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Mining: Production and sales (Preliminary)

August 2017

This is the first publication with weights based on national accounts value added data up to 2015 and 2015 as the new reference year (Base: 2015=100). Previously, the total mining production index was calculated using weights based on national accounts value added data up to 2014 with the reference year 2010 (Base: 2010=100).

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Production: results for August 2017

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

	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	15,1	-0,2	2,1	1,5	1,9	6,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	4,7	-2,3	1,6	-1,0	0,5	5,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	2,7	4,4	4,9	1,6	1,1	1,4

[1] Percentage change between the previous three months and the three months ending in the month indicated.

Mining production increased by 6,9% year-on-year in August 2017. The largest positive contributors were:

- iron ore (9,0% and contributing 1,3 percentage points);
- diamonds (27,7% and contributing 1,2 percentage points); and
- gold (7,7% and contributing 1,1 percentage points) – see Tables 6 and 7.

Seasonally adjusted mining production increased by 5,3% in August 2017 compared with July 2017. This followed month-on-month changes of 0,5% in July 2017 and -1,0% in June 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	Mar – May 2017	Jun – Aug 2017	% change between Mar – May 2017 and Jun – Aug 2017	Contribution (% points) to the % change in total mining production
Gold	15,49	96,2	99,8	3,7	0,6
Iron ore	13,61	102,9	103,6	0,7	0,1
Chromium ore	2,96	108,0	112,0	3,7	0,1
Copper [1]	1,24	76,0	82,6	8,7	0,1
Manganese ore [2]	3,27	138,0	130,6	-5,4	-0,2
PGMs	23,27	97,4	94,8	-2,7	-0,6
Nickel [2]	1,85	86,7	87,6	1,0	0,0
Other metallic minerals [1]	2,57	103,4	100,7	-2,6	-0,1
Diamonds [2]	3,89	117,2	142,3	21,4	1,0
Coal	24,69	98,6	100,0	1,4	0,3
Building materials	1,81	103,5	102,9	-0,6	0,0
Other non-metallic minerals [1]	5,35	92,6	95,2	2,8	0,1
Total	**100,00**	**100,2**	**101,6**	**1,4**	**1,4**

[1] Adjusted for calendar effects only. See notes 4, 5 and 6 on page 13.

[2] Unadjusted.

Seasonally adjusted mining production increased by 1,4% in the three months ended August 2017 compared with the previous three months. Diamonds (contributing 1,0 percentage point) was the largest positive contributor and PGMs the largest negative contributor (contributing -0,6 of a percentage point) – see Table B.

