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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS: MINING PRODUCTION AND MINERAL SALES

Key findings regarding mining production as at the end of March 2008

Mining production decreases

The total mining production for the first quarter of 2008, after seasonal adjustment, decreased by 8,3% compared with the previous quarter. This decrease of 8,3% was due to a decrease of 10,1% in the production of gold and a decrease of 8,0% in the production of non-gold minerals. The major contributors to the decrease of 8,3% were the production of platinum group metals (PGMs) (-5,0 percentage points), diamonds (-1,8 percentage points) and gold (-1,3 percentage points) (see Table 4). In the first quarter of 2008 production of some mining minerals was negatively affected by power shortages and continued rainy conditions, preventing work in some mining shafts.

Furthermore, the total mining production for the first quarter of 2008 decreased by 11,4% compared with the first quarter of 2007. The actual total mining production for March 2008 decreased by 17,2% compared with March 2007 (see Table A).

Gold production decreased by 10,9% for the period March 2008 compared with March 2007. However, gold production after seasonal adjustment increased by 12,6% for March 2008 when compared with February 2008 (see Table A).

Key figures regarding mining production as at the end of March 2008

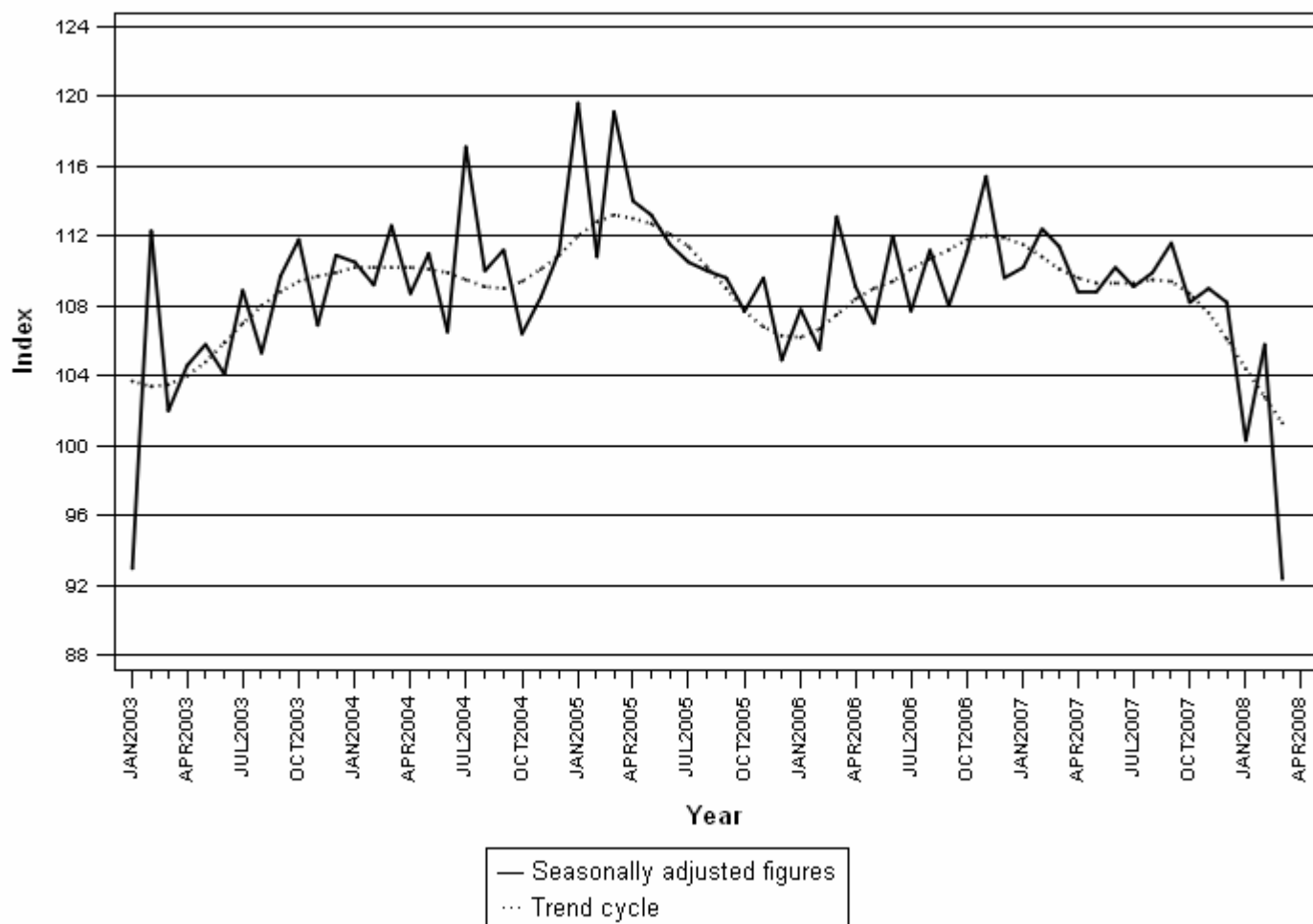
Table A – Selected key figures regarding mining production for March 2008

