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Mining: Production and sales (Preliminary)

January 2025

This release provides an analysis of revisions. If you have any questions or comments, please send these to JP Terblanche, juan-pierret@statssa.gov.za.

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IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



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Production: results for January 2025

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

	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	0,5	4,8	1,1	-0,9	-2,4	-2,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	3,3	4,2	-3,0	0,0	-3,7	-1,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	-1,4	0,9	3,7	3,9	-0,5	-3,5

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

Mining production decreased by 2,7% year-on-year in January 2025. The largest negative contributors were:

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

Manganese ore (21,2% and contributing 1,2 percentage points) was the largest positive contributor – see Table 6 and Table 7.

Seasonally adjusted mining production decreased by 1,2% in January 2025 compared with December 2024. This followed month-on-month changes of -3,7% in December 2024 and 0,0% in November 2024 – see Table A.

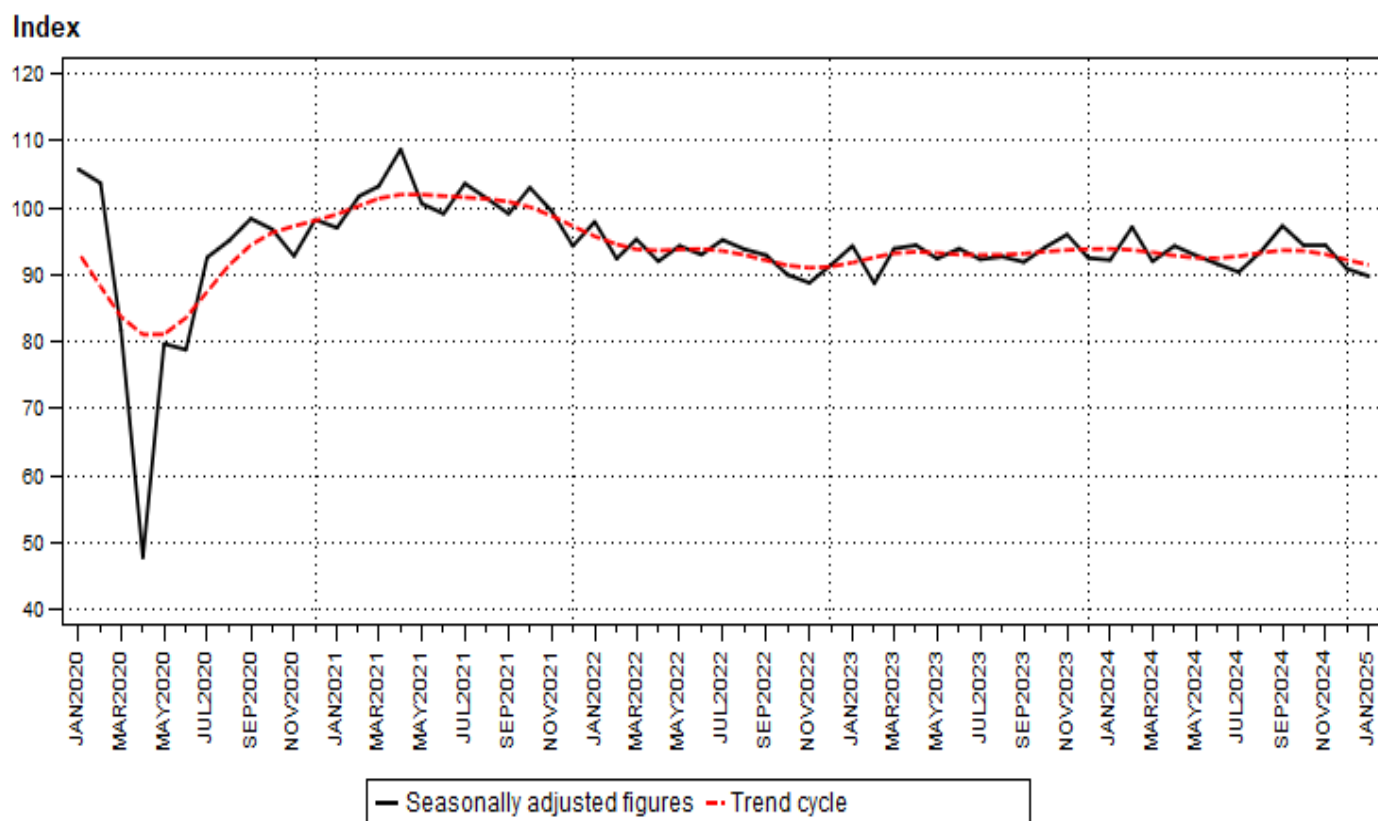
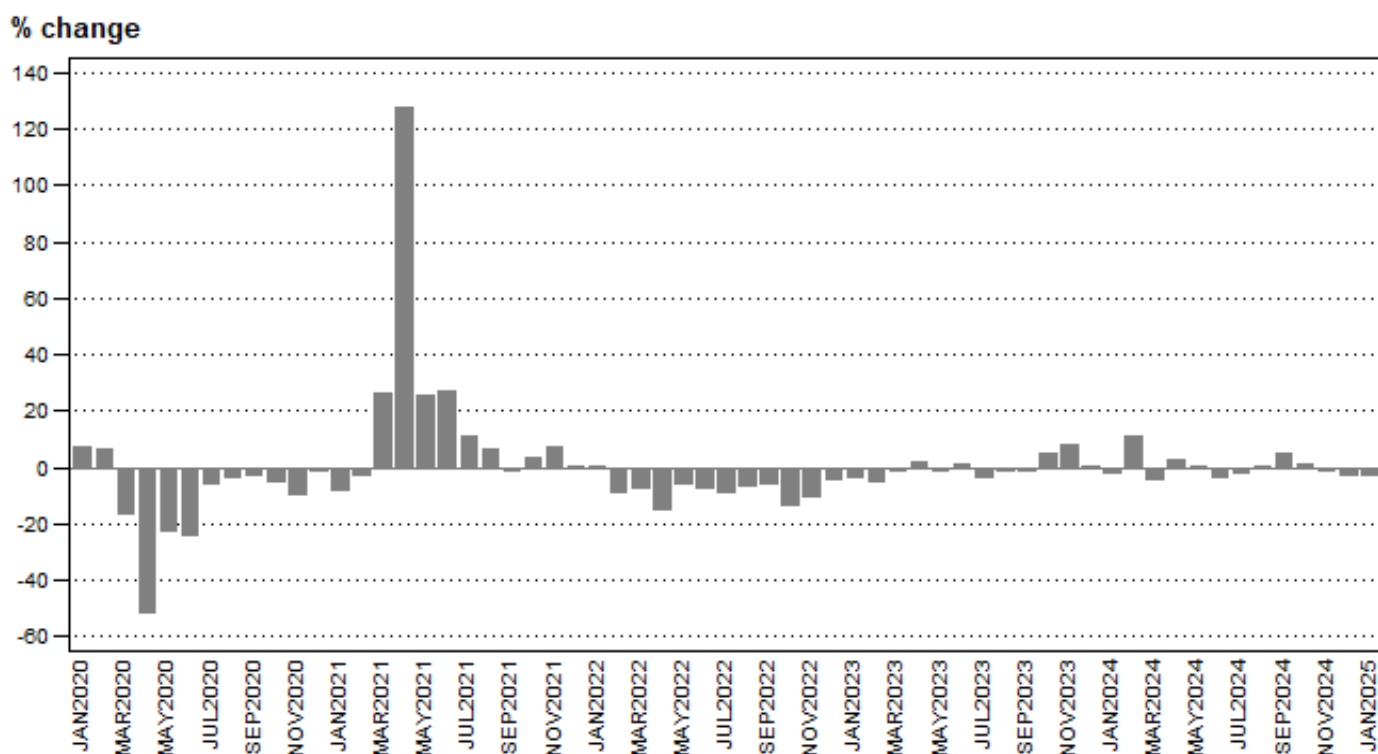
Table B – Seasonally adjusted index of the volume of mining production for the latest three months by mineral group and mineral (Base: 2019=100)

