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STATISTICAL RELEASE
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Mining: Production and sales (Preliminary)

August 2019

This is the first publication with weights based on national accounts value added data for 2015–2017. Previously, the total mining production index was calculated using weights based on national accounts value added data for 2014–2016.

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Production: results for August 2019

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

	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-0,7	-1,0	0,3	-3,2	1,4	-3,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	3,8	-1,2	4,0	2,4	-4,9	0,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1]	-3,2	-0,4	3,1	4,0	4,3	1,3

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

Mining production decreased by 3,2% year-on-year in August 2019. The largest negative contributors were:
- PGMs (-12,5% and contributing -3,0 percentage points);
- diamonds (-29,8% and contributing -1,4 percentage points); and
- coal (-3,4% and contributing -0,9 of a percentage point).

Manganese ore (34,3% and contributing 1,8 percentage points) was a significant positive contributor – see Tables 6 and 7.

Seasonally adjusted mining production increased by 0,3% in August 2019 compared with July 2019. This followed month-on-month changes of -4,9% in July 2019 and 2,4% in June 2019.

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 2019	Jun – Aug 2019	% change between Mar – May 2019 and Jun – Aug 2019	Contribution (% points) to the % change in total mining production
Gold	16,45	69,1	71,4	3,3	0,4
Iron ore	10,98	97,2	98,7	1,5	0,2
Chromium ore	3,74	112,5	112,3	-0,2	0,0
Copper [1]	0,93	83,0	57,6	-30,6	-0,2
Manganese ore [2]	4,20	148,0	166,5	12,5	0,8
PGMs	23,66	98,0	95,5	-2,6	-0,6
Nickel [2]	1,45	77,9	75,1	-3,6	0,0
Other metallic minerals [1]	2,09	122,8	128,0	4,2	0,1
Diamonds [2]	3,75	91,8	95,0	3,5	0,1
Coal	24,72	103,8	103,2	-0,6	-0,2
Building materials	2,14	96,3	93,3	-3,1	-0,1
Other non-metallic minerals [1]	5,89	98,5	112,5	14,2	0,8
Total	**100,00**	**97,1**	**98,4**	**1,3**	**1,3**

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

[2] Unadjusted.

Seasonally adjusted mining production increased by 1,3% in the three months ended August 2019 compared with the previous three months. The largest positive contributors were manganese ore (12,5% and contributing 0,8 of a percentage point) and ‘other’ non-metallic minerals (14,2% and contributing 0,8 of a percentage point) – see Table B.

