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Production: results for January 2016

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

| | Aug-15 | Sep-15 | Oct-15 | Nov-15 | Dec-15 | Jan-16 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Year-on-year % change, unadjusted | 3,8 | -4,6 | -4,3 | -1,2 | -1,2 | -4,5 |
| Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted | -1,0 | -3,8 | 1,2 | 1,9 | -0,5 | -4,9 |
| 3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/} | -3,4 | -2,7 | -3,1 | -3,4 | -0,6 | -0,6 |

^{1/} Percentage change between the previous three months and the three months ending in the month indicated.

Mining production decreased by 4,5% year-on-year in January 2016. The largest negative growth rates were recorded for copper (-43,8%), iron ore (-26,3%) and diamonds (-16,1%). The main negative contributors to the 4,5% decrease were iron ore (contributing -5,8 percentage points), copper (contributing -0,7 of a percentage point) and manganese ore (contributing -0,6 of a percentage point). Gold was a significant positive contributor (contributing 3,1 percentage points) – see Tables 6 and 7.

Seasonally adjusted mining production decreased by 4,9% in January 2016 compared with December 2015. This followed month-on-month changes of -0,5% in December 2015 and 1,9% in November 2015.

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 (2012) | Aug – Oct 2015 | Nov 2015 – Jan 2016 | % change between Aug – Oct 2015 and Nov 2015 – Jan 2016 | Contribution (% points) to the % change in total mining production |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|---|--|
| Gold | 21,10 | 77,3 | 78,1 | 1,0 | 0,2 |
| Iron ore | 14,46 | 114,8 | 113,1 | -1,5 | -0,3 |
| Chromium ore | 2,27 | 148,5 | 134,9 | -9,2 | -0,3 |
| Copper ¹ | 1,41 | 100,9 | 77,3 | -23,4 | -0,3 |
| Manganese ore ¹ | 2,97 | 221,8 | 190,7 | -14,0 | -0,9 |
| PGMs | 19,01 | 92,6 | 92,0 | -0,6 | -0,1 |
| Nickel ¹ | 1,77 | 148,5 | 151,5 | 2,0 | 0,0 |
| Other metallic minerals ¹ | 2,98 | 72,9 | 68,9 | -5,5 | -0,1 |
| Diamonds ¹ | 2,75 | 98,7 | 86,9 | -12,0 | -0,3 |
| Coal | 26,45 | 93,3 | 100,1 | 7,3 | 1,8 |
| Building materials | 1,54 | 118,9 | 123,3 | 3,7 | 0,1 |
| Other non-metallic minerals | 3,29 | 78,0 | 69,1 | -11,4 | -0,3 |
| Total | 100,00 | 98,5 | 97,9 | -0,6 | -0,6 |

¹ Not seasonally adjusted, because the presence of seasonality is not significant. See notes 4 and 5 on page 11.

Seasonally adjusted mining production decreased by 0,6% in the three months ended January 2016 compared with the previous three months – see Table B.

