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Mining: Production and sales (Preliminary)

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Production: results for May 2012

Table A – Total mining production

Actual estimate	Base: 2005=100			
	May 2012	% change between May 2011 and May 2012	% change between March to May 2011 and March to May 2012	% change between January to May 2011 and January to May 2012
Volume of mining production index	91,7	0,8	-5,9	-7,1

Seasonally adjusted estimate	Base: 2005=100		
	May 2012	% change between April and May 2012	% change between December 2011 to February 2012 and March to May 2012
Volume of mining production index	92,3	6,5	1,3

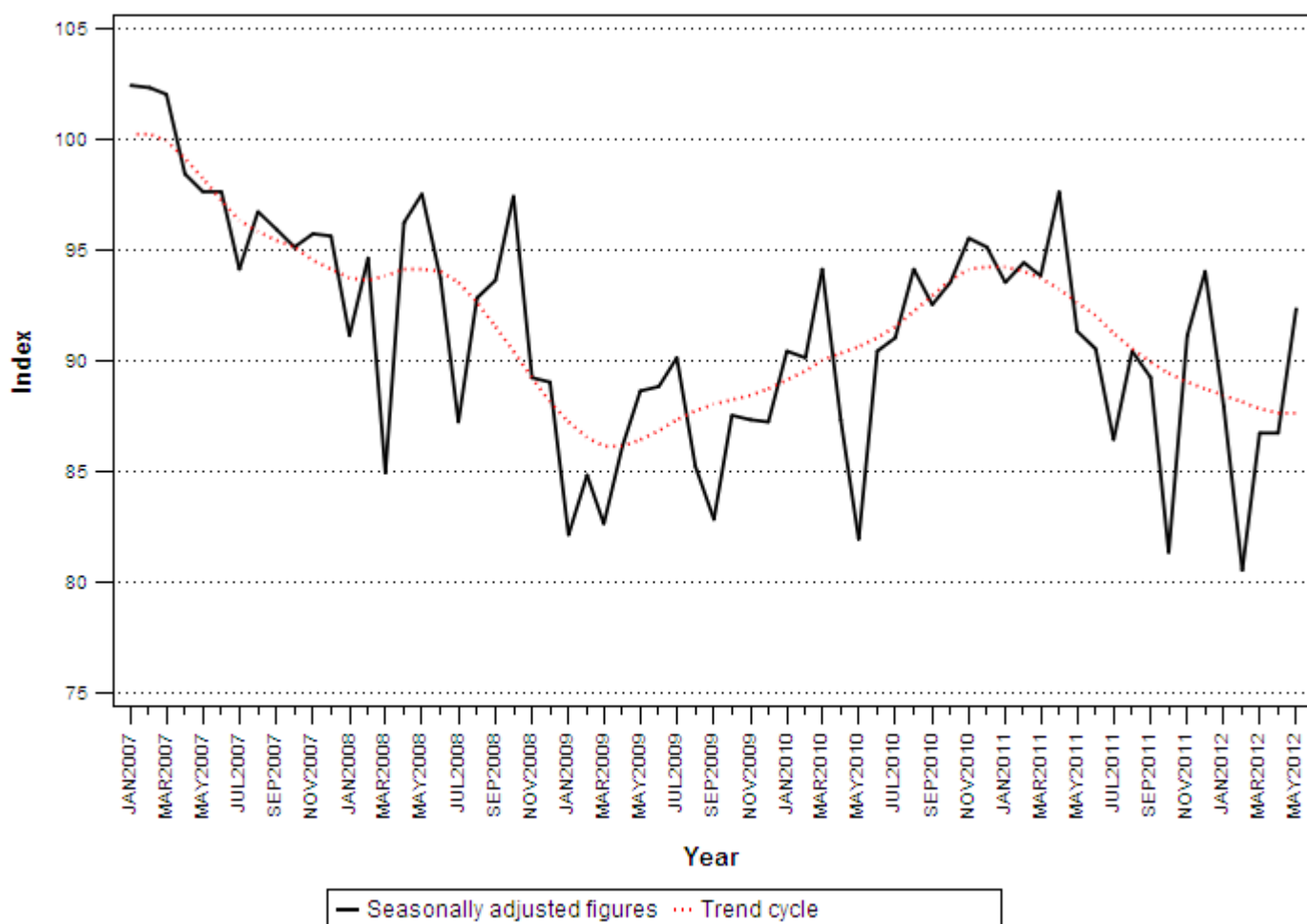
Table B – Contribution of the mineral group and mineral to the total three-monthly seasonally adjusted growth in mining production