Annual estimates	Base : 2000=100		
	March 2008	% change between March 2007 and March 2008	% change between January 2007 to March 2007 and January 2008 to March 2008
Index of the physical volume of mining production			
Gold	52,4	-10,9	-19,2
Non-gold	107,8	-18,1	-10,1
Total	93,6	-17,2	-11,4

Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates	Base : 2000=100		
	March 2008	% change between February 2008 and March 2008	% change between October 2007 to December 2007 and January 2008 to March 2008
Index of the physical volume of mining production			
Gold	52,0	12,6	-10,1
Non-gold	106,3	-15,9	-8,0
Total	92,4	-12,7	-8,3

Figure 1 shows the seasonally adjusted figures and trend series for the index of mining production between January 2003 and March 2008. The trend series rose from the beginning of 2003 until February 2004, but levelled off until November of the same year. The trend reached a peak in April 2005 and a trough in January 2006. From February 2006 the trend increased until November 2006 but started to decline thereafter.

Figure 1 – Monthly indices of physical volume of total mining production including gold



Key findings regarding mineral sales as at the end of February 2008

Mineral sales increase

The total seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended February 2008 reflected an increase of 10,8% compared with the previous three months. This increase of 10,8% (R6 064,1 million) can be attributed to an increase of 13,9% (R6 445,3 million) in the sale of non-gold minerals (see Table B and Table 16).

The actual total value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended February 2008 increased by 15,6% compared with the three months ended February 2007. The major contributors to the increase of 15,6%, year on year, in the actual value of mineral sales were PGMs (5,8 percentage points or R3 031,9 million), coal (5,2 percentage points or R2 731,2 million), manganese ore (2,9 percentage points or R1 440,0 million) and iron ore (2,2 percentage points or R1 128,0 million) (see Table 8).

Key figures regarding mineral sales as at the end of February 2008

Table B – Selected key figures regarding mineral sales for February 2008

Annual estimates	February 2008	% change between February 2007 and February 2008	% change between December 2006 to February 2007 and December 2007 to February 2008
	R million		
Mineral sales			
Gold	3 387,3	-1,3	-5,3
Non-gold	18 034,2	23,6	20,2
Total	21 421,5	18,8	15,6

Shorter term seasonally adjusted estimates	February 2008	% change between January 2008 and February 2008	% change between September 2007 to November 2007 and December 2007 to February 2008
	R million		
Mineral sales			
Gold	3 468,4	8,5	-3,9
Non-gold	19 307,6	19,5	13,9
Total	22 776,0	17,7	10,8

Figure 2 shows the seasonally adjusted figures and trend series of the total value of mineral sales between January 2003 and February 2008. There was a clear upward trend during 2004–2008, with the exception of the middle of 2007.