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

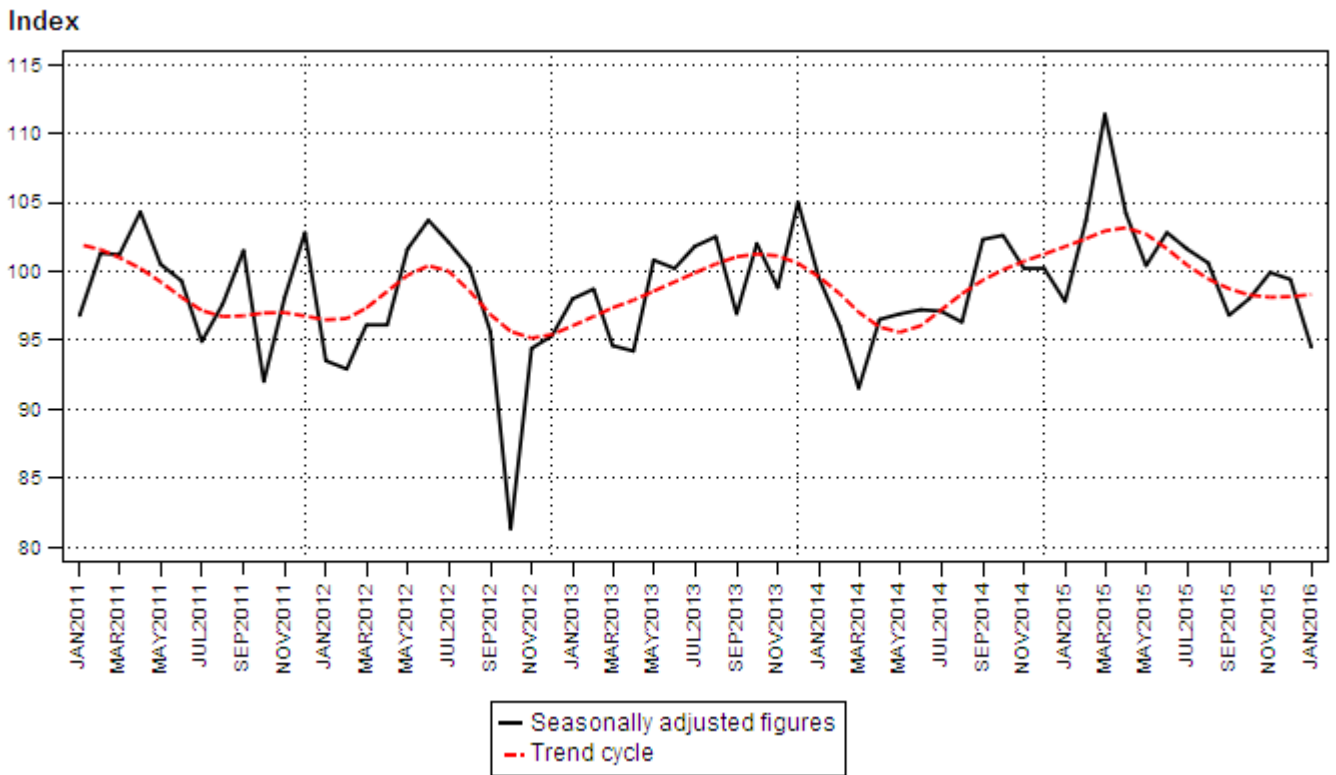
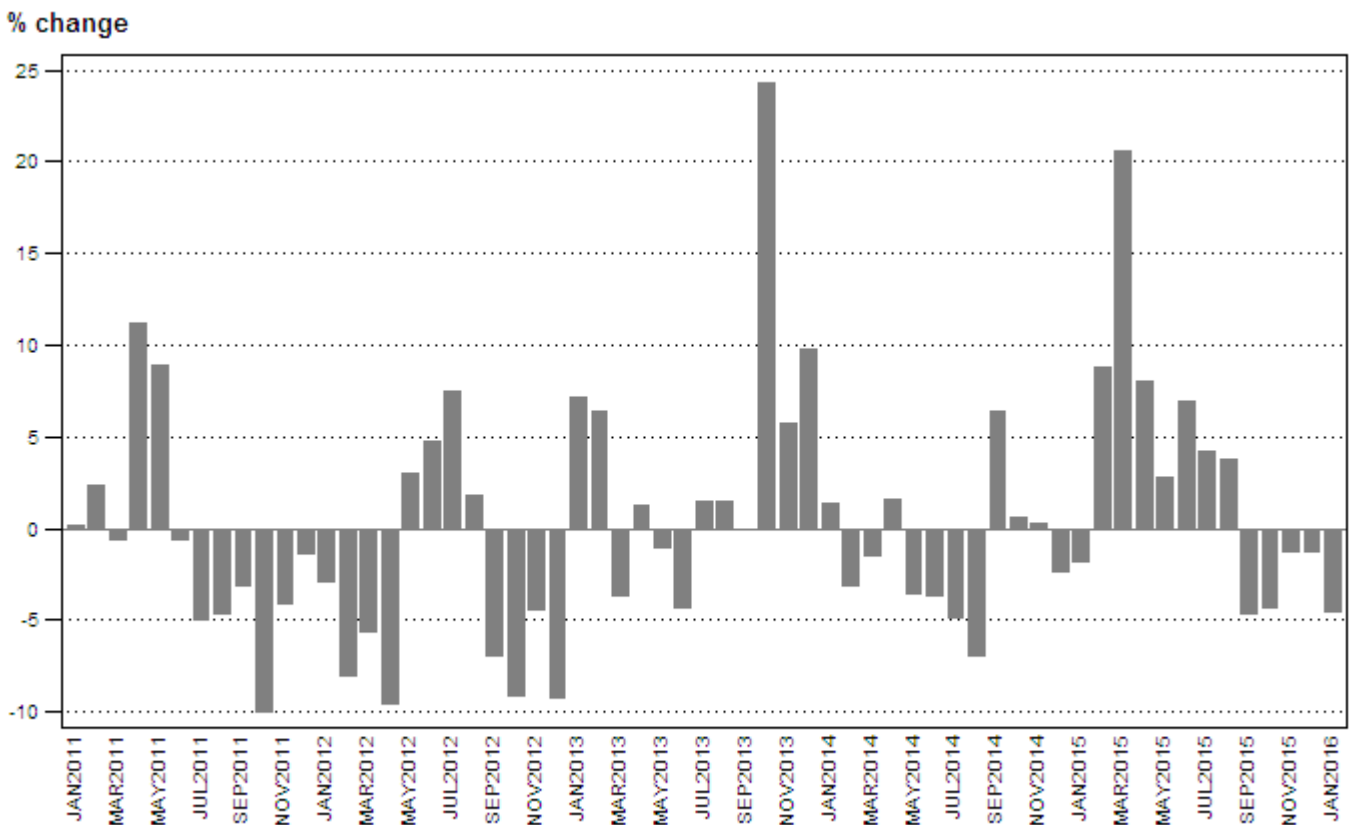