Mineral group and mineral	Weight	Aug – Oct 2024	Nov 2024 – Jan 2025	% change between Aug – Oct 2024 and Nov 2024 – Jan 2025	Contribution (% points) to the % change in total mining production
Gold	13,73	85,9	81,9	-4,7	-0,6
Iron ore	15,04	85,7	81,3	-5,1	-0,7
Chromium ore	3,83	135,6	124,9	-7,9	-0,4
Copper ¹	0,69	122,6	100,4	-18,1	-0,2
Manganese ore	5,69	119,9	112,9	-5,8	-0,4
PGMs	30,16	98,9	94,7	-4,2	-1,3
Nickel ¹	1,06	85,4	71,6	-16,2	-0,2
Other metallic minerals ¹	2,41	92,9	85,9	-7,5	-0,2
Diamonds ¹	2,16	83,1	76,5	-7,9	-0,2
Coal	21,75	90,1	92,5	2,7	0,5
Building materials	2,91	89,8	88,6	-1,3	0,0
Other non-metallic minerals	0,57	95,4	95,8	0,4	0,0
Total	100,00	95,0	91,7	-3,5	-3,5

¹ Unadjusted. See notes 4, 5 and 6 on page 14.

Seasonally adjusted mining production decreased by 3,5% in the three months ended January 2025 compared with the previous three months. The largest negative contributors were:

- PGMs (-4,2% and contributing -1,3 percentage points);
- iron ore (-5,1% and contributing -0,7 of a percentage point); and
- gold (-4,7% and contributing -0,6 of a percentage point) – see Table B.

Figure 1 – Volume of mining production (Base: 2019=100)**Figure 2 – Volume of mining production (Base: 2019=100): year-on-year percentage change**

Sales: results for January 2025

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

	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-11,5	7,9	0,7	8,2	-9,4	-5,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-22,1	17,6	3,0	5,9	-10,1	2,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	10,6	-2,8	-7,7	2,1	5,4	6,8

