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# Statistical release

## P2041

### Mining: Production and sales (Preliminary)

**September 2006**

**Embargoed until:  
9 November 2006  
11:00**

**Enquiries:**

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**Forthcoming issue:**

October 2006

**Expected release date**

12 December 2006

**Table A – Selected key figures regarding mining production for September 2006**

<b>Annual estimates</b>	<b>September 2006</b>	<b>% change between September 2005 and September 2006</b>	<b>% change between July 2005 to September 2005 and July 2006 to September 2006</b>
Index of the physical volume of mining production (2000=100)			
Gold	67,6	-5,1%	-4,0%
Non-gold minerals	133,1	0,5%	0,3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>116,2</b>	<b>-0,4%</b>	<b>-0,4%</b>

<b>Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates</b>	<b>September 2006</b>	<b>% change between August 2006 and September 2006</b>	<b>% change between April 2006 to June 2006 and July 2006 to September 2006</b>
Index of the physical volume of mining production (2000=100)			
Gold	63,7	1,8%	-1,2%
Non-gold minerals	126,7	-1,4%	1,1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>110,5</b>	<b>-1,0%</b>	<b>0,8%</b>

**Key findings regarding mining production as at the end of September 2006**

**Mining production increases**

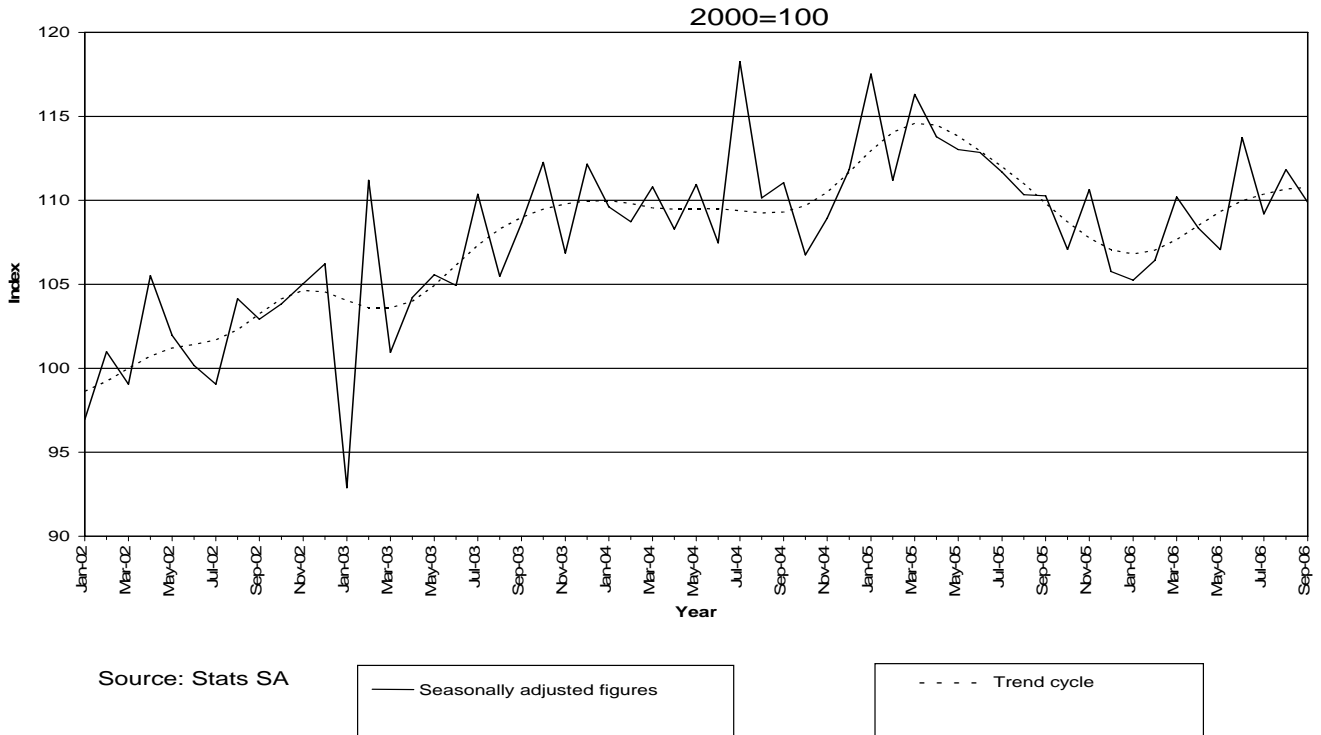
The total mining production for the three months ended September 2006, after seasonal adjustment, increased by 0,8% compared with the previous three months. The increase of 0,8% is higher than the -2,1% reported for the same period in 2005. However, the actual total mining production for the three months ended September 2006 decreased by 0,4% compared with the three months ended September 2005 (see Table A).