Mineral group and mineral	Base: 2005=100					
	Weights 2005	December 2011 to February 2012	March to May 2012	% change between December 2011 to February 2012 and March to May 2012	Difference between December 2011 to February 2012 and March to May 2012	Contribution (% points) to the % change in total mining production 1/
Gold	17,2	57,2	56,8	-0,7	-0,4	-0,1
Iron ore	5,3	146,8	173,9	18,5	27,1	1,6
Chromium ore	1,3	160,0	142,9	-10,7	-17,1	-0,3
Copper	1,8	83,8	83,5	-0,4	-0,3	0,0
Manganese ore	1,5	198,8	193,6	-2,6	-5,2	-0,1
PGMs	27,0	80,9	81,6	0,9	0,7	0,2
Nickel	2,8	100,5	108,6	8,1	8,1	0,3
Other metallic minerals	2,8	107,8	107,6	-0,2	-0,2	0,0
Diamonds	7,6	37,7	39,5	4,8	1,8	0,2
Coal	24,9	108,6	107,4	-1,1	-1,2	-0,3
Building materials	2,1	100,6	98,4	-2,2	-2,2	-0,1
Other non-metallic minerals	5,7	61,8	59,7	-3,4	-2,1	-0,1
Total	100,0	87,5	88,6	1,3	1,1	1,3

1/ The contribution (percentage points) of a mineral or mineral group to the percentage change in the total seasonally adjusted mining production is calculated by multiplying the difference in the index for the mineral or mineral group by the weight of the mineral or mineral group and then dividing by the previous period's total index. Figures have been rounded off.

Seasonally adjusted mining production increased by 1,3% for the three months ended May 2012 compared with the three months ended February 2012. The most significant positive contribution to the 3-month percentage change came from iron ore (contributing 1,6 percentage points) (see Table B).

A year-on-year increase of 0,8% was recorded in May 2012 compared with a revised 11,0% decrease in April 2012 (see Table 2). Actual mining production decreased by 5,9% for the three months ended May 2012 compared with the three months ended May 2011.

Figure 1 – Volume of mining production (Base: 2005=100)

Sales: results for April 2012

Table C – Total value of mineral sales

Actual estimate	April 2012	% change between April 2011 and April 2012	% change between February to April 2011 and February to April 2012	% change between January to April 2011 and January to April 2012
	R million			
Total value of mineral sales	27 200,9	-0,7	2,8	5,1

Seasonally adjusted estimate	April 2012	% change between March and April 2012	% change between November 2011 to January 2012 and February to April 2012
	R million		
Total value of mineral sales	28 241,0	-5,1	-11,8

Table D – Contribution of the mineral group and mineral to the seasonally adjusted three-monthly growth in the total value of mineral sales (R million)

Mineral group and mineral	% contribution to total mineral sales during November 2011 to January 2012	November 2011 to January 2012	February to April 2012	% change between November 2011 to January 2012 and February to April 2012	Contribution to the % change in the total value of mineral sales 1/	Difference between November 2011 to January 2012 and February to April 2012
		R million	R million		% points	R million
Gold	20,3	20 688,4	18 955,2	-8,4	-1,7	-1 733,2
Iron ore	16,4	16 690,5	15 225,0	-8,8	-1,4	-1 465,5
Chromium ore	2,2	2 250,9	1 905,2	-15,4	-0,3	-345,7
Copper	1,3	1 366,1	1 598,2	17,0	0,2	232,1
Manganese ore	2,3	2 363,5	2 234,7	-5,4	-0,1	-128,8
PGMs	20,3	20 695,8	15 404,9	-25,6	-5,2	-5 290,9
Nickel	1,8	1 806,8	1 328,9	-26,5	-0,5	-477,9
Other metallic minerals	3,1	3 166,0	2 620,9	-17,2	-0,5	-545,1
Coal	24,6	25 062,4	24 068,8	-4,0	-1,0	-993,6
Building materials	2,0	2 087,1	1 990,8	-4,6	-0,1	-96,3
Other non-metallic minerals	5,7	5 777,8	4 546,2	-21,3	-1,2	-1 231,6
Total	100,0	101 955,3	89 878,8	-11,8	-11,8	-12 076,5