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

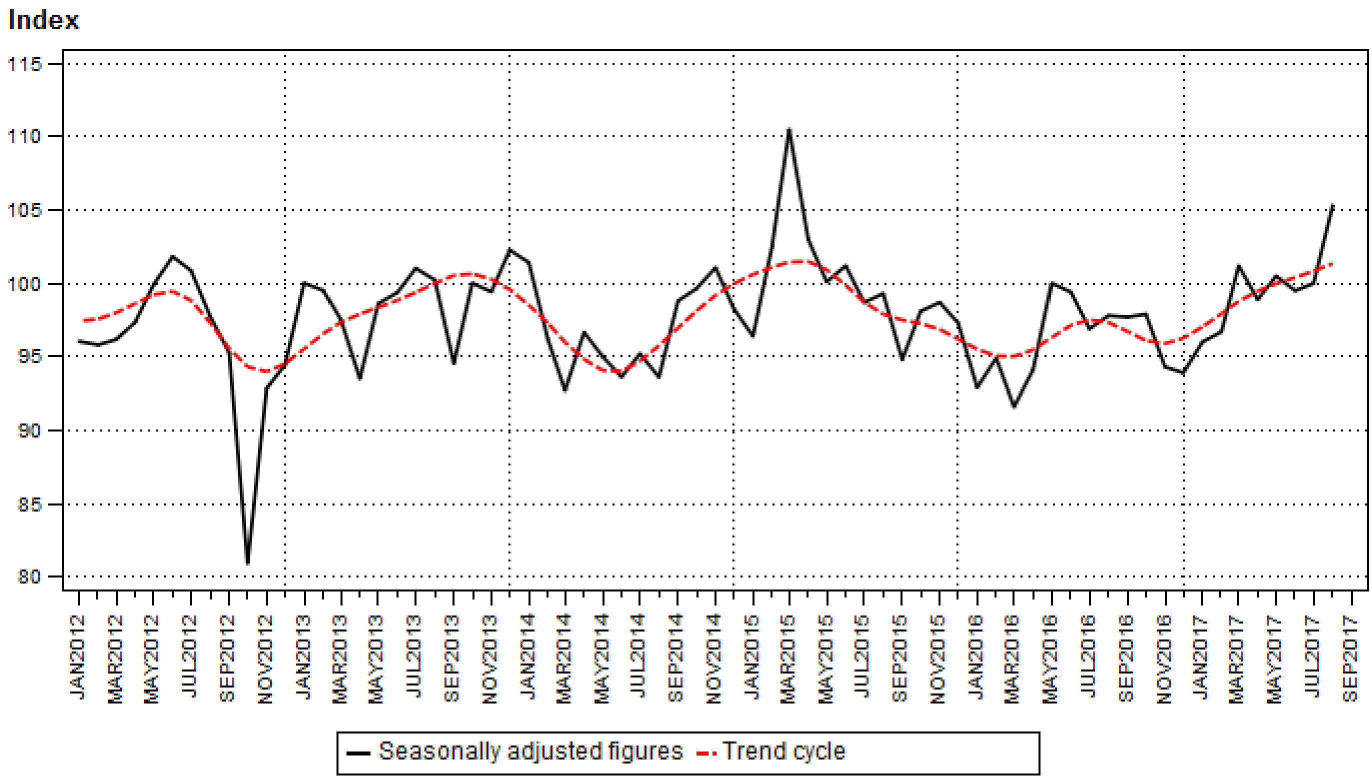
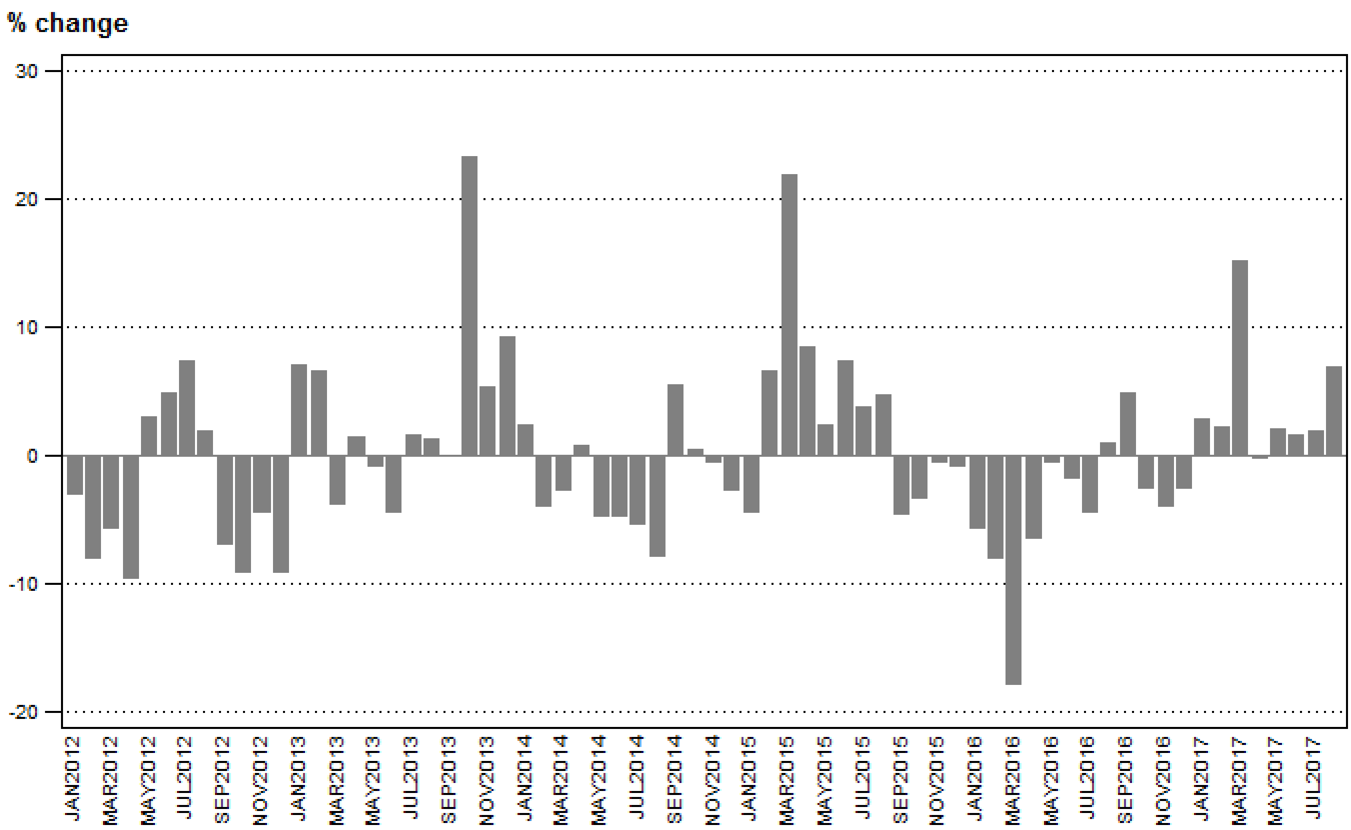