The increase of 0,8% in the seasonally adjusted total mining production for the three months ended September 2006, compared with the previous three months was due to an increase of 1,1% in the production of non-gold minerals. The major contributors to the seasonal adjusted increase of 1,1% in the total production of non-gold minerals during the three months ended September 2006 compared with the previous three months was mainly due to the increase in the production of PGM's (+0,7 of a percentage point).

Gold production decreased by 5,1% for the period September 2006 compared to September 2005. Furthermore, gold production after seasonal adjustment decreased by 1,2% for the three months ended September 2006, compared with the previous three months (see Table 4).

Figure 1 shows the seasonally adjusted figures and trend series for the index of mining production between January 2002 and September 2006. The trend series has been rising since beginning of 2002 until November of the same year and started to decline until March 2003 but it had a slight increase until January 2004 and leveled off until October 2004. It started to increase in November 2004 up to April 2005 but declined until January 2006. Since February 2006 the trend started to increase until present.

**Figure 1 - Indices of physical volume of total mining production including gold (Month on month)**



**Table B – Selected key figures regarding mineral sales for August 2006**

**Annual estimates**

	<b>August 2006 R million</b>	<b>% change between August 2005 and August 2006</b>	<b>% change between June 2005 to August 2005 and June 2006 to August 2006</b>
Mineral sales			
Gold	3 186,8	115,7%	65,9%
Non-gold minerals	14 377,0	40,8%	38,5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17 563,8</b>	<b>50,3%</b>	<b>43,1%</b>

**Shorter term seasonally  
adjusted estimates**

	<b>August 2006 R million</b>	<b>% change between July 2006 and August 2006</b>	<b>% change between March 2006 to May 2006 and June 2006 to August 2006</b>
Mineral sales			
Gold	3 385,5	-4,8%	29,7%
Non-gold minerals	14 341,3	6,9%	19,5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17 726,8</b>	<b>4,5%</b>	<b>21,4%</b>

**Key findings regarding mineral sales as at the end of August 2006**

**Mineral sales increase**

The seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended August 2006 reflected an increase of 21,4% compared with the previous three months. The increase of 21,4% is higher than the 2,1% reported for the same period in 2005. Furthermore, the actual value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended August 2006 increased by 43,1% compared with the three months ended August 2005 (see Table B).

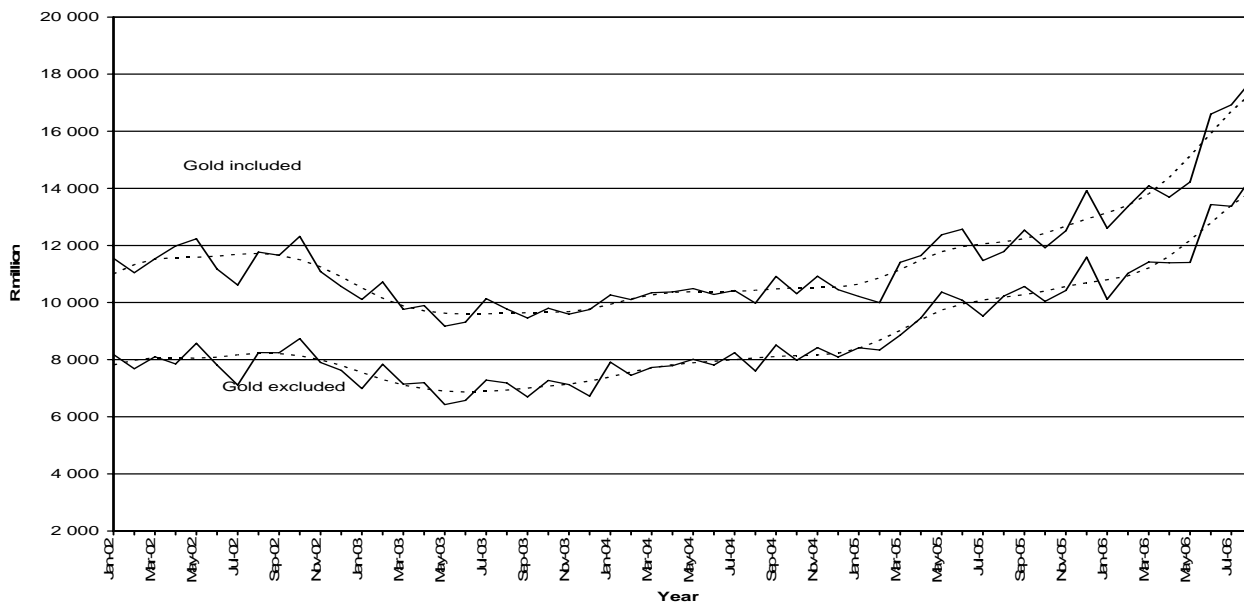
Total sales reached a high of R17,6 billion for the month of August 2006 and it is the third consecutive month that sales reached an excess of R17,0 billion in sales.

