Mining for Mzansi,
Mining for Growth

FACT SHEET

mining matters
TO SOUTH AFRICA

MINERALS COUNCIL
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Introduction

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The mining industry continues to make a significant difference in the lives of communities, employees, and the nation. It does so by driving investment, paying taxes and royalties, creating jobs and benefits, advancing education and training, and investing in social projects and infrastructure.

In 2024, mining companies paid R195 billion in wages and salaries, accounting for 5% of all wages paid in South Africa. For 473,484 employees, and their families, this means supporting and sustaining the lives and livelihoods of more than a million people, assuming an average household of four people.

Considering the direct suppliers of goods and services to the mining industry, a further 400,295 people are employed, giving a total formal employment impact of 873,779 people, supporting 3.5 million people in an economy where four out of 10 adults do not have formal employment.

The mining sector has had the largest impact on provincial GDP in the North West (R118 billion), Limpopo (R109 billion), and Mpumalanga (R99 billion) provinces, which contributed 26.68%, 24.67%, and 22.47%, respectively, to the total initial impact on GDP of the mining sector. The provinces that contributed the most to the direct impact on GDP were North West (19.86%), Limpopo (18.69%), and Gauteng (18.19%)

Mining remains a long-term investment play that rises and falls with economic cycles. A stable and predictable policy environment, supported by critical infrastructure, is essential to ensure the sector's ability to grow and thrive. For the Minerals Council South Africa, enabling this environment remains a central focus.

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It is critical for mining to attract investment in exploration, mine development, and existing operations to expand job opportunities and extend the benefits of working in the industry.

The Minerals Council and its members continue to engage with government and organised business to address systemic challenges in legislation, energy, transport, and crime and corruption. At the same time, the mining industry is unlocking opportunities in renewable energy and critical minerals — aligning mining with the future of South Africa's economy.

Through
#MiningMatters

we recognise that when mining grows, South Africa grows — unlocking opportunities, building possibilities, and driving transformation across the nation.

Mining is more than a driver of exports and tax revenues. It is a sector that empowers communities, sustains livelihoods, and helps build a dignified and hopeful future for millions of South Africans.

Payments of taxes totalling R342 billion by mining companies and the entire value chain of businesses servicing mines, including taxes paid on wages of all employees, was equivalent to:

Building
213,974
small houses of approximately 80 m² at R20,000 per m²

Constructing
17,118
kilometres
of road at R20 million per kilometre

Paying the annual salaries of
978,166
high school teachers at a salary level of R350,000 per year

** R342 billion is a calculation of all taxes paid by the entire value chain serving the mining industry. (Source: Quantec Data)*

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Economic Impact

Mining contributed

6%

to South Africa's GDP

in 2024, reaffirming its role as a major sector of the economy. In the four leading mining provinces — North West, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and the Northern Cape — mining contributed between 20% and 30% of provincial GDP.

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The mining sector's influence on the South African economy in 2024 extended well beyond its immediate operations. Its initial GDP impact at market prices was R443 billion, representing 6% of total national GDP at market prices. This figure increases to

R695 billion

when GDP at market prices from direct suppliers is included, reflecting broader sectoral interdependence.

R3.9 billion

was invested in community projects, improving healthcare, housing, education, and local enterprise in mining communities.

The industry contributed over

R117 billion

in taxes, including R42.6 billion in corporate income tax, strengthening South Africa's fiscus.

For every R10 million produced by mining companies and their direct suppliers contributed about

R1.5 million

towards tax revenue in the economy.

In the 2023/2024 financial year, the mining industry paid royalties of

R16 billion

The largest contributions to mining royalties came from the iron ore (25%), coal (24%), and platinum (23%) industries.

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Benefitting South Africa

Local sales, in 2024 totalled

R248 billion

representing an annual increase of 5.1%. The average growth in local sales was 5.7% over the last three years, 10.1% over the last five years, and 10.1% over the last ten years.

Coal contributed R134.6 billion

to local sales, representing more than half (54.3%) of total local sales.

Over time, coal's average share of local sales was 53% over the past three years, 52% over the past five years, and 48% over the past decade.