Figure 2 – Volume of mining production (Base: 2010=100): year-on-year percentage change



Sales: results for December 2015

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

| | Jul-15 | Aug-15 | Sep-15 | Oct-15 | Nov-15 | Dec-15 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Year-on-year % change, unadjusted | -3,4 | -2,4 | -5,9 | -2,9 | -3,7 | 2,8 |
| Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted | -6,4 | 0,6 | 1,5 | 1,3 | -2,1 | 2,9 |
| 3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/ | 0,0 | -4,4 | -5,7 | -3,0 | -0,2 | 2,1 |

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

Mineral sales increased by 2,8% year-on-year in December 2015. The highest positive contributors to the increase of 2,8% were 'other' non-metallic minerals (90,8% and contributing 3,1 percentage points), gold (18,2% and contributing 2,9 percentage points) and coal (7,4% and contributing 2,0 percentage points).

Two minerals with significant negative contributions were iron ore (-25,7% and contributing -3,2 percentage points) and manganese ore (-44,1% and contributing -2,1 percentage points) – see Tables 12 and 13.

Seasonally adjusted mineral sales at current prices increased by 2,9% in December 2015 compared with November 2015. This followed month-on-month changes of -2,1% in November 2015 and 1,3% in October 2015.

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Statistician-General

Tables

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

| Month | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 1/ | 2016 1/ |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------|
| Jan | 86,2 | 86,4 | 83,9 | 89,9 | 91,2 | 89,6 | 85,6 |
| Feb | 88,1 | 90,2 | 83,0 | 88,3 | 85,6 | 93,1 | |
| Mar | 102,8 | 102,2 | 96,5 | 93,0 | 91,6 | 110,5 | |
| Apr | 90,4 | 100,5 | 91,0 | 92,2 | 93,7 | 101,2 | |
| May | 91,5 | 99,6 | 102,6 | 101,6 | 98,0 | 100,7 | |
| Jun | 103,8 | 103,2 | 108,2 | 103,5 | 99,8 | 106,7 | |
| Jul | 101,7 | 96,6 | 103,8 | 105,4 | 100,3 | 104,5 | |
| Aug | 107,8 | 102,8 | 104,6 | 106,2 | 98,9 | 102,7 | |
| Sep | 109,5 | 106,1 | 98,8 | 98,8 | 105,1 | 100,3 | |
| Oct | 103,7 | 93,3 | 84,8 | 105,4 | 106,0 | 101,4 | |
| Nov | 108,5 | 104,0 | 99,4 | 105,2 | 105,5 | 104,2 | |
| Dec | 106,1 | 104,7 | 95,1 | 104,4 | 102,0 | 100,8 | |
| Year | 100,0 | 99,1 | 96,0 | 99,5 | 98,1 | 101,3 | |

1/ Preliminary.