The increase of 21,4% in the seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales for the three months ended August 2006 compared with the previous three months can be attributed to an increase of 29,7% (+R2 318,0 million) in the sales of gold and 19,5% (+R6 732,1 million) in the sales of non-gold minerals (see Table 16).

The major contributors to the increase of 43,1% in the actual value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended August 2006 compared with the three months ended August 2005 were PGM's (+22,2 percentage points or +R8 244,7 million), gold (+11,0 percentage points or +R4 084,8 million), copper (+2,6 percentage points or +R975,2 million), iron ore (2,4 percentage points or R887,1 million) and nickel (2,3 percentage points or R864,9 million) (see Table 8).

Figure 2 shows the seasonally adjusted figures and trend series of total value of mineral sales between January 2002 and August 2006. Since January 2002 the trend series increased until August 2002 thereafter it decreased until June 2003. The trend series has been rising moderately since August 2003 up until February 2005. Since March 2005 the trend cycle has been increasing until present.

**Figure 2 - Total value of mineral sales including gold**

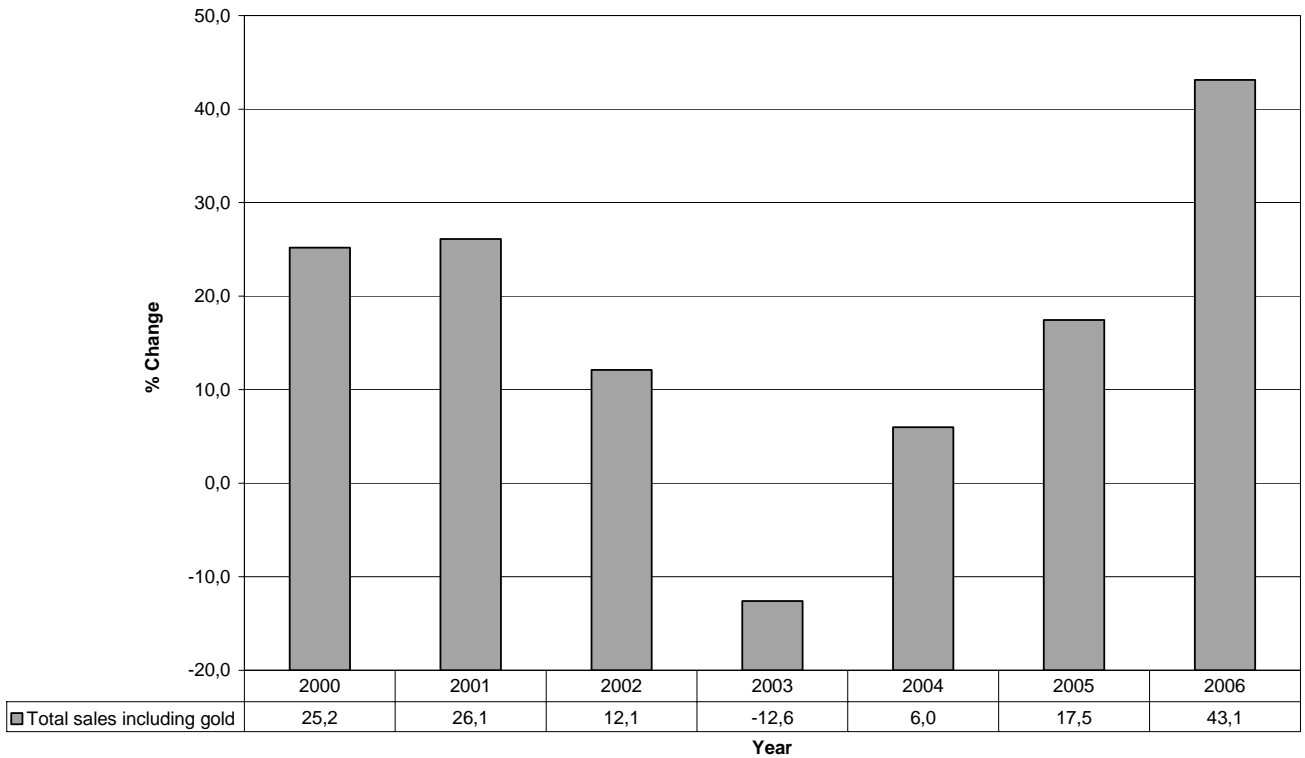


Source: Stats SA



Figure 3 shows the growth in the total value of mineral sales, including gold, for the three months ended August compared with the same period a year ago for the last seven years. The three month growth of 43,1% for the three months ended August 2006 compared to the three months ended August 2005 is the highest for the past seven years.

