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Department:  
Statistics South Africa  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

## Media Release

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### Mining industry, 2019

According to the Mining industry report released by Statistics South Africa today, 23 000 jobs were lost between 2012 and 2019. The biggest losses in jobs were recorded in the mining of gold (42 000) and platinum group metals (PGMs) (8 000). However, there were gains in coal (17 000) and 'other mining and service activities' (5 000).

This is a periodic census of mines conducted every three to five years and informs on the nature and structure of the mining industry.

#### **The total number of persons employed in 2019 was 515 000.**

This represents a slight increase of 1% (3 700) in employment compared with 2015 (511 000). Most of the persons were employed in North West (150 000), followed by Limpopo (110 000), Mpumalanga (95 000), Gauteng (70 000), Northern Cape (41 000) and Free State (35 000).

Limpopo had the highest gain in employment between 2015 and 2019 (25 000), followed by Northern Cape (6 000) and Free State (3 000). The worst provinces in terms of job losses were Mpumalanga (21 000) and North West (13 000).

The number of direct mine employees decreased by 6,6% (23 000) from 366 000 in 2015 to 343 000 in 2019. During the same period, there was an increase of 20% (20 000) in the number of 'subcontractor employees' from 100 000 to 120 000.

#### **79% of total income was derived from the mining of coal, PGMs, iron ore & gold**

The total income in 2019 (R552,1 billion) increased by 23% (5,4% per annum) compared with 2015 (R448,1 billion). Mining of coal contributed R156,1 billion or 28% to total income, followed by PGMs (R153,7 billion or 28%), iron ore (R65,3 billion or 12%) and gold and uranium ore (R63,4 billion or 11%).

**Coal and PGMs contributed almost two thirds to income from local sales**

Coal was the largest contributor to local sales in 2019 (R90,9 billion or 45%), followed by PGMs (R39,2 billion or 19%), chromium ore (R13,0 billion or 6%) and gold (R12,6 billion or 6%).

**PGMs, coal, iron ore and gold account for 80% of income from export sales**

The largest contributor to export sales in 2019 was PGMs (R93,6 billion or 29%), followed by coal (R57,1 billion or 18%), iron ore (R56,5 billion or 18%) and gold (R48,3 billion or 15%).

**85% of sales income was generated in Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West and Northern Cape**

In 2019, the top four provinces in terms of income contributed 85% or R448,3 billion. Mpumalanga was the largest (R137,3 billion or 26%), followed by Limpopo (R106,2 billion or 20%), North West (R106,1 billion or 20%) and Northern Cape (R98,7 billion or 19%).

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