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

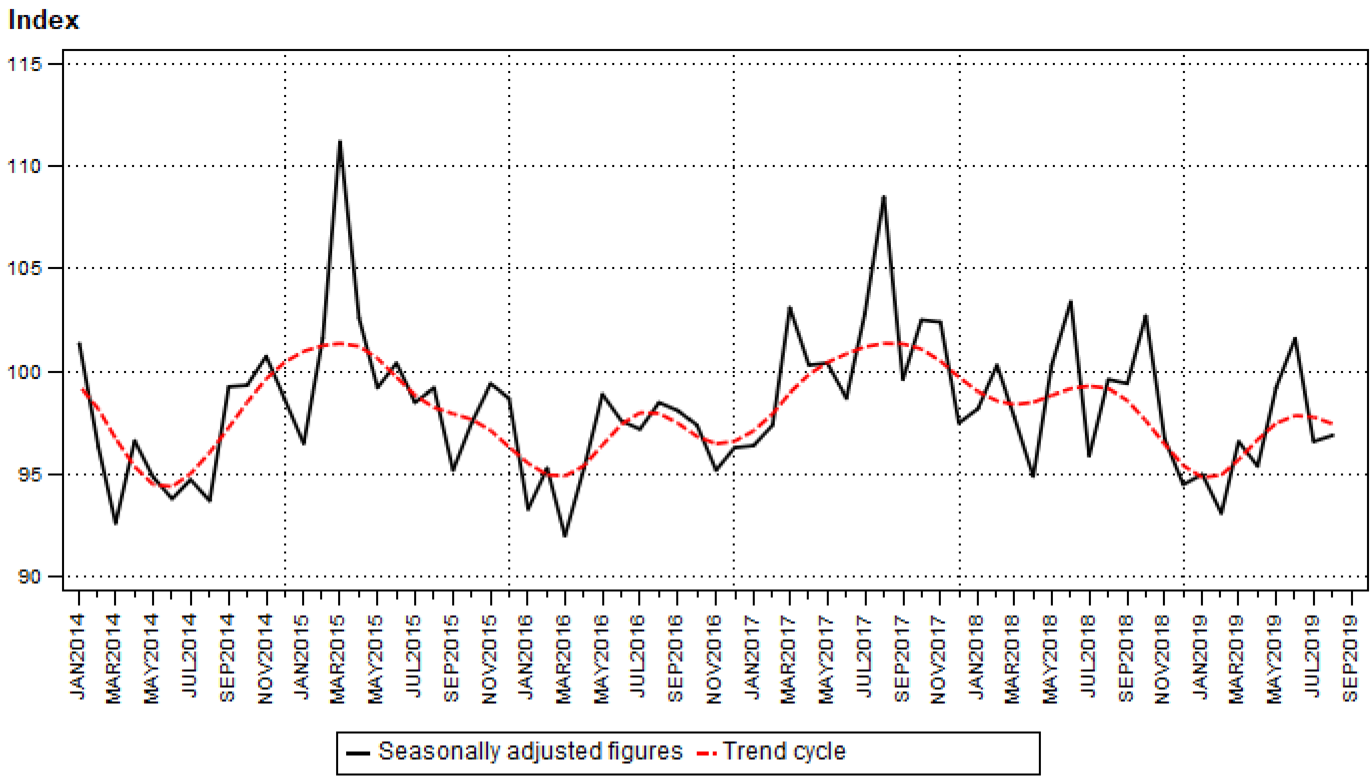
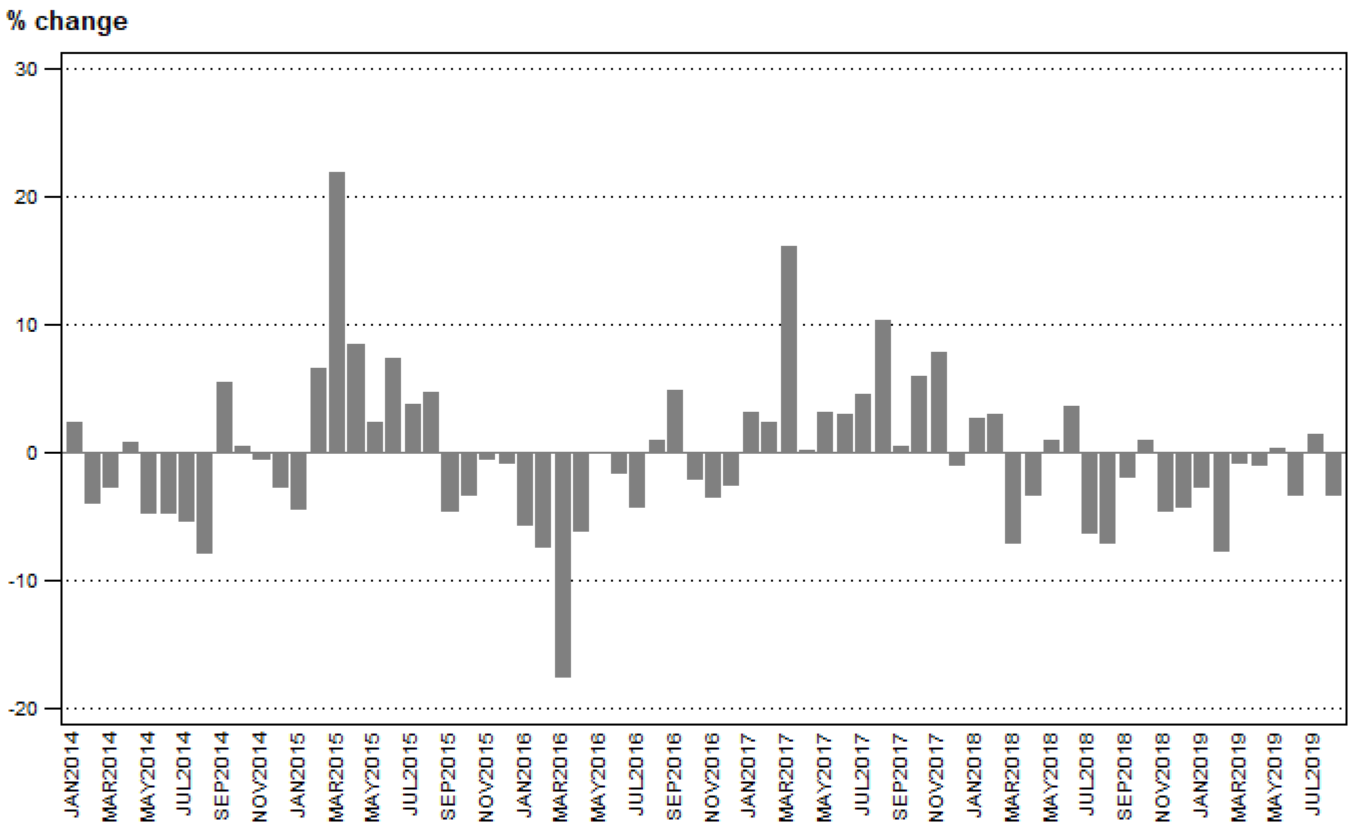


Figure 2 – Volume of mining production (Base: 2015=100): year-on-year percentage change



Note – 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 and Energy. 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 reweighting.