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

| Month | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2016 year-to-date |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|------|-------------------|
| Jan | 0,2 | -2,9 | 7,2 | 1,4 | -1,8 | -4,5 | -4,5 |
| Feb | 2,4 | -8,0 | 6,4 | -3,1 | 8,8 | | |
| Mar | -0,6 | -5,6 | -3,6 | -1,5 | 20,6 | | |
| Apr | 11,2 | -9,5 | 1,3 | 1,6 | 8,0 | | |
| May | 8,9 | 3,0 | -1,0 | -3,5 | 2,8 | | |
| Jun | -0,6 | 4,8 | -4,3 | -3,6 | 6,9 | | |
| Jul | -5,0 | 7,5 | 1,5 | -4,8 | 4,2 | | |
| Aug | -4,6 | 1,8 | 1,5 | -6,9 | 3,8 | | |
| Sep | -3,1 | -6,9 | 0,0 | 6,4 | -4,6 | | |
| Oct | -10,0 | -9,1 | 24,3 | 0,6 | -4,3 | | |
| Nov | -4,1 | -4,4 | 5,8 | 0,3 | -1,2 | | |
| Dec | -1,3 | -9,2 | 9,8 | -2,3 | -1,2 | | |
| Year | -0,9 | -3,1 | 3,6 | -1,4 | 3,3 | | |

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted volume of total mining production

| Month | Index (Base: 2010=100) | | | | Month-on-month % change | | | |
|-------|------------------------|-------|-------|------|-------------------------|------|------|------|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
| Jan | 98,0 | 99,5 | 97,8 | 94,5 | 2,8 | -5,2 | -2,4 | -4,9 |
| Feb | 98,7 | 96,0 | 103,7 | | 0,7 | -3,5 | 6,0 | |
| Mar | 94,6 | 91,5 | 111,4 | | -4,2 | -4,7 | 7,4 | |
| Apr | 94,2 | 96,5 | 104,2 | | -0,4 | 5,5 | -6,5 | |
| May | 100,8 | 96,9 | 100,4 | | 7,0 | 0,4 | -3,6 | |
| Jun | 100,2 | 97,2 | 102,8 | | -0,6 | 0,3 | 2,4 | |
| Jul | 101,8 | 97,1 | 101,6 | | 1,6 | -0,1 | -1,2 | |
| Aug | 102,5 | 96,3 | 100,6 | | 0,7 | -0,8 | -1,0 | |
| Sep | 96,9 | 102,3 | 96,8 | | -5,5 | 6,2 | -3,8 | |
| Oct | 102,0 | 102,6 | 98,0 | | 5,3 | 0,3 | 1,2 | |
| Nov | 98,8 | 100,2 | 99,9 | | -3,1 | -2,3 | 1,9 | |
| Dec | 105,0 | 100,2 | 99,4 | | 6,3 | 0,0 | -0,5 | |

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

| Mineral group and mineral | Weight (2012) | Aug-15 | Sep-15 | Oct-15 | Nov-15 | Dec-15 | Jan-16 |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Gold | 21,10 | 80,7 | 84,8 | 78,7 | 85,8 | 82,7 | 61,1 |
| Iron ore | 14,46 | 112,4 | 116,9 | 114,8 | 122,5 | 116,5 | 100,0 |
| Chromium ore | 2,27 | 151,2 | 163,1 | 156,1 | 157,2 | 115,4 | 104,8 |
| Copper | 1,41 | 91,9 | 101,5 | 109,3 | 96,1 | 77,9 | 58,0 |
| Manganese ore | 2,97 | 214,3 | 222,4 | 228,6 | 187,5 | 195,9 | 188,6 |
| PGMs | 19,01 | 101,7 | 94,7 | 97,0 | 106,0 | 116,0 | 72,4 |
| Nickel | 1,77 | 157,5 | 142,1 | 145,9 | 156,9 | 161,2 | 136,3 |
| Other metallic minerals | 2,98 | 90,7 | 62,5 | 65,5 | 45,0 | 90,2 | 71,6 |
| Diamonds | 2,75 | 94,0 | 75,1 | 126,9 | 103,0 | 83,8 | 73,8 |
| Coal | 26,45 | 100,4 | 93,7 | 94,6 | 99,6 | 88,9 | 96,1 |
| Building materials | 1,54 | 122,7 | 124,5 | 135,1 | 128,8 | 89,9 | 94,5 |
| Other non-metallic minerals | 3,29 | 73,6 | 78,7 | 81,3 | 74,1 | 65,3 | 67,1 |
| Total | 100,00 | 102,7 | 100,3 | 101,4 | 104,2 | 100,8 | 85,6 |

