

Statistical release

P2041

Mining: Production and sales (Preliminary)

December 2014

This release contains the first results representing the mining production indices with 2012 weights. The new set of weights is based on the value of mineral sales for 2012. Previously, the total mining production index was calculated using weights based on the value of mineral sales for 2010.

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Production: results for December 2014

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

	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-5,1	-7,1	6,1	-0,5	-0,1	-2,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,4	-2,1	6,4	0,0	-1,1	0,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	0,4	-0,3	0,7	2,8	5,0	3,1

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

Mining production decreased by 2,0% year-on-year in December 2014. Negative growth rates were recorded for diamonds (-27,9%), iron ore (-15,6%), PGMs (-14,9%) and nickel (-1,1%). The three largest contributors to the 2,0% decrease were iron ore (contributing -3,5 percentage points), PGMs (contributing -3,1 percentage points) and diamonds (contributing -1,0 percentage point). Coal was a significant positive contributor (contributing 3,2 percentage points) – see Tables 6 and 7.

Total mining production was 1,5% lower in 2014 compared with 2013. The 1,5% decrease in annual mining production followed an increase of 3,6% in 2013 and a decrease of 3,1% in 2012 – see Table 2.

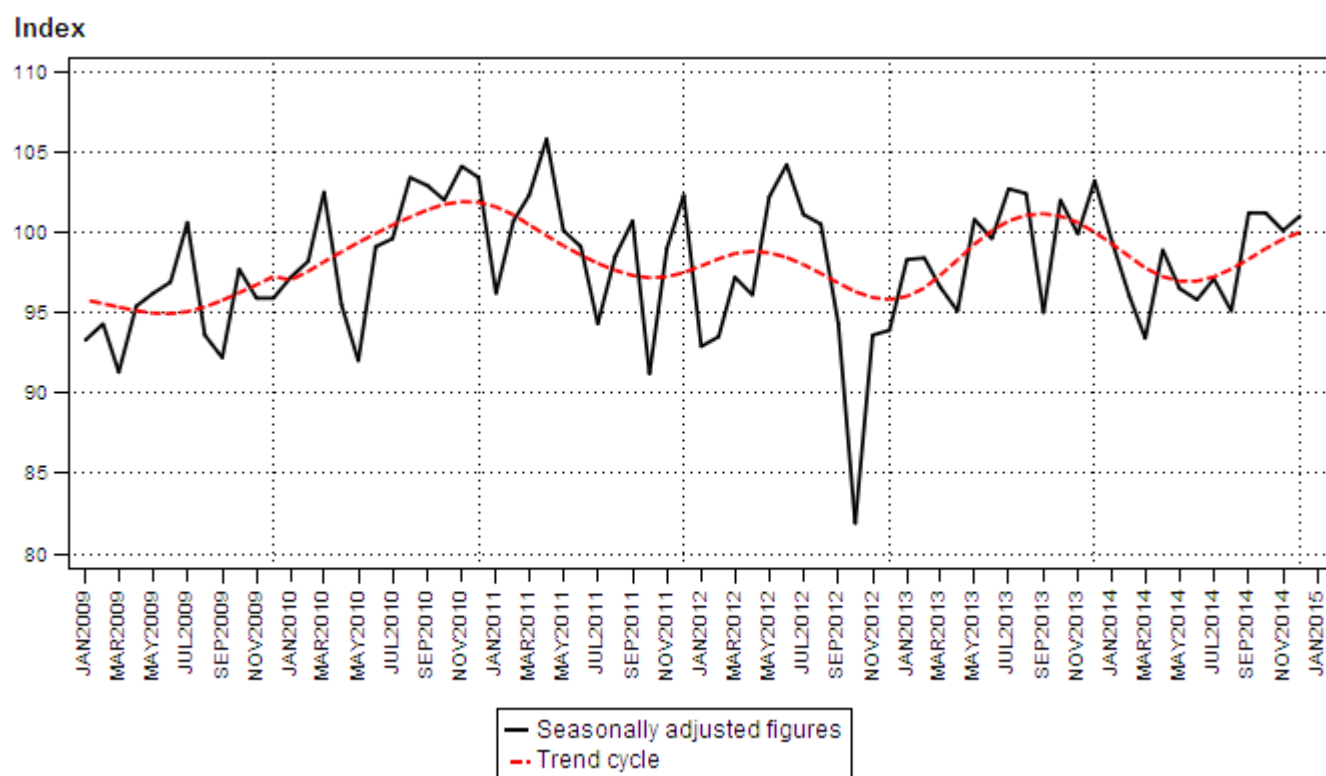
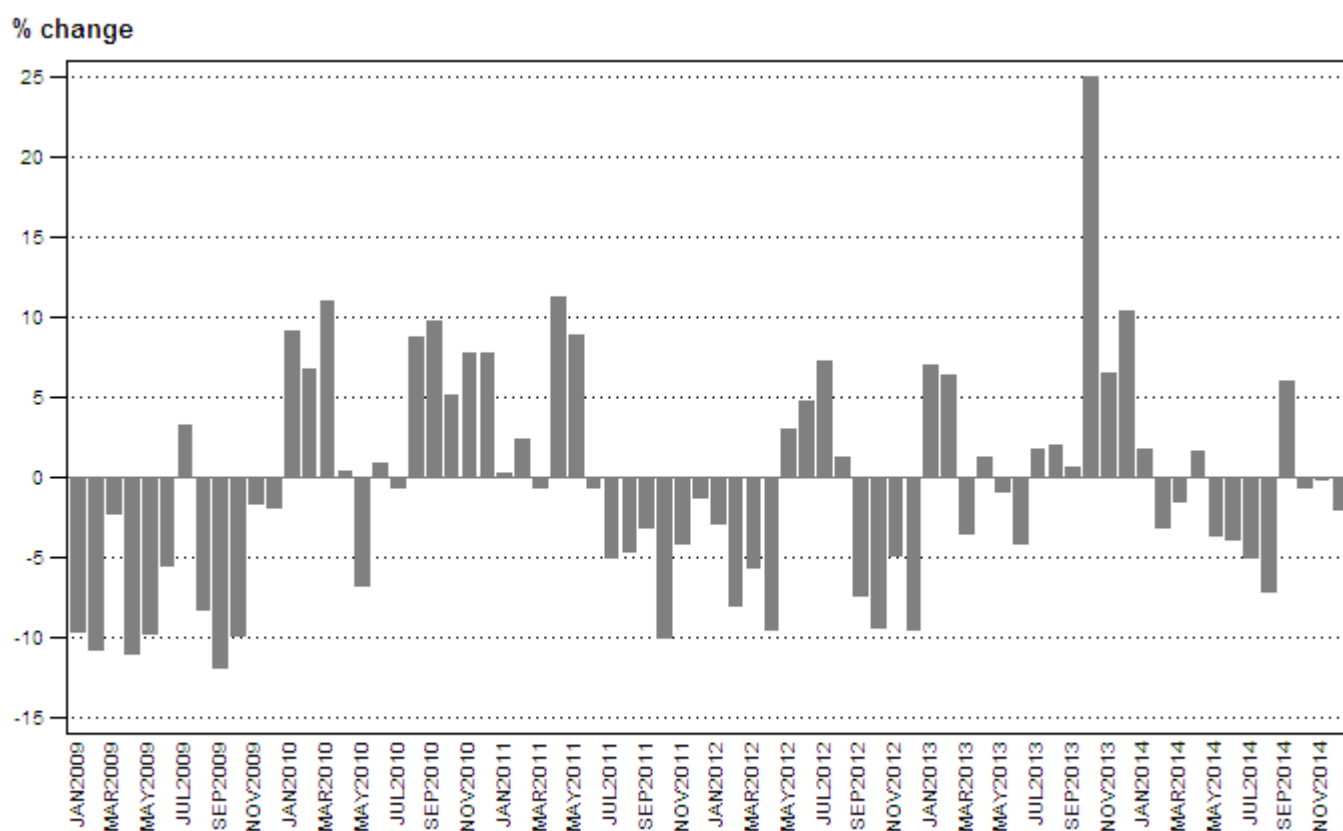
Seasonally adjusted mining production increased by 0,9% in December 2014 compared with November 2014. This followed a month-on-month change of -1,1% in November 2014.