Figure 2 – Volume of mining production (Base: 2015=100): year-on-year percentage change



Sales: results for July 2017

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

	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	10,4	14,6	10,7	-5,7	-4,1	17,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-4,1	2,5	-2,3	2,0	-1,1	2,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	0,2	-3,7	-5,7	-2,3	-1,2	1,4

[1] Percentage change between the previous three months and the three months ending in the month indicated.

Mineral sales increased by 17,7% year-on-year in July 2017. The main positive contributors were:
- coal (36,3% and contributing 9,5 percentage points);
- manganese ore (116,9% and contributing 4,9 percentage points);
- chromium ore (59,8% and contributing 2,1 percentage points); and
- ‘other’ metallic minerals (106,2% and contributing 1,8 percentage points) – see Tables 12 and 13.

Seasonally adjusted mineral sales at current prices increased by 2,8% in July 2017 compared with June 2017. This followed month-on-month changes of -1,1% in June 2017 and 2,0% in May 2017.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Note – Rebasing and reweighting of mining production

Introduction

Statistics South Africa publishes monthly information regarding the mining industry based on the mining production and mineral sales figures provided by the Department of Mineral Resources. 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. The results of the mining production indices published today contain changes related to rebasing and reweighting.

Rebasing

The base year is the reference point of an index and is usually set at 100. The new reference year for mining production is 2015 (Base: 2015=100). To convert the base year from reference year 2010 to 2015, the previous individual indices (Base: 2010=100) were divided by their averages for 2015 and multiplied by 100.

Reweighting

The new and old weights are shown in Table D below. The new weights are based on national accounts value added for the years 2013 to 2015, and have been applied with effect from January 2015. To provide continuity between December 2014 and January 2015 in the index for total mining production, the old index (previous weights) was linked to the new index (new weights).