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: 2010=100)

| Mineral group and mineral | Aug-15 | Sep-15 | Oct-15 | Nov-15 | Dec-15 | Jan-16 | Month-on-month % change |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Gold | 78,2 | 78,7 | 75,0 | 79,0 | 78,3 | 77,1 | -1,5 |
| Iron ore | 115,3 | 115,5 | 113,7 | 119,8 | 117,5 | 102,0 | -13,2 |
| Chromium ore | 146,2 | 151,6 | 147,6 | 151,3 | 128,4 | 125,0 | -2,6 |
| Copper ¹ | 91,9 | 101,5 | 109,3 | 96,1 | 77,9 | 58,0 | -25,5 |
| Manganese ore ¹ | 214,3 | 222,4 | 228,6 | 187,5 | 195,9 | 188,6 | -3,7 |
| PGMs | 94,0 | 89,2 | 94,5 | 94,9 | 94,5 | 86,6 | -8,4 |
| Nickel ¹ | 157,5 | 142,1 | 145,9 | 156,9 | 161,2 | 136,3 | -15,4 |
| Other metallic minerals ¹ | 90,7 | 62,5 | 65,5 | 45,0 | 90,2 | 71,6 | -20,6 |
| Diamonds ¹ | 94,0 | 75,1 | 126,9 | 103,0 | 83,8 | 73,8 | -11,9 |
| Coal | 98,8 | 91,6 | 89,6 | 99,4 | 99,0 | 101,8 | 2,8 |
| Building materials | 123,9 | 115,4 | 117,3 | 117,8 | 124,4 | 127,6 | 2,6 |
| Other non-metallic minerals | 75,3 | 80,1 | 78,5 | 75,5 | 63,4 | 68,4 | 7,9 |
| Total | 100,6 | 96,8 | 98,0 | 99,9 | 99,4 | 94,5 | -4,9 |

¹ Not seasonally adjusted, because the presence of seasonality is not significant. See notes 4 and 5 on page 11.

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

| Mineral group and mineral | Aug-15 | Sep-15 | Oct-15 | Nov-15 | Dec-15 | Jan-16 |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Gold | 0,6 | -0,7 | -6,4 | 3,6 | -2,8 | 27,0 |
| Iron ore | -17,3 | -17,8 | -18,4 | -19,8 | -14,3 | -26,3 |
| Chromium ore | 8,9 | 16,0 | 8,4 | 7,2 | -4,1 | -11,7 |
| Copper | -4,4 | 17,5 | 5,9 | 8,5 | -14,9 | -43,8 |
| Manganese ore | 2,6 | 10,9 | 2,4 | -14,8 | -15,6 | -8,9 |
| PGMs | 63,0 | 22,2 | 26,6 | 23,8 | 20,1 | 3,3 |
| Nickel | 1,1 | 6,0 | 4,9 | 23,3 | 16,5 | 5,5 |
| Other metallic minerals | 2,7 | -34,1 | -17,9 | -54,9 | 5,9 | -6,0 |
| Diamonds | 25,8 | -36,9 | 20,3 | 2,7 | -10,1 | -16,1 |
| Coal | -5,2 | -12,7 | -14,6 | 0,4 | -2,2 | -0,2 |
| Building materials | 7,9 | 0,3 | -0,8 | 7,9 | 18,6 | 11,2 |
| Other non-metallic minerals | -1,1 | -1,0 | -5,2 | -0,7 | -7,0 | -10,8 |
| Total | 3,8 | -4,6 | -4,3 | -1,2 | -1,2 | -4,5 |