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

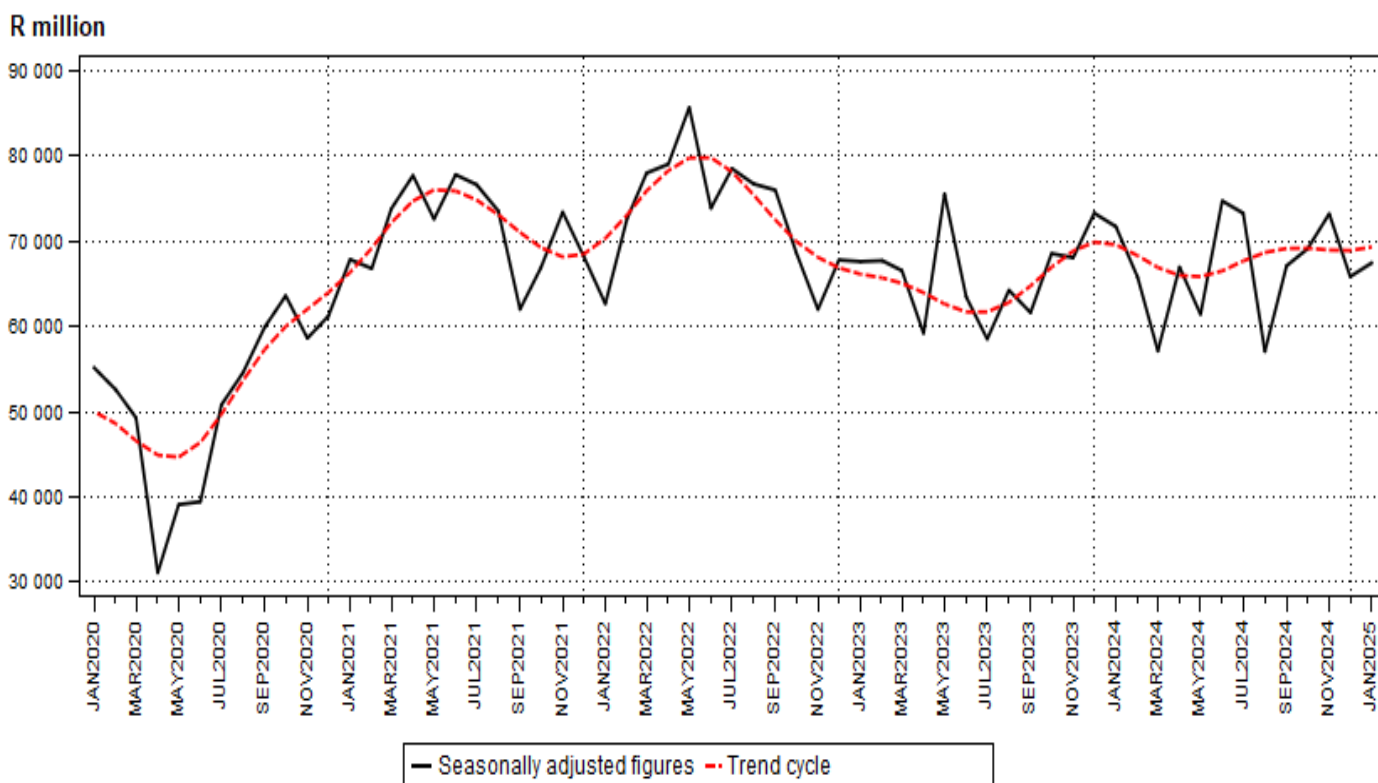
Mineral sales at current prices decreased by 5,9% year-on-year in January 2025. The largest negative contributors were gold (-21,1% and contributing -5,8 percentage points) and chromium ore (-26,8% and contributing -1,7 percentage points).

The largest positive contributor was coal (14,2% and contributing 3,1 percentage points) – see Table 12 and Table 13.

Seasonally adjusted mineral sales at current prices increased by 2,5% in January 2025 compared with December 2024. This followed month-on-month changes of -10,1% in December 2024 and 5,9% in November 2024.

Seasonally adjusted mineral sales at current prices increased by 6,8% in the three months ended January 2025 compared with the previous three months.

Figure 3 – Total value of mineral sales at current prices



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Tables

Table 1 – Index of the volume of mining production (Base: 2019=100)

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jan	86,3	92,6	84,9	85,2	82,4	81,1	78,9
Feb	83,5	88,8	86,2	78,8	74,9	83,3	
Mar	99,3	83,2	105,3	97,6	96,4	92,2	
Apr	93,1	45,1	102,6	87,4	88,8	91,4	
May	106,3	82,7	103,9	97,9	96,5	97,3	
Jun	110,3	84,3	107,1	99,8	100,9	97,6	
Jul	101,9	95,9	106,8	97,8	94,3	92,9	
Aug	105,6	102,4	108,9	101,6	100,6	101,1	
Sep	105,5	102,5	102,3	96,5	95,8	100,4	
Oct	107,5	101,9	105,7	91,6	96,0	97,1	
Nov	106,0	96,4	103,3	92,7	100,4	99,5	
Dec	94,5	93,4	93,5	89,5	89,9	87,7	
Year	100,0	89,1	100,9	93,0	93,1	93,5	

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

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025 year-to-date
Jan	7,3	-8,3	0,4	-3,3	-1,6	-2,7	-2,7
Feb	6,3	-2,9	-8,6	-4,9	11,2		
Mar	-16,2	26,6	-7,3	-1,2	-4,4		
Apr	-51,6	127,5	-14,8	1,6	2,9		
May	-22,2	25,6	-5,8	-1,4	0,8		
Jun	-23,6	27,0	-6,8	1,1	-3,3		
Jul	-5,9	11,4	-8,4	-3,6	-1,5		
Aug	-3,0	6,3	-6,7	-1,0	0,5		
Sep	-2,8	-0,2	-5,7	-0,7	4,8		
Oct	-5,2	3,7	-13,3	4,8	1,1		
Nov	-9,1	7,2	-10,3	8,3	-0,9		
Dec	-1,2	0,1	-4,3	0,4	-2,4		
Year	-10,9	13,2	-7,8	0,1	0,4		