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)	Jul – Sep 2014	Oct – Dec 2014	% change between Jul – Sep 2014 and Oct – Dec 2014	Contribution (% points) to the % change in total mining production
Gold	21,10	79,6	79,6	0,0	0,0
Iron ore	14,46	141,3	141,7	0,3	0,1
Chromium ore	2,27	130,4	136,7	4,8	0,1
Copper ¹	1,41	89,5	94,4	5,5	0,1
Manganese ore ¹	2,97	201,1	215,8	7,3	0,4
PGMs	19,01	58,8	72,9	24,0	2,7
Nickel ¹	1,77	141,3	134,9	-4,5	-0,1
Other metallic minerals ¹	2,98	86,0	82,8	-3,7	-0,1
Diamonds ¹	2,75	94,9	100,6	6,0	0,2
Coal	26,45	102,4	100,8	-1,6	-0,4
Building materials	1,54	118,0	126,5	7,2	0,1
Other non-metallic minerals ¹	3,29	78,3	77,7	-0,8	0,0
Total	100,00	97,8	100,8	3,1	3,1

¹ Not seasonally adjusted, because the presence of seasonality is not significant. See notes 4 and 5 on page 13.

Seasonally adjusted mining production increased by 3,1% in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared with the previous quarter. The main contributor to the 3,1% increase was PGMs (contributing 2,7 percentage points) – 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 November 2014

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

	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-11,8	-5,5	-10,5	0,5	-3,0	-5,8
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-7,3	7,1	-0,4	5,7	0,1	-4,0
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	-10,3	-9,5	-5,5	2,1	5,4	6,3

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

Mineral sales decreased by 5,8% year-on-year in November 2014. The largest negative growth rates were recorded for nickel (-38,6%), iron ore (-15,7%), copper (-15,7%) and gold (-11,2%). The major contributors to the 5,8% decrease were:

- iron ore (contributing -2,6 percentage points);
- coal (contributing -1,9 percentage points);
- PGMs (contributing -1,3 percentage points);
- gold (contributing -1,3 percentage points); and
- nickel (contributing -1,0 percentage point) – see Tables 12 and 13.

Seasonally adjusted mineral sales at current prices declined by 4,0% in November 2014 compared with October 2014. This followed month-on-month changes of 0,1% in October 2014 and 5,7% in September 2014.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Note – Construction of a new mining production index by changing the weights from 2010 to 2012

Introduction

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publishes monthly information regarding the mining industry based on the mining production and mineral sales figures furnished by the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR). 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. In future, mining production weights will be updated annually.

