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Mining: Production and sales (Preliminary)

December 2021

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Production: results for December 2021

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

	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	9,8	3,6	-0,3	2,1	4,9	-1,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	2,8	0,6	-3,7	2,8	-3,3	-5,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	-1,9	-2,2	-1,0	0,2	-1,7	-3,5

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

Mining production decreased by 1,1% year-on-year in December 2021. The largest negative contributors were:

- gold (-15,3% and contributing -2,4 percentage points);
- coal (-8,1% and contributing -1,9 percentage points);
- manganese ore (-10,8% and contributing -1,1 percentage points); and
- iron ore (-7,4% and contributing -1,0 percentage point).

PGMs (24,4% and contributing 5,3 percentage points) was a significant positive contributor – see Tables 6 and 7.

Total mining production was 11,2% higher in 2021 compared with 2020. The 11,2% increase in annual mining production followed a decrease of 10,6% in 2020 and a decrease of 1,0% in 2019 – see Table 2.

Seasonally adjusted mining production decreased by 5,3% in December 2021 compared with November 2021. This followed month-on-month changes of -3,3% in November 2021 and 2,8% in October 2021.

Table B – Seasonally adjusted index of the volume of mining production for the latest three months by mineral group and mineral (Base: 2015=100)

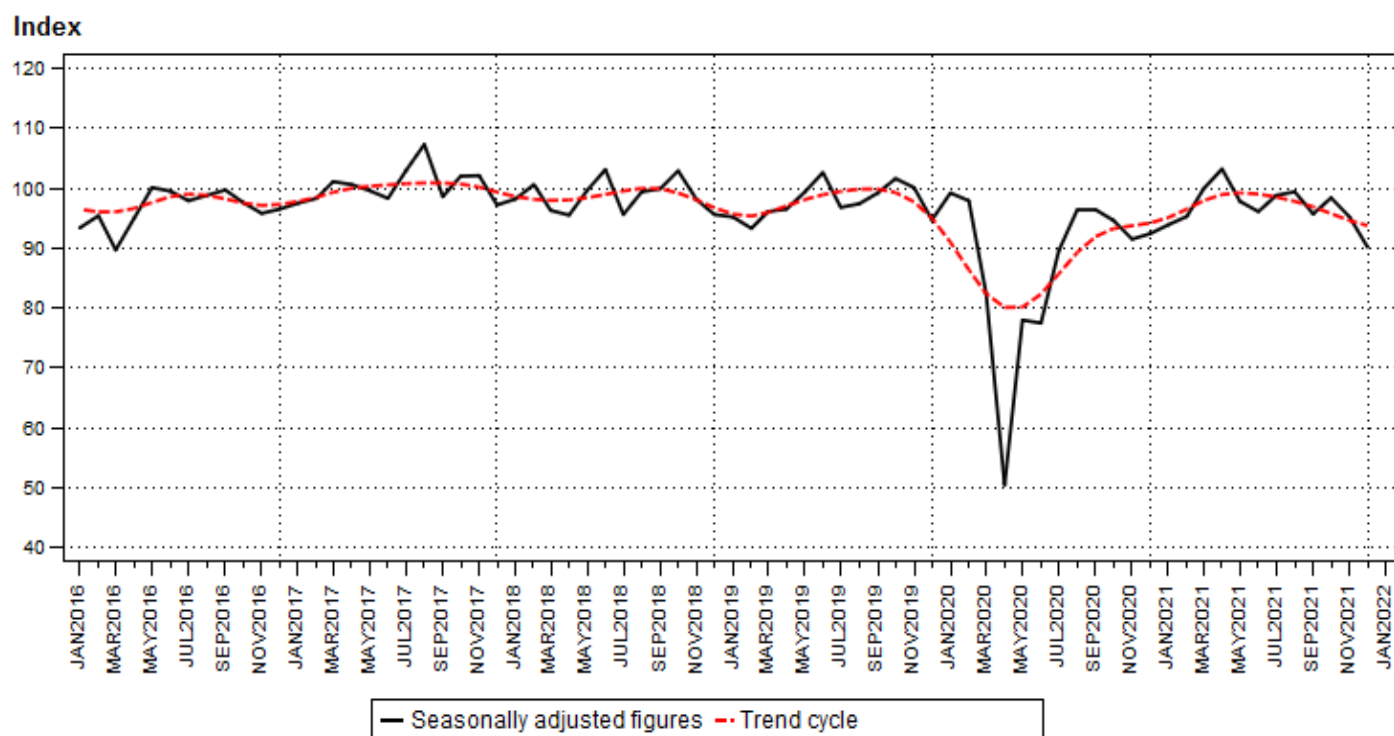
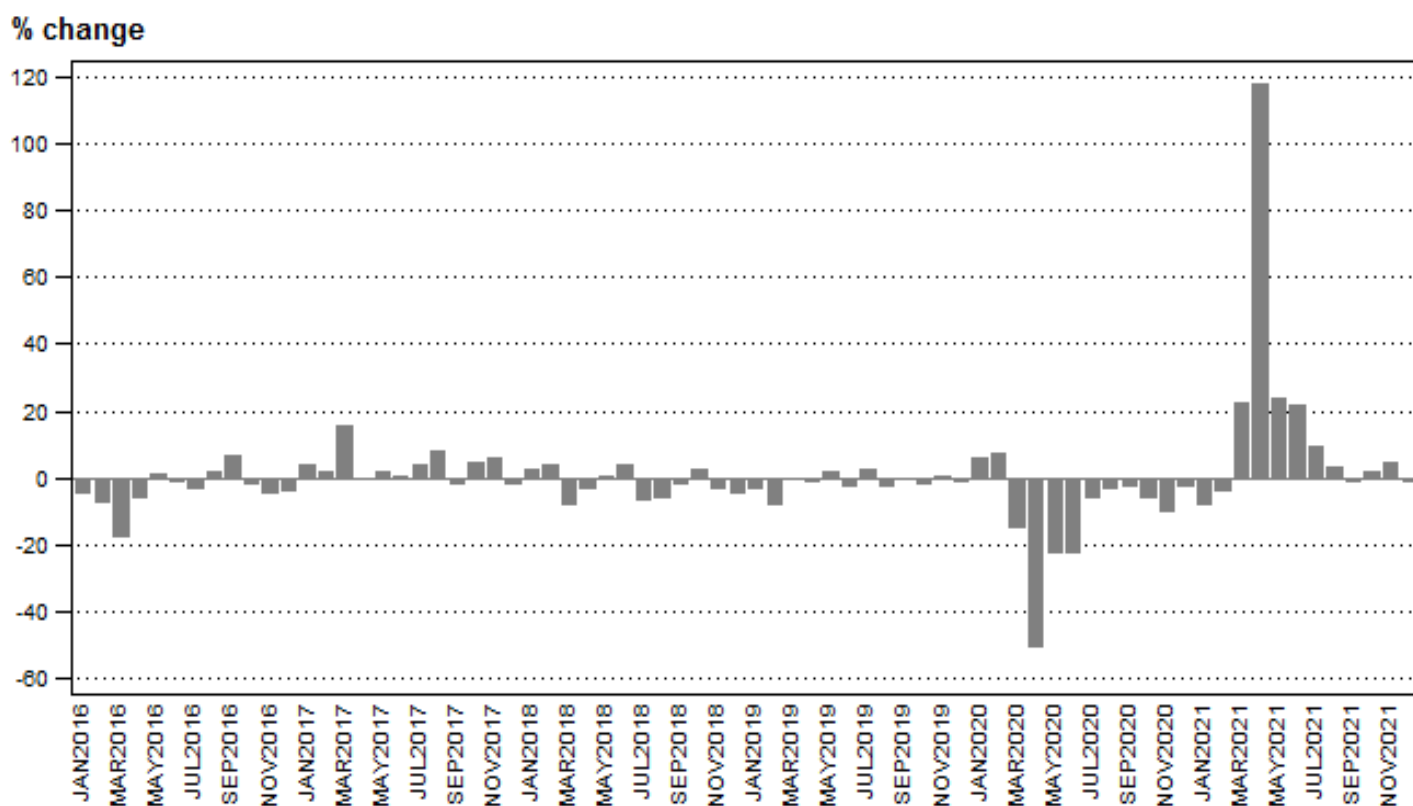
Mineral group and mineral	Weight	Jul – Sep 2021	Oct – Dec 2021	% change between Jul – Sep 2021 and Oct – Dec 2021	Contribution (% points) to the % change in total mining production
Gold	18,93	73,7	68,0	-7,7	-1,1
Iron ore	10,22	110,2	93,1	-15,5	-1,8
Chromium ore	3,21	122,0	112,1	-8,1	-0,3
Copper ¹	0,94	34,8	34,5	-0,9	0,0
Manganese ore ²	5,55	175,8	163,7	-6,9	-0,7
PGMs	22,68	99,5	107,5	8,0	1,9
Nickel ²	1,23	53,5	55,0	2,8	0,0
Other metallic minerals ¹	2,05	105,3	117,8	11,9	0,3
Diamonds ²	3,49	140,0	123,4	-11,9	-0,6
Coal	27,56	89,5	85,7	-4,2	-1,1
Building materials	3,35	89,6	89,1	-0,6	0,0
Other non-metallic minerals ¹	0,80	109,3	106,6	-2,5	0,0
Total	100,00	98,0	94,6	-3,5	-3,5