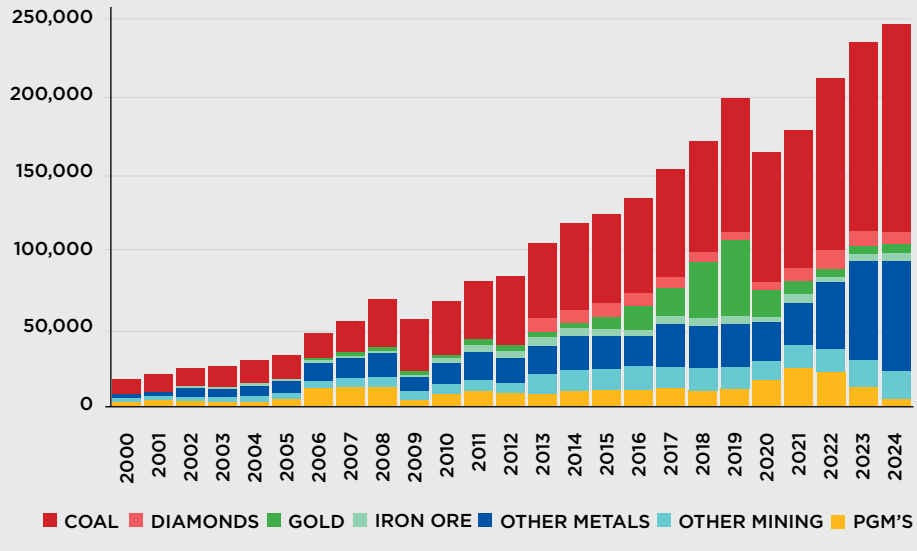
Diamonds accounted for R7.7 billion (3.1%), **Gold for R5.8 billion** (2.3%), **PGMs for R4.97 billion** (2%), and **Iron ore, R5.3 billion (2.1%).** Other metals made up R71 billion, contributing 28.6%, while other mining activities added R18.8 billion, or 7.6%.

The industry invested R160 billion

in machinery, equipment, vehicles, and construction,

accounting for 15% of South Africa's national gross fixed capital formation. When suppliers are included, capital formation rises to R193 billion. Capital formation is critical to sustaining economic growth.

MINERAL LOCAL SALES BY MAIN COMMODITY 2000 TO 2024
Rand million



Local sales grew to

R248 billion

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Employment & Skills Development

The **industry directly employed 473,484 people** in 2024

Direct suppliers to the mining industry employed more than 400,000 people, giving a **total direct employment impact of approximately 874,000 people**

The year also marked the industry's safest on record, with 42 fatalities. Each life lost is a tragedy, and the mining industry remains steadfast in its goal of achieving Zero Harm through safer, modern, and more sustainable mining practices.

For every R10 million in output generated by the mining sector, the industry **supported approximately 8 formal jobs across the economy** — this includes the employment impact of both its own operations and those of its direct suppliers.

Women now comprise 19% of the full-time mining workforce, showing steady progress in transformation and inclusivity.

Mining employees earned nearly R195 billion in 2024, sustaining livelihoods for thousands of families.

The average annual wages within the mining sector were R577,597 for high-skilled workers, R328,996 for semi-skilled workers, and R246,924 for those in low- and unskilled roles.

The nationwide average wages for the three skill levels were R400,958, R205,851, and R113,083 in 2024.

More than R5 billion was spent on training and development in 2024 — equal to between R23,000 and R41,000 per employee — building skills for the future.

Mining companies and their suppliers collectively employ approximately

874,000 people

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Household Income

The mining industry contributed

R470 billion*

to household income, amounting to 7% of South Africa's total household income. When the household income of the sector's direct suppliers is incorporated, the total income rises to R680 billion*, indicating the direct economic impact.

The platinum group metals (PGMs) made the largest contribution to economy-wide household income, generating

R291 billion*

and accounting for 20.39% of the total impact. Coal followed with R239 billion (16.72%), iron ore with R213 billion (14.90%), gold with R210 billion (14.72%), and chrome with R148 billion (10.38%), all of which significantly supported household income across the economy.

** (Source: Quantec Data)*

For every R10 million* worth of minerals produced, mining helped support about

R6.3 million*

in household income in the economy when the impact of its own operations and that of its direct suppliers is included.

Mining at a Glance 2024

Industry Turnover	Direct GDP Contribution[4]	Percentage Contribution to GDP[4]	Total Primary Sales	Primary Mineral Exports	Employment[5]
R1 trillion	R442.7 billion	6%	R802.6 billion	R773.7 billion	473,484

Employee Earnings	PAYE by mining employees*	VAT Payments	Company Tax Paid*	Royalties*
R195.3 billion	R36.1 billion	R21.5 billion	R43.6 billion	R16 billion

[4] Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current prices
[5] The average workplace size in the mining sector, based on data from Stats SA's Quarterly Employment Survey (QES)
** Tax data reported by SARS for the 2023/24 financial yeatr*

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