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 | Aug-15 | Sep-15 | Oct-15 | Nov-15 | Dec-15 | Jan-16 |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Gold | 0,1 | -0,1 | -1,1 | 0,6 | -0,5 | 3,1 |
| Iron ore | -3,4 | -3,5 | -3,5 | -4,1 | -2,8 | -5,8 |
| Chromium ore | 0,3 | 0,5 | 0,3 | 0,2 | -0,1 | -0,4 |
| Copper | -0,1 | 0,2 | 0,1 | 0,1 | -0,2 | -0,7 |
| Manganese ore | 0,2 | 0,6 | 0,1 | -0,9 | -1,1 | -0,6 |
| PGMs | 7,6 | 3,1 | 3,7 | 3,7 | 3,6 | 0,5 |
| Nickel | 0,0 | 0,1 | 0,1 | 0,5 | 0,4 | 0,1 |
| Other metallic minerals | 0,1 | -0,9 | -0,4 | -1,5 | 0,1 | -0,2 |
| Diamonds | 0,5 | -1,2 | 0,6 | 0,1 | -0,3 | -0,4 |
| Coal | -1,5 | -3,4 | -4,0 | 0,1 | -0,5 | -0,1 |
| Building materials | 0,1 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,1 | 0,2 | 0,2 |
| Other non-metallic minerals | 0,0 | 0,0 | -0,1 | 0,0 | -0,2 | -0,3 |
| Total | 3,8 | -4,6 | -4,3 | -1,2 | -1,2 | -4,5 |

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

| Month | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 1/ | 2015 1/ |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Jan | 17 263,9 | 19 185,1 | 25 341,3 | 28 079,4 | 28 977,1 | 32 608,8 | 27 681,7 |
| Feb | 19 906,3 | 20 408,4 | 27 573,2 | 29 335,5 | 30 361,5 | 35 488,2 | 30 394,5 |
| Mar | 22 093,9 | 23 860,1 | 31 547,4 | 30 912,0 | 34 761,4 | 35 172,2 | 34 525,8 |
| Apr | 20 733,6 | 23 551,4 | 27 370,2 | 26 772,5 | 31 865,2 | 31 647,7 | 32 231,0 |
| May | 18 463,5 | 25 535,2 | 27 870,5 | 31 257,0 | 30 402,1 | 30 932,4 | 32 458,9 |
| Jun | 20 337,3 | 25 882,9 | 33 940,1 | 33 958,2 | 35 088,5 | 31 630,8 | 35 516,2 |
| Jul | 20 019,7 | 25 588,6 | 27 947,7 | 30 899,0 | 32 847,9 | 31 517,7 | 30 435,2 |
| Aug | 20 144,0 | 25 897,8 | 30 300,9 | 31 402,3 | 35 523,4 | 32 124,1 | 31 349,4 |
| Sep | 20 737,7 | 27 994,7 | 35 700,1 | 30 367,0 | 34 731,0 | 35 345,8 | 33 251,8 |
| Oct | 19 909,8 | 27 535,5 | 33 393,7 | 28 258,6 | 34 544,7 | 34 101,5 | 33 109,2 |
| Nov | 20 128,7 | 27 114,9 | 35 268,1 | 29 921,3 | 34 122,6 | 32 274,1 | 31 088,9 |
| Dec | 21 626,2 | 27 737,9 | 34 027,5 | 32 954,5 | 34 452,5 | 33 434,3 | 34 370,5 |
| Total | 241 364,6 | 300 292,5 | 370 280,7 | 364 117,3 | 397 677,9 | 396 277,6 | 386 413,1 |

1/ Preliminary.