Figure 2 – Total value of mineral sales including gold

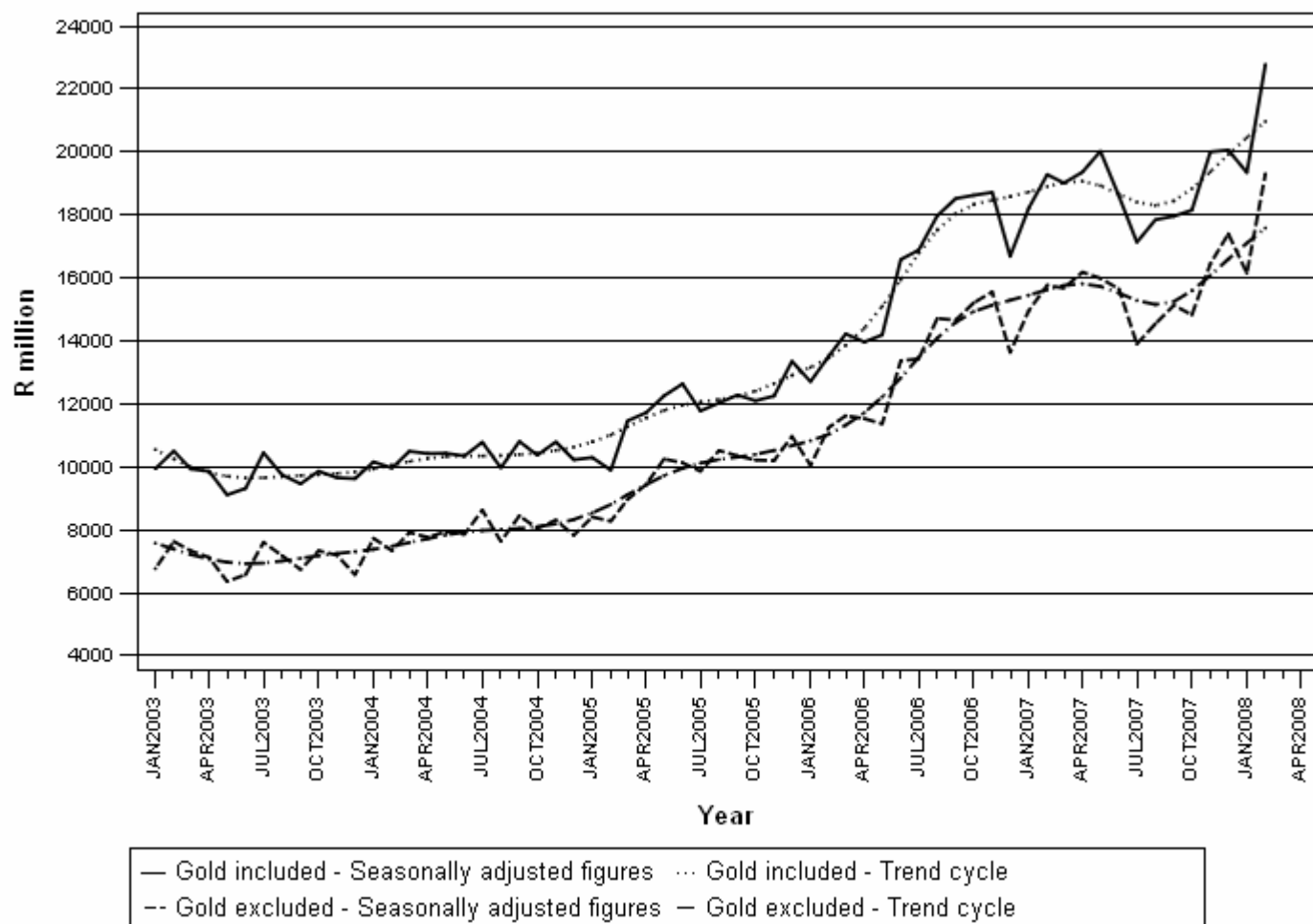
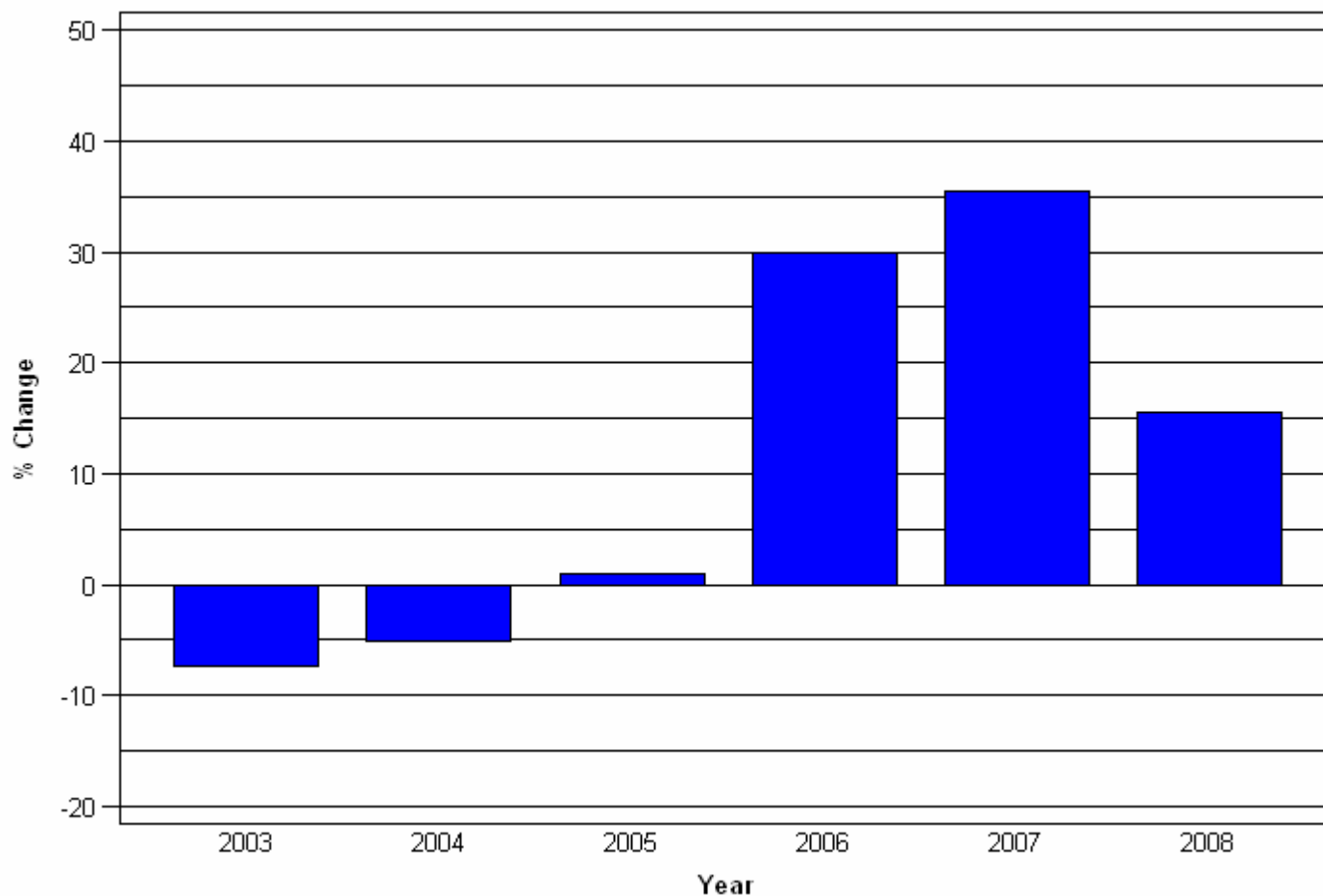