¹ Adjusted for calendar effects only. See notes 4, 5 and 6 on page 11.

² Unadjusted.

Seasonally adjusted mining production decreased by 3,5% in the fourth quarter of 2021 compared with the third quarter of 2021. The largest negative contributors were:

- iron ore (-15,5% and contributing -1,8 percentage points);
- gold (-7,7% and contributing -1,1 percentage points); and
- coal (-4,2% and contributing -1,1 percentage points) – see Table B.

Figure 1 – Volume of mining production (Base: 2015=100)**Figure 2 – Volume of mining production (Base: 2015=100): year-on-year percentage change**

Sales: results for December 2021

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

	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	51,0	35,7	1,8	4,9	22,2	10,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-1,5	0,3	-20,5	11,5	5,4	-9,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	3,1	-1,0	-8,3	-10,9	-13,2	-4,5

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

Mineral sales at current prices increased by 10,7% year-on-year in December 2021. The largest positive contributors were:

- PGMs (34,4% and contributing 10,5 percentage points);
- coal (28,8% and contributing 5,1 percentage points);
- 'other' non-metallic minerals (104,5% and contributing 2,9 percentage points); and
- manganese ore (28,0% and contributing 1,4 percentage points).

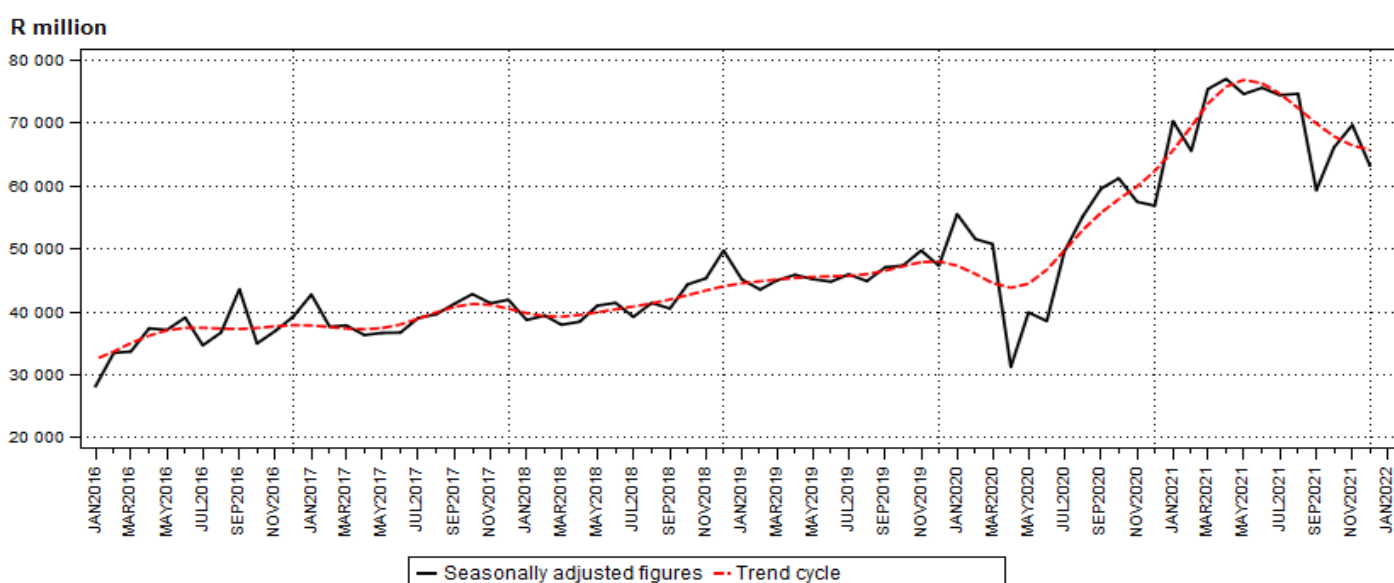
Iron ore (-30,3% and contributing -5,7 percentage points) and gold (-25,8% and contributing -3,8 percentage points) were significant negative contributors – see Tables 12 and 13.