Reweighting

The new weights are based on national accounts value added data for the years 2015 to 2017, and have been applied with effect from January 2017. Previously, the weights were calculated from national accounts value added data for the years 2014 to 2016. Refer to Table C for a comparison between the old weights and the new weights for the respective mineral groups and minerals and respective periods.

The impact of the implementation of the new weights on the mining production index is illustrated in Figures 3 and 4.

Table C – Historical weights for the mineral groups and minerals

Mineral group and mineral	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	Weights from national accounts value added for the years 2014-2016 2016	Weights from national accounts value added for the years 2015-2017 2017 - present
Gold	17,2	17,7	21,10	16,25	15,49	15,97	16,45
Iron ore	5,3	14,4	14,46	14,86	13,61	12,44	10,98
Chromium ore	1,3	2,2	2,27	2,63	2,96	3,31	3,74
Copper	1,8	1,4	1,41	1,27	1,24	1,10	0,93
Manganese ore	1,5	3,6	2,97	3,09	3,27	3,33	4,20
PGMs	27,0	24,6	19,01	21,82	23,27	23,48	23,66
Nickel	2,8	2,0	1,77	1,88	1,85	1,70	1,45
Other metallic minerals	2,8	2,5	2,98	2,88	2,57	2,19	2,09
Diamonds	7,6	3,1	2,75	3,59	3,89	4,15	3,75
Coal	24,9	23,7	26,45	25,04	24,69	24,44	24,72
Building materials	2,1	1,6	1,54	1,65	1,81	2,05	2,14
Other non-metallic minerals	5,7	3,2	3,29	5,04	5,35	5,84	5,89
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Figure 3 – Volume of total mining production based on previous weights and new weights (Base: 2015=100)