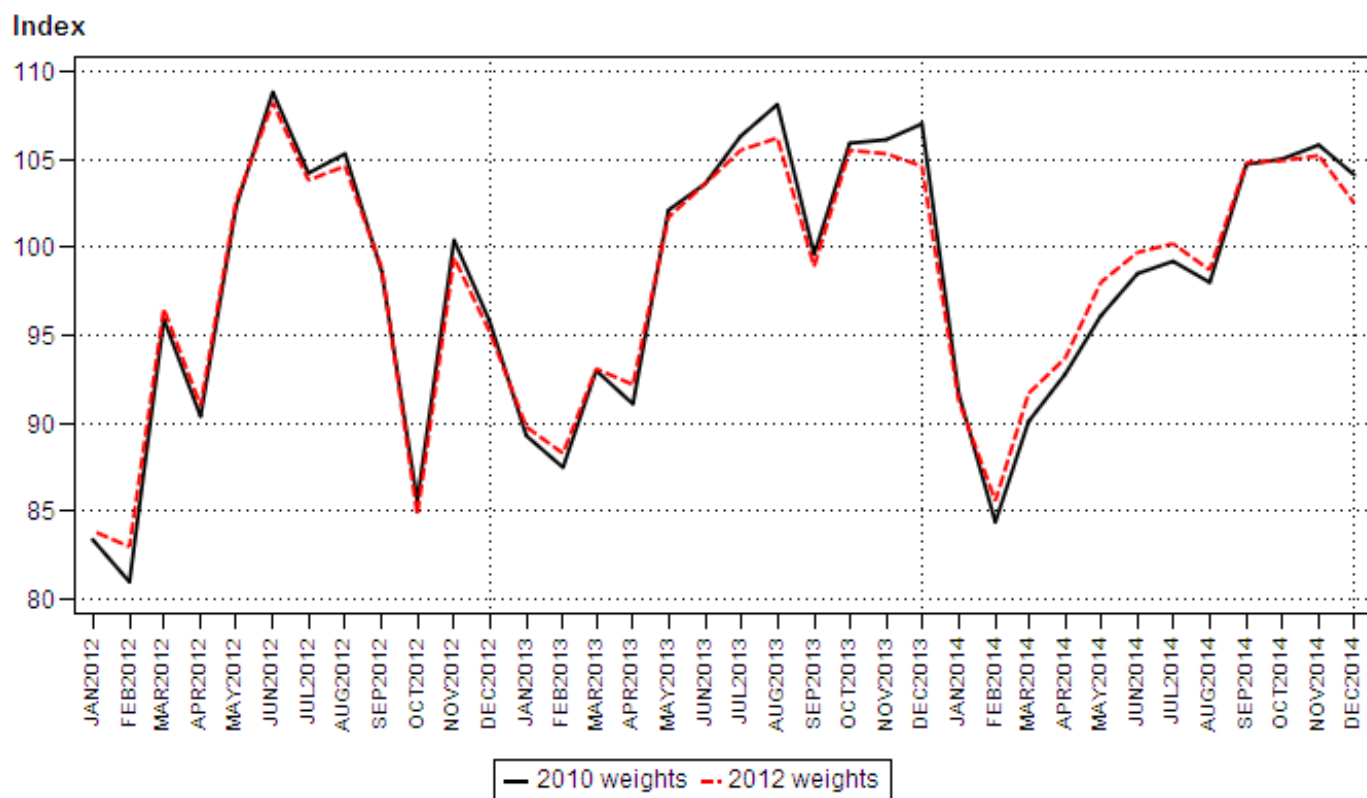
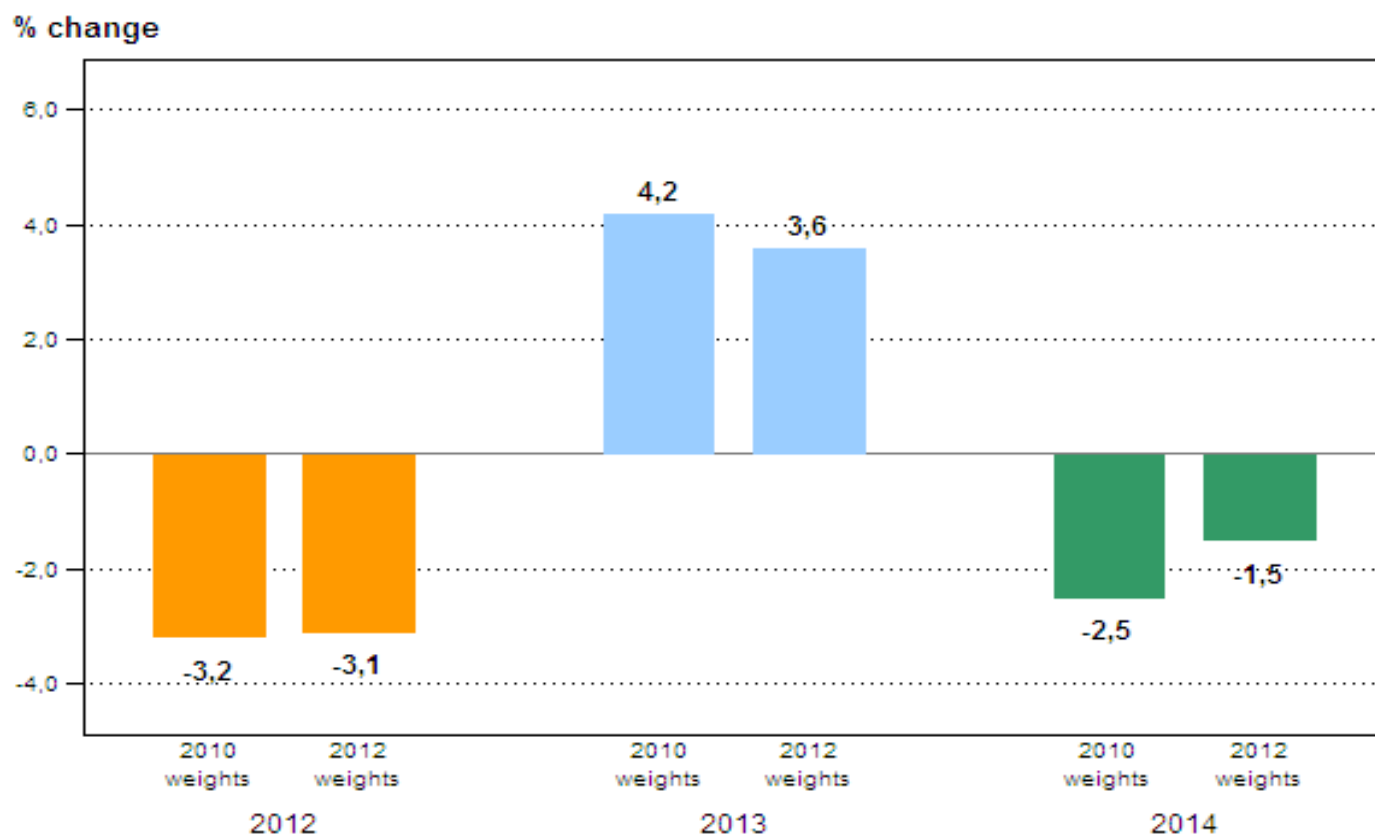
Reweighting