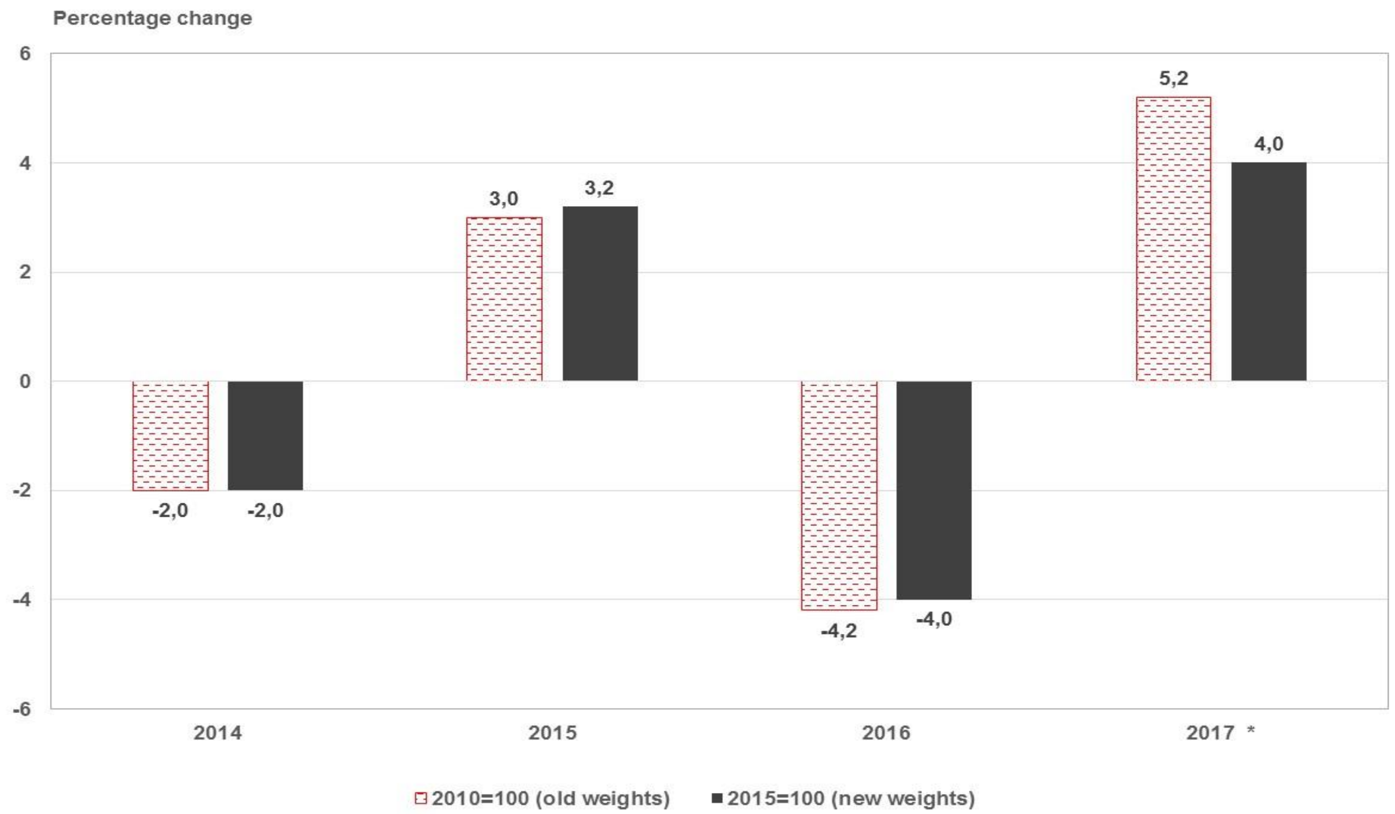
The impact of the rebasing and reweighting on total mining production year-on-year growth rates is illustrated in Figures 3 and 4. Prior to January 2015, the year-on-year rates of change are unaffected.