**Figure 3 - Comparison of the last seven years for the total value of mineral sales, including gold, for the three months ended August compared with the three months ended August of the previous year.**



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**Notes****Forthcoming issue**      **Issue**      **Expected date of publication**

October 2006      12 December 2006

**Purpose of the survey**      The monthly mining production and sales survey is a survey 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.



**Table 1 - Index of the physical volume of mining production including gold (Base 2000=100)**

Month	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Actual indices							
J	93,8	95,0	89,0	85,1	100,7	107,9	96,9
F	99,3	96,8	94,2	101,7	97,8	98,6	93,6
M	100,0	102,3	99,1	101,8	112,9	119,9	114,3
A	95,0	98,9	102,0	101,0	105,0	110,2	104,7
M	95,7	103,6	102,9	107,1	113,0	115,2	109,1*
J	106,8	108,4	104,1	108,6	111,1	116,8	117,7*
J	96,9	93,5	99,0	110,7	119,5	113,1	110,6*
A	102,1	115,2	107,2	109,1	114,3	114,8	116,4*
S	104,9	98,4	108,1	114,6	117,4	116,7	1/ 116,2
O	100,0	105,1	106,7	114,5	108,2	108,2	
N	105,5	102,6	107,5	108,6	110,1	111,4	
D	100,2	97,2	107,0	113,5	113,3	107,4	
Year	100,0	101,4	102,2	106,4	110,3	111,7	
Seasonally adjusted indices							
J	103,0	104,7	97,4	92,9	109,9	117,9	105,7
F	103,8	102,3	101,3	112,4	109,4	111,0	105,7
M	99,7	102,4	99,2	101,5	111,6	117,2	111,2
A	98,7	102,6	106,0	104,6	108,8	114,1	108,7
M	95,5	103,2	102,0	105,8	111,0	113,2	107,0
J	101,9	103,4	99,7	103,9	106,2	111,5	112,3
J	97,0	93,2	97,9	109,1	117,3	110,7	108,4
A	100,0	112,4	104,0	105,5	110,1	110,1	111,6
S	103,3	96,2	104,9	110,1	111,9	110,8	110,5
O	96,2	101,2	103,4	111,9	106,2	106,9	
N	101,7	99,7	105,4	107,2	109,4	111,1	
D	99,3	95,0	104,7	111,1	111,6	105,8	