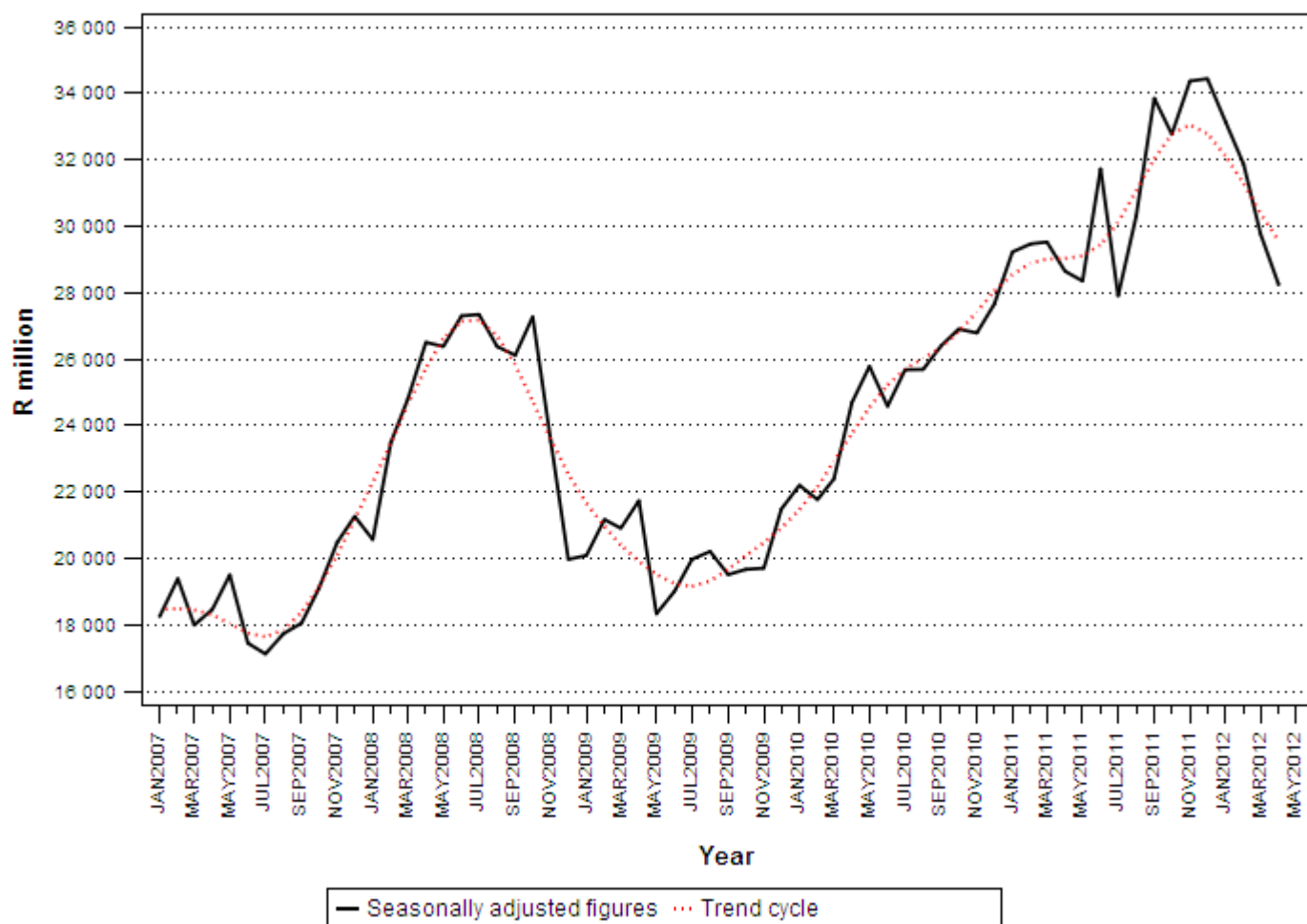
1/ The contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in sales is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each mineral with the percentage contribution to total mineral sales during November 2011 to January 2012, divided by 100. Figures have been rounded off.

The seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales at current prices reflected a decrease of 11,8% for the three months ended April 2012 compared with the three months ended January 2012. The fall of 11,8% (-R12 076,5 million) was mainly due to decreases in the sales value of PGMs (contributing -5,2 percentage points or -R5 290,9 million), gold (contributing -1,7 percentage points or -R1 733,2 million) and iron ore (contributing -1,4 percentage points or -R1 465,5 million) (see Table D).

The actual value of mineral sales at current prices for the three months ended April 2012 increased by 2,8% compared with the three months ended April 2011. The major contributors to this increase were:

- gold (contributing 5,0 percentage points or R4 344,0 million);
- coal (contributing 3,6 percentage points or R3 114,3 million); and
- iron ore (contributing 1,6 percentage points or R1 389,4 million).

PGMs sales decreased over this period, contributing -6,6 percentage points or -R5 683,7 million (see Table 13).

Figure 2 – Mineral sales at current prices

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Statistician-General

Tables

Table 1 – Index of the volume of mining production: 2006 – 2012

Month	Base: 2005=100						
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012 ^{1/}
January	87,7	90,1	79,0	71,4	78,3	80,9	76,7
February	85,2	90,8	83,6	74,6	79,9	82,8	72,1
March	101,7	102,9	85,6	83,7	94,8	94,5	87,3
April	94,8	93,9	91,4	81,3	82,5	92,1	82,0
May	98,7	99,0	98,1	88,6	81,9	91,0	91,7
June	104,9	102,6	98,4	93,0	94,1	94,2	
July	99,4	96,0	89,4	92,4	93,4	88,8	
August	103,7	101,6	97,5	89,5	99,1	* 95,2	
September	105,1	104,5	102,3	90,2	101,6	* 97,5	
October	100,2	97,0	99,0	89,2	95,1	83,3	
November	104,2	98,6	92,4	91,0	99,9	95,1	
December	98,9	96,8	90,7	89,0	96,9	96,2	
Year	98,7	97,8	92,3	86,2	91,5	91,0	

1/ Preliminary.

* Revised.

Table 2 – Annual percentage change in the volume of mining production: 2006 – 2012

Month	Percentage change						
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	-9,7	2,7	-12,4	-9,6	9,7	3,3	-5,2
February	-5,7	6,5	-7,9	-10,8	7,1	3,6	-12,9
March	-3,0	1,2	-16,8	-2,2	13,3	-0,3	-7,6
April	-4,4	-1,0	-2,6	-11,0	1,5	11,6	-11,0
May	-3,9	0,3	-0,9	-9,7	-7,6	11,1	0,8
June	0,9	-2,2	-4,1	-5,5	1,2	0,1	
July	-2,0	-3,4	-6,8	3,3	1,1	-4,9	
August	0,9	-2,0	-4,0	-8,2	10,7	-3,9	
September	2,0	-0,6	-2,1	-11,8	12,6	-4,0	
October	1,7	-3,2	2,1	-9,9	6,6	-12,4	
November	3,7	-5,3	-6,3	-1,5	9,8	-4,8	
December	3,4	-2,1	-6,3	-1,9	8,9	-0,7	
Year	-1,3	-0,9	-5,6	-6,6	6,2	-0,5	

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted index of the volume of mining production: 2006 – 2012

Month	Base: 2005=100						
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	98,2	102,4	91,1	82,1	90,4	93,5	87,9
February	95,1	102,3	94,6	84,8	90,1	94,4	80,5
March	100,7	102,0	84,9	82,6	94,1	93,8	86,7
April	98,9	98,4	96,2	86,1	87,3	97,6	86,7
May	97,1	97,6	97,5	88,6	81,9	91,3	92,3
June	100,3	97,6	93,7	88,8	90,4	90,5	
July	97,7	94,1	87,2	90,1	91,0	86,4	
August	99,0	96,7	92,8	85,2	94,1	90,4	
September	97,5	95,9	93,6	82,8	92,5	89,2	
October	98,4	95,1	97,4	87,5	93,5	81,3	
November	101,8	95,7	89,2	87,3	95,5	91,1	
December	97,3	95,6	89,0	87,2	95,1	94,0	