New weights for the mineral groups and minerals were calculated based on the value of mineral sales for the year 2012 as supplied by the DMR. Previously the weights were derived from sales in 2010. Refer to Table D for a comparison between the old weights and the new weights for the respective mineral groups and minerals and respective periods. The new weights have been applied to the mineral groups and minerals from January 2012.

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

Table D – Historical weights for the mineral groups and minerals

Mineral group and mineral	Weights according to the value of mineral sales for the year 1995	Weights according to the value of mineral sales for the year 2000	Weights according to the value of mineral sales for the year 2005	Weights according to the value of mineral sales for the year 2010	Weights according to the value of mineral sales for the year 2012
	1995-1999	2000-2004	2005-2009	2010-2011	2012-present
Gold	42,5	25,7	17,2	17,7	21,1
Iron ore	3,0	3,1	5,3	14,4	14,5
Chromium ore	1,1	1,1	1,3	2,2	2,3
Copper	3,1	1,6	1,8	1,4	1,4
Manganese ore	1,3	1,3	1,5	3,6	3,0
PGMs	11,9	27,6	27,0	24,6	19,0
Nickel	1,5	2,0	2,8	2,0	1,8
Other metallic minerals	2,4	2,9	2,8	2,5	3,0
Diamonds	4,4	8,3	7,6	3,1	2,7
Coal	23,2	20,0	24,9	23,7	26,4
Building materials	3,5	2,6	2,1	1,6	1,5
Other non-metallic minerals	2,1	3,8	5,7	3,2	3,3
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Figure 3 – Volume of mining production based on 2010 and 2012 weights (Base 2010=100)**Figure 4 – Comparison of the annual growth rates for mining production based on 2010 and 2012 weights**

Tables

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

Month	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012 *	2013 1/	2014 1/
Jan	87,4	79,0	86,2	86,4	83,9	89,8	91,3
Feb	92,5	82,6	88,1	90,2	83,0	88,2	85,6
Mar	94,7	92,6	102,8	102,2	96,5	93,0	91,7
Apr	101,1	90,0	90,4	100,5	91,0	92,2	93,7
May	108,6	98,1	91,5	99,6	102,6	101,7	97,9
Jun	108,9	102,9	103,8	103,2	108,2	103,6	99,7
Jul	99,0	102,3	101,7	96,6	103,8	105,5	100,1
Aug	107,9	99,1	107,8	102,8	104,6	106,2	98,7
Sep	113,2	99,8	109,5	106,1	98,8	98,8	104,8
Oct	109,6	98,7	103,7	93,3	84,8	105,4	104,9
Nov	102,3	100,7	108,5	104,0	99,4	105,3	105,2
Dec	100,4	98,5	106,1	104,7	95,1	104,6	102,5
Year	102,1	95,4	100,0	99,1	96,0	99,5	98,0

1/ Preliminary.

* Revised due to reweighting: see note on page 5.

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

Month	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014 year-to-date
Jan	-9,6	9,1	0,2	-2,9	7,0	1,7	1,7
Feb	-10,8	6,7	2,4	-8,0	6,3	-2,9	-0,6
Mar	-2,2	11,0	-0,6	-5,6	-3,6	-1,4	-0,9
Apr	-11,0	0,5	11,2	-9,5	1,3	1,6	-0,2
May	-9,7	-6,7	8,9	3,0	-0,9	-3,7	-1,0
Jun	-5,5	0,9	-0,6	4,8	-4,3	-3,8	-1,5
Jul	3,3	-0,5	-5,0	7,5	1,6	-5,1	-2,1
Aug	-8,2	8,8	-4,6	1,8	1,5	-7,1	-2,8
Sep	-11,8	9,7	-3,1	-6,9	0,0	6,1	-1,8
Oct	-9,9	5,0	-10,0	-9,1	24,3	-0,5	-1,6
Nov	-1,5	7,7	-4,1	-4,4	5,9	-0,1	-1,5
Dec	-1,9	7,7	-1,3	-9,2	10,0	-2,0	-1,5
Year	-6,6	4,8	-0,9	-3,1	3,6	-1,5	