**Table 2 - Index of the physical volume of mining production excluding gold (Base 2000=100)**

Month	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Actual indices							
J	94,4	98,3	89,6	85,7	110,0	121,6	110,2
F	96,4	98,6	95,8	107,3	104,0	108,7	104,1
M	97,9	104,4	101,0	106,2	123,6	136,2	130,9
A	94,1	102,2	105,3	106,3	115,0	127,0	118,9
M	96,6	108,9	107,0	114,7	124,9	131,3	126,3*
J	107,5	112,5	107,3	116,4	121,1	132,3	135,8*
J	97,6	93,7	102,4	118,8	133,1	129,2	127,6*
A	101,7	124,5	111,2	116,3	125,5	132,2	134,2*
S	105,1	99,7	111,4	122,9	130,0	132,4	1/ 133,1
O	100,6	110,2	111,9	124,2	119,7	122,3	
N	107,4	106,8	113,3	116,2	121,3	126,2	
D	100,8	97,7	111,2	123,3	127,0	120,0	
Year	100,0	104,8	105,6	113,2	121,3	126,6	
Seasonally adjusted indices							
J	103,4	108,3	97,9	93,2	119,8	132,5	119,8
F	101,5	105,0	104,3	120,7	118,8	124,6	119,5
M	98,4	105,3	101,8	106,3	122,3	132,9	127,1
A	97,9	106,2	109,6	110,1	119,0	131,3	123,2
M	95,1	107,3	104,9	112,1	121,5	128,1	123,0
J	102,2	106,9	102,4	110,9	115,4	126,0	129,2
J	96,7	92,3	100,3	116,3	129,9	125,8	124,4
A	100,0	121,8	108,0	112,4	120,8	126,7	128,5
S	105,0	98,6	108,9	118,7	124,3	125,9	126,7
O	95,5	105,0	107,6	120,7	117,1	120,7	
N	103,1	103,4	111,0	114,9	121,0	126,4	
D	101,0	96,0	109,3	121,0	125,4	118,6	

1/ Preliminary  
\* Revised

**Table 3 – Indices of physical volume of mining production according to mining divisions, mineral groups and minerals (Base 2000=100)**

Minerals	Weights	Actual indices				Seasonally adjusted indices		
		2005	2006		2005	2006		2005
			1/ Sep.	Aug.*		Sep.	Sep.	
Total, gold included	100,0	111,7	116,2	116,4	116,7	110,5	111,6	110,8
Total, gold excluded	74,3	126,6	133,1	134,2	132,4	126,7	128,5	125,9
Gold	25,7	68,4	67,6	64,8	71,2	63,7	62,6	67,0
Iron ore	3,1	118,0	126,4	122,4	112,8	132,1	124,9	118,6
Chrome	1,1	112,6	113,2	120,8	112,4	111,8	114,6	110,7
Copper	1,6	76,7	95,2	93,6	36,4	96,2	95,1	37,0
Manganese ore	1,3	126,7	152,4	129,6	114,4	164,6	131,7	123,0
PGM's	27,6	147,4	152,0	160,4	161,2	142,4	151,0	150,7
Nickel	2,0	115,8	115,2	110,0	109,6	118,9	100,3	112,9
Other metallic minerals	2,9	92,7	88,4	96,8	97,6	87,9	92,6	97,3
Diamonds	8,4	143,3	160,8	150,0	144,8	150,4	149,2	136,2
Coal	20,0	108,8	114,0	112,0	114,8	109,0	107,8	109,9
Building materials	2,6	118,4	143,6	144,0	124,8	133,5	136,9	115,5
Other non-metallic minerals	3,8	102,9	90,8	90,4	100,4	82,9	86,5	92,6

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\* Revised

**Table 4 - Contribution of the mining divisions to the total mining production (Base 2000=100)**

Mining division	Percentage contribution to the total mining production using the weights	Average seasonally adjusted production index for July 2006 to September 2006	Quarterly percentage change July 2006 to September 2006 compared with the preceding three months	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total mining production 1/
Gold	25,7	62,8	-1,2	-0,3
Non-gold minerals				
Iron ore	3,1	126,6	5,3	0,2
Copper	1,6	93,3	9,9	0,2
Manganese ore	1,3	146,6	3,5	0,0
Chromium	1,1	111,1	11,6	0,1
PGM's	27,6	147,2	2,5	0,7
Nickel	2,0	111,2	-5,2	-0,1
Other metallic minerals	2,9	92,2	-1,5	0,0
Diamonds	8,3	137,7	-2,8	-0,2
Coal	20,0	109,2	0,7	0,1
Building materials	2,6	133,3	4,7	0,1
Other non-metallic minerals	3,8	85,1	-8,5	-0,3
<b>Total non-gold minerals</b>	<b>74,3</b>	<b>126,5</b>	<b>1,1</b>	<b>0,8</b>
<b>Total minerals</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>110,2</b>	<b>0,8</b>	<b>0,8</b>

1/ The contribution is calculated by multiplying the quarterly percentage change of each mining division with its corresponding weight in the base year, divided by 100.