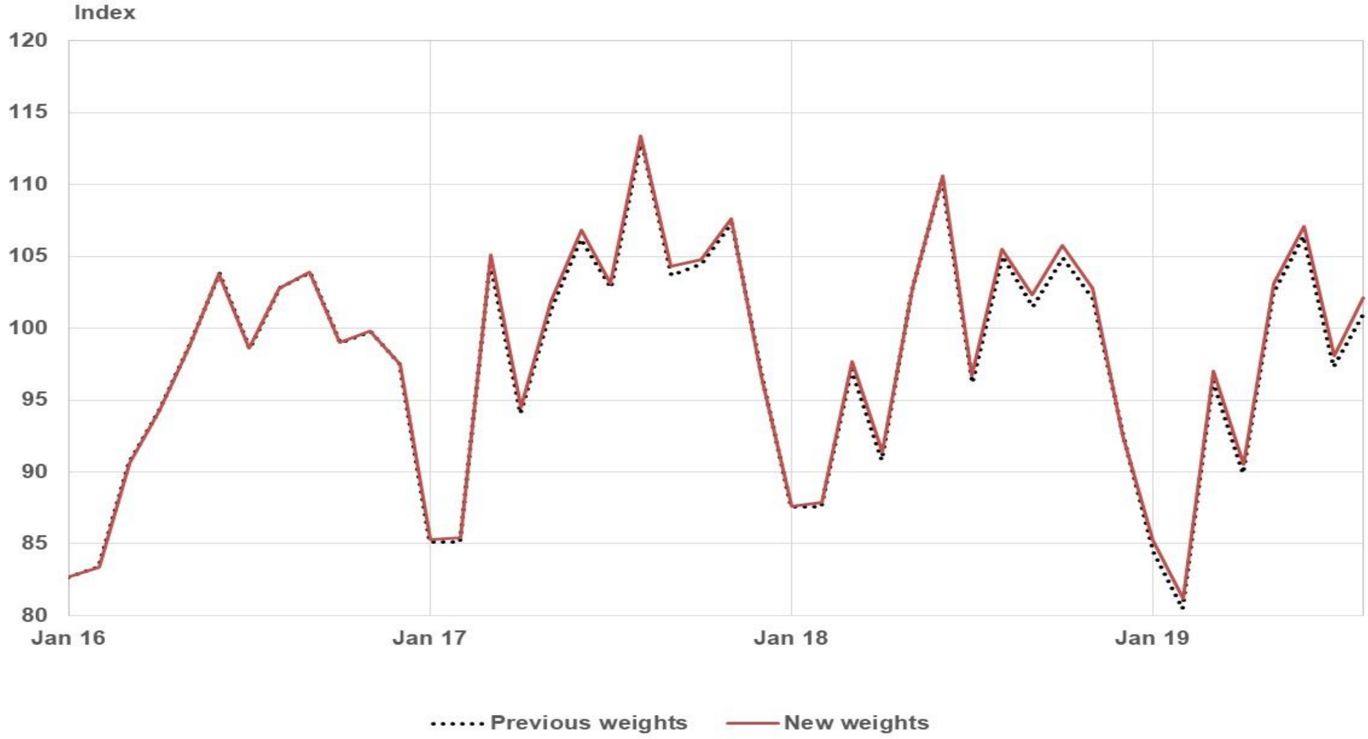
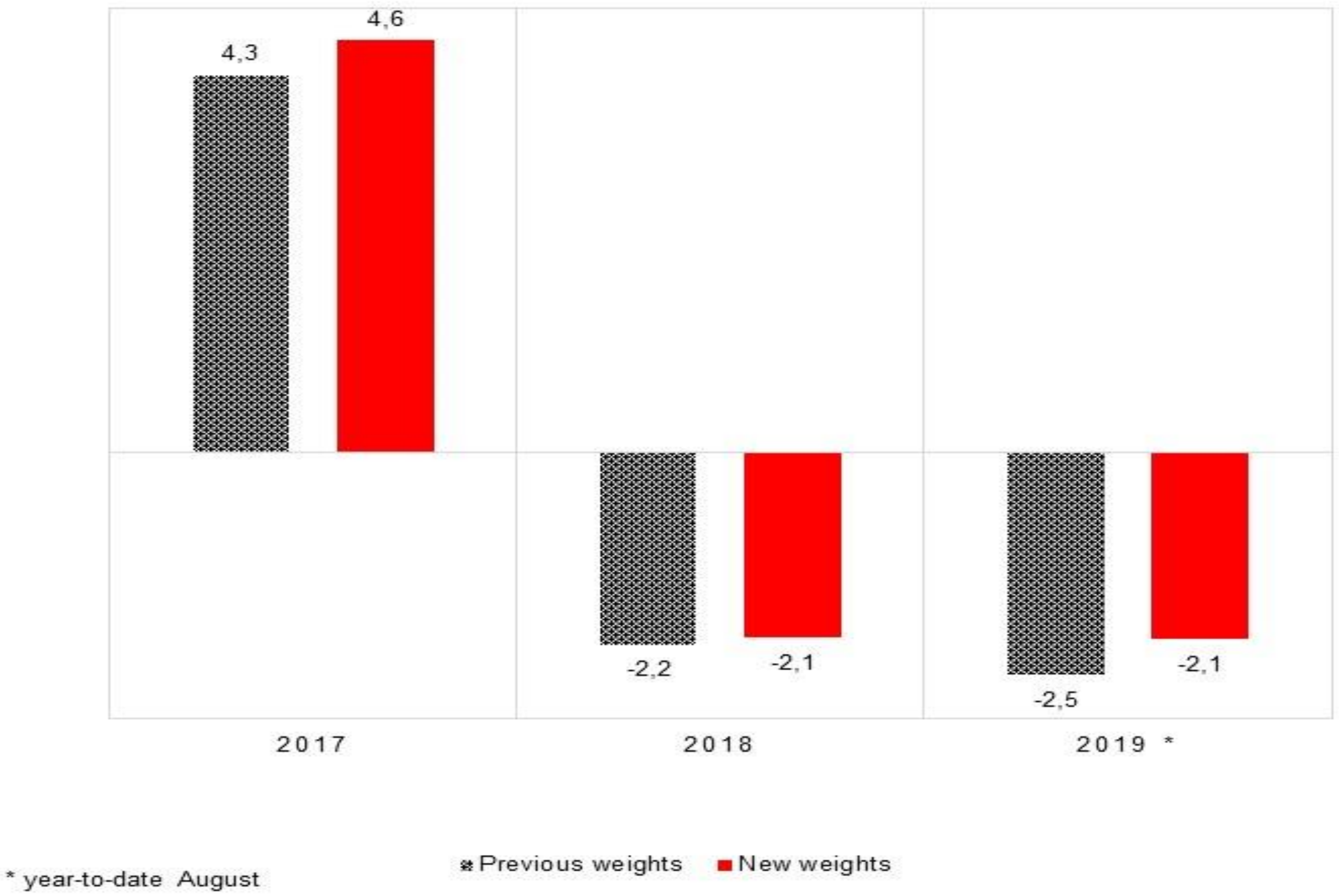


Figure 4 – Comparison of the annual growth rates (% change) for mining production based on the previous weights and new weights



Sales: results for August 2019

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

	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	14,6	19,8	11,2	6,6	16,6	7,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	8,2	1,3	-0,7	-2,1	3,2	-2,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1]	-2,4	-3,2	1,9	2,6	2,4	-0,9