Total mineral sales were 39,1% higher in 2021 compared with 2020. The 39,1% increase in annual mineral sales followed increases of 10,1% in 2020 and 10,8% in 2019 – see Table 9.

Seasonally adjusted mineral sales at current prices decreased by 9,3% in December 2021 compared with November 2021. This followed month-on-month changes of 5,4% in November 2021 and 11,5% in October 2021.

In the fourth quarter of 2021 the seasonally adjusted value of mineral sales at current prices was 4,5% lower compared with the third quarter of 2021.

Figure 3 – Total value of mineral sales at current prices



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Statistician-General

Tables

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

Month	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ¹	2021 ¹
Jan	85,8	81,9	85,2	87,3	84,5	89,7	82,5
Feb	89,4	83,0	84,8	88,1	81,5	87,4	84,1
Mar	110,1	90,7	105,0	97,0	97,0	82,7	101,2
Apr	100,0	94,3	94,3	91,4	90,9	45,4	98,9
May	98,6	99,9	101,6	102,4	104,0	81,0	100,3
Jun	105,7	105,3	106,2	110,7	107,9	83,9	102,4
Jul	102,8	99,7	103,4	97,0	99,8	93,9	103,1
Aug	102,1	103,8	112,4	106,0	103,7	100,4	104,0
Sep	99,1	105,5	104,0	102,6	102,6	100,3	100,0
Oct	101,0	99,2	104,1	106,8	105,4	99,5	101,6
Nov	104,3	100,2	106,4	103,2	104,1	93,9	98,5
Dec	101,1	97,7	96,2	92,0	91,2	89,4	88,4
Year	100,0	96,8	100,3	98,7	97,7	87,3	97,1

¹ Preliminary.

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

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021 year-to-date
Jan	-4,5	4,0	2,5	-3,2	6,2	-8,0	-8,0
Feb	-7,2	2,2	3,9	-7,5	7,2	-3,8	-5,9
Mar	-17,6	15,8	-7,6	0,0	-14,7	22,4	3,1
Apr	-5,7	0,0	-3,1	-0,5	-50,1	117,8	20,2
May	1,3	1,7	0,8	1,6	-22,1	23,8	20,9
Jun	-0,4	0,9	4,2	-2,5	-22,2	22,1	21,1
Jul	-3,0	3,7	-6,2	2,9	-5,9	9,8	19,2
Aug	1,7	8,3	-5,7	-2,2	-3,2	3,6	16,9
Sep	6,5	-1,4	-1,3	0,0	-2,2	-0,3	14,6
Oct	-1,8	4,9	2,6	-1,3	-5,6	2,1	13,2
Nov	-3,9	6,2	-3,0	0,9	-9,8	4,9	12,4
Dec	-3,4	-1,5	-4,4	-0,9	-2,0	-1,1	11,2
Year	-3,2	3,6	-1,6	-1,0	-10,6	11,2	

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted volume of total mining production