Table D – Historical weights for the mineral groups and minerals

Mineral group and mineral	Weights from the value of mineral sales for the year 2000 2000 - 2004	Weights from the value of mineral sales for the year 2005 2005 - 2009	Weights from the value of mineral sales for the year 2010 2010 - 2011	Weights from the value of mineral sales for the year 2012 2012 - 2013	Weights from national accounts value added for the years 2012-2014 2014	Weights from national accounts value added for the years 2013-2015 2015 - present
Gold	25,7	17,2	17,7	21,10	16,25	15,49
Iron ore	3,1	5,3	14,4	14,46	14,86	13,61
Chromium ore	1,1	1,3	2,2	2,27	2,63	2,96
Copper	1,6	1,8	1,4	1,41	1,27	1,24
Manganese ore	1,3	1,5	3,6	2,97	3,09	3,27
PGMs	27,6	27,0	24,6	19,01	21,82	23,27
Nickel	2,0	2,8	2,0	1,77	1,88	1,85
Other metallic minerals	2,9	2,8	2,5	2,98	2,88	2,57
Diamonds	8,3	7,6	3,1	2,75	3,59	3,89
Coal	20,0	24,9	23,7	26,45	25,04	24,69
Building materials	2,6	2,1	1,6	1,54	1,65	1,81
Other non-metallic minerals	3,8	5,7	3,2	3,29	5,04	5,35
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Figure 3 – Comparison of the total mining production growth rate based on previous and new base year and weights: year-on-year percentage change

Figure 4 – Comparison of the annual growth rates for total mining production based on previous and new base year and weights



* Up to August 2017

Tables

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

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

[1] Preliminary.
* Revised due to rebasing and reweighting. See note on page 5.

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	2,8	*2,8*
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	15,1	*6,9*
Apr	-9,5	1,4	0,8	8,4	-6,4	-0,2	*5,0*
May	3,0	-0,9	-4,6	2,3	-0,5	2,1	*4,4*
Jun	4,8	-4,3	-4,7	7,4	-1,7	1,5	*3,8*
Jul	7,5	1,4	-5,4	3,8	-4,3	1,9	*3,6*
Aug	1,8	1,2	-7,8	4,8	0,9	6,9	*4,0*
Sep	-6,9	0,0	5,5	-4,6	4,8		
Oct	-9,1	23,2	0,4	-3,2	-2,5		
Nov	-4,4	5,3	-0,5	-0,4	-3,9		
Dec	-9,1	9,2	-2,8	-0,7	-2,5		
Year	**-3,1**	**3,4**	**-2,0**	**3,2**	**-4,0**		

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	96,4	92,9	96,0	-0,9	-1,9	-4,5	2,2
Feb	96,2	102,5	94,9	96,7	-5,1	6,3	2,2	0,7
Mar	92,7	110,5	91,6	101,2	-3,6	7,8	-3,5	4,7
Apr	96,7	103,0	94,1	98,9	4,3	-6,8	2,7	-2,3
May	95,0	100,1	100,0	100,5	-1,8	-2,8	6,3	1,6
Jun	93,6	101,2	99,4	99,5	-1,5	1,1	-0,6	-1,0
Jul	95,2	98,7	96,9	100,0	1,7	-2,5	-2,5	0,5
Aug	93,6	99,3	97,8	105,3	-1,7	0,6	0,9	5,3
Sep	98,8	94,8	97,7		5,6	-4,5	-0,1	
Oct	99,6	98,1	97,9		0,8	3,5	0,2	
Nov	101,1	98,7	94,3		1,5	0,6	-3,7	
Dec	98,3	97,3	93,9		-2,8	-1,4	-0,4	

Table 4 – Index of the volume of mining production by mineral group and mineral (Base: 2015=100) [1]

Mineral group and mineral	Weight	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17
Gold	15,49	94,0	87,5	98,6	105,5	103,5	103,1
Iron ore	13,61	102,1	103,3	97,3	109,6	98,1	116,3
Chromium ore	2,96	110,2	104,6	109,0	116,2	114,5	118,2
Copper	1,24	84,0	84,0	62,0	73,2	88,1	88,5
Manganese ore	3,27	136,9	125,9	151,1	146,6	111,9	133,4
PGMs	23,27	108,8	90,9	87,9	94,3	90,4	112,4
Nickel	1,85	85,6	92,7	81,9	89,2	81,1	92,5
Other metallic minerals	2,57	117,0	102,4	93,2	97,6	92,1	114,8
Diamonds	3,89	125,0	91,2	135,4	137,5	146,0	143,5
Coal	24,69	100,4	91,8	105,5	104,4	103,0	104,0
Building materials	1,81	109,1	95,9	109,5	108,3	111,0	107,8
Other non-metallic minerals	5,35	94,5	84,1	98,4	104,1	90,5	95,0
Total	**100,00**	**103,8**	**93,8**	**100,4**	**105,2**	**100,4**	**109,8**