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

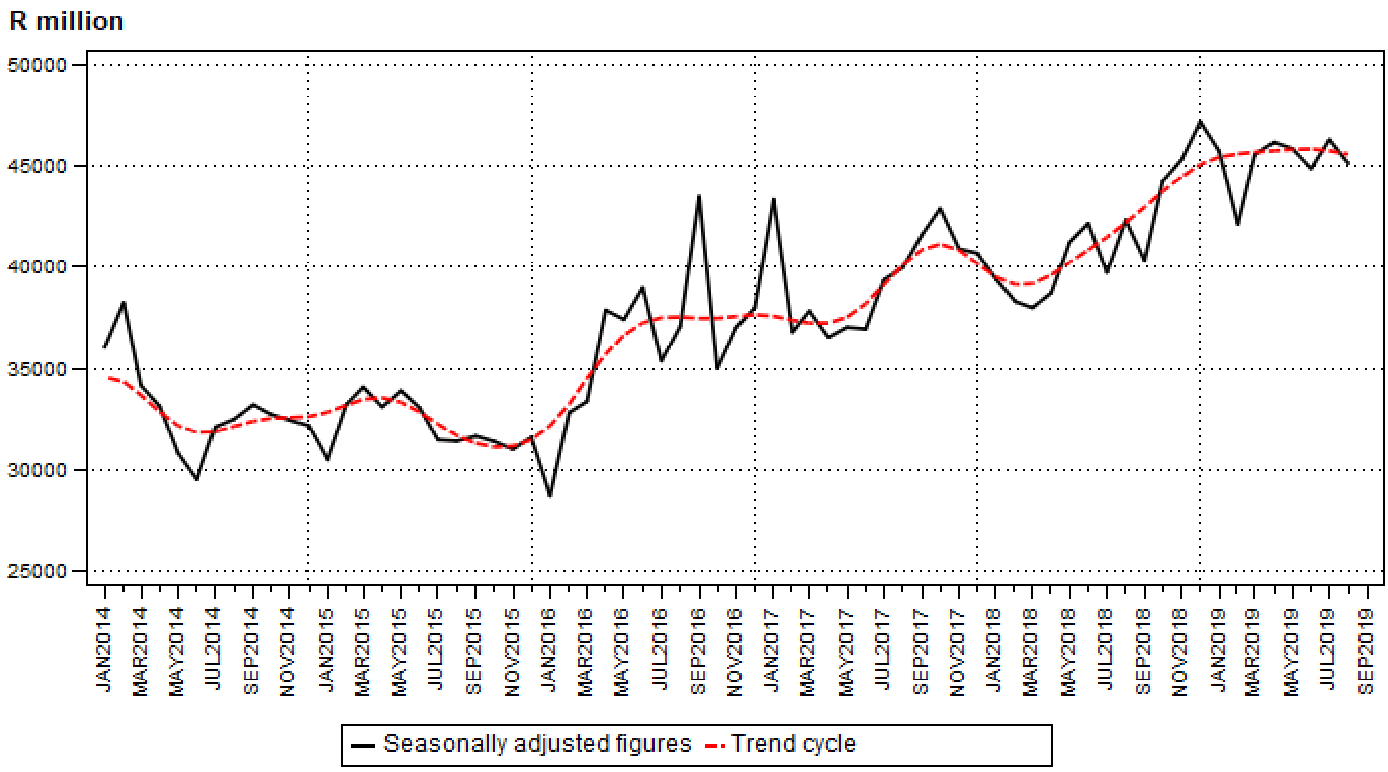
Mineral sales increased by 7,1% year-on-year in August 2019. The largest positive contributors were:

- iron ore (31,2% and contributing 3,3 percentage points);
- PGMs (15,2% and contributing 3,3 percentage points);
- gold (19,0% and contributing 2,8 percentage points); and
- ‘other’ metallic minerals (67,6% and contributing 1,6 percentage points) – see Tables 12 and 13.

Seasonally adjusted mineral sales at current prices decreased by 2,5% in August 2019 compared with July 2019. This followed month-on-month changes of 3,2% in July 2019 and -2,1% in June 2019.

In the three months ended August 2019 the seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales at current prices was 0,9% lower compared with the previous three months.

Figure 5 – Total value of mineral sales at current prices



Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

Tables

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

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 *	2018 [1]	2019 [1]
Jan	89,4	91,5	87,6	82,7	85,3	87,6	85,2
Feb	88,0	84,6	90,1	83,4	85,4	87,9	81,2
Mar	92,5	90,1	109,7	90,6	105,1	97,7	97,0
Apr	91,9	92,6	100,4	94,3	94,5	91,4	90,5
May	101,3	96,6	98,8	98,8	101,9	102,8	103,1
Jun	103,0	98,2	105,4	103,8	106,8	110,6	107,1
Jul	104,8	99,2	102,9	98,6	103,1	96,7	98,1
Aug	105,4	97,2	101,8	102,8	113,4	105,5	102,1
Sep	98,4	103,7	99,0	103,9	104,3	102,3	
Oct	104,0	104,4	101,1	99,0	104,8	105,8	
Nov	104,2	103,7	103,3	99,8	107,6	102,8	
Dec	103,5	100,7	100,0	97,5	96,6	92,5	
Year	**98,9**	**96,9**	**100,0**	**96,3**	**100,7**	**98,6**	

[1] Preliminary.
* Revised due to reweighting. See note on page 4.