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted volume of total mining production

Month	Index (Base: 2019=100)				Month-on-month % change			
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jan	97,9	94,3	92,2	89,8	3,8	3,2	-0,3	-1,2
Feb	92,4	88,7	97,1		-5,6	-5,9	5,3	
Mar	95,3	93,9	92,0		3,1	5,9	-5,3	
Apr	92,0	94,4	94,3		-3,5	0,5	2,5	
May	94,3	92,4	92,9		2,5	-2,1	-1,5	
Jun	93,0	93,9	91,6		-1,4	1,6	-1,4	
Jul	95,2	92,3	90,4		2,4	-1,7	-1,3	
Aug	93,8	92,7	93,4		-1,5	0,4	3,3	
Sep	92,9	91,9	97,3		-1,0	-0,9	4,2	
Oct	90,0	94,1	94,4		-3,1	2,4	-3,0	
Nov	88,8	96,0	94,4		-1,3	2,0	0,0	
Dec	91,4	92,5	90,9		2,9	-3,6	-3,7	

Table 4 – Index of the volume of mining production by mineral group and mineral (Base: 2019=100) ¹

Mineral group and mineral	Weight	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Gold	13,73	92,4	90,9	97,5	86,6	75,1	70,2
Iron ore	15,04	90,7	89,7	69,2	85,7	75,3	81,0
Chromium ore	3,83	152,6	141,7	135,9	145,3	107,3	95,4
Copper	0,69	124,0	123,4	120,3	96,2	107,9	97,2
Manganese ore	5,69	137,8	123,7	112,7	113,0	93,4	100,6
PGMs	30,16	104,7	106,8	102,3	110,0	103,8	73,4
Nickel	1,06	89,4	93,7	73,1	78,6	66,7	69,4
Other metallic minerals	2,41	82,9	98,1	97,8	78,4	88,4	90,9
Diamonds	2,16	66,7	87,9	94,6	71,8	77,2	80,5
Coal	21,75	95,4	93,9	97,5	97,4	81,4	81,9
Building materials	2,91	98,6	91,6	105,4	101,3	67,3	63,5
Other non-metallic minerals	0,57	113,7	104,1	101,5	87,8	79,6	95,7
Total	100,00	101,1	100,4	97,1	99,5	87,7	78,9

¹ 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: 2019=100)

Mineral group and mineral	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Month-on-month % change
Gold	85,3	85,2	87,2	80,4	81,3	84,0	3,3
Iron ore	80,8	95,1	81,2	88,8	73,4	81,7	11,3
Chromium ore	138,4	136,3	132,2	133,9	127,3	113,5	-10,8
Copper ¹	124,0	123,4	120,3	96,2	107,9	97,2	-9,9
Manganese ore	124,2	125,4	110,0	111,2	113,9	113,6	-0,3
PGMs	97,2	99,5	99,9	100,2	92,3	91,6	-0,8
Nickel ¹	89,4	93,7	73,1	78,6	66,7	69,4	4,0
Other metallic minerals ¹	82,9	98,1	97,8	78,4	88,4	90,9	2,8
Diamonds ¹	66,7	87,9	94,6	71,8	77,2	80,5	4,3
Coal	89,5	90,5	90,3	92,7	96,7	88,2	-8,8
Building materials	89,4	88,0	92,1	91,5	90,6	83,8	-7,5
Other non-metallic minerals	96,2	99,4	90,5	90,0	98,0	99,4	1,4
Total	93,4	97,3	94,4	94,4	90,9	89,8	-1,2

¹ Unadjusted. See notes 4, 5 and 6 on page 14.

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

Mineral group and mineral	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Gold	-4,6	-3,7	-3,4	-11,5	-8,4	1,0
Iron ore	-15,1	9,8	-7,2	-3,9	1,2	-15,1
Chromium ore	24,8	17,3	11,9	15,5	3,8	-0,6
Copper	8,5	15,9	14,7	-12,1	1,5	14,6
Manganese ore	16,3	13,3	-4,0	0,9	8,7	21,2
PGMs	4,7	6,7	3,3	3,9	-7,2	-3,8
Nickel	26,6	21,8	-8,5	-9,0	-10,3	11,4
Other metallic minerals	-17,8	7,4	5,2	-5,8	15,3	5,0
Diamonds	-7,2	35,4	27,5	-11,4	-13,4	10,4
Coal	1,0	-3,8	1,2	-1,4	2,6	-4,4
Building materials	-0,6	3,5	9,9	2,8	2,3	1,9
Other non-metallic minerals	-2,7	8,2	-2,2	-16,3	9,3	25,3
Total	0,5	4,8	1,1	-0,9	-2,4	-2,7

Table 7 – Contribution of each mineral group and mineral to the year-on-year percentage change in the volume of mining production (percentage points)