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted volume of total mining production

Month	Index (Base: 2010=100)				Month-on-month % change			
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014
Jan	96,2	92,9	98,3	99,4	-7,0	-9,2	4,7	-3,7
Feb	100,7	93,5	98,4	96,0	4,7	0,6	0,1	-3,4
Mar	102,3	97,2	96,6	93,4	1,6	4,0	-1,8	-2,7
Apr	105,8	96,1	95,1	98,9	3,4	-1,1	-1,6	5,9
May	100,1	102,2	100,8	96,5	-5,4	6,3	6,0	-2,4
Jun	99,1	104,2	99,6	95,8	-1,0	2,0	-1,2	-0,7
Jul	94,3	101,1	102,7	97,1	-4,8	-3,0	3,1	1,4
Aug	98,5	100,5	102,4	95,1	4,5	-0,6	-0,3	-2,1
Sep	100,7	94,3	95,0	101,2	2,2	-6,2	-7,2	6,4
Oct	91,2	81,9	102,0	101,2	-9,4	-13,1	7,4	0,0
Nov	99,0	93,6	99,9	100,1	8,6	14,3	-2,1	-1,1
Dec	102,3	93,9	103,2	101,0	3,3	0,3	3,3	0,9

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

Mineral group and mineral	Weight (2012)	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14
Gold	21,10	79,6	80,2	85,4	84,1	82,7	85,0
Iron ore	14,46	154,3	135,9	142,2	139,7	152,1	136,1
Chromium ore	2,27	127,2	138,9	140,6	143,9	146,6	120,4
Copper	1,41	86,1	96,1	86,4	103,2	88,6	91,5
Manganese ore	2,97	195,1	209,0	199,3	209,2	218,9	219,2
PGMs	19,01	58,1	62,4	77,5	76,6	85,6	96,6
Nickel	1,77	134,0	155,8	134,1	139,1	127,2	138,4
Other metallic minerals	2,98	83,7	83,8	90,6	73,9	95,5	79,0
Diamonds	2,75	89,5	75,4	119,8	106,2	101,2	94,4
Coal	26,45	105,9	105,7	107,0	109,8	98,6	92,5
Building materials	1,54	129,8	117,1	125,0	133,0	127,2	106,7
Other non-metallic minerals	3,29	84,0	73,4	77,4	84,2	74,6	74,3
Total	100,00	100,1	98,7	104,8	104,9	105,2	102,5

1/ All 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	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Month-on-month % change
Gold	79,7	79,0	80,1	79,5	77,0	82,4	7,0
Iron ore	148,2	136,3	139,5	137,3	152,4	135,4	-11,2
Chromium ore	124,5	131,4	135,4	137,0	141,0	132,2	-6,2
Copper ¹	86,1	96,1	86,4	103,2	88,6	91,5	3,3
Manganese ore ¹	195,1	209,0	199,3	209,2	218,9	219,2	0,1
PGMs	54,4	51,9	70,1	73,9	71,6	73,1	2,1
Nickel ¹	134,0	155,8	134,1	139,1	127,2	138,4	8,8
Other metallic minerals ¹	83,7	83,8	90,6	73,9	95,5	79,0	-17,3
Diamonds ¹	89,5	75,4	119,8	106,2	101,2	94,4	-6,7
Coal	101,0	101,2	104,9	103,9	95,3	103,1	8,2
Building materials	117,9	114,3	121,9	121,5	111,5	146,6	31,5
Other non-metallic minerals ¹	84,0	73,4	77,4	84,2	74,6	74,3	-0,4
Total	97,1	95,1	101,2	101,2	100,1	101,0	0,9

¹ Not seasonally adjusted, because the presence of seasonality is not significant. See notes 4 and 5 on page 13.

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

Mineral group and mineral	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14
Gold	-14,5	-8,1	-0,5	-9,0	-10,1	2,3
Iron ore	32,1	20,2	38,1	16,4	20,2	-15,6
Chromium ore	-1,3	3,2	4,6	1,9	10,0	2,6
Copper	-15,9	11,4	-5,4	-10,8	-13,2	8,7
Manganese ore	31,2	28,1	16,8	24,7	29,5	22,9
PGMs	-45,2	-45,0	-17,6	-20,5	-14,3	-14,9
Nickel	5,3	9,5	4,9	-0,9	-11,2	-1,1
Other metallic minerals	9,0	-2,7	3,2	-17,9	41,1	0,3
Diamonds	-9,0	-28,5	15,3	-4,4	-13,7	-27,9
Coal	-0,7	0,6	7,5	5,3	-3,9	16,1
Building materials	1,7	3,5	12,6	-3,1	-4,3	31,4
Other non-metallic minerals	9,1	-25,0	-9,5	9,9	15,1	8,3
Total	-5,1	-7,1	6,1	-0,5	-0,1	-2,0