Figure 3 – Comparison of the last six years for the total value of mineral sales, including gold, for the three months ended February compared with the three months ended February of the previous year.

Figure 3 shows the 15,6% annual growth rate in the value of mineral sales for the three months ended February 2008. This 15,6% represents a lower growth rate compared to the preceding two years for the same period.



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Statistician-General

Detailed results: Tables

Table 1 – Index of the physical volume of mining production including gold

		Base : 2000=100						
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	1/ 2008
Actual indices	January	89,0	85,1	100,7	107,9	96,9	98,5	89,0
	February	94,2	101,7	97,8	98,6	93,6	98,7	92,1
	March	99,1	101,8	112,9	119,9	114,3	113,0	93,6
	April	102,0	101,0	105,0	110,2	105,2	105,0	
	May	102,9	107,1	113,0	115,2	109,0	111,1	
	June	104,1	108,6	111,1	116,8	117,6	116,3	
	July	99,0	110,7	119,5	113,1	110,2	111,7	
	August	107,2	109,1	114,3	114,8	116,3	114,8	
	September	108,1	114,6	117,4	116,7	115,2	119,5	
	October	106,7	114,5	108,2	108,2	110,9	107,7	
	November	107,5	108,6	110,1	111,4	117,3	111,3	
	December	107,0	113,5	113,3	107,4	113,1	111,4	
	Year	102,2	106,4	110,3	111,7	110,0	109,9	
Seasonally adjusted indices	January	97,5	93,0	110,5	119,6	107,8	110,2	100,3
	February	101,2	112,3	109,2	110,8	105,5	112,4	105,8
	March	99,3	102,0	112,6	119,1	113,1	111,4	92,4
	April	106,0	104,6	108,7	114,0	109,1	108,8	
	May	102,1	105,8	111,0	113,2	107,0	108,8	
	June	99,9	104,1	106,5	111,5	112,0	110,2	
	July	97,8	108,9	117,1	110,5	107,7	109,1	
	August	103,9	105,3	110,0	110,0	111,2	109,9	
	September	104,7	109,7	111,2	109,6	108,0	111,6	
	October	103,3	111,8	106,4	107,7	111,1	108,2	
	November	105,2	106,9	108,5	109,6	115,4	109,0	
	December	104,7	110,9	111,1	104,9	109,6	108,2	