Mineral group and mineral	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Gold	-0,6	-0,5	-0,5	-1,5	-1,1	0,1
Iron ore	-2,4	1,3	-0,8	-0,5	0,2	-2,7
Chromium ore	1,2	0,8	0,6	0,7	0,2	0,0
Copper	0,1	0,1	0,1	-0,1	0,0	0,1
Manganese ore	1,1	0,9	-0,3	0,1	0,5	1,2
PGMs	1,4	2,1	1,0	1,2	-2,7	-1,1
Nickel	0,2	0,2	-0,1	-0,1	-0,1	0,1
Other metallic minerals	-0,4	0,2	0,1	-0,1	0,3	0,1
Diamonds	-0,1	0,5	0,5	-0,2	-0,3	0,2
Coal	0,2	-0,8	0,3	-0,3	0,5	-1,0
Building materials	0,0	0,1	0,3	0,1	0,0	0,0
Other non-metallic minerals	0,0	0,0	0,0	-0,1	0,0	0,1
Total	0,5	4,8	1,1	-0,9	-2,4	-2,7

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

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jan	41 070,7	51 128,5	63 518,6	59 050,2	63 607,1	67 331,8	63 381,5
Feb	38 202,9	45 135,2	56 927,3	61 698,4	57 552,8	56 119,4	
Mar	45 585,3	51 606,4	78 213,1	83 573,6	71 640,8	61 502,5	
Apr	44 538,7	31 064,5	78 533,6	80 279,4	60 060,2	67 609,0	
May	46 519,8	40 521,7	75 976,9	89 818,5	79 430,6	64 663,7	
Jun	48 295,2	41 962,5	82 049,6	77 693,5	66 558,3	78 594,4	
Jul	43 596,0	48 588,4	73 935,4	76 368,5	57 284,3	71 833,0	
Aug	47 069,2	56 868,0	77 095,1	80 551,6	67 404,8	59 685,8	
Sep	50 009,3	63 394,0	65 086,8	78 856,7	63 303,7	68 316,6	
Oct	50 051,2	66 165,3	69 099,3	70 397,8	70 056,1	70 576,2	
Nov	50 450,7	58 255,9	72 147,3	60 931,6	67 128,8	72 609,5	
Dec	47 491,9	58 501,2	64 696,9	64 521,0	70 205,0	63 579,5	
Total	552 880,9	613 191,6	857 279,9	883 740,8	794 232,5	802 421,4	

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

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025 year-to-date
Jan	24,5	24,2	-7,0	7,7	5,9	-5,9	-5,9
Feb	18,1	26,1	8,4	-6,7	-2,5		
Mar	13,2	51,6	6,9	-14,3	-14,2		
Apr	-30,3	152,8	2,2	-25,2	12,6		
May	-12,9	87,5	18,2	-11,6	-18,6		
Jun	-13,1	95,5	-5,3	-14,3	18,1		
Jul	11,5	52,2	3,3	-25,0	25,4		
Aug	20,8	35,6	4,5	-16,3	-11,5		
Sep	26,8	2,7	21,2	-19,7	7,9		
Oct	32,2	4,4	1,9	-0,5	0,7		
Nov	15,5	23,8	-15,5	10,2	8,2		
Dec	23,2	10,6	-0,3	8,8	-9,4		
Total	10,9	39,8	3,1	-10,1	1,0		

Table 10 – Seasonally adjusted total mineral sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jan	62 668,3	67 624,3	71 720,7	67 474,5	-8,2	-0,3	-2,2	2,5
Feb	72 639,6	67 724,8	65 795,0		15,9	0,1	-8,3	
Mar	78 011,2	66 564,0	57 131,1		7,4	-1,7	-13,2	
Apr	79 050,0	59 196,2	66 971,6		1,3	-11,1	17,2	
May	85 693,7	75 544,2	61 420,6		8,4	27,6	-8,3	
Jun	73 883,5	63 464,0	74 733,7		-13,8	-16,0	21,7	
Jul	78 530,4	58 526,6	73 300,5		6,3	-7,8	-1,9	
Aug	76 738,6	64 257,1	57 074,7		-2,3	9,8	-22,1	
Sep	76 009,2	61 631,6	67 121,8		-1,0	-4,1	17,6	
Oct	68 658,7	68 562,9	69 120,1		-9,7	11,2	3,0	
Nov	62 005,1	68 077,3	73 231,9		-9,7	-0,7	5,9	
Dec	67 806,8	73 302,3	65 852,3		9,4	7,7	-10,1	

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

Mineral group and mineral	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Gold	2 268,3	10 862,7	15 764,4	15 780,1	8 524,4	14 504,7
Iron ore	8 789,5	7 150,8	5 224,8	7 556,8	7 368,5	8 856,2
Chromium ore	5 620,5	5 789,5	5 368,9	4 810,4	4 491,9	3 123,9
Copper	559,9	900,1	580,1	681,0	547,9	412,8
Manganese ore	5 675,6	5 202,5	3 092,4	2 806,2	3 794,9	3 072,3
PGMs	12 833,4	14 378,0	15 589,1	16 670,5	15 282,5	11 695,3
Nickel	869,1	753,9	909,2	935,1	983,4	389,0
Other metallic minerals	1 857,0	1 856,1	1 887,2	1 901,4	2 013,2	1 736,3
Coal	17 795,4	17 402,5	18 157,1	18 284,2	17 084,3	16 836,3
Building materials	1 269,3	1 208,7	1 281,7	1 221,3	884,7	922,6
Other non-metallic minerals	2 147,8	2 811,7	2 721,4	1 962,4	2 603,6	1 832,3
Total	59 685,8	68 316,6	70 576,2	72 609,5	63 579,5	63 381,5