Table 4 – Index of the volume of mining production by mineral group and mineral

Mineral group and mineral	Base: 2005=100					
	Weights 2005	Average for 2011 ^{1/}	May 2011	April 2012 ^{1/}	May 2012 ^{1/}	% change between May 2011 and May 2012
Gold	17,2	61,1	61,4	51,7	59,6	-2,9
Iron ore	5,3	146,8	147,6	167,5	182,2	23,4
Chromium ore	1,3	142,6	155,3	134,1	156,0	0,5
Copper	1,8	86,0	95,8	75,3	82,0	-14,4
Manganese ore	1,5	187,6	234,6	170,8	197,1	-16,0
PGMs	27,0	95,0	88,3	72,1	83,0	-6,0
Nickel	2,8	102,2	96,4	112,4	118,1	22,5
Other metallic minerals	2,8	104,0	111,0	105,2	115,0	3,6
Diamonds	7,6	44,7	50,6	34,5	45,6	-9,9
Coal	24,9	103,3	103,4	100,3	109,8	6,2
Building materials	2,1	96,2	96,3	94,9	100,3	4,2
Other non-metallic minerals	5,7	68,0	70,1	59,1	61,1	-12,8
Total	100,0	91,0	91,0	82,0	91,7	0,8

1/ Preliminary.

Table 5 – Seasonally adjusted index of the volume of mining production by mineral group and mineral

Mineral group and mineral	Base: 2005=100				
	Weights 2005	May 2011	April 2012	May 2012	% change between April and May 2012
Gold	17,2	61,0	55,2	59,2	7,2
Iron ore	5,3	147,1	175,5	181,0	3,1
Chromium ore	1,3	144,5	138,8	144,5	4,1
Copper	1,8	91,0	76,6	77,5	1,2
Manganese ore	1,5	224,5	190,3	187,1	-1,7
PGMs	27,0	94,3	76,9	89,4	16,3
Nickel	2,8	93,5	111,2	116,3	4,6
Other metallic minerals	2,8	106,8	110,7	110,4	-0,3
Diamonds	7,6	47,8	37,9	42,8	12,9
Coal	24,9	102,0	106,4	109,0	2,4
Building materials	2,1	92,7	101,8	96,6	-5,1
Other non-metallic minerals	5,7	70,6	59,2	61,6	4,1
Total	100,0	91,3	86,7	92,3	6,5

Table 6 – Annual percentage change in the three-monthly volume of mining production by mineral group and mineral

Mineral group and mineral	Base: 2005=100					
	Weights 2005	March to May 2011	March to May 2012	% change between March to May 2011 and March to May 2012	Difference between March to May 2011 and March to May 2012	Contribution (% points) to the % change in total mining production 1/
Gold	17,2	61,6	55,9	-9,3	-5,7	-1,1
Iron ore	5,3	144,6	170,5	17,9	25,9	1,5
Chromium ore	1,3	141,2	140,8	-0,3	-0,4	0,0
Copper	1,8	92,6	85,6	-7,6	-7,0	-0,1
Manganese ore	1,5	204,2	185,3	-9,3	-18,9	-0,3
PGMs	27,0	98,4	78,4	-20,3	-20,0	-5,8
Nickel	2,8	103,4	110,4	6,8	7,0	0,2
Other metallic minerals	2,8	101,9	107,9	5,9	6,0	0,2
Diamonds	7,6	44,6	37,8	-15,2	-6,8	-0,6
Coal	24,9	104,4	106,5	2,0	2,1	0,6
Building materials	2,1	94,3	99,8	5,8	5,5	0,1
Other non-metallic minerals	5,7	70,1	59,9	-14,6	-10,2	-0,6
Total	100,0	92,5	87,0	-5,9	-5,5	-5,9

1/ The contribution (percentage points) of a mineral or mineral group to the percentage change in the total mining production is calculated by multiplying the difference in the index for the mineral or mineral group by the weight of the mineral or mineral group and then dividing by the previous period's total index. Figures have been rounded off.