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

Month	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Actual values							
J	6 244,1	9 241,5	11 387,0	9 868,8	9 820,5	9 587,4	11 756,4
F	7 115,7	9 711,7	10 634,4	10 236,5	9 576,1	9 383,8	12 489,9
M	8 958,5	8 134,9	11 639,2	9 829,3	10 396,0	11 477,1	14 158,2
A	7 521,3	8 554,2	11 194,9	9 294,1	9 789,3	11 034,0	12 989,2
M	8 222,7	9 675,9	12 145,3	9 104,1	10 373,3	12 239,8	14 002,0*
J	8 222,5	10 640,7	11 637,2	9 745,9	10 856,0	13 360,1	17 775,1*
J	7 640,3	10 146,3	10 779,9	10 403,7	10 844,2	12 001,8	17 679,9*
A	8 223,4	9 586,4	11 633,5	9 612,0	9 841,7	11 687,6	1/ 17 563,8
S	8 568,9	8 711,5	12 115,1	10 008,1	11 693,2	13 524,1	
O	8 317,6	9 999,6	12 514,2	9 989,4	10 466,3	12 074,8	
N	9 828,5	9 627,7	11 059,4	9 535,8	10 815,6	12 452,9	
D	9 474,9	11 327,7	10 764,4	9 899,2	10 585,6	13 994,2	
Year	98 338,4	115 358,1	137 504,5	117 526,9	125 057,8	142 817,6	
Seasonally adjusted values							
J	6 163,1	9 148,6	11 397,0	9 891,2	9 991,7	10 053,7	12 192,6
F	7 185,0	9 842,6	10 859,7	10 515,0	9 983,7	9 942,2	13 330,8
M	9 451,1	8 128,4	11 689,5	9 944,5	10 512,7	11 487,7	14 241,6
A	7 760,5	8 954,4	11 868,2	9 813,4	10 345,2	11 619,6	13 790,5
M	8 268,5	9 707,4	12 126,6	9 108,7	10 460,2	12 317,8	14 264,2
J	7 936,5	10 306,8	11 160,2	9 301,1	10 322,6	12 621,9	16 651,5
J	7 504,5	10 292,2	10 733,4	10 523,2	10 878,1	11 799,2	16 968,1
A	8 268,0	9 606,0	11 725,9	9 722,8	9 890,5	11 741,4	17 726,8
S	8 567,8	8 592,3	11 869,5	9 541,9	10 972,9	12 633,4	
O	8 352,7	9 891,8	12 277,2	9 845,8	10 298,9	11 916,4	
N	9 974,5	9 769,3	11 290,0	9 716,9	10 955,2	12 600,6	
D	9 048,5	10 873,0	10 381,8	9 648,6	10 302,8	13 573,8	

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

Month	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Actual values							
J	4 476,9	7 181,9	8 002,3	6 744,1	7 480,6	7 809,6	9 317,3
F	4 963,8	7 720,8	7 368,2	7 452,6	7 039,8	7 813,9	10 278,6
M	6 688,4	5 912,0	8 110,9	7 140,7	7 710,4	8 840,3	11 381,5
A	5 790,2	6 748,0	7 481,9	6 815,2	7 366,5	8 963,2	10 796,9
M	6 166,9	7 139,7	8 619,3	6 477,2	8 029,3	10 372,9	11 400,2*
J	5 908,5	8 245,9	8 035,5	6 759,5	8 107,4	10 562,0	14 183,3*
J	5 700,6	7 779,6	7 344,7	7 613,1	8 699,0	10 082,3	14 179,2*
A	5 892,6	6 942,5	8 065,2	7 052,7	7 546,9	10 210,5	1/ 14 377,0
S	6 479,6	6 219,3	8 562,1	7 092,3	9 114,1	11 390,1	
O	6 047,1	6 971,4	8 711,8	7 345,5	8 089,0	10 186,0	
N	7 529,4	6 953,1	7 981,8	7 154,9	8 406,4	10 435,7	
D	7 422,4	8 532,3	7 834,8	6 825,9	8 138,7	11 549,8	
Year	73 066,4	86 346,5	96 118,5	84 473,7	95 728,1	118 216,3	
Seasonally adjusted values							
J	4 407,3	7 105,2	8 027,0	6 766,0	7 637,7	8 254,2	9 702,4
F	4 935,5	7 789,3	7 495,9	7 634,5	7 330,8	8 287,5	10 992,1
M	7 239,4	5 967,3	8 255,4	7 330,0	7 901,4	8 938,1	11 568,6
A	5 844,5	6 929,7	7 738,4	7 110,2	7 758,6	9 434,8	11 490,1
M	6 120,2	7 070,5	8 470,8	6 361,5	7 976,8	10 311,0	11 442,6
J	5 666,5	8 021,2	7 798,5	6 560,7	7 844,6	10 133,5	13 481,9
J	5 602,5	7 910,5	7 230,7	7 670,8	8 699,4	9 853,2	13 410,2
A	6 011,3	7 036,1	8 201,1	7 137,8	7 513,7	10 184,2	14 341,3
S	6 513,5	6 165,2	8 453,8	6 780,4	8 564,5	10 657,9	
O	6 266,6	7 079,0	8 698,6	7 315,4	7 968,9	10 038,8	
N	7 608,1	7 019,7	8 108,4	7 250,9	8 450,4	10 508,9	
D	6 974,9	8 045,9	7 442,5	6 614,2	7 935,7	11 239,6	