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

Mineral group and mineral	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Gold	-80,5	42,3	4,1	93,4	-34,3	-21,1
Iron ore	5,9	1,6	-26,9	-28,4	-32,8	-0,8
Chromium ore	11,8	20,6	4,6	-8,1	-10,9	-26,8
Copper	-8,8	37,0	18,5	0,9	13,8	-23,8
Manganese ore	52,3	45,8	-17,2	-9,5	-11,2	8,3
PGMs	-5,4	-15,9	-0,5	4,3	0,5	-2,5
Nickel	4,1	-26,1	5,5	4,5	-26,9	-33,7
Other metallic minerals	5,8	11,7	28,9	-13,0	31,9	-5,7
Coal	6,8	6,0	7,3	8,6	11,5	14,2
Building materials	4,0	11,9	7,8	3,3	3,1	4,6
Other non-metallic minerals	-46,9	20,7	18,0	-15,6	18,1	-20,9
Total	-11,5	7,9	0,7	8,2	-9,4	-5,9

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	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Gold	-13,9	5,1	0,9	11,4	-6,3	-5,8
Iron ore	0,7	0,2	-2,7	-4,5	-5,1	-0,1
Chromium ore	0,9	1,6	0,3	-0,6	-0,8	-1,7
Copper	-0,1	0,4	0,1	0,0	0,1	-0,2
Manganese ore	2,9	2,6	-0,9	-0,4	-0,7	0,3
PGMs	-1,1	-4,3	-0,1	1,0	0,1	-0,4
Nickel	0,1	-0,4	0,1	0,1	-0,5	-0,3
Other metallic minerals	0,2	0,3	0,6	-0,4	0,7	-0,2
Coal	1,7	1,6	1,8	2,2	2,5	3,1
Building materials	0,1	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,1
Other non-metallic minerals	-2,8	0,8	0,6	-0,5	0,6	-0,7
Total	-11,5	7,9	0,7	8,2	-9,4	-5,9

Analysis of revisions

Introduction

Statistics South Africa collects administrative mining data on a monthly basis from the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE). Preliminary monthly indices for mining production are published approximately six weeks after the reference month, e.g. preliminary mining production for June are published around mid-August. The preliminary indices are revised the following month, using additional information received from the DMRE. This and other reasons for revising mining production indices from time to time are shown in the explanatory notes (see note 8, page 13).

Analysis

Revisions may be analysed in terms of several dimensions, namely production indices and/or growth rates (e.g. month-on-month percentage changes, year-on-year percentage changes); seasonally adjusted and/or unadjusted data; totals and/or components; preliminary estimate compared with first revision and/or latest available revision; and various combinations of these options.

This analysis is confined to the following:

- Total mining production index, year-on-year growth rate, unadjusted.
- Preliminary growth rates are compared with the latest available revised growth rates, where the preliminary growth rate refers to the first year-on-year growth rate published for the month in question.
- Time period: January 2012 to December 2024.

Figure 4 shows the preliminary and revised growth rates (line chart, left vertical axis) and the difference between them (bar chart, right vertical axis, where difference = revised - preliminary).

Table 14 provides key results relating to revisions.