Month	Index (Base: 2015=100)				Month-on-month % change			
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021
Jan	98,2	95,2	99,2	93,9	1,0	-0,4	4,8	1,6
Feb	100,6	93,3	97,9	95,3	2,4	-2,0	-1,3	1,5
Mar	96,3	96,1	82,4	99,9	-4,3	3,0	-15,8	4,8
Apr	95,5	96,5	50,5	103,2	-0,8	0,4	-38,7	3,3
May	99,6	99,3	78,0	97,8	4,3	2,9	54,5	-5,2
Jun	103,1	102,6	77,5	96,1	3,5	3,3	-0,6	-1,7
Jul	95,6	96,8	89,6	98,8	-7,3	-5,7	15,6	2,8
Aug	99,4	97,4	96,4	99,4	4,0	0,6	7,6	0,6
Sep	99,9	99,2	96,4	95,7	0,5	1,8	0,0	-3,7
Oct	102,9	101,6	94,6	98,4	3,0	2,4	-1,9	2,8
Nov	98,1	100,1	91,5	95,2	-4,7	-1,5	-3,3	-3,3
Dec	95,6	94,7	92,4	90,2	-2,5	-5,4	1,0	-5,3

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

Mineral group and mineral	Weight	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Gold	18,93	77,2	83,5	77,9	76,0	75,8	63,9
Iron ore	10,22	117,2	118,4	101,4	79,0	91,9	105,8
Chromium ore	3,21	132,6	130,1	125,1	122,8	112,7	96,3
Copper	0,94	33,5	34,1	38,6	41,3	31,3	32,6
Manganese ore	5,55	172,9	160,4	194,2	185,3	156,6	149,3
PGMs	22,68	102,9	109,0	96,8	124,6	114,9	105,6
Nickel	1,23	53,5	51,7	55,3	57,3	56,4	51,4
Other metallic minerals	2,05	92,7	108,8	116,6	125,2	116,2	114,1
Diamonds	3,49	133,2	142,9	143,8	107,0	135,2	128,0
Coal	27,56	100,5	94,7	92,3	91,4	87,6	69,5
Building materials	3,35	97,1	95,0	100,8	96,4	98,0	71,1
Other non-metallic minerals	0,80	114,4	109,1	108,7	108,2	104,2	107,4
Total	100,00	103,1	104,0	100,0	101,6	98,5	88,4

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

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

Mineral group and mineral	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Month-on-month % change
Gold	74,1	77,2	69,8	69,3	70,5	64,3	-8,8
Iron ore	109,8	118,8	102,0	89,2	96,1	94,1	-2,1
Chromium ore	125,5	122,0	118,4	113,8	108,9	113,7	4,4
Copper ¹	32,0	32,6	39,8	39,8	32,5	31,1	-4,3
Manganese ore ²	172,9	160,4	194,2	185,3	156,6	149,3	-4,7
PGMs	103,3	103,6	91,5	118,8	108,2	95,5	-11,7
Nickel ²	53,5	51,7	55,3	57,3	56,4	51,4	-8,9
Other metallic minerals ¹	90,9	107,0	118,0	123,4	117,6	112,3	-4,5
Diamonds ²	133,2	142,9	143,8	107,0	135,2	128,0	-5,3
Coal	91,5	88,5	88,6	87,4	85,1	84,6	-0,6
Building materials	88,6	88,6	91,6	88,6	88,5	90,3	2,0
Other non-metallic minerals ¹	110,6	110,5	106,9	110,0	104,3	105,4	1,1
Total	98,8	99,4	95,7	98,4	95,2	90,2	-5,3

¹ Adjusted for calendar effects only. See notes 4, 5 and 6 on page 11.

² Unadjusted.

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

Mineral group and mineral	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Gold	12,2	19,3	-4,5	-3,7	-0,7	-15,3
Iron ore	45,6	55,2	34,7	11,7	12,2	-7,4
Chromium ore	47,0	16,4	6,1	27,0	-3,7	2,3
Copper	-14,3	-3,7	-2,3	-5,9	-13,8	-18,3
Manganese ore	16,1	-9,7	14,2	-6,0	-4,2	-10,8
PGMs	11,8	1,5	-7,5	24,0	38,1	24,4
Nickel	-29,4	-33,3	-34,4	-30,5	-12,8	-13,6
Other metallic minerals	-24,6	-23,4	-12,5	-6,0	-16,6	-15,0
Diamonds	11,6	15,5	8,2	-11,2	3,0	25,1
Coal	-4,1	-10,2	-7,7	-10,3	-7,9	-8,1
Building materials	9,1	1,9	12,6	1,6	-12,1	-16,6
Other non-metallic minerals	15,9	-3,0	-4,6	-3,4	-2,1	15,1
Total	9,8	3,6	-0,3	2,1	4,9	-1,1