1/ Preliminary

\* Revised

**Table 7 - Total value of mineral sales according to mining divisions, mineral groups and minerals (R million)**

Minerals	Actual value					Seasonally adjusted value		
	2005	2006			2005 Aug.	2006		2005 Aug.
		1/	Aug.	Jul. *		Aug.	Jul.	
Total, gold included	142 817,6	17 563,8	17 679,9	11 687,6	17 726,8	16 968,1	11 741,4	
Total, gold excluded	118 216,3	14 377,0	14 179,2	10 210,5	14 341,3	13 410,2	10 184,2	
Gold	24 601,2	3 186,8	3 500,8	1 477,1	3 385,5	3 557,9	1 557,2	
Iron ore	7 519,6	934,0	895,7	769,5	904,7	884,1	752,0	
Chrome	1 898,3	190,5	218,1	180,9	204,1	205,3	192,5	
Copper	2 583,0	532,2	501,0	237,3	508,7	492,3	228,1	
Manganese ore	2 200,8	133,5	199,2	147,3	153,5	232,6	164,8	
PGM's	38 448,8	6 027,1	6 776,3	3 523,1	5 993,7	5 990,1	3 535,7	
Nickel	3 923,1	743,4	597,8	294,9	647,2	523,7	257,7	
Other metallic minerals	4 009,9	337,8	468,5	195,0	408,7	377,5	224,9	
Coal	35 609,5	3 267,4	3 298,6	3 171,3	3 118,5	3 301,3	3 011,6	
Building materials	4 318,7	468,8	451,6	419,1	429,0	427,6	384,3	
- Granite or norite	409,0	35,9	38,4	35,2	33,0	33,1	32,7	
- Lime and limestone	1 313,4	139,5	134,8	116,7	135,6	128,3	113,5	
- Other building materials	2 596,3	293,5	278,4	267,1	260,4	266,2	238,1	
Other non-metallic minerals	17 704,9	1 742,3	772,6	1 272,1	1 973,2	975,7	1 432,6	

1/ Preliminary  
\* Revised

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

Mining division	Percentage contribution to total mineral sales during June 2005 to August 2005	Percentage change between June 2005 to August 2005 and June 2006 to August 2006	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total value of mineral sales 1/	Difference in sales of mining divisions between June 2005 to August 2005 and June 2006 to August 2006  R million
Gold	16,7	65,9	11,0	4 084,8
Non-gold minerals				
Iron ore	5,1	46,8	2,4	887,1
Copper	1,9	139,1	2,6	975,2
Manganese ore	1,5	1,0	0,0	5,4
Chromium	1,3	25,5	0,4	127,6
PGM's	28,5	78,0	22,2	8 244,7
Nickel	3,1	75,8	2,3	864,9
Other metallic minerals	2,8	20,2	0,6	209,4
Coal	24,7	5,3	1,3	484,1
Building materials	3,2	15,4	0,5	182,1
Other non-metallic minerals	11,2	-2,3	-0,2	-95,8
<b>Total non-gold minerals</b>	<b>83,3</b>	<b>38,5</b>	<b>32,1</b>	<b>11 884,7</b>
<b>Total minerals</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>43,1</b>	<b>43,1</b>	<b>15 969,5</b>

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 June 2005 to August 2005, divided by 100.