[1] 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	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Month-on-month % change
Gold	93,7	96,4	98,4	96,5	102,6	100,4	-2,1
Iron ore	101,9	107,5	99,3	101,9	93,2	115,8	24,2
Chromium ore	111,2	105,4	107,3	109,9	112,3	113,8	1,3
Copper [1]	82,4	85,2	60,4	74,4	86,5	86,9	0,5
Manganese ore [2]	136,9	125,9	151,1	146,6	111,9	133,4	19,2
PGMs	102,2	96,1	93,8	86,6	96,0	101,9	6,1
Nickel [2]	85,6	92,7	81,9	89,2	81,1	92,5	14,1
Other metallic minerals [1]	115,1	103,9	91,3	99,1	90,2	112,9	25,2
Diamonds [2]	125,0	91,2	135,4	137,5	146,0	143,5	-1,7
Coal	97,5	98,2	100,2	100,5	100,1	99,3	-0,8
Building materials	102,8	107,0	100,8	101,9	104,5	102,2	-2,2
Other non-metallic minerals [1]	91,9	85,5	100,3	100,5	92,5	92,5	0,0
Total	**101,2**	**98,9**	**100,5**	**99,5**	**100,0**	**105,3**	**5,3**

[1] Adjusted for calendar effects only. See notes 4, 5 and 6 on page 13.

[2] Unadjusted.

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

Mineral group and mineral	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17
Gold	-8,7	-2,9	-2,6	-3,0	5,8	7,7
Iron ore	24,5	29,9	27,9	3,6	-5,0	9,0
Chromium ore	27,1	16,5	19,9	19,8	19,0	20,0
Copper	23,0	-2,6	-10,8	90,6	26,2	-19,8
Manganese ore	55,0	40,0	54,2	26,4	20,2	27,7
PGMs	23,4	-11,0	-24,1	-13,8	-4,1	2,0
Nickel	-3,4	-1,6	-5,1	9,7	4,2	4,6
Other metallic minerals	30,4	11,7	4,7	-12,2	-3,4	20,3
Diamonds	56,6	12,2	61,2	59,0	16,6	27,7
Coal	10,1	-8,6	4,5	-0,5	-1,4	1,9
Building materials	20,4	-1,4	2,6	0,4	1,9	-0,5
Other non-metallic minerals	-0,5	-10,2	16,2	33,8	19,4	16,7
Total	**15,1**	**-0,2**	**2,1**	**1,5**	**1,9**	**6,9**

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	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17
Gold	-1,5	-0,4	-0,4	-0,5	0,9	1,1
Iron ore	3,0	3,4	2,9	0,5	-0,7	1,3
Chromium ore	0,8	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,5
Copper	0,2	0,0	-0,1	0,4	0,2	-0,3
Manganese ore	1,8	1,3	1,8	1,0	0,6	0,9
PGMs	5,3	-2,8	-6,6	-3,4	-0,9	0,5
Nickel	-0,1	0,0	-0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1
Other metallic minerals	0,8	0,3	0,1	-0,3	-0,1	0,5
Diamonds	1,9	0,4	2,0	1,9	0,8	1,2
Coal	2,5	-2,3	1,1	-0,1	-0,4	0,4
Building materials	0,4	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0
Other non-metallic minerals	0,0	-0,5	0,7	1,4	0,8	0,7
Total	**15,1**	**-0,2**	**2,1**	**1,5**	**1,9**	**6,9**