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-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Gold	1,7	2,5	-0,7	-0,6	-0,1	-2,4
Iron ore	4,0	4,3	2,7	0,9	1,1	-1,0
Chromium ore	1,4	0,6	0,2	0,8	-0,1	0,1
Copper	-0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	-0,1	-0,1
Manganese ore	1,4	-1,0	1,3	-0,7	-0,4	-1,1
PGMs	2,6	0,4	-1,8	5,5	7,7	5,3
Nickel	-0,3	-0,3	-0,4	-0,3	-0,1	-0,1
Other metallic minerals	-0,7	-0,7	-0,3	-0,2	-0,5	-0,5
Diamonds	0,5	0,7	0,4	-0,5	0,1	1,0
Coal	-1,3	-2,9	-2,1	-2,9	-2,2	-1,9
Building materials	0,3	0,1	0,4	0,1	-0,5	-0,5
Other non-metallic minerals	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1
Total	9,8	3,6	-0,3	2,1	4,9	-1,1

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

Month	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ¹	2021 ¹
Jan	27 714,6	25 021,7	37 903,7	34 420,4	41 061,7	50 847,3	63 084,9
Feb	30 712,0	30 250,9	33 691,7	34 892,7	38 234,7	44 902,9	56 825,5
Mar	34 751,6	35 051,0	39 473,2	39 778,5	45 618,9	51 188,0	76 168,2
Apr	32 675,8	36 202,7	34 917,1	37 039,5	44 522,3	30 850,9	76 697,3
May	32 812,7	36 489,3	36 288,4	41 684,6	46 448,1	40 231,3	75 312,3
Jun	35 668,4	43 040,2	40 672,0	45 024,3	48 280,9	41 759,0	81 393,8
Jul	30 620,3	33 169,6	37 150,3	37 118,1	43 602,8	48 391,9	73 060,9
Aug	31 313,7	36 902,6	40 890,3	43 022,2	47 035,1	56 255,4	76 329,0
Sep	33 416,7	47 602,2	44 264,9	43 017,4	49 922,9	63 096,9	64 259,0
Oct	33 004,9	35 817,0	43 966,4	45 802,3	50 032,2	65 419,2	68 654,0
Nov	30 901,0	36 800,3	42 104,9	46 680,3	50 217,3	57 546,1	70 321,9
Dec	34 055,0	41 242,0	42 562,3	50 020,5	47 267,7	57 706,0	63 859,4
Total	387 646,7	437 589,5	473 885,2	498 500,8	552 244,6	608 194,9	845 966,2

¹ Preliminary.**Table 9 – Year-on-year percentage change in mineral sales at current prices**

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021 year-to-date
Jan	-9,7	51,5	-9,2	19,3	23,8	24,1	24,1
Feb	-1,5	11,4	3,6	9,6	17,4	26,6	25,2
Mar	0,9	12,6	0,8	14,7	12,2	48,8	33,4
Apr	10,8	-3,6	6,1	20,2	-30,7	148,6	53,4
May	11,2	-0,6	14,9	11,4	-13,4	87,2	59,7
Jun	20,7	-5,5	10,7	7,2	-13,5	94,9	65,3
Jul	8,3	12,0	-0,1	17,5	11,0	51,0	63,1
Aug	17,8	10,8	5,2	9,3	19,6	35,7	58,8
Sep	42,5	-7,0	-2,8	16,1	26,4	1,8	50,4
Oct	8,5	22,8	4,2	9,2	30,8	4,9	44,4
Nov	19,1	14,4	10,9	7,6	14,6	22,2	42,1
Dec	21,1	3,2	17,5	-5,5	22,1	10,7	39,1
Total	12,9	8,3	5,2	10,8	10,1	39,1	