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

	Actual estimates September 2005	Actual estimates September 2006	% change between September 2005 and September 2006	Difference between September 2005 and September 2006
Gold	71,2	67,6	-5,1%	-3,6
Non-gold minerals	132,4	133,1	0,5%	0,7
<b>Total</b>	<b>116,7</b>	<b>116,2</b>	<b>-0,4%</b>	<b>-0,5</b>

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

	Actual estimates July 2005 to September 2005	Actual estimates July 2006 to September 2006	% change between July 2005 to September 2005 and July 2006 to September 2006	Difference between July 2005 to September 2005 and July 2006 to September 2006
Gold	202,0	194,0	-4,0%	-8,0
Non-gold minerals	393,8	394,9	0,3%	1,1
<b>Total</b>	<b>344,6</b>	<b>343,2</b>	<b>-0,4%</b>	<b>-1,3</b>

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

	Actual estimates August 2006	Actual estimates September 2006	% change between August 2006 and September 2006	Difference between August 2006 and September 2006
Gold	62,6	63,7	1,8%	1,1
Non-gold minerals	128,5	126,7	-1,4%	-1,8
<b>Total</b>	<b>111,6</b>	<b>110,5</b>	<b>-1,0%</b>	<b>-1,1</b>

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

	Actual estimates April 2006 to June 2006	Actual estimates July 2006 to September 2006	% change between April 2006 to June 2006 and July 2006 to September 2006	Difference between April 2006 to June 2006 and July 2006 to September 2006
Gold	190,7	188,4	-1,2%	-2,3
Non-gold minerals	375,4	379,6	1,1%	4,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>328,0</b>	<b>330,5</b>	<b>0,8%</b>	<b>2,5</b>

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

	Actual estimates August 2005 R million	Actual estimates August 2006 R million	% change between August 2005 and August 2006	Difference between August 2005 and August 2006
Gold	1 477,1	3 186,8	115,7%	1 709,7
Non-gold minerals	10 210,5	14 377,0	40,8%	4 166,5
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 687,6</b>	<b>17 563,8</b>	<b>50,3%</b>	<b>5 876,2</b>

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

	Actual estimates June 2005 to August 2005 R million	Actual estimates June 2006 to August 2006 R million	% change between June 2005 to August 2005 and June 2006 to August 2006	Difference between June 2005 to August 2005 and June 2006 to August 2006
Gold	6 194,6	10 279,4	65,9%	4 084,8
Non-gold minerals	30 854,8	42 739,5	38,5%	11 884,7
<b>Total</b>	<b>37 049,5</b>	<b>53 018,8</b>	<b>43,1%</b>	<b>15 969,3</b>

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

	<b>Actual seasonal adjusted estimates July 2006</b> R million	<b>Actual seasonal adjusted estimates August 2006</b> R million	<b>% change between July 2006 and August 2006</b>	<b>Difference between July 2006 and August 2006</b>
Gold	3 557,9	3 385,5	-4,8%	-172,4
Non-gold minerals	13 410,2	14 341,3	6,9%	931,1
<b>Total</b>	<b>16 968,1</b>	<b>17 726,8</b>	<b>4,5%</b>	<b>758,7</b>

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

	<b>Actual seasonal adjusted estimates March 2006 to May 2006</b> R million	<b>Actual seasonal adjusted estimates June 2006 to August 2006</b> R million	<b>% change between March 2006 to May 2006 and June 2006 to August 2006</b>	<b>Difference between March 2006 to May 2006 and June 2006 to August 2006</b>
Gold	7 795,0	10 113,0	29,7%	2 318,0
Non-gold minerals	34 501,3	41 233,4	19,5%	6 732,1
<b>Total</b>	<b>42 296,3</b>	<b>51 346,4</b>	<b>21,4%</b>	<b>9 050,1</b>

## 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.
- Scope of the survey**
- 6 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**
- 7 The 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (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 *International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC)* 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**
- 8 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 7).
- Weighting**
- 9 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**
- 10 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.

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.



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<b>Reliability of estimates</b>	11	Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Figures for the latest month are preliminary.
<b>Historical data</b>	12	More comprehensive detail on the method of calculation and historical data in respect of the production indices according to mining mineral groups for the period February 1990 to November 2002 is available in statistical release P2041.1, entitled <i>Mining statistics: Indices of the physical volume of mining production, Base: 2000=100, February 1990 to November 2002</i> , published on 11 February 2003 on the Stats SA website: <a href="http://www.statssa.gov.za">www.statssa.gov.za</a>
<b>Related publications</b>	13	Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from Stats SA - <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Bulletin of Statistics.</i></li><li>• <i>SA Statistics.</i></li></ul>
<b>Unpublished statistics</b>	14	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.
<b>Rounding-off of figures</b>	15	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.

## Glossary

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

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