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	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14
Gold	-2,7	-1,4	-0,1	-1,7	-1,9	0,4
Iron ore	5,1	3,1	5,7	2,7	3,5	-3,5
Chromium ore	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,3	0,1
Copper	-0,2	0,1	-0,1	-0,2	-0,2	0,1
Manganese ore	1,3	1,3	0,9	1,2	1,4	1,2
PGMs	-8,6	-9,1	-3,2	-3,6	-2,6	-3,1
Nickel	0,1	0,2	0,1	0,0	-0,3	0,0
Other metallic minerals	0,2	-0,1	0,1	-0,5	0,8	0,0
Diamonds	-0,2	-0,8	0,4	-0,1	-0,4	-1,0
Coal	-0,2	0,1	2,0	1,4	-1,0	3,2
Building materials	0,0	0,1	0,2	-0,1	-0,1	0,4
Other non-metallic minerals	0,2	-0,8	-0,3	0,2	0,3	0,2
Total	-5,1	-7,1	6,1	-0,5	-0,1	-2,0

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

Month	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 1/	2014 1/
Jan	17 442,2	17 263,9	19 185,1	25 341,3	28 079,4	28 931,5	31 187,7
Feb	21 737,4	19 906,3	20 408,4	27 573,2	29 335,5	30 416,1	33 840,2
Mar	25 894,1	22 093,9	23 860,1	31 547,4	30 912,0	34 779,3	33 330,8
Apr	25 520,6	20 733,6	23 551,4	27 370,2	26 772,5	30 554,9	30 070,4
May	26 737,6	18 463,5	25 535,2	27 870,5	31 257,0	29 087,5	29 397,5
Jun	29 881,0	20 337,3	25 882,9	33 940,1	33 958,2	33 705,0	29 729,8
Jul	27 164,7	20 019,7	25 588,6	27 947,7	30 899,0	31 284,7	29 558,9
Aug	27 064,3	20 144,0	25 897,8	30 300,9	31 402,3	34 013,4	30 437,5
Sep	27 830,7	20 737,7	27 994,7	35 700,1	30 367,0	33 339,6	33 507,9
Oct	27 191,4	19 909,8	27 535,5	33 393,7	28 258,6	33 099,3	32 097,9
Nov	23 991,0	20 128,7	27 114,9	35 268,1	29 921,3	32 616,6	30 730,7
Dec	20 259,5	21 626,2	27 737,9	34 027,5	32 954,5	33 110,1	
Total	300 714,5	241 364,6	300 292,5	370 280,7	364 117,3	384 938,0	

1/ Preliminary.

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

Month	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014 year-to-date
Jan	-1,0	11,1	32,1	10,8	3,0	7,8	7,8
Feb	-8,4	2,5	35,1	6,4	3,7	11,3	9,6
Mar	-14,7	8,0	32,2	-2,0	12,5	-4,2	4,5
Apr	-18,8	13,6	16,2	-2,2	14,1	-1,6	3,0
May	-30,9	38,3	9,1	12,2	-6,9	1,1	2,6
Jun	-31,9	27,3	31,1	0,1	-0,7	-11,8	0,0
Jul	-26,3	27,8	9,2	10,6	1,2	-5,5	-0,8
Aug	-25,6	28,6	17,0	3,6	8,3	-10,5	-2,1
Sep	-25,5	35,0	27,5	-14,9	9,8	0,5	-1,8
Oct	-26,8	38,3	21,3	-15,4	17,1	-3,0	-1,9
Nov	-16,1	34,7	30,1	-15,2	9,0	-5,8	-2,3
Dec	6,7	28,3	22,7	-3,2	0,5		
Total	-19,7	24,4	23,3	-1,7	5,7		