Table 2 – Index of the physical volume of mining production excluding gold

		Base : 2000=100						
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	1/ 2008
Actual indices	January	89,6	85,7	110,0	121,6	110,1	113,3	104,0
	February	95,8	107,3	104,0	108,7	104,1	111,3	108,5
	March	101,0	106,2	123,6	136,2	130,9	131,7	107,8
	April	105,3	106,3	115,0	127,0	119,7	122,0	
	May	107,0	114,7	124,9	131,3	126,1	129,2	
	June	107,3	116,4	121,1	132,3	135,7	135,3	
	July	102,4	118,8	133,1	129,2	127,1	130,2	
	August	111,2	116,3	125,5	132,2	134,0	133,1	
	September	111,4	122,9	130,0	132,4	131,7	139,0	
	October	111,9	124,2	119,7	122,3	127,7	124,7	
	November	113,3	116,2	121,3	126,2	136,2	130,8	
	December	111,2	123,3	127,0	120,0	131,9	130,3	
	Year	105,6	113,2	121,3	126,6	126,3	127,6	
Seasonally adjusted indices	January	98,1	93,4	120,8	134,9	122,9	127,1	117,4
	February	104,2	120,5	118,4	124,3	119,2	128,9	126,4
	March	101,9	106,9	123,5	135,4	129,5	129,7	106,3
	April	109,5	109,9	118,8	131,0	123,5	125,9	
	May	105,0	112,1	121,5	128,1	123,0	125,7	
	June	102,7	111,3	115,8	126,1	128,9	127,7	
	July	100,2	116,0	129,6	125,5	123,3	126,4	
	August	107,9	112,2	120,7	126,6	128,2	127,3	
	September	108,6	118,1	123,4	124,5	123,5	129,9	
	October	107,5	120,6	117,4	121,9	128,2	125,6	
	November	110,8	114,4	119,7	124,4	134,0	128,1	
	December	109,2	120,7	124,7	117,5	127,9	126,8	

Table 3 – Indices of physical volume of mining production according to mining divisions, mineral groups and minerals

	Weights	Base : 2000=100						
		Actual indices				Seasonally adjusted indices		
		2007	2008		2007	2008		2007
			1/ Mar	Feb		Mar	Feb	
Total, gold included	100,0	109,9	93,6	92,1	113,0	92,4	105,8	111,4
Total, gold excluded	74,3	127,6	107,8	108,5	131,7	106,3	126,4	129,7
Gold	25,7	58,8	52,4	44,4	58,8	52,0	46,2	58,3
Iron ore	3,1	124,4	130,8	118,0	131,2	123,7	129,6	124,2
Chromium	1,1	144,8	147,2	148,8	148,8	149,1	150,5	151,6
Copper	1,6	86,4	70,0	69,6	79,2	77,8	79,3	87,4
Manganese ore	1,3	162,9	172,0	174,0	179,6	179,8	172,6	188,6
PGMs	27,6	150,4	108,8	113,2	150,8	108,6	152,0	150,2
Nickel	2,0	103,5	95,2	82,4	105,2	91,0	89,5	101,0
Other metallic minerals	2,9	83,1	90,4	76,0	87,2	87,2	83,9	84,5
Diamonds	8,3	137,4	118,0	108,4	154,4	108,5	102,6	142,4
Coal	20,0	110,2	104,0	109,6	112,0	105,4	119,0	113,5
Building materials	2,6	138,0	131,2	134,0	144,0	124,6	144,9	136,7
Other non-metallic minerals	3,8	74,9	66,0	62,8	85,6	62,2	65,2	81,5

1/ Preliminary.