Figure 4 – Mining production year-on-year growth rates: preliminary and revised

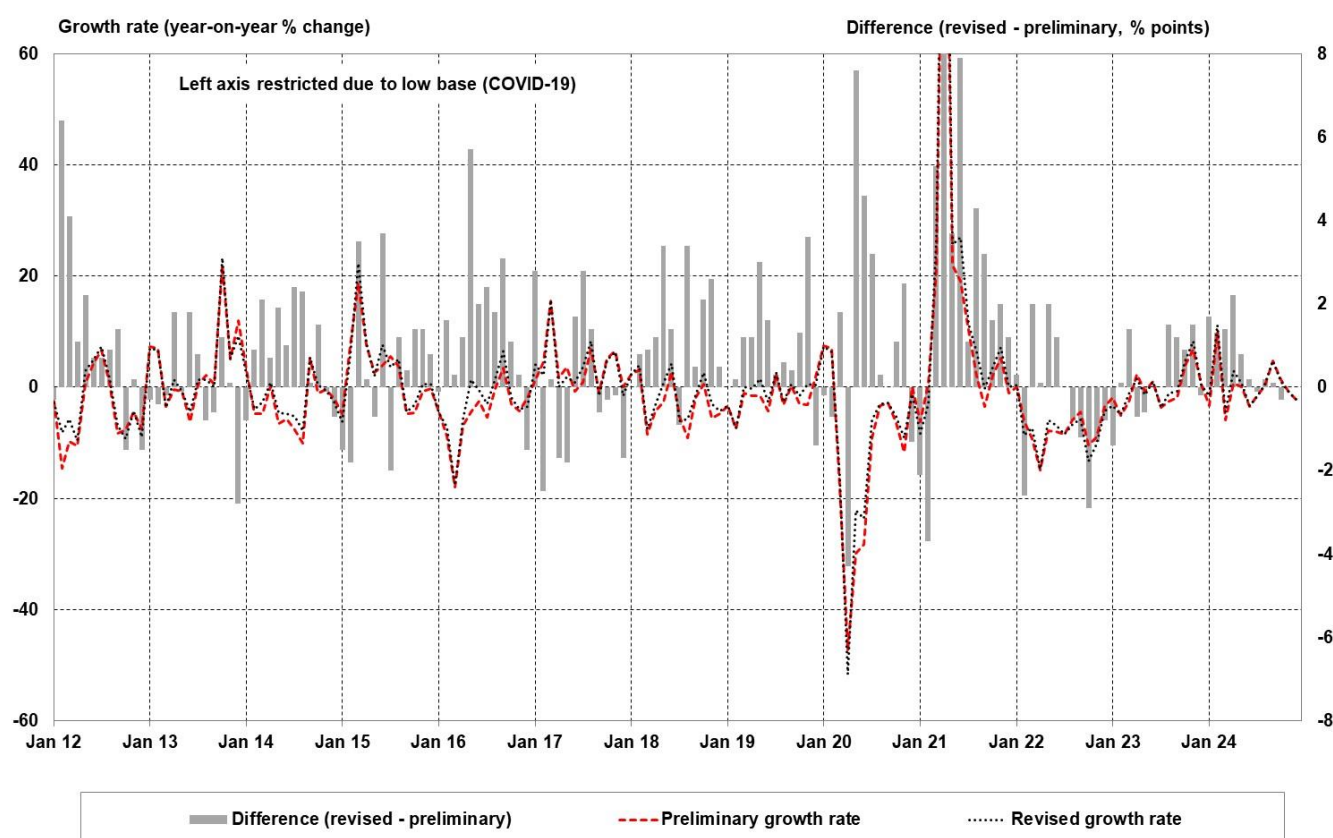


Table 14 – Mining production year-on-year growth rates: preliminary and revised

Description	Value / outcome	Comment
Average year-on-year growth rate over the whole period	Preliminary: -0,77% Revised: 0,10%	The average of revised growth rates is higher than the average of preliminary growth rates
Mean revision	0,87 of a percentage point	This is the average of the revisions
Mean absolute revision	1,56 percentage points	Average of the revisions, but based on the absolute value of each revision (positives and negatives do not cancel each other)
Largest upward revision	11,0 percentage points	Preliminary 116,5% was revised up to 127,5% (April 2021, affected by COVID-19)
Largest downward revision	-4,3 percentage points	Preliminary -47,3% was revised down to -51,6% (April 2020, affected by COVID-19)
Range for all revisions	-4,3 to 11,0 percentage points	
Range within which 90% of the revisions lie	-2,0 to 4,3 percentage points	This may be regarded as the normal range for revisions, with revisions outside this range being outliers
Number of upward revisions	102 (or 65,4% of the total observations)	
Number of downward revisions	46 (or 29,5% of the total observations)	
Number of zero revisions	8 (or 5,1% of the total observations)	
Is the mean revision (0,87) significantly different from zero?	Yes	This indicates that there is bias in the preliminary estimates – see Note 1 below
Standard deviation of the revisions	2,07 percentage points	Standard deviation is a measure of dispersion about the mean – see the row below
Percentage of revisions that lie within one standard deviation of the mean	74,4%	This is the percentage of revisions that lie between -1,20 and 2,94 percentage points; the higher the percentage, the lower is the dispersion about the mean – see Figure 5

Note 1: Is the mean revision significantly different from zero?

The formula for the test statistic is as follows:

$$\text{test statistic} = \frac{\bar{R}}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{n(n-1)}\right) \left(\sum_{t=1}^n \hat{\epsilon}_t^2 + \frac{3}{4} \sum_{t=2}^n \hat{\epsilon}_t \hat{\epsilon}_{t-1} + \frac{2}{3} \sum_{t=3}^n \hat{\epsilon}_t \hat{\epsilon}_{t-2}\right)}}$$