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

Month	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	*2019 year-to-date*
Jan	2,3	-4,3	-5,6	3,1	2,7	-2,7	*-2,7*
Feb	-3,8	6,5	-7,4	2,4	2,9	-7,6	*-5,2*
Mar	-2,6	21,8	-17,4	16,0	-7,0	-0,7	*-3,6*
Apr	0,8	8,4	-6,1	0,2	-3,3	-1,0	*-3,0*
May	-4,6	2,3	0,0	3,1	0,9	0,3	*-2,2*
Jun	-4,7	7,4	-1,5	2,9	3,6	-3,2	*-2,4*
Jul	-5,4	3,8	-4,2	4,6	-6,2	1,4	*-1,9*
Aug	-7,8	4,8	1,0	10,3	-7,0	-3,2	*-2,1*
Sep	5,5	-4,6	4,9	0,4	-1,9		
Oct	0,4	-3,2	-2,1	5,9	1,0		
Nov	-0,5	-0,4	-3,4	7,8	-4,5		
Dec	-2,8	-0,7	-2,5	-0,9	-4,2		
Year	**-2,0**	**3,2**	**-3,7**	**4,6**	**-2,1**		

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted volume of total mining production

Month	Index (Base: 2015=100)				Month-on-month % change			
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019
Jan	93,3	96,4	98,2	95,0	-5,5	0,1	0,7	0,5
Feb	95,3	97,4	100,3	93,1	2,1	1,0	2,1	-2,0
Mar	92,0	103,1	97,8	96,6	-3,5	5,9	-2,5	3,8
Apr	95,3	100,3	94,9	95,4	3,6	-2,7	-3,0	-1,2
May	98,9	100,4	100,3	99,2	3,8	0,1	5,7	4,0
Jun	97,6	98,7	103,4	101,6	-1,3	-1,7	3,1	2,4
Jul	97,2	102,8	95,9	96,6	-0,4	4,2	-7,3	-4,9
Aug	98,5	108,5	99,6	96,9	1,3	5,5	3,9	0,3
Sep	98,1	99,6	99,4		-0,4	-8,2	-0,2	
Oct	97,4	102,5	102,7		-0,7	2,9	3,3	
Nov	95,2	102,4	96,7		-2,3	-0,1	-5,8	
Dec	96,3	97,5	94,5		1,2	-4,8	-2,3	

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

Mineral group and mineral	Weight	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19
Gold	16,45	65,1	63,5	66,7	76,2	75,2	81,0
Iron ore	10,98	93,8	90,7	105,6	122,0	98,4	95,1
Chromium ore	3,74	113,3	111,6	117,2	118,6	114,8	115,7
Copper	0,93	77,0	86,8	87,0	41,6	39,0	94,0
Manganese ore	4,20	136,7	143,0	164,3	172,1	147,8	179,7
PGMs	23,66	102,0	90,3	106,6	114,3	87,6	95,4
Nickel	1,45	83,6	71,3	78,9	73,5	72,5	79,2
Other metallic minerals	2,09	125,1	122,2	123,4	135,6	115,6	135,1
Diamonds	3,75	96,8	86,5	92,0	89,1	104,4	91,6
Coal	24,72	104,6	95,3	111,7	104,7	110,8	108,1
Building materials	2,14	98,6	87,3	106,8	96,4	104,4	100,6
Other non-metallic minerals	5,89	97,2	93,3	103,7	116,2	106,9	114,4
Total	**100,00**	**97,0**	**90,5**	**103,1**	**107,1**	**98,1**	**102,1**

[1] All index values in this table are preliminary. Annual averages and annual percentage changes are available on the following link: Annual data

Table 5 – Seasonally adjusted index of the volume of mining production by mineral group and mineral (Base: 2015=100)

Mineral group and mineral	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Month-on-month % change
Gold	68,7	71,9	66,6	68,6	71,0	74,6	5,1
Iron ore	94,8	94,3	102,5	104,8	97,9	93,4	-4,6
Chromium ore	110,6	113,6	113,4	112,3	111,4	113,2	1,6
Copper [1]	75,5	88,0	85,5	42,8	37,5	92,5	146,7
Manganese ore [2]	136,7	143,0	164,3	172,1	147,8	179,7	21,6
PGMs	98,5	95,1	100,4	106,5	93,3	86,7	-7,1
Nickel [2]	83,6	71,3	78,9	73,5	72,5	79,2	9,2
Other metallic minerals [1]	123,3	123,6	121,6	137,0	113,8	133,3	17,1
Diamonds [2]	96,8	86,5	92,0	89,1	104,4	91,6	-12,3
Coal	103,9	101,6	105,8	103,6	103,4	102,5	-0,9
Building materials	97,9	95,6	95,5	95,0	91,6	93,4	2,0
Other non-metallic minerals [1]	99,4	95,0	101,0	117,2	109,8	110,4	0,5
Total	**96,6**	**95,4**	**99,2**	**101,6**	**96,6**	**96,9**	**0,3**