Table 7 – Annual percentage change in the cumulative volume of mining production by mineral group and mineral

Mineral group and mineral	Base: 2005=100					
	Weights 2005	January to May 2011	January to May 2012	% change between January to May 2011 and January to May 2012	Difference between January to May 2011 and January to May 2012	Contribution (% points) to the % change in total mining production 2/
Gold	17,2	59,8	53,6	-10,3	-6,1	-1,2
Iron ore	5,3	133,3	157,7	18,3	24,4	1,5
Chromium ore	1,3	130,6	138,0	5,7	7,4	0,1
Copper	1,8	88,4	80,7	-8,7	-7,6	-0,2
Manganese ore	1,5	179,1	182,1	1,7	3,0	0,1
PGMs	27,0	92,7	69,5	-25,0	-23,1	-7,1
Nickel	2,8	103,5	101,7	-1,7	-1,7	-0,1
Other metallic minerals	2,8	98,9	105,3	6,5	6,4	0,2
Diamonds	7,6	43,2	36,1	-16,3	-7,0	-0,6
Coal	24,9	101,1	103,3	2,2	2,2	0,6
Building materials	2,1	87,4	94,1	7,8	6,7	0,2
Other non-metallic minerals	5,7	69,0	58,6	-15,1	-10,4	-0,7
Total	100,0	88,3	82,0	-7,1	-6,3	-7,1

2/ The contribution (percentage points) of a mineral or mineral group to the percentage change in the total mining production is calculated by multiplying the difference in the index for the mineral or mineral group by the weight of the mineral or mineral group and then dividing by the previous period's total index. Figures have been rounded off.

Table 8 – Mineral sales at current prices (R million): 2006 – 2012

Month	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 ^{1/}	2012 ^{1/}
January	11 755,1	15 692,9	17 442,2	17 263,9	19 144,4	25 538,5	28 842,4
February	12 680,8	17 928,6	21 737,4	19 906,3	20 335,7	27 418,5	29 770,8
March	14 179,9	18 555,2	25 894,1	22 093,9	23 621,3	31 377,0	31 616,9
April	13 042,6	17 447,8	25 520,6	20 733,6	23 815,3	27 388,7	27 200,9
May	14 046,8	19 841,6	26 737,6	18 463,5	25 785,7	27 850,7	
June	17 809,8	19 033,2	29 881,0	20 337,3	26 222,4	33 950,2	
July	17 614,8	17 449,4	27 164,7	20 019,7	25 626,5	27 906,4	
August	17 339,2	17 890,4	27 064,3	20 144,0	25 855,9	30 303,4	
September	20 586,6	19 619,7	27 830,7	20 737,7	27 977,6	35 687,7	
October	18 031,0	18 713,7	27 191,4	19 909,8	27 291,0	33 392,5	
November	18 918,2	20 674,4	23 991,0	20 128,7	27 218,9	35 292,4	
December	17 584,7	21 590,8	20 259,5	21 626,2	27 790,9	34 511,6	
Year	193 589,5	224 437,7	300 714,5	241 364,6	300 685,6	370 617,6	

1/ Preliminary.

Table 9 – Annual percentage change in mineral sales at current prices: 2006 – 2012

Month	Percentage change						
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	22,6	33,5	11,1	-1,0	10,9	33,4	12,9
February	35,1	41,4	21,2	-8,4	2,2	34,8	8,6
March	23,5	30,9	39,6	-14,7	6,9	32,8	0,8
April	18,2	33,8	46,3	-18,8	14,9	15,0	-0,7
May	14,8	41,3	34,8	-30,9	39,7	8,0	
June	33,3	6,9	57,0	-31,9	28,9	29,5	
July	46,8	-0,9	55,7	-26,3	28,0	8,9	
August	48,4	3,2	51,3	-25,6	28,4	17,2	
September	52,2	-4,7	41,9	-25,5	34,9	27,6	
October	49,3	3,8	45,3	-26,8	37,1	22,4	
November	51,9	9,3	16,0	-16,1	35,2	29,7	
December	25,7	22,8	-6,2	6,7	28,5	24,2	
Year	35,5	15,9	34,0	-19,7	24,6	23,3	