Table 10 – Seasonally adjusted total mineral sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014
Jan	28 569,3	31 137,9	31 686,4	33 959,3	5,7	-5,6	-0,6	6,2
Feb	29 185,5	30 721,9	31 601,7	34 950,4	2,2	-1,3	-0,3	2,9
Mar	29 955,8	29 306,6	33 118,3	31 722,7	2,6	-4,6	4,8	-9,2
Apr	28 287,0	27 907,6	32 034,8	31 586,2	-5,6	-4,8	-3,3	-0,4
May	28 215,4	31 983,0	29 943,9	30 467,8	-0,3	14,6	-6,5	-3,5
Jun	32 052,4	32 170,1	31 946,8	28 241,3	13,6	0,6	6,7	-7,3
Jul	28 233,7	31 452,0	31 972,7	30 243,2	-11,9	-2,2	0,1	7,1
Aug	30 031,1	31 150,5	33 722,2	30 112,6	6,4	-1,0	5,5	-0,4
Sep	33 840,9	28 802,7	31 641,3	31 816,1	12,7	-7,5	-6,2	5,7
Oct	33 354,9	28 125,3	32 891,5	31 832,4	-1,4	-2,4	4,0	0,1
Nov	34 985,2	29 640,7	32 370,2	30 562,9	4,9	5,4	-1,6	-4,0
Dec	33 000,4	31 875,7	31 967,3		-5,7	7,5	-1,2	

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

Mineral group and mineral	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14
Gold	3 688,3	4 190,8	3 970,5	3 961,2	4 392,4	3 366,3
Iron ore	5 151,6	4 506,8	3 226,5	4 428,9	4 637,5	4 581,1
Chromium ore	1 250,9	1 013,7	1 150,4	1 132,3	1 124,6	1 088,5
Copper	493,0	320,4	533,8	538,0	458,7	474,1
Manganese ore	1 215,5	1 086,8	1 364,1	1 321,4	1 225,3	1 412,5
PGMs	5 101,7	6 059,6	6 186,4	7 379,4	6 667,1	6 959,7
Nickel	749,3	953,3	954,5	704,2	660,6	524,0
Other metallic minerals	1 008,0	874,8	946,8	1 192,0	757,6	994,3
Coal	8 176,3	8 303,8	9 420,5	9 083,1	8 577,1	8 431,6
Building materials	825,4	910,1	849,5	893,2	946,9	887,9
Other non-metallic minerals	2 069,9	1 338,9	1 834,5	2 874,3	2 650,0	2 010,9
Total	29 729,8	29 558,9	30 437,5	33 507,9	32 097,9	30 730,7

1/ All values in this table are preliminary.

Table 12 – Year-on-year percentage change in mineral sales at current prices by mineral group and mineral

Mineral group and mineral	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14
Gold	-16,6	-5,5	-6,3	-4,6	-7,1	-11,2
Iron ore	-2,1	-9,8	-41,2	-19,3	-14,8	-15,7
Chromium ore	16,7	-0,2	5,0	17,8	-3,9	-2,3
Copper	-15,7	-22,2	5,0	-6,9	-13,5	-15,7
Manganese ore	3,2	-29,4	-16,1	20,6	52,8	0,0
PGMs	-35,0	-10,8	-31,2	-12,2	-7,3	-5,7
Nickel	-25,2	67,0	65,9	43,9	27,1	-38,6
Other metallic minerals	-26,1	-5,7	2,5	14,0	25,6	22,8
Coal	0,7	-7,7	11,9	10,5	-10,9	-6,7
Building materials	1,3	6,5	-4,3	16,3	3,1	5,6
Other non-metallic minerals	1,4	81,2	44,7	34,7	69,1	45,1
Total	-11,8	-5,5	-10,5	0,5	-3,0	-5,8

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	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14
Gold	-2,2	-0,8	-0,8	-0,6	-1,0	-1,3
Iron ore	-0,3	-1,6	-6,6	-3,2	-2,4	-2,6
Chromium ore	0,5	0,0	0,2	0,5	-0,1	-0,1
Copper	-0,3	-0,3	0,1	-0,1	-0,2	-0,3
Manganese ore	0,1	-1,4	-0,8	0,7	1,3	0,0
PGMs	-8,1	-2,3	-8,2	-3,1	-1,6	-1,3
Nickel	-0,7	1,2	1,1	0,6	0,4	-1,0
Other metallic minerals	-1,1	-0,2	0,1	0,4	0,5	0,6
Coal	0,2	-2,2	2,9	2,6	-3,2	-1,9
Building materials	0,0	0,2	-0,1	0,4	0,1	0,1
Other non-metallic minerals	0,1	1,9	1,7	2,2	3,3	1,9
Total	-11,8	-5,5	-10,5	0,5	-3,0	-5,8

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 – • <i>Bulletin of Statistics</i> issued quarterly; and • <i>SA 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://beta2.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, osmium, 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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