where

n = number of observations

$\bar{R}$ = mean revision

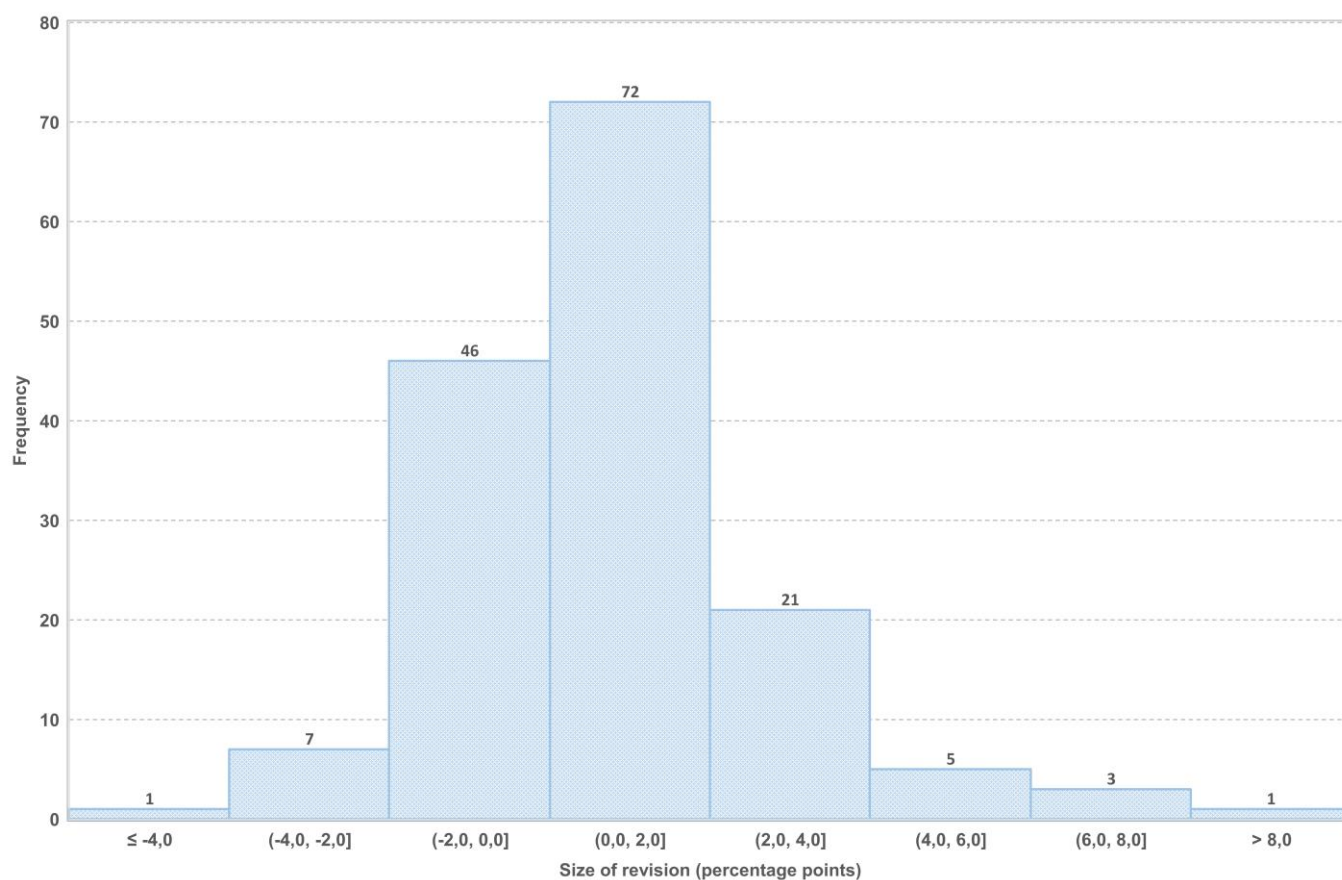
$\hat{\epsilon}_t = R_t - \bar{R}$, with R_t = revision in period t

Note that if the test statistic shows that the mean revision (MR) is significantly different from zero, then there is bias in the preliminary estimates. Bias in a series suggests there is scope to enhance the compilation of that series in an attempt to remove or minimise the bias. $MR > 0$ (statistically significant) implies under-estimation of the preliminary estimates. $MR < 0$ (statistically significant) implies over-estimation of the preliminary estimates.

In this case the test statistic is 4,59, which lies above the critical value of 1,98, indicating that the MR is significantly different from zero at a 5% significance level. Accordingly, there is under-estimation of the annual growth rates detected in the preliminary estimates. Stats SA is investigating whether the under-estimation can be reduced.

Figure 5 shows the revisions in terms of a histogram. There were 46 revisions between -2,0 and 0,0 ($-2,0 < \text{revision} \leq 0,0$); 72 revisions between 0,0 and 2,0 ($0,0 < \text{revision} \leq 2,0$); and 21 revisions between 2,0 and 4,0 ($2,0 < \text{revision} \leq 4,0$). Around 89,1% of revisions lie between -2,0 and 4,0 percentage points.

Figure 5 – Mining production year-on-year growth rates: histogram of revisions



Explanatory notes

- 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 2019=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.
- Purpose of the survey**
- 4 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**
- 5 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**
- 6 The 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities* (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 *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities* (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**
- 7 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.
- Revised figures**
- 8 Revised figures are mainly due to late submission of data to the DMRE, or the DMRE reporting revisions or corrections to their figures. The reasons for routine revisions are outlined in the following schedule. Any unscheduled revisions will be promptly indicated in relevant tables to maintain transparency and accuracy. It is important to note that seasonally adjusted figures are revised monthly.

Statistical release	Reason for revision	Period subject to revision
Jan-25	Additional information from the DMRE	Jan-22 - Dec-24
Feb-25	Additional information from the DMRE	Jan-23 - Jan-25
Mar-25	Additional information from the DMRE	Jan-23 - Feb-25
Apr-25	Additional information from the DMRE	Jan-23 - Mar-25
May-25	Additional information from the DMRE	Jan-23 - Apr-25
Jun-25	Additional information from the DMRE	Jan-23 - May-25
Jul-25	Additional information from the DMRE	Jan-23 - Jun-25
Aug-25	Additional information from the DMRE	Jan-23 - Jul-25
Sep-25	Additional information from the DMRE New weights for mining production	Jan-22 - Aug-25
Oct-25	Additional information from the DMRE	Jan-23 - Sep-25
Nov-25	Additional information from the DMRE	Jan-23 - Oct-25
Dec-25	Additional information from the DMRE	Jan-23 - Nov-25
New base year in 2027/28 - periodic, approximately four- to five-year intervals		

- 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 2019. 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 September 2024 publication) are based on an average of value added data for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021. These weights are applicable from January 2021.

Seasonal adjustment 4 Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month using the X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the United States Census Bureau. 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 February 2022](#).

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.

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.
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Glossary

Free-on-rail	Free-on-rail relates to goods sold on the local market where no rail or road transport costs are involved.	
Free-on-board	Free-on-board relates to goods destined for the export market. Rail, 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 of All Economic Activities
	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 12 official languages. Since the releases are used extensively locally and by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English.

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