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

| Month | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2015 year-to-date |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Jan | 11,1 | 32,1 | 10,8 | 3,2 | 12,5 | -15,1 | -15,1 |
| Feb | 2,5 | 35,1 | 6,4 | 3,5 | 16,9 | -14,4 | -14,7 |
| Mar | 8,0 | 32,2 | -2,0 | 12,5 | 1,2 | -1,8 | -10,3 |
| Apr | 13,6 | 16,2 | -2,2 | 19,0 | -0,7 | 1,8 | -7,5 |
| May | 38,3 | 9,1 | 12,2 | -2,7 | 1,7 | 4,9 | -5,2 |
| Jun | 27,3 | 31,1 | 0,1 | 3,3 | -9,9 | 12,3 | -2,4 |
| Jul | 27,8 | 9,2 | 10,6 | 6,3 | -4,0 | -3,4 | -2,5 |
| Aug | 28,6 | 17,0 | 3,6 | 13,1 | -9,6 | -2,4 | -2,5 |
| Sep | 35,0 | 27,5 | -14,9 | 14,4 | 1,8 | -5,9 | -2,9 |
| Oct | 38,3 | 21,3 | -15,4 | 22,2 | -1,3 | -2,9 | -2,9 |
| Nov | 34,7 | 30,1 | -15,2 | 14,0 | -5,4 | -3,7 | -3,0 |
| Dec | 28,3 | 22,7 | -3,2 | 4,5 | -3,0 | 2,8 | -2,5 |
| Total | 24,4 | 23,3 | -1,7 | 9,2 | -0,4 | -2,5 | |

Table 10 – Seasonally adjusted total mineral sales at current prices

| Month | R million | | | | Month-on-month % change | | | |
|-------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------------|------|-------|------|
| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Jan | 31 869,6 | 31 681,6 | 36 004,5 | 30 166,3 | -2,0 | -1,1 | 6,0 | -7,3 |
| Feb | 31 175,6 | 32 161,6 | 37 481,3 | 32 045,1 | -2,2 | 1,5 | 4,1 | 6,2 |
| Mar | 28 850,5 | 33 555,9 | 33 448,1 | 33 387,5 | -7,5 | 4,3 | -10,8 | 4,2 |
| Apr | 27 947,3 | 33 200,4 | 33 068,3 | 32 674,1 | -3,1 | -1,1 | -1,1 | -2,1 |
| May | 31 559,2 | 30 977,7 | 31 099,3 | 33 866,7 | 12,9 | -6,7 | -6,0 | 3,6 |
| Jun | 31 695,3 | 32 589,6 | 29 726,1 | 33 187,4 | 0,4 | 5,2 | -4,4 | -2,0 |
| Jul | 32 125,3 | 33 984,9 | 31 810,1 | 31 071,3 | 1,4 | 4,3 | 7,0 | -6,4 |
| Aug | 30 836,4 | 34 497,7 | 32 446,3 | 31 267,0 | -4,0 | 1,5 | 2,0 | 0,6 |
| Sep | 28 661,2 | 33 261,1 | 33 702,2 | 31 724,3 | -7,1 | -3,6 | 3,9 | 1,5 |
| Oct | 28 359,4 | 33 642,8 | 33 528,9 | 32 151,6 | -1,1 | 1,1 | -0,5 | 1,3 |
| Nov | 29 529,1 | 34 212,9 | 32 196,5 | 31 481,5 | 4,1 | 1,7 | -4,0 | -2,1 |
| Dec | 32 037,9 | 33 958,5 | 32 556,3 | 32 402,5 | 8,5 | -0,7 | 1,1 | 2,9 |