Table 4 – Contribution of the mining divisions to the total mining production (seasonally adjusted)

		Base : 2000=100			
		Percentage contribution to the total mining production using the weights according to the value of production in the base year	Average seasonally adjusted production index for January 2008 to March 2008	Quarterly percentage change January 2008 compared with the preceding three months	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total mining production 1/
Gold		25,7	49,7	-10,1	-1,3
Non-gold minerals	Iron ore	3,1	125,1	-2,0	-0,1
	Chromium	1,1	148,2	4,2	0,1
	Copper	1,6	74,6	-14,7	-0,2
	Manganese ore	1,3	170,6	2,1	0,0
	PGMs	27,6	131,3	-13,0	-5,0
	Nickel	2,0	92,7	-14,1	-0,3
	Other metallic minerals	2,9	85,0	-3,6	-0,1
	Diamonds	8,3	110,1	-17,4	-1,8
	Coal	20,0	110,1	3,2	0,6
	Building materials	2,6	140,2	-0,9	0,0
	Other non-metallic minerals	3,8	64,8	-9,2	-0,2
Total non-gold minerals		74,3	116,7	-8,0	-6,9
Total minerals		100,0	99,5	-8,3	-8,3

1/ The quarterly contribution of a commodity or commodity group to the total seasonally adjusted mining production is calculated by multiplying the weight of the commodity or commodity group with the change in the index for the commodity or commodity group and dividing by the previous period index total. Figures have been rounded off.

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

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	* 2007	1/ 2008
Actual values	January	11 387,0	9 868,8	9 820,5	9 587,4	11 755,1	16 475,0	17 394,4
	February	10 634,4	10 236,5	9 576,1	9 383,8	12 680,8	18 026,1	21 421,5
	March	11 639,2	9 829,3	10 396,0	11 477,1	14 179,9	18 787,8	
	April	11 194,9	9 294,1	9 789,3	11 034,0	13 042,6	18 025,6	
	May	12 145,3	9 104,1	10 373,3	12 239,8	14 046,8	19 775,1	
	June	11 637,2	9 745,9	10 856,0	13 360,1	17 809,8	20 196,7	
	July	10 779,9	10 403,7	10 844,2	12 001,8	17 614,8	17 734,2	
	August	11 633,5	9 612,0	9 841,7	11 687,6	17 339,2	17 410,0	
	September	12 115,1	10 008,1	11 693,2	13 524,1	20 586,6	20 029,8	
	October	12 514,2	9 989,4	10 466,3	12 074,8	18 031,0	17 522,5	
	November	11 059,4	9 535,8	10 815,6	12 453,2	18 918,2	20 311,4	
	December	10 764,4	9 899,2	10 585,6	13 994,2	17 584,7	21 373,4	
	Year	137 504,5	117 526,9	125 057,8	142 817,9	193 589,5	225 667,6	
Seasonally adjusted values	January	11 428,1	9 944,8	10 160,9	10 298,2	12 708,8	18 215,1	19 347,8
	February	10 859,0	10 503,9	9 963,7	9 896,9	13 528,8	19 282,3	22 776,0
	March	11 691,1	9 936,2	10 496,1	11 462,0	14 223,6	19 012,9	
	April	11 889,7	9 861,5	10 422,5	11 722,1	13 966,0	19 362,4	
	May	12 128,9	9 110,8	10 433,1	12 257,0	14 192,5	20 024,1	
	June	11 181,3	9 318,3	10 347,7	12 637,9	16 585,7	18 598,6	
	July	10 717,9	10 450,0	10 785,1	11 777,6	16 885,5	17 133,8	
	August	11 721,2	9 746,2	9 970,3	12 033,2	17 975,4	17 846,9	
	September	11 831,1	9 463,2	10 808,3	12 282,4	18 521,6	17 961,6	
	October	12 289,5	9 864,7	10 373,2	12 101,9	18 625,8	18 152,9	
	November	11 256,8	9 655,2	10 794,6	12 250,8	18 717,6	20 005,4	
	December	10 369,6	9 626,2	10 227,2	13 355,1	16 688,2	20 060,2	