Table 10 – Seasonally adjusted mineral sales at current prices (R million): 2006 – 2012

Month	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	13 229,2	18 254,8	20 562,5	20 084,5	22 198,8	29 225,0	33 144,5
February	13 582,7	19 388,3	23 490,4	21 167,5	21 767,3	29 467,3	31 868,5
March	13 851,5	17 988,5	24 793,8	20 904,1	22 387,3	29 525,2	29 769,3
April	13 804,5	18 456,7	26 503,1	21 734,9	24 690,3	28 646,5	28 241,0
May	13 866,8	19 497,8	26 377,9	18 327,2	25 781,5	28 350,2	
June	16 495,6	17 444,5	27 300,3	19 005,7	24 577,4	31 726,5	
July	17 094,0	17 118,3	27 343,0	19 971,7	25 677,8	27 903,9	
August	17 560,8	17 729,6	26 378,0	20 204,2	25 687,6	30 302,3	
September	18 827,4	18 048,7	26 115,0	19 508,3	26 405,1	33 852,1	
October	18 274,7	19 105,4	27 272,6	19 664,9	26 902,0	32 771,9	
November	18 811,8	20 479,4	23 522,9	19 702,8	26 785,7	34 370,6	
December	17 233,8	21 262,2	19 968,2	21 481,0	27 658,2	34 440,2	

Table 11 – Mineral sales at current prices by mineral group and mineral

Mineral group and mineral	Value of sales for 2011 ^{1/}	Value of sales for April 2011 ^{1/}	Value of sales for March 2012 ^{1/}	Value of sales for April 2012 ^{1/}	% change between April 2011 and April 2012
	R million	R million	R million	R million	
Gold	68 891,4	4 650,3	6 257,7	5 634,5	21,2
Iron ore	62 651,8	4 995,0	5 808,6	5 662,6	13,4
Chromium ore	8 592,8	711,2	567,3	649,3	-8,7
Copper	5 432,8	340,5	586,8	476,8	40,0
Manganese ore	9 895,2	873,8	695,4	712,9	-18,4
PGMs	83 853,2	5 807,0	5 548,0	3 638,7	-37,3
Nickel	6 402,2	554,9	441,5	364,6	-34,3
Other metallic minerals	11 134,1	433,7	863,3	690,4	59,2
Coal	87 836,0	6 762,3	8 267,6	7 633,5	12,9
Building materials	7 662,0	574,8	729,3	643,6	12,0
Other non-metallic minerals	18 265,9	1 685,0	1 851,2	1 093,9	-35,1
Total	370 617,6	27 388,7	31 616,9	27 200,9	-0,7

1/ Preliminary.

Table 12 – Seasonally adjusted mineral sales at current prices by mineral group and mineral

Mineral group and mineral	Value of sales for April 2011	Value of sales for March 2012	Value of sales for April 2012	% change between March and April 2012
	R million	R million	R million	
Gold	4 967,1	6 020,5	6 034,4	0,2
Iron ore	4 316,2	5 081,7	4 879,1	-4,0
Chromium ore	721,9	521,6	660,0	26,5
Copper	389,6	513,5	557,9	8,6
Manganese ore	737,7	798,8	618,8	-22,5
PGMs	6 948,8	5 232,2	4 410,0	-15,7
Nickel	538,8	447,4	356,9	-20,2
Other metallic minerals	535,3	868,7	853,4	-1,8
Coal	7 051,4	8 014,7	7 987,3	-0,3
Building materials	598,8	665,9	672,2	0,9
Other non-metallic minerals	1 840,9	1 604,3	1 211,0	-24,5
Total	28 646,5	29 769,3	28 241,0	-5,1

Table 13 – Annual percentage change in the three-monthly value of mineral sales by mineral group and mineral