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

| Mineral group and mineral | Jul-15 | Aug-15 | Sep-15 | Oct-15 | Nov-15 | Dec-15 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Gold | 4 755,7 | 4 980,5 | 4 966,6 | 6 854,9 | 5 476,5 | 6 270,2 |
| Iron ore | 2 916,4 | 2 668,2 | 3 446,9 | 2 381,9 | 2 775,5 | 3 070,2 |
| Chromium ore | 1 402,5 | 1 635,9 | 1 550,3 | 1 136,5 | 1 366,5 | 1 119,4 |
| Copper | 294,0 | 287,9 | 482,2 | 431,3 | 426,1 | 513,6 |
| Manganese ore | 1 179,5 | 959,2 | 1 045,0 | 1 051,9 | 546,1 | 907,2 |
| PGMs | 8 042,3 | 7 865,8 | 8 677,4 | 7 361,5 | 8 130,9 | 8 112,2 |
| Nickel | 458,7 | 503,0 | 674,1 | 894,9 | 577,3 | 741,8 |
| Other metallic minerals | 804,7 | 1 178,3 | 845,7 | 505,8 | 846,4 | 1 009,6 |
| Coal | 8 552,0 | 8 692,8 | 8 570,6 | 9 166,6 | 8 950,2 | 9 755,7 |
| Building materials | 941,0 | 881,9 | 937,1 | 958,6 | 971,6 | 717,9 |
| Other non-metallic minerals | 1 088,3 | 1 695,9 | 2 055,9 | 2 365,5 | 1 021,8 | 2 152,6 |
| Total | 30 435,2 | 31 349,4 | 33 251,8 | 33 109,2 | 31 088,9 | 34 370,5 |

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 | Jul-15 | Aug-15 | Sep-15 | Oct-15 | Nov-15 | Dec-15 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Gold | -18,4 | -5,7 | -8,4 | 17,2 | 18,7 | 18,2 |
| Iron ore | -35,3 | -17,3 | -22,2 | -48,7 | -39,3 | -25,7 |
| Chromium ore | 38,3 | 42,2 | 36,9 | 1,1 | 26,5 | -1,7 |
| Copper | -8,2 | -46,1 | -10,4 | -6,0 | -10,1 | 34,8 |
| Manganese ore | 8,5 | -31,3 | -22,2 | -16,4 | -62,0 | -44,1 |
| PGMs | 32,7 | 27,1 | 17,6 | 10,4 | 16,8 | -0,3 |
| Nickel | -51,9 | -47,3 | -4,3 | 35,5 | 10,2 | -22,2 |
| Other metallic minerals | -11,5 | 22,0 | -30,4 | -35,4 | -17,1 | 11,9 |
| Coal | -0,9 | -10,8 | -9,2 | 1,5 | 1,8 | 7,4 |
| Building materials | 2,4 | 2,9 | 3,7 | -2,1 | 12,8 | 10,0 |
| Other non-metallic minerals | -15,9 | -7,0 | -27,6 | -10,5 | -47,3 | 90,8 |
| Total | -3,4 | -2,4 | -5,9 | -2,9 | -3,7 | 2,8 |

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 | Jul-15 | Aug-15 | Sep-15 | Oct-15 | Nov-15 | Dec-15 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Gold | -3,4 | -0,9 | -1,3 | 2,9 | 2,7 | 2,9 |
| Iron ore | -5,0 | -1,7 | -2,8 | -6,6 | -5,6 | -3,2 |
| Chromium ore | 1,2 | 1,5 | 1,2 | 0,0 | 0,9 | -0,1 |
| Copper | -0,1 | -0,8 | -0,2 | -0,1 | -0,1 | 0,4 |
| Manganese ore | 0,3 | -1,4 | -0,8 | -0,6 | -2,8 | -2,1 |
| PGMs | 6,3 | 5,2 | 3,7 | 2,0 | 3,6 | -0,1 |
| Nickel | -1,6 | -1,4 | -0,1 | 0,7 | 0,2 | -0,6 |
| Other metallic minerals | -0,3 | 0,7 | -1,0 | -0,8 | -0,5 | 0,3 |
| Coal | -0,2 | -3,3 | -2,5 | 0,4 | 0,5 | 2,0 |
| Building materials | 0,1 | 0,1 | 0,1 | -0,1 | 0,3 | 0,2 |
| Other non-metallic minerals | -0,7 | -0,4 | -2,2 | -0,8 | -2,8 | 3,1 |
| Total | -3,4 | -2,4 | -5,9 | -2,9 | -3,7 | 2,8 |

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</i> (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 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</i> (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. |
| 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>South African 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 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 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 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 based on the value of sales derived from detailed information for a specific year supplied by the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR). The latest weights are based on 2012 data.
- 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:
http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P2041/Seasonal_adjustment_X12.pdf
- Trend cycle** 6 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** 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 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</i> (SNA) in the same way as in the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</i> (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 | <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 |
| 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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