Table 10 – Seasonally adjusted total mineral sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021
Jan	38 719,3	45 153,0	55 537,2	70 312,2	-7,7	-9,2	17,3	23,6
Feb	39 416,4	43 542,1	51 575,2	65 601,2	1,8	-3,6	-7,1	-6,7
Mar	37 955,8	44 991,9	50 787,6	75 415,4	-3,7	3,3	-1,5	15,0
Apr	38 443,0	45 894,8	31 241,0	77 040,4	1,3	2,0	-38,5	2,2
May	40 996,3	45 212,2	39 906,8	74 639,2	6,6	-1,5	27,7	-3,1
Jun	41 438,5	44 802,1	38 543,9	75 624,3	1,1	-0,9	-3,4	1,3
Jul	39 209,7	45 966,8	49 663,8	74 465,6	-5,4	2,6	28,8	-1,5
Aug	41 415,5	44 894,7	55 182,8	74 670,9	5,6	-2,3	11,1	0,3
Sep	40 539,8	47 099,8	59 588,1	59 331,5	-2,1	4,9	8,0	-20,5
Oct	44 369,1	47 361,9	61 231,9	66 154,3	9,4	0,6	2,8	11,5
Nov	45 334,1	49 754,5	57 511,9	69 708,4	2,2	5,1	-6,1	5,4
Dec	49 753,0	47 353,4	56 879,0	63 233,3	9,7	-4,8	-1,1	-9,3

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

Mineral group and mineral	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Gold	8 339,3	12 198,0	5 288,3	7 733,5	10 977,5	6 286,8
Iron ore	11 795,2	9 828,0	9 388,4	7 465,5	6 766,1	7 506,2
Chromium ore	1 641,0	2 000,1	1 970,8	1 619,7	1 770,6	2 088,9
Copper	214,4	417,5	258,2	244,6	471,1	391,7
Manganese ore	3 106,0	3 284,2	3 360,0	3 553,3	2 737,8	3 725,4
PGMs	32 062,3	29 883,6	24 855,0	24 378,9	27 047,8	23 691,0
Nickel	122,6	780,7	701,7	857,9	1 044,5	980,4
Other metallic minerals	1 434,6	1 229,0	1 225,0	1 525,3	1 605,3	1 588,6
Coal	11 600,8	13 167,1	14 083,6	17 424,9	14 300,4	13 269,4
Building materials	1 064,1	1 048,5	1 116,8	1 062,0	1 031,2	1 027,1
Other non-metallic minerals	1 680,6	2 492,4	2 011,3	2 788,3	2 569,6	3 303,8
Total	73 060,9	76 329,0	64 259,0	68 654,0	70 321,9	63 859,4

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-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Gold	-6,3	52,5	-18,0	-37,9	59,7	-25,8
Iron ore	73,6	16,9	-1,8	27,0	-14,3	-30,3
Chromium ore	3,9	23,5	5,2	-23,2	3,0	-1,9
Copper	-24,3	133,5	29,7	31,9	215,5	52,5
Manganese ore	-14,3	5,9	-27,0	-7,6	-21,5	28,0
PGMs	171,9	55,1	6,7	0,7	34,4	34,4
Nickel	-80,3	37,5	-6,7	33,5	30,9	-10,9
Other metallic minerals	11,6	-23,5	-28,5	-11,6	0,6	7,0
Coal	5,9	24,7	28,0	60,1	30,7	28,8
Building materials	9,6	3,5	11,2	2,5	-14,3	0,2
Other non-metallic minerals	5,7	28,8	-23,5	13,9	-6,6	104,5
Total	51,0	35,7	1,8	4,9	22,2	10,7

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-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Gold	-1,2	7,5	-1,8	-7,2	7,1	-3,8
Iron ore	10,3	2,5	-0,3	2,4	-2,0	-5,7
Chromium ore	0,1	0,7	0,2	-0,7	0,1	-0,1
Copper	-0,1	0,4	0,1	0,1	0,6	0,2
Manganese ore	-1,1	0,3	-2,0	-0,4	-1,3	1,4
PGMs	41,9	18,9	2,5	0,3	12,0	10,5
Nickel	-1,0	0,4	-0,1	0,3	0,4	-0,2
Other metallic minerals	0,3	-0,7	-0,8	-0,3	0,0	0,2
Coal	1,3	4,6	4,9	10,0	5,8	5,1
Building materials	0,2	0,1	0,2	0,0	-0,3	0,0
Other non-metallic minerals	0,2	1,0	-1,0	0,5	-0,3	2,9
Total	51,0	35,7	1,8	4,9	22,2	10,7

