3	32 198,9	31 840,9	32 379,2	30 026,7	-7,3

Table 13 – Year-on-year percentage change in mineral sales at current prices by mineral group and mineral

Mineral group and mineral	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12
Gold	21,2	54,2	42,7	26,5	34,0	-15,0
Iron ore	13,5	29,9	1,9	-2,1	13,8	-17,4
Chromium ore	-6,3	0,5	-2,2	-21,9	11,2	-27,5
Copper	40,0	-18,3	-11,3	8,3	-16,6	-42,5
Manganese ore	-10,6	16,8	18,7	58,4	38,5	-8,3
PGMs	-37,3	-26,7	-27,6	4,6	-2,2	-17,4
Nickel	-34,3	57,5	15,4	27,2	12,7	52,1
Other metallic minerals	56,9	-15,1	-8,6	4,7	-5,1	-33,7
Coal	14,7	20,8	19,2	26,6	-3,0	-4,8
Building materials	11,7	20,0	6,0	19,5	0,4	-3,0
Other non-metallic minerals	-35,2	63,7	-23,9	-2,9	-33,7	7,1
Total	0,1	15,9	2,6	13,4	5,7	-12,9

Table 14 – 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	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12
Gold	3,6	9,2	6,7	5,1	6,2	-3,3
Iron ore	2,5	5,3	0,4	-0,4	1,6	-3,0
Chromium ore	-0,2	0,0	0,0	-0,6	0,2	-0,6
Copper	0,5	-0,3	-0,2	0,1	-0,2	-0,5
Manganese ore	-0,3	0,5	0,4	1,1	1,2	-0,2
PGMs	-7,9	-6,7	-7,2	0,9	-0,5	-3,9
Nickel	-0,7	0,9	0,3	0,3	0,2	0,5
Other metallic minerals	0,9	-0,6	-0,3	0,2	-0,1	-1,1
Coal	3,6	4,4	3,8	6,3	-0,8	-1,0
Building materials	0,2	0,4	0,1	0,4	0,0	-0,1
Other non-metallic minerals	-2,2	2,8	-1,4	-0,1	-2,0	0,3
Total	0,1	15,9	2,6	13,4	5,7	-12,9

Survey information

Introduction	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 2010=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 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 by 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 of 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 mining data and past publications are available on the Stats SA webpage. Click on the following link (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, 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 2010. 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 2010 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 in a variable for any given month is the change between that month and the previous month, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
Year-on-year percentage change	9	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.
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 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 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; osmiridium; 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 border="0"> <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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