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

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	* 2007	1/ 2008
Actual values	January	8 002,3	6 744,1	7 480,6	7 809,6	9 316,0	13 516,5	14 484,9
	February	7 368,2	7 452,6	7 039,8	7 813,9	10 469,6	14 595,6	18 034,2
	March	8 110,9	7 140,7	7 710,4	8 840,3	11 403,2	15 188,1	
	April	7 481,9	6 815,2	7 366,5	8 963,2	10 850,3	15 173,6	
	May	8 619,3	6 477,2	8 029,3	10 372,9	11 445,0	16 081,1	
	June	8 035,5	6 759,5	8 107,4	10 562,0	14 217,3	16 895,9	
	July	7 344,7	7 613,1	8 699,0	10 082,3	14 114,1	14 444,8	
	August	8 065,2	7 052,7	7 546,9	10 210,5	14 152,3	14 178,4	
	September	8 562,1	7 092,3	9 114,1	11 390,1	16 333,3	16 914,0	
	October	8 711,8	7 345,5	8 089,0	10 186,0	14 646,2	14 239,6	
	November	7 981,8	7 154,9	8 406,4	10 436,1	15 781,8	16 781,5	
	December	7 834,8	6 825,9	8 138,7	11 549,8	14 455,8	18 658,6	
	Year	96 118,5	84 473,7	95 728,1	118 216,7	157 184,9	186 667,7	
Seasonally adjusted values	January	8 034,6	6 770,5	7 733,4	8 409,9	10 052,7	14 959,0	16 152,4
	February	7 497,9	7 630,6	7 338,3	8 275,4	11 257,8	15 768,7	19 307,6
	March	8 264,7	7 336,4	7 919,0	8 966,3	11 626,8	15 675,3	
	April	7 751,1	7 124,2	7 763,6	9 439,9	11 533,6	16 184,5	
	May	8 469,6	6 361,7	7 948,0	10 251,3	11 367,7	15 991,0	
	June	7 818,5	6 579,1	7 858,3	10 128,9	13 372,7	15 648,0	
	July	7 215,8	7 605,4	8 626,6	9 862,9	13 430,1	13 902,6	
	August	8 208,2	7 181,4	7 633,0	10 518,4	14 715,1	14 545,5	
	September	8 427,3	6 740,7	8 446,8	10 351,6	14 661,7	15 133,6	
	October	8 719,4	7 338,5	8 045,1	10 218,2	15 210,7	14 828,1	
	November	8 085,3	7 194,4	8 310,3	10 197,8	15 557,4	16 454,0	
	December	7 430,0	6 575,0	7 827,8	10 970,0	13 635,8	17 401,0	

1/ Preliminary.

* Revised.

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

	Actual values				Seasonally adjusted values		
	2007	2008		2007 February	2008		2007 February
		1/ February	January		February	January	
Total, gold included	225 667,6	21 421,5	17 394,4	18 026,1	22 776,0	19 347,8	19 282,3
Total, gold excluded	186 667,7	18 034,2	14 484,9	14 595,6	19 307,6	16 152,4	15 768,7
Gold	38 999,9	3 387,3	2 909,5	3 430,5	3 468,4	3 195,4	3 513,6
Iron ore	13 430,2	1 408,3	1 368,0	1 044,9	1 427,1	1 570,8	1 066,0
Chromium	3 006,6	363,4	347,4	182,7	399,5	347,0	200,7
Copper	5 868,3	307,5	316,3	386,8	374,4	378,3	463,7
Manganese ore	3 571,4	931,3	481,2	212,8	851,9	503,7	197,5
PGMs	79 945,3	6 967,1	6 297,9	6 032,2	7 711,9	6 894,9	6 671,9
Nickel	9 324,5	555,1	473,1	863,5	586,0	543,2	904,3
Other metallic minerals	5 258,9	485,0	447,9	390,4	548,5	463,6	439,1
Coal	43 102,8	5 249,1	3 443,8	3 729,3	5 411,6	3 529,7	3 860,8
Building materials	6 029,6	528,0	483,4	465,1	553,8	590,5	489,3
- Granite or norite	479,0	42,9	36,1	40,1	43,5	50,1	41,9
- Lime and limestone	1 707,6	142,4	150,2	123,8	155,9	151,4	135,7
- Other building materials	3 843,1	342,7	297,1	301,2	354,4	389,0	311,7
Other non-metallic minerals	17 130,0	1 239,5	825,9	1 287,8	1 442,9	1 330,7	1 475,4

1/ Preliminary.

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

		Percentage contribution to total mineral sales during December 2006 to February 2007	Percentage change between December 2006 to February 2007 and December 2007 to February 2008	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in the total value of mineral sales 1/	Difference in sales of mining divisions between December 2006 to February 2007 and December 2007 to February 2008 R million
Gold		18,3	-5,3	-1,0	-506,3
Non-gold minerals	Iron ore	6,1	35,5	2,2	1 128,0
	Chromium	1,2	55,5	0,7	346,7
	Copper	2,3	-13,3	-0,3	-157,8
	Manganese ore	1,2	238,2	2,9	1 440,0
	PGMs	35,1	16,6	5,8	3 031,9
	Nickel	4,6	-20,0	-0,9	-476,6
	Other metallic minerals	2,6	1,5	0,0	20,3
	Coal	19,4	27,0	5,2	2 731,2
	Building materials	2,3	17,4	0,4	209,5
	Other non-metallic minerals	7,0	9,2	0,6	336,7
Total non-gold minerals		81,7	20,2	16,5	8 609,8
Total minerals		100,0	15,6	15,6	8 103,5

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 December 2006 to February 2007, divided by 100.