[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-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19
Gold	-18,4	-19,0	-24,3	-16,0	-13,4	-5,4
Iron ore	-1,8	-11,9	-4,7	-1,9	9,6	-7,8
Chromium ore	-2,4	0,4	-2,3	-2,8	-8,6	0,7
Copper	24,6	42,5	38,3	-40,6	-23,8	176,5
Manganese ore	6,1	11,8	36,6	26,2	16,9	34,3
PGMs	-0,5	1,9	6,0	-6,3	2,9	-12,5
Nickel	12,7	-7,5	1,0	-13,1	18,9	0,4
Other metallic minerals	35,7	87,4	19,6	51,3	56,9	35,4
Diamonds	3,1	24,8	-31,5	-33,0	-35,6	-29,8
Coal	6,2	1,1	9,3	-1,2	8,7	-3,4
Building materials	3,0	-6,9	2,3	-2,8	0,3	-3,5
Other non-metallic minerals	-12,1	-4,5	-4,2	17,3	4,5	10,9
Total	**-0,7**	**-1,0**	**0,3**	**-3,2**	**1,4**	**-3,2**

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-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19
Gold	-2,5	-2,7	-3,4	-2,2	-2,0	-0,7
Iron ore	-0,2	-1,5	-0,6	-0,2	1,0	-0,8
Chromium ore	-0,1	0,0	-0,1	-0,1	-0,4	0,0
Copper	0,1	0,3	0,2	-0,2	-0,1	0,5
Manganese ore	0,3	0,7	1,8	1,4	0,9	1,8
PGMs	-0,1	0,4	1,4	-1,6	0,6	-3,0
Nickel	0,1	-0,1	0,0	-0,1	0,2	0,0
Other metallic minerals	0,7	1,3	0,4	0,9	0,9	0,7
Diamonds	0,1	0,7	-1,5	-1,5	-2,2	-1,4
Coal	1,5	0,3	2,3	-0,3	2,3	-0,9
Building materials	0,1	-0,2	0,0	-0,1	0,0	-0,1
Other non-metallic minerals	-0,8	-0,3	-0,3	0,9	0,3	0,6
Total	**-0,7**	**-1,0**	**0,3**	**-3,2**	**1,4**	**-3,2**

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

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 *	2018 [1]	2019 [1]
Jan	28 977,1	32 608,8	27 714,6	25 021,7	37 903,7	34 450,1	41 077,1
Feb	30 361,5	35 488,2	30 712,0	30 250,9	33 691,7	34 916,9	38 233,4
Mar	34 761,4	35 172,2	34 751,6	35 051,0	39 473,2	39 802,5	45 605,1
Apr	31 865,2	31 647,7	32 675,8	36 202,7	34 917,1	37 057,7	44 407,7
May	30 402,1	30 932,4	32 812,7	36 489,3	36 288,4	41 710,5	46 365,5
Jun	35 088,5	31 630,8	35 668,4	43 040,2	40 672,0	45 044,8	48 022,3
Jul	32 847,9	31 517,7	30 620,3	33 169,6	37 150,3	37 135,0	43 291,7
Aug	35 523,4	32 124,1	31 313,7	36 902,6	40 890,3	42 967,8	46 023,6
Sep	34 731,0	35 345,8	33 416,7	47 602,2	44 264,9	42 974,0	
Oct	34 544,7	34 101,5	33 004,9	35 817,0	43 966,4	45 716,6	
Nov	34 122,6	32 274,1	30 901,0	36 800,3	42 104,9	46 635,1	
Dec	34 452,5	33 434,3	34 055,0	41 242,0	42 562,3	50 019,3	
Total	**397 677,9**	**396 277,6**	**387 646,7**	**437 589,5**	**473 885,2**	**498 430,3**	

[1] Preliminary.
* Revised.

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

Month	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	*2019 year-to-date*
Jan	12,5	-15,0	-9,7	51,5	-9,1	19,2	*19,2*
Feb	16,9	-13,5	-1,5	11,4	3,6	9,5	*14,3*
Mar	1,2	-1,2	0,9	12,6	0,8	14,6	*14,4*
Apr	-0,7	3,2	10,8	-3,6	6,1	19,8	*15,8*
May	1,7	6,1	11,2	-0,6	14,9	11,2	*14,8*
Jun	-9,9	12,8	20,7	-5,5	10,8	6,6	*13,2*
Jul	-4,0	-2,8	8,3	12,0	0,0	16,6	*13,7*
Aug	-9,6	-2,5	17,8	10,8	5,1	7,1	*12,8*
Sep	1,8	-5,5	42,5	-7,0	-2,9		
Oct	-1,3	-3,2	8,5	22,8	4,0		
Nov	-5,4	-4,3	19,1	14,4	10,8		
Dec	-3,0	1,9	21,1	3,2	17,5		
Total	**-0,4**	**-2,2**	**12,9**	**8,3**	**5,2**		