Mineral group and mineral	% contribution to total mineral sales during February to April 2011	Value of sales for February to April 2011	Value of sales for February to April 2012	% change between February to April 2011 and February to April 2012	Contribution to the % change in the total value of mineral sales 1/	Difference in sales between February to April 2011 and February to April 2012
		R million	R million		% points	R million
Gold	16,6	14 278,2	18 622,2	30,4	5,0	4 344,0
Iron ore	16,9	14 598,6	15 988,0	9,5	1,6	1 389,4
Chromium ore	2,6	2 236,7	1 913,1	-14,5	-0,4	-323,6
Copper	1,6	1 387,4	1 581,2	14,0	0,2	193,8
Manganese ore	2,8	2 436,9	2 144,1	-12,0	-0,3	-292,8
PGMs	23,4	20 153,6	14 469,9	-28,2	-6,6	-5 683,7
Nickel	2,2	1 928,6	1 341,9	-30,4	-0,7	-586,7
Other metallic minerals	2,1	1 782,5	2 330,1	30,7	0,6	547,6
Coal	23,8	20 481,5	23 595,8	15,2	3,6	3 114,3
Building materials	2,1	1 820,3	2 002,5	10,0	0,2	182,2
Other non-metallic minerals	5,9	5 079,8	4 599,5	-9,5	-0,6	-480,3
Total	100,0	86 184,2	88 588,6	2,8	2,8	2 404,4

1/ The contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in sales is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each mineral with the percentage contribution to total mineral sales during February to April 2011, divided by 100. Figures have been rounded off.

Table 14 – Annual percentage change in the cumulative value of mineral sales by mineral group and mineral

Mineral group and mineral	% contribution to total mineral sales during January to April 2011	Value of sales for January to April 2011	Value of sales for January to April 2012	% change between January to April 2011 and January to April 2012	Contribution to the % change in the total value of mineral sales 2/	Difference in sales between January to April 2011 and January to April 2012
		R million	R million		% points	R million
Gold	16,3	18 187,8	23 895,3	31,4	5,1	5 707,5
Iron ore	17,3	19 314,1	21 312,6	10,3	1,8	1 998,5
Chromium ore	2,5	2 749,5	2 510,2	-8,7	-0,2	-239,3
Copper	1,5	1 723,2	1 944,2	12,8	0,2	221,0
Manganese ore	2,9	3 194,0	2 677,9	-16,2	-0,5	-516,1
PGMs	24,0	26 759,8	19 628,8	-26,6	-6,4	-7 131,0
Nickel	2,2	2 474,3	1 853,0	-25,1	-0,6	-621,3
Other metallic minerals	2,1	2 351,4	3 073,7	30,7	0,6	722,3
Coal	23,9	26 742,5	31 668,4	18,4	4,4	4 925,9
Building materials	2,0	2 240,8	2 534,2	13,1	0,3	293,4
Other non-metallic minerals	5,4	5 985,4	6 332,3	5,8	0,3	346,9
Total	100,0	111 722,7	117 431,0	5,1	5,1	5 708,3

2/ The contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in sales is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each mineral with the percentage contribution to total mineral sales during January to April 2011, divided by 100. Figures have been rounded off.

Explanatory notes

Introduction	1	Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publishes monthly mining production indices and mineral sales figures 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 2005=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 Department of Mineral Resources (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 (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. Each statistical unit is classified to an industry which reflects the predominant activity of the establishment. Statistics in this publication are presented according to 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 – • <i>Bulletin of Statistics</i> issued quarterly; and • <i>SA Statistics</i> issued annually.
Rounding-off 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 data and past publications are available on the Stats SA webpage. Click on the following links (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 (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 2005. 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 changes and changes in relative prices. New weights need to be calculated from time to time.
	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 2005 supplied by the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR).
Seasonal adjustment	4	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.
	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.
Trend cycle	6	The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-11 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 is the difference between the index/sales of the relevant month and the previous month expressed as a percentage of the latter.
Year-on-year (annual) percentage change	9	The year-on-year percentage change is the change in the index/sales of the relevant month of the current year compared with the corresponding month of the previous year expressed as a percentage of the latter.
Production 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 is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each mineral group or mineral for a given period 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 the 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 (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 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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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.

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