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

	Base : 2000=100			
	Actual estimates March 2007	Actual estimates March 2008	% change between March 2007 and March 2008	Difference between March 2007 and March 2008
	Percentage points			
Gold	58,8	52,4	-10,9	-6,4
Non-gold minerals	131,7	107,8	-18,1	-23,9
Total	113,0	93,6	-17,2	-19,4

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

	Base : 2000=100			
	Actual estimates January 2007 to March 2007	Actual estimates January 2008 to March 2008	% change between January 2007 to March 2007 and January 2008 to March 2008	Difference between January 2007 to March 2007 and January 2008 to March 2008
	Percentage points			
Gold	58,9	47,6	-19,2	-11,3
Non-gold minerals	118,8	106,8	-10,1	-12,0
Total	103,4	91,6	-11,4	-11,8

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

	Base : 2000=100			
	Actual estimates February 2008	Actual estimates March 2008	% change between February 2008 and March 2008	Difference between February 2008 and March 2008
	Percentage points			
Gold	46,2	52,0	12,6	5,8
Non-gold minerals	126,4	106,3	-15,9	-20,1
Total	105,8	92,4	-12,7	-13,4

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

	Base : 2000=100			
	Actual estimates October 2007 to December 2007	Actual estimates January 2008 to March 2008	% change between October 2007 to December 2007 and January 2008 to March 2008	Difference between October 2007 to December 2007 and January 2008 to March 2008
	Percentage points			
Gold	55,3	49,7	-10,1	-5,6
Non-gold minerals	126,8	116,7	-8,0	-10,1
Total	108,5	99,5	-8,3	-9,0

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

	Actual estimates February 2007	Actual estimates February 2008	% change between February 2007 and February 2008	Difference between February 2007 and February 2008
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	3 430,5	3 387,3	-1,3	-43,2
Non-gold minerals	14 595,6	18 034,2	23,6	3 438,6
Total	18 026,1	21 421,5	18,8	3 395,4

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

	Actual estimates December 2006 to February 2007	Actual estimates December 2007 to February 2008	% change between December 2006 to February 2007 and December 2007 to February 2008	Difference between December 2006 to February 2007 and December 2007 to February 2008
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	9 517,9	9 011,6	-5,3	-506,3
Non-gold minerals	42 567,9	51 177,7	20,2	8 609,8
Total	52 085,8	60 189,3	15,6	8 103,5

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

	Actual seasonal adjusted estimates January 2008	Actual seasonal adjusted estimates February 2008	% change between January 2008 and February 2008	Difference between January 2008 and February 2008
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	3 195,4	3 468,4	8,5	273,0
Non-gold minerals	16 152,4	19 307,6	19,5	3 155,2
Total	19 347,8	22 776,0	17,7	3 428,2

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

	Actual estimates September 2007 to November 2007	Actual estimates December 2007 to February 2008	% change between September 2007 to November 2007 and December 2007 to February 2008	Difference between September 2007 to November 2007 and December 2007 to February 2008
	R million	R million		R million
Gold	9 704,2	9 323,0	-3,9	-381,2
Non-gold minerals	46 415,7	52 861,0	13,9	6 445,3
Total	56 119,9	62 184,0	10,8	6 064,1

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.
Purpose of the survey	6	The monthly mining production and sales survey is 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.
Scope of the survey	7	This survey covers mining establishments conducting activities regarding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 (SIC)</i> , 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 (ISIC)</i> 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	9	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 8).
Weighting	10	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	11	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Reliability of estimates	12	Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Figures for the latest month are preliminary.
Historical data	13	<p>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: www.statssa.gov.za</p>
Related publications	14	<p>Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from Stats SA -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bulletin of Statistics.</i> • <i>SA Statistics.</i>
Unpublished statistics	15	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.
Rounding-off of figures	16	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

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 basis	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.
Index of physical volume of mining production	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.
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 (SNA)</i> in the same way as in the <i>Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) of all Economic Activities</i> , 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 and transfers-out of goods mined by the mining establishments and the amounts received for installation, erection or assembly or other services rendered.
Weight	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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