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

Month	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 *	2016 1/	2017 1/
Jan	25 341,3	28 079,4	28 977,1	32 608,8	27 714,6	26 969,1	32 933,6
Feb	27 573,2	29 335,5	30 361,5	35 488,2	30 712,0	30 933,5	34 162,4
Mar	31 547,4	30 912,0	34 761,4	35 172,2	34 751,6	34 144,8	39 140,2
Apr	27 370,2	26 772,5	31 865,2	31 647,7	32 675,8	30 843,8	34 142,7
May	27 870,5	31 257,0	30 402,1	30 932,4	32 812,7	37 994,3	35 812,5
Jun	33 940,1	33 958,2	35 088,5	31 630,8	35 668,4	41 023,0	39 356,4
Jul	27 947,7	30 899,0	32 847,9	31 517,7	30 620,3	30 372,3	35 733,7
Aug	30 300,9	31 402,3	35 523,4	32 124,1	31 313,7	34 052,2	
Sep	35 700,1	30 367,0	34 731,0	35 345,8	33 416,7	39 163,8	
Oct	33 393,7	28 258,6	34 544,7	34 101,5	33 004,9	37 154,0	
Nov	35 268,1	29 921,3	34 122,6	32 274,1	30 901,0	39 445,6	
Dec	34 027,5	32 954,5	34 452,5	33 434,3	34 055,0	41 749,2	
Total	**370 280,7**	**364 117,3**	**397 677,9**	**396 277,6**	**387 646,7**	**423 845,6**	

[1] Preliminary.
* Revised.

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	22,1	*22,1*
Feb	6,4	3,5	16,9	-13,5	0,7	10,4	*15,9*
Mar	-2,0	12,5	1,2	-1,2	-1,7	14,6	*15,4*
Apr	-2,2	19,0	-0,7	3,2	-5,6	10,7	*14,2*
May	12,2	-2,7	1,7	6,1	15,8	-5,7	*9,5*
Jun	0,1	3,3	-9,9	12,8	15,0	-4,1	*6,8*
Jul	10,6	6,3	-4,0	-2,8	-0,8	17,7	*8,2*
Aug	3,6	13,1	-9,6	-2,5	8,7		
Sep	-14,9	14,4	1,8	-5,5	17,2		
Oct	-15,4	22,2	-1,3	-3,2	12,6		
Nov	-15,2	14,0	-5,4	-4,3	27,7		
Dec	-3,2	4,5	-3,0	1,9	22,6		
Total	**-1,7**	**9,2**	**-0,4**	**-2,2**	**9,3**		

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	36 142,6	30 509,7	30 964,0	37 606,6	7,5	-5,7	-2,2	-3,2
Feb	37 502,8	32 419,2	32 698,3	36 052,5	3,8	6,3	5,6	-4,1
Mar	33 750,9	33 726,9	31 874,0	36 966,1	-10,0	4,0	-2,5	2,5
Apr	33 456,2	33 377,7	32 937,8	36 098,6	-0,9	-1,0	3,3	-2,3
May	30 994,2	34 148,6	39 243,6	36 814,0	-7,4	2,3	19,1	2,0
Jun	29 779,0	33 525,2	37 307,1	36 420,5	-3,9	-1,8	-4,9	-1,1
Jul	31 810,6	31 399,9	32 238,0	37 447,5	6,8	-6,3	-13,6	2,8
Aug	32 590,5	31 273,0	34 227,5		2,5	-0,4	6,2	
Sep	33 517,8	31 731,8	36 257,0		2,8	1,5	5,9	
Oct	33 314,0	31 978,6	36 817,9		-0,6	0,8	1,5	
Nov	31 878,6	30 711,7	39 211,4		-4,3	-4,0	6,5	
Dec	32 342,1	31 652,4	38 856,7		1,5	3,1	-0,9	