Survey information

Introduction	1	Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publishes monthly mining production indices and mineral sales based on the information furnished by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE). Data in this release are presented by mineral group and mineral.
	2	In accordance with international practice, the indices are usually re-based every five years to a new base year. The current base year of the index of the volume of mining production is 2015=100. Both actual and seasonally adjusted figures are presented.
	3	The value of mineral sales is calculated, in general, on a free-on-rail/free-on-board basis.
	4	In order to improve timeliness, some information for the current month had to be estimated due to late response. These estimates will be revised in future statistical release(s) as soon as more up-to-date information is available.
Purpose of the survey	5	The monthly mining production and sales survey is conducted by the DMRE, covering all mining establishments operating in the South African economy. The results of this survey are used to calculate the volume of mining production indices in order to estimate the gross domestic product (GDP) and its components, which in turn are used to develop and monitor government policy.
Scope of the survey	6	This survey covers mining establishments conducting activities regarding the extracting, dressing and beneficiating of minerals occurring naturally, for example solids such as coal and ores.
Classification	7	The 1993 edition of the <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	8	The statistical unit for the collection of information is the mining establishment. An establishment is the smallest economic unit that functions as a separate entity.
Rounding-off of figures	9	The figures in the tables have, where necessary, been rounded off to the nearest digit shown. There may, therefore, be slight discrepancies between the sums of the constituent items and the totals shown.
Historical data and past publications	10	Historical mining data and past publications are available on the Stats SA website. Click on the following link (Time series data) or (Past publications) to access the data and releases electronically. Annual averages and annual percentage changes are available on the following link: Annual data

Technical notes

Index of the volume of mining production	1	The index of the volume of mining production, also known as the production index, is a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production. The production index of a mineral group is the ratio between the volume of production of a mineral group in a given period and the volume of production of the same mineral group in the base period. The current base period is 2015. The production in the base period is set at 100.
Index weighting	2	The weight of a mineral group is the ratio of its value added to the total value added of the mining industry. The weight of a mineral group reflects the importance of the mineral group in the total mining industry. The weights change over time due to quality improvements and changes in relative prices. New weights will be calculated annually.
	3	The weights, which are used to aggregate minerals to mineral groups and mineral groups to total mining, are derived from national accounts value added data. The latest weights (implemented in the October 2021 publication) are based on an average of value added data for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018. These weights are applicable from January 2018.
Seasonal adjustment	4	Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month using the X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the US Bureau of the Census, 1968. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be recognised more clearly. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month.
	5	Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variations. This means the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour. The X-12-ARIMA procedure for mining production and sales is described in more detail on the Stats SA website at: Click to download seasonal adjustment for mining production and sales
		Note: Owing to the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown, a transitory change adjustment was applied to April 2020. Transitory (temporary) change describes a temporary effect on the level of a series after a certain point in time. The methodology will be reviewed as more data points are added to the time series.
Calendar effects	6	These are effects due to calendar variations. Such calendar effects include the number of working/trading days in a week, moving holidays such as Easter and the length of month (some months have more days than others).
Trend cycle	7	The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimate the underlying trend cycle.
Reliability of estimates	8	Figures for the latest 2 calendar years are preliminary.
Month-on-month percentage change	9	The month-on-month percentage change in a variable for any given month is the change between that month and the previous month, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
Year-on-year percentage change	10	The year-on-year percentage change in a variable for any given period is the change between that period and the corresponding period of the previous year, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
Index contribution (percentage points)	11	The contribution (percentage points) of a mineral group or mineral to the percentage change in the total mining production for a given period is calculated by multiplying the difference in the index for each mineral group or mineral by

the weight of the mineral group or mineral and then dividing by the previous period's total index.

Sales contribution (percentage points)	12	The contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in total sales for a given period is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each mineral group or mineral with its percentage contribution to total mineral sales of the previous period, divided by 100.
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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 (SNA)</i> in the same way as in the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)</i> , 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	DMRE	Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
	GDP	Gross domestic product
	ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
	PGMs	Platinum group metals
	SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities
	SNA	System of National Accounts
	Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
	*	Revised

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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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