Table 10 – Seasonally adjusted total mineral sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019
Jan	28 740,1	43 330,9	39 394,3	45 728,8	-9,0	14,0	-3,2	-3,0
Feb	32 839,9	36 795,7	38 296,9	42 114,1	14,3	-15,1	-2,8	-7,9
Mar	33 377,9	37 833,3	37 991,4	45 558,4	1,6	2,8	-0,8	8,2
Apr	37 876,7	36 554,1	38 719,8	46 161,4	13,5	-3,4	1,9	1,3
May	37 421,0	37 042,8	41 222,3	45 846,7	-1,2	1,3	6,5	-0,7
Jun	38 980,8	36 955,5	42 151,8	44 871,7	4,2	-0,2	2,3	-2,1
Jul	35 375,8	39 373,7	39 733,6	46 296,8	-9,2	6,5	-5,7	3,2
Aug	37 089,9	39 984,7	42 329,3	45 134,5	4,8	1,6	6,5	-2,5
Sep	43 487,3	41 591,7	40 335,7		17,2	4,0	-4,7	
Oct	34 994,9	42 884,8	44 250,5		-19,5	3,1	9,7	
Nov	37 029,4	40 905,6	45 316,4		5,8	-4,6	2,4	
Dec	38 005,8	40 695,9	47 158,9		2,6	-0,5	4,1	

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

Mineral group and mineral	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19
Gold	4 959,8	5 426,3	4 546,3	5 857,3	7 905,2	7 447,4
Iron ore	5 666,1	7 037,6	6 420,4	6 150,8	6 963,0	6 045,8
Chromium ore	2 124,3	1 928,7	1 929,9	2 062,4	1 701,4	2 064,7
Copper	251,5	232,4	298,5	401,1	155,7	223,6
Manganese ore	4 540,4	4 087,6	3 928,5	4 715,9	3 179,8	3 251,1
PGMs	9 582,2	10 434,6	11 860,8	11 481,9	9 591,1	10 814,3
Nickel	473,0	562,4	622,7	521,0	486,4	672,6
Other metallic minerals	2 031,4	980,1	1 100,7	1 910,4	904,1	1 667,1
Coal	12 413,3	11 716,3	12 637,3	11 671,8	10 311,5	11 408,3
Building materials	1 066,2	939,8	1 103,6	1 030,7	1 065,5	1 036,2
Other non-metallic minerals	2 496,8	1 062,1	1 916,8	2 218,9	1 028,1	1 392,5
Total	**45 605,1**	**44 407,7**	**46 365,5**	**48 022,3**	**43 291,7**	**46 023,6**

[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	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19
Gold	3,1	-8,8	-33,8	-6,1	19,0	19,0
Iron ore	50,2	81,8	68,6	76,0	116,6	31,2
Chromium ore	22,0	-2,9	4,6	-2,4	-9,3	17,3
Copper	-34,2	-23,4	-4,4	-9,4	-24,1	-4,1
Manganese ore	23,1	12,8	-4,2	2,7	-10,3	-7,7
PGMs	21,3	48,7	37,9	9,9	38,5	15,2
Nickel	-26,3	61,7	-7,2	-16,2	-15,0	7,7
Other metallic minerals	42,2	21,0	14,4	70,7	2,2	67,6
Coal	1,9	10,8	5,6	-1,9	-6,6	-8,0
Building materials	10,1	4,5	10,5	3,5	4,7	1,1
Other non-metallic minerals	9,3	-36,5	21,9	-28,0	-15,7	-35,4
Total	**14,6**	**19,8**	**11,2**	**6,6**	**16,6**	**7,1**

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	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19
Gold	0,4	-1,4	-5,6	-0,8	3,4	2,8
Iron ore	4,8	8,5	6,3	5,9	10,1	3,3
Chromium ore	1,0	-0,2	0,2	-0,1	-0,5	0,7
Copper	-0,3	-0,2	0,0	-0,1	-0,1	0,0
Manganese ore	2,1	1,3	-0,4	0,3	-1,0	-0,6
PGMs	4,2	9,2	7,8	2,3	7,2	3,3
Nickel	-0,4	0,6	-0,1	-0,2	-0,2	0,1
Other metallic minerals	1,5	0,5	0,3	1,8	0,1	1,6
Coal	0,6	3,1	1,6	-0,5	-2,0	-2,3
Building materials	0,2	0,1	0,3	0,1	0,1	0,0
Other non-metallic minerals	0,5	-1,6	0,8	-1,9	-0,5	-1,8
Total	**14,6**	**19,8**	**11,2**	**6,6**	**16,6**	**7,1**

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 and Energy (DMRE). 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 The value of mineral sales is calculated, in general, on a free-on-rail/free-on-board basis.

4 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

5 The monthly mining production and sales survey is conducted by the DMRE, 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

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. 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

8 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

9 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

10 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. Annual averages and annual percentage changes are available on the following link: Annual data

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 2019 publication) are based on an average of value added data for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017. These weights are applicable from January 2017.
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

DMRE	Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
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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