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

Mineral group and mineral	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17
Gold	4 979,6	5 267,0	5 014,7	5 924,3	6 093,8	6 150,2
Iron ore	4 735,8	5 150,6	3 390,2	3 206,7	3 226,0	3 696,2
Chromium ore	1 852,6	2 735,3	2 179,1	2 175,5	1 765,2	1 676,6
Copper	245,7	272,8	347,2	292,1	322,3	293,2
Manganese ore	2 288,5	2 164,8	1 639,1	2 090,0	3 883,5	2 764,7
PGMs	6 120,5	8 196,9	8 609,4	7 615,4	7 897,0	6 828,8
Nickel	309,9	659,3	514,6	604,1	552,4	359,3
Other metallic minerals	698,3	686,5	1 165,6	609,5	1 122,5	1 071,6
Coal	9 731,4	10 458,0	9 467,0	10 072,9	9 559,6	10 894,5
Building materials	839,9	982,6	880,6	1 068,8	1 001,5	1 023,4
Other non-metallic minerals	2 360,2	2 566,3	935,1	2 153,1	3 932,7	975,0
Total	**34 162,4**	**39 140,2**	**34 142,7**	**35 812,5**	**39 356,4**	**35 733,7**

[1] 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	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17
Gold	-19,4	-25,9	-10,0	-16,5	-14,5	-3,4
Iron ore	76,2	39,7	-9,7	-9,5	-4,5	0,4
Chromium ore	99,4	111,3	93,8	52,8	36,3	59,8
Copper	-10,8	-27,2	16,0	-9,5	11,7	31,5
Manganese ore	151,5	139,4	12,9	8,8	95,4	116,9
PGMs	-4,2	20,4	39,2	-28,3	-33,8	-1,2
Nickel	-47,6	-1,7	-4,8	-3,0	23,4	-21,0
Other metallic minerals	23,3	-19,1	82,4	-9,9	24,9	106,2
Coal	17,2	21,5	11,1	15,0	4,5	36,3
Building materials	0,1	13,1	-7,0	8,2	3,2	6,7
Other non-metallic minerals	-27,5	-13,6	-48,3	6,4	10,6	3,8
Total	**10,4**	**14,6**	**10,7**	**-5,7**	**-4,1**	**17,7**

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	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17
Gold	-3,9	-5,4	-1,8	-3,1	-2,5	-0,7
Iron ore	6,6	4,3	-1,2	-0,9	-0,4	0,0
Chromium ore	3,0	4,2	3,4	2,0	1,1	2,1
Copper	-0,1	-0,3	0,2	-0,1	0,1	0,2
Manganese ore	4,5	3,7	0,6	0,4	4,6	4,9
PGMs	-0,9	4,1	7,9	-7,9	-9,8	-0,3
Nickel	-0,9	0,0	-0,1	0,0	0,3	-0,3
Other metallic minerals	0,4	-0,5	1,7	-0,2	0,5	1,8
Coal	4,6	5,4	3,1	3,5	1,0	9,5
Building materials	0,0	0,3	-0,2	0,2	0,1	0,2
Other non-metallic minerals	-2,9	-1,2	-2,8	0,3	0,9	0,1
Total	**10,4**	**14,6**	**10,7**	**-5,7**	**-4,1**	**17,7**

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 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.

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 *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. 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.

Rounding-off of figures

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.

Historical data and past publications

11 Historical mining data and past publications are available on the Stats SA website. 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 2015. The production in the base period is set at 100.

Index weighting

2 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.

3 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.

Seasonal adjustment

4 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.

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. The X-12-ARIMA procedure for mining production and sales is described in more detail on the Stats SA website at:
Click to download seasonal adjustment for mining production and sales

Calendar effects

6 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).

Trend cycle

7 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.

Reliability of estimates

8 Figures for the latest 2 calendar years are preliminary.

Month-on-month percentage change

9 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

10 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)

11 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, 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

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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General information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

Advance release calendar

An advance release calendar is disseminated on www.statssa.gov.za

Stats SA products

A complete set of Stats SA publications is available at the Stats SA Library and the following libraries:

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Central Reference Library, Mbombela
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